23rd Ward Color Garden Society blooming online



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Greetings, good neighbors and friends.

Autumn brings much activity to our neighborhood. Our city's director of Community and Cultural Affairs, Violetta Sosa, invites all to check out the 23rd Ward Color Garden Society. This is a Facebook group created for people to share photos of garden projects, landscapes and harvests. You can also share photos of your paintings, art creations, poems and music. This group provides an opportunity to share your creativity and to see the works of your neighbors. Contact Ms. Sosa for more information at Violeta.Sosa@cityofchicago.org.

Congratulations to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Boy Scout Troop 647 and Girl Scout Troop 20713. They raised $460 by selling lemonade, using a lemonade stand made by West Lawn resident Eddie Guillen and his brother-in-law, Flavio. The money raised will be donated to various neighborhood charities like Obi's Pet Pantry, which gives away food to pet owners who are having a hard time. They also provide other services for pets.

Speaking of pets, West Lawn neighbor Adriana Martinez reminds us to clean up after our dogs. Dog poop is a rat's favorite food. Adriana said, "If only dog owners would take that into consideration when they take dogs for a walk."

Dog owners need to be more responsible. Every day of the year, loose dogs are reported in West Lawn. Every single day. Such a shame.

Here's a fun dog activity: Dog-e-Stylez #2 Grooming Salon, 6352 S. Pulaski, is having a Halloween pet costume contest on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. Gifts include a complimentary photo of your pet, miniature pumpkins, candy, pet supplies and pet insurance information provided by Jacqueline Cervera of Farmers Insurance Agency. Costume categories include the funniest, spookiest and most creative. Bring your doggie and wear a mask.

Here's something for humans. My son, Joe, and I have been eating a lot of ice cream lately. We recently visited Los Pekes Ice cream and coffee shop, 3742 W. 63rd St. They make their own ice cream, which you can have in cones or cups. They also have shakes and really good coffee. I had a scoop of strawberry ice cream with pine nuts. It was sweet and creamy. The pine nuts made a nice contrast. Joe had a coffee with mocha ice cream.

The shop is very cute and is decorated with fun signs and pictures. The owner is super friendly, too. They are open all year on Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. I am definitely going back. Maybe I'll see you there!

One of our all-time favorite ice cream places is Los Mangos, 5758 S. Pulaski. We have been going there for years for ice cream and fruit smoothies. They have a variety of fresh fruits and ice cream and frozen yogurts. They will make any combination you can think of. I usually get a coconut strawberry smoothie. Joe comes up with crazy concoctions like a mango, strawberry, lime shake with pistachio ice cream. I don't know how he stays so slim. Visit this terrific neighborhood gem from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the week.

I'm glad to report that the construction garbage and repair problems at the viaducts along Central Park Avenue are now being addressed. Twenty-third Ward Ald. Tabares met with representatives from CSX Railroad, the Chicago Department of Transportation and the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation at the 59th street location to address the problems.

I first drew attention to the state of crumbling disrepair at the viaducts many, many months ago in one of my columns. I also talked about the construction garbage left behind and half-painted, half-finished repairs on support columns--not only at the 59th and Central Park, location but also at all the viaducts from 59th to 63rd on Central Park. Alderman Tabares talked about the idea of a painted mural at the 59th Street location. I hope all of the viaducts will be repaired, not just the one at 59th Street.

Speaking of murals, a new mural was unveiled on Oct. 9 at 4215 W. 59th Street. It was painted on a long fence by local artists. It is done in an edgy, colorful, cartoon style and has the words, "West Lawn" along with a painting of Ixchel, Mayan goddess of the moon. If you find yourself on 59th Street, check it out.

Thank you for your texts last week regarding the information I shared about the at-home COVID-19 tests. Everyone I talked to would like FDA approval on these. Hopefully, this will happen soon. Text me or call and leave a message if you need more information and updates.

I love hearing from you!