

OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



DECEMBER

VOLUME 37 | ISSUE 10 | 2023



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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.ouldirvingpark.com

FB: ouldirvingparkassoc

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Cover photo provided by clu-soh-2Tgtvb7Q_4E on Unsplash.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



A Season of Giving — Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer

*
With the holidays upon us, we're in the season of giving. The OIPA Board of Directors is pleased to share our annual charitable contributions to the following local public schools and not-for-profit organizations. Each listed organization will receive \$550, thanks in large part to you, our robust membership. We hope you consider these groups throughout the year when choosing where to place your giving of money and time.

Belding School

4257 N. Tripp, Chicago, IL 60641
<https://beldingelementary.com/>

Carlson Community Services

3938 W Belle Plaine Ave, Chicago, IL 60618
<https://carlsoncommunityservices.org/>

Disney II Magnet Elementary School

3815 N Kedvale Ave, Chicago, IL 60641
<https://disneyiimagnet.org/>

Scammon Elementary School

4201 W Henderson St, Chicago, IL 60641
<http://scammon.cps.edu/>

Schurz High School

3601 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60641
<https://www.schurzhs.org/>

Chicago Public Library - Independence Branch

4024 N Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60618
www.chipublib.org/locations/37/

Irving Park Community Food Pantry

4256 N Ridgeway Ave, Chicago, IL 60618
www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org/

Irving Park Garden Club

www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub/

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Old Irving Park

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS *Stroll*

Check out holiday decorations with us in
the neighborhood!

DECEMBER 10TH @ 4:30PM

Meet by St John's - 3857 N Kostner

4:30-5pm Kids Holiday Music Show

4:30-5:30pm complimentary cocoa and
churros courtesy of OIPA Parents
Committee



5pm Stroll Kick Off
Route to Come!



Questions? contact
justin.antony@gmail.com



OIPA'S ANNUAL WINTER HOLIDAY OUTDOOR DECORATION CONTEST

OIPA is again sponsoring a Winter Holiday Outdoor Decoration Contest to help bring extra cheer to the neighborhood. Get ready to string up the lights, holly, or whatever outdoor holiday decorations strike your fancy (Winter Solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, New Year).
Get creative!

Attending the
OIPA Parents Committee
Holiday Decorations
Stroll on Dec. 10?
Make a note of your
favorite display and take
a photo to nominate
your choice.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Email your nominations with a PHOTO to hello@oldirvingpark.com by end of day Sunday, December 17th (please put "Winter Decoration Contest" in the subject line. Please note nominations must be within Old Irving Park boundaries. Include a picture and the address of your nominee in the body of the email. Nominations will be announced on OIPA's Facebook page and will move on to the neighborhood voting round on December 18. The winner will be announced on Thursday, December 21 and will receive a "Crystal Snowflake" award to place in their yard and have bragging rights for the next year.





Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on November 6, 2023

– Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Schedule for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting started at 7:04 p.m.

Attendees: Adrienne Chan, Anne Swingen, Colleen Kenny, Dan William, Lynn Ankney, Meredith O’Sullivan, Merry Marwig, Michael Cannon, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, and Scott Legan

Financial Report

The October Board of Directors meeting was held immediately following the OIPA General Membership meeting on October 9. Because of this and in favor of efficiency, the September Treasurer’s report was not reviewed in detail and approved by the board.

Lynn presented the financial reports for September and October. Both show strong receipts from incoming membership dues and advertising revenue. There were also deposits from Keep OIP Clean (a result of decommissioning the PayPal account, now that Keep OIPA Clean is part of OIPA) and from the Parents Committee because of their sponsors and fundraising efforts. Disbursements for neighborhood cleanings, Parents Committee programming, and the ongoing OIPA membership database project were as expected. The September and October Treasurer’s reports were approved by the Board of Directors.

Membership

No membership updates were presented during the November Board meeting. The board however, made

the decision to commission local artist Mary Foster (neighbor and OIPA member) to produce gifts for our members subscribed at the “Neighborhood All-Star” and “Good Neighbor” levels of membership. Mary will paint four unique woodcut prints, which OIPA will give away in lieu of canvas bags for the next four years beginning in spring 2024. If you are not yet subscribed at the “Neighborhood All-Star” or “Good Neighbor” levels, now is your chance to get one of these beautiful, unique prints. Upgrade your membership today!

Newsletter

As always, because of the Holiday season, no OIPA newsletter will be published in January. The board discussed and made decisions about the upcoming “Message from the Board” topic in December (this issue) and a local business feature for February. In honor of the giving season, we will highlight the local organizations that OIPA supports with \$550 donations each December.

The board also discussed newsletter advertising and decided to reach out to some of the new businesses that have moved into our neighborhood and see if they are interested in placing an ad in our newsletter.

30th Ward Report

- No updates



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

39th Ward Report

- The board has reached out to reschedule a meet and greet with Alderperson Samantha Nugent following her reelection in the spring. Directors have previously met with newly elected Alderperson Ruth Cruz (30th) and Alderperson Jim Gardner (45th).

45th Ward Report

- Neighbors Night Out - The event is tentatively planned for December 13 at Gale Street Inn. More information will be shared via our weekly email and Facebook page.

Beautification Committee Report

Keep OIP Clean, now a part of OIPA's Beautification Committee, maintains a small positive balance in its account after conducting targeted cleanings in September.

The board discussed the feasibility of doing a fundraiser to raise additional funds for more regular targeted cleanings and additional beautification.

The board will look into potentially hosting a fundraiser at a local restaurant.

Continued on page 8

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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on November 6, *continued from page 7*



Photo courtesy of Openlands.

Openlands Tree Planting

For the past couple of years, OIPA has partnered with Openlands to organize planting events in Old Irving Park.

The board will reach out to Openlands and begin the conversation about planning for more planting events in 2024.

Viaducts

The board discussed ideas presented by members for improving the atmosphere and safety of our neighborhood viaducts. A couple of ideas include upgraded lighting and metal screening for improved pigeon abatement.

Board members will follow up with our elected officials (state and city) and members to champion these improvements.

Community Engagement Report

- The OIPA Holiday Party is scheduled at LaVilla for 5–8 p.m. on Sunday, December 3. The RSVP form is live and published in the newsletter and e-blast. This event has a cap of 80 members; please RSVP ASAP.
- OIPA's Annual Winter Holiday Outdoor Decoration Contest. Please see page 5 for more information.
- The OIPA parents committee is organizing a holiday lights stroll, which is scheduled on Sunday, December 10 (page 4).

Parents Committee Report

- No updates

Meetings Report

- **Monday, November 13 at 7 p.m.** – OIPA General Meeting - Restorative Justice Community Courts Presentation
- **Monday, December 4** – OIPA Board of Directors Meeting
- **Sunday, December 3 at 5 p.m.** – OIPA Holiday Party at La Villa – RSVP Required
- **Monday, January 8** – OIPA Board of Directors Meeting
- **Monday, February 5** – OIPA Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

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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.





Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on November 13, 2023, 7 p.m.

– Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Lynn Ankney promptly started the meeting at 7:03 p.m. as November OIPA General Membership Meeting attendees took their seats. Lynn welcomed everyone and introduced herself and the other OIPA Board members in attendance. There were around 20 people present for the last General meeting of 2023, including two first-meeting attendees. After a couple of brief announcements, Lynn introduced the evening's presenters, **Larry Barrett and Mark Dobryzcki, from the Restorative Justice Community Courts of Cook County.**

Mark and Larry introduced themselves and shared a little about their history and how they got involved with the Restorative Justice Community Courts ("RJCC").

Mark, a Chicago native and employee of RJCC for two and a half years, explained why Restorative Justice is important to him. The first-generation son of immigrant parents from Poland, Mark shared that the Chicago neighborhood he grew up in, where neighbors knew each other and their kids, was much different than most Chicago neighborhoods kids live in today. When he broke Mrs. Smith's window, his parents knew about it before he made it home. When young people make a bad choice today, most of the time, the person they have harmed has no idea who they are or anything about them. This puts the person charged at a disadvantage.

Larry, also a Chicagoan and Restorative Justice Community Courts employee for over two years, shared



Larry Barrett and Mark Dobryzcki, from the Restorative Justice Community Courts of Cook County. *Photo by Lynn Ankney.*

why he is passionate about this program. Larry told us that he got in a lot of trouble as a young man. As an adult, he can recognize that many of his bad choices when he was young could have steered his life in a completely different direction. He was lucky not to end up in jail, but so many other young people are not. RJCC gives these young people a first chance to make better decisions.

Restorative Justice Community Courts are aimed at young adults, aged 18-26, charged with nonviolent felony or misdemeanor crimes. Part of the court's mission is to end the harmful cycle of revenge and recidivism. The courts resolve conflict through restorative conferences and peace circles involving participants, victims, family members, friends, others affected by the crime, and the community.

Continued on page 12



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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on November 13, 2023,

continued from page 10

The purpose of the circle process is to ultimately reach an agreement between the participant and members of the community called a Repair of Harm Agreement, in which the participant agrees to complete certain tasks, such as perform community service, write a letter of reflection to a loved one, undergo substance abuse treatment, and other tasks. The Repair of Harm Agreement is a contract between the participant and the community. If the participant successfully completes all the tasks set out in the agreement, his or her case will be dismissed, the offense expunged, and the participant will be invited to attend a graduation ceremony celebrating this milestone in his or her life.



At the November OIPA General Meeting, Larry Barrett, from the Restorative Justice Community Courts of Cook County provided an overview of the program to OIPA members. *Photo by Alma Kreuser.*

Victims are not required to participate. But if they choose, they may directly address the participant to express how they were hurt and what they need to heal from the crime.

To qualify for RJCC participants must:

- Be 18 to 26
- Have been charged with a nonviolent felony or misdemeanor
- Live, work, or worship in one of the neighborhoods which has a community court
- Have a nonviolent criminal history
- Accept responsibility for the harm caused

Restorative justice is an alternative form of justice rooted in the belief that repairing harm, building empathy, and restoring relationships is a better way to prevent, deter, and respond to crime. These community courts:

- Decrease convictions
- Increase public safety by reducing crime and teaching peace practices
- Empower community leadership
- Restore trust between the community and the government that serves them

The country's first Restorative Justice Community Court started in North Lawndale on Chicago's West Side in 2017. Two more courts started in Avondale on the Northwest Side and Englewood on the South Side in 2020. In addition to the RJCCs in Chicago, a few others, including New York and Houston, have also been formed.



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Before wrapping up their presentation, Mark and Larry introduced RJCC award-winning volunteer Faye. Faye has worked with nonprofit organizations for many years and owns and runs an event planning company. Faye has never missed a peace circle since she started volunteering with Restorative Justice. She, along with Mark and Larry, challenged OIPA members to consider volunteering with RJCC by attending a peace circle, just one. Faye shared that she hopes that more people get involved as volunteers in this life-changing program so that more young men and women can be served.

Other ways to get involved include:

- Partner with Restorative Justice as a community

resource that can provide services and support RJCC participants as they repair the harm.

- Observe the court proceedings.
- Join a peace circle as a community representative.
- Donate snacks or supplies for court participants.
- Offer community engagement hours and supervision to RJCC participants.

To request more information or to apply as a volunteer for Restorative Justice Community Courts peace circle, email Larry Barrett at larry.barrett@cookcountyil.gov.

The meeting ended at 8:08 p.m.

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December Birthdays

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



December Anniversaries

Anne Bennison & Carlos Eguis-Aguila
Gayle Christensen & Michael O'Brien
Zachary Osner & Holly White
Brian Pearson & Stephen Stockley
Ryan & Sonia Perkins Mata
Greg Snyder & Jim Meyer
Aimee & Colby Starck
Michelle & Elliott Stepusin
John Thuet & Frances Jochum
Linda Townsend & Michael Polzin
Beth Valukas & Peter Barash



DECEMBER

KID BIRTHDAYS

Leo Gulapalli
Oliver Gulapalli
Matthew Horeis
Alice Isadore
Frank Lynch
Raymond Stepusin
Xavier Unzueta

PET BIRTHDAYS

Aubie (Dog)
Titus Liese (pet)

January Birthdays

Rachel Allmen	Lindsey Liese
Lynn Ankney	Renee Linnemeyer
Peter Barash	Bryan McCoy
David Bremner	Dee McDonough
Emily Coakley	Audre McGinnis
Tadeusz Czajko	Mete Mutlu
Lis Dankovich	Matthew O'Brien
Daniel Degnan	Michael O'Brien
Peter Doetschman	Michael Rakotz
Diane Ehrhart	Caitlin Rinard
Abby Ernst	Robert Sadlier
Courtney Funkhouser	Michael Sebastian
Richard Ghilarducci	Emily Sermersheim
Susan Gidley	Kate Simmons
Wendy Jo Harmston	Elizabeth Slosarski
Annette Huizenga	Kim Starmann
Jason Isadore	Greg Swanson
Bob Jones	Holly White
Kathryn Kleisch	Mark Wilke
Joanne Krakora	Dean Wolf
Kathy Liebich	Marnie Zabicki

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.

January Anniversaries

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



JANUARY

KID BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Cox
Seamus Greene
Bren Hicks
Tahlia Nouri
Traolach O'Sullivan
Talulah Quinlan
Rory Wilke

PET BIRTHDAYS

Claudio, the cat

OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY



Prepared by Tom Brandt

[C] = Court Approved [F] = Foreclosure Sale [S] = Short Sale



Single Family

4226 N. Kolmar.....	\$622,500
3730 N. Milwaukee.....	\$625,000
4303 N. Lowell.....	\$635,000
4455 W. Grace.....	\$775,000
3846 N. Kildare.....	\$807,000
3909 N. Keeler.....	\$940,000



2-4 Units

None



Attached Single Family

4339 N. Kedvale, 3N.....	\$95,000[C]
3853 N. Kedvale, B3.....	\$180,000
4248 N. Keystone, 1A.....	\$199,000

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Fun Holiday Activities & Markets

Tree Lighting: Visit the official Chicago Christmas Tree (Nov. 17–Jan. 7) in Millennium Park. This year's tree is a 45-foot Colorado Blue Spruce from Darien; a tree lighting ceremony is set for Nov. 17. Inside the Walnut Room at Macy's on State Street you'll find the Great Tree, a 45-foot tree that hangs from the ceiling (Nov. 4–Jan. 7). If you can't get a Walnut Room reservation, no worries: There's a selfie spot outside the restaurant with a view of the tree.

Ice Skating: There are a number of ice skating options in and around Chicago, including Maggie Daley Park (Nov. 17–March 10), McCormick Tribune Ice Rink (Nov. 17–March 3), Winterland at Gallagher Way (Nov. 21–Jan. 7), Navy Pier (Nov. 24–Dec. 31), Parkway Bank Park (Nov. 18–Jan. 28) and select Chicago Park District locations throughout the city (outdoor rinks open Nov. 24).

Parades: Dec. 3, catch the Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade, billed as the world's largest motorcycle parade.

All Aboard: The CTA Holiday Train has brought joy to Chicagoans for more than 30 years. Each train car is decked out in seasonal imagery, and thousands of twinkling lights outline the train and windows. Santa waves to riders from an open-air flatcar. Visit the CTA website to see the schedule for the Holiday Train and the Holiday Bus at www.transitchicago.com/holidayfleet.

Shopping

There are several holiday markets all over town this year. Most events have websites so check out them out for updates and times before heading out.

Now–Jan. 5: Jack Frost Christmas Holiday Pop-Up Market, 170 Green St. Open 4–10 p.m. Monday–Friday and 2–10 p.m. Saturday–Sunday. This 2-acre holiday pop-up features winter bump cars, ice skating, axe throwing and more. Tickets start at \$15.

Now until Dec 24: Chicago Fair Trade Holiday Pop-Up Shop at 2352 N. Clark Street, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. on Mondays–Saturdays; and 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Sundays. <https://chicagofairtrade.org/holiday-pop-up-shop>

Now until Jan. 7: Chicago Architecture Center's Designed Object Pop-Up Shop 111 E. Wacker Drive, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday–Thursday 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday–Saturday. The center's entry space will be transformed into a gallery featuring prototypes, passion projects, and other one-of-a-kind items produced by the Chicago architecture and design community. www.architecture.org/exhibits/exhibit/archetypes-a-designed-object-pop-up-shop/

Now until Dec. 24 & 31: Christkindlmarket: Explore one (or more) of three markets this year:

- Daley Plaza (Nov. 17–Dec. 24),
- Wrigleyville (Nov. 17–Dec. 31) and
- Aurora (Nov. 17–Dec. 24)

Continued on page 20

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Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 10pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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Holiday Fun & Markets, *continued from page 18*

Dec. 2: Community Roots Vegan Holiday Bazaar at 18th St., Cases de Cultura, 2057 W. 18th St. Open noon–5 p.m. You can shop from local vendors selling food, clothing and more. www.18casadecultura.com/events/community-roots-vegan-holiday-bazar

Dec. 2–3: Julmarknad: Swedish American Museum Christmas Bazaar at 5211 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60640, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Scandinavian and modern handicrafts. Visit the Children's Museum for crafts, games and a special visit from Santa.

Dec 3: Christmas Bazaar at the Irish American Heritage Center from 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Festivities include Mass, breakfast, craft and bake sale, music, dance, children's activities and visit from Santa. Tickets for breakfast are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. The breakfast begins at 11:00am, and reservations are required. Entry to the Bazaar is free.

Dec. 3: Windy City Made at the Stan Mansion, 2408 N. Kedzie Blvd. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Art and vintage goods from more than 70 local vendors. Tickets are \$10–\$15 online. www.eventbrite.com/e/windy-city-made-holiday-market-at-the-stan-mansion-tickets-730571658497

Dec. 3: Refine Collective's Maker Mall at the Salt Shed, 1357 N. Elston Ave. Open noon–6 p.m. This market will feature small businesses from women and people of color creators. Admission is free.

Dec. 3: Chicago Artisan Market: Holiday Market (Fulton Market). 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 401 N. Morgan St., (Morgan MFG). Admission: \$8. <https://chicagoartisanmarket.com/product/general-admission-fulton-market>

Dec. 4–20: Columbia Holiday Market, 619 S. Wabash. You can grab jewelry, fashion, art, and housewares made by Columbia staff and students. Admission: free.

Dec. 7–10: One of a Kind at Merchandise Mart, 222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza. Open 10 a.m.–7 p.m. and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. on Dec. 10. More than 500 artists, makers and designers of furniture, jewelry, photography, pet products and more. Admission starts at \$15.

Dec. 8: Chicago Art Department Holiday Market, 1926 S. Halsted St. Open 6–10 p.m. Shop small Pilsen businesses and makers at this holiday market. There will be more than 30 vendors. Admission is free.

Dec. 8–9: Sauced Night Market Before Xmas at the Chicago Athletic Association, 5–10 p.m. 12 S. Michigan Ave. Support more than 40 small local businesses by buying gifts at this market. There will be food, drinks and music from DJ Johnny Walker. Admission: free.

Dec 9: Holiday Uprising Market at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. Open noon–4 p.m. Makers and artisans on the Far South Side, and there will be drinks.

Dec. 9: Winter Market at Plant Chicago, 4459 S. Marshfield Ave. Open 11 a.m.–3 p.m. This winter market will focus on sustainable shopping and will feature a free cooking demonstration. Admission is free.

Dec. 9: Holly Jolly Holiday Market, 4100 N. Damen Ave. Open noon–6 p.m.. This North Center market will have opportunities for you to shop, eat, drink and listen to live music. <https://ncnaneighbors.org/HJHM>

Dec. 9: Lumberland at the Rebuilding Exchange, 1740 W. Webster Ave., 6:30–9:30 p.m. One-of-a-kind crafts from local vendors will be available. Admission: \$15+.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | In the Neighborhood & Beyond

Dec. 15: Late Night Andersonville (Foster & Clark St)
Friday, Dec. 15, 4–8 p.m. Join us for Late Night Andersonville when our store stays open late and have special sale offers.

Dec. 16–17: Renegade Craft Fair Chicago, 401 N. Morgan St. Open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. A winter market with more than 170 artists offering handmade, creative items. Admission is free.

Dec. 16: Gnarly or Gnice Holiday Sale at Drama Club, 2241 S. Oakley Ave. Open 2–6 p.m. Art from more than 20 artists to buy and a musical performance. Admission is free.

Dec. 16–17: Chicago Art Girls Holiday Pop-up, 11 a.m.

– 5 p.m. both days | Bell Elementary School, 3730 N. Oakley. Food vendors and 40 women artists with an array of creative items. Jewelry, candles, hats, scarves, artwork, stained glass and pottery.

Dec. 18–19: Randolph Street Market, 1341 W. Randolph St. Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 125 vendors, as well as cocktails, food, DJ and more. Admission is \$12.

There are more Chicago holiday markets. Check out:

- <https://bit.ly/BlockClubHoliday>
- www.choosechicago.com/blog/special-events/shop-chicagos-gift-filled-holiday-markets/
- <https://bucketlisters.com/inspiration/105-top-holiday-markets-in-chicago>



**Wishing you and your family
a healthy and Happy New Year!
We look forward to seeing you
in the new year!**



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3 Ways to Invite More Calm This Winter

— Megy Karydes

As we begin another busy holiday season and resolve to creating or keeping healthier habits in the new year, it can help to be mindful of what habits we can adopt to invite more calm in our daily lives.

Here are three ways you can integrate more calm during the holidays and into the new year. They work for adults or children and you begin to see the benefits when you commit to doing them on a regular basis.

✦ **Invest in a light therapy lamp**

This is by far my biggest investment that has reaped the greatest benefits. It works because it mimics outdoor light and thought to cause a chemical change in our brain which lifts our mood and decreases the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) such as feeling moody or tired. While you don't need a prescription to buy one, it's recommended that you ask your health care professional if it's something you should consider.

✦ **Take a walk outside**

It's easy to clam up during the cold winter months because it is cold but the rewards of getting outside and walking for even 30 minutes are undeniable. Schedule walking as part of your daily routine, perhaps after enjoying a meal or as a way to catch up with a neighbor or friend.

✦ **Try something new each week**

The more we have something to look forward to and that excites us, the more we can appreciate the season. Create a list of things you've been meaning to try but haven't yet and set up a time to do something from your list each week. It could be trying out a new recipe, visiting a museum, or ice skating.

It's easy to feel stressed during the winter but dedicating your limited the time to findings way to be more present can relieve some anxiety and invite more calm into daily life.



Megy Karydes has been an Old Irving Park resident for 20+ years and author of *50 Ways to More Calm, Less Stress: Scientifically Proven Ways to Relieve Anxiety and Boost Your Mental Health Using Your Five Senses*. The book is available for pre-order and she's inviting her OIPA neighbors to her launch party on January 25 at Katherine Anne Confections on Irving Park Road. To learn more, visit MegyKarydes.com or email her at Megy@KarydesConsulting.com.



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Team Up to Clean Up

— Dave Ryan, OIPA Board Member

Old Irving Park Association board member Dan William led an energetic team of OIP residents in a clean-up effort along Avondale Avenue on a recent Sunday morning. OIP residents will recognize Mr. William as the founder and chief keeper of the Keep Old Irving Park Clean effort. Interested residents may contribute to the Keep Old Irving Park Clean fund through the Old Irving Park Association.

Notable among the volunteers is Mr. Mike Basil, who has long conducted his one-man battle against trash and graffiti along Pulaski Road near the railroad and interstate bridges. Mike is also a major contributor to the upkeep of the Irving Park Garden Club's Tripp Garden, located north of Tripp near the firehouse.

We extend a huge thanks to the team members for removing a wide variety of trash, garbage, and various unidentifiable items discarded along this well-traveled stretch of Avondale Avenue.

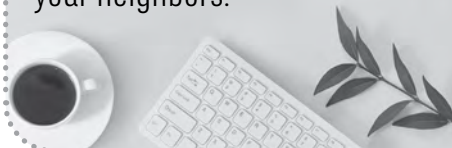


Clean up heroes: Dan William, John Schreiner, Dan Schreiner, Mike Basil (in rain coat) and Pete O'Mara.

Photos by Dave Ryan.

Stay Connected, Be Informed

There are a variety of 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

ADD SOME COLOR TO YOUR HOLIDAY!





The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

It was a day of excitement and joy for the first Awesome Belding Celebration (ABC) day! Students and staff started the day with their annual walk-a-thon, where the generous Belding community raised over \$30,000 for twelve weeks of art for all students. In the afternoon, Belding athletes were celebrated during the pep rally along with the winners of the very spirited door-decorating contest. Then, to celebrate their fundraising goal, Principal Mandi Durkin and Assistant Principal Arman Cortes took to the field for an epic dance battle that showcased their sweet moves. However, in the end, the Belding Bulldog came out on top!



ABC Day

Pep rally fun with Principal Mandi Durkin, the Belding Bulldog, 8th grader Ben Razo, Assistant Principal Arman Cortes, and IB Coordinator Michele Stefl. *Photos provided by Belding School.*

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 arrive by 7:55 a.m. and check in with security.

Upcoming tour dates include December 12 and January 16. Tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about the school and the Belding community! You can also check out the Belding website, www.beldingelementary.com, for more information.



Belding's door decorating winners – 6th grade, Ms. Fisher's class for Most Creative and 5th grade, Mrs. Owens' class for Best Overall.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Belding School

Belding Boosters

The Belding Parent Group is looking for any local businesses that would be willing to become corporate sponsors as a way to raise additional money to support the school.



If you are a local business owner or know of a local business you would like to participate in, please contact Tasha Wilkins (tashawilkins@hotmail.com). In exchange for donating money, services, or time to Belding Elementary, the Belding Parent Group will encourage school community members to support Belding Boosters through advertising opportunities.


In the coming weeks, a banner will be outside the school to advertise the current Belding Boosters. You can also find more information about the Booster program at the <https://beldingparentgroup.com/belding-boosters>.





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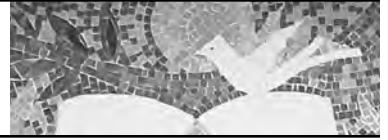
**Stephanie's
Irving Park Sales**

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

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

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

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



Viator Vibrations — Sara Yoest

Winterfest

The Holiday season is upon us! St. Viator's Winterfest celebration is being held on December 1 & 2. All are welcome to this 2-day community festival featuring a tree, wreath & garland sale, indoor activities for kids, delicious food, photos with Santa, and more! Check our Facebook page and website for a final schedule and pricing.

Catholic Schools Week

Mark your calendar! St. Viator will kick off Catholic Schools Week with an open house from 2:30–4:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, followed by a 5:00 p.m. family mass. Prospective parents and students are encouraged to attend.

Holiday Wishes

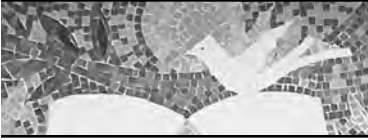
St. Viator Elementary School wishes the Old Irving Park neighborhood a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2024! Visit the Sts. Viator & Wenceslaus website at www.ssviatorwences.org for our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day mass schedule.



Photos by Sara Yoest

Interested in learning more about St. Viator? Please get in touch with the school office at office1@stviatorchicago.org or call 773-545-2173 with questions regarding rolling admissions for the 2023-24 school year and when to apply for the 2024-25 school year.

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



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary



Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup is Back

Just in time for the colder weather, we are happy to return our popular Wiggles and Giggles playgroup to the community! Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend this fun playtime with their children (newborn through 4 years) hosted in the St. Viator Rec Center/Gym at 3644 N. Kedvale Avenue. Winter dates are December 7, January 11 and 25, and February 1 & 15. This complimentary program is a great way to connect with other young families in the neighborhood. Watch our Facebook page for additional Spring dates.



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Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents A Mariachi Christmas, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.

— Liz Mills, Executive Director,
Carlson Community Services

Photo provided by Liz Mills.

Celebrating its 30th season, the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a festive holiday concert and reception on Sunday, December 10. Mariachi Monumental de México will perform A Mariachi Christmas at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. A Mariachi Christmas will feature Mexican and American Christmas favorites, followed by a festive holiday reception. This celebration of holiday traditions is perfect for all ages!

Founded in 2009 in the heart of Chicago by five friends, Mariachi Monumental has brought the best traditional and folkloric mariachi repertoire to Chicago and surrounding areas. With members from diverse regions of Mexico and the United States, Mariachi Monumental de México has over 30 years of professional mariachi music experience. Fine Arts audiences will remember their joyful performance in 2019.



Artistic Director Reflects on 30 Seasons



Artistic Director
Roger L. Bingaman

Roger L. "Bing" Bingaman is the artistic director of the Fine Arts Concert Series. He was asked to take on the role when he began working at Irving Park Lutheran Church in 1993. The first concert was in 1994, featuring vocalist Anne Marie Lewis. In the mid-2000s, the series became a program of Carlson Community

Services. What started as a classical music series now includes a variety of musical styles, including Broadway shows, blues, jazz, and mariachi music.

Reflecting on 30 seasons, Bing credits the Fine Arts Committee's commitment for the series's longevity. "It's the committee members who kept us going, always reaching out to new audiences and making suggestions for different types of music. Not to mention putting together fantastic receptions after each concert." Before the pandemic, the committee

hosted receptions in the church's hall. Since then, receptions have been scaled back, although a festive reception is planned for this month's holiday concert.

Bing's primary responsibility as artistic director is to book professional musicians, who are paid for their performances. He has found 30 seasons' worth of talented musicians in various places. As music director of the Music Theater Works company, Bing works with talented musicians, many of whom have performed in the series. But he has discovered some in unlikely places, like the saxophone quartet Nois he heard playing a street festival in Evanston.

"There are a lot of musicians who are looking for a place to play or who want to try out new material. Our goal is to provide musicians with a performance space and audience while at the same time bringing free concerts to the community," Bing said.

Fine Arts concerts are free, although the audience is invited to make a donation. This season is supported with a generous bequest from the late Doris Peterson, a long-time Fine Arts Series patron. The remaining concerts in the season are Alicia Berneche in a solo recital on February 11, and clarinetist Matthew Beck on May 5.

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!



Help the Pantry Celebrate the Holidays



We appreciate everyone's support and donations, which help us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

The Pantry is collecting small toys from its online registry to give out to clients' children 12 years old and younger in December.

Photo by Sara Yoest.

The Irving Park Food Pantry is providing its clients in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes with an entire holiday meal on December 15 and gifts for children 12 years old and younger. We're asking again for your help with this annual program.

The meal ingredients we provide to all our clients, in a special distribution that day, comprise meat, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes, gravy, and dessert. The dinner is in addition to the regular array of groceries they receive during our four distributions this month (we are closed on December 27 and January 3). We ask for monetary donations via PayPal or check rather than direct food contributions and toy donations from our online registry.

We can purchase food at significant discounts from the Greater Chicago Food Depository and from several supportive suppliers. These sources ensure our funds

stretch much further than retail food purchases can achieve. So, your monetary donations are more important than ever.

Annual Gift Program

Our annual holiday gift program offers a variety of small gifts we will bundle to give to clients' children. Options can be found at our Amazon registry and shipped to the listed Pantry volunteer's address (please do not ship directly to the Pantry). This ensures we receive the needed number of age-appropriate items for the stockings. We appreciate your generosity!



This QR code will take you to the Pantry's Amazon registry for holiday gifts.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Coat Drive a Success

Thank you to Kate McClelland, our coat-drive coordinator, and all our volunteers for their hard work during our coat drive! Thanks also to the many organizations throughout the community that sponsored drop boxes so our neighbors could easily donate their coats. We provided hundreds of coats to clients and their families to ensure they have a warmer winter.



Emily Markle, membership experience supervisor at the Irving Park YMCA, shows off one of several large donations of coats her team collected during the Pantry's coat drive. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Dan O'Donohue, co-owner of Jet's on Kimball, and his kids dropped off a big donation to coat-drive coordinator Kate McClelland during our drive. Then they stayed to help sort and rack the coats! Jet's gave a free pizza for every donation. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Schurz Student Council members, with Parent & Community Outreach Coordinator Dee Barrett, canvassed the Old Irving Park neighborhood and collected a carload of toiletries for the Pantry in October. *Photo by Dee Barrett.*



Barry Sorkin, owner of Smoque BBQ, dropped off a donation of cat food to the Pantry in October, one of the company's regular pet food donations. *Photo by John Psiharis.*



Volunteer Lorrie Ide, owner of Lorrie Ide Design graphic design house, created new signs for the Pantry. *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

December

-
- 1 & 2 **St. Viator Winterfest** | Check their Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago for list of festivities.
-
- 2 **2023 Northwest Side Holiday Trolley | 3–6 p.m.** | Six Corners Association and Portage Park Chamber of Commerce. Check www.facebook.com/SixCornersChicago for details.
-
- 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 **Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents A Mariachi Christmas with Mariachi Monumental de Mexico | 2 p.m.** | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. | Free admission, reception follows concert
-
- 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.
-
- 16–17 **OIP Artist Mary Foster at Chicago Art Girls Holiday Pop-up | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days** | Bell Elementary School, 3730 N. Oakley | There are 40 women artists and food vendors with an array of creative items. Jewelry, candles, hats, scarves, artwork, stained glass and pottery.

January

-
- 27 **Cash for Kids – Johnny Cash Music Festival and Fundraiser for Pat Mac’s Pack | 5:30 p.m. – Midnight** | The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Avenue | Admission: \$20 presale, \$25 at the door. Admission only. Food and drink sold separately | Website: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/062sow?vid=11e581#> | Enjoy 10 acts on 3 stages and join musicians and music lovers as they come together in the fight against pediatric brain tumors. Pat Mac’s Pack is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission is to raise funds for pediatric brain tumor research and provide financial assistance to young cancer patients and their families.

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	\$60	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 sending a large file(s), please use a file transfer method such as WeTransfer. 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.

2024 SUBMISSION DATES NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES.	*Due to holidays	
Publication Month	Advertising	General
February	1/2	1/4
March*	2/6	2/8
April*	3/5*	3/7
May	4/2	4/4
June	5/7	5/9
August	7/2	F-7/5*
September	8/6	8/8
October	9/3	9/5
November	10/1	10/3
December*	11/5	11/7

DECEMBER FOLLY

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

Q: What did the icy road say to the car?

A: "Want to go for a spin?"

Q: What do snowmen call their kids?

A: Chill-dren.

Q: What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?

A: A cookie sheet!

Q: What falls in the winter but never gets hurt?

A: Snow.

Q: What do you call it when a snowman throws a temper tantrum?

A: A meltdown.

Q: What is a snowman's favorite snack?

Ice krispies treats.

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

Old Irving Park Association

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Happy New Year Reminder

The *Old Irving Park News* is not published in January. We'll be back in production for February 2024. Submission deadline for the February issue is January 4 for articles.