In a time of disunity, remember when we were united



Mary Stanek
West Elsdon & Archer Heights correspondent
3808 W. 57th Pl.
Chicago, IL 60629
(773) 284-7394

It has been 19 years since our nation pulled together on one of the darkest days in its history. Heroic firefighters and police officers put their lives at risk to help others.

Americans mourned around the country but displayed their patriotism. We flew our flags; we wore flag pins on our lapels. We gave blood. Musicians sang and dedicated songs. The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show had a tribute to the search and rescue dogs who assisted in locating survivors.

In our country's environment today, please remember 19 years ago.

Special thanks to 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares and Violeta Sosa, Director of Community and Cultural Affairs, for visiting the Peck Panther Patch on Tuesday, Sept. 1. They were greeted by Principal Hassan and Assistant Principal Ms. Amra.

The alderman has a genuine interest in keeping our garden beautiful. My family also had the pleasure of meeting with her. For those in the community using Facebook and interested in gardening, please join the 23rd Ward Color Garden Society group. It is a creative space for the 23rd Ward to share and connect with the community ongoing projects.

Our family has been doing a lot of porch sitting during this pandemic. With that comes a lot of observation and pet peeves. The worst and scariest is a lot of drivers speeding through the stop signs as if they weren't there.

I wish I could be like Gomer Pyle in the "Citizen's Arrest" episode of Andy Griffith. Gomer makes a citizen's arrest of Barney for committing a traffic violation. If I could make a citizen's arrest for each driver that blows the stop sign, revenue would be hugely increased.

My next pet peeve: our block recently had speed bumps installed. Those same drivers that blow through the stop signs hit the speed bumps at maximum impact creating a loud bang. I wouldn't park my car anywhere near the bumps.

So, I would like to thank Thomas S. Baliga from the Archer Heights Civic Association (AHCA), for his newsletter article about speed bumps and his thoughts on the issue. The article points out some of the down sides of the speed bumps. That which I have mentioned along with possibly impeding emergency response vehicles and maneuvering over the bumps during ice and snow. It costs approximately $3,200 to install each speed bump. It's something to give a lot of thought to if your block is considering them.

We will be harvesting our pear tree next week. We have a bumper crop again this year. These are kieffer pears, which are cooking pears. They make an excellent pear pie. The recipe is pretty much the same as apple pie, substituting pears. I do par boil the pears if they are extremely hard.

Happy Birthday to Karen Boyes and Kathy Headley on the 13th. Happy Birthday to my two classmates from Tribs – Rita Fyfe on the 15th and Sandy Vrkjan on the 17th.



With Oliver the dog helping lead the way, 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares (left) tours the Panther Patch at Peck School.
– Supplied photo