



# WEST WALKER WIRE

DECEMBER 2025

[www.westwalkercivic.org](http://www.westwalkercivic.org)

The West Walker Civic Association encourages you to **shop local** this holiday season. We are fortunate to be home / adjacent to **80+ small businesses**. As small businesses open and expand in and around our neighborhood, we intend to introduce them to you.

*shop local*

## The Scent Queens Candle Company and Apothecary Shoppe and It's Lit Studio

Owned by Curtis Bumgarner & Andrew Cookson

If any of you have been wondering what's going in the space at **4001 N. Elston Ave...** you don't have to wonder any longer because it's us, well it's our yoga & fitness studio: **IT'S LIT STUDIO 2.0**.



For a short while, we'll be running two (2) studios while we get this gorgeous new home ready for full time flows and SPIN classes (coming after the new year). Eventually, our original Montrose yoga & fitness studio (**3726 W. Montrose Ave**) will transform into something we've dreamed about for years... an awesome **coffee shop!** Please note, **The Scent Queens Candle Company and Apothecary Shoppe** will remain at **3728 W. Montrose Ave**.

We have hired an architect, plans have been drawn and submitted, so it's all a waiting game now. We will keep everyone updated as everything moves along with the coffee shop. But as for the new yoga studio, everything is done and just waiting on signs!

*Continued on page 2*

## WITHIN THE WIRE...

- 2 Dear Neighbor
- 4 Independence Branch Library
- 5 Carlson Community Services
- 7 Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- 8 Irving Park Lutheran Church

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Friday, December 5 • 6:30 pm**

Neighbors Night Out  
The Cabin at Old Irving  
4104 N. Pulaski Avenue

**Sunday, December 7 • 8:00 am - 1 pm**

Breakfast with Santa  
St. Edward Parish Buckley Hall  
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

**Sunday, December 14 • 11:00 am**

Mass with Mariachi Band  
St. Edward Parish  
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

**Sunday, December 14 • 2:00 pm**

Irving Park Fine Arts Concert  
Eclectic Holiday  
Irving Park Lutheran Church  
4100 N. Harding Avenue  
*Free! Reception to follow*

**Sunday, December 14 • 4:30 pm**

Old Irving Park Holiday Stroll  
St. John's Courtyard  
3857 N. Kostner Avenue  
4:30 - 5:15 PM  
*Music, hot cocoa, and Frozen photos*  
5:15 - 6:00 PM  
*Holiday lights stroll & a visit to Mrs. Claus*

**Monday, December 22 • 7:00 pm**

Rorate Coeli Candlelit Mass  
St. Edward Parish  
4350 W. Sunnyside Avenue

**Check out the CTA Holiday Train  
schedule here:**





# Dear Neighbor,

It's hard to believe the holiday season has arrived! I'd like to thank all of our neighbors who attended the **Neighbors Night Out** at The Cabin on December 5th. It's always nice to connect with you all and catch up on what's been going on.

This time of year reminds me how fortunate I am, but also that I should be thinking about those who aren't as lucky as me. With everything going on nationally, as well as locally, please think about your neighbors who may not be having a wonderful holiday season and do what you can to assist; whether it's donating food, money, or lending a helping hand. There are a lot of lovely organizations in West Walker, and also within Chicago, who are helping families out.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to assist with event planning or writing letters for the newsletter. If you are interested, please reach out to me at [jankow2003@gmail.com](mailto:jankow2003@gmail.com).

On behalf of the entire West Walker Civic Association Board, I'd like to offer our wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

**See you in 2026,**

Erin Hunter

WWCA President



Continued from the cover... *THE SCENT QUEENS / IT'S LIT STUDIO*

Keep watching us on our Instagram (@[thescentqueenscandleco](https://www.instagram.com/thescentqueenscandleco) and @[itslitstudiochicago](https://www.instagram.com/itslitstudiochicago)) for updates.

Thank you for growing with us – the glow-up is very real. We are just so happy to constantly invest in this neighborhood that we call home and to give you all some amazing experiences and memories. We wouldn't be here without all of you so thank you so much!

While we have your attention, **please shop small and shop local this holiday season.** Don't forget we are more than just a candle shop - we also sell soaps, books, tarot cards, crystals, greeting cards, teas, jewelry and fun art and other handmade items. **Think of us as more of a gift shop!**



*Sneak peek of the new  
It's Lit studio space*

## WEST WALKER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### West Walker Mission Statement

"The pursuit of the West Walker Civic Association is to make our diverse neighborhood the best it can be by securing the services, safeguards and improvements the West Walker community is entitled to have."

*Celebrating over 100 years of service  
to the West Walker Community*

### 2023-2025 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Erin Hunter
<b>Co-Vice Presidents</b>	Laura Ell & Helen Lira
<b>Secretary</b>	Gayle Irvin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephen Brown

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Mike Webber

### WEST WALKER CARRIER STAFF

Chris & Maeve Altman  
Carol Barry  
Tori Bohannon & John Lopez  
Goddard Family  
Kotche Family  
Alison & Nick McHugh  
Jim Medd  
Kris Nowak  
Jeanne Pozy & Joel Reese  
Rick & Melanie Reschke  
Pat Ruch  
Jenni & Michael Kus  
Jarrett Tate  
Sue Trudeau & Tom Williams

### EDITOR

Kim Pecka

### WEST WALKER EMAIL BLASTS

Brian Hunter

The West Walker Wire is published monthly September through June by the West Walker Civic Association.

All story ideas, articles and ads are due 7 days prior to the 1st of each month. Submit ideas and articles to the editor at [west\\_walker\\_wire@yahoo.com](mailto:west_walker_wire@yahoo.com).

Please include a phone number in case we need to follow up with you.

We reserve the right to edit all submissions for space and content.

For information on advertising, please contact Shannan Bunting at [shannan@solsticepr.com](mailto:shannan@solsticepr.com).



## St. Edward School Events

### Christmas and New Year's at St. Edward!

We have an extremely diverse community at St. Edward Parish and School. Our diversity is celebrated this time of year with various celebrations leading up to Christmas!

Every year on **December 12**, Catholics around the world celebrate the apparition of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to a poor young man named Juan Diego. We celebrate this day as the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Join us at St. Edward on **Sunday, December 14**, at our **11 am** Mass with music led by a Mariachi Band. Following Mass, there will be a Mexican-inspired lunch in the Unity Hall.

You can then join our Filipino parishioners for their annual **Simbang Gabi** celebration on **Saturday, December 20**, with Holy Mass at **4:30 pm** and delicious Filipino dinner after Mass in Unity Hall.

Finally, in the days leading up to Christmas an ancient Roman/French tradition is the **Rorate Coeli Mass** (Latin meaning "dew dropped from heaven"). We will celebrate this candlelit Mass on **Monday, December 22**, at **7 pm** in the Church. The Mass is celebrated in English with beautiful music and only by candlelight.

All these events, including the meals, are **free of charge**. Come join us and bring a friend!

If you want to celebrate Christmas with us, we will celebrate our **Family Mass** on Christmas Eve, **December 24**, at **4:30 pm** (carols starting at 4:00pm); **Midnight Mass** will be at **12 am** (carols starting at 11:30 pm), on **December 25**, and **Christmas morning Masses** at **9 am** and **11 am**.

Following Christmas Day, we will celebrate an **Epiphany Concert** led by our choir on **Sunday, January 4**, at **2 pm** in the Church. This concert is also free and will keep us in the Christmas spirit. Catholics celebrate Christmas through the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, which this year falls on **Sunday, January 11**.

St. Edward School students prepare for Christmas with our annual **Advent Toy Drive**, our **Winter Musical**, *The Little Mermaid*, **December 12-13**, and the **Christmas Concert** on **Wednesday, December 17**.

Please join us for our School Open House on **Sunday, January 25**, from **10 am - 1 pm**.

Visit [stedwardchicago.org](http://stedwardchicago.org) for more information on our Open House or to sign up for a tour.

## Is Now A Good Time to Sell?



**SOLD**

**4122 N Lawndale**



**SOLD**

**4037 N Hamlin**



**SOLD**

**4340 N Springfield**



**SOLD**

**4253 N Avers**



**SOLD**

**4107 N Springfield**

**YES! NEIGHBORS ARE GETTING TOP DOLLAR FOR THEIR HOMES WITH MY UNIQUE 5 STEP MARKETING PLAN & STRATEGY**

***"Dorie was an exceptional agent to work with for our recent home sale. She offers a wealth of experience and top-notch service. She came to the table with a personalized marketing plan that was tailored to our property and area, including competitive analysis and a go-to-market approach that brought interest and offers right away. We'd recommend her to anyone looking to transact in the Chicagoland area!" -- Bill Kenefick***

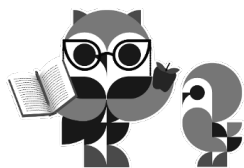


Dorie Westmeyer  
Realtor,® MBA, ADPR  
Your Neighborhood Realtor

If you're thinking of selling in the next 12 months, please call me for a free home consultation.

Neighbor since 1995 • 847-989-4870 • CHARLES RUTENBERG REALTY • [Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com](mailto:Dorie@DorieWestmeyer.com)





## Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch

Monday & Wednesday 10-6 / Tuesday & Thursday 12-8

Friday & Saturday 9-5 / Sunday 1-5

### Play Day For ages up to 5.

**Mondays at 10:30 am**

Bring a friend or meet a new one during our open and unstructured play group time.

### Story Time For ages up to 5.

**Wednesdays, December 3 and 10 at 10:30 am**

Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us!

### Make Your Mark For all ages

**Tuesday, December 9 at 4:30 pm**

Make "Snow Dough" to create take home ornaments.

**Tuesday, December 23 at 4:30 pm**

Maker Space - dream up your own craft!

### Cookie Club For kids

**Thursday, December 11 at 4:30 pm**

Kids book club --- read and eat cookies!

### Pixel Party: Let It Snow

**Tuesday, December 16 at 4:30 pm**

Use provided fuse beads and fuse bead patterns to make snowmen, snowflakes, and other wintry pixel designs.

### Lego Play For ages 5+

**Thursday, December 18 at 4:30 pm**

Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow.

### Community Cinema

**Saturday, December 20**

**11:00 am: Elio, 2025, PG**

**1:00 pm: Superman, 2025, PG-13**

**Sunday, December 21**

**2:00 pm: When Harry Met Sally, 1989, R**

**The Independence Branch will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025.**

Questions? Contact Jessica Kimpel, Children's Librarian, at 312-744-1135 or [jmccarney@chipublib.org](mailto:jmccarney@chipublib.org), or visit the library at 4024 N. Elston Ave.



To help you shop local this holiday season, please check out the offers listed in the **Albany Park Chamber of Commerce & North River Commission's HOLIDAY COUPON BOOK!**

Featured local businesses:

- Color Club
- The Jade Vine Flower Shop
- Restoried Bookshop
- Hey, I Thought Of You
- Amande Desserts
- Bellonas Pizza.... and others!

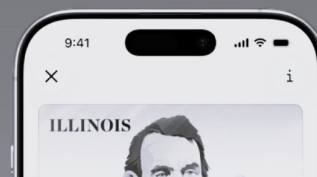


SECRETARY of STATE  
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS



# Your Illinois ID. Now on iPhone.

Open Apple Wallet to get started.



[www.bebartarchitecture.com](http://www.bebartarchitecture.com)

**Barry Bebart, AIA Architect**

Licensed Architect  
Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin

House Expansion, Renovation  
Remodeling. Kitchen, Bath, Deck.  
Commercial, Interior, Commercial,  
Office, Interior, New Construction.  
Signage

35 years of experience in Chicago.

773-844-4580 [barry@bebartarchitecture.com](mailto:barry@bebartarchitecture.com)



**Carlson  
Community  
Services**

## News and Events

A 501(c)(3) non-profit connecting

*the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service.*

### **Giving Tuesday is December 2: Make an Impact in the Neighborhood**

As you determine where your charitable giving can make the most impact, please consider a donation to Carlson Community Services. Our 2025 Giving Tuesday campaign will directly benefit our **Magic After-School Place** (MAP) program. The Magic After-School Place offers academic support, stability, enrichment activities and fun to students every day that Chicago public schools are in session. Transportation, a healthy snack, and dedicated homework time are the main components of the program, with homework completion a top priority. In addition, staff-led activities designed to encourage team building and social-emotional learning take place every day. Over the past nineteen (19) years, the program has evolved to provide more than simply a few hours of childcare. It is where children engage in extracurricular activities such as art and STEM instruction through structured and engaging activities like dance, baking, science experiments, and gardening.

Our 2025-2026 enrollment is the highest it has been in five (5) years, however, we are finding that current economic conditions and cuts to federal programs that particularly affect the working poor have more families than ever before in need of tuition assistance. With your support on Giving Tuesday, we can continue to provide after-school care to low-income working families who need it most. Scan the QR code to be directed to Carlson's secure Pay Pal site or visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](https://carlsoncommunityservices.org) and click the green **Give Today** box on our homepage. Thank you for your consideration.



### **Irving Park Fine Arts FREE Holiday Concert on December 14 – Eclectic Holidays**

The second concert of our 2025-26 fine arts concert season, **Eclectic Holidays**, will feature a joyous collection of holiday favorites, and some not-so-well-known numbers, including a set of songs from the American Music Theater.

Join us at **2 pm on Sunday, December 14** at **Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue**, for a **free** holiday concert featuring some folks who may sound familiar - vocalists **Tamara Bodnar, Christopher Richard**, and **Stephanie Stockstill** accompanied by pianist **Roger Bingaman**. All are invited to attend a festive reception following the concert.

Mark your calendar for our third concert on **Sunday, February 1, 2026** when we welcome violist **Willie McLellan** accompanied by **Mio Isoda-Hagle** on piano and **Alexa Muhly** on cello. For more information on our complete season, please visit: <https://carlsoncommunityservices.org/programs/fine-arts/this-season/>

### **TRIVIA NIGHT – Thanks!**

Congratulations to team **“The Brainy Bunch”** – who made a surge in the last round to take 1st place by 1 point – on winning Carlson Community Services' **Trivia Night** held on **November 15**. Special thanks to the **West Walker Civic Association** for being a round sponsor and helping to make the night a financial success. It was great to see so many West Walker neighbors come out in support of Carlson. Thank you!



For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](https://carlsoncommunityservices.org) or contact Sara Yoest at [sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

# BIG HELPERS

BIG HELP IN MANY WAYS

**HANDYMAN SERVICES  
CABINET INSTALLATION  
DECK / PORCH PAINTING  
FURNITURE ASSEMBLY  
BLIND INSTALLATION  
LIGHTS & CEILING FANS  
TV MOUNTING**

Licensed - Insured - Bonded

Call us Monday – Saturday from 9AM to 6PM



**(312) 757-4420**

WWW.BIGHHELPERS.COM  
24/7 Online Booking



**DONATION DROP OFF:** On behalf of the Irving Park  
Community Food Pantry Mon-Fri 10AM-4PM  
4184 N. Elston Ave Chicago, IL. 60618



Stop Waiting for Perfect.

Successful health plans start with two things:

*Imperfection and Action.*

Book Your  
Complimentary  
Insight Session.



- Health Coaching
- Wellness Events
- Corporate Workshops

Call Today:  
**(773) 231-2358**

# SELLING WHERE YOU ARE.

## WHERE REAL ESTATE MEETS RESULTS.

CHE

*Connie Engel*

773-251-3837

connieengel.com

cengel@atproperties.com

@properties®

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE







## Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

text and photos by Craig Shutt,  
Publicity & Special Events Coordinator, unless noted

### Donate to the Pantry's Holiday Gift Drive!

The Pantry's annual Holiday Gift drive is underway! We are providing all eligible clients' children 12 years old or younger with a stocking filled with gifts and treats during all our December distributions!

To ensure we receive the appropriate number of age-related gifts, donations can be ordered from our Amazon registry using the QR code below. Please don't donate any other gifts.



Donations by PayPal - [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org)  
Donations by Zelle - [treasurer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:treasurer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org)

Deadline to receive donations is **Saturday, December 13th** so please don't wait! With the number of families the Pantry serves growing on a weekly basis, we anticipate filling at least **300** stockings for our children. Please consider helping to make the holidays a more joyful time for our neighborhood children.

We're always happy to work with families, businesses, youth or school groups or others who want to help us in various ways at their own pace. Thanks to **Milo Arias** (top photo) and also to Pantry neighbor **Casey Finn** and her children for assembling birthday bags for us. For more details, contact **community@irvingparkfoodpantry.org**.

We are honored to have been named one of the **Top 100 nonprofit organizations in North America** by the **PepsiCo Foundation**. As a result, we received a **\$10,000 Community Impact Award** to support our work in helping to fight food insecurity in our neighborhoods.

Congratulations to volunteer **Susan Hobgood** and **Mary Ann Ballard**, who were named Tuesday night and Wednesday (respectively)! Susan has been a mainstay of our registration team for many years, while Mary Ann has been volunteering for decades and is part of the Eisenhart family that has supported the Pantry through several generations.

**We appreciate all the support from our community to help us continue our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" through these perilous times.**

**Milo Arias** and his mom **Megan** dropped off the results of a food drive he spearheaded in his Old Irving Park neighborhood in October.

Photo by Lorrie Ide



**Jim Motzer** of **Renewed Hope United Methodist Church** delivered the latest of the quarterly donations from the church's congregation to Executive Director **John Psiharis**.

Photo by Craig Shutt

Board member **Sara Yoeast** picked up a huge donation of winter-items from **Mrs. Iannelli's 5th-grade class at St. Viator Elementary School**. More than **600** items were collected for our clients.

Photo by Sara Yoeast



Client Services Manager **Elvia Esparza**, Operations Manager **Laura Barnes**, and Registration Manager **Lynne Anderson**.

Photo by John Psiharis

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is open on **Wednesday** mornings from **9 am - 12 pm** and on the **second Tuesday** of each month from **6 - 7 pm**. The Pantry is located at **4256 N. Ridgeway Avenue**.

For more information, please contact:  
**John Psiharis**, Executive Director  
773/283-6296  
e-mail: [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org)  
Web: [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org)

## Irving Park Lutheran Church News & Events

**Sunday, December 14**

**Sunday School Christmas Play - 10:30 am**

Dress Rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 13th at 10 am, ending with pizza lunch

**Sunday, December 21**

**Longest Night Service - 5 pm**

Join us the longest night of the year for a thirty-minute worship service that includes the music of Holden Evening Prayer, candlelight, silence, and space for sadness – a feeling also of this season. Afterwards, head over to the parsonage for treats!

**Sunday, December 21**

**The 4th Sunday of Advent with Third Coast Chorus**

No Sunday School or Adult Bible study before worship this Sunday, but plenty of special music during worship!

**Wednesday, December 24**

**Family Christmas Eve Service - 4:00 pm**

**Festive Christmas Eve Service - 10:00 pm**

**Thursday, December 25**

**Christmas Day Worship - 10:30 am**

**Sunday, December 28**

**The 1st Sunday of Christmas - 9:30 am**

No Sunday School or Adult Study before worship, but Pastor Bouman is making donuts for Fellowship time.

**Sunday, January 4**

**Celebrating Epiphany**

Sunday school & Adult Bible Study resume, After Worship: Taking Down the Greens

**An Unlikely Advent - Adult Bible Study**

Through December 21, the IPLC Adult Bible study will focus on Advent themes of hope, love, joy, and peace through the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Through videos, Bible readings, and discussions, we'll see how each set of unexpected characters has something to teach us about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. All are welcome – we're all unlikely characters in God's story of salvation! Join us **Sunday mornings 9:15 - 10:15 am** in the Chapel.

*shop local*

## The Jade Vine

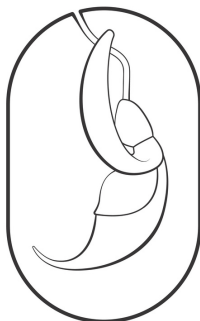
Eco Flower Shop | Wedding Florist

3806 W Montrose Ave, Chicago IL 60618

Tuesday to Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-3pm

**312.618.9442**



♥ *Romance is in the air* ♥

**Let's schedule a wedding consultation!**

info@thejadevinechicago.com

www.thejadevinechicago.com

@jadevinechicago

**Weddings • Walk-ins • Workshops**



**FRESH & RARE  
FINDS**

PREMIUM &  
SUSTAINABLE  
SEAFOOD

CUT FRESH  
EVERY  
MORNING

4423 N. ELSTON AVE



CHICAGO, IL 60630





## Seasonal Strategies for the Winter Blues

By Jenna Zaffino, owner of JZ Wellness

It's happening again: the season we endure to experience the amazingly beautiful spring, summer, and fall days that Chicago has to offer. It's winter, and according to the news cycle (why do they insist on scaring us like this??), it's going to be a doozy.

My clients across the midwest are already feeling that the shorter days, lack of sunlight, and colder temperatures are wreaking havoc on their mental outlook - even after just a few weeks. While **Seasonal Affective Disorder** is a real diagnosis, referring to a type of depression with seasonal patterns, it's not uncommon for many of us to experience a sort of "winter blues" during the colder, darker months. If you, too, have been feeling a little "blue" at the prospect of another winter, here are a few simple and helpful ways to approach the season.

### Embrace The Season

Studies in Norway show that people who turn to the colder months with excitement, reverence, and a sense of purpose tend to experience less depression and more satisfaction. Simply put, they infuse the season with meaning and do their best to make the most of it. What does winter mean to you? What activities and routines can you include in your days and weeks to reflect this meaning?

### Follow The Lead of The Light

One of the best ways to flow with the season is to follow the sun's rhythm. You don't necessarily need to wake with the sun, but when you do wake, taking 5-10 minutes to step outside and let yourself be in the early morning light will help signal your brain that it's time to be awake. Conversely, turning the lights low in the evening when it's time to wind down will help you adhere to a regular bedtime routine. How will you embrace the natural "hibernation" energy of the season to get some good rest this winter?

### Shop Seasonal

It's not only a healthy idea to shop for seasonal produce but also a budget-friendly one. Often, the foods that are in season are those that are harvested at peak ripeness, ensuring that the vitamin and antioxidant

content is high, which can support your immune system. In addition, because of nature's rhythm and the seasonal availability of food, shopping seasonally supports local farmers, ensures abundance, and reduces transportation costs. What seasonal foods or recipes are you excited to try this winter?

These are just a few ways you can start to approach the winter months with a new perspective. Remember that the most effective strategies you use will be those that are interesting to you. Don't be afraid to be creative with the ways in which you plan to approach your own seasonal support this winter.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is typically diagnosed after a person experiences a pattern of depression that occurs at a similar time each year for at least two years, followed by periods of remission. If you are experiencing symptoms of depression, please seek support by speaking with your healthcare provider, contacting **NAMI** at **8009506264**, text '**NAMI**' to **62640**, or calling the crisis hotline at **988**.

## Nov. 28 - Dec. 19

# SALE

## 20% off

One Item of Your Choice

*"...The blessing of Jehovah be upon you!..."*

Psalms 129:8b

### Chicago Bibles & Books

3931 W. Irving Park Rd.

Monday to Saturday 10-6  
[www.biblesandbooks.com](http://www.biblesandbooks.com)

**773.478.0550**  
 Serving Chicago since 1981





## shop local

IF YOU HAVE A SMALL BUSINESS IN OR AROUND THE WEST WALKER NEIGHBORHOOD, WE WOULD LOVE TO HELP INTRODUCE YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 2026!

PLEASE REACH OUT TO  
WEST\_WALKER\_WIRE@YAHOO.COM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## Renew your West Walker membership today!

Renewing is quick and easy. Visit [westwalkercivic.org](http://westwalkercivic.org) and navigate to "Become a Member" today!

WWCA Membership runs January 1 through December 31 annually. Your dues help fund a variety of items:

- Ten (10) issues per year of the West Walker Wire, delivered free to residences and businesses
- The annual community garage sale
- Area non-profit groups like the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Independence Park, and Independence Library
- Free email updates on neighborhood events, area crime, and a LOT MORE!

## NORTH RIVER COMMISSION ROOTS OF RESILIENCE



### HELP INCREASE THE TREE CANOPY

JOIN NRC AND THE MORTON ARBORETUM TO PLANT TREES, ENHANCING ALBANY PARK'S TREE CANOPY AND PROMOTING A GREENER PLANET!

### How You Can Participate

- Let us plant a tree on your property!
- Join our community listening sessions!
- Volunteer with us!
- Host your own neighborhood clean up!
- Donate to help us continue this work!



**Learn More:**  
**Call: 312-860-2144**  
**Email: [eve@northrivercommission.org](mailto:eve@northrivercommission.org)**



## Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach





## Keeping Your Dog Healthy & Happy All Winter Long

By Jonathan Cooper, Owner of Barksville Chicago Dog Daycare & Boarding

Chicago winters have plenty of charm but also come with challenges for our dogs. Cold sidewalks, salty streets, dry air, and shorter days can all affect how our pups feel this time of year. A few simple habits can make a big difference in keeping them comfortable and healthy.

Icy sidewalks are a big winter concern. Just like people, dogs can slip and strain joints or muscles, so on the coldest days it helps to take shorter walks and avoid heavily iced areas. Snow and salt are tough on paws. Wiping paws after walks keeps irritation down and protective booties add a helpful barrier. Paw balm is another great addition for winter care since it protects and moisturizes paw pads. It can also soothe dry noses, skin patches, hotspots, and skin folds.



Some pups love to burst into full snow zoomies, but it is important to watch for shivers, freezing paws, or hesitation that signal it is time to head inside. Short haired and small breed dogs also lose heat more quickly so a coat or sweater can keep them more comfortable. While many dogs love to snack on snow, it can contain salt, antifreeze, or debris, so it's best to supervise or redirect them with a treat or toy.

Because many dogs are less active in winter, they may burn fewer calories. Keep an eye on their body condition and adjust food or treats if needed. Shorter days also mean darker morning and evening walks so reflective gear, LED collars, and light up leashes help keep both pups and parents visible to drivers and cyclists.



Winter often means less outdoor exercise which can lead to extra energy or boredom. Social interaction helps dogs release that energy in a healthy way. Barksville offers **crate-free play 24/7/365** with constant supervision from trained professionals who are all Pet First Aid and CPR certified. Barksville offers every dog a **free first day evaluation**.

**For new customers receiving this newsletter, we're also adding two (2) extra free days of daycare** so your pup can truly settle in and enjoy the fun. Just sign up on our website, upload your dog's vaccine records, and let's get them in on the fun! We can't wait to welcome your pup to the Barksville family.

### Share Your Input on Pulaski Bus Improvements

CTA and CDOT are studying ways to make bus travel faster and more reliable along Pulaski Road, from Peterson to 87th. They're exploring potential upgrades like dedicated bus lanes, safer crossings, improved sidewalks, and more comfortable bus stops—all aimed at making transit work better for residents who rely on it.

West Walker neighbors are invited to review early design concepts and share feedback at upcoming public meetings, including a virtual option on December 8. Your input will help shape refined designs coming in 2026.

Learn more at the CTA's Better Streets for Buses page, or scan here:



**Better  
Streets  
for Buses**





# Gateway Montessori

Nurturing the Potential  
Within Each Child

**Now Enrolling**

## Develop your child's potential

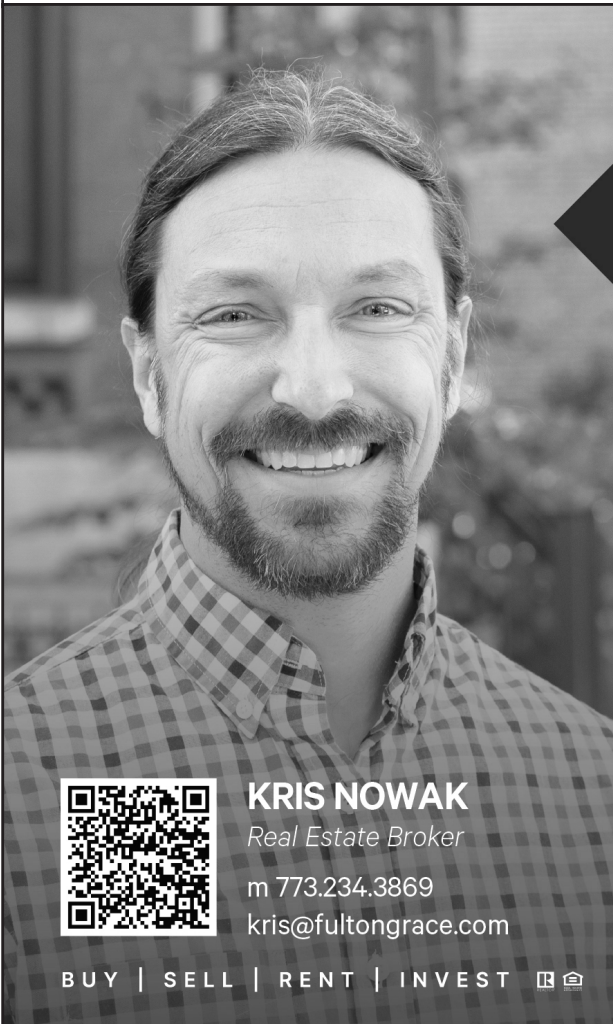
- Ages 15 months through Elementary
- Beautiful, bright new building
- Regular informational tours

4041 N. Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60641

773.539.3025 • [info@gatewaymontessorischool.org](mailto:info@gatewaymontessorischool.org)

**GatewayMontessoriSchool.org**

Accredited through age 12 by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)



**KRIS NOWAK**

Real Estate Broker

m 773.234.3869

[kris@fultongrace.com](mailto:kris@fultongrace.com)

BUY | SELL | RENT | INVEST 

## AUTHENTICITY MATTERS.

***"I'm beyond grateful to have had Kris' help and expertise throughout this process. He is not only a great agent, but a genuinely good person to work with. I would wholeheartedly recommend him to anyone looking to buy or sell a home."***

– Chelsea B.

Proud to be your **trusted West Walker real estate resource!**

**My clients say it best –  
scan the QR code to read their stories!**

**FULTONGRACE**