

WANT NEWS

West Andersonville Neighbors Together

DECEMBER
2014

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

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www.westandersonville.com

westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com

FOSTER

Update on Redevelopment of Trumbull School

A standing-room-only crowd gathered in the auditorium of Trumbull School on November 24 to hear six presentations for the adaptive reuse of Trumbull School (*for a list of the proposals, see p. 2*). The Edgewater Historical Society presented over 1400 petitions from surrounding neighborhoods indicating widespread community support for landmark status of the historic building. Landmark status would involve preservation of the significant features of the exterior façade (with the exception of the one-story boiler room, which is not considered a significant feature of the building) and the Prairie-style auditorium. All other internal areas of the building are not included and may be reconfigured.

In early December, Alderman Patrick O'Connor's office will send a survey to those attending the meeting to solicit their feedback. He is also welcoming further feedback from community organizations who have participated in his ad hoc committee. Feedback on the proposals may also be emailed to Ward40@cityof-chicago.org. Please entitle your email "TRUMBULL PROPOSAL FEEDBACK." Kindly include your address in the comments.

From all the information and feedback gathered, the alderman's office will work with the Chicago Board of Education to define the acceptable uses for the building. Once the acceptable uses are defined, the board will issue a request for proposals (RFP) that contains those acceptable uses. In other words, after soliciting information from these various sources, O'Connor will determine what should be included in the RFP. The language of the RFP determines what types of proposals will be acceptable in bids to the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for the Trumbull site. As an example, the RFP may state only non-charter private schools will be acceptable with the requirement that the auditorium be preserved, but will not determine which particular school is the winner. After the language of the RFP is determined, developers will submit bids to CPS. The highest bid will be accepted.

West Andersonville Neighbors Together supports re-purpose of Trumbull as a private school, and supports the landmarking of the building as part of the RFP. Please call or email the alderman's office to voice your continued support of this option, and please suggest your neighbors do the same. This is the time to make your voice known—the future of Trumbull is at stake.

Membership Renewal

It's time to renew your WANT membership (or join, if you're not yet a member)! Memberships run from January 1 until December 31. Go to the WANT website membership page for instructions. Join or renew by March 1, you will be entered into our annual membership raffle held at the March general meeting! Prizes will include an array of gift certificates from our local business members.

Dues support our wonderful community garden and popular events like Ghostly Garden, the yard sale, and the block party. Joining also gets you free entry into the yard sale and a vote on all community issues.

West Andersonville is faced with significant changes in 2015, such as resolution of the reuse of Trumbull School. Don't miss the opportunity to join with your neighbors to take a stance on these major neighborhood issues.

BRYN MAWR

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Plans for Trumbull School Re-Use

Listed here is a brief synopsis of the proposals submitted for the Trumbull School site (Foster/Ashland). Descriptions are posted on Alderman O'Connor's website (<http://www.aldermanoconnor.com/featured-news/trumbull-community-involvement-process/>).

Chicago Development Partners: a multiuse project of 47 condos and a theater company (Timeline); no new build-outs; adjacent blacktop to be used for parking. This plan would request landmarking.

Waldorf School: an expansion of the present student body to approximately 425 students, which retains almost all of the architectural features of the present building. This plan would turn the present asphalt playground into a garden and green play area, and allow access to the community of the various spaces. Commitment to landmarking of the building and no structural development on the adjacent property.

Cedars Street Company; a multiuse, collaborative office building with a climbing wall, gym, and other spaces for people to essentially rent space there to work, involving 86 units of work space, 24,000–28,000 square feet of commercial space, a two-story garage of 140 parking spaces on adjacent west playground, and Brooklyn Boulders Climbing space (rock climbing wall) where the present auditorium exists. No commitment to landmarking.

Svigos Development: residential-use only plan including 48 condos from repurposed classrooms with two existing staircases preserved and preservation of the auditorium; 3-story or 4-story apartment buildings on adjacent playground. Demolition of boiler room building for ground-level parking.

Trumbull Court Partners: the Hub calls for a multigenerational, mixed-use site involving 40 condos (\$325,000 to \$1 million+), a day-care center for 40 children (staff of three) in the existing building; a four-story senior rental building for 80 residents with a staff of 25 to be built on the existing playground; a parking structure on the Farragut side for the condo owners, and a small parking lot behind the senior housing structure for the day-care and senior rental units. No commitment to preservation of any aspect except exterior walls of Trumbull.

A movie production company: this was a last minute addition presented by an individual.

Land Use and Zoning Committee Quarterly Report

Dorothy Nygren

LUZ continues to work through the alderman's office to monitor construction sites and abandoned buildings within the WANT area. The work on the former Ravenswood Pub site continues and is being closely watched by adjacent neighbors. There have been no new requests for zoning relief.

The City of Chicago requires that permits be obtained for constructing, repairing or altering a home or building to ensure compliance with the Chicago Building Code. These standards are intended to protect the integrity of the buildings and public safety. The types of projects requiring permits extend from renovations, additions, and gut rehabs to some electrical, plumbing and ventilation work (for a full list, consult the

Department of Buildings page on the City of Chicago website). If you suspect that work is being done on a building without proper permits, please e-mail WANT and the LUZ committee will investigate; another option is to call 311.

As winter arrives, please be aware that it is everyone's responsibility to make sure the sidewalks are clear of snow and ice. The Municipal Code of Chicago requires individuals to clear a five-foot-wide path along the sidewalk. If the snow stops falling before 4 p.m. you have three hours to clear except on Sunday. If the snow stops falling after 4 p.m. or on Sunday, you have to clear before 10 a.m. on the next day. Individuals who do not comply with the sidewalk snow removal ordinance can face fines of \$50. For more information, go to the Sidewalk Snow Removal page on the City's website.

Want to help someone in need? **Chicago Snow Corps** is a new city program that connects volunteers with residents in need of snow removal, such as senior citizens and residents with disabilities. Check out the program's page on the City's website. If you are in need of help, call 311 to request a volunteer; the City will do its best to match those who have requested assistance.

Another reminder: WANT residents should call 311 immediately to report tagging. Alderman's O'Connor's Ward office (773.768.1140) is available for help with this, as well as other, problems. Our neighborhood is one of the safest in the city due to the vigilance of our residents. Let's continue to work together to keep it that way.

Update on Edgewater Medical Center

The parking lot of the Edgewater Medical Center has been sold in a separate transaction to major developer MCZ Development, Sedgwick Acquisitions, LLC, as it bids to buy the former hospital.

Crews went in to begin pumping out long-standing water from the garage, which created "putrid" odors that drew complaints from the surrounding neighborhood. DNAinfo/chicago.com on Nov. 15, 2015, quoted Alderman O'Connor aide Laurie Block as saying that the pumping of the water had been planned by the new owners prior to demolition of the garage. However, according to DNAinfo/Chicago.com from Nov. 18, MCD Development had not obtained the permits required for disposing of wastewater. When the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District learned that the long-standing water was being dumped into the sewer system, it halted the draining. This policy, according to district spokeswoman Allison Fore, aims to "protect treatment plant workers and the treatment process from chemicals in remediation wastewater that could be toxic or dangerous." MCZ Development has begun the process to acquire the proper permits.

Facelift Coming to WANT-area Playground!

As part of the Chicago Plays! program, Andersonville Playlot (on Ashland at Farragut) will be receiving new equipment, as well as general repair and maintenance. The Chicago Park District sought out community feedback, with WANT members voting on the new equipment to be installed. The CPD was also receptive to making some tweaks to the design based on feedback from area residents, and WANT thanks them for listening to the neighborhood! Assuming the weather cooperates, construction on the playlot is expected to begin in spring 2015 and should take approximately eight weeks.

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WEST ANDERSONVILLE GARDENS

Maryon Gray, Chairperson, West Andersonville Gardens

Many thanks to everyone who helped to keep West Andersonville Gardens beautiful in 2014. We finished several unique projects this year. For this, special thanks go out to an anonymous donor whose gift allowed us to hire a professional crew to help allow more sunlight to reach our plants, and to the WANT organization, whose budget allocation allowed us to hire a professional arborist to cut out deadwood and trim back trees.

The year 2015 promises to be another busy one for the garden. We have not firmed up our plans for the year, but likely projects include:

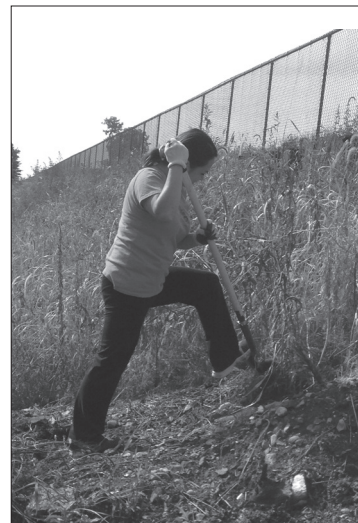
Garden clean-up and leaf raking in the early spring;

- Replanting the area south of the pedestrian tunnel at Berwyn. We cleaned out this area in 2014, leaving those plants which returned strong and healthy after being cut down by the railroad contractors. In 2015 we'll replant the bare area and add grasses and wild flowers to the hillside.
- A partial "rechipping" of the garden path, where last year's rains dissolved our chips;
- A more disciple approach to composting
- And always . . . weeding, pruning and cutting the grass.

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 troops, or other youth groups can be a tremendous help. Please contact us at westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com and someone from our project will get back to you.

September 2015 is the 20th anniversary of the planting of West Andersonville Gardens, with the help of GreenCorps, a project of the City of Chicago. Stay tuned for plans on festivities to celebrate this important milestone.

Don't wait until 2015 to enjoy West Andersonville Gardens, which runs along Ravenswood from Berwyn to Balmoral, east of the railroad. 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!



Candidate for Alderman of the 40th Ward: WANT Member Dianne Daleiden

Dianne Daleiden, a thirty-year resident of the 40th Ward and a long-standing, active member of WANT, is running against Patrick O'Connor for alderman in the February 2015 election. "I am running for 40th Ward Alderman because residents want an alderman who is independent of City Hall and its corporate machine."

"For a year now, I have been going door-to-door to listen to residents' concerns, and on top of their list is that they want an alderman who stands up for working families. They want an alderman who protects residents from being nickled-and-dimed to death every day:



parking meters, red light and speed cameras, city sticker taxes and incomprehensible property tax multipliers, an alderman who protects their quality of life and home values."

Daleiden's background (social worker/public advocate, businesswoman, and middle-school math+science teacher in the Chicago public schools) brings a true appreciation for what it takes to raise a family in Chicago. She raised her son Griff, now a 29-year-old attorney, alone here in the 40th Ward. She is proud of her working-class background. "My mother, an actress, was a Screen Actors' Guild member, and my dad comes from Pennsylvania coal miners. He served our country and used the GI Bill to work his way up at AB Dick."

Daleiden pledges to extend participatory budgeting, where residents vote on spending priorities, to participatory governance. "The best solutions come from residents who deal with an issue every day. If I am elected alderman, residents will have an open forum to democratically make change happen. But things have got to change to make this city and our ward more livable and safer for all Chicagoans," concluded Daleiden.

A note from the Board: WANT provides space for community members to publish articles of interest as space and content are deemed appropriate but, per its bylaws, may not endorse candidates for political office.

HamBingo! Fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's

Thanks to Treasurer Amanda Dykema-Engblade, organizer of WANT's fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's, 5400 N. Clark, on Nov. 30. Local businesses graciously donated prizes: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, First Slice, Green Sky, La Primera, Metropolitan Brewing, Mother of Hermes Letterpress, Strawdog Theater, Timeline Theater, and Starbucks. WANT applauds Hamburger Mary's for its commitment to neighborhood outreach.



WANT members and bingo hostess Velicity Metropolitan



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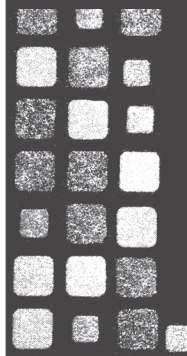
Our Alzheimer's and dementia support group offers those who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia a forum for sharing information, insights, and strategies. We frequently host guest speakers to share new perspectives and information.

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Please consider lending a helping hand to the neighborhood by volunteering for WANT. We are currently in need of people to help with the newsletter, both layout/design and outreach to advertisers. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in graphic design, social media, marketing, or community outreach experience. Other opportunities involve taking charge of the Ghostly Garden event for 2015 or helping with the annual summertime fundraiser Neighborhood Yard Sale. These are great opportunities to meet neighbors while helping to continue our established neighborhood group traditions. Please contact a board member or email the group and someone will be in touch with you. The WANT email address is westandersonville-neighbors2@gmail.com.

West Andersonville Neighbors Together Board, 2014-2015

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WANT Annual Report

Cameron Krieger, WANT Vice President and former Treasurer

WANT ends 2015 in solid financial position—though WANT's financial year is not complete as of this printing, we anticipate ending the year at least breaking even (which is our goal as a non-profit with adequate cash reserves). Based on current projections, WANT's total income for 2014 will be about \$6,800, and our expenses will be about \$6,600.



Income

Membership: \$2927
Advertising: \$2201
Donations/Fundraisers: \$1376
Yard Sale Fees: \$28



Expenses

Garden: \$2030
Newsletter printing: \$1430
Events: \$1291
Donations: \$1000
Operating: \$604

In addition to supporting the West Andersonville Gardens, producing this newsletter, and funding neighborhood events like Ghostly Garden, the Block Party and the Yard Sale, WANT also donates some money to local organizations. In 2014, donations were given to the Andersonville Farmers' Market and Care for Real. If you have an event or an idea for a neighborhood service that you think WANT should support, please contact us through our website or email. We always welcome suggestions from area residents!

The largest part of WANT's income comes from membership dues, so please renew your membership for 2015 and encourage your neighbors to join! All memberships expire on December 31; you can renew at www.westandersonville.com or by completing the application in this newsletter and mailing it to the WANT address.

Farewell to a Longtime Friend and Neighbor

Maia Rigas

West Andersonville neighbors are mourning the passing of a fixture of the neighborhood, Bob Hennings, 62, who passed away on Oct. 15, 2014, from cancer. In his work life, Bob was Director of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, and in that capacity he worked tirelessly to help veterans. Closer to home, Bob was an avid dog lover with a circle of friends that extended throughout West Andersonville and Bomanville. One could usually find him out on a walk, with his pockets full of dog treats, ready to chat about the Cubs and Bears.



Remarkably, Bob lived in West Andersonville his entire life. He was baptized at Ebenezer Lutheran Church and attended the now-shuttered Trumbull Elementary School. Along with his sister, Terri, Bob knew Clark Street when a department store, Friedman's, stood where Alamo Shoes now resides, and when Calo's was a bowling alley across the street that served fried chicken.

What once were local institutions, like the Rexall Drugs, Swanson Drugs, Augie's, the Seneca, Villa Sweden, and Mom's Bakery, are now the stuff of local history. The neighborhood has lost a friend as well as a wonderful link to Chicago's past.

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

Blue Nativity—puppetry, music and the Greatest Story ever told! Free; check website for dates through Jan. 1.

The Raven Theatre

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

Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Christmas Goose, adapted by Michael Menedian and John Weagly, thru Jan. 4

Dividing the Estate, by Horton Foote, directed by Cody Estle; Jan. 27–Mar. 28

Redtwist Theatre

1044 W. Bryn Mawr * www.redtwist.org

I and You, by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Dave Prete, thru Jan. 4

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

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

20th Anniversary season!

Steep Theatre Company

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

The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle, by Ross Dugan, directed by Jonathan Berry, opens Jan. 22

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

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