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NEWS



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VOLUME 32 | ISSUE 1 | 2018



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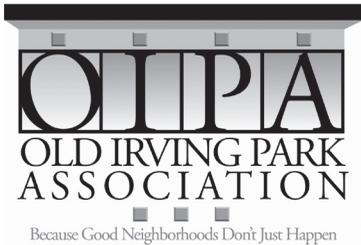
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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS Volume 32 ♥ Issue 1 ♥ February 2018

A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for and about people living in the neighborhood bordered by Montrose, Addison, Pulaski and Milwaukee Avenue. The Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) is a non-profit, all volunteer community group active since 1983. The *Old Irving Park News* is published ten times a year.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message..... 2

OIP Real Estate Activity 4

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Irving Park Garden Club 10 & 12

Carlson Community Services 16-17

OIPA Banner Program 18

Irving Park Garden Club 20

Filament Theatre 22

St. Viator Elementary 24

St. Edward School 26

Belding School 28

Keeler Gardens, NFP 30

Irving Park Community Food Pantry 32-33

Irving Park Historical Society 34

From the Wards 36

Seen & Noted In Old Irving 38

Events Calendar 38

OIPA Membership & Renewal Form 39

From the Editor 40

Cover photo by Mara Ket, Unsplash.



First in A Series: Meet Our Board

Lynn Ankey, President

Over the next several months, I'll use this column to profile our OIPA Officers and Directors. Not only will the profiles serve as a way to humanize the names you may only read about in the general and Board meeting minutes, they will be a nice addition to our website on the "Meet Our Board" page. I'll go first.

Where did you grow up? I moved around a bit, due to my Dad's job in sales with General Electric. I was born in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, but spent my childhood in Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, and moved to Illinois in 1990, just before my senior year and third high school.

How long have you lived in Old Irving Park and who is in your household? My husband Jonathan and I moved from the Lakeview neighborhood to the 4300 block of Keeler in August 2004, when we were expecting our first child, Ethan (who somehow turns 13 on 2/16). We had never heard of OIP and were a little reticent to move so "far west". Our daughter, Elise, joined us in 2008. We have no pets, but are perennially thinking about getting chickens.

Work outside of OIPA? I have a degree in Finance from the University of Illinois and was a licensed CPA. I worked for Arthur Andersen and Deloitte & Touche for 10 years doing management consulting. I left professional work once we had Ethan. In addition to serving on the OIPA Board, I lead the Belding Parent Group at my kids' school.

Favorite local business: UpBeat Music & Arts. It's my kids third home (Belding being their second).



Photo of Lynn and her family on one of their adventures. Photo courtesy of Lynn Ankey.

Breakfast drink of choice: Black coffee and grapefruit juice.

Interests/Hobbies: Music (going to shows, listening, playing), TV (some of it trashy), cooking (most of it healthy), wine (all of it yummy), and gardening (specifically growing as much of our own food as possible).

Favorite things to do outside: kayaking and snorkeling

Profession you would have if given a "do over": Real estate agent

Last book you read: *Dry* by Augusten Burroughs. Elise and I are slogging through the Harry Potter series, however.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

More About OIPA President Lynn Ankey

Craziest thing you've ever done: That I'm willing to share publicly? Skydiving. Once. It was enough.

History with OIPA: I think it was early 2006 when I answered an "ad" on the OIPA newsletter bulletin board looking for parents of young kids to organize. I met Renee Linnemeyer and we resurrected the Parents Committee and began the now popular OIPA Parents Discuss Google Group. I have also served on the Board of Directors as a Director (2009?), Vice President (2013) and now President (2015).

Favorite part of serving on the OIPA board: For me, it always comes back to people. I like working with neighbors who care about our community. Also, I have learned a tremendous amount about how this city works (and, at times, doesn't).

Hope for the future of OIPA: I would love to welcome new residents into the fold of our organization and our board. This civic began in 1983 and I'm constantly thinking about the name of the volunteer game: succession planning. Every healthy organization thrives when there's a mix of people, some with institutional knowledge and others with fresh ideas and energy.

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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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4240 W. Berteau..... \$350,000
4035 N. Keystone, A..... \$374,900



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4108 N. Keystone, 3W \$150,000
4125 N. Keystone, 601 [C]..... \$150,300
4124 N. Kedvale, 201..... \$165,000
4326 N. Kedvale, B [F] \$189,900
4243 N. Keystone, 205..... \$195,000
4135 N. Kedvale, 301 \$302,450
3825 N. Milwaukee, D..... \$370,000

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January Anniversaries

- 17 Jack & Leanne Neurauter
- 25 Emily & Jeremy Sermersheim
- 28 Gareth & Jessica Grossnickle

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Angela Yorath | 17 Daniel Degnan |
| 01 Kim Starmann | 17 Trish Hinkes |
| 01 Wendy Jo Harmstom | 19 Rachel Allmen |
| 02 Joanne Krakora | 21 Audre McGinnis |
| 02 Lynn Ankney | 21 Lia Orellano |
| 02 Meredith Oliver | 22 Anne Morrissy |
| 07 Annmarie Handley | 22 Susan Gidley |
| 07 Emily Sermersheim | 24 Bob Jones |
| 07 Lisa Cesar | 24 Mike King |
| 08 Jeff Moore | 25 John Markovic |
| 09 Kim Samford | 25 Katherine Liebich |
| 11 Joy Westendorf | 25 Traolach O'Sullivan |
| 13 Annette Huizenga | 26 Richard Bauman |
| 13 Denise Sonberg | 27 Kathryn Kleisch |
| 14 Abby Ernst | 27 Renee Linnemeyer |
| 14 Gareth Grossnickle | 27 Tom Starck |
| 15 Kelly Kaye | 31 Andrew Finkenstadt |
| | 31 Mike Lee |

February Anniversaries

- 02 Megan & Eric Stalder
- 09 Martha & Sam Lubbat
- 09 Roseanne & Ronald Cherepski
- 10 Mary Dette & Bernardo Verdagner
- 11 Carol & Robert Szalacha
- 11 Raymond & Corinne Bricetto
- 14 Kate & Mike Roche
- 17 Cyril & Mary Koscinski

February Birthdays

- 02 Kristie Hein
- 04 Natasha O'Donnell
- 05 Randall Patke
- 08 Missy Goldberg
- 11 Walter Lindauer
- 12 Molly Melick
- 14 Irene Flaherty
- 16 Jennifer Baron
- 16 Ethan Ankney
- 17 Lily O'Shea
- 18 Amy Meadows
- 19 Kevin Cisner
- 20 Denise Giszczynski
- 20 Liam Kick
- 23 Charity Miska
- 23 Lauren Innocenzi
- 25 Luis Posados
- 25 Alejandro Torres
- 26 Mike Fox

And finally, we have a pet birthday to include! Pokey Goldberg--the scrappiest and barkest dog in the neighborhood, who will be 11 in February.

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? Not sure if you provided your info in your renewal form? If so, please contact Meredith O'Sullivan at meredithosullivan@gmail.com or 773-551-4533, so she can add your name and dates to the list.

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Club Members Reflect on Loss of Two

The Irving Park Garden Club is saddened to have lost two loyal members recently. Luella Yoder (a 40-year resident of the 3800 block of Lowell) passed away in December due to complications from West Nile Virus. Susan Carter (4200 block of Keystone) passed away in January after suffering a stroke before Christmas.

Luella Yoder *Blessed with Talent*

Bette Reetzke describes her friend "LU" as very quiet and unassuming, but God blessed her with many talents. "She will be remembered as a long-term caregiver to various neighborhood children, a top cook and seamstress, and a baker of pies and rolls. She delivered fresh bread weekly to local households, and she also made beautiful wedding cakes. LU was a gardener of many things, especially sweet peas, dahlias, African Violets, Jerusalem Cactus, fantastic green beans, and raspberries, which each year were turned into delicious jam."



Luella Yoder at OIPA's 2013 holiday party.
Photo by T. J. Hine.

Susan Carter *A Giving Personality*

"Susan Carter was the most giving person I've ever known," said Maureen Taylor. "She was an active garden club member, volunteering at the garden cleanups, coming early to meetings to help with the set up, and staying after for cleanup as well. She was a plant lover, planting up her little ground floor balcony where she fed the birds. She also planted marigolds in her condo's public space. She was very upbeat, and she loved her cat, Mabel, who is adjusting well to her new home."



Susan Carter at OIPA's April 2011 general meeting.

Both Luella and Susan were fixtures at both IPGC and OIPA meetings. We will miss them and their participation in our events immensely. On behalf of the Old Irving Park Association and the Irving Park Garden Club, we send our deepest condolences to their family and friends.



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Prepping for Spring — Claudia Hine

In the middle of winter, as gardeners long for spring, the Irving Park Garden Club has been making plans for its 2018 season. Board members **Claudia Hine**, **Joe Pintor**, **Sue Geisler**, and Karen **Whitehead** have met to strategize an agenda for the upcoming year.

While our plans are still being finalized, I can tell you that our first meeting of the season will take place Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m. We'll meet at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Our speaker will be **Irene Flebbe**, assistant director of Trailside Museum of Natural History in River Forest, part of the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Irene's

talk will be on Spring Garden Prep, a perfect subject to get us off to the right start in March.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the garden club, join us on March 17. We'll be renewing everyone's dues and signing up new members. It's just \$20/year to belong to our group, and I don't believe our meeting will interfere with your plans to celebrate St. Patrick's Day later that day.

You can follow us on Facebook/IrvingParkGardenClub or e-mail claudia.hine@yahoo.com for more information.

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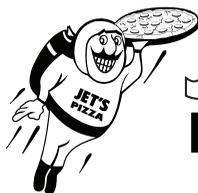
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Call for Contributions To The OIPA News

While we receive most of our content from organizations, we welcome individual article submissions!

A few ideas:

- Give a shout-out to a kind neighbor.
- Did you recently visit a new business or restaurant? Then share your great experience.
- Write a fun story about our neighborhood or a fond memory.
- Share your knowledge on a topic.

Deadline for editorial submissions is the second Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m. to k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com. Please include "OIPA submission" in the subject line of the email. See page 40 for full details on submission requirements.

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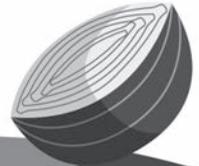
Soup & Bread for Carlson February 25th



Bonnie Tawse (left) and Sarah Steedman serve their homemade ramen soup at the 2017 Soup & Bread.



Glenn Kotche and daughter give Soup & Bread a big thumbs up.



Cold and snow bringing you down? Thaw out with a steaming bowl of soup from great restaurants and local cooks served among friends—all for the good of neighborhood programs. Carlson Community Services will host its sixth Soup & Bread fundraiser on Sunday, February 25th from 5–7 p.m.

Modeled after a popular winter event at The Hideout Bar, Soup & Bread for Carlson will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. Up to ten satisfying soups from local restaurants and neighborhood cooks will be served. The soup menu wasn't final by newsletter deadline, but past participants have included restaurants like **Community Tavern, Smoque, Bread & Wine and Hot**

Woks/Cool Sushi. The event will also feature music, a raffle, kid's crafts and bake sale—fun for all ages.

All proceeds will go to Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit connecting the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. Carlson's programs include the Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Community Garden and the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series.

For information on ticket prices and how to volunteer for the event, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/event/soup-bread/ or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Photos courtesy of Liz Mills



Irving Park Fine Arts
Committee Presents

Ling's Classical Strings

Noted professional violinist and area resident **John Ling** will bring his string quartet to the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's final concert of the 2017/2018 season. The concert will be held Sunday, March 18th at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The concert is free, though donations are welcome. A reception with the artists follows the concert.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is sponsored by Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit. Its mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. To learn more, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

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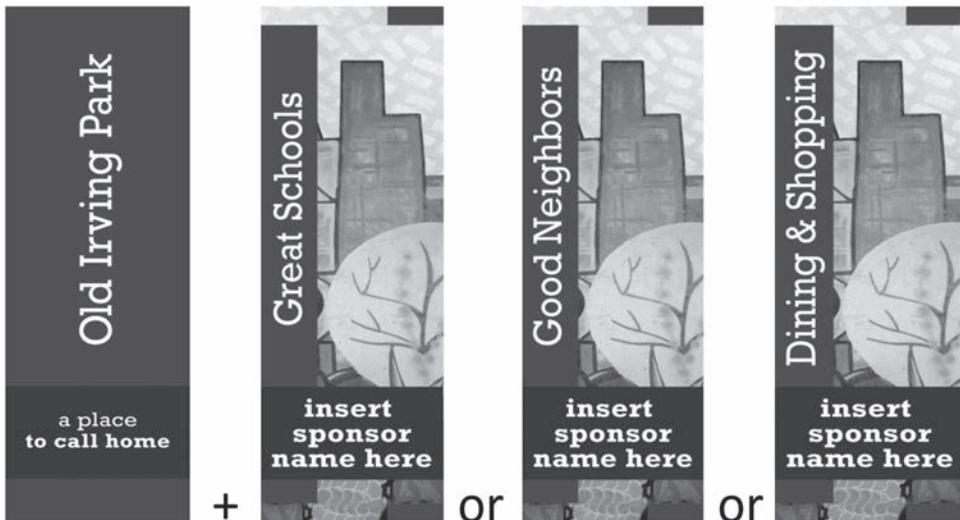
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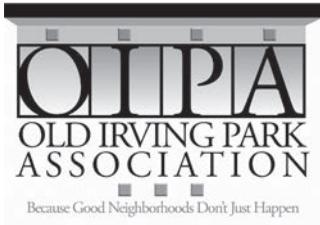
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Each banner sponsor has 2–3 lines, with room for up to 15 characters on each line, including spaces. Please print the information you would like on the banner, as you would like it to appear, including capital letters and punctuation (we cannot print logos). A final proof will be sent for your approval, to the email address indicated below.

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Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

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BANNER SPONSORSHIP COST: A \$500 payment must accompany this form for a 2-year banner sponsorship. Please make checks payable to Old Irving Park Association.

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Each street pole will have two banners (measuring 8 feet tall by 30 inches wide) printed on both sides. One side of the pole will have a neighborhood identifier banner and the other side will be one of four taglines, with your chosen sponsorship message. Each sponsor will have an entire pole to market their business/organization. Locations are assigned on a first-come basis.



Birds Brighten Winter Blues

— Claudia Hine

Roberta Asher, Chicago Audubon Society, educated Irving Park Garden Club members with a presentation on backyard birds.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



Faced with a long cold winter ahead, Irving Park Garden Club members took solace in a presentation on backyard birds given by **Roberta Asher** from the Chicago Audubon Society (CAS). She entertained and enlightened us in October at our last meeting of the 2017 season—and she delivered bags of birdseed our members ordered from the CAS wild birdseed sale.

More than 40 attendees enjoyed pizza and wine as we learned more about the habits of birds common to our

neighborhood, including cardinals, robins, chickadees, mourning doves, nuthatches, blue jays, house finches, sparrows, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers. Asher gave us tips on how to attract the birds we want, and we listened to recordings of their calls so we could identify their songs.

She said Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary is a great place to visit in spring and fall when birds are migrating. Bird watchers can expect to see many colorful species in large quantities in the meadow at the lakefront.

We heard about Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, an all-volunteer group that helps protect and rescue migratory birds that collide with buildings in the Loop. Teams spend early morning hours recovering injured birds, and the organization collaborates with building managers and architects to prevent bird collisions.

Some terrific door prizes were given away, including a birdbath donated by **Christine and Chris Gorz**; six centerpieces donated by **Sue Geisler**, and several large containers donated by **Gina Iliopoulos and Ed Caplan**.

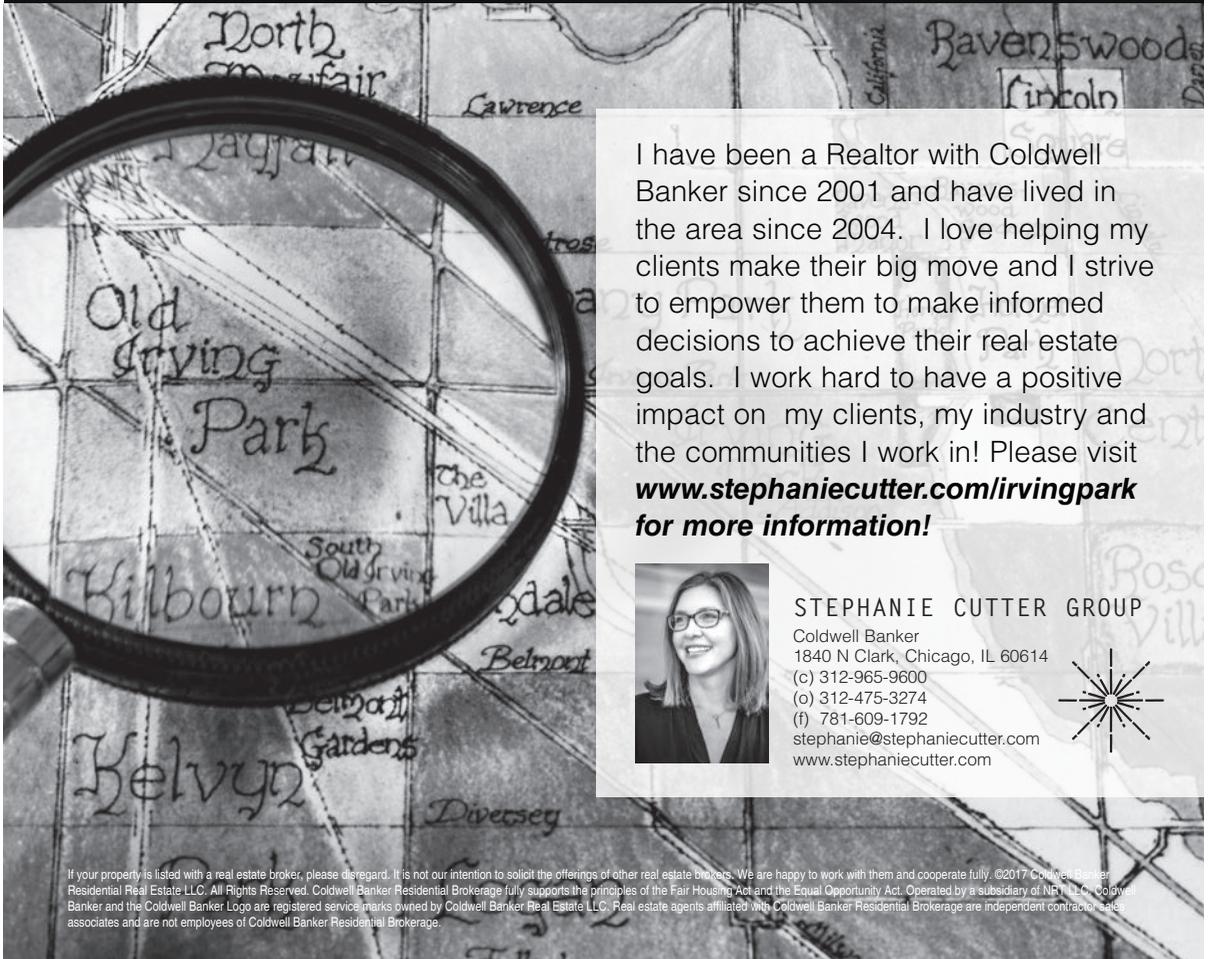
Thanks to all members for a great season—hope to see you back next year. Be sure to follow us at [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub).

Members Tom Starck and Sharon Graham line up for Lou Malnati's pizza...or maybe it's for the wine.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



Stephanie Cutter



I have been a Realtor with Coldwell Banker since 2001 and have lived in the area since 2004. I love helping my clients make their big move and I strive to empower them to make informed decisions to achieve their real estate goals. I work hard to have a positive impact on my clients, my industry and the communities I work in! Please visit www.stephaniecutter.com/irvingpark for more information!



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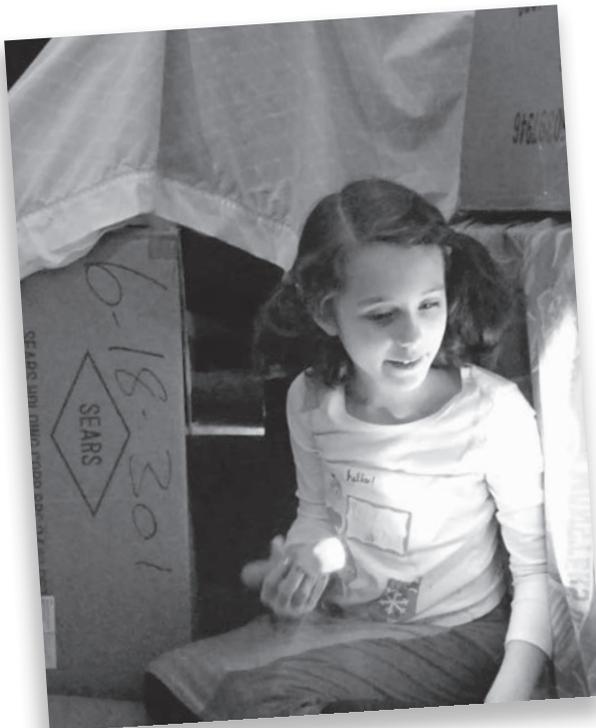
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Spring Classes, Summer Camp and 'Forts!' Plays On

Filament Theatre's 2018 season will have the whole family playing along with its immersive and adventurous productions for young and family audiences!

In addition to offering theatre for young and family audiences, we also amplify creativity by offering classes and summer camps for young people ages 6-12 where they create a play from soup to nuts! There are no scripts and no assigned roles—our teaching artists work with the participants to help them create their dream role.



Classes During Spring

For our spring class, participants will create their version of Filament Theatre's world premiere production of *THE UNCORKER OF OCEAN BOTTLES* based on the award-winning book by Michelle Cuevas (Running at Filament from April 21 – June 3). Their final creation will be presented on the amazing sandbox set specially built for Filament's professional production. (April 23 – May 21: Mondays from 4:45 – 6 p.m.).

Summer Camp

Summer camp will push that creativity even farther as participants band together to form the Filament Clue Collectors! As neighborhood detectives, participants will gather information by visiting sites all around Filament Theatre and creating a special mystery play of their very own. (Sessions 1: July 9 – 20; Session 2: July 23 – August 3).

Our final summer session will be a one week camp where participants will investigate some of the myths and legends around the constellations and create a brand new play inspired by the night sky. (August 6 – 10)

For more information or to register for classes, visit www.FilamentTheatre.org or call (773) 270-1660. Filament Theatre is located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60641. See you at Filament Theatre, where families come to play!

A girl plays in the fort she created with her family at FORTS! Build Your Own Adventure, now Playing at Filament Theatre. Photo: Ryan Stajmiger

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Viator Vibrations — Stacey Stevens / Kris Nielsen

Stay tuned for upcoming events at stviatorchicago.org or on our Facebook page.

Please join us on Saturday, March 3 at Klairmont Collections for the Spring Soiree, our annual fundraiser and auction, where there will be dining and dancing amongst the venue's 300 rare and collectible automobiles. Cocktail attire, or show off your favorite fashions from the Roaring Twenties, Dirty Thirties or Flirty Forties. It will be a spectacular evening! If you would like to promote your business to a local audience, there are several sponsorship opportunities available, and we are also seeking donations for our silent auction.

For tickets or more information about sponsorship and donation opportunities, please contact mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org or 773-545-2173.

Welcome Our New National Honors Society Members

Catholic Schools Week kicked off on January 27th with an open house and mass. There is a focus on service during Catholic Schools Week, and St. Viator did something special each day to honor and support our military men and women. As part of Catholic Schools Week, several new members were inducted into the St. Viator chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, which is for students in grades 6 to 8 who demonstrate outstanding achievement in academics, leadership and service. Congratulations to our new NJHS members!

Join our growing community!

St. Viator Elementary School and Parish is a diverse and thriving community, and we invite you to learn more by attending our events or taking a tour of the school. For more information, please call 773-545-2173 or email Marge Tiritilli at mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org.

Battle of the Books!

St. Viator's "Battle of the Books" program, now its second year, had thirty students in grades 4-6 participating in a Jeopardy-style team-based reading competition over the course of January. Sixteen books were selected, and each student was responsible for reading at least four of them. Our reading specialist, Mrs. Wasielewski, the parent coaches and the audience had a great time cheering on the students as they competed for the championship trophy based on their reading comprehension and memory skills.

Upcoming Events

All events are held at the St. Viator Rec Center, 3644 N. Kedvale and are open to the community.

Open House – Feb. 21, 9-10:30 a.m. Tour the school while classes are in session to see all that St. Viator has to offer. Or call the office to set up a tour date/time that works for your schedule.

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup – Feb. 8 and 22, 9-10:30 a.m. This fun and FREE playgroup is for children ages newborn to 4 years and their parents/caregivers. Open gym with balls, blocks, hula-hoops and so much more!

Primary Gym – Feb. 3 and 17, 8:30-10 a.m. Primary gym offers a relaxed yet active environment where children and parents can participate in basketball, baseball, scooters, floor hockey, parachutes and more. Open to children ages 3 years to 3rd grade. \$20 per family for the year.

Pruning and Fertilization is the Key to Protection this Winter.

Fall and winter mark the perfect time to get your trees ready for next year's spring growth. The dormant season is an ideal time to prune and deep-root fertilize trees, keeping them healthy, and less susceptible to disease. Give our certified arborists at **The Care of Trees** a call today for a complimentary fall consultation.



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Legacy Wall Adds a Personal Touch



St. Edward's gym is adding a personal touch to the renovation! The Legacy Wall, an ongoing project, consists of engraved tiles showing appreciation, honoring, and/or memorializing some of those who are important to the St. Edward community.

Please Join Us for the St. Edwards School Super Bowl Party!

All adults welcome to the St. Edward School Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 4, to benefit St. Edward's Youth Athletic Program. Support the program while rooting for your favorite team!

- \$20 per person—includes all you can eat Italian Beef, Sausage, Chili, Hot Dogs, other snacks and Cash Bar.
- \$50 includes all you can eat Italian Beef, Sausage, Chili, Hot Dogs and other snacks and adult beverages from 3–10 p.m.

For over 100 years, St. Edward School has provided a Catholic education to children from three-year old pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. We have an average student-teacher ratio of 18:1, and feature an extensive music program as well as art, gym, sports, chess, and Spanish at all grade levels. Our school is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside. For more information on the School call 773-736-9133, or visit www.stedwardschool.com
Submitted by Cosette Bergin, St. Edward School Communications Volunteer. Photos provided by St. Edward School.

Please Join St. Edward School for Tour Tuesday!

Our next school tour will be on February 13. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the campus tour begins at 9 a.m. Tours are open to all prospective parents with children entering school or older students that might want to transfer. We will have parents available to answer questions and tour classrooms while school is in session.

Questions or to RSVP please email us at RSVP@stedwardschool.com. If interested in scheduling a shadow day please call the school office 773-736-9133

If you like chili and competition...

Please join us for the St. Edward's Chili Cook Off and Brew Fest! February 10 from 6:30–9:30PM at St. Edward School's Church, 4350 West Sunnyside.

Upcoming Events

McNulty/Kelly Corned Beef Scholarship Dinner:
Sunday, March 4, St. Edward Gym, Buckley Hall
12–5 p.m.

Big Rad 80's Auction:
Saturday, April 21, 6–11:30 p.m.
Big Red Raffle Tickets available at:

www.stedwardschoolbigredauction.com/big-red-raffle.html



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Tour Tuesdays | November 14 & December 12

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the campus tour begins at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit stedwardschool.com or call us at 773.736.9133.

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The Buzz at Belding — Lisa Owens, 4th Grade Reading/Social Studies Teacher

Family Reading Night

It was a cozy evening on November 29 as Belding families came to school for a fun reading event. Wearing comfy pajamas, students were treated to various staff and students reading and even performing some favorite books. From *Piggie and Elephant*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, students young and old were treated to the joy of listening and having a book read to them.



Photo by Maria Fernanda Gonzalez

Winter Wellness Fest

Belding hosted a Winter Wellness Fest on January 18, 2018 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The goal of the event was to engage students and families around the importance of eating well, movement, safety, and mental health. It was exciting to bring our school community together for a night of learning and fun. There were five health related workshops and five physical activity classes. In addition, there was a vendor fair with various community organizations sharing information about their programming/services. We were excited to start the new year off by providing an experience that encouraged our students and families to LIVE WELL!

Are you curious to see what Belding Elementary has to offer your child?

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. This is a great opportunity to see Belding teachers and students in action, and to learn more about our school. Upcoming tour dates include: February 20, March 20, and April 17. Tours begin at 8:00 a.m. in the school office.



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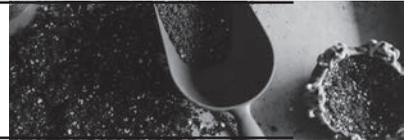
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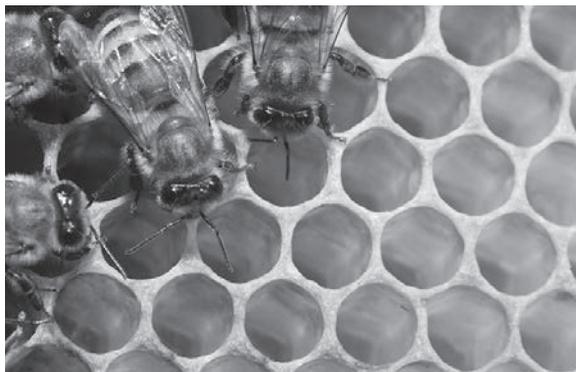


Keeler Gardens has been offering programs to connect with nature for about a year now, and we felt it was time to give our neighbors an update along with our heartfelt thanks.

We had a very active year speaking at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and Lincoln Park Zoo. We had programs in schools, camps, and with cultural groups. We've opened Keeler Gardens to the community for both private and public events and supported nearby churches, the local garden club, and our community members.

We've partnered with other groups to expand our offerings:

- We are a demonstration site for the Bionutrient Food Association focusing on rebuilding our soil for nutrient dense produce.
- Host bee hives for Sloanstead honey building our natural habitat.
- One of the first organizations to provide opportunities through the youth-oriented Yolobe app piloted at Schurz High School.
- Development of an internship program at several different levels.



With every program and event, we have given participants a chance to improve their focus and knowledge base, relieve stress, and better the environment.

If you are active on Facebook and willing to engage, please follow us @KeelerGardens to learn about our Capital Campaign which started on #GivingTuesday.

And we also have an exciting announcement. Several events have coincided for an incredible start to the Campaign. A very generous donor is offering to sponsor a matching challenge for five individual donations of \$1,000 up to a total of \$5,000. We have already received our first \$1,000 donation and are making a bold effort to raise the additional \$4,000 to win the total sponsored match. It is through our community that we hope to find champions to support us with this challenge. If you have suggestions or contacts to whom we can reach out, we would happily put together a presentation or formally reach out in any way necessary to build a relationship. We cannot express to you how grateful we are for your interest, suggestions, and compliments.

Funds raised support our site and all our programs. With our sincere thanks we offer our programs to you. Please take advantage of what Keeler Gardens brings to the community, stop by, and spend a little time with us in the garden.

Please visit us at KeelerGardens.com, find us on social media @KeelerGardens, and you can contact our Executive Director, Ed Caplan, at Ed@KeelerGardens.com or 773-206-6072.

Keeler Gardens, NFP
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Portage Park Elementary Food Drive a Success



Thank you to the students, parents, faculty and staff of Portage Park Elementary School for organizing a food and coat drive for the Pantry in November as part of the 45th Ward Food Drive. Thanks also to Lorca Elementary School, which gathered five boxes of food during its first food drive for the Pantry in December.

Alderman John Arena and his wife, Jill (center) visited Portage Park Elementary School in November to check on the progress of the school's food and coat drive for the Pantry.

Photo by Catherine Moran.

Disney Craft Fair

We also very much appreciate the efforts of the second-grade class at Disney II Magnet Elementary School, who selected the Pantry to receive the profits from their annual craft fair in December. The Pantry was chosen from about 15 charities due to the variety and reach of our programs in their community. The students presented the Pantry with a check for more than \$1,400! Executive Director John Psiharis and Publicity Coordinator Craig Shutt stayed to talk with the students about the Pantry's work and answered questions during their visit.



Second-grade students at Disney II Magnet Elementary School present Executive Director John Psiharis (back row, on left) and Publicity Coordinator Craig Shutt (on right) with a check for the proceeds from their craft fair in December. *Photo by Disney II*

*Article submitted by Craig Shutt. John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry
3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago IL 60641 | e-mail: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, Web: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.*



Pantry Seeking Event Coordinators

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is looking for organized people who could run one or more of our annual outreach programs.

Outreach Programs comprise of:

- Easter baskets preparation (for the four weeks before Easter)
- School supplies (in August) for client's children
- Coat drive which provides coats to clients during the month of October.

These are on-going events that have systems in place—but we need someone to oversee them and organize gathering materials and distributing them during Wednesday distributions. The ideal candidate is connected to others in the community who can help generate the needed donations, ensure the materials are delivered to the Pantry and recruit volunteers to help with the distribution. Co-coordinators are welcome!

Our special distributions are an opportunity for local people who want to make a tangible difference in their community through an opportunity that provides a definite start time and end time and who can coordinate and schedule others. Please note that availability on Wednesday mornings during the distribution is not a requirement to be a coordinator as long as other volunteers are committed to that time.

If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact Lee Stein at 312/608-1465 or leesstein@gmail.com for details and information.



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and I will
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Wash me,
and I will be
whiter than snow.”*

Psalms 51:7





Remembering OUR FRIEND, KEN LITTLE (1933-2017)

Our dear friend Ken Little was one of a kind. A husband, a father, a grandfather, a retired Senior Fire Alarm Operator for the Chicago Fire Department, a teacher of Chicago History at Wright Jr. College and he was also, Very Important Person (VIP) to the Irving Park Historical Society. From being a popular guest speaker, addressing a number of local history topics at meetings, to helping add color through the use of objects and commentary at a number of our Housewalks, Ken was one of those rare people who touched lives in a rich way. Ken could talk your ear off but made you want to listen to him for hours. He was our homegrown expert on not just city history but the Chicago Fire Department — its houses, services, apparatuses, communications, and most importantly the stories of its people.

Ken co-wrote several books, four volumes of the history of Chicago firehouses with Fire Department Chaplain Father John McNalis, and helped found the Fire Museum of Greater Chicago. He was described as one of the best fire alarm operators the Fire Department ever had. Former Chicago Fire Commissioner James Joyce said, "He had a second sense for what fire companies were closest," Joyce said. "He was amazing."

He and his wife Alice, who died in 1986, had ten children, including triplets.

Articles about Ken's prolific and adventurous life, can be found on the web.

A recent column-long obituary in the Chicago Sun-Times can be found at: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/ken-little-dies-used-vast-knowledge-of-chicago-to-help-fight-fires/>

Three of his books can be purchased from Amazon.

Chicago Fire Department hook & ladder tractors, 1914-1971

History of Chicago Fire Houses 1957 to 2009, Final Volume 42009, by Kenneth Little and John McNalis

Chicago Fire Department Engines, 1972
by Kenneth Little & Kirk Rosenhan



The IPHS covered the honorary street sign raising in January 2006, when the west intersection of Cicero at Patterson became "Honorary Ken Little Avenue."



You love Old Irving Park. We do too.

Gidley Management Group (GMG) is a woman-owned and operated association and non-profit management firm located right here in Old Irving Park. Although our company, located downtown since 1992, is new to the neighborhood, the owners of GMG are proud lifetime residents of the community. When presented with the opportunity in the summer of 2017, Susan, Sheila, and Debbie decided to move GMG from downtown to the neighborhood they grew up in.

Our team specializes in association management, event planning, graphic design, and social media marketing, web content development, and many client focused consulting services. From administrative to advertising, GMG can help your small business or association grow, or even make your next event bigger and better than ever!



The GMG Family (top to bottom, left to right) Susan, Debbie, Nina, Sheila, Rachel, Jess

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Association and Nonprofit Management



Construction Expected on New Library

The new Independence Branch Library, 4024 N. Elston, received demolition and building permits from the City of Chicago in December. Demolition and construction is expected to begin late winter to early spring, weather permitting.

For decades, neighbors and library users have lobbied for a new library. After the library's former location closed in 2015 due to smoke damage from an adjacent fire, momentum grew for a new and improved facility. In October, 2016, it was announced that the library would have a permanent home where the former Hollerbach Funeral Home was located

The building is a unique collaboration between the Chicago Housing Authority and the Chicago Public Library, with the library on the first two floors and four floors of affordable senior housing above. The new library takes on a contemporary aesthetic, with plenty of windows to allow natural light to flood inside. The branch will have learning spaces for all age groups, a multi-purpose community room, and a dedicated play area. **John Ronaan Architects**, a finalist in the competition to build the Obama Presidential Library, was chosen from a group of three finalists to design the new library.

I want to thank the **Friends of Independence Library, West Walker Civic Association, Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association, Old Irving Park Association, Rep. Jaime Andrade, the Mayor's office, Ald. Marge Laurino, Ald. Deb Mell, Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa**, and all the residents and neighborhood groups who advocated to make this happen.

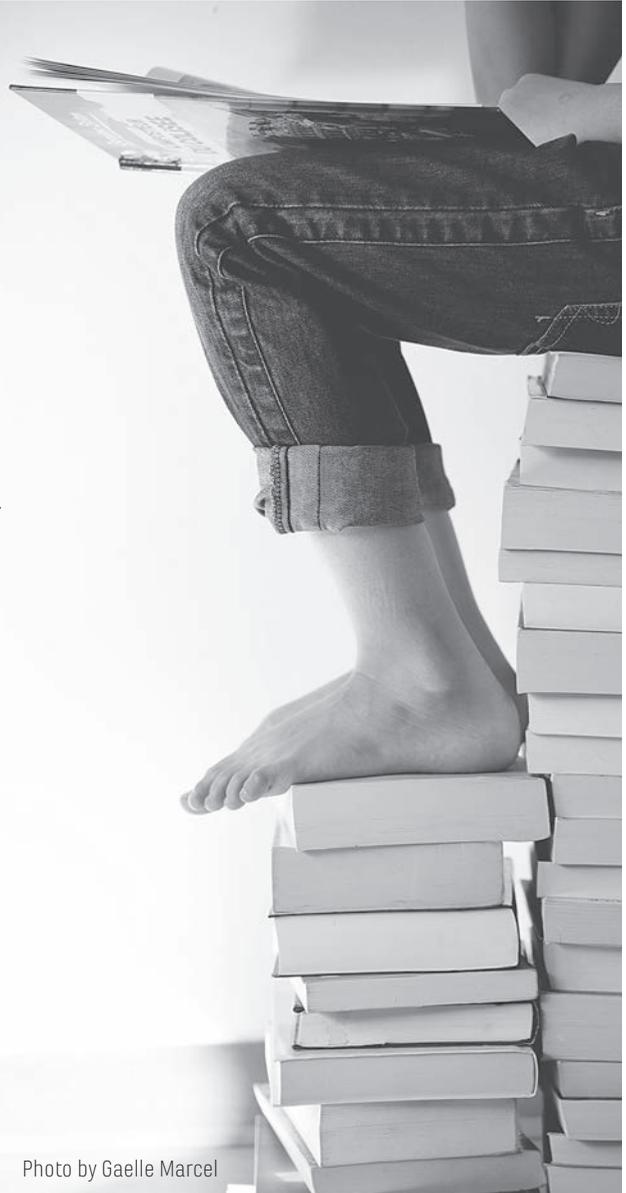


Photo by Gaelle Marcel

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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

For complete event details, go to the organization's feature page.

**OIPA NEWS
MARCH 2018
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE**

**Advertising &
Editorial
BOTH DUE
FEBRUARY 13
(SECOND TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH)
BY 5 p.m.**

February

-
- 4 St. John's Episcopal Church | music803 Concert Performance | 3 p.m.**
3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Haydn Baryton Trio in D Major, Hob.XI. 11; Dohnányi Serenade in C Major for String Trio, Op. 10; Vaughan Williams Piano Quintet in C Minor The event is free and open to the public. www.stjohnschicago.com
-
- 10 St. John's Episcopal Church | Darwin Day 2018 | 5 p.m.**
3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Speakers Dr. William Bromer, expert on the biology of streams and rivers, and Farmer Vicki Westerhoff, organic farmer. The evening will include a dinner and a gift of heirloom seeds as door prizes. The dinner is free; cash bar and donations support the Darwin Day program. The event is free and open to the public. www.stjohnschicago.com
-
- 25 Carlson Community Service | Soup & Bread for Carlson Fundraiser | 5-7 pm |**
Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave.
www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events

March

-
- 18 Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents
Ling's Classical Strings | 2 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church | 4100 N. Harding Ave. Free Admission – Reception follows the concert
www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events**



*SPOTTED: Anna Sobor and Maryrose Pavkovic discussing the Portage Walking Museum during Neighbors Night Out at Easy Street Pizza.
Photo by Claudia Hine.*



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- Renewal
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We like to celebrate our members in our newsletter. Birthday and anniversary information is optional. If you wish to be included on the birthday and anniversary page in the newsletter, **you must provide the information annually** to be included (adults members and spouses/partners only).

NAME (FIRST/LAST)

BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (FIRST/LAST)

BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

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- \$25/year Standard - \$15/year Standard Seniors (age 65+)

- \$75 Good Neighbor: Standard membership plus — One child and/or pet's name and birthday in newsletter and an OIPA Tote Bag

- \$150 Neighborhood All-star: Standard membership plus — One child and/or pet's name and birthday in newsletter, an OIPA Tote Bag, and admission for two to an exclusive OIPA party

- Add \$17/year for OIPA NEWSLETTER deliveries out of boundaries. (Boundaries: South of Montrose, North of Addison, West of Pulaski & East of Milwaukee District North railroad tracks adjacent to Kilbourn/Kolmar)

GIFT MEMBERSHIP: Simply complete the form above or the online form with your neighbor's name(s) and address. You may not know their birthday/anniversary info. That's okay - we'll follow up with them. **If purchasing online:** Please indicate this is a gift subscription in the final box titled, "Special Instructions."

SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO: Old Irving Park Association, c/o Meredith O'Sullivan, OIPA Director / Membership, 4061 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: Old Irving Park Association **OR** join/renew online: oldirvingpark.com/join-us

From the Editor: SUBMISSION TO THE NEWSLETTER POLICY

Note: Ten newsletters are produced annually (Newsletters are not published in the months of January and June). A heartfelt thanks to everyone who continue to submit articles and photos for the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you throughout the year.

**Submission
deadline:
2nd Tuesday
of the month.**

All members are welcome to submit letters, photos, articles (440 words maximum without photos, 300 with photos) for publication. Please send content as a Word document or in an email. Links to websites or Facebook are NOT acceptable. Send your contributions to: Kathleen Kearns at k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com. Please include **"OIPA submission"** in the subject line of the email. Also include the category of the item you are submitting — advertisement, article or event for community calendar, etc.

Photos should be accompanied with a caption(s) and photo credit. If your files are too large to email, please use <https://wetransfer.com>. You can send several files at a time using [wetransfer](https://wetransfer.com).

Deadline for advertising AND editorial submissions is the second Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m. Materials SUBMITTED AFTER this date will be held over to the next month's issue.

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Information printed in the newsletter may be reproduced with Old Irving Park Association cited as the source. Opinions in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Old Irving Park Association.

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40th District State Representative



Jaime Andrade



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We encourage you to stop by if you need help accessing state services and to share your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve our community and state.

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IL 40th District-Jaime Andrade



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

3749 N. Keeler Avenue

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