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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 37 ★ Issue 2 ★ March 2023

A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for, and about people living in the neighborhood. Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries include 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: St. Viator will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by welcoming the Trinity Irish Dancers on March 17. Watch the St. Viator Elementary Scoool and Parish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stviatorchicago) for the date and performance time.

Trinity dance photo by Teresa Reid.

March 2023 | 1 www.oldirvingpark.com

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD





orking with OpenLands (Openlands.org), OIPA is gearing up for another tree-planting event this Spring, on April 15, 2023, starting at 8 am. There will be a quick sign-in and orientation at 4101 N. Kilbourn, and then we will spread out through the neighborhood in groups, planting as we go.

We have been canvassing the neighborhood since the derecho hit Old Irving a few years ago, identifying good candidates for new parkway trees. We planted about 60 trees south of Irving Park Road last Spring and hoped to do about the same this year for folks north of Irving Park Road.

To be a good candidate, we are looking for a spot that is at least 25 feet from another tree on the parkway and at least 5 feet from a driveway. Openlands will complete a survey of all the requested locations and arrange for utility location service (JULIE*) in advance of the big day.

TO REQUEST A TREE (before the planting date)—All the homeowner has to do is fill out a form on the link provided by the QR code at right and commit to watering the tree for the first few growing seasons.



We'd also like some help with the planting, but understand that some of our neighbors have physical limitations, so we're here to lend a hand. Of course, we are also looking for volunteers to help out in that regard.

OpenLands will supply appropriate trees, carefully selected for the conditions at each location, and will have the trees distributed throughout the neighborhood on the morning of April 15. They will also provide tools and supervision, and they're even working with us to organize some volunteers to help, but we still need homeowners to pitch in as much as possible.

Last year's event was fun and rewarding. Walking through the neighborhood, you can already get a sense of the lasting improvement we have made for our community and how much more significant it will be for generations to come. We're thrilled to have another chance to do more this Spring and hope to share the experience with as many of you as possible.

* JULIE serves as a notification service for underground utility facilities. By calling 811 (or 1-800-892-0123), contractors, excavators, homeowners, and others who may be digging can contact JULIE to notify all of the utilities: gas, electric and phone.



OIPA BOARD MFFTING RFPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 6, 2023

Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm via Zoom Meeting Started at 7:36 pm

Attendees: Annie Swingen, Lynn Ankney, Adrienne Chan, Scott Legan, Michael Cannon, Nicholas Plagman Frank, and Meredith O'Sullivan.

Financial Report

The January 2023 Treasurer's Report and restatement of the December 2022 report was presented by Lynn Ankney. After a quick review of December's report, updated to reflect the most accurate numbers from 2022's close, Lynn described a quiet month for the budget in January. With no newsletter printing or design costs the only money spent was \$100 for OIPA's contribution to the organization of a Mayoral forum held at the Copernicus center in December. The board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Update

At time of meeting the Old Irving Park Association had 651 paid membership households. The number of lapsed memberships from the previous year is down to 85. Included in this number are members who either may have moved out of the neighborhood or have forgotten to renew.

After giving the membership numbers update board member Meredith O'Sullivan made the recommendation that the board invest in File Maker Pro to make the job of managing our membership database less onerous. The board will complete additional due diligence before committing to this platform with the plan to make a decision in March.

Board members Merry, Annie, and Lynn have completed an inventory of OIPA's swag. This includes stickers, Frisbees, water bottles, and tote bags. The board briefly discussed where to use the remaining inventory such as giving it to advertisers, raffling it off at meetings or giving it to neighbors!

2023 Easter Egg Hunt

OIPA member Allison has offered to coordinate this year's hunt and is working on checking dates with Belding and potential volunteers. For the Egg Hunt, please see page 3 for details. To volunteer, please page 9. Thank you, Allison, for organizing the egg hunt!

Newsletter Planning

- Board member Dave Ryan has volunteered to chair the newsletter committee! He will help the board and community stay on date for newsletter submissions. Submission deadlines can be found in the "Upcoming Events" section of these minutes as well as on the last page of this month's newsletter.
- · The board also:
 - Finalized March Message from the board.
 - Brainstormed ideas for April's Message—Earth Day, Neighborhood Clean & Green, Adopt a Greenspace.

Aldermanic Forums

All three aldermanic forums are complete and were well received! In addition to the live events, board members Scott Legan and Lynn Ankney live streamed each ward's forum to Facebook Live. The recordings can be seen on OIPA's Facebook page. The board



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

discussed the need for new tech and decided to purchase a tripod for future live streams.

Other Business

- Schurz High School is requesting a site visit to review location/future of the Irving Park Historical Society archives. Michael Cannon has volunteered to represent OIPA and IPHS to ensure that the archives are being stored correctly.
- · Northwestern Medicine Grant Opportunity
 - Prioritizes
 - · Behavioral Health, Substance Use Disorder.
 - · Employment and Youth Development.
 - · Violence Prevention, Community Safety.
 - The board brainstormed ideas including pedestrian safety improvements throughout the neighborhood and partnering with another 501c3 nonprofit like Schurz HS to sponsor violence prevention programming or education or to help develop a community space in the unprogrammed area next to the Schurz athletic field.

· Pedestrian Safety Initiatives

OIPA is exploring pedestrian safety improvements on Irving Park Road within our neighborhood boundaries based on improvements proposed further east in North Center. The board will reach out to Ald. Martin's office (47th) to learn more about the process and what we need to do to get this started.

Neighbors Night Out

Once a quarterly event, the board discussed bringing this back in partnership with Portage Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Jefferson Park Forward (JPF).

Murals

- The Board decided to reach out to Cyd Smillie from Arts Alive Chicago to get a budget for mural maintenance in 2023
- Nick reported out about his conversation with Kamilla from Greenstarmovement.org about replacing the "Dreams" mural at the Kostner Ave. viaduct.

Kamilla provided a rough budget and OIPA will need to explore funding and community partnerships. The idea was also presented during the meeting to tie in the columns of the expressway to further clean up the space.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, February 13: OIPA General Meeting -Representatives from the Northwestern, Novak, and Clarendale developments are confirmed.
- Monday, March 6: OIPA Board of Directors meeting
- Monday, March 13: OIPA General Meeting, Congressmen Quigley invited. Will host an aldermanic run-off meet & greet.
- Monday, March 27: OIPA Board of Directors meeting freschedule from 4/13/23
- Saturday, March 25: Easter Egg Hunt
- Monday, April 10: OIPA General Meeting, Earth Day/Garden Club/Greenspace Adoption and a presentation from North Park Village "Building the Future" team
- Saturday, April 15: Openlands Tree Planting Day
- Friday, May 5: OIPA All-Star Party

The meeting wrapped up at 8:48 pm.



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 13, 2023

Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting started at 7:06 pm

here was great turnout for the first OIPA General meeting of the year. With no general meeting in December or January and the promise of updates on area developments on the agenda, nearly 50 neighbors came out to February's meeting. Those who attended were rewarded with complimentary beer and wine and the chance to win some OIPA swag, and three canvas tote bags. A giant thank you to neighbor Charlie Evans for donating the craft beer!

OIPA Board President Adrienne Chan kicked off the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself and the other board members in attendance. She asked if there were any first-time meeting attendees present. In addition to four first-time meeting attendees, representatives from State Rep. Lindsay LaPointe's office and Alderman Samantha Nugent's office were in attendance. Adam Roberts, Ald. Nugent's staffer shared the following city and 39th ward updates.

- Early voting for Chicago municipal elections in all 50 wards began Monday, February 13, and will run through February 28 (Election Day).
- Early voting sites can be found at https:// chicagoelections.gov/en/early-voting.html. Any voter in Chicago can vote at any early voting site, no matter where they live in the city.
- Be aware that your early voting and election day polling place may have changed since the last election, and fewer voting sites city wide could result in larger crowds on Election Day. Make a voting plan before February 28!

• In addition to the upcoming elections, Participatory Budgeting is starting soon in the 39th ward. Old Irving Park has not won a project in previous years. Adam encouraged OIP neighbors in the 39th ward to submit their nominations.

Adrienne thanked everyone for attending and outlined the format of the meeting. While representatives from each of the large developments in the area were invited only, Amelia Howard and Paul Lloyd from Clarendale Six Corners were able to be present. Representatives from a couple of the other developments provided email updates. Adrienne welcomed Amelia and Paul to share updates about the Clarendale Six Corners Senior Residences.

Clarendale Project Highlights

Amelia Howard, Executive Director, and Paul Lloyd, Associate Director. Clarendale Six Corners

- Clarendale Six Corners is a senior luxury community with 258 apartments that offer a continuum of care, including assisted living and memory care.
- The senior residences are on target to open in May 2023.
- Many of the independent living units have been leased. Only a few one bedroom and one bedroom with den units remain.
- · What's included with the rent?
 - All utilities, including cable TV and wireless internet.
 - Residential maintenance, including communitysupplied appliances.
 - An average of two meals a day for independent-living residents.





Amelia Howard, executive director of The Clarendale, and Paul Lloyd, associate executive director, answer OIPA member questions about the new senior community at Six Corners at the February General meeting.

Photo by Lynn Ankney

- Access to Health and Wellness Center and fitness classes.
- Concierge services.
- Bi-weekly housekeeping.
- A curated social calendar with events onsite and throughout the city.
- Other amenities
 - A community green roof gathering space.
 - Valet services.
 - 4 EV-Charging stations.
 - A town car and van for off-site transportation.
 - A Divvy bike share station and bike racks.
 - A monitor displaying real-time CTA bus & train schedules in the lobby.
- First-floor retail spaces have received a lot of interest from area retailers, but no announcements have been made. Potential tenants for the up to six divisible retail spaces could include:
 - A restaurant.
 - A chiropractic practice.
 - Other boutique retailers.

Clarendale Q&A

Q: What is the cost for units in the Clarendale? Is there an upfront buy-in fee?

- A: Clarendale is a rental senior living community.

 There is no buy-in like some large rental communities elsewhere in the city. Monthly rent starts at \$3,295 for one bedroom units, including meal plans with access to all restaurants and amenities in the building.
- Q: Will there be a Grand Opening celebration?
- **A:** A community Grand Opening will be scheduled and announced. It will occur over 2 or 3 days, and neighbors will be invited to attend.

Q: Will the empty parking lots behind the buildings be redeveloped?

A: An Aldi grocery store is coming to the corner of Kilpatrick and Milwaukee. Aldi already owns this parcel of property.

Continued on page 8



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 13, 2023, continued from page 7.

- Q: Why is there a concrete pier between the sidewalk and the traffic lane on Milwaukee Ave?
- A: Some outdoor design elements are safety and security-oriented. These include bollards, trees, and building lighting. The reps from Clarendale will follow up with the developer specifically about the on street safety elements.
- Q: Where are many people who are leasing in Clarendale from?
- **A:** A good number of people are from the northwest side communities and seniors living elsewhere in

the city looking to return to the northwest side to be closer to family.

- Q: How many people does Clarendale Six Corners employ? How many Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)?
- **A:** 150 employees, including eight memory care CNAs (ratio 1 CNA to 8 residents). Usually, the ratio is 1 to 15 for most assisted living communities.
- Q: Is any collaboration happening with the developers of the Sears building like pedestrian safety improvements for Irving Park Road?
- A: Novak construction is the developer at the Six Corners Sears redevelopment. Since the project timelines at the Clarendale and Novak's development did not align, there was not an opportunity for collaboration. Amelia is working with the city and other stakeholders to determine funding sources to improve pedestrian safety at Six Corners.
- Q: Will there be special considerations in the selection of retailers in the development? We don't need any additional discount retailers at Six Corners.
- **A:** If an interested retailer is not on brand with Clarendale's aesthetic as a five-star community, they will not be part of the development.
- Q: Will Milwaukee Ave. be reopened when the Clarendale opens?
- **A:** Paul will follow up with Ryan Companies, the building's developer, to get an answer.
- Q: Is the Clarendale pet friendly?
- A: We are very pet friendly! We allow pets up to 30 lbs.
- Q: Are all the affordable housing units rented?





- **A:** There are 11 affordable units in the building. Over 900 people have requested applications.
- Q: Do all apartments have in-unit laundry?
- **A:** All independent living apartments have laundry in-unit. There are also free laundry facilities on each floor for building residents.
- Q: Will rent increase each year? How much?
- A: Residents can expect 3-5% each year. These increases are necessary to pay competitive wages, retain great staff, and maintain the communities' high standards. Currently, promotions are available to lock in rental prices for 2-3 years.

- Q: Is the Art Promenade behind the building on Milwaukee Ave open to the community?
- **A:** Yes! The community is welcome to utilize the Promenade.

Amelia Howard wrapped up Q&A and thanked everyone for the great questions. The sales office is located on Cicero Ave just northwest of the Clarendale in the Klee Building.

Next, the OIPA board shared brief updates about the other large developments in progress and proposed, including the Six Corner Sears redevelopment,

Continued on page 10



MARCH 25, 2023 • 10 AM • BELDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCAN TO VOLUNTEER!







Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 13, 2023, continued from page 9.

Northwestern Medicine's new facility in OIP, and completed and proposed developments by GW Properties near 6 Corners. Questions were invited that the board could share with project developers.

Sears Redevelopment Highlights – Michael Cannon, OIPA Director

- Novak Construction is redeveloping the Six Corners Sears building into 207 studio, one, and two bedroom luxury apartment units.
- A Target store will anchor 50,000 square feet of retail space.
- Work is in full gear, with windows beginning to



in the old Sears Tire Center.

move-ins in October 2023.

- A new Northwestern advanced outpatient care center is being built on the south side of Irving Park Road between Kenneth & Kilbourn Avenues.
- The new facility is on schedule to open in late 2023.

be installed in the building in February.

- A rental office is expected to open soon, perhaps

- Novak is expecting to open the building for first

- There will be turn lane, and traffic pattern changes coming on Irving Park Road, including a new traffic signal at the southern terminus of Kilbourn Ave. OIPA will share more details as the project progresses.
- There are still no finalized plans for the residential lot being used by NW for underground water management on the southwestern corner of the building.
- Job opportunities for clinical and non-clinical positions are posted on Northwestern Medicine's website, www.nm.org.

• People's Gas Redevelopment Highlights – Adrienne Chan, OIPA President

- The former People's Gas site on Irving Park Road just east of Six Corners is being redeveloped into a mixed-use residential and retail development by GW Properties.
- GW is almost ready to share updated plans after community feedback back in the spring of 2022.



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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

 GW Properties also recently finished the redevelopment of a parking lot on Milwaukee Ave. just south of Irving Park Road into a new Advocate Medical Center.

• Development Project & General 0&A

Q: Are there plans to incorporate improvements to the train tracks over Irving Park Road in any nearby developments?

A: The train tracks and viaducts are not a part of any development sites and are owned by separate entities. In 2022 a new mural was installed on viaduct walls to improve the pedestrian experience. The murals were completed by OIPA in partnership with Ryan Properties and Novak Construction, who funded the installations

Q: Are there plans for the retail space next to Jersey Mike's?

- **A:** The franchise owner of Jersey Mike's plans to open an ice cream shop in this location.
- Q: Is there an update about the vacant property on Milwaukee Ave just north of the Klee Building, where two condemned buildings were torn down?
- **A:** Nothing has been announced. The OIPA board will try to get an update.
- Q: Is anything known about the building on the north side of Irving Park Road just west of Keeler? Can anything be done to improve the building's appearance? (This building used to be the home of the Thirteen Pins Restaurant).
- **A:** No pizza restaurant plans exist, and the building is for sale. OIPA will reach out to elected officials about the property's upkeep and appearance.
- Q: Why is another traffic light planned for Irving

Park Road at Kilbourn? There are so many!

A: With increased traffic volume the Northwestern Medical facility will bring, this seems to be a good place for a new controlled intersection to minimize impact. OIPA will advocate for smart planning if any additional traffic lights are planned at other new developments.

Q: Motorists drive too fast on Irving Park & Montrose. What can be done?

A: Adding an additional controlled intersection on Irving Park Road at Kilbourn may help. A traffic study is being conducted on Montrose to determine traffic calming pedestrian safety improvements.

Q: Can we do something about the pigeons? There are noisemakers marketed to deter birds In public places, has this been considered?

A: The birds will continue to be a problem as long as people continue to feed them. The Keeler and Kostner viaducts have been recently cleaned. OIPA will continue to advocate for regular viaduct cleanings and follow up with newly elected officials to find additional solutions.

A group of neighbors help fund sweeping and hand cleaning of neighborhood viaducts at the cost of \$450/month. You can donate to the effort via PayPal: keepoipclean@gmail.com

Q: Can participatory budgeting dollars be for cleaning?

A: No, they must be used for fixed costs.

Lastly, Adrienne opened the floor to allow last-minute entries to win OIPA swag. Three names were drawn, and lucky winners received OIPA canvas tote bags. Please join us next month for more chances to win!

The meeting concluded at 8:20 pm.

OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



March Birthdays

Charlene Adamski Mario Arevalo Vilmar Arias Barry Bebart Felix Chan Shashank Churukanti Steven Clay James Coakley Phoebe Craig Bruce Dean Alisun DeKock Javne Deno Carlos Equis-Aquila Valerie Ginnan Dipeshwar Grewal Marjorie Hausner Rachel Horvath Damian Jackson Dan Jacobs Thomas Jezuit Katie Johannigman Mai Phuong Johnston Tonnia Koehler

Kat Makielski Susan McCallan David Mielcarek John Mueller Nathan Musgrove Frank W Nagorka Liam O'Connor Zachary Osner Ryan Perkins Mata John Reagan Geoff Reu Vanessa Reu Victoria Ross Paul Rutstein Michelle Sekiya Colleen Smith Eileen Stern Lauren Swanson Bob Tell Steven Thomas Beth Valukas Jacob Wilkoff Roman 7ahicki



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 membership@oldirvingpark.com or 773-551-4533, so she can add your name and dates to the list.

March Anniversaries

Charles & Rebecca Calloway
Abbie & Dave Damptz
Nicholas Frank & Emily Plagman
Denise & Curtis Giszczynski
Patty & Scott Gustafson
Jen & Shane Knox
Christy & Jonathan Levy
Tracy & Markisan Naso
Liliana & James O'Shea
Monica & Matt Schultz
Kim & Rob Starmann
George Unzueta & Michelle Sekiya
Casey & Kelly Williams

March Kid Birthdans

Violette Cernak
Eloise Kick
Ben O'Mara
Nala Palmieri
Daphne Simmons
Scout Ryan
Margo Schultz
Blake Toth



Taco in the Cernak family
Beau in the Klich-Jensen family
(also Known as J9, K9, and Greg)
Digit in the Koehler family
Aegamemnon in the Nguyen family

Olivier Lopez





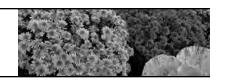


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(C) = Court Approved (F) = Foreclosure Sale (S) = Short Sale



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TENDING TO YOUR GARDEN





fter a long, wet 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-thaw 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 damage your soil by eliminating these air spaces. If you must walk in your garden, lay down a plank of wood and walk on that instead.

It would be best if you also resisted 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 some 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 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 for being more productive.

Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener, Landscape Designer Taylor Made Landscape Design www.Taylormld.com TAYLORMADE LANDSCAPE DESKN, INC.

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RECIPES FROM THE BOARD & MEMBERS



Spring rolls!

Submitted by Merry Marwig. Source: www.jocooks.com/recipes/fresh-spring-rolls



fresh spring rolls

Ingredients:

- 8 rice paper sheets
- · 8 large basil leaves (or cilantro)
- 6 large butter lettuce leaves
- ·1 cup shredded carrots
- ·1 red bell pepper (sliced thin)
- 1/4 head red cabbage (shredded)
- ·1 medium english cucumber (sliced into thin, 2-3" long matchsticks)
- 1/4 cup green onion (sliced thin)

Spring Roll Instructions

- Soften the Rice Paper: Submerge one sheet of rice paper at a time for 5 seconds to soften. Remove it and set aside for 10-15 seconds.
- · Assemble the Wrap: On the lower middle section of the rice paper wrap, place the ingredients. First, a basil leaf, a few pieces of lettuce and cucumber, carrots and bell pepper, some shredded cabbage, and some green onion.
- Roll the Wraps: Bring up the smaller end of the rice paper to wrap tightly over the vegetables. Next, bring the sides of rice paper over. Roll tightly until you get to the end of rice paper wrapper. Repeat with remaining ingredients.
- · Serve with peanut sauce.

Peanut sauce:

Ingredients:

- ½ cup peanut butter smooth
- · 1 inch ginger piece roughly chopped
- 1 clove garlic roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- · 2 tablespoon soy sauce low sodium
- •1 teaspoon chili garlic sauce
- · 2 tablespoon honey
- 1/3 cup water or more as needed

Peanut Sauce Instructions

· Combine Ingredients: Add all the ingredients to a food processor and blend until well combined. Add more water if needed.



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Stay Connected, Be Informed

There are a variety ways for you to connect with OIPA and your neighbors.



OIPA Enews | Stay up to date with local neighborhood news and happenings. Request to join OIPA's news eblast email distribution group by emailing us at hello@oldirvingpark.com

Google Parent Group (not just for parents) | To join our interactive community google group visit: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/oipa-parents-discuss

Facebook | Our Facebook page is a great way to learn about neighborhood events and issues https://www.facebook.com/oldirvingparkassoc.

Visit our website | www.oldirvingpark.com Questions? Contact us | Hello@oldirvingpark.com

IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB





Best Plants for Your Shady Garden

— Claudia Hine

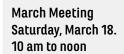
he Irving Park Garden Club will kick off its 2023 season in March with a presentation by **Heather Prince** of Fearless Gardening (www.fearlessgardening.net) titled "Shady Characters: Nifty Plants for Shady Sites." While we all know the importance and benefits of having beautiful trees in our yards, we often wonder what we can plant, other than hostas, that will survive in those shady spots and add color and

texture to our gardens. Heather will help us explore the varieties and species for dry shade, moist shade, part shade, and dense shade.

Heather is a 20-year veteran of the green industry. She is a trained horticulturist specializing in trees, shrubs, and natives, with a passion for connecting people with plants. She is a freelance writer and teacher at the Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Edith Farnsworth House, and more.



Fearless Gardening's Heather Prince will address the Irving Park Garden Club in March on plants for shady sites. *Photo* courtesy Heather Prince.



St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Enter the parish hall on Byron St.



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

Bring Your Tools

Also on hand in March: Sharpening By Dave tool and knife sharpening service. Dave's van will be parked outside, and he can hone your pruners, loppers, shovels, axes, and more during the presentation.

There is a fee for sharpening services. **Visit** www.sharpeningbydave.com for a list of pricing.

The March meeting will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., from 10 am to noon on Saturday, March 18. Enter the parish hall on Byron St.



IPGC meetings are for members only, so join us now and don't miss what I'm sure will be an interesting and informative presentation.



BECOME A GARDEN CLUB MEMBER OR RENEW

IPGC members: Now is the time to renew your dues for 2023. We've held the line on dues, still just \$25 for the year (but we may hit you up to donate a bottle of wine too). Join us in person at the March meeting and renew with cash or a check payable to Irving Park Garden Club.

Members: Can't make the March meeting? Renew by mail with the form you'll receive in your March IPGC newsletter.

Nonmembers: Have you been curious about the garden club for a while? Join us in March, and for \$25, we'll give you a wonderful season of events and programs from March through October. If you can't make the March meeting, please contact us at Irvingparkgc@icloud.com for a membership form to join by mail.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Schurz High School



\$100,000 Schurz High School Scholarship

larendale Six Corners, operated by Portage Park Partners LLC, is a new senior living community opening in 2023. As a reflection of its mission to actively participate in strengthening the local community, in 2022, Clarendale and its partners donated \$100,000 to create a scholarship fund for Schurz High School graduates. The scholarship will be managed by Friends of Schurz, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the enhancement of resources for Schurz students and to strengthen relationships among Schurz families,



Photo provided by Schurz High School

neighborhood community members, local businesses, and Schurz High School. **Thank you to Clarendale Six Corners and its partners!**

LOTERIA NIGHT

Friends of Schurz and The Schurz
Bi-Lingual Action Committee invite
you to their inaugural Loteria Night
fundraiser on Friday, March 24 from
6–9 pm! Join us for some food,
community, and fun! Children are
welcome! Come support our students
and learn about all of the wonderful
things happening at Schurz.





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OIP FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESS



A Local Gem — Tom, Katie, Joe Grace & Michael Brandt

e wanted to share info about someone and their business who, in our opinion, is truly a "local gem" in our neighborhood.

His name is **Oscar Montoya**, and his business is **Accurate Imports**, located at **4329 W. Addison**. For the past 20 years, our family has been bringing cars to Oscar, and we have received honest, quality work every time. He will tell you what needs to be done on your car

and also let you know things you should be aware of but do not need to do immediately. Oscar provides you with a quick and accurate estimate of the work, which has always been done in a timely manner. And, on top of it, he is one of the nicest people you will ever meet!

If you need an excellent, honest, and hardworking mechanic, we can say unequivocally you will be pleased with Oscar and Accurate Imports.



Dr. Kirk Kollmann Dr. Cissy Furusho

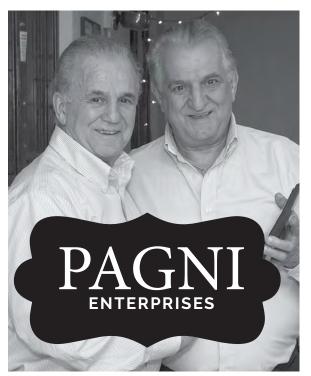
It's time for spring cleaning!

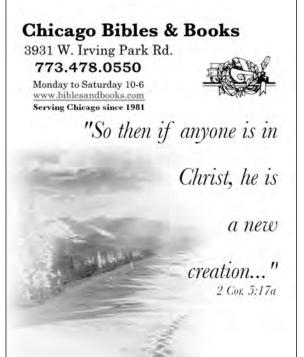
Don't forget to brush twice a day, floss every day and visit your dentist!

Make it a Dental Health Year and encourage your family to be health conscious every day of the year!

7250 N. Cicero Ave, Ste 100 Lincolnwood, IL 60712 ph. 773-545-0007

www.dentistry4kids.net







NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Belding School



The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

Dance Comes to Belding

Belding has partnered with Hubbard Street Dance to bring dance and movement to students. Hubbard Street will provide eight weeks of dance instruction, and students will work with two skilled instructors who will teach them about dance programming. Hubbard Street's curriculum will focus on dance styles, vocabulary, and the historical context of dance, and each classroom will learn and create its own choreography.



Family Reading Night

Kids and adults of all ages enjoyed another Belding family reading night! Kids came in comfortable pajamas or dressed as their favorite book characters as Belding teachers and staff read some of their favorite books. Families could also select and color a bookmark in between reading sessions that they could bring home and use in their own household libraries.

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

Principal Mandi Cohen and Assistant Principal Arman Cortes set aside one morning each month to give tours to interested parents. Tours begin at 8 am in the main office. Tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school and the Belding community. Upcoming tour dates include March 14 and April 18.

Our Mission The Belding community works and dreams together to inspire, cultivate and engage the hearts and minds of our diverse students, families and staff.

Belding Elementary School

4257 North Tripp Ave., Chicago, IL 60641, 773-534-3590, beldingelementary.com





OIPA News

We welcome individual article submissions for the OIPA newsletter!

Here are a few ideas:

- Give a shout-out to a kind neighbor.
- Did you recently visit a local business or restaurant? Then share your experience.
- Write a fun story about our neighborhood or a fond memory.
- Share your knowledge on a topic.
- Attend an event? Share a photo (please include photo credit).

Guidelines: For editorial submission guidelines see page 40 for full details.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary





he St. Viator Elementary School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society proudly welcomed ten new inductees from grades 6–8 earlier this year. To be considered for membership in NJHS, students must achieve and maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA and meet the criteria outlined in the five pillars of membership—scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Congratulations to our students!

Celebrating St. Patricks Day

St. Viator will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by welcoming the Trinity Irish Dancers on March 17. The world's most widely recognized Irish dance program features several of our St. Viator students. Families, alums, and OIP neighborhood residents are welcome to attend the performance in the Rec Center. Watch our Facebook page for the date and performance time.

Spring Art Show & Open House

We invite current and prospective families, as well as alums and neighborhood residents, to our Spring Art Show & Open House on Sunday, April 2. See the halls of St. Viator transformed into an art gallery showcasing student artwork created throughout the year in our unique and beloved Art Zone program.



Trinity dancers perform at St. Viator. Photo by Teresa Reia

The Best Way to Get to Know Us Is to Visit!

Please get in touch with the school office at office1@stviatorchicago.org or call 773-545-2173 regarding 2022-23 school year rolling admissions. Or how to apply for the 2023-24 school year.

www.stviatorchicago.org | Follow us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary



Save the Date!

The Blue & Gold Gala will be held on April 29. This is St. Viator's largest annual fundraiser. The evening will feature dinner, dancing, a silent auction, raffles, and FUN! Formal invitation and more details to follow.

Upcoming Open Houses

Open Houses will be held on March 15, April 2, April 19. Call the school office at 773-545-2173 with questions regarding admission for the 2023-24 school year or to schedule a private in-person tour. Applications are being accepted now. Avoid a waitlist!

www.stviatorchicago.org

Follow us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago

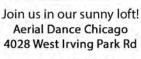


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Youth Ballet



Adult Ballet



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M.A. Vocal Pedagogy

SVS Certification

Certified Teacher in Illinois



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gayeklopack@gmail.com www.gayeklopack.org

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Edward School



$St. \ Edward \ Scoop - {\tt Adrienne} \ {\tt Chan}$



ave the date to attend St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser, Howl at the Moon Big Red Auction. Join us for a fun night out on Saturday, April 2, 2022. featuring live performances by Howl at the Moon dueling pianos, cash bar, taco truck, and of course, amazing packages to bid on and win!

Proceeds from the Big Red Auction & Comedy Night event support educational resources, school improvements, and tuition assistance. There are several ways you can support our efforts, including donating an item to the auction, becoming a sponsor, and buying a raffle ticket or ticket to the event.

For more information or to buy tickets, visit https://stedwardchicago.org/big-red-auction.html or email auction@stedwardschool.com



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

We still have some spots available in Pre-K3 thru 8th grade! Scholarships are available to families in need.

Visit www.stedwardschool.com or contact our principal, Mrs. Lasica at slasica@stedwardshool.com for more information or to schedule a tour.

St. Edward School 4343 W. Sunnyside - Chicago, IL 60630 773-736-9133 Visit stedwardschool.com











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Sunday: 10am - 10pm

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(773) 283-7980 | www.lavillabanquets.com



March Shenanigans

Enjoy these jokes from connoisseur of funny— OIPA Board Member Merry Marwig.





Q: What should you say to a runner in the St. Patrick's Day marathon?



A: Irish you luck

Q: Where can you always find gold on St. Patrick's Day?

A: In the dictionary.



Q: Why can't Irish golfers ever end a game?

A: They refuse to leave the green.

Q: Why is March the most popular month to use a trampoline?

A: It's spring-time.

Send us your best corny jokes! OIPA members, how about sharing some of your best wholesome jokes? Please send in your funniest, clean and corny jokes (plus the name of who we should credit for the zinger if you're submitting the joke on behalf of a child) to us at hello@oldirvingpark.com. Use the email subject line, "Corny Jokes Submission." We will print a selection of jokes in our upcoming newsletters.

Q: What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four leaf clover?

A: A rash of good luck

Q: Why should you never iron a 4-leaf clover?

A: You don't want to press your luck.



welcome spring with some color!



ken kenklopackart.com

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services



Space is available at Magic After-School Place!

— Liz Mills, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

arlson Community Services' after-school program, the Magic After-School Place (MAP), has a few open spots for neighborhood students. In its 16th year of providing highquality, affordable after-school care for children attending Murphy and Belding Schools, MAP is an excellent destination for neighborhood kids after school. Our income-based tuition structure makes. MAP a valuable partner for working families who need a safe place for their children after school. Equally important, children receive homework help and tutoring, play group games and enjoy social time with friends. Every Wednesday, the students participate in a different special activity—cooking, crafts, science experiments, and art instruction. Program space is generously donated by Irving Park Lutheran Church (IPLC), helping us do this important work in our community.

MAP meets from 3 to 6 pm every day CPS is in session at the IPLC gym located at Harding and Belle Plaine. For more information and to enroll your child, contact Rebecca Haneberg at mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices. org or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.



Enriching Lives | Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunity services.org or contact Liz Mills, Executive Director, at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunity services.org. Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletters at carlsoncommunity services.org if you'd like to stay informed about all that is happening!



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services



A Tribute to Sondheim

March 26th (Rescheduled from November 2022)
2 pm
Irving Park Lutheran Church
4100 N. Harding Ave.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present, A Tribute to Sondheim, on Sunday, March 26, at 2 pm. The concert will honor the late composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim who passed away in November 2021 and is credited with reinventing the American musical. Sondheim's works include beloved musicals Into the Woods, Sweeney Todd, Company, and Sunday in the Park with George.

The concert will feature vocalists Stephanie Stockstill, Rachel Klippel, Lazaro Estrada, and Christopher Richard, accompanied by pianist Roger Bingaman. They will perform both well-known and lesser-known songs from the Sondheim catalog. The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The concert is free, but donations to support future programming are gladly accepted.

The final concert of the series' 29th season takes place on Sunday, April 30 at 2 pm, featuring the Fermi String Quartet.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee was created by Roger Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago, free of charge.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



SHARE Some EASTER JOY



Easter Basket Donations (Needed

t's early to be thinking about it, but the Pantry will again be giving out Easter baskets to clients' children up to eight years old during March (before Easter on April 9), and we need to start collecting donations to be sure we have enough on hand for our first week!

We are looking for donations of dollar-store plastic bucket-style Easter baskets (please don't donate other types to aid consistency), filled (with candy or toys), plastic eggs, wrapped candies, small toys, and plush animals. Contactless donations of items can be made using our Amazon registry.

The Pantry is gearing up its program to provide Easter baskets to clients' children eight years old and younger in March. *Photo by Craig Shutt*.

Locally purchased donations can be taken to the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 am to 4 pm on Monday through Friday or the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. at any time.

We also encourage organizations to do their collections or create assembled baskets. If interested, contact Special Events Coordinator Craig Shutt at craigshutt@gmail.com for details or to arrange a special delivery.



The QR code at left will take you to the Pantry's Amazon registry for Easter basket donations.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Expressing Gratitude to Our Supporters

Thank you to **Target store manager Eadie Schettler** and her crew for sponsoring two of our clients during the holiday season, providing them with gifts of clothes and toys for the family

Thank you to **Jet's Pizza (3951 N. Kimball Ave.)** and coowners Dan O'Donohue and Bryan Gilbert for helping our hard-working Tuesday night volunteers kick off the year in January with free pizza after we closed for the night. The selection included a range of toppings so everyone could get their favorite or try something new.

Thank you to **The Period Collective (TPC)**, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that provides period products to low-income individuals in the area. TPC has made several donations of cases of feminine hygiene products, including pads, tampons, liners, wipes, incontinence products, cups, and other products

Thank you to **Joe and Melissa Basilone, owners of Perkolator Coffee** (6032 W. Irving Park Rd.), for donating coffee during the holiday season to keep our volunteers warm and energetic!





Target store manager Eadie Schettler meets with a Pantry client and the Pantry's Client Services Coordinator, Elvia Esparza. The Target staff sponsored gifts of clothing and toys for two Pantry clients during the holidays. *Photo by Craig Shutt*.



Pantry volunteers dig into the various pizzas donated by Jet's Pizza on Kimball after our first Tuesday night distribution of the year. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*

Thank you for everyone's continued support that allows us to continue our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Article submitted by Craig Shutt (773-282-3627; craigshutt@ameritech.net). John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Email: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, | www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising: First Tuesday of the month

General Editorial Submissions: First Thursday of the month

March

- **13 OIPA March General Meeting** | 7 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N Kostner Ave. Congressmen Quigley invited. Will host an aldermanic run-off meet & greet
- 18 Irving Park Garden Club | Shady Characters: Nifty Plants for Shady Sites | Speaker: Heather Prince, Fearless Gardening | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. 10 am-noon | Members Only; \$25 to join. See page 20.
- **25 OIPA** Easter Egg Hunt | 10 am | Belden Elementary School | For the Egg Hunt, please see page 3 for details. To volunteer, please page 9.
- **26 Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents** A Tribute to Sondheim Featuring vocalists Stephanie Stockstill, Rachel Klippel, Laz Estrada and Christopher Richard | 2 pm | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. | Free admission; donations welcome.

April

- **10 OIPA March General Meeting** | 7 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N Kostner Ave Earth Day/Garden Club/Greenspace Adoption and a presentation from North Park Village "Building the Future" team.
- **15 Openlands Tree Planting Day** | For details on the program and how to request a tree before the planting date, and for information on volunteering on the planting day, see page 2.

Ongoing in the Neighborhood

1st Wednesdays

Clarendale Six Corners, Wine-Down Wednesday | First Wednesday Monthly, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Clarendale Six Corners, Information Center, 4004 N. Cicero Avenue, RSVP to 872-250-5126, 2 Days Before Each Event. Hurry! Space is limited. Wine and refreshments will be served.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Clarendale Six Corners, Coffee & Conversations with Clarendale! | First and third Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 am, Clarendale Six Corners, Information Center, 4004 N. Cicero Avenue, RSVP to 872-250-5126, 2 Days Before Each Event. Hurry! Space is limited.

2023 OIPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at 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).

This is a: ☐ New Membersh	ip 🔲 Renewal	Gift Membership		
NAME (FIRST/LAST)			BIRTH MONTH	
SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (FIRST/LAST)			BIRTH MONTH	
ANNIVERSARY MONTH				
CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY	MONTH (LAST NAME OPTIONAL)			
CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY	MONTH (LAST NAME 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.

P	Membership Level (per household)	In area DUES	Out of area DUES	Benefits
	Standard	\$25	\$42	Monthly meetings, newsletter delivery, member/ spouse and anniversary published in newsletter, ice cream social event, holiday event
	Senior (Age 65+)	\$15	\$32	Same as Standard membership
1 1e	Good Neighbor	\$75	\$92	Standard + kid/pet birthdays in newsletter and OIPA tote bag
	Neighborhood All-Star	\$150	\$167	Good Neighbor + admission for two to an exclusive OIPA cocktail party

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 a gift membership 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 Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer, 4313 N Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60641. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE**: Old Irving Park Association **OR** join/renew online: 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. hello@oldirvingpark.com.

General Submissions

Community Calendar, Articles & Photos

- Please send articles and calendar items as a Word document or in an email or Google doc. Include the author's name, company or organization (if applicable), and contact information in the document. If you have an event for inclusion in the calendar (regardless of whether or not you mention it in your article submission), please specifically note it when submitting your article. If submitting images, please include photo captions and photographer credit.
- 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. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE DOCUMENT.
- Photos and images should be provided as separate files. We cannot use photos or images that are embedded or placed in a Word document. We need the original image file.
- 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 or Dropbox Transfer. You can send several files at a time using either platform.
- 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
- AD SIZES: Full Page: 6.25" X 7.5" Half Page: 6.25" X 3.75" Ouarter 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 pm.
- General Submissions: First Thursday of the month by 5 pm.
- 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. 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.

2023 SUBMISSION DATES NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES.	* Early due to holidays	
Publication Month	Advertising	General
April*	2/28*	3/2
May	4/4	4/6
June	5/2	5/4
August	7/4	7/6
September	8/1	8/3
October	9/5	9/7
November	10/3	10/5
December*	10/31*	11/2

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- Sump Pumps Cleaned & Installed
- Tree Root Removal
- Frozen Pipes Thawed

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The OIPA News is distributed to approximately 600 households, in addition to surrounding neighborhood groups and elected city officials.

10 ISSUES PER YEAR

We publish ten issues per calendar year (omitting January and July).

SPECIAL PERKS

Also, if you are a newsletter advertiser, you will be prioritized on our email blasts and Facebook posts. We have over 8.2K online followers. Our monthly post can reach up to 24K, and our post engagement is usually 15K. That means consumers see and engage with our Facebook posts!

The advertising rates are amazingly reasonable. **To place an ad visit** www.oldirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad.



www.oldirvingpark.com

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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association 4313 North Keeler Ave Chicago IL 60641