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NEWS



APRIL

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 3 | 2020



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# OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 34 ✨ Issue 3 ✨ April 2020

A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for and about people living in the neighborhood. Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries includes: Addison on the south, Montrose on the north, Pulaski on the east and the Milwaukee District North Line on the west (from Addison to Irving Park) continuing with the freight/Amtrak railroad tracks from Irving Park to Montrose (i.e., east of Knox Ave.). A map can be found on our website.

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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Cover: Photo courtesy of Maureen Taylor

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

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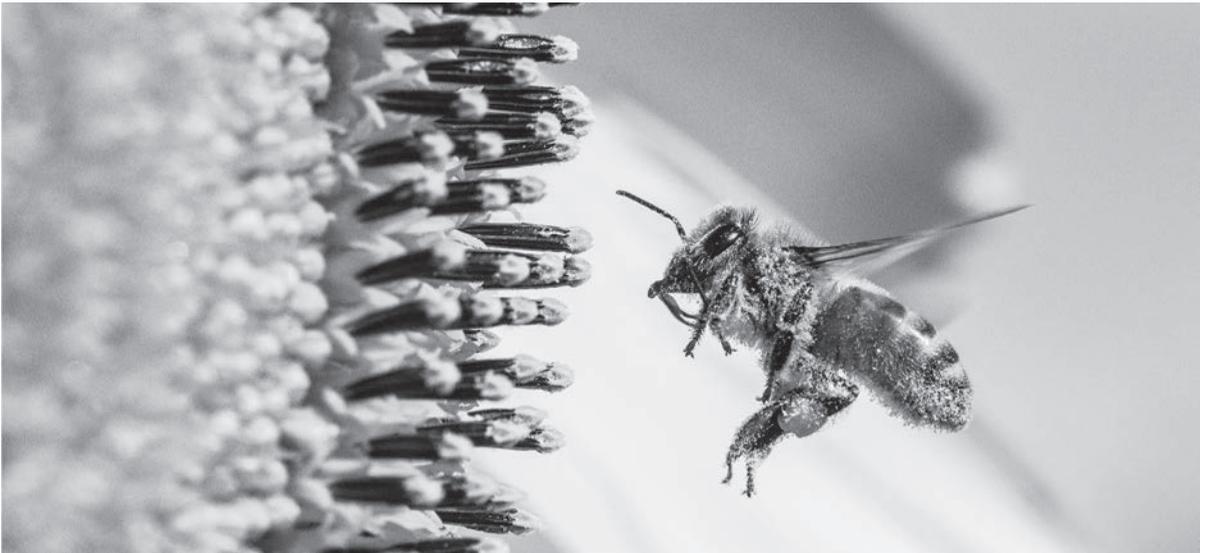
# Pollinator Gardens — Annie Swingen, Vice-President

**A**fter a relatively mild winter, spring is upon us! Warmer temps mean the birds will be singing once again, and it's time to spend some time in our yards.

We've all heard that the honey bee population is on the decline; "Over the past 15 years, bee colonies have been disappearing in what is known as the "colony collapse disorder," according to National Geographic. Some regions have seen losses of up to 90%, the publication reported." So what can we do on the local level?

Slip your hands into some gardening gloves and get dirty! Pollinator gardens are an easy way to re-introduce native plants to your yard and are nearly maintenance-free once you get them off the ground (pun very much intended).

What is a pollinator garden? A pollinator garden is planted and designed, with specific nectar and pollen-producing plants to attract pollinating insects. These gardens provide nectar-producing flowers, shelter, or shelter providing plants for pollinators, avoid the use of pesticides, and place similar flowers close to one another. We have two in our front yard, and they require little work while providing an aesthetic upgrade to the parkway. Plus, you know, we get to watch the bees do their business and feed fat caterpillars. We have experts in our neighborhood, thanks to the folks at **Keeler Gardens**, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit located at 3631 North Keeler Avenue. Keeler Garden's mission is "to improve the health and sustainability of urban community life through environmental experiences, supporting diversity and youth development, and building a connection to



*Photo by David Clode on Unsplash*



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

nature. Visit their website (<https://keelergardens.com>) to learn more about their educational programs.

Also, **Conservation Scientist Krissa Skogen, PhD**, from the Chicago Botanical Gardens, will join us at our April meeting to not only discuss her research and the value of creating a pollinator garden but tips on how to start your own. She might even show up at your house to help you plant!

**Want to learn more? Check out these useful websites:**

**U.S. Foreign Service** – “Gardening for pollinators”: [www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml)

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – “How to Build a Pollinator Garden”: [www.fws.gov/midwest/news/PollinatorGarden.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/PollinatorGarden.html)

**Chicago Botanic Garden** – “Plan a Pollinator Strip”: [www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/smartgardener/plant\\_a\\_pollinator\\_strip](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/smartgardener/plant_a_pollinator_strip)



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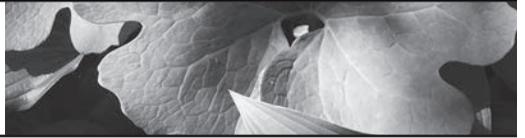
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## Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

March 2, 2020 – Bart Goldberg, OIPA Secretary

**Attendees:** Adrienne Chan, Lynn Ankney, Scott Legan, Meredith O’Sullivan, Anna Sobor, Annie Swingen, Merry Marwig and Bart Goldberg.

The Board meeting commenced at 8:23 p.m.; the late Commencement: President Chan commenced the meeting at 7:40 p.m. at Swingen Manor. It would have started maybe 15 minutes earlier if the hostess had not felt the necessity to inform us about her nightmare that she had experienced in her chambers during the previous eve. While the story did tangentially involve OIPA I feel that it was primarily told for the purposes of making the more common amongst us feel more comfortable in her presence, and to that end it was a complete success. I was thrilled with the assortment of cookies that were provided and appreciated her insistence that I eat very many of them. However, the most impressive offering was the batch of fresh chocolate chip cookies that had been prepared by none other than the Master (in-waiting) of the Realm, Prince Ellis. They were delectable. When I asked him how he had prepared them he informed me that it involved (amongst presumably many other steps) extricating them from a plastic tube such as can be seen in the preparation of sausage. Since no one discusses the ingredients in sausage in polite society I took his cue and left it at that. Thanks to both of them for graciously hosting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lynn Ankney presented her Treasurer’s Reports for February. The receipts side of the ledger was pleasing due to a nice haul from

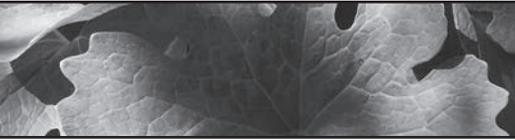
advertising revenue. Disbursements were also completely normal. The overall balance in our account went down about \$1,500 due to the payment of the remainder of the annual charitable donations that had been previously authorized. The financial report was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Membership:** Meredith O’Sullivan reported on our current membership figures. We are currently at 533 members which is ten more than we had at the end of the calendar year.

**Newsletter:** We discussed the “Message from the Board” column that has been appearing in our newsletter. In particular, it was resolved as to who would write the column in each of the coming months, and what they would write about. In deference to the requests of many of you, I did not volunteer.

**Old Irving Park Signs:** As previously discussed, Merry Marwig has been spearheading a project to create and distribute signs proclaiming our love for Old Irving Park. Merry showed us two final designs for selection, and then we approved the costs of the signs. We will be distributing them to all OIPA member in May to display in their yards. By then we should be past all snow for the year. The timing of the distribution of the OIPA handbags was also discussed, and it was decided that they should be distributed in April.

**Community Development:** As most of you are probably aware, the “Sabatino’s Block” of Old Irving Park (the south side of the street between Kenneth



## OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

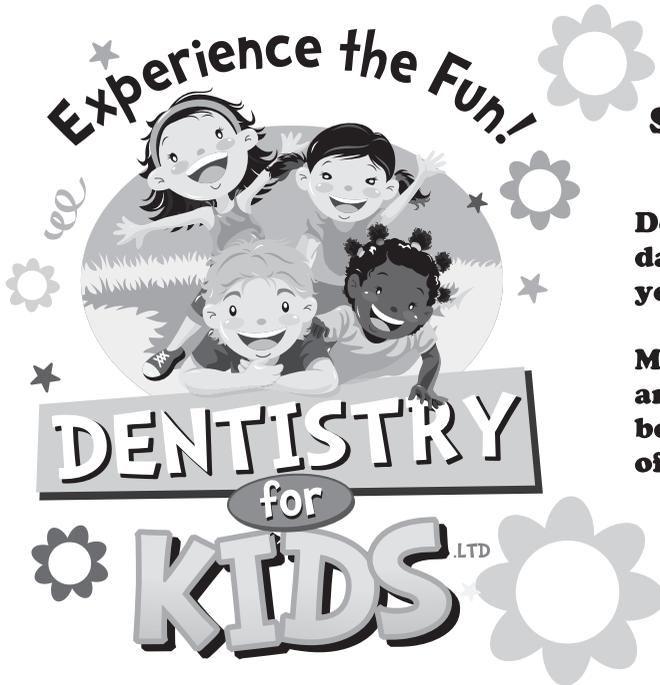
and Kilbourn) was recently sold, and an Urgent Care facility is going to be built there by Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The Board voted to reach out to the developers to encourage them to have a meeting with the community to better inform us of their plans and to receive feedback. We will hopefully be announcing such a meeting soon.

**Future Meetings:**\* We discussed topics for several of our next several General Meetings. The very next one will be on April 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Johns, and

will feature information on Pollinator Gardens. While that will be fascinating for many, I am even more excited about the next two that involve wine and ice cream.

This meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**\*NOTE: Due to public gathering restrictions, please watch for email updates regarding meetings.**



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# Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on

March 9, 2020 – Lynn Ankney, Treasurer

President Adrienne Chan kicked the meeting off just after 7:30 p.m., welcoming the crowd of just over 20, including one new meeting attendee, Linda of the 3800 Block of Kilbourn. Our smaller than usual crowd, however, was rewarded with not one, but three, unplanned guest speakers in addition to the couple of speakers billed as part of the evening. See, you never know who might show up to an OIPA meeting.

Our first unplanned speaker was **Bridget Degnan, Cook County Commissioner**. Ms. Degnan explained she is our representative on the Cook County Board and has been in office since December 2018. Ms. Degnan's background includes work in the Peace Corps, as an environmental engineer, and a litigator. In her role as Commissioner, Ms. Degnan says her priorities are on the environment, money management in government, and the criminal justice system (specifically, identifying opportunities for the Cook County Sheriff department to collaborate with the Chicago Police Department). Ms. Degnan visited our meeting to introduce herself because as she canvassed our area of the city, she heard from residents that they did not feel well-represented. If you would like to learn more, you can visit Ms. Degnan's office at 4253 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Our second unexpected speaker was **Elli Song** from Congressman Quigley's office. Elli does case work for Congressman Quigley's office around senior outreach (e.g., social security and Medicare). On the social security front, Elli shared news about the new Secure Act Bill that passed in December 2019. The bill allows individuals who turn 70.5 years old after 12/31/19 to defer their social security benefits until age 72. As for Medicare, Elli let the crowd know that Medicare

covers costs for COVID-19 testing. Finally, Elli reminded everyone that if you're planning a visit to Washington DC, please let Congressman's office know, as they can arrange for a Capitol Hill tour. Please allow 3 weeks' notice, however. Congressman Quigley's local office is just a block away from Ms. Degnan's, located at 4345 N. Milwaukee.

Before moving to our planned, featured speakers, President Chan provided an update on the Northwestern Medical development that will occupy the south side of Irving Park Road between Kenneth and Kildare (aka "The Sabatino's Block"). The development is in the very early stages and there's no timeline or architectural plans yet. Neighbors have noticed fencing around the parcel, which has been erected in preparation for demolition, intended to clear and secure the site prior to construction. Adrienne explained she's already been contacted by the contracted architectural firm and stated we, as a community, welcome the opportunity to be involved in the planning stages.

Our first speaker, **Jen Knox of "Get Neat Get Knox"**, is an Old Irving Park resident of 17 years. Jen began her business over a year ago and is a professional organizer focusing on homes, offices, and small businesses. She's also a member of NAPO – the National Association of Productivity and Organization. Jen explained her goal is to "make the most of the space we have." For example, city homes—especially older city homes—often have smaller and fewer closets. In these cases, Jen's solution is to "go up" and utilize the height of the space.

Jen brought "before" and "after" photos from past



## OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

clients and described some sample projects she has tackled in the past. They include using a bedroom as a home office that can transition to a guest room, inexpensively creating a play space area in an unfinished basement, and working with small businesses to organize supplies that fosters paper management and process improvement. Jen serves a variety of clients: singles, young families, and busy professionals. Sometimes clients like to be hands-on and work with Jen directly to comb through their items, while other clients prefer an approach where Jen waves her magic wand (not really) and organizes her clients' items on her own.

Regardless of the project, Jen made the case that getting organized saves time, energy and money. A

great place to start, she says, is the pantry. Her go to rule is to use plastic bins so that you can see what you have (hot tip: Marshalls has a good selection and prices). Jen brought an actual plastic bin filled with various granola/energy bars from her own pantry (more on that later). Jen also recommends OXO Pop containers (available at Target and Costco) for cereal and rice. Glass Ball jars are nice for nuts, fruits, and grains. Ikea offers bins for in-use/open chip bags. OIPA member Mike chimed in with a tip that Dollar Tree offers a lot of drawer organizers.

If you want to learn more about Jen and her Get Neat Get Knox business, you can e-mail her [getneatgetknox@gmail.com](mailto:getneatgetknox@gmail.com), visit her website

*Continued on page 8*

# Stephanie Cutter



# Irving Park Real Estate

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# OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



## General Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 7*

getneat-getknox.com/ or find her on Facebook [www.facebook.com/GetNeatGetKnox/](http://www.facebook.com/GetNeatGetKnox/).

Our second speaker, **Karla Hood**, is also an OIP resident and lives in the Terraces. We asked Karla to speak about a fairly new trend in composting, community “block bin” composting. In Karla’s case, she along with 3 other neighbors share a bin (locked via a code they established) located next to their garbage cans. Karla and her neighbors each pay a monthly fee (\$10 - \$20 per month) for the use of the shared bin and removal of the compost. Karla shared it is estimated that 25% of all food in our country goes uneaten. If thrown away, food rots in landfills and contributes

to greenhouse gases. In addition to conserving landfill space, composting saves water, encourages beneficial bacteria, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizer. Businesses are increasing their adoption of compostable products. Karla’s Exhibit A was a compostable wine glass she brought home from a recent trade show she attended. Exhibit B was a “to go” box from Chicago Pizza. Speaking of pizza, Karla places the top (unsoiled) pizza box in her compost bin.

Karla provided a nice handout (we have some leftover that will be at our next meeting’s check-in table) that included names of companies that will pick-up your compost (including her “block bin”



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## OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

option), composting products you can use to collect your compost in your home, and online educational resources and in-person class information if you want to learn more about composting. OIPA Treasurer, Lynn Ankney (that's me), added that she and her family took a composting class last spring at the Kilbourn Park District Greenhouse. She and her family compost on their own and keep their compost for their own use in gardening.

So, whether you want to compost with neighbors or on your own, have a company pick up the compost or use it for your own garden, composting is a worthy pursuit that you may consider adding to your household's recycling program.

Our third and final unexpected guest was a familiar

OIPA meeting crasher: **State Representative Jamie Andrade**. Jamie, along with Eddie (whom many of us know as the angel who cleans the Blue Line viaduct), took a break from canvassing (Jamie says they stop door knocking every night by 8:30pm), looking for meeting cookies. Imagine their disappointment when we told them we had no refreshments for this meeting. Then Jen Knox dutifully brought out her plastic bin from her presentation and Jamie and Eddie scored some sweet granola bars! All snacking and kidding aside, Jamie let us know that there have been three spigots installed for the viaducts (Pulaski, Irving Park, and the bus turnaround adjacent to the 90/94 overpass), allowing for future power washing of these walkways.

The meeting ended just after 8:30 p.m.

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# OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



## April Anniversaries

- 8 Anne & Jim Gruber
- 8 Elizabeth & Robert Fox
- 14 Jessica & William Navin
- 15 Robert & Kathryn Kleisch
- 17 Susan Strong-Dowd & John Dowd
- 19 Meredith & Tim O'Sullivan
- 19 Valerie & Patrick Ginnan
- 21 Jacqueline & James O'Neill
- 21 Theresa Bohdan & Tim Wheeler
- 27 Sheila & Shaun Quinn
- 28 Diana Jackson & Robert Laskowski
- 29 Sheryl & Tom Keith

## April Birthdays

- |                      |                      |                        |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Lisa Kelly         | 11 James Barrett     | 19 Meridith Cannon     |
| 2 Nilda Soler        | 11 Pam Powell        | 19 Christine Vertucci  |
| 2 Sydney Hart        | 12 Deanna Varagona   | 22 Kristen Lynch       |
| 4 Bindu Alexander    | 12 Illeana Gomez     | 22 Marc Sussman        |
| 4 Frank Serpone      | 15 Cynthia Rivera    | 23 Elizabeth Fox       |
| 4 Jaime Murray       | 15 Debbie LaPenta    | 23 Jorge Gomez         |
| 4 Jason Nuttelman    | 15 Mary Kuhn         | 26 Mike Blaha          |
| 4 Sheryl Keith       | 16 Marjorie Monaghan | 26 T. J. Hine          |
| 6 Rochelle Jones     | 16 Rich Lucki        | 27 Mary Ann McLaughlin |
| 7 Kate Geisler       | 17 Paul Moran        | 28 Garrett Harabedian  |
| 7 Kitty Tataryn      | 18 James Natoli      | 28 Sandra Broderick    |
| 7 Lindsay Hunter     | 18 Keith Handley     | 29 Andrius Markvaldas  |
| 8 Anthony Mallerdino | 18 Peter O'Mara      | 29 Erin O'Donohue      |
| 9 Dan O'Donohue      | 19 Julie Tye         | 29 Warren Stevens      |

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](mailto:meredithosullivan@gmail.com) or 773-551-4533, so she can add your name and dates to the list.

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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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| 4133 N. Kolmar ..... | \$402,000   |
| 4009 N. Lowell ..... | \$464,000   |
| 4165 N. Berteau..... | \$500,000   |
| 3928 N. Kenneth..... | \$588,000   |
| 4050 N. Lowell.....  | \$1,045,000 |



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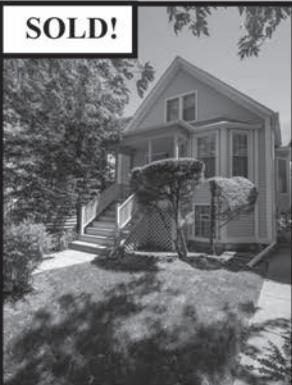
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# GARDENERS RESIST THE URGE!

— Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener

**A**fter a long, cold, snowy winter like we've just had in Chicago, we gardeners are more than eager to get out in the garden and get to work clearing and cleaning, but I urge you to hold off a bit—for now anyway. Winter and early spring in the garden are basically a series of freeze and thaws cycles. These cycles create tiny air spaces called “pores” in the soil, which are essential for healthy plants. Soil is a living organism and, as such, needs oxygen to exist. Without adequate oxygen, plants become waterlogged, and the roots of plants will rot.

If you dig or even walk on your beds too early when the soil is wet, you will do a lot of damage by eliminating these air spaces. If you must walk in your garden, lay down a plank of wood and walk on that instead.

You should also resist the urge to clean up your beds too early. Even though we all are anxious to see what is starting to grow, it is better to wait.

Hopefully, you left the leaves on your flower beds last fall. These leaves help to regulate the temperature of the soil. Removing this organic cover will expose tender shoots to our unpredictable spring weather. We have had snow as late as May in years past. The leaves will decompose on their own and give essential nutrients back into the soil.

As consistently warm weather arrives, you can expose the crowns of the plants, but do not put the leaves in the trash. Leave the material around the roots of your plants instead. If you can live with the look of the decomposing leaves for a few extra weeks until the plants leaf out, your garden will thank you by being more productive.

*Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener and owner of Taylor Made Landscape Design. Visit [www.TaylorMld.com](http://www.TaylorMld.com) for more details. (See ad on page 17)*

*Photos courtesy Maureen of Taylor*



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# Facing the Climate Crisis — Claudia Hine

**T**he subject of global warming has been a hot-button issue for a very long time. Chicago aldermen recently declared a climate “emergency” and are calling for change.

In April, the Irving Park Garden Club will give its members an opportunity to learn more about this global threat from a leader in conservation and climate reality. We’ll hear a presentation from Natalie Lynn Lichtenbert entitled “Climate Change and Your Backyard Adventures.”

Natalie is a research scientist with a master’s degree in conservation leadership. She was trained as a climate reality leader in 2015 in Miami and frequently gives presentations on climate change and other wildlife conservation issues. She often can be found using her scientist skills working in a lab or in the field while also filming such adventures in front of and behind the camera.

Locally, she is the co-chair for the Hoffman Estates Sustainability Commission, board director for the Illinois Monarch Project Community Engagement Committee, and the scientific board director for the Pollinator Initiative starting in Schaumburg, IL.

## Never Too Late To Join

Natalie’s presentation will be given on Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. (use Byron St. entrance). Come explore the topic of climate change and today’s human-induced effects on our climate, environment, and life on earth. Learn the basics, what is happening locally, and what you, as a Chicago resident, can do to help in your daily life and on a political level.

This program is for garden club members only, but it’s not too late to join us. Although our 2020 season got underway in March, we’ve got lots of great programming planned through October. Dues are just \$20/household, payable by cash or check only. New members are always welcome.

We’re celebrating our 30th anniversary this year. I hope you’ll join us.



Natalie Lichtenbert will address climate change at the Irving Park Garden Club’s April 16 meeting. *Photo courtesy Natalie Lichtenbert.*

We’re the Irving Park Garden Club. We like to dine, drink, and dig. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub/](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub/) or contact me at [claudiahine@icloud.com](mailto:claudiahine@icloud.com).

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## Holiday on Ice —Reported by Dave Jones, a neighbor, and a fan

President's Day weekend this year was an occasion for a couple of young Irving Park pucksters to "preside" over the hockey rinks of the Wisconsin Dells in a recent holiday tournament for Squirt level hockey teams from across the Midwest. Old Irving boys T.J. Danahy and Colin Burke were the big reason their local team, the McFetridge Park River Dogs, were able to skate away with the Squirt Championship trophy of the 2020 Wisconsin Dells Winter Classic hockey showdown for boys aged 10-11.

The River Dogs team rallied with hard-skating over three days on rinks in Reedsburg, Sauk Prairie, and at the Poppy Waterman Ice Center in the Dells. Spirits sparked by hard, dazzling plays by both T.J. and Colin the team rallied. Both were playing multiple positions to lead their team to victory.

T.J. scored a "hat trick" (3 goals!) in the tournament opener, playing as right-wing, then moved to goalie in the second game, where he registered a shutout in an 8-0 win — the team's first shutout of the season. He finished up the tourney playing center forward for the River Dogs' championship game.

Colin tallied one goal and two assists in the tournament. Team coach Tom Danahy (T.J.'s proud dad) reported Colin played "hard-hitting and smart hockey" all over the ice as both center and right-wing. Colin also lent muscle to a crushing defense, shutting down the Afton Americans from St. Louis in that big shutout game.

Coach Danahy said, "Both boys and their teammates played their hearts out and are very proud of the trophies they brought back to Chicago."

All of Old Irving Park can be proud of these two fine boys and their team.



*Colin Burke with his individual trophy*

*Photos provided by Dave Jones*



*T.J., Coach Tom, and "team mom" Kim Danahy*  
*Photo by Dave Jones*

# Holy Week and Easter

at St. John's Episcopal Church



*Walk the way with Jesus with these special services:*

Quiet your Soul  
this Lent

Lenten Supper and  
Taizé Service  
Friday, March 27

Soup and Bread  
Supper  
6:30 P.M.

Taizé Service  
7:30 P.M.

## **Palm Sunday Parade** April 5

8:00 A.M. *Begins at the Byron Street door*

10:00 A.M. *Begins in the garden with a  
procession through the neighborhood*

## **Children's Holy Week** Wednesday, April 8

6:00 P.M. *Interactive worship especially  
for children; Supper included*

## **Maundy Thursday** April 9, 7:30 P.M.



## **Good Friday** April 10, 12:00 and 7:30 P.M.

## **Easter Vigil** Saturday, April 11, 7:30 P.M.

## **Easter Sunday** April 12, 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 A.M.

*Peanut-free Easter Egg Hunt in  
the garden following each service!*

*Please bring an empty basket.*





## Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents World Beat Percussion Trio

**The World Beat Percussion Trio will perform an interactive concert on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church.**

From left are: Jeff Handley, Tina Laughlin, and Brandon Podjasek



**T**he Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is excited to present the World Beat Percussion Trio in an interactive performance on April 26th. World Beat Percussion Trio has been playing together for over 20 years in various forms. The Trio features Jeff Handley, Tina Laughlin, and Brandon Podjasek. Separately, these three musicians perform regularly in Chicago operas, orchestras, ballets, and theater productions. As the Trio, they play for many area public schools and libraries.

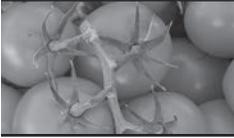
At a World Beat Percussion Trio performance, the audience will see over 50 instruments representing Africa, India, the U.S., and Latin countries. You'll experience music from around the globe, plus music important to Chicago history. At the end of each performance, the audience will get an opportunity to play with the Trio. There will be plenty of extra

instruments on hand, and the Trio will be happy to coach volunteers as they play.

The concert will be at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. at 2:00 p.m. A reception with the artists will follow the concert, hosted by the Fine Arts Committee. Concerts are free of charge, but donations are gladly accepted. This performance is kid-friendly – families are welcome and encouraged to come!

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*The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series is in its 26th season of bringing high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is a program of Carlson Community Services, a non-profit serving the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org) or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766.*



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services



Old Irving Park neighbors attended the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's February concert, which featured a vocal quartet singing Broadway musicals. Enjoying the reception are (from left) Anna Sobor, T.J. and Claudia Hine and Karen and Bill Whitehead.



Dee Murphy (left) and Mark McKelvey catch up after the Fine Arts concert.

*Photos courtesy of Liz Mills.*

## We've been serving folks in our community for a generation.

We will take all the time necessary to understand your needs, and explain your options.

We are long time Irving park residents and friends, raising our families and making friends here.

**Contact us, we are here to help.**



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## Pantry's Neighborhood Walk Set for May 16th

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will hold its third annual Neighborhood Walk at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 16th, walking through its new neighborhood. We invite everyone to walk with us and stop in to see the Pantry's new facilities at 4256 N. Ridgeway Avenue.

Walkers will begin to assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the Pantry to walk a route of about 1.7 miles through the neighborhood. It should take about 30 to 40 minutes to complete the route. Children of all ages and non-walkers are invited to attend, too.

### **Our goal is to raise awareness about food insecurity in our service area**

The area includes the 60641 and western half of 60618 ZIP codes, and our ability to provide a 3- to 5-day supply of food to any neighbors who need help. There is no donation required to walk, but we will have food, toiletry, and men's sock drop-off bins available for anyone who wants to bring something.

We encourage school and church groups to walk together. Students can earn 2 hours of service time for participating. Many sponsors supplying drinks, food, and other goods have signed up, and the Pantry is hoping to add more.

For more information about walking, donating, or sponsoring, contact Walk Coordinator Lynne Anderson at [lbxander@icloud.com](mailto:lbxander@icloud.com). We will post more details on our Facebook page.



The Irving Park Food Pantry will hold its third annual Neighborhood Walk on May 16th, gathering walkers at the Emanuel United Methodist Church to start walking at 9 a.m. to raise awareness for the Pantry and food insecurity in the area. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

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Article submitted by Craig Shutt. John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry  
e-mail: [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org), | [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org).



## EASTER PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Pantry's program to provide Easter baskets to clients' children up to 8 years old continues on April 1st and 8th. Donations of money and baskets are still being accepted and can be drop-off into the box on the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave.

## Thank You!

Thank you to **Kathryn Korleski, the Student Council and all the students and parents at St. Viator Elementary School**, who created a toiletries drive for the Pantry. We appreciate having such a big stock as we run through toiletries of all kinds quickly.

**Thank you to everyone in Old Irving Park** for your support and donations, which allow us to continue to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Executive Director John Psiharis shows off some of the donations received for the Irving Park Food Pantry's program to provide Easter baskets to clients' children up to 8 years old. The program continues through April 8th. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Kathryn Korleski (back row right) and members of the Student Council at St. Viator Elementary School show off the results of their toiletries drive for the Irving Park Food Pantry. Publicity Coordinator Craig Shutt (back row, left) stopped in to pick up all the donations. *Photo by Mary Kay Shutt*



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

# Musical Theater at Belding

— Ayesha Ali

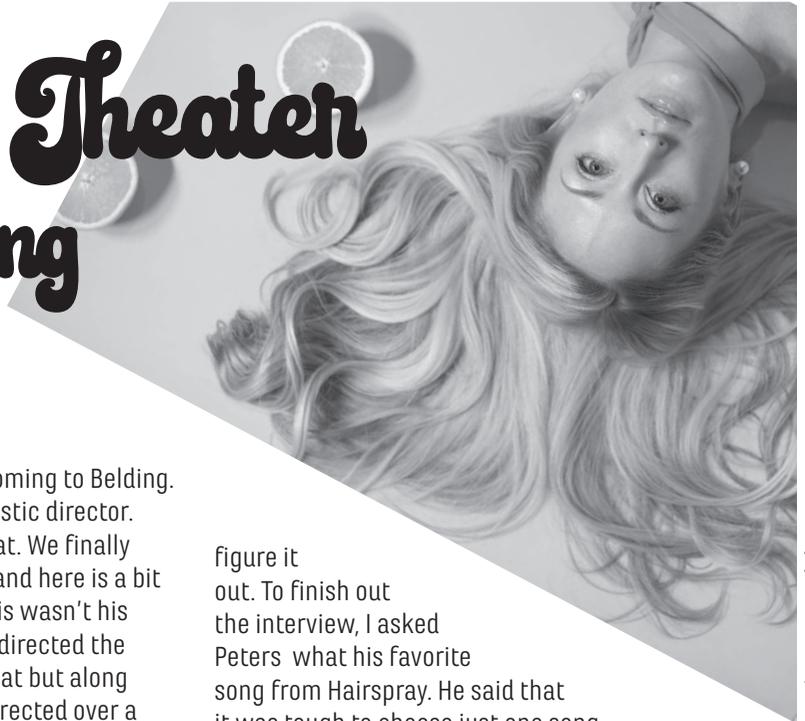


Photo by Kyle Smith on Unsplash

**"Hairspray"** the hit musical is coming to Belding. Every great musical must have a fantastic director. The amazing Lee Peters will be just that. We finally got the pleasure of interviewing him, and here is a bit of our conversation. He told us that this wasn't his first play at all, in fact he said that he directed the last three plays at Belding! Not only that but along with those three major plays he has directed over a hundred plays! Next, I asked about the auditions of the play. How could he decide between so many great actors auditioning? Peters replied that he looked for many things such as the actor's movement, how they responded during exercises, dances, and acting out little scripts. He also looked for teamwork skills, singing skills and creativity skills. I also asked Peters if it was hard to figure out which actors fit the main roles. Peters responded in a very mature way by saying that the main characters aren't the most important; all the roles are essential to the success of the musical. Everyone has a place to be, and it was Peter's job to

figure it out. To finish out the interview, I asked Peters what his favorite song from Hairspray. He said that it was tough to choose just one song, but the most energetic song is "I Know Where I've Been," and it was a big part of the play. He also explained that the song portrays the idea of racism, segregation, and hope.

Overall, Peters says the entire play is about hope for a world where everyone gets a chance, a world where everyone is happy to sing and dance all day! It was a great conversation with Peters, which has piqued our expectations. What's to come? My best guess is that we all will have to wait until the musical debuts at Belding on May 7!



## Hoop Dreams — Addison Lundgren

The Belding 7th and 8th-grade boys' basketball team did not have a good start to the year, but that did not stop their determination. Their determination paid off. The 7th and 8th-grade boys made it to the playoffs! 8th grader Manny Fuller said that before each game, the team warm-ups with stretches and running. They also go over plays before the game starts.

The 5th and 6th-grade boys also had a pretty eventful season. They applied the same determination and teamwork as the 7th and 8th graders did, by stretching and reviewing plays before games started.

Belding also has a 5th and 6th-grade girl's basketball team, which did well. Next year, Belding hopes to expand the girls' basketball team to include the 7th and 8th-grade girls.

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

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. School tours are an excellent opportunity to see Belding teachers and students in action and to learn more about our school. Upcoming tour dates include April 14, May 12, and May 26. Tours begin at 8:00 a.m. in the school office.

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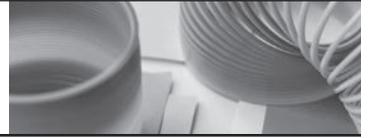
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## Huskies Headlines — Giovanni Toledo, student reporter

# CIWP Team Meets: Creating Goals and Priorities Towards a Stronger Scammon

**T**he Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) Team is hard at work, analyzing data to identify priorities and set goals that will lead us in the coming years. The diverse team consists of administration, teachers, parents, and community members, all of who want to see Scammon continue to thrive. We hope to share more soon about the areas of focus and how we plan to reach the high expectations we have set for ourselves and our students.



Photo by Felix Koutchinski on Unsplash

### **ILT Team: We Present Scammon's New Vision**

After months of collaborative work, the ILT team has finalized Scammon's new vision:

**We are a proud family of learners dedicated to improving ourselves and our world through hard work and kindness.**

It is worth mentioning that this vision was crafted in collaboration with school staff and represents the feedback and thoughts of various stakeholders. We genuinely feel this is a vision that represents who we are and guides our every action. The ILT is now discussing possible ways to introduce the vision to students, such as an art installation and a vision week. We want to use their voices to integrate our shared vision into the very culture of the school.

---

### **Scammon is Teeming with Talent!**

Mr. Snyder is leading this year's talent show. Students auditioned and were assigned a coach to hone their talent. Our students and coaches are meeting before school, after school, and during recess to strengthen their performances and acts!

We look forward to watching all the performances that reflect what makes Scammon students so unique!



### Scammon After-school: Student Personal Growth is Exponential

Students at Scammon tell us they love our school, and we have an abundance of caring adults who work with them feel cared for and instill a sense of community! Our school continues to host many after-school programs that speak to our involvement with our students holistically. Yoga and Healthy Huskies sessions are filled with smiling faces. Cheerleading and Dance Team practices are embodied with rhythm and movement! The after-school Algebra and Math Teams are overflowing with collective brainpower. And the after-school OLCE (ESL) classes have students

building their confidence and fluency with English! March was another successful month of fostering and encouraging our students to pursue their interests so that they grow, both emotionally and academically, as the year progresses!

### Are you interested in learning more about Scammon Elementary?

Visit us: <http://scammon.cps.edu>

Or follow us on: Instagram - @scammon\_school  
Twitter - @ScammonSchool  
Facebook - Scammon School

## OIPA MEMBERS, WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS!

- Do you have any fun meeting topics or desired guest speaker requests?
- What will pull you away from home on a Monday night?
- A couple of topics to consider are: cool stuff you found during a renovation, bullet journaling in the digital age, and urban farming, composting and chicken keeping.

If you are interested in a topic, chances are others will be too.

Send ideas to [oldirvingparkass@yahoo.com](mailto:oldirvingparkass@yahoo.com).



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# St. Edward Scoop – Margaret Hemma, Communications/Development

## A **BIG RED** congratulations to several of our sports teams!

**T**he 7th-grade boys' basketball team completed their season as the 7th grade NWCC 2020 League and Playoff Champs! The 8th-grade boys' basketball team ended the season and their St. Edward basketball careers as winners of the NWCC 2020 Consolation bracket.

The 6th-grade girls' volleyball team went undefeated in the IC tournament, winning 11 starting games and finished in second place. Overall tourney record of 11-2!

Go BIG RED!



---

### Calling All Alumni—

All alumni are invited to the Big Red Bash on Saturday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. at Iron Horse Ale House, 6158 N. Northwest Highway. Dinner, open bar, silent and live auctions, and raffles! Celebrate St. Edward School's 110 years of Catholic education!

---

### Welcome Wednesday

This year, St. Edward School celebrates 110 years of providing a Catholic education to children in PreK-3 through 8th grade! Join us for our upcoming Welcome Wednesday tours on April 1, and May 6 with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the main school building, 4343 W. Sunnyside. Meet our principal, teachers, and students! Sign-up at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com).



---

### St. Edward School is a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com) or call 773-736-9133. Our campus is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible to the Kennedy and Edens expressways, walking distance from the Blue Line, Metra station, and the Montrose and Cicero Avenue bus lines.



# St. Edward School

[www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com)



## **WELCOME WEDNESDAY SCHOOL TOUR DATES**

April 1, 2020

May 6, 2020

*Have a cup of coffee, tour the school, meet school staff and parents!  
Sign up for a Welcome Wednesday tour at [www.stedwardschool.com](http://www.stedwardschool.com)  
or to schedule an individual tour, call the school office or send an email to  
[office@stedwardschool.com](mailto:office@stedwardschool.com)*

## **Explore all that St. Edward has to offer!**

St. Edward is a Catholic elementary school offering Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. Providing excellence in education, we offer outstanding Academics, Art, Music, Technology, Physical Education, and Extra-curricular Activities to all grades.

**WE OFFER BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE.**

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St. Edward School - 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue - Chicago, IL 60630 - Phone: 773.736.9133



## Viator Vibrations — Stacey Stevens / Kris Nielsen

Stay tuned for upcoming events at [stviatorchicago.org](http://stviatorchicago.org) or on our Facebook page. Twitter: @ChiViator & Instagram: @stvschoolchi.

# Celebrating the Wonder of Books

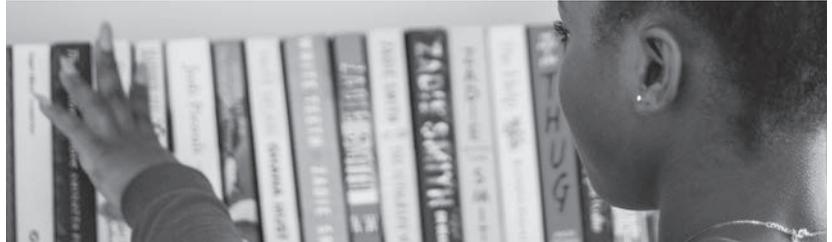


Photo by Saad Kamardeen on Unsplash

Our annual Reading Night centered around the work of author and illustrator Mo Willems, whose books teach young readers to confront problems and be resilient while making them laugh along the way. The students visited various stations to learn about Willems, make crafts, read aloud, and celebrate all things book-related. "Reading Night cultivates a love of reading through enriching and fun activities," said Kelly Finkbeiner, parent and event chair.

### 2020-12 Registration

Registration is now open for the 2020-21 school year. Secure your spot early, as our Pre-K3 & 4 classes fill up quickly. St. Viator Elementary School & Parish is a diverse and thriving community. Learn more by attending an event or taking a tour of the school.

### All Upcoming Events

at the St. Viator Rec Center (3644 N. Kedvale Ave.):

#### Pancake Breakfast | April 5, 8 a.m.–noon

After touring the school—Join us for Pancake Breakfast in the Rec Center (gym) hosted by the Parish.

#### Primary Gym | April 18, 8:30–10 a.m.

A relaxed yet active environment where children and parents can participate in basketball, scooters, floor hockey, parachutes, and more. Open to children ages 3 – 3rd grade. \$20 per family for the year.

### OLD IRVING PARK BEER & BBQ CHALLENGE

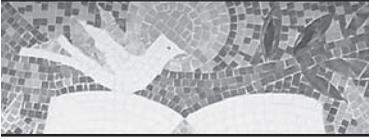
A summer highlight event. On August 1 from 1–5 p.m., local pit-masters team up with local craft brewers in this annual competition where YOU vote for the winners. Tickets: [www.beerbbqchallenge.com](http://www.beerbbqchallenge.com).

### Art Zone Show & Open House

April 5, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Current and prospective families are invited to St. Viator to admire student artwork and meet our teachers at the Art Zone Show & Open House. Art Zone is the parent-led fine arts program. The program provides our students with a Fine Arts education by focusing on a hands-on experience. This year we studied the abstract expressionism of Jasper Johns and Robert Motherwell, still lifes, indigo batik, and self-portraits in pencil. Students create their works of art based on each artist or style.

If you would like to have a guided tour of the school during the Art Zone Show & Open House, please contact Marge Tiritilli at [mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org](mailto:mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org)



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary



### STEAM Night!

At STEAM Night, hosted by St. Patrick High School, students got their hands dirty while working on projects related to science, meteorology, technology, engineering, art, and math. They walked away a little messier, earned new things and had a lot of fun.

St. Viator students look to a visiting “professor” from St. Pat’s for instructions on a science project involving watercolor butterflies at STEAM night.

*Photo by courtesy of St. Viator*

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# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

## OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

**Advertising:**  
First Tuesday  
of the month

**General  
Submissions:**  
First Thursday  
of the month

**NOTICE:** Currently, there is a Stay-at-Home mandate due to concerns with the coronavirus (COVID-19). Please watch for updates from the individual organizations. The events listed below will more than likely be canceled or postponed.

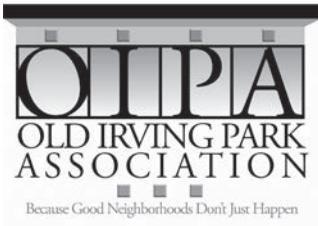
## April

- 
- 13      **OIPA General Member Meeting | 7:30 p.m.** | St John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N Kostner Ave.
- 
- 21      **Irving Park Garden Club | 7 p.m. | Climate Change and Your Backyard Adventures with Natalie Lichtenbert** | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Free for members; \$20 to join
- 
- 26      **Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents World Beat Percussion Trio | 2 p.m.** | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., Free Admission, Reception follows. [www.carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org)
- 



## Start spreading the news...

**The OIPA News.** Please consider passing this newsletter on to a neighbor as a gentle reminder to renew his/her household membership or, better yet, give to either a new resident on your block or someone not familiar with OIPA.



# JOIN TODAY!

# 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

This is a:

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Gift Membership

Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at [www.oldirvingpark.com/join-us](http://www.oldirvingpark.com/join-us) If you don't have access to our online membership form, please complete the form below.

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)

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL E-MAIL 2

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**  
 expire August 31 and are due by September 1.  
 Membership dues received after May 1 will be applied to the following year membership.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES (per household)

**Membership Benefits:** Monthly meetings, hand delivered paper newsletter, member/spouse birthday and anniversary published in newsletter, ice-cream social, holiday dinner

- \$25/year Standard – \$15/year Standard Seniors (age 65+)
- \$75 Good Neighbor: Standard membership plus — name(s) and birthday(s) of your child(ren) and/or pet in newsletter, and an OIPA Tote Bag.
- \$150 Neighborhood All-Star: Good Neighbor membership plus — admission for two to an exclusive cocktail 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](http://oldirvingpark.com/join-us)

# Contribute to the OIPA News | SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All members are welcome to submit letters, photos, and articles for publication. Ten newsletters are produced annually (newsletters are not published in the months of January and July). We extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who continue to submit articles, photos and purchases ad space for the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

## General Submissions

### Community Calendar, Articles & Photos

- Please send articles and calendar items as a Word document, in an email or Google doc. The document should include the author's name, company or organization (if applicable) and contact information. Please also include photo captions in the document.
- 400 words maximum without photos, 300/325 with photos and captions.
- Submissions as Links to websites or Facebook are NOT accepted.
- Articles should be information-based and should not contain advertorial content. Bylined articles should be written in third-person, unless the submission is an opinion piece or a personal story. Byline includes the author's name, business name and contact info.
- Photos and images should be provided as separate files. We cannot use photos or images that are embedded in a document.
- Photos should be accompanied with photographer credit and a caption(s). If submitting photos for an article, please include captions and photo credits in the same document as your article.
- If your files are too large to email, please use <https://wetransfer.com>. You can send several files at a time using wetransfer.
- 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 necessary reflect the official position of the Old Irving Park Association.

## Advertising Submissions

- **Purchase ad space and upload your ad at:**  
[www.oldirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad](http://www.oldirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad)
- **AD SIZES:** Full Page: 6.25" X 7.5"  
Half Page: 6.25" X 3.75"  
Quarter Page: 3" X 3.75"
- **ACCEPTABLE AD FILES:** High Resolution (minimum 300 dpi) gray scale; jpg, PDF, or eps. **Microsoft Word files are NOT acceptable.**

## Submission Deadlines

- **Advertising:** First Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m.
- **General Submissions:** First Thursday of the month by 5 p.m.
- **Materials SUBMITTED AFTER** the deadline date will be held over to the next month's issue.
- **Send your contributions to:** Kathleen Kearns at [k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com](mailto: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 community calendar.

| SUBMISSION DATES  |             |         |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| Publication Month | Advertising | General |
| May               | 4/7         | 4/2     |
| June              | 5/5         | 5/7     |
| July/No Issue     | —           | —       |
| August            | 6/30        | 7/2     |
| September         | 8/4         | 8/6     |
| October           | 9/1         | 9/3     |
| November          | 10/6        | 10/1    |
| December          | 11/3        | 11/5    |

*JAIME*



# ANDRADE

**Illinois State Representative • 40<sup>th</sup> District**  
*Staterep40@gmail.com • (773) 267-2880*

District Office 3007 W. Irving Park Rd, Suite A-Front Office



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.



Jaime Andrade, State Representative, 40<sup>th</sup> District



Because Good Neighborhoods Don't Just Happen

[www.oidirvingpark.com](http://www.oidirvingpark.com)

FB: [oidirvingparkassoc](https://www.facebook.com/oidirvingparkassoc)

**OLD IRVING PARK NEWS**

Old Irving Park Association

3749 N. Keeler Avenue

Chicago, IL 60641

**NOTICE:**

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Currently, there is a Stay-at-Home mandate due to concerns with the coronavirus (COVID-19). The events featured in this issue of the OIPA News will more than likely be canceled or postponed. Please visit the individual organization's website and watch for email updates.