

OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



DECEMBER

VOLUME 36 | ISSUE 10 | 2022

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CAMERA FOR DAMAGE
DETECTION**



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.

www.oldirvingpark.com

FB: oldirvingparkassoc

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Cover photo by Priscilla du Preez on Unsplash

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD | OIPA Charitable Contributions



Perhaps the best part of my role as the Treasurer of The Old Irving Park Association (“OIPA”) is having the pleasure of writing our annual charitable contributions to the local public schools and not-for-profit organizations. This year, given the inflation rate we are all experiencing, our board of directors voted to increase our annual donations by 10%. Each of the below organizations will receive a \$550 check from OIPA during the first part of December. We hope you consider these groups—not just during the upcoming holidays—but throughout the year when deciding where to put your charitable giving of financial resources and time.

– Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer



Belding School

Belding is excited to announce it most recently earned an “Exemplary” rating from the Illinois State Board of Education. Exemplary rankings

went to the top 10% of schools in the state, making Belding one of the top 10% highest performing schools in the entire state of Illinois! Check out all the exciting things happening at Belding by visiting www.beldingelementary.com. Belding is aiming to bring a dance residency to Belding for late winter/spring 2023. Belding is grateful to put our OIPA grant towards our dance residency.

– Mandi Cohen, Principal, Belding Elementary



Disney II Magnet School

Disney II Magnet has committed to investing over \$40,000 towards its high school athletics program, technology updates, creating outdoor learning options, and

improving our theater sound for performances. Disney II is currently open for conversations regarding rental opportunities at our Lawndale and Kedvale campuses for dance recitals, churches, clubs, events, etc. This generous donation will go towards beautifying our outdoor space with flowers and purchasing a picnic table.

– Iliana Rzodkiewicz, Principal
Disney II Magnet



Carlson Community Services

Carlson Community Services is grateful for the support of the Old Irving Park Association! Your donation helps us connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. Our after-school program, community garden, and free concerts serve neighbors in need while adding vibrancy to the community. Join us on December 11 for our free holiday concert! Visit Facebook or carlsoncommunityservices.org for details. Wishing our OIPA friends happy holidays!

– Liz Mills, Executive Director
Carlson Community Services

Friends of Scammon

Thank you to OIPA for your continued support! The very generous donation from the Old Irving Park Association will be used to support classroom libraries and to also support friend-raising activities for upcoming Scammon School events.

Interested in joining Friends of Scammon? Contact Katy Schafer at FriendsofScammoncps@gmail.com

– Chris Liberos, Principal, Scammon Elementary School



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD | OIPA Charitable Contributions



FRIENDS OF SCHURZ

Friends of Schurz

Friends of Schurz (FOS) bring together neighbors, parents, and alumni to champion Old

Irving Park's historic neighborhood high school. Events including the annual Schurz Schuffle 5K and regular movie nights welcome community members into the school and raise funds for student clubs and campus improvements. OIPA's donation supports teacher and staff appreciation events each spring. Follow FOS on Facebook @friendsofschurz and visit friendsofschurz.org, where you can check out the relaunched and student-run Schurz Spirit Store!

Independence Library

The Friends and staff of the Independence Library thank OIPA for your generous donation. Because of your generosity, we will be able to purchase programming supplies above our normal operating budget. Thanks to your help, we will continue to offer engaging programming for patrons of all ages.

Follow the Friends Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheIndependenceLibraryChicago for more updates, and visit the Chicago Public Library website www.chipublib.org for a complete listing of programs and events at the Independence branch and the other 80 locations across the city.

Thank you so much for the donation, it will go a long way to help us with programming supplies.



Irving Park Community Food Pantry

The Pantry's volunteers thank OIPA for its generous donation, which will help us provide

anyone with food insecurity in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes with five days' worth of food each month. Monetary donations maximize our purchasing power with supplier discounts while allowing us to buy other needs, such as toiletries. See **page 36** for ways you can support Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

– Craig Shutt, Publicity & Special Events Coordinator
Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Irving Park Garden Club

For the past six years, IPGC has enjoyed a wonderful collaboration with OIPA and Farmers Market Garden Center. Funded by OIPA through its annual donation program, FMGC has provided flowers to the garden club for 14 planters along Irving Park Rd. In March, members "adopt" a planter. When the danger of frost has passed, we arrange to pick up the flowers and hold a community planting day to brighten our main drag. Our club is very grateful for the support of OIPA in this project and appreciates the increased donation for 2023. [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub)

– Claudia Hine, President, Irving Park Garden Club



Irving Park YMCA

Whether you are looking for a fun way to stay fit or activities for the kids to enjoy, the Irving Park YMCA has what you are looking for! We offer a variety of sports/youth programs, camps, fitness classes, and much more that will keep you and your family healthy and happy. Check out our new website irvingparkymca.org.

With your generous support, we were able to provide financial assistance to over 200 families this past year!

– Ron Anderson, Executive Director, Irving Park YMCA

OIPA BOARD ALDERMANIC WARD UPDATE



UPDATED Information as of November 14, 2022

— Lynn Ankney, OIPA Board Member

Our members know that a core mission of the Old Irving Park Association is to inform and engage our community. Did you know all 50 seats of the Chicago City Council (aka the Alderperson) will be up for re-election in February 2023? In September, Ald. Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward, announced he will leave after his term is over. Did you also know Old Irving Park will soon be in three wards? To find out the ward in which you live, visit www.chicago.gov, select Government > City Council.

OIPA has historically partnered with other civic associations to host Aldermanic candidate forums. As of this writing, we don't plan to hold any forums before the February election. Why? Because we are expecting runoffs in all three elections.

What's a runoff?

It's an election between the top two vote recipients coming out of the general election that will be held on February 28, 2023. If no candidate receives 50% plus one vote during the election, then the top two vote recipients will move on to a runoff election on April 4, 2023.

As of this writing, OIPA has assembled the candidates vying for your vote based on news reports. OIPA has not verified candidate filings with the State Board of Elections, nor do we endorse any candidate.

Aldersperson Candidates as of November 17, 2022

45th Ward

(OIP North of Irving Park Road until the Interstate)

- Susanna Ernst: <https://susannafor45.com>
- James Gardiner (incumbent)
- Megan Mathias: meganfor45thward.com
- Ana Santoyo: anaforward45.com
- James Suh: Suhfor45.com (newly added)
- Marija Tomic

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.).





OIPA BOARD ALDERMANIC WARD UPDATE

39th Ward

(OIP South of Montrose until the interstate)

- Denali Dasgupta: denalifor39.com
- Samantha Nugent (incumbent)

30th Ward

(OIP South of Irving Park Road with a carve out near the Irving Park Blue Line stop)

- Ruth Cruz: ruthcruzfor30.com
- Jessica Gutierrez: jessica2023.com
- Juan Pablo Prieto: juanpabloprieto.com
- Warren Williams

Voting Resources

- **Brochure guide provided by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, PDF of 2023 Election Information Pamphlet and Calendar** (<https://bit.ly/chgo-elections>) includes important information that pertain to the nomination and election of candidates for the offices of Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Alderperson, and members of police District Councils by voters in the City of Chicago at the February 28, 2023 Municipal General Election and the April 4, 2023 Municipal Runoff and Supplementary Aldermanic Elections, if necessary.
- **Everything you need to know about voting** in Chicago/ Cook County and surrounding counties visit <https://chicagoelections.gov>.



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on November 8, 2022

Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting scheduled for 7:30pm via Zoom
The meeting started at 7:35pm

Attendees: Anne Swingen, Adrienne Chan, Dave Ryan, Scott Leagan, Michael Cannon, Merry Marwig, Lynn Ankney, Meredith O’Sullivan, Nicholas Frank, and Colleen Kenny.

Financial Report

Lynn Ankney presented the October 2022 Treasurer’s Report. We began the month with \$63,826.39 and ended with \$68,211.26. Thank you to all the members who renewed their annual memberships! The treasurer’s report was approved by the board.

Membership Update

Current OIPA membership is 619. We are still working to get some of our 2022 expired members to renew for 2023. Last month we had 167 lapsed memberships and today this is down to 103. Emails will be sent!

OIPA now has more members who joined online using the convenient auto-renew option than those who joined for a single year. Thank you!

The board is researching database management tools. This will simplify and streamline the process of membership management.

Board Updates

There was short discussion about board member roles and responsibilities, mainly finding someone responsible for holding other board members accountable for newsletter deadlines.

Newsletter Planning

- Finalize “Message from the Board” for the December

issue of the newsletter.

- Charitable giving – OIPA donations to nine area organizations in November.
- Highlight all of the Aldermanic candidates for the 45, 39, 30 wards and include a ward map.
- Discussion about February “Message from the Board.” Questionnaires will be sent to all Aldermanic candidates in Wards 45, 39, and 30 in December and responses will be published in the February newsletter.

Newsletter Local Business Feature

- Completed: Yoga, ice cream, farmer’s markets, floral shop.
- Brainstorm future ideas: cafes, restaurants, bakeries, coffee shops, cocktails and breweries, wine shops, boutique stores for clothing and gifts, garden stores, grocery and pharmacies, entertainment, toy stores, fitness, and pilates, salon services, bookstores, among other ideas.

Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

Open to OIPA members living within the Old Irving Park boundaries. Submissions by December 18, voting closes December 22, winners announced on December 23.

Holiday Arches

A neighbor from the 4300 block of Kostner has created a YouTube video and instructions on how to build holiday arches. This will be posted on Facebook following our general meeting, and also be in the December newsletter.

Continued on page 8

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For more event details visit: www.sixcorners.com



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on November 8, 2022, *continued from page 6*

Holiday Party

- Board has developed an RSVP form.
- Discussed other needs for this event.
- Managing reservations (we are capped at 80 people).
- eBlast to go out Friday, November 11.

Old & New Items

- **39th Ward Business:** None
- **45th Ward Business:** None
- **Aldermanic Forums**
 - 39th Forum: A couple of OIPA board members will be attending a virtual planning meeting on November 10 with other civic orgs.
 - 45th & 30th: There are multiple candidates in these wards which likely lead to a runoff election.
 - The board will draft and circulate questions for candidates that will be sent out to membership in the February newsletter.
- **Openlands Tree Planting**

The planting date will be Saturday, April 15.
- **Kolmar Park Plaque Options**

OIPA will ask the Chicago Park District for their advice on vendor/material. The board is also

looking into a few options for metal signs that could be hung on the fence at the entrance of the park. The idea was presented to include a picture of Gertrud Kolmar and a QR code that visitors can scan to get additional information.

• “Depave” Chicago Discussion

Depave Chicago is an initiative to replace underutilized parking lots with gardens, pocket forests, and other water-absorbing designs in an effort to make our neighborhoods more resilient to flooding. They are accepting proposals (www.depavechicago.org). The board decided to research and keep it in mind for future developments.

• Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

Irving Park Road (IPR)/194 Ramps Update: OIPA was contacted by MPC regarding pedestrian improvements around the expressway ramps at Irving Park Road and the Kennedy. Adrienne had a call with MPC on November 2. They are a National Response Program (NRP), working on grant recommendations to fund infrastructure projects—specifically reconnecting communities divided by interstate highways (www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities). They collected project ideas from community groups

OIPA Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

Light up OIPA with whatever outdoor holiday decorations strike your fancy
(Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, New Year 2022.)

How to Register: Email your nominations to hello@oldirvingpark.com by December 18, 2022 (please put “Winter Decoration Contest” in the subject line and include your name, address, and the address of your nominee in the body of the email). The top seven nominations will be announced on Facebook and moved to the neighborhood voting round. Voting closes December 22. The winner will be announced on December 23 and will receive a “Crystal Snowflake” award to place in their yard and have bragging rights for the next year.



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

over the summer and just completed their first grant application for improvements to on/off ramps on the Eisenhower (<https://connecting-communities-metroplanning.hub.arcgis.com/>). MPC is preparing reports on other potential grant projects and want to explore a project to address the suggestion “The Kennedy entrance and exit ramps onto Irving Park road are very difficult and scary for pedestrians to navigate.” MPC is connecting with community groups in our area to see if there is support for this as a project. Adrienne provided additional context relative to the impact of the Kennedy ramps on the pedestrian experience, as well as the importance of these areas being pedestrian friendly (access to Belding/St. Eds on the North, access to D2/St. Viator/IPR businesses on the South, Parks to the east) and confirmed that there would be broad community support. OIPA has agreed to work with MPC as needed to collect additional feedback and/or provide letters of support. OIPA has also connected MPC with Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA) and West Walker Civic Association (WWCA) presidents.

• Murals

There has been LOTS of new graffiti on the Kostner underpass “Dreams” mural. The board will contact Arts Alive Chicago and 311 about getting the graffiti covered appropriately and/or removed.

• Chicago Police Department

A board member attended the 17th District strategic planning meeting. We talked about writing an article for the December newsletter sharing useful information.

Upcoming Meetings

• General Meetings

– **November: Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program, Executive Director Ivy Ellis** is confirmed

as a speaker. **Alderman Gardiner** tentative. The board will reach out to our contacts at Alderman Gardiner’s office for a response.

– February: Board brainstormed options

- Zoning 101 – Reach out to Chicago Department of Planning & Development (DPD) representatives for a presentation.
- Equitable Transit Oriented Development Policy Plan (eTOD) ordinance presentation.

• Board Meetings

- December 5
- January 9, 2023

Meeting concluded at 8:47 p.m.

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Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting

on November 14, 2022, 7 p.m. — Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting started: 7:02 p.m.

Meeting was live streamed on OIPA's Facebook Account

Welcome:

Adrienne Chan, OIPA President, welcomed everyone and introduced the board members in attendance. There were a few first-time meeting attendees. Adrienne welcomed Alderman Gardiner to the meeting and yielded the microphone to the Alderman.

Alderman Jim Gardiner:

Alderman Gardiner welcomed everyone and shared some announcements about events his office was hosting in the ward. Event information is shared in the Alderman's weekly email which can be subscribed to on his website www.aldermangardiner.com.

Next, the Alderman shared some development announcements:

- **Clarendale Six Corners:** Supply shortages have delayed the opening of this new senior living



Photo of Alderman Jim Gardiner by Lynn Ankney.

facility a few months. The expected opening date is now April 2023.

- **Sears Redevelopment:** The stop work order has been lifted since Friday, November 11. Work will resume shortly. Target will anchor this development.
Editor's note: *On November 17, Block Club reported that the Novak project is still under a stop work order.* <https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/11/17/stop-work-order-on-90-million-six-corners-sears-redevelopment-still-in-effect-city-says>.
- **Northwestern Medicine:** Work is well underway. This new medical facility is expected to open in the 4th quarter of 2023.
- **Advocate Medical Six Corners:** This new medical facility, located at Milwaukee and Kilpatrick, recently opened.
- **Peoples Gas:** Many neighbors and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) were unsatisfied with the original proposal. The developers have gone back to the drawing board. Once the developer has revised their proposal, it will be shared by the Alderman's office.
- **Grayland Station:** Milwaukee Avenue remains closed temporarily but is scheduled to reopen before the end of the year.
- **Infrastructure:** Alderman Gardiner touted \$140M in infrastructure development in the 45th ward. Investments were made in alleys, streetlights, sidewalks, and street resurfacing, including Irving Park Road.

Continued on page 12



Celebrate the Season at St. John's

Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

4:00 P.M. *Stories and carols with Communion, child-friendly.
Childcare provided.*

10:00 P.M. *Candlelight service with Carol Sing
and Holy Eucharist with choir.*

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

10:00 A.M. *Holy Eucharist with carols.
Cookies and hot chocolate follows.*

IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM: MEETING ID: 850 1761 6026 PASSCODE: JOY!



A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Saturday, December 10

5:00 P.M. *Worship*
6:00 P.M. *Festive Dinner
in Parish Hall*

Presented by the St. John's Choir.
Featuring stories and songs to
celebrate St. Nicholas and the
Christmas season.

St. Nicholas will pay a visit!



We gather to celebrate God's gifts—open hearts, minds, and hands—and transform the world.

OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on November 14, 2022 — *Continued from page 10*

• **Public safety:** The Alderman's office is working with property owners to install license plate reader (LPR) cameras along major thoroughfares throughout the ward. CPD can use these cameras to track people of interest.

There is a shortage of police officers. Commander Alexa is working hard to increase staffing levels in the 17th district. There will be an open bid for veteran officers to be able to relocate from other CPD districts to the 17th.

Question & Answer with Alderman Gardiner:

Q: Is there a new DPD person on the city's Northwest side?

A: A new hire at DPD has taken the assumed position. The Alderman's office will follow up with details.

Q: What is the best way to learn about development updates like the stop work order at the Six Corners Sears development?

A: The Alderman's weekly newsletter.

Q: What is the best way to navigate through the neighborhood with Milwaukee Ave closed?

A: There is a detour in place. This is a short-term challenge to achieve a long-term goal. Milwaukee will be closed for an additional six weeks.

Q: With developments like the Northwestern project, it is very hard to turn from side streets onto Irving Park Road. Can anything be done to improve this?

A: The Alderman's office will reach out to CDOT and get constituent questions answered about the timing of lights and traffic.

Q: Where is the water from the Northwestern project going? What protections are in place to prevent further taxing of the sewer system in OIP?

A: The Alderman will reach out to the developer to address the constituents' concerns.

Q: There was an apartment building planned at the corner of Kolmar and Irving Park Road? Is this project still happening?

A: The Alderman's office will reach out to the developer for an update.

Q: Walking down Irving Park Road is scary. Are there any meetings about pedestrian public safety? What can be done to calm traffic?

A: The Alderman's office is working with CDOT and IDOT to look for pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements.

Q: Regarding motorists speeding along the newly resurfaced Montrose Ave, who should we talk to about conducting a traffic calming study?

A: The Alderman will contact CDOT and help put the neighbor in the 39th ward in contact with Alderman Nugent's office.

Q: Regarding Milwaukee Ave. between Kilbourn and Kilpatrick? Bike lanes were painted and then ground off the road the next day. There is a lot of confusion about what is going on. Other concerns include automobiles speeding and parking in the bike lane by the sports facility at Milwaukee and Kilbourn. Also, motorists do not stop at the temporary stop signs placed for the Metra construction. What can we do?

A: Traffic calming devices can be investigated by the



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Alderman's office. The Alderman's office is also looking into a red-light camera. When the bike lanes are completed, barriers will be placed to separate bicyclists from traffic. The CDOT commissioner came out to survey, but no date is set on the installation of the bike infrastructure improvements. The Alderman's office will look into faded and incompletely painted bicycle lanes.

Q: Pigeons under the underpass are a constant nuisance, and their droppings pose a public health issue. What can be done in the way of abatement at the Irving Park Blue Line station?

A: A resident feeding the birds contributes to these problems. The Alderman's office will continue to

work to get regular cleaning and pressure washing of these areas completed.

Q: How will the Alderman's office communicate with the neighborhood moving forward? The weekly emailed newsletter is not helpful.

A: Call the ward office for the updates.

Alderman Gardiner ended the Q&A session and gave one final announcement about upcoming vaccination events. More information can be found on the 45th ward website and Alderman's weekly newsletter.

OIPA President Adrienne Chan thanked the Alderman and welcomed Ivy from the Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program (NWHEAP).

Continued on 14



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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on November 14, 2022 — *Continued from page 13*

Guest Speaker: IVY Ellis, Executive Director, Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program (NWHEAP)

NWHEAP was established by state law in 1989. All residents within its boundaries pay into the program on their property tax bill. Members are assured the appraised value of their home after reaching their 5-year anniversary in the program.

NWHEAP also offers the following:

- **A home improvement loan program:** Low interest home improvement loans. Up to a 10k – 0% interest, up to a 20k – 2% interest, and up to 30k – 4% interest.
- **Delinquent tax program:** Open to anyone who is having difficulty paying their taxes. This program offers homeowners a grant of up to 5K to pay their delinquent taxes.
- For additional program information and requirements visit NWHEAP's website, <https://nwheap.com>.

Q&A:

Q: How can I apply?

A: Upon completing the application (online), you become part of the program. After an appraisal of your property (\$150 appraisal fee), you can obtain an NWHEAP loan if you have equity in your home and meet the minimum required credit score.

Q: Are there any other areas of the city where this program is available?

A: The NW side and two other neighborhoods have this program. There has been a discovery to expand this to more neighborhoods.



IVY Ellis, Executive Director of NWHEAP, provided an informative overview of the NWHEAP programs at the November OIPA General Meeting.

Photo by Lynn Ankney.

Q: How often can/should members reassess their home?

A: Each time there is a sizable investment in your home, up to one reassessment per year.

Ivy thanked everyone for their questions and attendance.

OIPA President Adrienne Chan concluded the meeting by sharing a few closing comments and announcements.

- 17th district CAPS Meeting: Wednesday November 16th at 6pm at the 17th district station.
- Holiday lights decorating contest: Last year's winners created a YouTube video to share how to make sidewalk arches. The URL to this video will be posted in the OIPA newsletter (see page 30).
- This is the last regular meeting of 2022. Sunday, December 4, will be the OIPA Holiday party at La Villa. OIPA membership and RSVP are required. **(Editor's note: This event has reached the maximum number of attendees. If you sign up you will be put on a waitlist and contacted if someone cancels.)**
- There will be a 39th ward Aldermanic candidate forums in January and March. More information is to come in the newsletter and OIPA eBlast.

Adrienne thanked everyone for attending. The meeting concluded: at 7:56 p.m.

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Dining Room Hours

*Monday: Dining Room closed,
take-out and deliveries from 10am – 10pm*

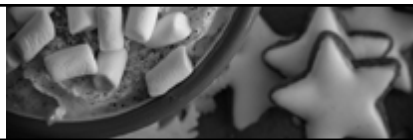
Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 10pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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HOLIDAY RECIPES

Time to Celebrate with Family, Friends & Food



Crab Dip

*Submitted by OIP Neighbor,
Gina Oderda*

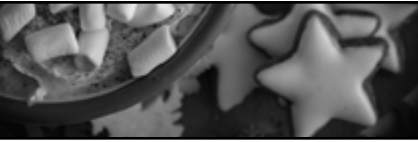
Ingredients:

- 1 pound jumbo lump crab meat
(we usually use Phillips)
- 1 block cream cheese
- 1 cup grated pepper jack cheese
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons Old Bay
(or more if you want!)
- Salt and pepper

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 325°F
- Combine all of the ingredients except crab meat in a casserole dish and stir until thoroughly mixed.
- Gently stir in crab meat.
- Bake for 40 minutes.
- Serve hot with crackers or toast points.





RECIPES FROM THE BOARD & MEMBERS

Peppermint Candy Cane Brownies

Credit BarbaraBakes.com. Submitted by OIP neighbor, Allison Baker

Ingredients:

Brownies

- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup 2 sticks unsalted butter
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Frosting

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1-1/2 teaspoons peppermint extract
- 1-1/2 tablespoons milk
- Red food coloring 1 to 2 drops

Chocolate Glaze

- 6 ounces about 1 cup semi-sweet or dark chocolate chips
- 6 tablespoons butter
- Peppermint Topping
- 1/2-1 cup crushed candy canes

Instructions:

Brownies

- Preheat oven to 350°. Line a 9x13 inch pan with foil, making sure the foil extends over the edges by at least one inch. Lightly spray foil with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
- Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.
- Chop the baking squares and butter into chunks and place in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring in between, until just melted and smooth. Set aside to cool, stirring occasionally.
- In a stand mixer or with electric beaters, beat eggs, sugar and vanilla for 2 minutes. While the mixer is running, slowly add the melted chocolate and beat to combine. With the mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture and mix just until combined. Pour into prepared 9x13 pan.
- Bake for 20-30 minutes or until a toothpick poked in the center comes out mostly clean. Don't over bake! When brownies are done, cool on a wire rack. When completely cool, put in the fridge to chill (makes the frosting spreading easier).

Peppermint Frosting

- Combine all frosting ingredients and beat until light and fluffy. Add more milk a teaspoon at a time if needed. Spread evenly over chilled brownies and place back in the fridge to chill again while you do the final step. (I used an offset spatula to spread the frosting.)

Chocolate Glaze

- Place chocolate chips and butter in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring in between, until just melted and smooth. Set aside to cool for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, and then quickly spread on top of brownies.
- Sprinkle the crushed candy canes on top and return to the fridge to cool. When chocolate has hardened, use the edges of the foil to remove the entire sheet of brownies from the pan. Cut into squares and serve.

OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



December Birthdays

Brian Beaugureau	Shawn LaFleur
Jake Berger	Demetri Lambros
Robert Bloomfield	Elpitha Lambros
Jill Bruzzini	Victor Lewis
Rebecca Calloway	Bertha Magana
Chris Chan	Helen McDowell
Zarah Chan	David Melzer
Demian Christiansen	Dana Moran
Sabrina Cimo	Allison Mutlu
Brian Clark	Margaret O'Donoghue
Molly Clayton	Gina Oderda
Barbara Cohn	Laura Ozog
Stephan Cohn	Laura Marie Sanchez
Caleen Coli	Erin Sarris
Lucy Diaz	Jeanette Schrader
John Dowd	Gregory Snyder
Terry Fallen	Rob Starmann
Kellie Fleming	Susan Strong-Dowd
Gerald Gierke	Mary Sussman
Patrick Ginnan	Robert Tataryn
Victoria Granacki	Nate Tovo
Patty Gustafson	Tim Tuten
Scott Gustafson	Christine Vertucci
Amy Hanks	Michael Walczak
James Hotchkiss	Mark Yoest
Michael Innocenzi	Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts

December Anniversaries

Anne Bennison & Carlos Eguis-Aguila
Kate & Jeff Cain
Gayle Christensen & Michael O'Brien
Tim & Carroe Healy
Zachary Osner & Holly White
Brian Pearson & Stephen Stockley
Ryan & Sonia Perkins Mata
Gregory Snyder & James Meyer
Aimee & Colby Starck
John Thuet & Frances Jochum
Linda Townsend & Michael Polzin
Beth Valukas & Peter Barash



December Kid Birthdays

Leo Gulapalli
Oliver Gulapalli
Matthew Horeis
Alice Isadore
Frank Lynch
Xavier Unzuetta



Pet Birthday

Luna
(cat in Gomez family)



January Birthdays

Rachel Allmen	Michael Lee
Lynn Ankney	Kathy Liebich
Peter Barash	Lindsey Liese
David Bremner	Renee Linnemeyer
Emily Coakley	Bryan McCoy
Lis Dankovich	Dee McDonough
Daniel Degnan	Audre McGinnis
Peter Doetschman	Anne Morrissy
Diane Ehrhart	Mete Mutlu
Abby Ernst	Matthew O'Brien
Courtney Funkhouser	Michael O'Brien
Denise Ghilarducci	Mike Rakotz
Richard Ghilarducci	Rob Sadlier
Susan Gidley	Michael Sebastian
Sharon Graham	Emily Sermersheim
Annmarie Handley	Kate Simmons
Wendy Jo Harmston	Tom Starck
Annette Huizenga	Kim Starmann
Alberto Ilustre	Joy Westendorf
Jason Isadore	Holly White
Joe Jamrosz	Mark Wilke
Bob Jones	Dean Wolf
Kathryn Kleisch	Marnie Zabicki
Joanne Krakora	

January Anniversaries

Sara Bishop & Amy Hanks
John & Caleen Coli
Michael Giese & Kristyn Krzyzaniak
Lindsay & T.K. Horeis
Rhys & Liz Jones
Bryan & Miranda McCoy
Leanne & Jack Neurauter
Bryan Pitts & Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts
Emily & Jeremy Sermersheim

January Kid Birthdays

Isaac Cox ●
Seamus Greene ●
Bren Hicks
Traolach O'Sullivan
(happy 21st!) ●
Talulah Quinl ●
Rory Wilke



Pet Birthdays

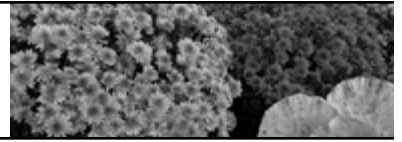
Claudio (the cat,
in the Sarros family)
Jesse (a dog
in the Starck family)



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.

OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY



Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



Single Family

4033 W. Grace.....\$325,000



Attached Single Family

4240 N. Keystone, 3H.....\$135,000

4119 N. Pulaski, 4.....\$350,000

4215 N. Milwaukee Ct.....\$400,000



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John 7:38

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IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



A Changing of the Guard — Claudia Hine

In November, the Irving Park Garden Club held an election for new leaders to serve a two-year term beginning 2023. Members elected the following officers:

Cathey Curley — Co-President and Treasurer



Cathey joined the garden club in 2019 and has been an active member ever since. She has hosted two of our big events, the Midsummer Night's Stroll and a plant exchange. Cathey also has served as treasurer since 2021. Now she takes on the additional role as co-president.

Chris Omiotek — Vice President



Chris has been a member of IPGC for the past four years, having joined the club in 2019. As vice president, she is looking forward to getting better acquainted with our membership and also learning more about plants, as she has been adding natives to her yard each year.

Debbie Maher — Co-President



Debbie joined the garden club in 2020 after attending our annual garden walk. She has been a participating artist at our Art and the Garden Walk in 2021, and her garden was featured on the 2022 garden walk. Debbie also taught a wreath making class for our members. Now she will share the president's role with Cathey.

Sue Geisler — Secretary



Sue is a longtime member of IPGC; she joined the club in 1996. She has been a fixture at our hospitality table for many years, and as secretary, she is continuing in the role she has held since 2017.

All four officers recently attended a planning meeting for 2023 and have identified several exciting speakers and programs we're sure our members will appreciate. Stay tuned for announcements, which will be published in this newsletter as usual.

Photo Credits: *Cathey Curley: Cathey Curley*
Debbie Maher: Debbie Maher
Chris Omiotek: Ari Antos
Sue Geisler: T. J. Hine
Header: Aaron Burden on Unsplash



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

Grateful for the Gift

IPGC would like to thank OIPA for its planned annual donation to furnish flowers for our planters on Irving Park Road next year. We appreciate it!

See You in 2023

The garden club will be on hiatus until March 2023. Until then, we invite you to follow us at Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub.

Thank You

Words can hardly express our sincere gratitude to Claudia Hine for her amazing leadership as Old Irving Garden Club President.

You're leaving a legacy everyone will remember. Thank you for creating a thriving organization.



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New to the Neighborhood — Merry Marwig

Earlier in 2022, OIPA surveyed our neighbors about the types of shops and services they'd love to see fill the empty storefronts along Irving Park Road.

Since that survey, a few new businesses have opened in our community and nearby areas.

FLORAL



Romance Flowers and Details, a floral shop located at 4264 W. Irving Park Road, tel 312-866-8951, opened its doors on October 10, 2022.

Owner **Mariana Ariza** is a 19-year-old entrepreneur, OIP resident, and graduate of Schurz High School. Some neighbors may know Mariana's father, Edgar, and uncle Oscar Ariza, who are well known in OIP for their construction, painting, and handyman business.

Romance Flowers and Details, offers fresh flowers (ready-made bouquets and custom arrangements) along with faux flower arrangements, candles, rentals for events, and balloon garlands for special celebrations.



Wishing Mariana all the best as a young entrepreneur. Please stop by and support this wonderful addition to our neighborhood. **Romance Flowers and Details** 4264 W Irving Park Road, is open: Monday, Wednesday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Saturday–8 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

Photos by Merry Marwig.

SANDWICHES

You may have noticed another new Old Irving business opened in the fall, **Jersey Mike's Subs**. It is located at 4359 W. Irving Park Road (next to Starbucks) and is a great spot to grab an Italian sub or other hot and cold sandwich offerings.

In addition to a dine-in option, you can place orders online for the in-store pickup via the website and app and get delivery through third-party partners. It gets busy at lunchtime on the weekends, so we recommend ordering in advance. Jersey Mike's Subs, 4359 W. Irving Park Rd, Chicago; (312) 265-3076. Open seven days: 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

ICE CREAM

Lovin' Scoop has been open for a while (July), but worth a mention even in the winter. The Six Corners ice cream shop offers 19 flavors (including vegan and non-dairy flavors) and sells ice cream cones, milkshakes, sundaes, and espresso drinks. Co-owner Billy Taleb partnered with the famous gourmet brand Capannari Ice Cream a family-owned business in Mount Prospect. **Lovin' Scoop** is located at 4032 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Hours: Monday–Sunday, Noon–10 p.m.

Watch for more reviews of local businesses in the February issue.



Ten Ways to Support Small Businesses (in OIP)

— “Ten Ways” Excerpted from Constant Contact article by Christa Trombley, November 4, 2022

The holiday and giving season is a great time to think about how you’re supporting your local small businesses and community. We encourage you to use our list below to show your support throughout the holiday season and beyond!

- 1. Buy gift cards**
Many of our advertisers offer gift cards
- 2. Shop local — online or in-person**
- 3. Order takeout or delivery**
- 4. Tip a little more than you usually would**
- 5. Leave a positive review online**
Small businesses rely heavily on reviews to get new customers. A review can help traffic coming in the door their door.
- 6. Donate to a local nonprofit, and**
Double the good by buying a gift card from a local business and donating it to a nonprofit.
- 7. Share, share, and share some more**
Sometimes, advocating for your favorite small business is as easy as clicking ‘share’ on their latest social media post.
- 8. Engage with small businesses in new ways**
Don’t have time to hang out at the cafe or ice cream shop or take a class? Take pint home with you. Sign up for a virtual class.
- 9. Simply say thank you**
- 10. Sign up for their email list** (or other method of outreach)

And, remember to support of our advertisers. Several have gift cards* or online store options. Check their ad for contact info.

Auto Services

- S&T Automotive..... 40

Books & Gifts

- Chicago Bible & Books* 20

Church

- St John’s Episcopal Church..... 11

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- Wildlight Yoga* 27
- Y Healing Arts 9



FORTS: Build Your Own Adventure

– by Krissi McEachern, Managing Director, Filament Theatre

Filament Theatre's hit immersive play experience, *Forts: Build Your Own Adventure*, for families is back for the holidays! Enter a world of play and creation as Filament Theatre transforms into a play-space for children and parents to build new worlds. Using cardboard boxes, sheets, clotheslines and more, build adventures of your own devising. With theatrical design elements working together to support creative play, your family is sure to be swept away in the adventure!

- Dates: November 19, 2022 – January 8, 2023
- Performance Times: Saturdays at 1pm & 3pm
Sundays at 11am & 1pm
- Run time: 60 minutes
- Age Recommendation: Ages 2-102 (all ages always welcome at Filament)
- Cost: \$10-15 per person



Filament is Turning 15!

For our 15 year anniversary, we're making the pledge to never charge more than \$15 per person to any public performances in our 22/23 season!

Filament Theatre is an anchor cultural organization for the Six Corners business district in Chicago's Portage Park. We serve approximately 8,500 patrons annually through our theatre programming, camps, school residencies, and classes. As the only theatre of its kind in Chicago, Filament is a vital home for innovative artists and young people finding and using their power through the performing arts.

Filament Theatre is a Non-Profit organization recognized as 501(c)(3).

For more information visit <https://filamenttheatre.org/forts>. Follow us on Social Media: Instagram: [filamentplays](#) and Facebook: facebook.com/FilamentTheatreEnsemble

Thank you, OIPA, for the privilege of allowing me to serve as your State Representative these past few years. As you may already know, Old Irving Park will no longer be in the 40th district starting January 2023. You will always have a friend in me.

Best,

Jaime M. Andrade Jr.



Jaime ANDRADE

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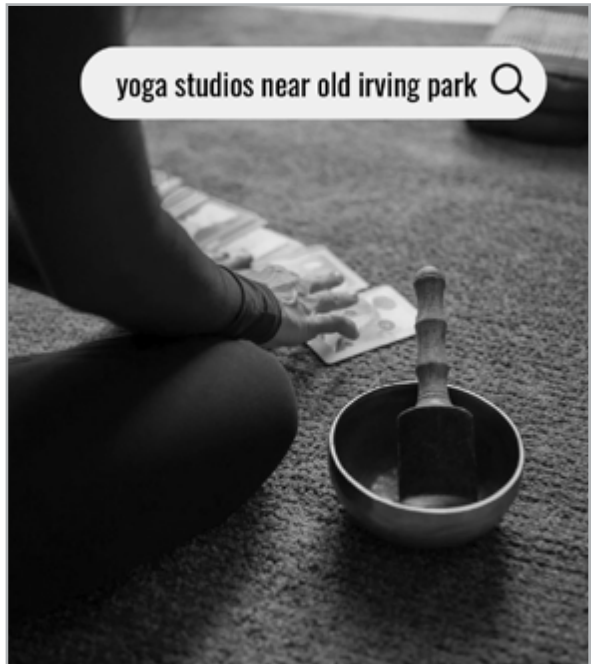
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St. Edward Scoop — Adrienne Chan

NWCC Champions

Congratulations to the 8th Grade Girls Basketball team, who won the North West Catholic Conference (NWCC) League Playoff Tournament and Conference Championship for the second year in row! Congratulations to the 6th Grade Girls Basketball team, who earned 2nd place in the NWCC League Playoff Tournament. Way to go Big Red!



UPCOMING EVENTS at St. Ed

Big Red Christmas Bazaar | December 3 | 3-7:30 p.m.

Fabulous vendors, a variety of home-baked cookies available for purchase by the pound, the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale (stay tuned for pre-sale information), and a visit from Santa.



Celebrating 113 Years of Catholic Education to Children in Grades PK3-8th grade.

St Edward Catholic School | 4343 W Sunnyside Ave, Chicago, IL 60630 | 773-736-9133 | stedwardchicago.org

Registration continues to be open for the 2022-2023 school year. St. Edward School is a 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School with small class sizes and attention to an individual students. For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care. To schedule an in-person or virtual tour with the principal contact us contact office@stedwardschool.com.



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Call for Contributions



We welcome individual article submissions for the OIPA newsletter!

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 44 for full details.



Light Up Old Irving Park — Leslie Cervantes McGreevy



How to Build Holiday Arches

YouTube Link:
<https://bit.ly/lightarches> or use QR code below.

The holiday season is right around the corner, and let's make Old Irving a holiday destination for families. Last year, we wanted to bring joy to our block on Kostner, and my husband and I put up over 55 plus lighted arches for our wonderful neighbors. The block won the coveted OIPA Snow Flake Award for holiday decorating! We had neighbors come by the block and tell us that they changed their dog walking path to enjoy walking the arches. We also saw multiple

families stop their cars and have their kids run through as they videotaped them laughing and running through them. We even saw a couple take their engagement photos under the arches.

It's amazing how something so simple can bring a block or neighborhood together! So let's try to bring all of Old Irving together. I have attached a YouTube clip on how simple it is to make a holiday arch. Get the family and neighbors together, and let's see how many streets we can light up for the Holidays.

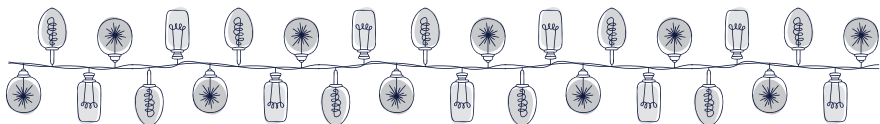
If you need any help, don't hesitate to ask Leslie Cervantes McGreevy, lesliecervantes@gmail.com.

It's very simple to make holiday arches

- Go to a local hardware store like Home Depot, Lowes, Menards.
- 2-1/2 by 10 ft PVC pipes
- 1-1/2 coupling
- Two either 2 ft or 4 ft rebars
- String lights (I like icicle lights for a cool effect).
- Cost per arch is around an average of \$15-\$18 (2021 prices) and then whatever the cost of lights you choose.



Use QR code (left) to view "How to Build Holiday Arches" video by Leslie Cervantes McGreevy



SPREAD CHEER FOR ALL TO SEE

JUST Add COLOR





Trivia Night Thanks! — Liz Mills, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services



19th Trivia Night Winners "Go Forth." Clockwise from left, Sue Geisler, Michelle Eleby, Jack Olech, Ruth Olech, John Olech, Liz Schaller, Rachel Olech, and Pat Deasey.

Photo by Liz Mills.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Carlson Community Services' Trivia Night to benefit Carlson's programs. In our 19th overall and first in-person contest in three years, a crowd of 150 players battled for \$200 in prize money and bragging rights. Carlson thanks the teams, sponsors, raffle, and beverage donors for their support.

"Go Forth," a team led by **Ruth Olech**, won the eight-round competition. The team generously donated their \$200 in prize winnings back to Carlson Community Services. The glory and bragging rights remain theirs! The evening netted over \$11,000 for Carlson's programs —The Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden, and the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series.

New this year was **Leona's Food Truck**, filled with pizzas and sandwiches to keep the contestants nourished.

A shout-out goes to our many volunteers and our host, Irving Park Lutheran Church, for their help in making the event a success. Another fun night in the neighborhood for a great cause!

Thanks to the following Round of Sponsors and donors who helped make the evening a financial success.

Round sponsors were:

- Dorie Westmeyer, Charles Rutenberg Realty;
- 19th Dist. Rep. Lindsay LaPointe; Irving Park Lutheran Church; Pastor Erin Bouman;
- Holly Van Essen, Mobile Physical Therapy;
- Leona's Pizzeria,
- Clarity Partners,
- and Carlson Board Members.

Raffle prize donors included:

- Helen Lira, Jose Garcia, and Marcy Sherrill

Donations of wine and beer were made by:

- Bruce Anderson, Bill Sherlock, and Marcy Sherrill



"The Gooseheads" finished second out of 18 teams. *Photo by Liz Mills.*



Three Brothers Garden News

Three Brothers Garden recently completed its 12th season of growing vegetables for the Irving Park Food Pantry. In addition to providing neighbors in need with nutritious vegetables, the garden served as a space for neighbors to gather weekly for a common purpose. We welcomed several new volunteers and students looking for service hours, all under the guidance of our Garden Intern, Old Irving Park resident Claire Lyons. Thanks to all who volunteered throughout the season, especially OIP resident Lizz Bisesi who served as the Three Brothers Garden Committee chair. Lizz went above and beyond, putting in many hours to ensure the garden flourished.

Alderman Samantha Nugent was on hand for the installation of the Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards sign at Carlson's Three Brothers Garden. Pictured from the lower left are Carlson Board members and garden volunteers Pastor Erin Bouman, Melanie Reschke, Jose Garcia, Marcy Sherrill, Bruce Anderson, Lizz Bisesi, Rebecca Haneberg, Liz Mills, and Alderman Nugent. The garden was selected for an award in the community garden category.

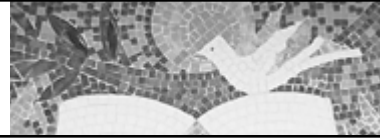
Photo credit Ald. Nugent's office.



For the season, we donated 420 lbs. of vegetables to the Food Pantry. Thanks to generous neighbors, our donations were bolstered by home garden surplus, which we gladly took to the Food Pantry Wednesday mornings.

Founded in 2009 and a program of Carlson Community Services, Three Brothers Garden is located at 4107 N. Pulaski. We look forward to seeing you in the garden next spring!

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



Viator Vibrations — Sara Yoest



Join us this Holiday season! St. Viator's Winterfest celebration is scheduled for December 2 & 3. All are welcome to this two-day community festival featuring a tree, wreath & garland sale, indoor activities for kids, delicious food, a holiday magic show, photos with Santa, and more! Check our Facebook page and website for a final schedule and pricing.

Primary Gym Fun

The St. Viator Rec Center is bustling with activity! We are happy to bring our popular Saturday morning Primary Gym program back to the community. Primary Gym is an open gym program for PreK – 3rd-grade children. It is a great way to meet new families and let your kids burn off some early morning energy, especially during the winter! A one-time fee of \$20 per family is requested. Parents must stay with their children; this is not a drop-off event. The program runs every other Saturday from 8:30–10 a.m. Watch our Facebook page for upcoming dates.

Catholic Schools Week

Mark your calendar! St. Viator will kick off Catholic Schools Week with an open house from 2:30–4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, followed by a 5 p.m. family mass. Prospective parents and students are encouraged to attend.

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



Photo by Sara Yoest

St. Viator Elementary School wishes the Old Irving Park Neighborhood a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2023!

Visit the Sts. Viator & Wenceslaus website at <https://www.ssviatorwences.org/> for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day mass times.

BE
MERRY

December Delights

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

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 did the icy road say
to the car?**

A: Want to go for a spin?

**Q: What kind of diet did
the snowman go on?**

A: The Meltdown diet

**Q: What do you call a winter
monster with a 6-pack?**

A: Abdominal snowman.

**Q: What do snowmen eat
for breakfast?**

A: Frosted snowflakes.

Q: What do yetis on diets eat?

A: Iceberg lettuce.

**Q: Where do
snowmen go to
dance?**

A: The snowball.

**Q: Why are snowmen great
at parties?**

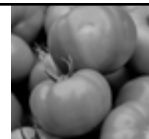
A: They always break the ice.

**Q: Who is the
snowman's favorite
relative?**

A: Aunt Arctica.

**Q: What do snowmen call
their kids?**

A: Chill-dren.



Help Pantry Celebrate the Holidays

The Irving Park Food Pantry provides its clients in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes with an entire holiday meal this month, including meat, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes, and dessert. This is in addition to its regular array of groceries during our four distributions this month (we are closed December 28). This year again, we are asking for monetary donations via PayPal or check rather than direct food contributions.

We can purchase food at significant discounts from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, but shortages have forced us to use various sources this year. Many of those give us generous discounts, which ensure our funds stretch much further than retail food purchases can achieve. So your monetary donations are more important than ever.

Holiday Gift Program

Our annual holiday gift program will again use online gift options listed on our Amazon and Target registries. Selections can be shipped to the Pantry volunteer's address (please do not ship directly to the Pantry). This ensures we receive the needed number of age-appropriate items for the stockings given to clients' registered children up to 12 years old. Our Facebook page has the links. We appreciate your understanding and generosity.



Above: Co-chairs of the Pantry's Holiday Gift program, Sara Yoest and Debby Fries show off some of the stockings given to clients' children 12 years old and younger in 2021. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Left: Donations received through the Pantry's online registries wait to be put into stockings and given to clients' children up to 12 years old in 2021. *Photo by Sara Yoest*

Volunteer Help Wanted

Our new homebound-delivery program with DoorDash has dramatically increased the number of clients who can receive food from us, but our volunteer crew is stretched thin. Client Services Coordinator Elvia Esparza needs help preparing these deliveries from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. If you could help, even on occasion, please email her for details at clientservices@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



A 3800 Tripp Avenue group of volunteers ran the Pantry's coat drive during its first week: Mary Kay Shutt, Al Falasz, and Renee Linnemeyer. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Monetary donations can be made via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or via check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

We are Grateful for Our Supportive Community.

- Thank you to **Renee Linnemeyer**, our coat-drive coordinator, and all our volunteers for their hard work during our coat drive! And, thanks to the many organizations throughout the community that sponsored drop boxes so our neighbors could easily donate their coats. We provided hundreds of coats to clients and their families to ensure they had a warmer winter.
- Thank you to Children's Librarian **Kristin Grace** and the staff at the **Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library** for donating a big box of kids' Halloween costumes the week before the holiday, giving several kids a big upgrade!
- Thank you to **Alderman Samantha Nugent**, who donated 200 KN95 masks to the Pantry, and **Rep. Lindsay LaPointe**, who donated several boxes of masks. The Pantry still requires masks for all volunteers and clients. Masks are harder to find nowadays, so we appreciate the donations!

Laura Barnes picks up a donation of masks from Mark in Alderman Samantha Nugent's office in October. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*

Right: Laura Barnes displays some of the kids' Halloween costumes donated to the Pantry by the staff at the Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



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.



The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

Pep Rally

Belding celebrated spirit week with their first-ever pep rally. All classrooms participated in a door decorating contest, student-athletes were acknowledged, and there was some friendly competition with the staff vs. staff tug-of-war!

Pep rally fun—Staff-vs-staff tug-of-war

Door decorating contest winner (pictured below)

Photos provided by Belding Elementary School



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 a.m. in the main office. Tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school and the Belding community. Upcoming tour dates include December 13 and January 17.

State Names Belding Elementary an Exemplary School, in Top 10% of State

Belding has been named an exemplary school by the state of Illinois! Illinois has four annual summative designations: exemplary, commendable, targeted, and comprehensive.

Summative designations help families and communities understand how well schools are serving all students. Illinois has four summative designations: Exemplary School, Commendable School, Targeted School, and Comprehensive School. Targeted and Comprehensive schools receive additional funding and support to build local capacity and improve student outcomes. Multiple measures of school performance and growth determine a school's designation. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires states to provide a summative designation to each school with the required indicators, beginning in 2018. ISBE includes school designations annually in the Illinois Report Card at www.illinoisreportcard.com.

To be exemplary, a school must have strong achievement metrics in English Language Arts and Math, proficiency and growth, and not have any student subgroups meeting below-average metrics. Belding's designation as exemplary means we have met all the commendable designations and have the highest metrics of the top 10% of schools in Illinois.

Foundation presents
Jazz Night
with
**Steve
Thomas**



**Wednesdays
7:00 – 10:00**

FOUNDATION

**5007 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago IL**



Huskies Headlines — Chris Libereros, Principal, Scammon Elementary

Scammon Elementary had a very exciting fall! The playground that the Scammon School community had advocated for more than a decade was finally completed. Kids from every grade level are overjoyed. Watching kids and families gather at the playground after school, play with their classmates, and make new friends is a daily reminder of why every school deserves a playground.

We had three exciting events this fall organized by the Scammon PAC/BAC and Friends of Scammon. An outdoor movie night, a Trunk or Treat, and a Fall Fest. All events were the first of their kind at Scammon, and all had a huge turnout!



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Also, Friends of Scammon worked on campus beautification through gardening projects. They planted nearly 1,000 spring bulbs around the campus and started a native plant garden. Keep Scammon in mind while tending to your gardens this spring—we love plant donations from neighbors!

Upcoming Events

We have two events in December—our annual Scammon Spelling Bee and a Scholastic Book Fair!

With Gratitude

Thank you to Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) for your generous donation! The OIPA donation will go towards upcoming events.

Are you interested in learning more about Scammon Elementary?

Phone: (773) 534-3475

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

Or follow us on:

- Instagram – @scammon_school
- Facebook – Scammon School

Interested in joining Friends of Scammon?

Contact Katy Schafer at FriendsofScammoncps@gmail.com or KatySchafer@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook – Friends of Scammon for the latest updates and activities.



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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

December

-
- 2-3 **St. Viator Winterfest** | Festivities start Friday night with a Holiday Magic Show. Offerings include a tree/wreath/garland sale, bounce houses for the kids, cookie decorating, bingo, crafts & games, and delicious food. Saturday Morning Santa Shuffle. Photos with Santa on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. Check Facebook for final schedule. @stviatorchicago.
-
- 3 **Northwest Side Holiday Train** | Six Corners Trolley Ride and Holiday Happenings | Free Rides from Noon to 4 p.m. | Visit from Santa, raffle prizes, after party with holiday music & ugly seater contest. For info visit www.sixcorners.com.
-
- 3 **St. Edward's Big Red Christmas Bazaar** | 3-7:30 p.m. on Dec 3, and will include vendors, a variety of home-baked cookies available for purchase by the pound, a visit from Santa and the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale (Support us locally—BUY ONLINE THROUGH NOVEMBER 30. <https://buff.ly/3UuwNNe>). Facebook @stedwardschoolchicago.
-
- 4 **OIPA Members Annual Holiday Party** | 5-8 p.m. | La Villa Restaurant, La Strada, 3638 North Pulaski Road. Space will be limited to the first 80 OIPA members to RSVP. Please RSVP (required) to our form at <https://bit.ly/OIPAHoliday2022>.
This event has reached the maximum number of attendees. If you sign up you will be put on a waitlist and contacted if someone cancels.
-
- 11 **Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents** The Peppermint Patties Holiday Concert | Irving Park Lutheran Church | 4100 N. Harding Ave. | Free! Festive reception follows. For info visit carlsoncommunityservices.org/event

18 (Entry Deadline) **OIPA Holiday Lights Decorating Contest** | How to Register: Email your hello@oldirvingpark.com by December 18, 2022 (please put "Winter Decoration Contest" in the subject line. Include your name, address, and the address of your nominee in the body of the email). See page 8 for details.

Ongoing in the Neighborhood

-
- 1st Wednesdays** **Clarendale Six Corners, Wine-Down Wednesday** | First Wednesday Monthly, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., 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 a.m., Clarendale Six Corners, Information Center, 4004 N. Cicero Avenue, RSVP to 872-250-5126, 2 Days Before Each Event. Hurry! Space is limited.

2022-2023 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 Membership 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.

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
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://wettransfer.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"
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. 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.		
Publication Month	Advertising	General
February	1/3	1/5
March*	1/31*	2/2
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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Stephanie's Irving Park Sales

I am grateful to have so many opportunities to help people buy and sell homes in Old Irving Park!

I am also a Senior Real Estate Specialist (SRES®) trained to help people who are downsizing.

Call me if you are considering a move, I will be happy to share tips and resources about how to get started.

Visit stephaniecutter.com for more information and resources for sellers and buyers.



www.oldirvingpark.com

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

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

4313 North Keeler Ave

Chicago IL 60641

Happy New Year Reminder

The *Old Irving Park News* is not published in January. We'll be back in production for February 2023. Submission deadline for the February issue is January 5 for articles.