West Andersonville Neighbors Together

MARCH 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. 1



CLARK STREET

Quarterly General Meeting March 14, 7:30 Summerdale Church, 1700 W. Farragut

Join us for the first general meeting of the year! The agenda will include:

Committee updates (Zoning, Garden, Finances)

Choosing and scheduling annual events

Drawing a winner for our first annual new membership raffle

Discussing meet-up dinner group scheduling

Guest speaker from the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce

The newsletter: paper vs. electronic? and strategies to sustain a paper version.

Bring your ideas and plan for some fun conversation!



Fun conversation & great food!

Get to know your neighbors, support local restaurants, and have some mid-week fun! The cost of prix fixe meet-up dinners is usually \$15–\$20. Next date to be set at the general meeting on March 14.

Past meet-ups have taken place at Cosina Grill, Icosium, Lalibela, and Turkish Bakery, among others.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Andersonville street festival, Midsommarfest, is set for June 9-10.

WANT Annual Yard Sale

June 23—Save the Date!

Last year's annual fundraiser yard sale was a great success. Over forty-five households participated in the neighborhood event, and there was lots of foot traffic the entire day.

The \$10 fee covers advertising, signage, maps, and the hassle of getting a city permit. Plus you're helping WANT fund our garden and yearly events. If you're not yet a member, join WANT, and the fee is waived! Look forward to a fun day of meeting neighbors and feeling part of a community, so plan to participate. Call Dena to sign up (773.275.9974).











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LAND USE AND ZONING

Recent noticeable activity in the neighborhood has gone this past quarter without complaints, and I invite you to call the WANT hotline if you have any concerns.

We have noticed work is now well underway on the four unit project at 1721 West Berwyn (which was reviewed by LUZ and reduced by one unit from the originally proposed 5 unit).

Work has resumed on the house at 5440 North Paulina (which was reviewed by LUZ and found to be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, demonstrating that it is possible to build a 3 story house in RS3 Zoning).

The following items will be on the agenda for our upcoming meeting with Alderman Pat O'Connor:

- Thanks for prompt action and removal of a dead parkway tree at 1733 West Balmoral and for repairing a sink hole in the street at 1737 West Balmoral.
- Follow-up on ownership of 5323 North Paulina building to ascetain whether it is in fact a CHA section 8 property as rumor has it.
- Any developments with respect to the EMC site.
- Thanks for completing the repaving work on Paulina street in advance of winter.
- Any updated schedule regarding work on the Metra tracks.

We'll have a full reoport on the meeting with the Alderman at the general meeting in March.

Please do not hesitate to be the one to take the initiative, and be involved in what is going on in West Andersonville!

CAPS Beat Meetings

The city of Chicago is divided into twenty-five police districts. West Andersonville is in district 20, and is protected by the police officers of Beat 2012, which extends from Clark Street to Western Avenue, and from Foster to Peterson Avenues.

Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), introduced in 1994, offers area residents the opportunity to get to know the beat officers who patrol the neighborhood. At CAPS meetings, folks can talk directly to the police officers who serve the community. CAPS meetings provide a way to learn about security and other police-related issues in beat 2012. It's also a way to communicate local concerns about ongoing nuisances and suspicious or criminal activity.

Bimonthly Beat 2012 meetings are held at the St. Gregory Church building, located at 1609 West Gregory. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm, and upcoming meetings are scheduled for **April 11** and **June 13**. Beat meetings allow residents, as well as local businesses, to share information, and build a stronger community. Hope to see you there!!

Spring in West Andersonville Gardens

I hear the birds singing . . . spring is coming. Soon crocuses will be popping up in West Andersonville Gardens, our community garden, which runs along Ravenswood from Berwyn to Balmoral on the east side of the Metra tracks. Enjoy a stroll through the garden to catch the first breath of spring. You'll also see neighbors strolling through the garden—parents and children (with and without strollers), dog walkers, bicyclists resting on a garden bench, children from the Montessori achool.

It's the garden's wood-chipped, meandering garden path that makes those strolls possible. And it's the work of our fabulous volunteers that makes that path possible. If you enjoy strolling through the garden, or admiring it as you drive by, please join us in readying the garden for the spring "strolling season." We are asking all "path users" to volunteer one hour to keep the path beautiful. You have four opportunities to volunteer this spring.

Saturday, March 31: "Spring Clean-up"—time to rake leaves and pick up all of winter's accumulated garbage. Also cut back grasses and shrubs. It may not sound like fun, but it's rewarding to see the marvelous result of a couple of hours of work. **Saturday, April 21: "Path & Garden Preparation"**—we'll

be widening the garden path by digging out weeds/grass that have encroached on the edges. We'll also be weeding and fertilizing. Also the garden is ready for the addition of wood chips the following week.

Saturday, April 28: "Rechipping" the Garden Path—we'll have big piles of woodchips, wheel barrows, shovels, pitchforks, and rakes. We need you to supply the people power! You'll love the instant gratification of a bright, new path.

Sunday, May 20: "Spring Planting"—we'll focus on an area south of Balmoral along the fence.

Weekend workdays are from 9:00 am to noon. Rain dates for the March and April work days will be one week later (a little rain never stops us, but a storm will). Come when you can; leave when you must. Look for us around Summerdale, which is the middle of the garden. Absolutely no gardening experience is necessary. We have tools and gloves for your use; feel free to bring your own as well.

Garden maintenance and beautification continues throughout the year. In addition to our weekend workdays, we beautify the garden on two weekday evenings each month (a Thursday and a Monday). We meet at 7:00 pm and work until dark. These work evenings are a great way to relax from your regular work week, hang out with your neighbors and create a thing of beauty. **Mondays:** May 7, May 14, June 11, and **Thursdays:** May 31 and June 28.

If you'd like to volunteer, just come to Ravenswood at Summerdale on one of our workdays. To learn more, call the WANT info line (773.878.2723) or contact us at www.westandersonville.org. PLEASE JOIN US!

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5357 N. Ashland (773) 275-1911 the WANT calendar

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
arch	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Scandinavian Jam Session Swedish-American Museum,
aren	HM Bingo	SC A.Y.O. Bingo			Sewing and Craft Lounge 7:00 FirstFree Church	1:30-3:30
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
	EL Tots	Bingo WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots		
	HM Blngo	Andersonville Neighborhood Night	WANT General meeting 7:30 Summerdale Church			
18	19	20	21	22	23 WANT Tots	24
Winter Farmer's Market	EL Tots HM Blngo	WANT Tots	New Business Member Open House Andersonville Guesthouse, 6:00-8:00	EL Tots	Waffle Day (Våffeldagen) Swedish-American Museum	
Ebenezer Lutheran Church 11:30 - 3:30	Thir bingo	SC A.Y.O. Bingo	RSVP to Patrick Chappel at		St. Gregory's Annual Fish Fry	
11.50 - 5.50		Dingo	patrickchappel1@gmail.com			
25	26 EL Tots	27	28 Miss Linda	29	WANT Total	31 Garden Volunteer Day, 9:00
	HM Blngo	WANT Tots Bingo	Miss Ema	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Those Were the Days Radio Players Edgewater Historical Society. 2:00
April						Eugewater Instollear Society. 2.00
1	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Miss Linda	5 EL Tots	6	7
	HM Blngo	SC A.Y.O.		EE Toto	WANT Tots	Crime in Edgewater New exhibit!
	·····g	Bingo				Edgewater Historical Society. 1:00
8	S EL Tots	10	11 Miss Linda	12	13 WANT Tots	14
		WANT Tots		EL Tots	Sewing and Craft Lounge	
	HM BIngo	Bingo	CAPS meeting 7:00 St. Gregory's		7:00 FirstFree Church	
15	16	17	18 Miss Linda	19	≥⊙ WANT Tots	21
Winter Farmer's Market Ebenezer Lutheran Church	EL Tots HM Blngo	WANT Tots	MISS LINGA	EL Tots	WANT 10ts	Garden Volunteer Day
11:30 - 3:30		SC A.Y.O. Bingo				9:00 - noon
22 EARTH DAY	23	24	25 Miss Linda	26	27	28
	EL Tots	Edgewater Historical	Wiss Linua	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Garden Volunteer Day
	HM Blngo	Society Fundraiser Nookies, 6:00–9:00				9:00 - noon
29	30	1	2	3	4 WANT Tots	5
	EL Tots HM BIngo	WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots	WAN1 lots	
	- Tim Singe	SC A.Y.O. Bingo				
May	7	_	9	10	11	
6	Z EL Tots	S WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots	WANT Tots	12
	Evening Garden work, 7:00	Bingo				
	HM Blngo	3				
13 MOTHER'S DAY	14	15	16	17	18	19
	EL Tots	WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots	WANT Tots	
	Evening Garden work, 7:00 HM Blngo	SC A.Y.O. Bingo				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Andersonville Wine Walk:	EL Tots HM Blngo	WANT Tots	Miss Linda	EL Tots	WANT Tots	
www.andersonville.org	billigo	Bingo				
27	28	29 WANT Tots	30	31	■ WANT Tots	
	28 MEMORIAL DAY	>>> WAINT TOUS	30	31	TATA NIT Tota	2



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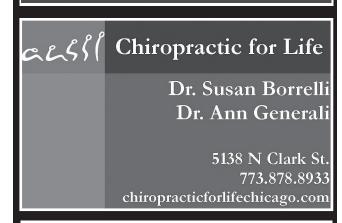
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Goings on in and around West Andersonville

Theater/Art Center in Bowmanville, Fall 2012

Accoring to *Crain's Chicago*, the Griffin Theatre Company are fine-tuning a renovation plan for a new home — the old police station at Foster and Winchester that the city sold to the troupe last year for \$1. The Griffin, which produces classic adaptations and original plays for children and adults, will create a neighborhood professional performing arts center, the Griffin Arts Center in the Bowmanville neighborhood of Chicago. The first phase of renovation, which will include an 80 seat black box theater, is scheduled to be completed this fall. For more, see http://griffintheatre.com.

Nature Calls

You may have heard reports of coyote spottings in the neighborhood; www.a-ville.daily reported sitings on Jan. 25 in Lakewood-Balmoral. Closer to home, a coyote was spotted on Farragut between Ashland and Ravenswood on Jan. 13. Residents called Animal Care, but the coyote had moved on by the time officers arrived.

Save Room for . . .

There are tasty developments in the works. The Anteprima team is opening **Ombra** in the former right half of Charlie's Ale House. It will feature a Venetian-born style of small plates, cicchetti, and an all-Italian wine list. Meanwhile, www.a-villedaily. com reports that thieves broke into the work site for the much anticipated expansion of **Hopleaf** in late February and cut out copper piping that was fully completed. And for those who remember **El Tipico** west of Ravenswood on Foster, great news: it's back, just across the street. And as their leaflets confirm, "Same Owner Same Cook." The Burger Philosphy on Bryn Mawr at Clark is a TimeOut Chicago nominee for Best New Burger in their 2012 Eat Out Awards. Good luck! And on the horizon, **First Slice** is scheduled to open in the space vacated by Sunburst Florist on Ashland. You can subscribe to receive meals (organic+delicious), but your subscription will also directly contribute to funding the same high-quality meals for people in need. Plus First Slice had great volunteer opportunities in their community-supported kitchen.

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

The *Sun-Times* reported on February 19 about the diminishing number of old-school neighborhood taverns in Chicago, once cornerstones of ethnic communities, due to gentrification, high rents, and city regulations. One holdover is Simon's Tavern, at Foster and Clark. Owner Scott Martin sees the city's sense of community at stake. Growing up in the area, Martin recounts that there used to be fifteen bars on Clark around Simon's. Now, "they're all gone."

Midsommarfest to add Friday "Opening Night"?

Edgevillebuzz.com reports that Midsommarfest, the annual Andersonville outdoor summer fest, might take on the addition of a Friday "Opening Night." The proposed smaller Friday evening event would feature a stage with live music and other attractions.

WANTVillage

News · Events · Safety Concerns · Businesses

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View the forum as a guest or register to post messages and photos. Located at wantvillage.com/sm. Trouble registering? Contact WANTvillage webmaster Verena (alphadog@sendinthehounds.com).

Theater/Events

The People's Barnum—Quest Theater Ensemble

Fri., Sat. at 8:00 pm, Sun. at 2:00 pm :: The Blue Theatre, 1609 W. Gregory
Thru March 18 :: free / donations accepted
http://questensemble.org

The Raven Theatre

Their 2011–12 season continues http://www.raventheatre.com

Neo-Futurarium

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Museums

Edgewater Historical Society

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Events and Exhibits

Grocery Stores in Edgewater · Through March 25
Those Were the Days Radio Players · March 31 FREE
Crime & Community in Edgewater · Opens April 7
Annual fundraiser · April 24

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark · 773.728.8111 · www.samac.org

March Events

Scandinavian dance classes · Fridays Scandinavian Jam Session, March 10 Waffle Day (Våffeldagen) · March 23 Fllm Thursday, April 5 · FREE

Worship

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March 7 • April 4 • May 2

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Memberships expire December 31, 2012

*Friend" designates members from outside of WANT's boundaries. "Friends" 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 pertainent information.

Questions? Call the WANT line: 773.878.2723

Board Member Contacts •

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