

West Andersonville Neighbors Together

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

Sept. 2014

www.westandersonville.com

FOSTER

GHOSTLY GARDEN

westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com

A non-scary Halloween event for families with small children

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

West Andersonville Garden
Enter the garden at Berwyn (two blocks north
of Foster) 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. It's a great neighborhood tradition that's fun for all.

If you'd like to donate a carved pumkin, help decorate the path, or dress in non-scary costume and participate at the event, please contact organizer Clare Reter. (773.320.5396, ClareReter@me.com)

Do you know an individual or business who might help 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.

Wednesday, October 8, is the next neighborhood CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy)

meeting at Saint Gregory's Gym, 1609 W. Gregory, 7–8 pm. Please make sure you attend. At the last Town Hall meeting, Alderman

O'Connor said that District 20 is the safest in the city and that this is due to neighbors who act. Please continue in this great tradition by spending an hour to keep yourself informedand our neighborhood safe.

FALL GENERAL MEETING

Mark your calendar: the next general meeting of West Andersonville Neighbors Together will be held on Mon., Sept. 22, at 7:30 pm, at Edgewater Historical Society, 5358 N. Ashland (at Balmoral). All residents of the neighborhood should plan to attend, as many important issues will be up for discussion.

Proposals have been submitted for redevelopment of the site of Trumbull Elementary School at Foster and Ashland, and available for review on Alderman O'Connor's website (www. aldermanoconnor.com); you can also access them via a link on the WANT website (www. westandersonville.com). WANT wants to know what the group feels regarding the use of the site: residential only, mixed-use (residential + commercial), or to continue to limit use to a school. Anyone unable to attend the meeting is free to contact WANT and share your thoughts on how the site should be used.

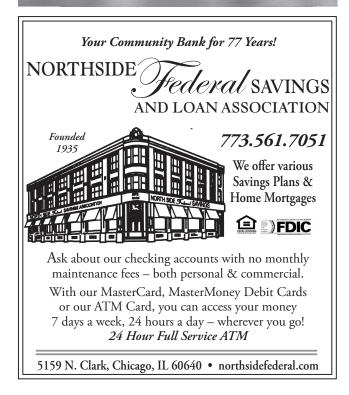
The September general meeting is also when the group holds annual board and officer elections. The nominating committe, Alan Neff, Dorothy Nygren, and Clare Reter, have submitted a slate of nominees for the 2014–2015 WANT Board:

President: Michael Fick
Vice President: Cameron Krieger
Secretary: Josh Bucher
Treasurer: Amanda Dykema-Engblade
Member-at-Large: Debby Pope
Member-at-Large: Drew Trammell
Member-at-Large: LaMont Vaughn

All this and much more will be up for discussion. Please make sure to attend.







Land Use and Zoning Committee Quarterly Report

Dorothy Nygren

The committee met on July 29. Issues discussed included:

- 5455 N. Ashland (Marathon gas station): the owner is seeking B3-1 zoning change for expansion to the south for another bay. LUZ supports the change with the stipulation that cars under the owner's care will not be parked on the street.
- 5418 N. Paulina: the owner not living on premise; ongoing derelict condition
- Trumbull School site: recommendation for traffic impact study.

If you have a specific issue, such as an abandoned car in front of your property, please contact the appropriate governmental agency first. Most issues can be resolved by contacting the Alderman's office, Streets and Sanitation, or by calling 311 or 911. A helpful list of many agencies can be found on the WANT website. If you are not satisfied, bring it to WANT's attention; send an e-mail and someone will get right back to you. Better still, bring it to WANT's attention at a General Meeting because some of your neighbors may have the same concern.

Trumbull School Redevelopment Update

LeRoy Blommaert, Edgewater Historical Society

Nine proposals for the Trumbull property have been posted on Alderman O'Connor's website. Of the nine, three were from school organizations (noncharter). Not unexpectedly each wants to use the building as a school. Of the remaining six, one apparently would re-purpose the building for housing only, whereas the other five plan to convert the building to some sort of mixed use—housing on the upper floors and some non-housing uses on the ground floor. Two proposals would have a grocer as the major tenant, one probably a Trader Joes', the other Fresh Farms International Market. One proposal would convert the school auditorium for use as a live theater space with some ground-floor classrooms used as storage, office, and rehearsal space. Some proposals were quite detailed with site plans, whereas others were vague and did not include site plans. (You can see all the proposals by going to Alderman O'Connor's website.)

On Thursday, August 28, two representatives of WANT, as well as two representatives of ASNA, WEAR, BCO, the Andersonville Chamber/Development Corporation, and the EHS met in Alderman O'Connor's office to review and discuss the proposals and uses. No objections were raised as to the use as a school; however, representatives of the Andersonville Chamber and Development Corporation voiced objection to a major big-box retail going into the building. Appropriately no agreement was reached, and each organization was asked to poll its members as to the types of uses they favored and opposed and get back to the Alderman.

The various uses can be considered as they have impact (both positive and negative) on the following: (1) the adjoining neighbor-

hoods; (2) the Andersonville commercial district; (3) the building itself.

For the adjoining neighborhoods, the major potential negative impacts are traffic and parking, and if a grocery store were the primary retail tenant the unloading of trucks, presumably with access from Farragut Avenue.

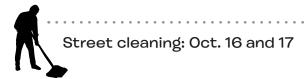
For the Andersonville commercial district, the potential negative impact was changing the character of the district from one of small local businesses to chains; however, the Andersonville Chamber and Development Corporation representatives voiced support for the live theater option as one that would bring desirable pedestrian traffic to the street, primarily to the many restaurants and drinking establishments.

As to the impact on the building, at least one of the proposals was vague as to whether the developers would preserve the entire building. The mixed-use options and even the presumably all-housing use would have impacts on the interior of the building and perhaps also on the exterior, especially retail signage. If major construction were to take place on the ground floor improperly it could damage the structural integrity of the building. Last September, WANT's general membership voted to support the Edgewater Historical Society's efforts to have the significant exterior features of the building landmarked. According to EHS, over 1,200 signatures in support of landmark designation have been obtained, of which slightly over 300 have been from the West Andersonville neighborhood—the largest number from any neighborhood—and nearly half of all 40th ward residents. There is thus strong community support for preserving the building and protecting its exterior against defacement.

We have heard the phrase, the "devil is in the details," and that is true in this case as well. How the request for proposal document (RFP) is written will determine what will and what won't be allowed. The RFP could be written as to allow only one specific use—such as a school—or it could be written to preclude one or more uses, or it could be written to allow all uses. Alderman O'Connor has promised to allow the community consensus to dictate how the RFP will be written.

Update on Edgewater Medical Center

Although plans are in place for the purchase of the Edgewater Medical Center, the sale is dependent on the settlement of the owed property taxes and has not yet taken place. Sources close to the Alderman have said this issue is nearly resolved. In the meantime, public safety issues continue to be a persistent problem. Many residents are alarmed that the startling degradation and lack of security present a significant public risk. Over a month ago, Jeff Pavia, former Board Member of WEAR, filed a complaint with the City Commissioner of Buildings regarding the old nurses' residence, i.e., the Kadin Building on Edgewater Avenue. So far, he has not received a response. WANT continues to support WEAR in seeking appropriate agencies to solve the mounting public safety issues.





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Report on Spring Town Hall Meeting

Dorothy Nygren

On July 28, Alderman Patrick O'Connor held one of a series of town hall meetings at Rogers Park Montessori School. The Alderman updated the standing-room-only audience on a wide range of topics, including the following:

Trumbull School site—Alderman O'Connor supports the re-use of the building. Nine proposals involving no demolition have been submitted, and community feedback is being solicited. Updated information can be found www.aldermanoconnor. com.

Airplane noise due to new air-traffic pattern—the City will place eight more noise detection devices to reassess air-traffic traffic noise due to changed flight paths. The 40th Ward will have a member appointed to the commission.

DIVY bike stations—the 40th Ward to get ten additional stations scheduled for early spring 2015; within WANT area, including new stations will be at the intersections of Foster and Damen and Clark and Bryn Mawr.

Edgewater Medical Center—the contract with MCZ is pending negotiations with the State's Attorney Office. The City is filing an action in Demolition Court as well.

Emergency Home Repairs—beginning Sept. 4, open enrollment will begin for two programs to assist homeowners with emergency home repairs: the Roof and Porch Repair Program and the Emergency Heating Repair Program. Check the City of Chicago website to learn more.

Potholes—almost all 2014 funds going to resurface streets in the Ward; call the Ward office if your street has potholes or curbs in need of repair.

Property fraud—this is a fast-growing white-collar crime that often targets the elderly. A free alert service is available through the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. For more information, call (312) 603-4000.

Rats—this has been an extreme problem. Call 311 to report and the Alderman's office if no timely response. Be sure garbage containers are closed. If damaged, report and a new one will be issued.

River Park Boathouse—construction on this, the third of four city-funded boathouses. is finally under way and is scheduled to be completed in October. Located at the river near Argyle Street, it will function as a boat launch and kayak rental facility.

Safe Schools passage—new signs, bump outs planned for the Amundsen area.

West Ridge Nature Preserve (City Park 568)—Chicago Park District continues to work on plans for the 20-acre nature preserve at the corner of Peterson and Western adjoining Rosehill Cemetery.

ENJOY THE FALL COLORS IN WEST ANDERSONVILLE GARDENS

Maryon Gray, Chairperson, West Andersonville Gardens

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. As you stroll thru the garden, pick up some apples and throw them in the garbage (or eat them if the squirrels haven't gotten them first; they're really good.)

Our hardy volunteers have been working on the area south of Berwyn. You'll see that the hillside has been cleared—we may be planting some grasses there in September. Please

join us for at least one of our two remaining workdays: Saturday September 27; or Sunday October 19. Hours: 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

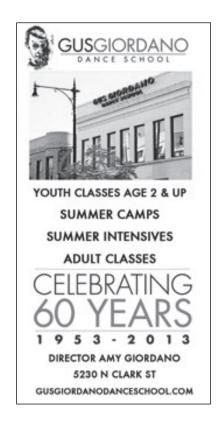
gardening experience is needed; tools will be available.

West Andersonville Gardens was created in 1995 by community volunteers with a grant from Greencorps. We always need new (and returning) volunteers to keep the garden beautiful. PLEASE JOIN US! To learn more, contact us at westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com or thru WANT's website www.westandersonville.com.













5520 N Paulina | Chicago, IL 60640

Dealing with Dementia Resource and Support Group

Our Alzheimer's and dementia support group offers those who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia a forum for sharing information, insights, and strategies. We frequently host guest speakers to share new perspectives and information.

1st Wednesday of each month 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

To learn more about our Dealing with Dementia support group or to RSVP your attendance, please call: (773) 275-2400.

www.cmsschicago.org





WHAT'S ON. IN AND AROUND

Bomanville beer scene—Just to the west a thriving microbrew scene is taking off. Aquanaut Brewery, located at 5435 N. Wolcott, plans to self-distribute once it sorts out licensing issues, but its three-beer rotation has already received rave reviews from the beer critic at the Chicago Reader. Plans include a bar within the spacious facility within six months. And no need to cry in one's beer—Metropolitan just to the south of WANT may be vacating for larger digs, but popular North Center Half Acre Brewery has purchased the 60,000-square-foot Duray Fluorescent building at 2050 W. Balmoral (the target of a recent failed charter school proposal). In March the Chicago Tribune reported that Half Acre's second location should be open by October, with a restaurant and outdoor beer garden to follow. The new facility will use a Rascher address and people will enter/exit on Rasher, away from residential homes. And **Empirical Brewery** will be opening up in a 19,305-squarefoot industrial building at 1801 W. Foster. The owners envision a taproom on the brewery's second floor, with glass walls to allow a view of the tanks that will with any luck eventually surround it. Empirical plans to launch a Kickstarter later this month to help fund taproom construction, targeting an opening in early 2015. It seems appropriate that Bomanville will be cohosting with Griffin Theatre an **Oktoberfest** this year. **Sept. 27**, 4–8 pm, 1940 W. Foster (on the Griffin Theatre property), with local music, food and beer from local breweries!

Skål! An Evening of Swedish brewing history and beer tasting—Join the Swedish American Museum **October 16** to hear Jenny Pfäfflin, a certified Cicerone (beer professional), who will discuss the history of beer in Sweden and the burgeoning breweries of Scandinavia. Proceeds from the event go toward the Museum's **Water Tower Fund** to restore the Andersonville Water Tower. A happy hour featuring Swedish-inspired and other great local beers will follow. Cost is \$30 to attend and includes the tasting; guests must be 21 or over. Register early!

WANT Annual Fundraiser—Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 30th, 8pm. WANT's big annual fundraiser will be hosted at Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark. This event

was great last year, and we anticipate another fun evening of drag-queen-hosted, prize-filled bingo. HamBINGO starts at 8 pm, and lasts about an hour and a half. Guests are asked to make a \$15 donation to play all night (10 games, three chances to win each game). Hamburger Mary's will donate 90% of proceeds from the sale of bingo cards to benefit WANT. Not only will there be bingo, but of course you can enjoy Hamburger Mary's food and drink during the games.



So mark your calendars for a great evening of merriment!

ENJOY LOCAL THEATER!

The Neo-Futurists

5153 N. Ashland Ave. * neofuturists.org

Infiltration, created by Trevor Dawkins, thru Sept. 26 Too Much Light, Fri.-Sat. 11:30 pm; Sun. 7:00 pm

Quest Theatre Ensemble

The Blue Theater, 1609 W. Gregory * www.questensemble.org Nominated for three Jeff Awards!

The Raven Theatre

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

All My Sons, by Arthur Miller, directed by Michael Menendian, Sept. 16-Nov. 15

Redtwist Theatre

1044 W. Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org

Another Bone, by Cathy Earnest, directed by Ian Frank, Sept. 20–Oct. 19 I and You, by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Dave Prete, Nov. 29–Dec. 28

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

5779 N. Ridge Ave. * www.rivendelltheatre.org 20th Anniversary season!

Steep Theatre Company

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

The Vandal, by Hamish Linklater, directed by Shade Murray, Oct 2-Nov. 8th

MUSEUMS

Edgewater Historical Society

5358 N. Ashland * 773.506.4849 :: www.edgewaterhistory.org 2014 Home Tour, Sept. 21

Motoring Through Edgewater, thru March 2015

Swedish American Museum

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

"Bluescapes of Sweden" by Ariana Ramhage, Sept. 12-Nov. 30

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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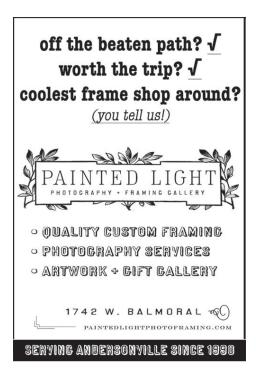
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Autumm Fun in Andersonville

Crafts and craft beers!—Andersonville's second annual **City Made Fest**, featuring local artists, brewers, and musicians, will be held September 20–21, 2014. The event will be on Clark between Argyle and Carmen.

Andersonville Arts Weekend—Oct. 10–12. Friday night will kick off with the always popular **Night of 100 Parties**, an evening of receptions up and down Clark Street.

Andersonville Dessert Crawl—Two dozen restaurants in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood will showcase their sweetest and most delicious wares during the Andersonville **Dessert Crawl** on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014, from 2:00-5:00 pm.



West Andersonville Neighbors Together Board, 2013–2014

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Vice President, Maia Rigas
Treasurer, Cameron Krieger
Secretary, Josh Bucher
Member at large, Elizabeth Dowling
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