West Andersonville Neighbors Together

DEC. 2012

We are a not-for-profit organization committed to the betterment of the neighborhood through development of community spirit and group involvement. The boundaries of WANT are the north side of Foster, the south side of Bryn Mawr, the west side of Clark, and the east side of Ravenswood.

VOL. XXXL NO. 4

CLARK STREET



Mark your calendar! Thursday, **December 13** will be the final general meeting of the year. It begins at 7:30 pm and is being hosted by Summerdale Church, 1700 W. Farragut. We'll have the usual committee reports and updates, but also discuss plans for the future. We are thinking big for 2013, and hope to organize more events in the neighborhood. So bring your ideas and gather with neighbors in a holiday atmosphere as we toast the end of a great year for WANT, and look ahead to even better!

Meet-up Dinners

A new season of WANT meet-up dinners will kick off soon. The first dinner will be at Cosina Grill, 1706 W. Foster, **January 8** at 7 pm. Meet-up dinners are a great way to mingle with your neighbors in a friendly atmosphere and to support our local merchants. Anyone is welcome to attend—you don't have to be a member of WANT to share in good conversation and good food served familystyle at a nearby restaurant. A prix fixe has been negotiated, but individuals can order off the menu as well. This meet-up dinner has been arranged by Dorothy Nygren; for more information or to make a reservation, contact her at 773.561.4739 or omega123@comcast.net.

Have a suggestion for a meet-up dinner? Want to organize one? The schedule is open, so think about it!



Membership in WANT is a great way to support your local community. Here are some added incentives for renewing your annual membership or joining WANT! You receive an eco-friendly reusable WANT shopping bag. Also, you are automatically entered into the 2nd annual membership raffle, two gift certificates to a local restaurant. The raffle drawing will held at the first general meeting in 2013. Remember that memberships run on a calendar year, but if you joined after November 1, 2012, your membership will run until December 31, 2013.

Community Policing (C.A.P.S.) Program

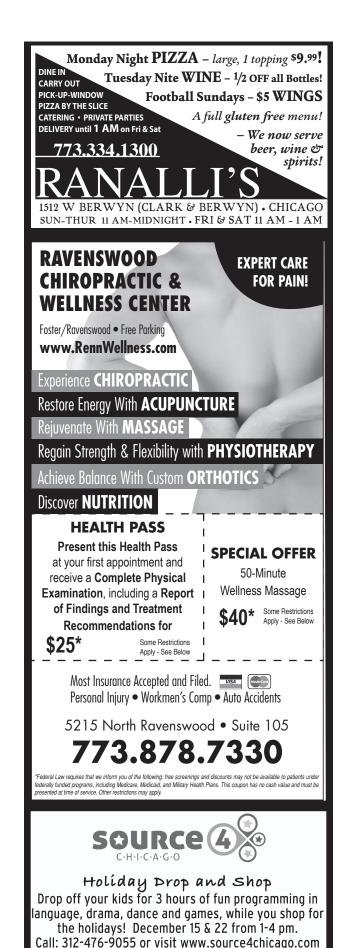
As reported in the Chicago Reader (Oct. 26, 2012) and elsewhere, the C.A.P.S. (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) program may be dismantled in 2013 due to budget cuts. The upcoming bimonthly meeting for District 20, Beat 2012 (which encompasses West Andersonville, Bomanville, and West Edgewater) may be one of the last, so please mark your calendar for **December 12,** 7:00 at St. Gregory Church, located at 1609 W. Gregory. Our beat officers have dedicated themselves to neighborhood safety, and their efforts benefit the entire community.

As reported by WANT liason Steve Simons from the October beat meeting, the neighbrhood saw a minor increase in graffiti and an uptick in burglaries. As well, thefts from vehicles were on the rise.



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West Andersonville Gardeners Make Plans for 2013

Maryon Gray, Chair, West Andersonville Garden Committee

West Andersonville Gardens was included in *New City*'s 2012 list of "Best of Chicago" as the "Best secret flower patch in Chicago." "A patch of purple flowers alerts you to an opportunity—stop and smell them. Why not? After all, you've just discovered the best secret flower patch in Chicago." The listing was a total surprise to us gardeners, although we know it's true.



Plans are underway for the 2013 gardening season in West Andersonville Gardens, our community garden stretching from Berwyn to Balmoral east of the Metra tracks. A core group of gardeners met on November 4th, before enjoying the WANT Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, and discussed priorities for the upcoming year. Our special project for 2013 redesigning and replanting one of the areas just north of Summerdale and east of the garden path. We'll also continue to replace weeds with

groundcover and to overseed the grassy areas. We hope you will join us to help keep the garden beautiful. Group volunteer workdays will be published in the Spring issue of WANT News and posted on WANT's website, www.westandersonville.org.

We're excited that students from St. Gregory's High School plan to come in early April to do some of the heavy work of spring cleaning in the garden. Our aging backs and muscles

appreciate help from strong teenage backs and muscles! We'd love to have other groups join us in the garden as well. If your group would like



to join us on one of our scheduled volunteer days, or to set up a special day to help, please contact us through the WANT info line, 773-878-2723, or at www.westandersonville.org and someone from our project will call/e-mail you back.

But don't wait until spring to enjoy West Andersonville Gardens. Each season has its own beauty in the garden and this fall has been particularly spectacular. Winter is always beautiful as well, as the snow clings to bare branches or mounds on the evergreens. So put on your boots and your parkas and take a tromp through the garden. Hope to see you there!

Land Use and Zoning Committee Quarterly Report

Tom Simms. Committee member

On November 12th the Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ) held its fall meeting. Discussed at the meeting include the following:

- **Teardown on Clark at Rascher**: This large lot on the west side of Clark is to be a four-story building with first-floor commercial space and three floors of residential units (total six units). Six parking spaces will be provided on the lot. vThe construction plan is within the B-3 zoning restrictions.
- Ravenswood Pub: The building has been sold. If the property is torn down, it returns to an R-3 zoning. The committee is attempting to learn more about what is planned for this lot.
- Abandoned / unoccupied buildings: There are currently several abandoned buildings in West Andersonville. If you know of any, please report this to the committe. The procedure for reporting such buildings to the city will be discussed with the alderman.

The co-chairs of the LUZ committee will be meeting with Alderman O'Conor (TBD) to discuss issues affecting the WANT community.

Pauline's: New Era for a Neighborhood Institution

Neighborhood favorite and WANT member *Pauline's Restaurant* has seen a year of change. Long-time owner Ron Messier passed away on November 18, 2011, and new owner Kathy Henning was the manager of Pauline's prior to becoming an owner. In March 2012, Kathy—a Ravenswood resident—replaced the floor (you probably saw that Pauline's was closed for a couple weeks!) and made some structural improvements—the restaurant's eclectic decoration and charm remains the same!

While Kathy has maintained all the things about Pauline's that have made it an area stand-by for many years, she has also taken some steps to update Pauline's approach. Pauline's now takes credit cards! The hours are the same as always: 365 days a year, 7am–3pm. And the menu features the same generous portions and comfort food classics that have made Pauline's one of Andersonville's most popular brunch spots. New to the menu, however, are a selection of delectable pancakes, including a S'mores pancake featuring marshmallow, chocolate and graham crackers, pumpkin pancakes, and whole-wheat pancakes. Rotating specials feature seasonal pancakes like apple or peach pancakes. And of course you can always indulge in a five-egg omelette!

Congratulations to Kathy on her first year as the owner of Pauline's, and we wish her many more years of success!

WANT in Search of Volunteers

Interested in connecting with people in the neighborhood? Want to lend a hand and make a difference right where you live? We are in need of volunteers. The newsletter is a multi-faceted enterprise, and we are always in need of people to contribute articles, help with distributing the newsletter, and marketing. Another area that might offer good experience is helping with the WANT website. We'd welcome kids in the neighborhood as well!









MARGUERITE GARDENS.

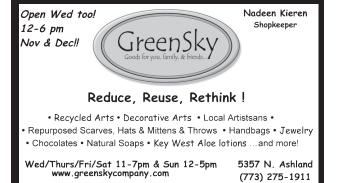
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HOLIDAY MYSTERY AT THE RAVEN THEATRE

Raven Theater presents a live, radio-style presentation of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose* by Michael Menendian and John Weagly, adapted from one of the most popular of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*. This delightful holiday mystery features Ian Novak and Frederick Harris in definitive performances as the famous detective and his ally Dr. Watson. The story concerns the disappearance of a gem called the Blue Carbuncle, which has been hidden inside a Christmas goose. Stolen from the Countess of Morcar, the jewel's trail leads Holmes and Watson all over wintry London and to a surprising conclusion. This holiday treat comes complete with live musical accompaniment, humorous commercials, and a closing sing-a-long. The show will run December 14-30.

Steep Theatre Rings in the New Year with *Luther*

Steep will begin its 2013 programming with the Midwest Premiere of Obie Award-winner Ethan Lipton's *Luther*, directed by Joanie Schultz. The show opens at Steep Theatre (next to the Berwyn Red line stop) on Jan. 24th. *Luther* is the story of a traumatized war vet who, upon returning home to the states, is adopted by a pair of uncomfortably earnest urbanites.

Steep Theatre has become known as a home for hard-hitting, finely tuned ensemble work. With each production, the company has shepherded a growing community of audiences and stakeholders into bold new territories of story and performance. Over the years, Steep productions have been named to *TimeOut Chicago*'s Top Ten Shows of the Year list five times, the *Tribune*'s Top Ten List once, the *Tribune*'s Best of the Fringe list twice, the *Sun Times*'s best of the year list twice, and WBEZ's Top Ten Shows of the Decade. In six years of Jeff Eligibility, Steep has received 11 Jeff Nominations and has won the 2009 Jeff Award for Best Ensemble (*In Arabia We'd All Be Kings*), the 2010 Jeff Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role (*Harper Regan*), and the 2011 Jeff Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role (*A Brief History of Helen of Troy*). Steep was named the 2010 *Broadway in Chicago* Emerging Theatre Award Winner.

New Kid on the Block: pH Comedy Theater

Brand-new to the neighborhood is pH, a comedy theater that specializes in improv, sketch comedy, and musicals as well as offering classes. Formerly in a Lakeview location, ph Productions has taken up residence across the street from Ranalli's, at 1515 W. Berwyn Ave. Weekly shows include Improv Jam, Open Mic, "Women on Top," and college improv team night. The weekend shows include *The Assemblers*, a satirical sketch show that deconstructs superheroes and comic books, as well as musicals and midnight shows.

WHAT'S ON, IN AND AROUND

Clark Street has recently seen a spate of business closings, but we're happy to note some recent new openings! Polygon Cafe has opened in the old Sushi Luxe space at 5204 N. Clark. They'll be serving sushi and Thai food. As a bonus, the storefront also got a welcome new facelift! Other new eateries on Clark Street include *Johnny Brown Bag* (5406 N. Clark)—a casual Italian concept—and the long-awaited Jerry's Sandwiches (5419 N. Clark). *Brasserie 54 by LM*—billed as a "neighborhood French restaurant and bar"—has also opened after taking over the former Premise location at 5420 N. Clark. They'll be serving both dinner and weekend brunch (including a bottomless Mimosa brunch, which certainly sounds enticing). Though Vincent (1475 W. Balmoral) is not new to Andersonville, it does have a relatively new chef in Adam Grandt. Readers might be interested to know that former Vincent chef Chrissy Camba is busy competing on the current season of Top Chef!

After fourteen years in the same location, *Las Manos* art gallery has moved from its Clark Street location to a new space on Foster between Clark and Ashland (1515 W. Foster). That little stretch is becoming a boon for the eclectic shopper, with **She** Art (1519 W. Foster), Woolly Mammoth (1513 W. Foster) and now Las Manos! We're glad the gallery is staying in the neighborhood. New to the area is Jameson Loves Danger, a pet supply store at 5308 N. Clark, right around the corner from Las Manos and next door to Polygon Cafe. Further up Clark Street we welcome *EmbroiderArt* at 5351 N. Clark. This shop speclializes in needlework items, including custom embroidery. A big welcome to all our new neighbors!

Painted Light's "Weekly Specials" focus on a different area of the shop through the holiday season: photo restoration or framing; fantastic artworks and specialty gifts. Check our Facebook page to find out what the week's special will be. "Like" us, "Share" the page, and earn a bonus discount for your trouble (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Painted-Light-Photography-Framing-Gallery/294355067287057).

Join Swedish-American organizations area to experience an Andersonville tradition, the St. Lucia Celebrations, on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 11:30am at Daley Plaza, 4:45pm at the Swedish American Museum, and 7 pm at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. Festivities at the Swedish American Museum include a procession starting at 4:45pm. At 7pm, the celebration continues at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster in Chicago, with holiday songs, readings, and a St. Lucia procession.

Are you a procrastinator when it comes to holiday shopping? Late-er Night Andersonville is the cure! Shops on Clark Street will open late Friday, Dec. 14, until 10pm. See Santa at Julmiddag, an old-fashioned Swedish family Christmas Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 16, 5 pm. A traditional Swedish Smörgåsbord dinner with entertainment includes Santa, who will be attending to give presents (julklappar) to all the children. Reservations are required. RSVP to the Swedish American Museum online or call 773.728.8111.



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Third Sunday of the Month First Free Church 5255 N. Ashland at Berwyn

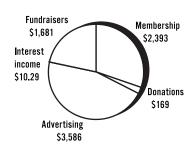
11:30am-2:00pm: Nov. 18 and Dec. 16, 2012 11:00am-2:00pm: Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 17, and Apr. 21, 2013:

Winter produce, baked goods, and other local treats!

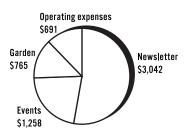
2012 END-OF-YEAR FISCAL REPORT

WANT had a successful financial year in 2012. Over the years, WANT's primary financial resource has been paid advertising in this newsletter. Revenues from ad sales have been declining in the past few years, leading to some concern at the beginning of 2012 over the financial health of the group. In 2012 the board undertook initiatives both to increase income

Total income, \$7,840.11



Total expenses, \$5,756.00



and to diversify income sources. To that end, WANT focused in 2012 on increasing membership, with the result that membership is now approximately double what it was one year ago. WANT also reached out to local businesses to participate in the fundraisers those businesses offer: the HomeMade Pizza, Marty's, and Hamburger Mary's HamBingo fundraisers were all great successes, both in terms of money made and in strengthening community ties. While advertising is still the largest source of gross income for WANT, the

expense of printing means the newsletter essentially breaks even. WANT depends on membership dues and donations in order to fund the garden, put on neighborhood events, and perform other community services.

The 2012 budget had represented a 25% across-the-board cut on expenses as a result of the early concern over income levels. Because income was higher than anticipated, WANT will see a roll-over of about \$2000 into 2013. In this coming year, the Board plans to restore many budget line-items to earlier funding levels, and is also exploring adding some new social events to the WANT calendar. It remains a key priority, however, to continue to increase the membership rolls - not only is increased membership important to WANT financially, it is key to the vibrancy of the group. If you're not a member, please join! And if you are a member, please encourage your neighbors to join! If you are curious for more details of WANT's budgetary plans in 2013, please attend the

ENJOY LOCAL THEATER!

The Neo-Futurists

5153 N. Ashland Ave. * www.neofuturists.org

Too Much Light, Fri.-Sat. 11:30 pm; Sun. 7:00 pm, on hiatus Dec. 14-23 Analog, by Kurt Chiang Feb. 28-Apr. 6

Quest Theatre Ensemble

The Blue Theater, 1609 W. Gregory (at St. Gregory Church campus) www.questensemble.org

The Raven Theatre

6157 N. Clark St. * www.raventheatre.com Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose Dec. 14-30

Boy Gets Girl, by Rebecca Gilman, directed by Cody Estle Jan. 15-March 2

Redtwist Theatre

1044 W. Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org Purple Heart, by Bruce Norris, directed by Jimmy McDermott Dec. 22-Jan. 27

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

5779 N. Ridge Ave. * www.rivendelltheatre.org American Wee-Pie, by Lisa Dillman, directed by Megan Carney Jan. 10-Feb. 16

Steep Theatre Co.

1115 W. Berwyn Ave. * www.steeptheatre.com Luther, by Ethan Lipton, directed by Joanie Schultz Jan. 24-March 2

MUSEUMS

Edgewater Historical Society

5358 N. Ashland · 773.506.4849 Open every Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 pm, Thursday 6-8 pm www.edgewaterhistory.org

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark · 773.728.8111 www.samac.org

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This free support group meets at The Hartwell from 5 to 6 pm on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Jan. 2 • Feb. 6 • Mar. 6

Refreshments are served and a free dinner and respite for your loved one is provided. All are welcome.

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(link to Paypal through www.westandersonville.org)

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Memberships expire December 31, 2012

*Friend" designates members from outside of WANT's boundaries; they receive the same benefits as members, are welcome at all general meetings, but are non-voting members of WANT.

Business/Organization - \$40 per year

Membership gets you a listing in our Business Member column which includes two lines indicating "a special" or business description along with other pertinent information.

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2,200 copy distribution throughout Clark Street & West Andersonville neighborhood.

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