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NEWS



NOVEMBER

VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 9 | 2023

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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 37 ✨ Issue 9 ✨ November 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 provided by Disney II Magnet School. Read about their 2nd Annual Disney II Friends Fun Run on page 26.

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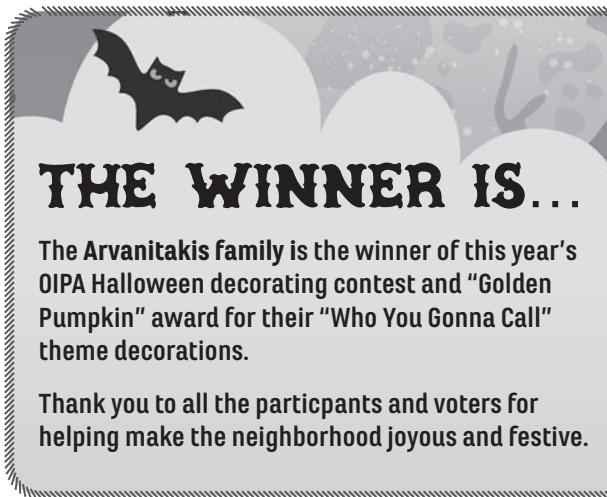
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Greetings from The Board!

— Michael Cannon, OIPA President

I am writing my first Board Message as President of the Old Irving Park Association, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to follow Adrienne Chan—who so capably filled the role for the last four years. It is a busy time in the neighborhood, with the imminent opening of the Northwestern Medical facility at Irving Park and Kenneth and the near completion of the apartments at the Sears building at Six Corners. We are seeing some long-awaited economic development, and we expect the next year to bring more positive change to the neighborhood. The Board continues in its outreach to alderpersons and other federal, state, and local government representatives as advocates for our members and the larger community and in our outreach to other community organizations that share our mission and goals. As always, we appreciate your feedback and welcome your thoughts and concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us (Hello@oldirvingpark.com).



THE WINNER IS...

The Arvanitakis family is the winner of this year's OIPA Halloween decorating contest and "Golden Pumpkin" award for their "Who You Gonna Call" theme decorations.

Thank you to all the participants and voters for helping make the neighborhood joyous and festive.





Medicare 101 and Updates for 2024

Whether you're new to Medicare or want to explore your options, this event is for you!

Gain essential knowledge and get your questions answered.

Bring a friend or two!

During the Fall we will also have "table top" days where you can also learn more.

These will be at the Irving Park YMCA from 10am-noon on: 11/13 and 11/27.



Grace Kwon

Independent licensed broker specializing in Medicare and long time YMCA member.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 2 & 9, 2023

– Submitted by Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer

Due to scheduling conflicts this month, the Board conducted two abbreviated meetings to strategize future Board workflow and time-sensitive business.

Monday, October 2 – via Zoom

Attendees: Michael Cannon, Adrienne Chan, Scott Legan, Nick Plagman-Frank, and Lynn Ankney

Given our new season of meetings (Board of Directors and general) and a new OIPA Officer lineup (with Michael Cannon assuming the role of President), we discussed roles and responsibilities across the Officer group (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer), including ongoing/official communication with elected officials and establishing and maintaining working relationships with neighboring civic associations. Focusing internally, we talked about making our Board meetings more streamlined by organizing our agendas and updates into executive/committee updates.

More immediately, we discussed logistics for our scheduled general meeting the following Monday, (October 9) and brainstorming possible speakers for the meeting on Monday, November 13.

Monday, October 9 – following the General Meeting

Attendees: Michael Cannon, Adrienne Chan, Scott Legan, Lynn Ankney, Annie Swingen, Meredith O’Sullivan, and Dan William

Standing in a circle in the St. John’s Episcopal basement while straggling general meeting attendees

socialized, our incomplete Board handled some time-sensitive business.

November Message from the Board: Michael will take the opportunity to (re)introduce himself to our membership as he assumes his new role as OIPA President.

Halloween/Winter Decorating Contests Winners: Director Merry Marwig has a sign design for both holiday decorating contests, each costing \$39.99. Rather than having the yard signs fabricated or ordering year-specific stickers for said signs, the Board will opt to have each sign printed on card stock (without a year designation) so that each winner could display the sign in a window if desired.

OIPA Board Involvement with IPR Infrastructure Improvements: As previously reported, Illinois State Senator Martwick and State Representative LaPointe have secured funding (\$700–\$900k) specific to the Irving Park Road/Keeler/Avondale intersection. Quarterly meetings involving Martwick, LaPointe, and Illinois Department of Transportation are beginning this Thursday, October 13 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. OIPA Director Dan William will attend these meetings and represent OIPA. (Representative LaPointe was conveniently in the church during our meeting and we pulled her over to confirm Dan’s availability and desire to be included).

OIPA Holiday Party: Director Colleen Kenny will organize this event to be held at La Villa’s La Strada on either Sunday, December 10 or (second choice) Sunday,

Continued on page 6

Join Us This Fall at St. John's

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



Worship Schedule

Sunday worship is at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., in person or online.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Worship with a meditative feel, with generous time for silence.

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Worship and music with choir and congregation that is lively, designed for the participation of children.

Children are welcome!

Children are welcome at all services and nursery care is available from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Information

Join online via Zoom (Meeting ID: 882 2966 1337, Password: 3857) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/stjohnschicago).

Whichever service you choose, you will find welcome and community.



Sunday School

Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for children from three years to fifth grade.

Youth Group

Meets two Sundays a month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for youth in grades six through twelve.

You do not need to be a member of the church to attend Sunday School. To register please email info@stjohnschicago.com or call 773.725.9026.

Sacraments

Communion is open to all. Besides baptism we offer healing, reconciliation, confirmation, and marriage. For more information please visit www.stjohnschicago.com or contact the church office.



Thanksgiving Dinner

We hope you will join us for our traditional home-cooked meal served on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The dinner is free and all are welcome to attend.

Thanksgiving food donations and volunteers needed.

If you can donate food or volunteer for food prep, and set-up on Wednesday, November 22, or serving on Thursday, November 23, please contact the church at info@stjohnschicago.com.

Monetary donations are also welcome by cash, check (made out to St. John's Episcopal Church) or Zelle to treasurer@stjohnschicago.com.



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on October 2 & 9, 2023, *continued from page 6*

December 3. The OIPA Parents Committee is planning a hot chocolate and holiday light stroll for the early evening of December 10, but we feel these (potential) two events will draw different demographics from our membership. Also of note: the Bears play at noon on December 10.

Meeting with Alderman Samantha Nugent (39th):

Adrienne Chan will follow up with Nugent's office to schedule our "get to know you" meeting, preferably sometime at 4:30 p.m. or later on a weekday in the coming weeks. Old Irving Park Association.

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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](mailto>Hello@oldirvingpark.com). If you have a photo of the honoree, please include it.



OLD IRVING PARK ASSOCIATION

Holiday Party

**Join Us for the
Old Irving Park Association
Annual Member
Holiday Party**

Sunday, December 3 | 5–8 p.m.

**La Villa Restaurant • La Strada
3638 North Pulaski Road**

OIPA will treat members to pizza, sides,
and soft drinks. Cash bar available.

RSVP

Space will be limited to the first
80 OIPA members to RSVP.

Please RSVP to our form at
<https://forms.gle/XF2UmTzN9exXgMKk9>
or use the QR code below.

Include the number of people attending—adults,
kids (ages 6–12), and wee ones (5 and under).





Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on October 9, 2023, 7 p.m.

– Submitted by Annie Swingen, Board Member

The meeting started at 7:04 p.m. The October OIPA meeting was the first chaired by newly-elected board president **Michael Cannon**. With standing-room-only, it seems Michael is a big draw—or perhaps it was the various presentations lined up for the night. Regardless, Michael received a warm welcome and first introduced **State Representative Lindsey LaPointe** (District 19).

With our redistricting, Ms. LaPointe communicated that she is the state representative for all of Old Irving Park. With staff and volunteers fluent in English, Spanish, and Polish, LaPointe emphasized her office's role as one focused on constituent services from hyper-local to state levels.

The district office, located at 4349 N. Milwaukee, is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday. Constituents are encouraged to call the office at (773) 647-1174 or email Ms. LaPointe at info@replapointe.com with any questions, concerns, or feedback.

Next up on the OIPA October general meeting agenda was a presentation by Schurz High School principal Dr. Heidi Moran and Dee Barrett, Community Outreach Coordinator and fellow OIP neighbor.

Schurz continues to work to build not only community within its walls (e.g., an active student council and student voice committee) but is focused on creating a greater-Schurz family, which includes neighbors and businesses within Old Irving Park's boundaries. School administrators and teachers are encouraging

students to connect with the neighborhood, and the kids themselves are seeking to cultivate relationships outside of Schurz. From community service projects like last year's (and last month's) hugely successful toiletry drive, which delivered much-needed hygiene items to the Irving Park Food Pantry for distribution, to job shadowing, these kids are rolling up their sleeves.

How can you join the Schurz community?

- If you own a business, reach out to Dee (email below) to see how you can coordinate job-shadowing days.
- Students are always looking to learn about the professional world! Contact the school to volunteer a few hours of your time to talk about what YOU do for a job.
- Visit Schurz's website (www.schurzhs.org) to learn more about their various programs including International Baccalaureate, Career and Technical Education, Dual-Language and Cluster.
- Sign up for Friends of Schurz's mailing list for updates on fundraisers (e.g., fun runs), activities (e.g., yoga for everyone, and neighborhood-wide activities (e.g., Movies on the Lawn, Makers Fairs, etc.) www.friendsofschurz.org

CONTACTS:

- Dr. Heidi Moran: hgmoran@cps.edu
- Ms. Dee Barrett: dibarrett@cps.edu
- Schurz Main Office: (773) 534-3420

Continued on page 10



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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on October 9, 2023,

continued from page 10

Northwestern Health's team presented next.

Speakers:

- Sarah Burke, Director, Community Affairs at Northwestern Medicine
- Jesse Meyer, Vice President of Operations at Northwestern Medicine
- Kara Martin, Director of Operations at Northwestern Medicine
- Charlie Cloutier, Director of Planning and Construction at Northwestern Medicine

- Leonardo Vargas, MD, Medical Director at Irving Park, Northwestern Medicine

Visit <https://oip.nm.org/> to review the full slide deck presented by Northwestern Medicine.

Northwestern Medicine Director of Community Affairs Sarah Burke opened the presentation with Northwestern Medicine's mission: Northwestern Medicine is a premier integrated academic health system where the patients come first.

The packed room was then introduced to Dr. Leonardo Vargas, who will serve as the site's Medical Director. In his opening comments, Dr. Vargas emphasized that this facility, via Vargas, has put a premium on community partnerships. Whether sponsorships, shadowing opportunities, or collaborating with neighborhood entities, Northwestern wants to engage with Old Irving Park residents and businesses fully.

Northwestern Medicine Director of Operations Kara Martin outlined clinical services to be provided onsite, including primary (adolescent and older) and specialty care. A full list of services is available at the above-mentioned website. Other services include an immediate care center (including pediatrics), diagnostics lab, optometrists and optical shop, and a full suite of imaging and rehab services - all integrated with Northwestern Medicine's existing systems. No dental services will be provided.

Major insurance carriers, Medicare and Medicaid, will be accepted as a means of payment.

While the facility is slated to open on November 1, services will ramp up as they recruit physicians. As of

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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Rendering by Cannon Design.

November 1, Northwestern Medicine posted 98 clinical and non-clinical positions with 50 hires (employees, clinicians, physicians); 60% of hires reside in the OIP neighborhood. Open job listings are accessible at <https://jobs.nm.org>.

For those looking to schedule appointments, call 844-344-6663 or self-schedule via the MyChart portal accessible via Northwestern’s website, <https://mynm.nm.org/MyChart>, or use the MyChart app available for download from the Apple and Google app stores.

Per the speakers, the facility will offer four floors of parking spaces totaling 350 spots for patients, visitors, and employees. Parking will be free with validation. The speakers feel confident the planned number of spots will accommodate staff and patients and not impede street parking. Ms. Martin agreed to communicate to staff that they are to park in the lot and not on the street. However, neighbors remain concerned about traffic patterns as a whole. The traffic light at Irving and Kilbourn will be operational as of November 1, 2023, coinciding with the opening of the building.

With regard to security:

- Security personnel will be onsite 6:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m. on sight. The garage will be closed and secured during off-hours.
- The lot on Kenneth will be fenced in and secured with Arborvitae and prairie grass around its perimeter. There are no plans as of now to develop it.

Following the conclusion of Northwestern Medicine’s presentation, OIPA board member

Adrienne Chan announced this year’s OIPA “Best Overall” Garden Club winner, Michelle Skoropistsev. Thank you, Michelle, for helping to make OIPA a welcoming and beautiful place to live.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

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OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



November Birthdays

Hakeem Abiodun	Maureen Durkin	T.K. Horeis	Ed Maher	Will Sanders
Sarada Amani	Taya Fallen	Margaret Jahn	Peter Makielski	Brad Schotanus
Ahmet Arsan	Sean Fleming	Therese Jezuit	Mark Malin	Kara Spak
Sruti Balakrishnan	Nicholas Frank	Gudrun Jocis	Ben Mania	Aimee Starck
Rob Buckley	Dan Funkhouser	Janice Jones	Charles Martinez	Joseph Stypka
Michael Cannon	Michael Giese	Jeffrey Kessler	Kerry O'Brien	Florence Tamayo
Jonathan Cernak	Curtis Giszczynski	Robert Kleisch	Margaret O'Donnell	Brad Toth
Adrienne Chan	Carolyn Goldschmidt	Mike Koehler	Katy Pizza (Eris)	Justin Ware
Patrick Cicere	Jose Gomez	Lowell Krischer	Diana Powers	Karen Wehrle
John Coli	Maria Brandao Gomez	Roger Leshinsky	Kerrin Quezada	Peter Wukowitch
Jim Covert	Claudia Hine	Jeff Linnemeyer	Jose Rivera	Matt Young
Meghan Doetschman	Marie Hoffman	Kathy Lucki	Diane Roels	Melanie Zech



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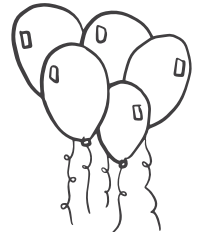
St Edward Catholic School
stedwardchicago.org



NOVEMBER KID BIRTHDAYS



Maren Cicere
Lily Horvath
Griffin Lynch
Michael Bernard Maron III
Wes McDowell
Clark O'Donnell
Seamus O'Sullivan
Sinead O'Sullivan
Rylan Pitts
Sonia Sanders
Alex Wolf



PET BIRTHDAYS

Gus, a pet in the ArvanitaKis family
Apollo the dog in the Pietraszek family



OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

November Anniversaries

Mike & Stacey Blaha
 Heather & Chris Boran
 Virginia & Jonathan Cernak
 Molly Clayton & Dipeshwar Grewal
 Kristin DeHaan Simon & Jason Simon
 Jean & Chris Faris
 David & Laurie Gibson
 Richard & Marie Hoffman
 Bob & Janice Jones

Mary Kane & Nate Tovo
 William Lachman & Gregory Ward
 Debbie & Ed Maher
 Nancy Munsterman & Richard Tetrault
 Randall & Susan Patke
 Sarah & Patrick Ryan
 Erin & Meni Sarris
 Kara Spak & Steve Warmbir

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.



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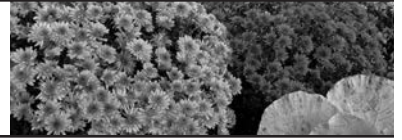


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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



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2-4 Units

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3612 N. Keeler \$635,000
4111 N. Kostner \$776,000



Attached Single Family

4218 N. Keystone, 2B \$200,500
4326 N. Kedvale, D \$202,500(F)
4125 N. Keystone, 502 \$217,000
4121 N. Pulaski, 3 \$350,000
4017 N. Keystone, 2N \$570,000

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Leave the Leaves — Claudia Hine

This autumn, the Irving Park Garden Club is encouraging residents to make their fall clean up a bit easier. Do you really need to remove every leaf from your garden? From the pollinator perspective, the answer is “no.”

Bee City USA, an initiative of the Xerces Society, reminds us that a neat and tidy garden is just what it looks like — barren and devoid of shelter for bumble bees, mason bees, and so many other pollinators. “Leave the leaves” is a seasonal effort to provide habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators, and other invertebrates.

Protecting these creatures is as easy as doing less yard work in the fall and leaving a layer of leaves an inch or two thick. This protects beneficial insects from predators and insulates them from the elements.

Keeping leaves in your yard doesn't have to be messy — you can rake leaves into piles and arrange them around trees or into garden beds. But be sure not to shred the leaves, as this could kill any insect eggs or larvae present. Beyond leaving the leaves, many insects use hollow stems as nesting sites, so keep these stalks until spring to provide habitat. In particular, “cavity nesting” bees, like mason bees, utilize these hollow stems.

Providing overwintering habitat is important, since many insect species across North America are experiencing declines, and some are at risk of extinction. Residential areas can provide essential habitat for our invertebrates.

For more information on this initiative, visit the Xerces Society at xerces.org/leave-the-leaves.

Did you know? At the end of summer, bumble bee queens burrow just below the soil to wait out winter. Give them the extra protection they need:

#leavetheleaves





IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

Wrapping Up the Season

In November, IPGC will meet for the final time this year for a holiday potluck party and art fair. Members will enjoy an evening of great food and drink, holiday shopping with our member-artists, and spending time with our gardening friends. The party takes place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Garden club meetings are for members only, but should you wish to join us, we will credit your dues to the 2024 season. Contact us at irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com for more information on joining. Our club is already formulating plans for next year, and we welcome input from all members on topics of interest as we decide which speakers to engage for our educational meetings.



Treasurer Kate Roche (left) with Angela Bowman, Bowman Gardens, who gave a presentation at IPGC's September meeting on the benefits of gardening with native plants. *Photo by Claudia Hine.*



2023 Meeting Dates

- Thursday, November 30

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

Utility work at the Tripp Garden (across from Eris Brewery) required the removal of IPGC's signpost in September. A big thank you to IPGC President Debbie Maher and members Mike Basile and Nora Naughton for working to relocate the disturbed plantings. The garden club also thanks Eris Brewery for allowing us to tap into their water supply while the firehouse was closed. *Photo by Dave Ryan.*



A Warm Welcome to Old Irving Park — Adrienne Chan

Old Irving Park Yoga & Pilates is the studio extension of OIP resident Kathryn Leshner's years of Pilates and yoga training and instruction. Kathryn grew up in Old Irving Park and returned to the neighborhood in 2018 with her husband, Burke, and their two boys. After a career in Occupational Therapy, Kathryn began offering private Pilates instruction from her home on Keeler. As her practice grew, she decided it was time to open a proper studio. When asked why she chose to locate her studio in OIP, she explained, "I have always loved this beautiful neighborhood, but we have always had a lack of walkable neighborhood business. I wanted to create an inviting space conveniently located where people from the neighborhood could come to explore these practices. I think that yoga and Pilates studios can often feel intimidating, and I hope ours feels welcoming. I'm excited to build this business and community in a neighborhood where I've spent so much of my life."

I've had the pleasure of visiting Old Irving Park Yoga & Pilates twice in the past month, first for their opening party and then for my first-ever "Intro to Reformer" Pilates class. Reformer Pilates is a low-impact workout that can help improve overall physical fitness, flexibility, strength, and balance. The new studio at **4316 West Irving Park Road** is a quiet and serene oasis despite the traffic outside. The studio has three Reformer Pilates machines, allowing Kathryn to offer small group classes and private sessions.

I attended my first session with two neighbors, both of whom had a little prior experience with the Reformer. The Reformer may look a bit like a medieval torture device, but Kathryn immediately made it less



Owner of Old Irving Park Yoga & Pilates Kathryn Leshner (left) is pictured with Adrienne Chan. *Photos provided by Adrienne Chan.*

intimidating by explaining the various components and getting us right to work. The class flew by as we tried out a variety of different moves and machine configurations. Kathryn paired demonstrations with detailed explanations of what muscles should be working and frequently checked in with us regarding what we were feeling to ensure that we were doing each movement properly. Overall, it was a very positive experience.




NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | New to the Neighborhood


I look forward to trying out one of their yoga classes soon and incorporating more Reformer classes into my routine.

Kathryn recommends taking an introductory class to start, followed by more introductory and mixed level classes to gain familiarity with the Reformer machine and movements; experienced practitioners can take advantage of the "intermediate" level classes. You can sign up for classes at www.olderirvingparkyoga.com. Kathryn continues adding classes weekly and wants to hear from the community about what they'd like to see on the schedule. You can contact her at kathryn@olderirvingparkyoga.com. Welcome to the neighborhood of Old Irving Park Yoga & Pilates!





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stephanie@stephaniecutter.com



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.



19th District Update

Greetings OIPA!

After recent redistricting, much of Old Irving Park falls in the 19th House District, which means that I am your official State Representative. As a former social worker who previously worked with Hands to Help Ministries in Old Irving Park, I am excited to represent your neighborhood—a community filled with caring and engaged neighbors who show up to build community.

This spring session, I was proud to lead the fight to strengthen mental health care access for all—including significant investments in the services available to our first responders. I also spearheaded efforts to reduce homelessness and backed a comprehensive public safety approach that will deliver more resources to our community. I look forward to more work on strong ethics reforms and fiscal stability.



Lindsey LaPorte
State Representative
of the 19th District

Find a full recap of our Spring legislative session at this link or our QR code below.

<https://www.relapointe.com/2023/06/02/2023-spring-session-updates-legislation-and-budget/>

Scan the QR Code to read the Spring Legislative Recap



Beyond legislation, our office can help residents with a multitude of issues, which include:

- Drivers Licenses/State ID Cards
- FOID Cards
- Food Assistance/Medicaid
- Housing Assistance
- Senior Services
- State Income Taxes
- Unemployment Benefits
- and much more!

Our office is here to act as a liaison between those we represent and the dozens of agencies serving Illinois. Please reach out to us by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter.

Contact our office by email at info@relapointe.com or by phone (773) 647-1174



**3807 N Pulaski Rd
773-697-4833**



**Custom Spray Tans
Lash Services
Body Waxing**

**Come join us to celebrate our move to
Old Irving Park! October 21st**

Libations and Local Food!

Raffle prizes and Giveaways

Fall themed!!

4pm until.....

**10% off any booked services for local
residences-ongoing**

cannot be combined with other offers

**Do you have art that you would like to display and sell- seeking
local upcoming and seasoned artist to submit for potential
display and sale here!!**

Woman owned by a local resident of OIP

Please come support us!!!!



FORTS: Build Your Own Adventure

– by Julia Stemper, Interim Administrator

Filament Theatre is bringing back FORTS! Build Your Own Adventure, the hit immersive experience for families. FORTS! Tickets go on sale Friday, October 6, for performances at Filament Theatre between December 2–31, 2023.

Enter a world of imagination and creation as Filament Theatre transforms its home once again into an interactive play space. Picture a giant living room filled with couches, cardboard boxes, sheets, clotheslines, and more. When participants enter, the lights come up on giant towers of boxes. First order of business—build a fort! Maybe it's the tallest fort ever. Perhaps it has a secret room. Maybe team up with other participants and make a giant super fort. Maybe make it cozy and curl up to have a chat. Maybe take a tour of someone else's fort and make a friend. With new elements added throughout the experience and lights and sound that bring participants from day to night and back again, the story is different every time.

FORTS! is an intimate theatrical experience, and like all of our programming, it is the perfect experience for families to experience storytelling together. FORTS! Invites you to come on stage and become the storyteller. Our young audiences can use the entirety of their imaginations and all of the cardboard boxes we can hold inside our doors to create new worlds and new adventures.

FORTS! Plays on Saturdays at 1 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The experience runs 60 minutes and is facilitated by two guides who support the journey and ensure everyone has a great time and stays safe. Audiences are encouraged to



Photo provided by Filament Theatre

arrive up to 15 minutes early to participate in pre-show activities. All participants should wear appropriate socks or bring slippers.

Tickets, priced \$12-\$28 (with a \$1.55 convenience fee), are on sale as of Friday, October 6, 2023, and can be purchased online by visiting www.filamenttheatre.org/forts. One adult can bring up to three children. If more than three children are attending, additional adult tickets are required. Children cannot participate alone. Private buyouts and birthday parties are also available for booking.

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/FilamentTheatreEnsemble>

IG: <https://www.instagram.com/filamentplays>

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*Photos provided by
Disney II Magnet School.*



Disney II Magnet Schools Hosts 2nd Annual Fun/Color Run!

— Eileen R. Schnepff, Communications Liaison

On Friday, September 29, the Disney II Magnet School student body brought the fun outside of the building for the 2nd Annual Disney II Friends Fun Run. This year, 7th–12th grade students from our Lawndale campus joined the celebration as they participated in the first-ever Color Run! The Fun/Color Run is one of many events that bring Disney II's two campuses together to build community. The event was organized by Disney II Friends, the non-profit fundraising and community-building organization for Disney II. The money raised at the Fun/Color Run is used to fund school programs that would not be possible without their support.

Disney II Magnet School is a fine arts and technology magnet school with two campuses located in the Old Irving Park and Independence Park neighborhoods. Disney II students are admitted through a lottery and are from throughout Chicago.

If you would like to learn more about Disney II Magnet School, please visit our website at www.disneyiimagnet.org. If you are interested in applying to Disney II, please visit cps.edu/gocps. The application window to GoCPS closes on November 9, 2023.

Color Your Fall





The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator



The AV club is learning to run the equipment for different programs throughout the year.

Photo provided by Belding School.

November Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for two fundraising opportunities this month! On November 1, dine in or order out at Easy Street Pizza on Irving Park Road to support Belding's 4th graders. Then on November 8, head over to Chipotle, also on Irving Park Road, to support our 8th graders. Make sure you mention Belding; a portion of the earnings will be donated to the school.

After-School Fun for All Belding Students

This fall, Belding offers an array of after-school activities for all grade levels and interests. Younger students are enjoying activities such as art, storytelling, yoga, and mad science. The older students are getting moving with the fitness club, being game changers through the GSA, and even raising their voices and working on their dance moves for next year's spring musical.

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 November 14 and December 12. Tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school and Belding community! You can also check out the Belding website www.beldingelementary.com, for more information.



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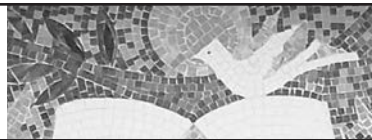
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Viator Vibrations — Sara Yoest

The weekend of November 3 & 4 will have our Rec Center gymnasium alive with the beloved Fall intramural tournament weekend. This annual St. Viator tradition will feature our 3rd–8th grade boys competing in intramural basketball games, and the 3rd–8th grade girls will cheer and provide half-time entertainment! In the Winter, roles will reverse, and girls will play basketball while the boys cheer them on! The weekend features competitive games, great entertainment, and delicious food.

Giving Tuesday

November 29 is Giving Tuesday. Please consider making an impact in the Old Irving Park community by donating to St. Viator Elementary School, a neighborhood cornerstone since 1902. You can make a secure donation online by clicking the yellow donate button on the home page of our website.

Winterfest

St. Viator Winterfest will be held on December 1 & 2! This two-day community festival will feature a tree/wreath/garland sale, bounce houses for the kids, cookie decorating, bingo, crafts & games, and entertainment. Delicious food will be served for lunch and dinner. Check Facebook and our website for a finalized schedule with pricing.



Photos by Sara Yoest

Interested in learning more about St. Viator? Please contact Diane Urgo in the school office at durgo@stviatorchicago.org or call 773-545-2173 with questions regarding admission or to schedule a private in-person tour.

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

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Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 10pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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



Golf Outing a Success

— Liz Mills, Executive Director,
Carlson Community Services

Thanks to the golfers, hole sponsors, and helpers who made Carlson Community Services' 2023 Golf Outing a success! Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at Edgebrook Golf Course, had loads of fun and helped us raise over \$3,600 for Carlson programs. Carlson Board Member Jose Garcia's foursome came in first place with an impressive 8-under-par score. Pizza and beef sandwiches from Leona's were served at the course's picnic grove following 18 holes.

Thanks to our 20 generous hole and contest sponsors, including Pastor Erin Bouman, Fishguy Market, Attorney Michael Jordan, Leona's Irving Park, Paddy Mac's, Pulaski Elston Business Association, Tripp VRBO in Irving Park, West Walker Civic Association and Wintrust Bank, Mayfair. Proceeds of the event benefit Carlson's after-school program, community garden, and free concert series. Sincere thanks to the many Carlson board members and volunteers who solicited hole sponsors, golfed, and helped with the event!



Carlson Board member Jose Garcia led his foursome to victory at the Carlson Golf Outing. Pictured from left are Elio Montenegro, Susana Meza, Jose Garcia and Hector Salazar. Congrats!

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!



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.

Carlson's Trivia Night Friday, November 10

Mark your calendar for Carlson Community Services' 14th in-person Trivia Night on Friday, November 10, at 7 p.m. Trivia Night benefits Carlson's after-school program, community garden, and free concert series. Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$280 (\$320 after November 6). Wine, beer, and soda will be sold at the bar. Bring your snacks! Teams compete for a \$200 cash prize and bragging rights!

Trivia Night takes place at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. The event is open to adults 21 and over. For more information or to register your team, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org/events.

Since our first Trivia Night in 2009, neighbors and friends have been putting their heads together to benefit Carlson's neighborhood programs. It's a great night out, so get your team together now!

Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Jazz Pianist Marianne Kim

November 12, 3 p.m.; Celebrating 30th Season!

The first concert of the Irving Park Fine Art Concert Series' 30th Season kicks off on Sunday, November 12. The concert features pianist Marianne Kim in a program titled "Sunday Afternoon Jazz." Kim is a Chicago-based composer, pianist, organist, and harpsichordist. She has been recognized for her vibrant performances and compositions in diverse musical styles, including classical, jazz, Broadway musicals, R&B, gospel, and traditional and contemporary church music. A bassist and guitarist will accompany Kim.



Pianist Marianne Kim

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church at 3 p.m. (Note later start time.) The concert is free, but donations may be made to support future programming. Additional concerts in the Season include Mariachi Monumental de Mexico on December 10, Alicia Berneche in a solo recital on February 11, and clarinetist Matthew Beck on May 5. These concerts will be at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series, now in its 30th Season, was founded in 1994 by Roger Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The series aims to bring high-quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago, free of charge.



Pantry's Preps for Holiday Programs

Volunteers at the Irving Park Food Pantry are preparing for our special holiday programs for clients. Clients can receive regular monthly food on November 1, 8, 14, or 29. We will distribute a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings on November 14 and 15. The Pantry will be closed on November 22.

Regular food distributions will be held on December 6, 12, and 13. Holiday food will be distributed on December 12 and 20. The Pantry will be closed on December 27 and January 3 and re-open on Tuesday, January 9. We will also provide a stocking of age-appropriate gifts and goodies to all clients' children 12 years old and younger.

If you want to contribute to these programs, monetary donations can be made via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or via a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. You can mark your donation for either Holiday Food or Holiday Gifts if you prefer.



Sara Yoest, coordinator of the Holiday Gift program last year (she's now retired), shows off some of the stockings given to clients' children during our holiday program in 2022. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



You can also donate selected toys via our Amazon registry using the QR code on this page. Please do not donate other toys.

Meanwhile, our annual coat drive continues until November 8, and we are providing clients with new and gently used winter coats. They can still be accepted through November 6, as can hats, scarves, mittens, and other cold-weather gear. Please do not donate sweaters, sweatshirts, boots, or other clothing. Please take any donations to Big Helpers, 4184 N. Elston Ave., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday through Friday or the front porch at 4731 Kiona Avenue [anytime].

Thank you for all your support in helping us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



Earth Breeze donated another two cases of Fresh Scent detergent sheets, shown by volunteer Margie Pomonis, and one case of Fragrance-Free sheets to the Pantry in September. The company's donations comprise 2,432 packages worth \$48,640, representing 145,920 loads of laundry! *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Publicity & Special Events Coordinator Craig Shutt shows off some of the brand-new coats donated to the Pantry's coat drive, which continues through November 8. *Photo by Gayle Christensen.*



The Irving Park Food Pantry's Coat Drive

We are collecting coats now through Wednesday, November 9. **Donations can be taken to:**

- **Big Helpers store**, 4184 N. Elston Ave. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).
- **Compass Real Estate**, Three offices: 2044 W. Roscoe St., 1653 N. Milwaukee Ave., and 2350 N. Lincoln Ave., 3rd floor.
- **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.
- **Irving Park YMCA**, 4251 W Irving Park Rd. (Dropbox in the lobby)
- **Jet's Pizza**, 3951 N. Kimball Ave., (Dropbox in the 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.)
- **Perkolator**, 6032 W Irving Park Rd.
- **Front Porch** at 4731 Kiona Ave. (Anytime)
- **If you have a large donation or want to run a drive to gather coats**, please email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org to arrange delivery.



Thanks to Chris and the crew at J.T.'s Genuine Sandwich Shop, which donated the proceeds from its sandwich sales at this summer's GIPNA Farmers Market at Independence Park. *Photo by Kathy O'Neill.*



(Left) Walter Ramirez, Pastor of Latino Ministry at Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunnyside Ave., stopped at the Pantry to see how we work and talk with Executive Director John Psiharis about how his church and congregation could support our efforts. *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.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

November

-
- 10 **Carlson Trivia Night** | 7 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Ave. | For more information about Trivia Night, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org/events.
-
- 12 **Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series** | 3 p.m. | Marianne Kim, Pianist | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Free
-
- 13 **OIPA November General Meeting** | 7 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Topic: Restorative Justice.
-
- 30 **Irving Park Garden Club | Holiday Potluck Party & Art Fair** | 7:00 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members only; contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com to join.

December

-
- 1 & 2 **St. Viator Winterfest** | Check their Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago for list of festivities.
-
- 3 **OIPA Member Holiday Party | 5–8 p.m. | RSVP:** Space is limited. Please RSVP to our form at <https://forms.gle/XF2UmTzN9exXgMKk9>. Include the number of people attending—adults, kids (ages 6–12), and wee ones (5 & under)
-
- 10 **OIPA Parent Committee Holiday Fun | 5 p.m.** | An evening of strolling through the neighborhood to view Christmas lights, enjoy hot chocolate and socialize with neighbors. Kid friendly. Watch for more details.

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, send submissions to 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. If file(s) is large please use a file transfer method. 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.

2023-24 SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATES	* Early due to holidays	
NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES.		
Publication Month	Advertising	Editorial
December*	10/31*	11/2
No January Issue		
February Issue	1/2	1/5

NOVEMBER JOKES

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

Q: What kind of stories do frogs like?

A: Ones with hoppy endings!



Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: Because it was the chicken's day off.

Q: What's the best thing to put into pumpkin pie?

A: Your teeth!

Q: If money really did grow on trees, then what would everyone's favorite season be?

A: Fall.

Q: What does a clock do when it's really hungry?

A: It goes back for seconds!

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter?

A: It's too far to walk!

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.



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

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