West Andersonville Neighbors Together

2013 www.westandersonville.com

A not-for-profit organization committed to the development of community spirit and group involvement

VOL. XXXLI NO. 4

FOSTER



GENERAL MEETING -- DECEMBER 10!



DEC.

The next WANT General Meeting will be held on Tues.. Dec. 10, at 7:30 pm at Edgewater Historical Society (5358 N. Ashland). To celebrate the holiday season, we'll be having a dessert potluck! Bring some cookies or other treats to share, or just come along to enjoy your neighbors' baking skills—all are welcome.

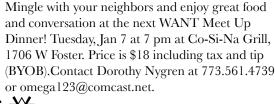
We will be following up on issues raised at our last meeting, such as the status of the vacant Trumbull School building and school-related traffic issues. In addition, several new issues will be up for discussion that may have a significant impact:

- Asian Human Services is requesting a charter to expand Passages School, on Bryn Mawr in St. Gregory school buildings, to include a high school.
- WANT has been working to solve traffic congestion caused by Rogers Park Montessori by having it redirected within Bomanville. Meanwhile, RPMS is advocating a solution that restricts parking on Ravenswood east of the tracks.

WANT needs the input of the neighborhood on these important issues. Please come and voice your opinion!

We will vote on proposed amended bylaws and on a budget for 2014; the bylaws are the same as the last set proposed, with a slight tweak to the term of the board. All residents, regardless of membership status, are welcome at our meetings, so please attend and speak up!

january Meet 🏻







A NOTE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT



My name is Michael Fick, and I have been a neighborhood resident since 2011. I also work in the neighborhood, serving as Pastor at Ebenezer Lutheran Church. My spouse Charlie and I are so very pleased to be living in the vibrant and unique Chicago community, and I'm very grateful to be in service among you.

westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com

As is well known, WANT has a critical role to play in bringing the diverse interests of neighbors together for the common good, working with our elected officials to represent our common interests, and engaging with other block clubs and neighborhood organizations to work for even larger goals in this part of Chicago. WANT has a rich history of doing just these things, thanks to dedicated leadership and engaged citizens. Are your neighbors WANT members? Are you? If not, please consider joining the organization and attending a general meeting. If you're like me, you'll find yourself engaged by the diversity to experience around you and energized by the desire to work for the common good.

Please feel free to communicate with me about issues and concerns you feel WANT could effectively engage. You can best reach me by email at pastormichael@ebenezerchurch.org.

All the best to you all in this season of celebration and community. And as always, I hope to meet you soon at a WANT event or meeting.

> Peace. Michael Fick

Is safety a priority for you? Then attend \geq the next CAPS Police Beat meeting!



Wed., Dec. 11, is the next neighborhood CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting. Saint Gregory's Gym, 1609 West Gregory, at 7 pm

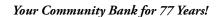
















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West Andersonville Gardens Plans Winter Projects

Maryon Gray, Chairperson, West Andersonville Gardens

This winter you're likely to see a surprising amount of work going on in West Andersonville Gardens. Occasionally major work is needed that volunteers cannot provide. With monetary help from WANT and an anonymous donor, we will go ahead with two

major projects:



• Removal of trees, brush and other growth between the fence at the rear of the garden and the railroad tracks to get more sun. This will be done by a professional crew, with a railroad flagman on hand for safety. This project has been a "dream" of the community gardeners

for several years; the generosity of an anonymous donor has made it possible.

• Removal of deadwood in the enormous cottonwood tree by

the bench just north of Balmoral and prune back two other trees by a professional arborist.

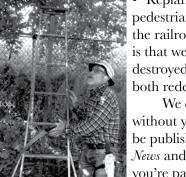
We have two major projects planned for 2014:

• The biannual "rechipping" of the garden path: one weekend for widening the path and the second



for applying the wood chips. We will need help from everyone who enjoys the garden, but rest assured it's always

a lot of fun.



• Replanting the area south of the pedestrian tunnel at Berwyn cut down by the railroad contractors. The good news is that we will be reimbursed for plants destroyed, which gives us an opportunity to both redesign and replant.

We can't accomplish these projects without your help. Volunteer workdays will be published in the spring issue of *WANT News* and posted on WANT's website. If you're part of a group of people interested in community projects, we would LOVE to talk with you. School groups, church groups, scouting or other youth groups can be a tremendous help with projects like

pathmaking, and weekday events can be arranged. Please contact us at westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com and someone from our project will get back to you.

But don't wait until spring to enjoy West Andersonville Gardens. Winter is always beautiful in the garden, as the snow clings to bare branches or mounds on the evergreens. So put on your boots and your parka and tromp through the garden. Hope to see you there!

West Andersonville Gardens was created in 1995 with a grant from GreenCorps, a program of the City of Chicago Department of Environment. September 2013 marked our 18th maintained and improved for those 18 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!*

2013 WANT Charity Outreach

As part of its mandate to act for the betterment of our community and its people, WANT dedicated part of its 2013 budget to charitable donations. Half went to Care for Real, a non-profit that has serviced the Edgewater community for over 40 years by providing food, clothing and counseling services. It acts as a safety net for our neediest citizens through on-site food distribution, a free clothes closet, food deliveries to the housebound, and counseling services to aid clients in getting other needed services. Care for Real even runs a pet food pantry! The other half of WANT's charitable donations went to sponsor the Andersonville Farmers' Market. This is a popular event that we feel enhances the West Andersonville neighborhood.

If you know of a local organization that you think is an appropriate beneficiary of WANT's community support, please let us know. We will consider proposals for WANT's 2014 charitable donations in the new year.

Land Use and Zoning Committee Report

We are monitoring several ongoing developments:

- There has been no decision on the disposition of the Trumbull school building and lot, although rumors abound, ranging from a possible new location for a magnet school to a commercial site. Stay tuned and express your views.
- Passages School (on Bryn Mawr): the school may be seeking a charter to expand into a high school.
- Together with the WANT board we have been monitoring the situation of traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up hours at Passages as well as at Rogers Park Montessori School in Bomanville.

To the north of us, Edgewater Medical Center has been sold to a new developer. The latest proposal would be for all single family homes and no public park. We have not yet seen a written proposal showing the specifics. Stay tuned as we learn more.





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Get to Know WANT's Business Members

GreenSky's Nadeen Kieren and Thom Greene

GreenSky is a locally owned eco-boutique located in the landmark Victorian building at the corner of Ashland and Balmoral. Owners Nadeen Kieren and architect Thom Greene took the name *GreenSky* from the historic Chippewa Indian church in Charlevoix, Michigan, where they were married in 1994.

Every item has a story at GreenSky, which offers a variety of gifts, functional items, and local, handmade one-of-a-kinds. The shop spe-



cializes in recycled, reclaimed, fair trade, and socially conscious products and was named best eco-friendly shop by *Time Out Chicago*. Items range from license plates made into artistic state maps, sea grass handbags, birdhouses made from reclaimed barn wood, yard art from reclaimed steel drums, handbags made from sea grass, repurposed woolens, tires or seatbelts and even outdoor furniture made from recycled milk jugs! People have often remarked that "it's the

kind of shop you only find when you're on vacation."

GreenSky's home is equally sustainable and locally oriented. Nadeen and Thom rescued and restored the building in 2005 with minimal build-out, preserving 90% of the original interior. The renovation won them a Good Neighbor Award from the Chicago Board of Realtors and a Chicagoland Painted Ladies Award for the colorful Victorian color scheme. GreenSky is the first business in Andersonville to earn Green America approval and a highest sustainability rating from Eco-Andersonville. Their goal with all of their endeavors is to transform every project into a community jewel.

Tips on Getting Organized

Step-by-Step by Sandy Spatz, Personal Organizer

I've been organizing, sorting, and purging ever since I was a child. As an adult, my love of organizing has led me to chair fundraisers, help friends pack, move, and set up their new homes, reorganize kitchens, basements, and playrooms, and help people live "lighter." Quite a few years ago, a friend casually suggested that I turn my skills and passion into a business. She said, "You see through all the clutter to what it can be." What a lovely compliment! So I followed her suggestion, started a business, and have been helping people ever since.

My motto is, "Don't let organizing scare you." They're just things, meant to be enjoyed and appreciated and make our lives easier and perhaps more efficient. At the end of the day, we need to be able to catch our breath, find our car keys, and feel at peace in our own homes. We spend our lives acquiring and accumulating, then one day, we turn around and we feel somewhat suffocated by those very same things.

I believe it is never too early to teach children to respect and take care of their things. I also believe that organization can be learned, and it can be fun and very gratifying. To learn more about me and what I do, log onto www.stepbystepbysandy.com.

Here are some tips to get you started—

- * With the season changing, take a few minutes and arrange the hangers holding your winter clothes so the hooks are facing out. Once you've worn something, put the item back with the hanger facing the usual way. At the end of the winter, you will see what you have and haven't worn.
- * The holidays are here! It's a perfect time to go through the toys with your child(ren) and determine what they no longer play with

- and make room for new toys. Choose a charity to donate the gently used toys to and deliver them together.
- * Have a drawer overflowing with utensils? Put them ALL in a box. The utensils you use can go back in the drawer. At the end of one month, see what's left in the box, i.e., what you don't use, and get rid of it. For info on Sandy's services, go to www.stepbystepbysandy.com.

WHAT'S ON. IN AND AROUND

New Restaurants in Andersonville

This past year has seen some comings-and-going on Clark Street, but the end of the year brings us some new eateries in Andersonville. **Bull Horns Taco Bar** has opened in the former Marigold space at 5413 N. Clark. Bull Horns will serve tacos (both classic and "specialty," which is said to include a sloppy joe taco and tacos with fried chicken or meatballs), as well as margaritas.

And replacing the high-end pizza at Great Lake, we have a gourmet hot dog hut: **Hoppin' Hots** at 1477 W. Balmoral, brought to us from the team at Over Easy on Damen. The menu has a classic Chicago dog, of course, but also features dogs with more exotic ingredients, including duck confit, lavender-fennel aioli, and deep-fried sous vide pork belly. For the indulgent, most exciting might be the availability of poutine in the neighborhood, though if you have a sweet tooth, the roasted strawberry-Grand Marnier milkshake also catches the eye.

We've had a bit of a revolving door at 5420 N. Clark since In Fine Spirits closed its bar and restaurant (neither Premise nor Brassiere 54 lasted too long). Hopefully the **Brixton** will have better luck. This upscale spot should be open by the time of publication, but to date we don't have much information about the menu. The chef will be Kevin McMullen, who formerly worked at Michelin-starred EL Ideas in Douglas Park.

Speaking of the Michelin Guide, congratulations to **Ceres' Table** (4882 N. Clark) and the **Hopleaf** (5148 N. Clark)! Both of these local favorites were named on Michelin's 2014 list of Bib Gourmands. Bib Gourmands are restaurants recommended by Michelin that are more affordable than those receiving a star. This is Ceres' Table's fourth year in a row on the list; 2014 marks the Hopleaf's debut.

The Holiday Season in West Andersonville

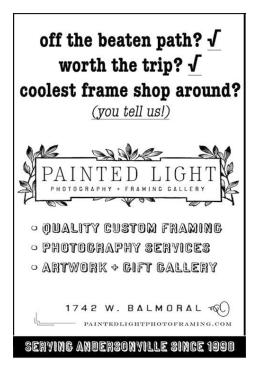
Find a custom fragrance bar at Heidi Sauhammel's **Body Chemisti holiday pop-up store** at 5416 N. Clark. Custom-scented body care products as well. 11am—9pm, closed Tuesdays, until Jan. 5.

Andersonville stays up late for the **Late Night Andersonville**. From 6 to 10pm on Fri., Dec. 6, stores and restaurants will be offering great discounts on distinctive gifts and delectable after-hours meals, plus free refreshments and entertainment. **Later Night Andersonville** on Fri., Dec. 20, is another opportunity to enjoy local shopping in the late hours.

Julmarknad—the Swedish American Museum's annual Christmas Bazaar, where traditional Scandinavian and modern handicrafts will be available for purchase. Check out traditional Swedish food and entertainment; \$2 suggested donation for admission. Sat., Dec. 7, 10am–5pm, Sun., Dec. 8, 10am–4pm.

Fri., Dec. 13, **Saint Lucia Festival of Lights**—a candlelit, carol-filled procession down the sidewalks of Clark St,. followed by singing and treats at the Museum. Admission is \$1, or a toy or a can of food to benefit Care for Real, Edgewater's food pantry.

Quest Theatre's **A Christmas Wish**—a rousing holiday story featuring Quest's signature large-scale puppetry, a rockin' musical score, and plenty of holiday cheer for the whole family. Weekends, Nov. 22–Dec. 22 at St. Gregory's Blue Theater, 1609 W. Gregory. Free! For info and reservations (recommended), 312-458-0895 or quest.ensemble.org.

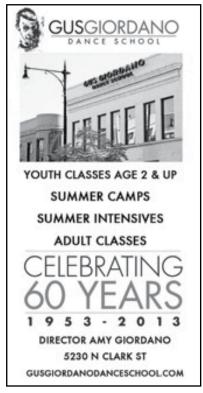


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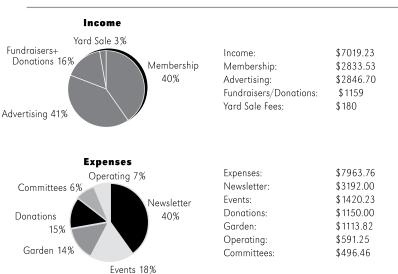
WANT Annual Report

Cameron Krieger, WANT Treasurer

As we reach the end of 2013, WANT remains in a healthy financial condition. This past year was somewhat experimental for WANT; we on the board wanted to know whether an investment in more community giving, more community events, and more membership outreach would be worth spending part of the organization's reserves. With a substantial reserve relative to annual expenses, this was a low-risk proposition, and we believe it paid off.

Our membership currently stands at about 130 households and businesses, compared to a projection of about 60 members for 2012; our income from membership dues has grown by over 140% in just two years. The new block party, held this past July, was a resounding success, leading to increased interest in WANT and increased donations. WANT was able to give \$1,150 to sponsor Care for Real and the Andersonville Farmers' Market.

Our approved 2013 budget had anticipated greater expenses than income. While our income did not quite reach the amount projected,



neither did our expenses, so WANT ends 2013 in the financial position that was anticipated a year ago. While income exceeded expectations in the area of membership dues and donations, it fell short on advertising and fundraisers. This shortfall was in part due to a miscalculation of the number of ads possible to sell (because the newsletter is shorter than it has been in the past) and in part due to the fact that one planned fundraiser was not able to be held because there was no room on the business partner's schedule. Both of these issues will be rectified in 2014. Regardless, WANT will end 2013 with about \$10,000 in the bank – roughly the same as the amount it started with – and is well-positioned moving into 2014.

Going forward, WANT plans to continue its focus on increasing membership and providing social events that will help to bind us all as a community. We encourage all our members to get actively involved in WANT, whether by working in our community garden, helping at an event, or serving on a committee. If you have questions about WANT's 2013 finances and would like to participate in discussion of 2014's budget, please attend the December 10 General Meeting!

ENJOY LOCAL THEATER!

The Neo-Futurists

5153 N. Ashland Ave. * neofuturists.org

The Soverign Statement, by Bilal Dardai, directed by Brandon Ray, thru Dec. 14 Too Much Light, Fri.–Sat. 11:30 pm; Sun. 7:00 pm

Quest Theatre Ensemble

The Blue Theater, 1609 W. Gregory (at St. Gregory Church campus) A Christmas Wish!, Nov. 22–Dec. 22 * Free! www.questensemble.org

The Raven Theatre

6157 N. Clark St. * www.raventheatre.com

The Playboy of the Western World, by John M. Synge, directed by Michael Menendian Feb. 4–Apr. 5

Redtwist Theatre

1044 W. Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org

Elemeno Pea, by Molly Smith Metzler, directed by Steve Scott, Dec. 5-Jan. 3 Happy, by Robert Caisley, directed by Elly Green, Feb. 15-Mar. 16

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

5779 N. Ridge Ave. * www.rivendelltheatre.org

Rasheeda Speaking, by Joel Drake Johnson, directed by Sandy Shinner, Jan. 8-Feb. 15

Steep Theatre Company

1115 W. Berwyn Ave. * www.steeptheatre.com

Strangers, Baby, by Linda McLean, directed by Brad Akin, Jan. 23-Mar. 1

MUSEUMS

Edgewater Historical Society

5358 N. Ashland * 773.506.4849 :: www.edgewaterhistory.org Those Were the Days Radio Players :: Living Treasures of Edgewater Senn High School Centennial Exhibition, through Dec. 29

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.

Feb. 5 • March 5 • April 2

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

To learn more about our Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group or to RSVP your attendance, please call 773.275.2400

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Memberships are annual, and expire on the last day of the year. Make out a check to WANT and mail it to WANT, PO Box 408146, Chicago, Illinois 60640-8146, and note in memo "Membership." You can also pay via Paypal.com (link to Paypal through www.westandersonville.com).

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