



NEIGHBORHOOD ink

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Calumet City Shows Off Best Houses

Calumet City ~ NI concluded the 1st and 5th wards' Best House on the Block Contest® with an awards ceremony at the Calumet City library on October 9. Over 60 people attended the presentation, including the sponsors of the contest, 1st ward alderman Eric Schneider and 5th ward alderman Roger Munda. There were a total of 44 entrants: 24 in the first ward and 20 in the fifth.

Guests ate and socialized with their neighbors for 45 minutes before the presentation began. NI executive director Keith Speaks welcomed all attendees with a brief history about the contest which has also been conducted in Hammond, East Chicago, Burnham, and Highland since 2003. Throughout the evening, 12 door prizes were distributed, compliments of The Home Depot, Aunt Sally's Restaurant, Torrence Liquors, Easy Clean Car Wash, Canine Affinity, and John Salzeider.

Aldermen Roger Munda and Eric Schneider helped present the awards to their respective ward's entrants. They addressed and thanked the participants for doing their part in making Calumet City a better place to live in and supporting property values in their neighborhoods. At the conclusion of the presentation the before and after photos of the top four contestants houses were unveiled. Many attendees crowded around the photo display of the eight winners, which are:

1st Ward

- 1st Place: Lonnie Mendoza, 415 Greenbay (photos below)
- 2nd Place: Eugene & Jaqueline Pace, 329-152nd Place
- 3rd Place: Michael & Joann Well, 398 Campbell
- 4th Place: Gelacio & Irma Hernandez, 313-152nd Place



5th Ward

- 1st Place: Alfonso Hernandez, 218 Mason (photos below)
- 2nd Place: Bernadette Madison, 34 Warren
- 3rd Place: Gerald Morgan, 323-156th St.
- 4th Place: Yvonne Curet, 111 Detroit



Rockin' the Dog Walk

Calumet City ~ Nearly 130 people and 60 of their furry, four-legged friends came to Memorial Park September 29 to participate in Calumet City's second Dog Walk, sponsored by Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush, who also served as Grand Marshal for the day.

Dogs and their owners started showing up around 9AM to register, visit the vendor booths and take a gander at our world-famous Canine Comedy Corner, the largest collection of dog-related comics known to man.

The walk stepped off at 10:00, with Mayor Michelle welcoming all attendees and thanking them for coming. She introduced Alderman Leni Wosczyński, Treasurer Gerald Tarka, City Clerk Nyota Figgs and Alderman Eric Schneider.

All walkers then headed west on Memorial, stopping at St. Victor Church for Father Sprott's blessing of the animals before turning north onto Hirsch Avenue. It was quite a sight for the neighbors and passersby!



Working towards 101 dalmatians.

Led by police escort, participants headed back to the park where their doggy companions got refreshed with waiting kiddie pools full of cold water. A police K-9 officer then demonstrated the ability of his dog, Chico, to find hidden drugs.

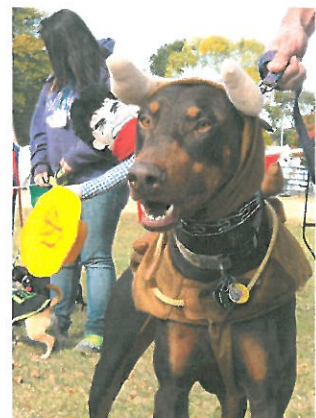
Contests followed, with dozens of entrants trying to win Best Dressed, Best Trick and Longest Tail. Winners were given gift baskets full of dog-themed items and lovely certificates.

Longest Tail: Herman - Calumet City

Best Trick: Jake - Calumet City

Best Dressed: Moose - Posen, IL

Wrapping up the event was dog trainer Eddie White. He and an assistant gave a demonstration of his guard dog, who is trained to attack and release on command. Wearing a bite suit, Eddie showed the crowd his ability to control and contain his dog even under distracting and stressful circumstances.



Winner of the Best Dressed Contest