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NEWS



SEPTEMBER

VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 7 | 2023



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 37 ☆ Issue 7 ☆ September 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.

www.oldirvingpark.com

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Cover photo: Three Brothers Garden Chair Judy Sviatko (left), Rebecca Haneberg, and Garden Intern Ruth Bouman prepare vegetables for delivery to the Irving Park Food Pantry. *Photo by Liz Mills.*

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Happy Fall OIP!

I hope you can join us for our Welcome Back Wine & Cheese General Meeting and Officer Elections on September 11. As you may have read in the August newsletter, Michael Cannon is on the slate to be elected as the next President of OIPA. This is not a coup; our Bylaws limit the office of President to no more than two consecutive terms; my tenure as President is just coming to its natural end. I plan to remain on the Board of Directors, so you will still hear from me from time to time—this is not my “retirement.”



It has been such a pleasure to get to know and work alongside so many of you over the past four years as we represent the neighborhoods’ collective interests with our elected officials, developers, and other civic organizations. We’ve thoughtfully welcomed several new developments and businesses to our neighborhood and nearby Six Corners; rededicated a local park in honor of German Poet Gertrud Kolmar; improved green spaces and planted over 50 new trees to rejuvenate our tree canopy; navigated meetings held via Zoom and re-imagined ice cream socials, holiday celebrations, and All-Star Neighbor incentives to continue to connect and engage residents when we couldn’t gather in person; expressed our love for OIP through a yard sign campaign; re-booted our “Parent’s Committee;” launched a new membership database system (coming soon); and welcomed several new members to the OIPA Board of Directors.

I want to thank the other officers and directors for sharing our leadership activities across the team and making it possible for us to accomplish so much over the past four years. I’d also like to thank Michael Cannon for taking the reins and leading our organization going forward. If you are interested in participating in OIPA leadership or serving on a committee, please reach out to us hello@oldirvingpark.com—because good neighborhoods don’t just happen!

Adrienne Chan



OIPA September General Meeting

7 pm | St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Welcome back with wine and cheese. Board of Directors officer elections will be held.



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 7, 2023

Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

Attendees

Adrienne Chan, Dan William, Dave Ryan, Meredith O'Sullivan, Merry Marwig, Michael Cannon, and Nicholas Plagman-Frank

Financial Report

During review of the July 2023 treasurer's report, Lynn called attention to the most significant expense encompassing payments of \$2,988. This debit was related to the purchase and development of OIPA's new membership database, a tool that will significantly decrease the manual labor of navigating and maintaining the current Excel-based database. The new database product will also fully integrate with the OIPA website allowing members to manage membership details, update payment information for annual dues, and even make contributions to Keep OIP Clean, the neighborhood viaduct cleaning initiative founded by our newest board member **Dan William**.

Adrienne made the motion to approve the July financial report, Michael seconded, and the remaining directors in attendance unanimously approved.

Membership

Another benefit of the new database which is expected to come fully online in September, is rolling renewals of OIPA memberships. Until now management constraints forced us to pack the majority of membership renewals into the late summer/early fall during our annual membership

drive. Our new database will allow us to manage rolling memberships throughout the year with ease, and ensure that OIPA households do not miss out on perks regardless of when their membership renews, October 1 or February 18. More information will be shared about the new platform and a request for member household's email address will be in the coming weeks. Email addresses will be used to authenticate connections to the self-serve portal allowing our members to validate their information and opt into the benefits and perks of being an OIPA member! Don't worry if you are someone who prefers to write a check that's a-ok. Our membership committee chair Meredith is also only a phone call away and available for a friendly chat.

Also, in membership news, our 2024 OIPA member rates have been finalized. Due to increased costs for newsletter publishing, printing, meeting space rental, member party costs, and swag, along with our decision in 2023 to increase OIPA's charitable contributions to local organizations, we are raising rates across all membership levels. The following new annual rates will apply to all upcoming renewals.

- Senior - increasing from \$15 to \$20
- Standard - increasing from \$25 to \$35
- Good Neighbor - increasing from \$75 to \$95
- Neighborhood All-Star - increasing from \$150 to \$195

Other than annual membership dues, the only other source of OIPA's revenue is newsletter advertising. During the pandemic, there was a 50 percent drop in advertising revenue. The Board discussed ideas to pursue some of the companies we lost and get



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

new ones by reaching out to businesses directly and welcoming them back, offering a special edition of our newsletter highlighting our advertisers, and producing an annual magnet showcasing the businesses who support our organization by advertising in our newsletter.

After some discussion, Adrienne moved to table the conversation and schedule a special planning session of OIPA's marketing committee to nurture these ideas and produce more, formulating a plan to increase our advertising revenue in 2024.

Wrapping up the membership conversation the directors briefly discussed OIPA swag for 2024. During the July board meeting, it was suggested that the OIPA canvas tote bags might be ready for retirement. If you have been an OIPA member for a number of years there is a good chance you have a closet full of these things. The Board of Directors has reached out to a local artist to explore the possibility of producing a custom print as a member giveaway in 2024. The directors discussed cost and briefly brainstormed local print shops that could produce this swag. More research and discussion are needed, but fingers crossed we will have some exciting new swag for members in spring 2024.

Newsletter Planning

OIPA Board of Directors officer elections are scheduled during the September General Membership meeting. Outgoing President Adrienne Chan will write the "Message from the Board" in September's newsletter after serving two consecutive two-year terms. Thank you, Adrienne! If it were not for consecutive presidential term limits in our bylaws, you would be a shoo-in for at least two more years.

New Business

- The "hot dog" raised planter at the corner of Keeler and Irving Park Road was knocked over and destroyed in a vehicular accident. The Board briefly discussed neighborhood beautification efforts, including our raised planters. A funding source will need to be secured for hardscape maintenance and replacement. The idea was shared to produce hot dog t-shirts for sale, but additional discussion is required. This discussion was tabled.
- A neighbor has informed the OIPA Board of Directors of ongoing criminal activity surrounding a property on the corner of Keystone and Cullom. The Board

Continued on page 6

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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 7, 2023, *continued from page 5*

has engaged the neighbor after they raised frustrations about a lack of response after they pursued traditional channels. The Board discussed options and has been working with the neighbor to escalate their requests for service and will pursue engagement with other city departments to encourage the property owner to be a better neighbor.

• **Gas Station Proposal – 4301 W. Montrose Avenue**

- On August 1, seven board members attended a plan presentation by the real estate broker and developer for a new gas station replacing an auto repair shop on the property. Prior to its current use this property was a gas station.
- The developers plan calls for a 900 square foot convenience store, and 4 gas pumps with eight vehicle bays. The developers plan maintains all four existing curb cuts on the property.
- After reviewing the plan and discussing concerns like proximity to existing gas stations, increased traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, and bright lighting close to residential properties, and brainstorming more favorable uses for the lot, the Board decided to issue a letter opposing the current plan for a new gas station.

• **Dunkin' Donuts Drive-through Proposal – 4229 W. Irving Park Road**

- A Dunkin' Donuts with a drive-through facility has been proposed for the former Golden Nugget restaurant site. If approved, the Dunkin Donuts, currently at 4313 W. Irving Park Road, would move to this new location.

- Board members will attend a public meeting via Zoom on August 15 to hear the developer's plan before making a formal decision to support or oppose this plan.

Old Business

• **Irving Park Women's Club (Historical Society) Archives**

- Irving Park Historical Society archives have been removed from storage at Schurz High School.
- All archives have been sorted per Sulzer Libraries' archival policy, and the materials retained will be donated to the library for archiving and long-term retention.
- The next step is for the Sulzer Library to accept the materials formally.
- The OIPA board and community members involved in the archival process have been invited to Sulzer Library to see their process for accepting and retaining these historical materials.



• **Montrose Avenue Traffic Study**

- CDOT has completed the traffic study of Montrose within the OIP boundaries on request from the 39th ward office.
- The study identified multiple pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements.
- The 39th ward participatory budgeting process

Continued on page 8



Radon Hazards Awareness



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 7, 2023, *continued from page 6*

has awarded \$150,000 for protected bike lanes and pedestrian improvements between Kostner and Elston.

• Irving Park Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements

- \$900,000 has been earmarked for improvements by the State of Illinois
- The Board of Directors will follow up with elected officials to determine the next steps needed to increase the likelihood of securing this funding.

• Murals

- OIPA will begin the process of returning the Blue Line mural on the East and west sides of Pulaski back to the city. This mural is in dire need of repair, and the location has proved inhospitable for a mural. Given the location, we will work with GIPNA and the Villa Improvement League to craft a letter to the 30th and 45th Ward offices.

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, September 5:** OIPA Board Meeting
- **Monday, September 11:** OIPA General Meeting,

Welcome back with wine and cheese. Board of Directors officer elections will be held.

- **Monday, October 2:** OIPA Board Meeting
- **Monday, October 9:** OIPA General Meeting, Northwestern Medicine has been invited to present their new specialty facility in OIP

Meeting ended at 8:27 p.m.

OIPA Board Candidate Statements

OIPA officer elections will take place at our September General Meeting. The candidates are:

Michael Cannon | *President*

My family and I have been in the neighborhood for ten years, and having been on the Board for the last couple of years has introduced me to many of our neighbors and given me a chance to understand issues better and help address concerns in service of the larger community in Old Irving Park. With Mrs. Chan stepping down as President after four years, I'm pleased to offer myself as a candidate to fill that role.



NEIGHBORS SENDING NEIGHBORS A LITTLE SHOUT OUT FOR ACTS OF KINDNESS

Join the movement!

Help us recognize good neighbors and community contributors. Do you have a neighbor who helped with virtual schooling or a kid who donated lemonade stand money? What about the person who went out of their way to pick up groceries, shovel an extra driveway or volunteered to help with others' derecho cleanup? If a resident's actions—big or small—made you take a step back and think "wow, that was kind of them," we want to help you give them a big high five. Send your acknowledgment to Hello@oldirvingpark.com. If you have a photo of the honoree, please include it.



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Scott Legan | *Vice President*

Wow, almost eight years on the Board of OIPA! Before I joined OIPA, I could not tell you what a State Senator, Cook County Commissioner, or Alderman was, much less what they do. But while working with OIPA, I learned about our great community and who is there to help us improve it. I am most proud of the neighborhood's continued growth and improvement in my time as the Vice President. It is a role that I hope I can continue to ensure that we keep moving forward.

Nicholas Plagman-Frank | *Secretary*

Since June 2022, I have been serving as the OIPA Board Secretary, stepping into some big shoes of those who have come before. I have learned a lot from our

community during my nearly two years on the Board and am honored to be a part of continuing to nourish what makes Old Irving Park special. I look forward to the opportunity to serve this community with a full two-year term as Secretary.

Lynn Ankney | *Treasurer*

I have served as OIPA Treasurer for the past five years and I am pleased to continue in this role, using my finance and accounting background. I found my niche on the OIPA Board, previously serving as Director, Vice President, and President.

That's not to say I am looking to make this a lifetime role. We welcome other OIP residents to join our Board and put each of us out of our positions!

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September Anniversaries

Cynthia & Dan Andrews
Dorothy & James Barrett
Megan Beseth & Andy Greene
Cecile & Robert Bloomfield
Sandra & Steve Broderick
Kevin Cisner & Terrie Carpenter
Steven Clay & Mary Kate Miller
Stephanie Cutter & Jordan Mummer
Lis & Blake Dankovich
Kristin Duerwerth & Mario Arevalo
Maureen Durkin & Matthew Kamykowski
Elaine Euler & Rob Buckley
Brian Finlay & James Mastro
Debby & Kurt Fries
Kate Geisler & Garrett Harabedian
Gail & Frank Gogliotti
Vishal Gupta & Neha Sakhuja
Katherine Heinrich & John Doyle
Wade & Mai Phuong Johnston
Kristin & Andrew Jukes
Kempt Barbershop
Janine Klich & Gregory Jensen

Katrina Kopps Rigali & Chuck Rigali
Ronnie Kuller & Patrick Murray
Victor Lewis & Martha Howe
Renee & Jeff Linnemeyer
Christine & Olivier Lopez
Helen & Brad McDowell
Amy Meadows & Tom Camell
Maureen & Jonathan Miller
Allison & Mete Mutlu
Kerry & Matthew O'Brien
Gina Oderda & Patrick Cicere
Jerry & Caitlin Rinard
Craig & Mary Kay Shutt
Tom Starck & Alexia Kulwicz
Christine & Joseph Stypka
Karen Wehrle & Scott Tomlin
Joy Westendorf & Morgan Foster
Julie Whittington-Cirton & Shawn Cirton
Jacob Wilkoff & Margaret Jahn
Sara & Mark Yoest
Melanie & Rodney Zech



SEPTEMBER KID BIRTHDAYS

Leo Arvanitakis
Louis Calloway
Amanda Gomez
Claire Horeis
Avery Linnemeyer
Elise Lopez
Frances Mason
William John Mason
Adam O'Mara
Cassius Ryan
Sophia Unzueta
Quinn Wilke
Nathan Wolf
Young: Silas

PET BIRTHDAYS

Gus and Benny, cats in
the Reagan 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.

September Birthdays

John Adamski
 Heidi Aguilar
 Erika Anguiano
 Laura Baginski
 Blake Batterson
 Steve Bauman
 Bob Becksted
 Stacey Blaha
 Tom Brandt
 Steve Broderick
 Tom Camell
 Michelle Clark

Diana Clegg
 Randall Coe
 John Doyle
 Kristin Duewerth
 Jean Faris
 Jorge Garcia
 Tim Healy
 Gina Iliopoulos
 David Jones
 Kristin Jukes
 Pete Jurgeleit
 John Kan

Tracy Kennedy
 Michael Kharouta
 Shane Knox
 Katrina Kopps Rigali
 Nora Kotradi-Henschel
 Kristyn Krzyzaniak
 Kathryn Leshner
 Nicole Leshinsky
 Judy Maas
 Tobi Mattingly
 Jonathan McElroy
 James Nenaber

Jack Neurauter
 Meredith O'Sullivan
 Pagasa Ochoco
 Brian Pearson
 Robert Quezada
 Marian Roche
 Mike Roche
 Jessica Rueda
 Reetu Sanders
 Dana Sarros
 Kiki Schotanus
 Katy Steele

Midge Stocker
 Annie Swingen
 Roger Tye
 Cathie Van Wert
 Emily Wachowiak
 Sara Wilke

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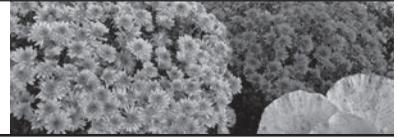
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OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY



Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



Single Family

4027 N. Tripp \$355,000
 4133 N. Kenneth \$935,000



2-4 Units

None



Attached Single Family

4235 N. Kedvale, 3B \$165,000
 4215 N. Kedvale, 6N \$165,000
 4215 N. Kedvale, 1L \$169,900
 4130 N. Kedvale, 307 \$174,000
 4235 N. Keeler, 2D \$180,000
 4135 N. Kedvale, 302 \$375,000
 4150 W. Cullom \$675,000



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Gardening with Native Plants

— Claudia Hine

Fall is a great time to plant perennials that can be enjoyed for years to come. A trip to any nursery will present rows of beautiful flowers and shrubs to capture our attention. But before we buy that bright shiny object tempting us, we should be thinking about what bright shiny object will tempt those beneficial insects our gardens need to restore wildlife habitat.

To help us make the best choices, the Irving Park Garden Club has invited **Angela Bowman**, Bowman Gardens, to speak to our group in September. Angela will present "Gardening with Native Plants" on Thursday, September 21. Her talk will cover the benefits of native plants in urban environments.

Angela Bowman, Bowman Gardens, will present "Gardening with Native Plants" at the Irving Park Garden Club's September meeting. *Photo courtesy Angela Bowman.*



Bowman Gardens offers ecological garden design to restore wildlife habitat and regenerate essential ecological processes.

This meeting will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., at 7 p.m. Irving Park Garden Club meetings are for members only. Contact us at irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com for more information on joining.



2023 Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 21
- Saturday, October 21
- Thursday, November 30

We invite you to follow us on [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub).

Club members enjoying the hospitality during the Midsummer Night's Stroll in July, hosted by Karen & Barry Bebart and Eileen Cole & Maire Dempsey.

Photos by Claudia Hine.



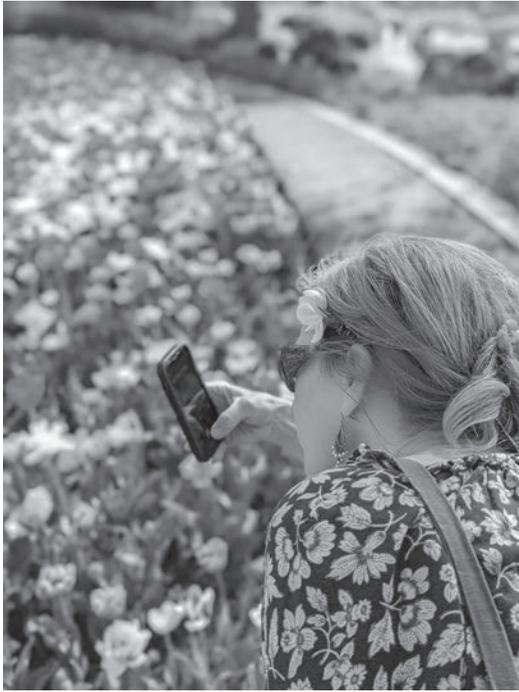


Photo Tips & Tricks

In August, IPGC had a hands-on meeting to help members take better pictures with the cameras in their phones. **Ed Caplan**, Keeler Gardens, presented "Mobile Photography in Your Garden," sharing tips and tricks on how to get the best shots.

As the cameras in mobile phones have gotten better and better, Ed gave our amateur photographers useful advice on capturing the beautiful plants, flowers, and insects in their yards using the camera's grid and the rule of thirds among other guidelines.

This hands-on session was preceded by another one. **Mike Basile** led the efforts of several members during a cleanup at the Tripp Garden, where participants pulled weeds, deadheaded spent flowers, and picked up litter. Be sure to check out this community garden across the street from Eris Brewery.

IPGC's August class in mobile photography, taught by Ed Caplan, Keeler Gardens, gives attendees a hands-on learning experience. *Photo by Ed Caplan.*



RECIPES FROM THE BOARD & MEMBERS



Spicy Salmon with Jalapeno & Lime

Submitted by Merry Marwig

Resource: www.slenderkitchen.com/recipe/ginger-chili-and-lime-salmon

Ingredients

- 1.33 lbs coho salmon, skin removed
- 2 limes (juice only)
- 4 tsp ginger, minced
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and minced (to taste)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Instructions

1. Combine the lime juice, ginger, jalapeno, garlic, and olive oil. Spread over the salmon and let marinate for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
3. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with cooking spray. Place the salmon on the baking sheet, pouring marinade over top, and bake for 10-12 minutes until cooked through. To brown the top, broil for 2-3 minutes at the end of cooking.



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FROM THE COLUMN

'A Peek at the Past—Vignettes of Irving Park Long Ago'

by William H. Tyre

Reprinted with permission from the February 1988 issue of the IPHS quarterly newsletter, *The Irving Park Review*

When we look back through history, even as recent as 100 years ago, and we think of the movers and shakers of the time, we usually think of men—politicians, military leaders, doctors, lawyers, or real estate developers—this is primarily the truth. But even when women were considered solely mothers and homemakers, a few were already breaking away and establishing themselves as leaders. At the local level, things were starting to happen. After their husbands would board the North Western train in the morning to go to work, the women of Irving Park were not content to stay home and tend to the household chores. Fortunately, many of these families were well-off to have servants handle many of those chores. Visiting friends and planning dinner parties was not enough. These women wanted to make a difference.

Five women of culture and strong character

In March 1888, "five women of culture and strong character who felt a persistent desire for higher education and progress" met the purpose of forming a club to achieve these goals. These women were **Mrs. Ella Coyle, Mrs. Jessie Cook, Mrs. Nellie MacBurney, Mrs. Emily Toles, and Mrs. Virginia Palmer.** The meeting at Mrs. Coyle's house (4056 N. Keeler) was very successful, and a set of by-laws were drawn up, printed, and bound. During their first months, the ladies referred to their new Club as the 'Historical

Society.' The men in the community found it hard to take these women and their goals seriously and began referring to the group as the 'Hysterical Society.' In response, the name 'Women's Literary Club of Irving Park' was adopted and is considered the true first name. A study of American government, literature, and society was undertaken during the first three years, followed by a one-year study of the English equivalents. By 1892, the Club had grown so large that the meetings were moved to the banquet room of the Irving Club, then located at 4019 N. Keeler.

In May 1890, the Club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, giving greater scope to their work and ties with sister clubs in surrounding neighborhoods and suburbs. The terra cotta and blue colors were

Mrs. P. W. Coyle,
undated, Irving Park
Presbyterian Church
Collection, IPHS
Archives.
*Photo provided by the
Irving Park Historical
Society.*





IPWC theatrical group: Scene from an IPWC play performed in the Labagh home at 4222 N. Kedvale, 1890s, George Waterstraat Collection, IPHS Archives. *Photo provided by the Irving Park Historical Society.*

adopted as the official Club colors, and a rising sun pin was designed. In January 1895, the Club joined the Illinois Federation and adopted its official name, 'Irving Park Woman's Club'; the official Club colors changed permanently to green and white, and the white carnation was chosen as the official flower for all decorations and funeral bouquets.

Among the Irving Park Historical Society (IPHS) Archives is a preserved copy of the Club's 1895-96 Yearbook, donated in the late 1890s by a longtime Irving Park neighbor, **Dorothy Proudfoot Light**. The book, which originally belonged to her grandmother, **Mrs. Nellie Gager**, provides a valuable look at the Club's activities in its earliest years. At that time, membership numbered 60, with 15 associate or honorary members. A glance at the Constitution reveals how serious the Club considered its work. Meetings were held twice monthly from October 1 to June 1. Officers included the President, Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and Treasurer, with a seven-member Board of Directors and a seven-member Executive Committee. Membership was unlimited and open to "any lady whose name has been presented in writing at any meeting and vouched for by three members. Dues were established at the commencement of each year,



and any member failing to pay them after two weeks notice forfeited membership; attendance at every meeting was expected unless prevented by illness (for which excuse must be presented to the Treasure at the next meeting), with a fine of ten cents imposed for any absence otherwise. Any member absent for three consecutive meetings without excuse would be expected to forfeit Club membership.

The Irving Park Woman's Club formed in 1888 with an agenda of cultural and reform activities.

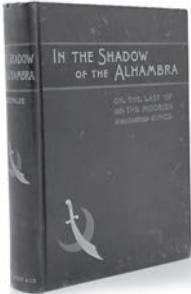
The Literary Department programs involved studying different countries; papers and talks prepared by the members covered topography, music, religion, art, architecture, and social structure and included appropriate readings and music. Occasionally, a meeting might center around a topic of the day,

Continued on page 20



FROM THE COLUMN 'A Peek at the Past—Vignettes of Irving Park Long Ago'

by William H. Tyre in the February 1988 issue of the IPHS quarterly newsletter, The Irving Park Review



such as the rights and duties of millionaires/wage earners; can suffrage for women solve the liquor problem?; the advances of mechanical appliances in connection with modern housekeeping; and racial diversity. Art centered programs focused on a variety of topics such as the art of the Moors. A study of the Moors

history, art, architecture and a reading of the famous historical romance "In The Shadow of the Alhambra: Or, The Last of the Moorish Kings" written in 1893 by W. M. Greenlee. The General Meetings, held four times a year, covered topics like "The ideal woman of the next century: what will she be?" to which each member responded to the roll call by reading a two-minute written response.

Civic engagement

Many IPWC members distinguished themselves throughout the years: **Miss Florence Scully** worked with delinquent and mentally deficient children, teaching at the Parental School and Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium and establishing a jail school at the Juvenile Court. **Mrs. Nellie Gager** was one of her closest friends, and she collaborated with her on these projects and shared the Civic Committee with the most famous Club member, **Mrs. Ella Labagh**. In 1901, Ella was returning from a downtown shopping trip and saw crews of men cutting down vast tracts of trees along the Chicago River to use as firewood in the nearby brickyard kilns. She took her husband Reginald along and spent much of the following year riding bicycles through the wooded areas on the city's

northwest side, photographing the sites and creating lantern slides to promote their cause of preserving unspoiled wooded regions for future generations. Ella, chairman of the Civic Committee, rallied the women of the Club, and after a successful meeting in 1903, the county commissioners became convinced of this issue's importance. As a direct result of Ella Labagh's work, the Cook County Forest Preserve District was created in 1915.

From 1901 through 1941, a Junior Club was formed for girls aged 13–18, only the second Junior Club in Illinois to be affiliated with a woman's club. In 1928, the Evening Auxiliary was organized to benefit women attending college or working during the day. The first meeting saw 97 women present; regular meetings were held at the Independence Park Women's Administration Building. The Club held frequent fundraisers to aid local charities.

After the Irving Club banquet hall, the IPWC's home after 1911 was the newly completed Myrtle Masonic Temple. From 1920–1926, they met at the Odd Fellows Hall on Irving Park Road, then resumed meeting at the Temple. In 1926 they considered locating to a new clubhouse on the former site of the old Linwood Hall (4165 W. Byron) or at a property on Keeler Avenue that might be remodeled; no action was taken on either proposal. In April 1927, a committee was formed to look into the possibility of purchasing the site of the old Coyle house at the southwest corner of Keeler and Belle Plaine. However, before anything definite could be approved, the Depression hit, and the building fund was spent. The plan died in the 1950s when the city condemned the land for use in building the Kennedy Expressway.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Historical Society

Because the Club was originally founded as a literary society, it's no surprise that keen interest in books had been maintained. As early as 1901, each member was requested to donate one book or magazine to form the nucleus of a circulating library, a custom that continued for the next forty years. In 1909, Mrs. Labagh and Mrs. Yeakle visited with librarian Henry Legler to discuss establishing a branch library in Irving Park. This group then met with the Federated Men's Club of Irving Park and formed a permanent committee. In 1911, the Club established the first local branch library at what was then Fox Drug Store at 4200 W. Irving Park Road.

Another of the Club's efforts was managing the lunchroom at the new Schurz High School. They prepared food in members' homes and brought it to the school kitchen on the third floor. **Mrs. W. H. Wallis**, manager of the program, directed a large corps of IPWC members serving at the steam table, sandwich, candy, and ice cream counters; a manager and cashier had charge of all lunchroom business, and five-day chairpersons were given the duty of appointing a committee of twenty women to serve three hours a week—and no member was paid for their service. Monies generated by the lunchroom were used to supply carfare and food for needy students or shoes and clothing for them. In 1924, the money was used to buy a hospital bed in the girls' restroom for first aid use. By the time the Board of Education purchased the IPWC interest in the lunchroom. It had become an enormous business requiring a paid staff equal to most large downtown restaurants.

The IPWC was active in the war efforts across both World Wars. They assisted at the local Red Cross center on Avondale, knitted and sewed and raised money, set up Victory Gardens, sponsored stamp and bond drives, hosted USO and Sunday breakfasts. Three members, **Mrs. Harwood, Mrs. Kellerman, and**

Mrs. Meyer, received cards of commendation for serving over 2,000 hours of service. Over the years, the Club continued to grow, numbering in the several hundred and accomplishing much through its active departments and enthusiastic members. Through art appreciation, musical expression, and philanthropy; through education and international relations; through public health and gardening and conservation and civic duties; and through activities that reflected the times and needs of fellow human beings -- the Irving Park Woman's Club served the community for well over 100 years. No other group anywhere in the history of Old Irving Park consistently and sincerely dedicated themselves on so many levels to the help and advancement of others as this group.



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The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

New Student Center at Belding

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Belding Parent Group, students now have a new student center to meet, work, read, or relax. The room has a library of books for all grade levels, meeting spaces, and even a sensory area.

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

Principal Durkin or Assistant Principal Cortes set aside one morning each month to give tours to interested parents. Tours are geared toward adults, so if children are present, please ensure they can safely and quietly attend the tour. Tours begin at 8 a.m. in the main office. There is no need to RSVP; please just come! Please arrive by 7:55 a.m. and check in with security. Upcoming tour dates include September 12 and October 10. The tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school and the Belding community! You can also check out the Belding website, www.beldingelementary.com, for more information.



Belding's new student center

Photo provided by Belding School.



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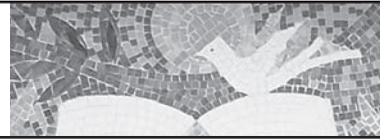
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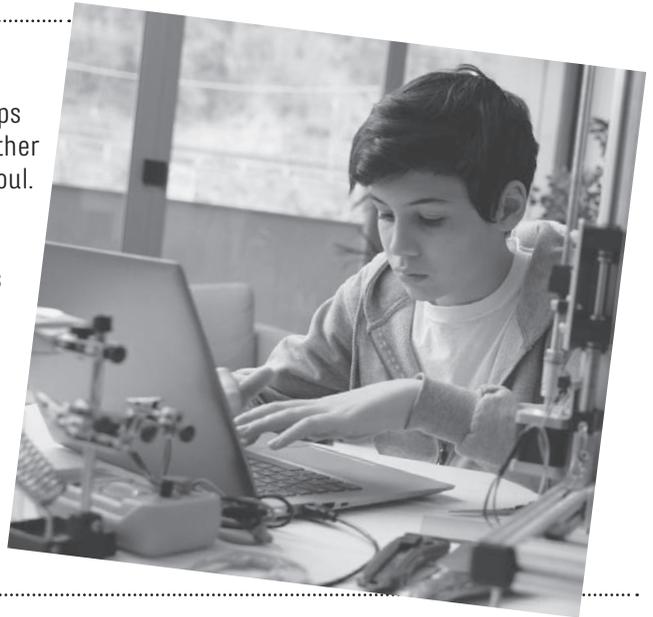
Viator Vibrations — Sara Yoest

Track Team Preps for the Year

The St. Viator Cross Country team started practice on August 14. Our co-ed team, consisting of 5th–8th-grade runners, will have their first meet on Saturday, September 9, at the DePaul Prep Ram Invitational at Horner Park. Let's Go, Eagles!

STEM at St. Viator

St. Viator is proud to have established partnerships with many local and national institutions to further our mission of developing the mind, body, and soul. For the second year, we're pleased to offer our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students coding classes through a partnership with Capital One Coders. Technologists at Capital One will introduce students to two coding languages used frequently in web development. Students will use the skills they've learned to create their websites at the end of this weekly program, offered in the Fall of 2023 and Spring of 2024. This hands-on experience, learning software development, and problem-solving is so valuable in today's world!



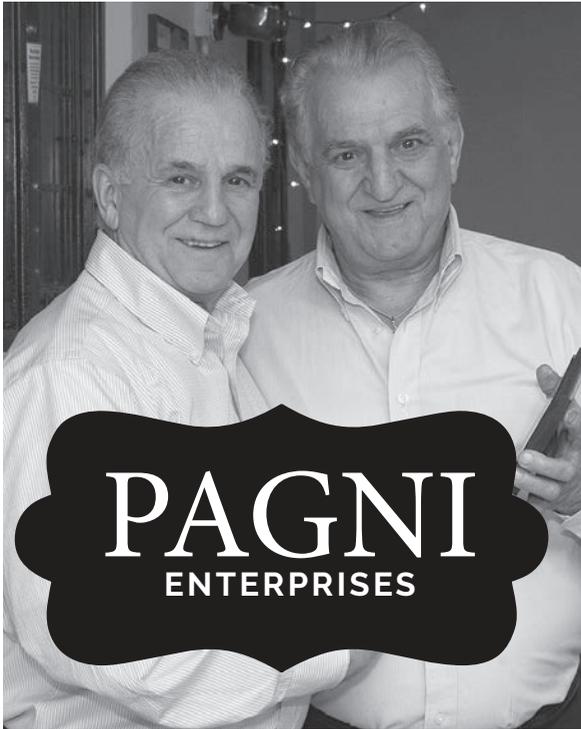
Registration

Are you still considering preschool or elementary school options for the 2023-24 school year? Limited seats are available in select classrooms. Please get in touch with Diane in the school office at duργο@stviatorchicago.org or call 773-545-2173 with questions regarding admission or to schedule a private in-person tour.

Follow us on Facebook for upcoming Open House dates!

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 2023-24 school year admissions.

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



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Contribute to the *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 32 for full details.



After-school Magic — Liz Mills, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

MAP is enrolling students for the 2023-2024 school year. The Magic After-School Place (MAP) serves children in kindergarten through 8th grade at Belding School. We focus on homework completion and activities designed to encourage socialization and fun! Weekly enrichments include art instruction, cooking, science, and crafts. With a sliding scale tuition structure based on income, MAP is a valuable partner for working families of all income levels who need a safe place for their children to go after school. The program meets in the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at Harding & Belle Plaine. Registration information is available at carlsoncommunityservices.org/programs/magic-after-school-place/registration-and-tuition.

Contact Rebecca at mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org for more details.



The Magic After-School Place (MAP) is in its 17th year of providing Belding School students with safe and enriching after-school care. *Photo by Rebecca Haneberg.*



Three Brothers Garden News

Our Garden Coordinator, **Ruth Bouman**, wrapped up the season in mid-August to return to college. Thanks for your excellent work, Ruth! As of mid-August, we've harvested herbs, beets, lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, squash, and radishes for the Irving Park Food Pantry. We'll harvest in the garden every Tuesday through October from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 4107 N. Pulaski, next to the Irving Park Lutheran Park parking lot. Please join us!

Got Extra Produce? Donate It!

If you've got surplus veggies from your home garden, we'll add them to our delivery to the Food Pantry. Bring your extras to the garden on Tuesdays before 6 p.m. Produce donations can be placed on the table under the pergola. If you'd like to be added to our email notices, send your contact info to lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

James and Naomi provide kid power at Three Brothers Garden. *Photo by Liz Mills.*



Carlson Community Services Annual Golf Outing September 15



Join us for Carlson's 2023 Golf Outing

Have fun at our annual golf outing and support Carlson Community Services' after-school program, community garden, and free concert series. The event is slated for Friday, September 15, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Edgebrook Golf Course, 6100 N. Central Avenue in Chicago. Golfers will enjoy the picturesque setting of the golf course, set among the Forest Preserve's mature trees and the meandering Chicago River.

Tee times begin at 11:30 a.m. The day wraps up with a light dinner and drinks on the grounds. Entry is \$125, including 18 holes of golf with a cart, dinner, drinks, and prizes. Plus, the opportunity to win great raffle prizes! Carlson's Golf Outing is a great way to support neighborhood programs while having a blast with friends!

Fee: Individual golfers is \$125; Foursome is \$500.

Sponsorship: Purchase a hole sponsorship for just \$100 per hole!

Visit carlsoncommunityservices.org/event for information on how to register.

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!



Pantry Coat Drive Begins in October

The Irving Park Food Pantry will run its annual coat drive in October and November and is asking for donations of **new or gently used winter coats** now so we can be ready to help our clients and their families in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes prepare for the cold weather.

We know it's early (and warm) to be thinking about winter coats, but there are sales underway at stores now and kids may have outgrown last year's coats and will need new ones later. Checking and donating now will be a big help to ensure we start the drive strong!

Coats will be given out starting Tuesday, October 10 (6 to 7 p.m.) and continue every Wednesday (9 a.m. to noon) through November 8.

We also are accepting hats, scarves, mittens and other cold-weather gear. Please **do not** donate sweaters, sweatshirts, boots or other clothing.



The Pantry has begun collecting coats for its annual coat drive in October. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Donations (coats, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens) can be taken to:

- **Big Helpers store**,
4184 N. Elston Ave.
(10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).
- **Compass Real Estate**,
2044 W Roscoe St, Chicago, IL 60618
- **Disney II Magnet School**,
3815 N. Kedvale Ave.
(Inside Main Entrance, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.)
- **Disney II Magnet High School**,
3900 Lawndale Ave.
(Inside Main Entrance, 8:45 a.m.–3:45 p.m.)
- **Distinct Bath & Body**,
4046 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60641
- **Irish American Heritage Center**,
4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630
- **Irving Park YMCA**,
4251 W Irving Park Rd. (Drop box in lobby)
- **Jet's Pizza**,
3951 N. Kimball Ave.,
(Drop box in waiting area)
- **J.T.'s Genuine Sandwich Shop**,
3970 N. Elston Ave. (Closed Mondays)
- **Old Irving Brewing Company**,
4419 W Montrose Ave. (Noon to 10 p.m.)
- **Front Porch** at 4731 Kiona Ave. (Anytime)
- **Other drop-off points will be announced** on our social media. If you have a large donation or want to run a drive to gather coats, please email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org for suggestions or to arrange delivery.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



Publicity & Special Events Coordinator Craig Shutt takes delivery of 50 packs of school supplies from Sara S., Peter O. and Paul T. from Elim Christian Services, a charitable group that offers education and services to children and adults with disabilities. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Dr. David Nayak and Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis talk about the donation of 800 pounds of corn from Nayak Farms. *Photo courtesy Nayak Farms.*

Thank You for Your Ongoing Support

- Thank you to our good friends at **Three Brothers Garden** and garden coordinator **Ruth Bouman**, for providing us with fresh vegetables all summer long. Each Wednesday morning Ruth brings what volunteers harvested the previous night to give out clients the freshest food possible. The garden is a partnership between **Carlson Community Services and Irving Park Lutheran Church**.
- Thank you to **Dr. David Nayak, founder and Maggie O'Keefe, executive director, of Nayak Farms** in Gardner, Illinois, for donating 800 pounds of freshly harvested corn. Nayak Farms donates produce to other local pantries, including Common Pantry, Nourishing Hope, and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.
- Thank you to **Elim Christian Services** in Crestwood, Illinois, which donated 50 packs of school supplies to our drive in August.
- Thank you to the **Irish American Heritage Center**, which ran a large drive for new migrants and gave us the remaining toiletries that had been donated.



Dispatcher Meredith O'Sullivan and her son Seamus deliver boxes of crackers to Bob Christensen at the Pantry's Dairy & Snack station. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*

Thank you for all your support in helping us meet 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.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

September

- 11 **OIPA September General Meeting** | 7 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Welcome back with wine and cheese. Board of Directors officer elections will be held.
- 14 **Medicare 101 hosted by the YMCA**, Get help on navigating Medicare | 6–8 p.m. | Irving Park YMCA, 4251 West Irving Park Road, 773-777-7500 | **Registration Required, Call 773-777-7500** | presented by Grace Kwon, Independent Insurance Broker.
- 17 **St. John's Episcopal Church** | Join us on Sunday, September 17 to learn about the fascinating history of the Bronzeville neighborhood with historian Sherman "Dilla" Thomas. The bus will pick us up at 11:30 a.m. from St. John's and the two hour tour begins when we arrive in Bronzeville. Tickets are \$45. Email info@stjohnschicago.com for more information.
- 21 **Irving Park Garden Club** | Gardening With Native Plants | Speaker: Angela Bowman, Bowman Gardens | 7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members only; contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com to join.

October

- 7 **Medicare 101 hosted by the YMCA**, Get help on navigating Medicare | 1–3 p.m. | Irving Park YMCA, 4251 West Irving Park Road, 773-777-7500 | **Registration Required, Call 773-777-7500** | presented by Grace Kwon, Independent Insurance Broker.
- 9 **OIPA October General Meeting** | 7 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Northwestern Medicine has been invited to present their new specialty facility in OIP.

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

2023–2024 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 August 1 will be applied to the following year membership.

Membership Level (per household)	In area DUES	Out of area DUES*	Benefits
Standard	\$35	\$50	Monthly meetings, newsletter delivery, member/spouse and anniversary published in newsletter, ice cream social event, holiday event
Senior (Age 65+)	\$20	\$45	Same as Standard membership
Good Neighbor	\$95	\$120	Standard + kid/pet birthdays in newsletter and OIPA tote bag
Neighborhood All-Star	\$195	\$220	Good Neighbor + admission for two to an exclusive OIPA cocktail party

* Dues + postage for mailed newsletter

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.	* Early due to holidays	
Publication Month	Advertising	General
October	9/5	9/7
November	10/3	10/5
December*	10/31*	11/2

SEPTEMBER JOKES

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

Q: How do you throw a party in outer space?

A: You planet.

Q: Where do boats go when they're sick?

A: To the dock.

Q: Which state has the most streets?

A: Rhode Island.

Q: Why are elevator jokes so classic and good?

A: They work on many levels.

Q: Why are fish so smart?

A: They live in schools!

Q: What type of tree fits in your hand?

A: A palm tree.

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