

# Ranch Triangle Newsletter

**November 2019**

*The mission of the Ranch Triangle Community Conservation Association is to advocate for and on behalf of its residents to improve and sustain a high quality of city life. RANCH seeks to fulfill its mission by supporting responsible development, fostering a thoughtful discussion and resolution of community issues, as well as involvement in charitable and community-building activities.*

## **Ward Walk with Alderman Michele Smith, Saturday, November 23**

You are invited to join Alderman Michele Smith and the Ranch Triangle board for a walk through the neighborhood. It's a chance to identify things that need to be fixed as well as to highlight future capital improvement needs, environmental issues, and/or neighborhood nuisances.

The Ranch Triangle Ward Walk is scheduled for Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Adams Park.

## **Maureen Belling Retires from Park District after 35 years**

Park Supervisor Maureen Belling retired after 35 years with the Chicago Park District. Maureen had been the park supervisor of Adams Park for 20 years. Under her leadership, the park playground was renovated and most recently, the water park was redesigned and rebuilt.



*Alderman Michele Smith, Randy Steinmeyer, Maureen Belling and Dorothy Collins at Maureen's retirement celebration at Adams Park*

Maureen started with the Chicago Park District at the age of 16 as a seasonal recreation leader at Tarkington Park on the city's south side. She became a year-round recreation leader and physical instructor and remained at Tarkington Park for 13 years. Maureen was then promoted and transferred to Oriole Park as a physical instructor. In 1998 Maureen was again promoted to Playground Supervisor in charge of Adams Park. At Adams Playground Maureen built up the park programs for kids and the community and oversaw the restoration of the playground and the water park (a couple of times).

After 35 years with the Chicago Park District, Maureen announced her retirement.





*Maureen Belling, third row, surrounded by her adoring park kids at Adams Park*

To honor Maureen's contribution to our community, Ranch Triangle held a retirement party on Sunday, October 27 to wish Maureen the best and to thank her for her work. The street was closed off and the party spread from Adams Park onto Seminary Street.

### **Pumpkin Collecting a Grand Success**

For the first year, Maud Avenue resident, Ivy Tzur initiated and carried out a pumpkin pick-up operation. Over 450 pumpkins were collected by Ivy and other volunteers.

Ivy reported, "I'm excited to share that Sunday's pumpkin collection was a huge success. With your help, we were able to collect over 450 pumpkins, and that doesn't include the hundreds smaller pumpkins, gourds and squashes. To estimate this impact we converted the collection into pounds which was at minimum: **4500lbs**.

**Diverting 4500 pounds of organic waste from the landfill means that together we offset approximately three metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e).**

This translates into **removing 15 cars off the road - or - offsetting 1 year of electricity consumption for an average household.** This is AMAZING impact! And we did it together.

Thanks to everyone who came to drop off their pumpkins, to all the folks that contacted me to pick their pumpkins up, and to my team of dedicated helpers that helped pull this off."



*The initial plan included 2 rented trucks for the pumpkin pick-up, but the response was so great that a third truck had to be rented in the afternoon.*

## How to Recycle Your Organic Waste

Speaking of composting, consider signing up to have all your organic waste picked up on a bi-weekly basis. Instead of throwing all your organic waste from the kitchen into landfills, your organic waste can be converted into organic compost for growing gardens. Several households in Ranch Triangle already save their organic waste and subscribe to Collective Resource for the bi-weekly pick up. The pick-up fee is low, and we benefit the environment by reducing organic waste that goes to landfills, which in turn reduces the amount of greenhouse gases that go into the environment. This is another step we can take to reduce waste and live more sustainably.



There are other groups that will come by and pick up the organic waste. Google to find the one that works for you. Another option is Chicago's Green City Market which offers a organic collection site at the Notebaert Museum Saturday Market. Go to <https://www.greencitymarket.org/programs/program.asp?id=12> for details.

## **Ranch Triangle Community Association's Board Meetings Open to All**

You are invited to attend Ranch's board meetings to learn about the issues concerning the Ranch Triangle community. All board meetings are held at Adams Park, 1919 N. Seminary. The last two board meetings for 2019 are scheduled for Wednesday, November 13 and Wednesday, December 11 at 7:15 p.m.

## **New LED Light Fixtures Being Installed in Ward**

New LED light fixtures are being installed the ward on streets, alleys and viaducts. The new LED's reduce energy costs while reducing light pollution. The LED installation project for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward should be completed by January 2020.

## **Webster Avenue Bridge Closed Daily for Repairs Until November 25**

The Webster Avenue bridge will be closed every day between the hours of 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. to allow the city to complete structural steel repairs to the Webster Avenue Bridge. While the bridge will be closed to car traffic, both sidewalks will remain open to pedestrian and bike traffic.

## **Other Park News**

**Bissell Plaza, located at 1900 N. Bissell**, is a Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) public plaza. Local neighbors are developing a plan to rebuild Bissell Plaza to improve the public park space for to enhance its usability. Check with Alderman Michele Smith for details.

The Chicago Department of Transportation and their consultants have developed a plan for the **Dickens Greenway Project**. Earlier this year CDOT released the proposal to turn Dickens into a greenway, adding more greenery and a bike lane along Dickens. The goal is to make a safer pedestrian and bike friendly route through the neighborhood. A second public meeting was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. More info can be found at <https://chicagocompletestreets.org/neighborhood-greenways/>

## The Green City Indoor Market Open Every Saturday



**The Green City Market** is held indoors every Saturday at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon in Lincoln Park). The indoor market is open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. every Saturday.

## Old Town School of Music

The Old Town School of Music hosts music classes for kids and adults. Also, the school presents a year-long schedule of fine concerts. For a complete schedule go to [www.oldtownschool.org](http://www.oldtownschool.org)

## News from 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman Michele Smith

Alderman Michele Smith hosts Ward Nights the first Monday of each month. Stop by her office between 5-7 p.m. and sign up to speak with her about issues concerning you in the ward.

**The next Ward Night is set for Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m.**

To get important updates on the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward, go to the alderman's webpage and subscribe to her newsletter at [www.ward43.org](http://www.ward43.org)

You can also email a question or request at [www.yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:www.yourvoice@ward43.org)

## Other Contact Information

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, 1400 N. Ashland, 312.643.2299,**  
[www.aldermanhopkins.com](http://www.aldermanhopkins.com)

**5<sup>th</sup> District Illinois State Senator, Patricia Van Pelt, 1016 W. Jackson,**  
**312.888.9191, <http://senatorvanpelt.com/contact-us>**

**5<sup>th</sup> District Illinois State Representative,**

**U.S. Representative Mike Quigley, 3223 N. Sheffield, 773.267.5926**  
**[www.quigley.house.gov](http://www.quigley.house.gov)**

**18<sup>th</sup> District Police Department, Daniel O'Shea, Commander, 1160 N. Larrabee, 312.742.5870,**  
**<https://home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/18th-district-near-north/>**