

WANT NEWS

West Andersonville Neighbors Together

SEPT.
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. 3

CLARK STREET

SEPTEMBER 13 GENERAL MEETING

The next general WANT meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Avenue. WANT holds its annual board election at the September meeting; all current WANT members are encouraged to come out and vote! Members who are unable to attend but would like to vote may send a proxy vote via e-mail to outgoing Board President Susana Darwin (susanadarwin@earthlink.net). The agenda will include committee updates (Land Use and Zoning, Garden, Finances) and upcoming events in addition to the election.

WANT is actively seeking volunteers to sit on and chair committees, so get involved!

Nominees for the 2012–13 WANT Board are

- Mike Dies, President
- Maia Rigas, Vice President
- Cameron Krieger, Treasurer
- Sara Hornstra, Secretary
- Elizabeth Dowling, Member at Large
- Amanda Dykema-Engblade, Member at Large
- Don Gecewicz, Member at Large

Martinis for Everyone!

Sunday, Sept. 16 • 2–5 p.m.

Marty's Martini Bar • 1511 W. Balmoral

Join WANT for a fun-filled afternoon of cocktails in the French-themed Marty's Martini Bar. This is a unique chance to meet the new WANT board, support our mission of bringing neighbors together, and have a great time in the process! Marty's will be donating 100% of net proceeds directly to WANT! This money goes to supporting our organization, the newsletter, and events such as the Ghostly Garden. Please support WANT and especially Marty for his generosity toward our organization as well as others alike.



GHOSTLY GARDEN

A non-scary Halloween event for families with small children

Saturday, October 27, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

West Andersonville Garden

at Ravenswood from Berwyn to Balmoral

Enter the garden at Berwyn and Ravenswood

Please join us at this gentle community event as we stroll the path, play games, and enjoy treats. Children premiere their Halloween costumes and parents warm up with coffee as we celebrate the spirit of the season.

To volunteer to make decorations, set up, or dress in non-scary costume at the event, please call/e-mail Clare Reter (773.320.5396/ClareReter@me.com).

Do you know an individual or business who might sponsor this year's Ghostly Garden? It is a great way to support our community and get your name out to more than 200 neighbors and parents. Contact Clare Reter for more information.



Next Community Police Beat CAPS Meeting for District 20, Beat 2012 is Oct. 10, 7pm at St. Gregory's Gym

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**Many Helping Hands Keep West
 Andersonville Garden Beautiful**

Maryon Gray, Chair, West Andersonville Garden Committee

I hope you'll stroll this autumn through West Andersonville Gardens, our community garden which runs along Ravenswood from Berwyn to Balmoral. I realize that almost every newsletter article I write begins by urging readers to stroll through the garden. There is good reason for that: the garden changes so much from season to season that you won't want to miss the delights each season brings. Fall, of course, brings fall color. Be sure to notice the low growing sedum in the "centerpiece" at Summerdale which turns from green to a beautiful yellow orange color.

Fall also brings falling apples and falling leaves. We need your help to pick up the apples and rake up the leaves. (Yes, we let some of the leaves remain to enrich the soil, but some need to be removed.) There'll be weeding and pruning to do as well. Maybe some planting if we find the perfect shrub to replace the daylilies which we dug out during our August workday.



Please join us for at least one of our three fall workdays: Sunday, September 9; Saturday September 29; or Sunday October 21. All 9:00 a.m. to noon. Cooler weather makes fall a delightful time to work in the garden. If you'd like to volunteer, just meet us at Ravenswood and Summerdale (east of the Metra tracks). Come when you can; an hour of your time will help keep the garden beautiful. No gardening experience is needed; tools are available.

Speaking of volunteers, special thanks goes out to our core group of garden volunteers who in addition to their regular weeding, pruning and mowing gave time and effort to watering this summer. Deep watering of our shrubs and trees as well as watering the ground covers seems to have brought all of the garden's plantings safely through the summer's heat and drought.

West Andersonville Gardens was created in 1995 with a grant from Greencorps, a program of the City of Chicago Department of Environment. September 2012 marks our 17th year!! The garden has been maintained and improved for those 17 years by community volunteers with occasional assistance from Greencorps and the Chicago Botanic Garden. We always need new (and returning) volunteers to keep the garden beautiful. PLEASE JOIN US! To learn more, call (773-878-2723) or email (info@westandersonville.org) us, and someone from our project will call/e-mail you back.

Land Use and Zoning Quarterly Report

Philip Cassagrande, LUZ Co-Chair

LUZ continues to monitor a number of activities in the WANT area:

- The Edgewater Medical Center is still an active issue and Waveland Partners recently proposed a development with fewer units, more set-back space, and a larger park that will be more acceptable to the overall community. LUZ has been in contact with WEAR and we have expressed our support for their efforts to guide this development to its successful conclusion.
- With the Metra bridge work continuing, LUZ is planning to work with Alderman O'Connor to identify which agency will be responsible for maintaining the landscaping from Foster northward along the curb at Ravenswood on the West side.
- The Ravenswood Pub is open and still for sale; however the plan to build a kitchen and expand their outdoor serving area is closed.
- Various residential construction projects on Paulina and Rascher are underway (and unsightly) or completing with little or no LUZ involvement since special approvals were not requested.
- Noteworthy Clark street Chamber of Commerce developments include Hamburger Philosophy's liquor license, Johnny Brown Bag opening, Las Manos Gallery fighting to maintain its lease after fourteen years, and the new parklet on the west side of Clark at Farragut

The co-chairs of LUZ will continue to meet with Alderman O'Connor semiannually or as needed. If you have any issues that should be brought to the attention of LUZ, please don't hesitate to contact us (info@westandersonville.org).

2012 Home Tour

Edgewater Historical Society

The Edgewater Historical Society announces its 24th Annual Home Tour on September 16, 2012. The tour begins at the Eritrean Orthodox Church of St. Mary at 6344 N. Paulina at 12 noon. Check in is open until 4 p.m. and the fee is \$25. The area of the tour is called the Highlands of Edgewater. It features homes from three decades of the early 20th century. The architectural styles include Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, American Foursquare and Chicago Bungalow. Of special interest is the Theodore Rozek Home which has just been named a historic landmark. Also of interest is the home of Edgewater architect A. E. Norman, who built Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Foster.

Tour goers check in at the starting place and then walk the area at their own pace. There will be eight homes on the tour in a three-block area. Refreshments will be served. "This promises to be a special tour as it is rare to have a landmark home and the home of an Edgewater architect on the same tour" said home tour chairman, Kathy Gemperle. "Come and enjoy exploring another area of Edgewater that you may have driven through after leaving the post office on Devon."

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Food Truck Sundays!

Cameron Krieger

Food trucks have been a hit in many cities in recent years, but until very recently Chicago's laws prevented food trucks from preparing food on board. That restriction severely limited the development of this hip and growing industry in Chicago. But Chicago's new food truck ordinance is on the books, and West Andersonville is grabbing onto the trend! The new ordinance finally allows trucks to cook and prepare food on board (something other major cities like New York and Los Angeles have allowed for years). That's a good thing for food trucks . . . but the ordinance also prevents a food truck from parking within 200 feet of an established brick-and-mortar food establishment, which makes it difficult for many trucks to do business in some of Chicago's densest areas. While the previous ordinance had the same restriction on location, the difference with the new law is that the fine for a violation has risen substantially.

WANT, working with the West Andersonville Farmers' Market, has started Food Truck Sundays in a effort to bring these trendy mobile food stands to the area, while allowing the trucks a place to park that toes the legal line. Every Sunday through September, different trucks will be visiting the West Andersonville Farmers' Market at Ashland and Catalpa. Most trucks will serve food between 11am and 1pm. For the specific schedule, make sure to check West Andersonville's Facebook page, Andersonville Events on www.everyblock.com, or www.westandersonville.org. Or just swing by the market and be surprised!

The schedule is still under development, but you can expect to see trucks serving everything from tamales to Cajun food to Italian meatballs to cupcakes every Sunday at the Farmers' Market! The trucks are in addition to the great vendors that have always been at the market, including Nichols Farm, Stamper Cheese Company, and C&D Family Farms.

Past Events Build toward Future Success!

WANT events increase visibility and establish connections within the community—and are a whole lot of fun as well!

2012 YARD SALE REPORT, *Dena Gordon, Yard Sale Coordinator*—We had 55 households participating, including new business members Quest Theater Group and Ebenezer Lutheran Church. Thanks to Cindy Serikaku from the church, who postponed their own rummage sale. Thanks to Kathy and staff at the alderman's office who were wonderful in helping everyone get their permits on time. And thanks to our many volunteers!

2012 Hamburger Mary's Bingo Night, *Clare Reter and Cameron Kreiger, Co-organizers*—A "mary" time was had by all! A full house of neighbors and friends attended our wildly successful fundraiser on July 16 at Hamburger Mary's. Thank you to everyone who came out to support WANT, play bingo, and enjoy food and drink. Special thanks to our prize donors: Ranalli's of Andersonville, Mother of Hermes Press and Maia Rigas, Cosina Grill, pH Comedy Theater, Metropolitan Brewing Company, Marty's Martini Bar, Green Sky, and Lady Gregory. You're all faaaab-ulous!

2012 Marty's Martini WANT fundraiser, *Betsy Kane, Organizer*—We are looking forward to meeting new neighbors and connecting with old friends. We can't thank you enough, Marty!

A Note from Outgoing WANT President Susana Darwin

First, let me thank the membership of WANT for electing me president back in 2010. I hope my connections with neighbors, area business owners, our governmental leaders, and neighboring organizations have helped WANT serve its constituents well. I also owe a debt of gratitude to WANT board members Cameron Krieger, Clare Reter, and Betsy Kane. I'm proud of the innovations WANT has undertaken with their leadership and the new ideas we've embraced. We've expanded the array of fundraising opportunities the organization pursues which support a variety of programs like the beautiful garden, and we've created more chances for West Andersonville neighbors to get to know each other. I look forward to continuing to work with the next board in an ex officio capacity.

I recently met the president of the East Garfield Park neighborhood association, and among the issues her group is actively pursuing is shutting down and razing a package store that was a magnet for drug dealing and making their streets there safe just for walking around. We are fortunate to live in a stable, comfortable neighborhood like West Andersonville, and I'm proud, for example, of how quickly residents stepped up to offer help to our neighbors on Farragut and Berwyn who lost their garages to fire. Those who are active with WANT contribute their time and energy with a view to making life in the neighborhood even better, so please join me in encouraging productive interactions and cultivating our quality of life long-term. This can take patience and sometimes forbearance, but it's worth it.

Lyman Trumbull Elementary School— A School on the Rise . . .

Principal Venus Shannon

The 2011–12 school year was a turning point for Trumbull Elementary School. After seventeen years of dedicated service, Principal Robert Wilkins retired. With the assistance of the newly elected Local School Council, I am working to reintroduce Trumbull into the community. At the MidSommarfest earlier this year, forty-seven teachers and parents volunteered to help raise funds for Trumbull. The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce responded to these volunteers by making a generous donation to the school in the amount of \$6,100.

During the 2011–12 school year, the Illinois Standardized Testing scores went up by 4%, lifting the school from the troubled "Level 3" to the "Level 2" achievement strata. This can be attributed to the efforts of the students, staff, and parents who value Trumbull Elementary. A strong academic after-school program is planned for this year that helps students to succeed. With the addition of a new computer lab, an I-pad computer learning center, and a new \$50,000 science lab, Trumbull is on course to continue to develop strong and confident students that are proud to wear the label "Made in Andersonville."

Truman still faces challenges. Electrical upgrades, air conditioning, and bathroom renovations top the wish list of school administrators. The school welcomes interested neighbors to drop in for a tour or to consider volunteering, as well as the opportunity to foster relationships with local businesses.

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WHAT'S ON, IN AND AROUND

Edgewater Historical Society, Annual Home Tour, Sept. 16.
www.edgewaterhistory.org/

Swedish American Museum, "The Enduring Designs of Josef Frank," opening night, Sept. 21—Exhibit of designs textiles and furnishings of Austrian-born Joseph Frank, who was one of the most influential graphic designers of the 20th century, the engine behind the Vienna Werkbund and the Swedish Modern style.
www.samac.org

Andersonville Dessert Crawl, Sept. 23—Explore the sweet side of Andersonville at the Andersonville Dessert Crawl. THREE great routes. Tickets for one route are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the event. www.andersonvilledevcorp.org/events

Ravenswood Artwalk, Sept. 29–30—The event stretches along the historic Ravenswood Industrial Corridor and allows guests a rare peek at the creative arts, business and industry from the neighborhood. The walk showcases fine art, hand-made crafts, music and theatrical performances, architecture, design and much more. ravenswoodartwalk.org/

Andersonville Arts Weekend, Oct. 5–7—Get your creative juices flowing by celebrating Andersonville's artistic community and fabulous array of locally-owned businesses. Features original artwork by dozens of local artists showcased in businesses and galleries throughout the neighborhood, plus a variety of live shows and performances. www.andersonville.org/

Howl-O-Ween 8th Annual Dog Parade & Costume Contest—Andersonville South Neighborhood Association Saturday, October 27, 11:00 a.m.

Cheetah Gym Trick or Treat & Costume Contest, Saturday, Oct. 27—5248 N. Clark. Call for Andersonville Chamber for details.

Gethsemane Garden Center /48th Ward Fall Festival, Saturday, Oct. 27—5739 N. Clark. Call for details.

Quest Theatre Ensemble, "The People's Exhibit," Nov. 16–18. Come celebrate Quest's tenth anniversary with a breathtaking exhibition of props, puppets, costumes and backdrops that have graced many of their shows. www.questensemble.org/gala.php
November 16 & 17: 7–10 pm, live entertainment begins at 8 pm
Advance tickets: \$20 (includes two drink tickets; \$25 at the door (cash only)
November 18, *Quest Fest Family Day*: 11–4 pm
Suggested Donation: \$5 at the door (cash only)

Late Night Andersonville Festival, Nov. 30, 6–10pm. Stores and restaurants will be offering great discounts on

distinctive gifts and delectable after-hours meals, plus complimentary refreshments and entertainment.

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directed by James T. Scott III and written by Billy St. John
Opening night, Sept. 7 // www.questensemble.org

The Raven Theatre

6157 North Clark Street
The Big Knife, by Clifford Odets, directed by Michael Menendian
Opens September 11 www.raventheatre.com

Redtwist Theatre

1044 West Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org
Broken Glass, by Arthur Miller, directed by Steve Scott
Opens October 6

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

5775 North Ridge Avenue #1
Wrens, by Annie McGavrie, directed by Sandy Shinner
Opens September 6
www.rivendelltheatre.org

Steep Theatre Co.

1115 W. Berwyn Ave. * www.steeptheatre.com
Moment, by Deirdre Kinahan, directed by Jonathan Berry
Through Oct. 17

Museums

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Board Member Contacts •

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Treasurer, **Cameron Krieger** (cameron.krieger@gmail.com)
Member at large, **Betsy Kane** (bakane@rcn.com)
Member at large, **Clare Reter** (clarereter@mac.com)