NEWS

West Andersonville Neighbors Together

MAR. 2014 A not-for-profit organization committed to the development of community spirit and group involvement

VOL. XXXLII NO. 1

www.westandersonville.com

westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com

FOSTER



March General Meeting & membership RAFFLE!

Mark your calendar! The next WANT General Meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, at 7:00 pm at Summerdale Church (1700 West Farragut). We will cover business old and new, including the current status of Passages' charter proposal. Issues on the horizon include the fate of Trumbull Elementary School, which has been mentioned (*Inside-Booster*, Mar. 5–11, 2014) as one of five closed schools now open for bids for re-use. Everyone is welcome to our meetings, so come and voice any neighborhood concerns you have! We will also be holding the drawing for our annual membership raffle, so make sure your membership is renewed in time! Thanks to GreenSky and Painted Light for donating raffle prizes!

A word on joining WANT or renewing your memberhip: Joining WANT has tangible benefits, like automatic entry in our raffle and free participation in our annual yard sale (a \$10 value). As well, you'll be supporting the features of West Andersonville that make this a great neighborhood: the beautiful award-winning garden, our farmers' market, our social events like the block party and the Ghostly Garden, and a unified voice in local government. Please join now!

July 13--the Second
Annual WANT Block
Party

Save the Date!

Let's start a tradition. Please put a big circle around this (tentative) date on your calendar: Sunday, July 13, 2014. WANT is planning the second annual neighborhood party, scrumptious buffet, and bounce-house-

a-thon. Right now, we are thinking of the same block, Balmoral, running from Ravenswood to Paulina. The party would take place from early afternoon to early evening, like last year. There will be special visitors and special events.

After weeks of snow, let's think about summer, when the community garden is blooming, the trees are in leaf, and we can enjoy some time together outside. So mark your calendars! More details soon. Would you like to volunteer? Have a suggestion? Send ideas to Don Gecewicz at don.gecewicz@me.com.

Vard sale!

The WANT annual fundraiser yard sale had over 65 participating familes last year, and everyone had a ball. This year's sale will take place Saturday, June 28, 9–4pm. The \$10 fee covers advertising, signage, and inclusion on maps of participating homes that we'll distribute. If you're not yet a member of WANT, join up and the fee is waived! Call Dena after May 1 to sign up and get instructions (773.275.9974); make sure to leave your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.







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STEP INTO SPRING IN WEST ANDERSONVILLE GARDENS

Maryon Gray, Chairperson, West Andersonville Gardens

Catch the first breath of spring by taking a stroll in West Anderson-ville Gardens, our community garden which runs along Ravenswood from Berwyn to Balmoral east of the Metra tracks. Enjoy the birds, the crocuses and, hopefully, no snow! We have a lot planned for the garden this spring and we need YOUR HELP to make it all possible. We'll be "rechipping" the garden's wood chipped path that makes



your stroll possible. And replanting the area south of the pedestrian tunnel at Berwyn that was destroyed by the railroad contractors last spring. If you enjoy strolling through the garden, or admiring it as you drive by, please join us in keeping it beautiful. You have five opportunities to volunteer this Spring.

• Saturday, April 5th: "Spring Cleanup"—time to rake

leaves and pick up all of winter's accumulated garbage. Also cut back grasses and shrubs to promote new growth. It may not sound like fun, but it's very rewarding to see the marvelous result of a couple of hours of work.

- Saturday, April 26th: "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 other areas. All so the garden is ready for the addition of wood chips the following week.
- Saturday, May 3rd: "Rechipping" the Garden Path—we'll have big piles of woodchips, wheel barrows, shovels, pitchforks and rakes. We need you to supply the peoplepower! You'll love the instant gratification of a bright, new path.
- Sunday, May 18th: Weeding, pruning (yes, we can teach you), fertilizing, overseeding grass.
- Saturday, June 14th: "Spring Planting" We'll be creating a new design in the area just south of the tunnel at Berwyn. We'll have lots of plants and we'll need lots of helpers.

Please join us for one or all of these important workdays All weekend workdays are from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. "Rain date" for 4/5, 4/26, 5/3 and 6/14 workdays will be one week later. (A little rain never stops us but a storm will.) Come when you can; leave when you must. West Andersonville Gardens runs along Ravenswood from

Berwyn to Balmoral on the east side of the METRA tracks. 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. Take a look at the pictures from previous years and you'll see how much fun this will all be!

In addition to our weekend workdays, we beautify the garden on one Wednesday evening each month. We meet at 6:00 p.m. 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. In June we'll be working on the evenings of the 4th and the 25th.

To learn more, contact us at westandersonvilleneighbors2@ gmail.com or thru WANT's website, www.westandersonville.com and someone from our project will e-mail you back.

West Andersonville Gardens was created in 1995 with a grant from Greencorps, a program of the City of Chicago Department of Environment. The garden has been maintained and improved for those 19 years by community volunteers. We always need new (and returning) volunteers to keep the garden beautiful. Please join us!

Land Use and Zoning Committee Report

Philip Casagrande, Chairperson

The WANT LUZ (Land Use and Zoning) committee has had no activity to report recently. There have been no new requests for special Zoning reviews in the WANT area recently. At the last general meeting, there were questions raised regarding two lots in the WANT area where construction work was proceeding: The first was at 1620 W. Gregory, which appears to be construction "by right" requiring no special Zoning review. WANT LUZ is normally not notified when permits are applied for in these instances. The second was regarding work at 5441 N. Ashland. Public records on line indicate that permit 100438487 was obtained by the owners for some interior remodeling work on 7/23/2003. Again, if no special Zoning review was required, WANT LUZ would not be notified by Alderman O'Connor. Please report any suspicious activity at the next general meeting for WANT LUZ to check out, or call 311 if you are concerned that construction work is proceeding without permits. WANT LUZ also understands there are concerns regarding the future of the Trumbull school, however there is no definitive use proposed for that property as far as we know at this time.





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Get to Know WANT's Advertisers

Dr. Todd Renn, Ravenswood Chiropractic & Wellness Center

Ravenswood Chiropractic & Wellness Center is one of Chicagoland's leading professional healthcare specialists right here in our neighborhood, offering a variety of healthcare services like Physical Therapy, Massage, Acupuncture, Orthotics, and of course Chiropractic.

Ravenswood Chiropractic was started in 2002 by Dr. Todd Renn, D.C. His goal is to offer the community quality Physical Medicine and Wellness services. Dr. Renn has over 14 years of experience as a Board-Certified Chiropractic Physician, specializing in the treatment of disc injuries, back pain, neck pain, headaches, and most other body aches and injuries, all without prescription medications or surgery. In addition to Sports Medicine and Family Practice, Dr. Renn also has experience providing expert Chiropractic Care to pregnant women as well infants and children.

The Wellness Center has both male and female Licensed Massage Therapists that are proficient in a variety of massage techniques and are ready to help you feel absolutely awesome! Their family practice Acupuncturist is highly skilled in treating all the conditions the World Health Organization recommends Acupuncture for and offers a reduced cost community clinic on Saturdays.

With all the services offered, this allows Dr. Renn and his team at Ravenswood Chiropractic and Wellness Center to provide patients with options, alternatives, and results, through a comprehensive treatment plan that's personalized for each individual.

Located on Ravenswood/Foster, the clinic also offers a packed calendar of FREE health/wellness workshops open to the public. The calendar of events is listed at www.RennWellness.com.



Patrol

Wintery weather leads to potholes, and Ravenswood, Ashland, and side streets in West Andersonville need the tender, loving care of Mayor Emanuel's war on potholes. The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) has 22 potholes crews, including 2 that work on weekends and 1 that works overnight, according to Alderman O'Connor's website. How to get one of these crews over to the WANT area? Alderman O'Connor offers several options: call 311; make a 311 call on the computer at www.cityofchicago.org/311 or via various Open 311 smartphone apps. Another SOS option is to file a request online at the official city website, www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/311.html, choose "Create service request," then "Service type: pothole in street." To check out a map pinpointing pothole requests, see potholes.311 services.org.

Ashland BRT and Divvy Bikes Improving Transportation Options for Chicago

Shaun Jacobsen, Transitized.com

Everyone can find something to love about improvements to Chicago's public transportation system, including the planned Bus Rapid Transit line coming to Ashland Avenue. Initially planned from 31st Street to Cortlandt, then extended to 95th (to the south) and Irving Park Road (to the north), tens of thousands of commuters will see up to an 83% increase in

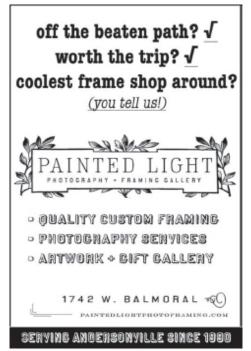


Rendering of the CTA's proposed Ashland BRT plan, with stations in the center of the street.

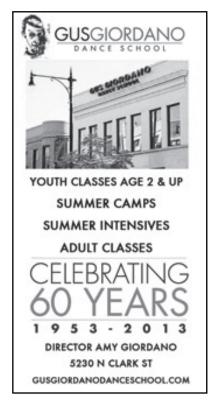
travel speeds thanks to faster, train-like station boarding and a dedicated bus lane with technology that changes intersection signals to prioritize the bus.

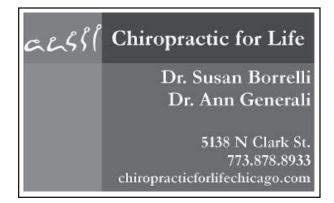
Fast, rail-like speeds will encourage more people to use transit. A quick look at census data illustrates that many households near CTA rail transit lines are less likely to own cars and mostly commute to work via transit. Improving transit makes it palatable to more people—Ashland BRT will accomplish this and provide a faster, more reliable transit option to thousands of households nearby. Since Andersonville lacks a rapid transit rail line west of Broadway, the success of BRT on Ashland is key in hopefully getting service even further north on Ashland.

Another improvement we can make to our transportation network is safe and easy bicycling, and Divvy makes it easy to get on and ride. With three hundred stations (a few in Andersonville) and more slated for installation this spring, Divvy makes it easy to bike for short trips—most are under two miles, or about ten minutes of easy, stress-free riding. Dozens of suggestions for new stations were made in Andersonville, suggesting that many want more bike accessibility in Andersonville. Divvy's expansion and CTA's bus rapid transit project promise to expand options for Chicagoans who want to get around without always having to take the car. Have an opinion on CTA's plans? Let WANT know!











STREET CLEANING

Catalpa to Bryn Mawr: April 11 & 12 Foster to Rascher: April 15 & 16

West AndersonvilleNeighbors Together

2014 Board

President, Michael Fick Vice President, Maia Rigas Treasurer, Cameron Krieger Secretary, Josh Bucher Members at large, Elizabeth Dowling, Amanda Dykema-Engblade, and Debby Pope



The Swedish Horse has returned! The Clark Street landmark was removed for restoration in February 2013. It has returned, to remain on view in the Swedish American Museum, a fiberglass replica to take its place at the corner of Clark and Farragut.

WHAT'S ON, IN AND AROUND

President Jimmy Carter Book Signing, March 27

Former President Carter will be at a book signing for his latest work, *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power*, Thursday, March 27, 6 to 8 p.m. Organized through Women & Children First Bookstore, it will be held at the Swedish American Museum. Tickets to the book signing event are required. The purchase of *A Call to Action* from Women & Children First comes with a free ticket to the book signing. The book (\$30.60) publishes on March 25th. Call 773-769-9299 or go to www. womenandchildrenfirst.com for more information or to preorder a book and secure your ticket.

Neighbood Police Beat Meeting, April 9

The WANT neighborhood belongs to Police beat 2012. Beat meetings provide an opportunity to hear from the officers who patrol the neighborhood. The meetings provide an opportunity for police and the community to engage in joint problem-solving. Please attend! St. Gregory's gymnasium, 1609 W. Gregory, 7-8pm.

Tantalizing Treasures Sale, April 12

This biannual fundraiser benefiting the Swedish American Museum is a great place to find gently used items from jewelry and collectibles to furniture, children's toys and more! 8am-5pm.

Andersonville Farmers Market, May

Springtime means farmers markets! Wednesdays 3–8pm, May 21–Sept. 3, and 3–7pm, Sept. 10–Oct. 15, 2014.

Andersonville Wine Walk, May 18

Cosponsored by In Fine Spirits, the Wine Walk transforms Andersonville's retail shops into wine tasting destinations with 30 wines to try! Your Wine Walk ticket is a specially printed glass that gets you tastings along one of two routes, North and South. Each route features ten distinct locations pouring three wines apiece. Attendees will also receive a booklet listing each wine, so it is easy to remember favorites! *Route information and tickets available in April 2014*.

Midsommarfest, June 6, 7, and 8

Midsommarfest is Andersonville's annual summer street festival, now entering its 49th year. Each year, nearly 50,000 people throng Clark Street from Foster to Catalpa for two days of music, dancing, kids' entertainment, and delicious food. Vendors from around the region sell their wares to passers-by, and ethnic dance troupes and bands provide entertainment. Friday, 5–10pm; Saturday & Sunday, 11am–10pm. \$10 suggested donation for entry into the festival (kids under 12 and seniors over 65 are free) on Saturday and Sunday.

ENJOY LOCAL THEATER!

The Neo-Futurists

5153 N. Ashland Ave. * neofuturists.org
Too Much Light, Fri./Sat. 11:30pm; Sun. 7:00pm

Quest Theatre Ensemble

The Blue Theater, 1609 W. Gregory * www.questensemble.org
Return of Neverland!, thru March 30 * Fri./Sat. 8pm, Sat./Sun. 2pm * Free!

The Raven Theatre

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

Playboy of the Western World, by John Synge, directed by Michael Menendian, thru Apr. 5

Good Boys and True (West Theatre Production), by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, directed by Cody Estle, Mar. 16–May 3

Redtwist Theatre

1044 W. Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org

Love and Understanding, by Joe Penhall, directed by Jaclynn Jutting, thru Mar. 24 44 Ways to End Your Sex Life, by Scott Woldman, directed by Jason Fleece, thru Apr. 5

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

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

Eat Your Heart Out, by Courtney Baron, directed by Hallie Gordon, begins May 23

Steep Theatre Company

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

If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet, by Nick Payne, dir by Jonathan Berry, begins Apr. 17

MUSEUMS

Edgewater Historical Society

5358 N. Ashland * 773.506.4849 :: www.edgewaterhistory.org

Gems from the Collection, through June 29

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark * 773.728.8111 :: www.samac.org

First Thursdays: Swedish Films * 1pm & 7pm * free (rsvp via phone or email) Storytime with Hejsan, for kids 5–10, 1\$, rsvp, 1st and 3rd Thursday, 4–5pm

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Dealing with Dementia Leavens and Support Group

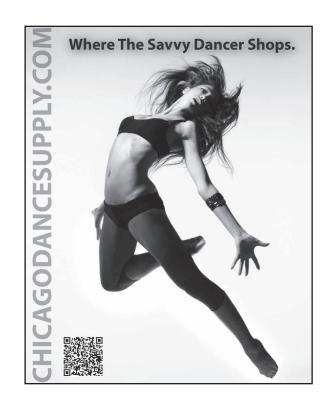
Our Abheimer's and dementia support group offers those who have a loved one with Abheimer's or another dementia a forum for sharing information, traights, and strategies. We frequently host guest specimes to share new purspectives and information.

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How Can I Join WANT? <+-<+-<+-<+-<+-<+-<+-<---

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).

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email address:

Single, \$15 · Household, \$20 · Senior, \$10 · Senior Household, \$15

Business/Organization, \$40 per year—membership includes a listing in our Business Member column here and on the WANT website.

