

WANT NEWS

West Andersonville Neighbors Together

JUNE
2015

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

VOL. XXXLIII
NO. 2

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY GARDENING IN WEST ANDERSONVILLE GARDENS



West Andersonville Gardens turns 20 this year. Yes, 20 years of bringing beauty to the community; 20 years of hard work; 20 years of creating an ever changing work of art. Everyone who supported and enjoyed the community garden during those 20 years is invited to join us for a celebration: Saturday, June 20 at 12:30 in the garden at Ravenswood and Summerdale, north of the big cottonwood tree. We'll enjoy drinks, food and pictures of the garden over the years.

Make the celebration even more meaningful by joining us between 9:00 and noon as we replant the area south of the pedestrian tunnel at Berwyn. We'll be creating a new design using plants purchased with the railroad's reimbursement for plants destroyed during the track construction. We'll have lots of plants and we'll need lots of helpers. Please join us for this fun project. Absolutely no gardening experience is necessary. We have tools and gloves for your use; feel free to bring your own as well. In the event of storms, the planting and celebration will be held Sunday, June 21.

We are grateful for a donation from Robin Wold to purchase roses for the area in memory of her neighbor Aida Davila.



Robin says, "Aida always had a warm greeting and a pleasant smile. She particularly loved when the roses were in bloom and would stop to admire them." We are also grateful for plants donated by a garden neighbor, Cameron Krieger. These have already been planted and look great.

After we celebrate our 20th Anniversary it's back to work! Upcoming weekend work days will be 9:00 to noon: Sunday, July 12; Saturday, August 15; Sunday, September 13 and Saturday, October 17. In addition, we beautify the garden the first Wednesday evening of each month. We meet at 6:00 p.m. and work until dark. Dates are July 1st and August 5th.

Learn about the history of West Andersonville Gardens on page 6.

WANT GENERAL MEETING JUNE 23

Please join us at WANT's next General Meeting, which will be held June 23th at 7:30 p.m. at the Edgewater Historical Society (5358 N Ashland Ave.). We will be discussing local school issues.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE JUNE 27

WANT's Annual Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, June 27th! If you would like to participate as a seller, please contact Julie Nelson at 773.704.6564 or mrmsrdnelson@yahoo.com to register or for more information. Participation is free for WANT members; non-members pay a \$10 fee.

West Andersonville Garden

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Midsommarfest 50th Anniversary - June 12-14

This summer is the 50th anniversary of Midsommarfest! The festival will be held June 12, 13 and 14 on Clark Street between Foster and Catalpa. Don't miss music, family entertainment, dancing, food, drinks and more!

West Andersonville Community Yard Sale - June 27

WANT's Annual Community Yard Sale will be held Saturday, June 27th! If you would like to participate as a seller, please contact Julie Nelson at 773.704.6564 or mrmrsdnelson@yahoo.com to register or for more information. Participation is free for WANT members; non-members pay a \$10 fee.

Forward Chicago presents Aging 2.0 - Aging Your Way

June 27 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Better connected, better prepared, and inspired for your future! Learn from local experts how you can age on your own terms.

Discussions include:

"Understanding Housing Options and Aging at Home" - Helene Wineberg, Forward Chicago

"Legal Tips for Aging Well" - MacKenzie Hyde, JD, Clark Hill

"Connections and Friendship in Later Life" - Louise Hawkley, PhD, University of Chicago

"Healthy Aging" - Neelum Aggarwal, MD, Rush University Medical Center

Anderson Pavilion, 2751 W Winona Ave

\$15 suggested donation (includes box lunch)

For more information or to register visit ForwardChicago.org.

Andersonville Farmers Market

The summer Farmers Market has begun! Each Wednesday through October 14, visit the market on Berwyn between Clark and Ashland to find fruits, vegetables, bread, meat, cheese, tofu, eggs, snacks, desserts and more! And there is always music and fun. The market runs from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. through September 2 and 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. from September 9-October 14. Find out more and see all the vendors at andersonville.org.

Andersonville Summer Sidewalk Sale - July 24-26

Check out sales and deals from Andersonville merchants. They will be displaying their offerings on the sidewalks Friday through Sunday. The sale stretches from 5000-5800 N. Clark St.

Taste of Andersonville Dinner Crawl - August 12

Featuring two routes, this is a great way to explore the neighborhood and sample food from many local restaurants. One route is even vegetarian friendly! Tickets will be on sale in July. Check out andersonville.org for more details and a list of participating restaurants.

City Made Fest - September 12-13

City Made Fest is returning for its third year this September! Focusing on locals, this festival features beers, music, artisans and other businesses who make their products in Chicago. Check out andersonville.org for more details!

LAND USE AND ZONING COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

Recently, the Alderman's office has posted news regarding two of the most important LUZ topics in the neighborhood: Trumbull and the EMC site. On May 26th, the alderman mentions in his e-newsletter, regarding the Trumbull School, "The only thing holding up the RFP now is the fact that the Chicago Board of Education is contemplating using the building for a school purpose." While that exact purpose is not disclosed, it is implied by the overall tone of the newsletter it would not become a charter school. News of the EMC site was headlined on May 15th. Renderings of a 141 unit complex utilizing some of the existing buildings and some new structures were posted via a link on the newsletter. If you subscribe to the 40th ward's e-newsletter (and read it) you might already be aware of these developments...if you currently do not receive email updates and you'd like to be kept informed, go to the 40th ward website at www.aldermanconnor.com and click on subscribe.

As always, please help keep WANT a great neighborhood and report your LUZ concerns to westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com!

PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Construction on the Andersonville Playlot is underway! Work is expected to be completed within the next two months. As part of the refurbishment, the Park District has asked if community members are interested in starting a Park Advisory Committee for Andersonville Playlot. If you're interested in participating, please contact WANT at westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING PROGRAM

Many Andersonville residents have been participating in a community composting pilot program with The Urban Canopy. For a fee, Urban Canopy provides a composting bucket and weekly or bi-weekly pick-up. The scraps are taken to a common composting location and upon request you can receive compost back. If you're interested in participating, contact Urban Canopy at info@theurbancanopy.org or 312-725-3560.

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NEW BUSINESSES AND CHANGES

Opened: Borderline Records

Andersonville has a new record store. Find new and used vinyl and much more at 5351 N. Clark St.

Opened: Pork Shoppe

This Avondale barbecue spot opened its second location at 5721 N. Clark in May. Visit for barbecue, charcuterie, cocktails beer and wine.

Opened: Hot "G" Dogs

Two former cooks at Hot Doug's have opened a new sausage and hot dog shop at 5009 N. Clark St. Offerings include classic and specialty sausages.

Opened: Pearl's Southern Comfort

A new southern style restaurant has opened at 5352 N. Broadway. On top of barbecue and Louisiana style food, craft beer and cocktails are also featured.

Moved: Found Vintage Living

Found Vintage Living recently moved from 1551 Bryn Mawr to the Edgewater Antique Mall at 6314 N. Broadway.

Moved: Red Balloon Co.

The Andersonville location of this popular Children's store closed June 7. Two other Red Balloon Co. locations, one at 3651 N. Southport Ave. and one in Bucktown at 1940 N. Damen Ave., are open.

Closed: Green Genes

After seven years at 5111 N. Clark, Green Genes, an eco-friendly childrens boutique closed at the end of May.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Becoming a WANT business member is a great way to be a part of the community your business serves! Business members receive recognition in every WANT newsletter and on the WANT website. Business members also receive a discount on advertisement in the newsletter, which is delivered to every home between Clark and Ravenswood, and between Bryn Mawr and Foster.

Business memberships are \$40 and can be purchased via the form on the last page of the newsletter or by visiting westandersonville.com

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution presented the DAR Historic Preservation Medal to Kathy Gemperle, founding president of the Edgewater Historical Society on June 13 at the Roosevelt Branch of the Chicago Public Library. The award goes to individuals who have done extraordinary work in historic preservation over a long period of time. Members of the Culper Ring Agent 355 Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution are proud to recognize Kathy's work with the Edgewater Historical Society and the Lakewood Balmoral Historic District.

Kathy's efforts in historic preservation began in the early 1980s with historic walking tours and educational programs about neighborhood history that she brought to various neighborhoods in Edgewater. For 27 years she has chaired the Edgewater Historical Society Home Tour which features a different neighborhood each year with a focus on history and preservation of historic homes. Kathy has commented "All my efforts in preservation have focused on a sense of community and a sense of place that community history gives to all its residents. I am thrilled to be honored in this way for the work that I love doing in Edgewater."

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Follow WANT at our new facebook page:
facebook.com/westandersonville



**West Andersonville Neighbors Together
Board, 2014–2015**

President, Michael Fick

Vice President, Cameron Krieger

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Secretary, Josh Bucher

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Member at large, Drew Trammell

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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, the annual West Andersonville Block Party 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 westandersonvilleneighbors2@gmail.com.

A HISTORY OF WEST ANDERSONVILLE GARDENS:

The area which is now the garden was for many years a weedy trash heap. WANT organized a clean-up each spring and occasionally neighbors mowed the grass. Then a woman started planting near Berwyn. This inspired WANT members to contact Alderman O'Connor to see if the city could offer help with beautifying the space. That help came in the form of participation in the GreenCorps program. This program offered training, plants and manpower to community organizations. We were one of the very first GreenCorps gardens. Four of us spent the winter of 1995 attending classes which covered topics such as community organizing, garden design and choosing plants. We spent the spring and summer organizing folks to clean up the area and publicizing the project. Then in September, GreenCorps arrived with truckloads of trees and shrubs and trained folks to help us plant. We supplied the community volunteers and lots of good food. Our plan was to create a strolling garden featuring trees which are seldom seen in the city such as Kentucky Coffee, Gingko and Paper Bark Maple. The number of folks who stroll through the garden each week are proof of the success of that plan!

In the 20 years since, we've had other assistance from GreenCorps and the Chicago Botanic Garden for major project such as the trellis and raised bed at Summerdale and the benches. But our community volunteers and the support of WANT have always been and continue to be what make West Andersonville Gardens a place of beauty for all to enjoy.



Photo: Fletcher Hayes

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

5211 N. Clark * 773.728.8111 :: www.samac.org
 First Thursdays: Swedish Films * 1pm & 7pm * free (rsvp via phone or email)
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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).

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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.