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NEWS



AUGUST

VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 6 | 2024

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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 38 ✨ Issue 6 ✨ August 2024

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

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Delivery Staff

Devin, Owen & Asha Alexander
Cynthia & Dan Andrews
Bridget Bauman
Sara Bishop
Sandra Broderick
Colleen Callahan
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Gayle Christensen
Adrienne Chan
Adrian & Oliver Christiansen
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Street Banners

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New Neighbor Packets

Claudia Hine

Parents Committee

Justin Antony

Erin Sarris

Emily Weseman

Delivery Coordinators

Meredith O'Sullivan (Chair)
membership@ouldirvingpark.com
773-551-4533

Lynn Ankney (Co-chair)

Kate Roche (Mailings)

Barbara Chadwick

Asher Chan

Theo Kuhnlohe & Bil Susinka

Advertising

Colleen Kenny, oipaadvertising@gmail.com

Editor / Design & Production

Kearns Design Group
k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com

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Cover photo: Bubble fun at the OIPA Parents Committee End of the School Year Movie Night held in June. *Photo provided by Erin Sarris*

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



OIPA Candidate Statements Board of Directors

It's that time again! OIPA Board of Directors elections will take place at our September General Meeting.

The candidates are:

Colleen Kenny

Past/Present Participation with OIPA: Director, 2016-present. Ad Manager, 2017- Present. Neighborhood All Star Party Host 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

Past/Present Volunteer Activities (non-OIPA): Forest Preserve Foundation, Chicago Housing Authority, Off the Street Club, and are actively looking for new present opportunities.

Past/Present Professional Experience: Executive Vice President at Leo Burnett (Advertising and Creative Solutions Agency) and other Marketing Communications Agencies

Goals/Priorities as a member of the OIPA Board: Over ten years ago, my husband and I saw an old house that most people would have torn down and decided to renovate and make Old Irving Park our home.

The historic nature of Old Irving Park makes me want to be part of an era less isolated by technology and individualism and more motivated by compassion and community. With my neighbors, I want to make this already great neighborhood magnificent by giving us opportunities to come together and helping spread the word about our great local business via our robust ad/newsletter program.

Dave Ryan

Past/Present Participation with OIPA: As an Old Irving Park resident of 36 years, I have been a longtime member of OIPA and a regular meeting attendee. I recently completed my first term on the OIPA board of directors. I have attended various CAPS meetings on behalf of the board and have functioned as a liaison with the Chicago Police Department. As part of the Keep OIP Clean initiative, I have adopted one of the in-ground green spaces along Irving Park Rd., keeping it clear of weeds and litter, and I also volunteered on the clean-up days when they were scheduled.

Past/Present Volunteer Activities (non-OIPA): I am a past St. Viator Elementary School Board member and served on the St. Viator Parish Finance Committee. On two occasions, I hosted the Irving Park Garden Club's Midsummer Night's Stroll and also opened my yard to the community on IPGC's annual garden walk. I have volunteered for two organizations, Food for Greater Elgin and the Community Crisis Center, in Elgin, IL.

Past/Present Professional Experience: Before retiring in 2022, I spent 20 years as director of security at Caesars Entertainment Inc. in Elgin, Illinois. Before that, I served in the Chicago Police Department Detective Division as a supervisor in the Violent Crimes Unit. I hold an MBA with an emphasis in finance from St. Xavier University, Chicago.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Goals/Priorities as a member of the OIPA Board:

Having served one term as an OIP board director, my goal/priority now is to engage more of the community in our organization by improving attendance at our general meetings. I will also use my deep knowledge and understanding of the city of Chicago and the Cook County criminal justice systems to gather, interpret, and communicate safety matters to the OIP community.

Jacob Berger

Past/Present Participation with OIPA: Member since 2022. Board Member since 2024.

Past/Present Volunteer Activities (non-OIPA): I have been an active member of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) for several years. Since 2020, I have served in volunteer leadership roles as an Officer and a CBA Young Lawyers Section member. I'm currently serving as the Young Lawyers' Section's Public Service Officer, and I am responsible for planning all our charity and public service events for the year.

Past/Present Professional Experience: Since obtaining my law license in 2014, I have been a lawyer focusing primarily on business litigation. In 2017, I joined the law firm of Tabet DiVito & Rothstein in downtown Chicago, where I'm currently a Partner.

Goals/Priorities as a Member of the OIPA Board:

I've lived in Old Irving Park since Fall 2019. Since then, there have been many positive changes in Old Irving Park, including new developments and new businesses moving into the community. As a Board Member, I want to help OIPA gain a louder and more impactful voice on local zoning and development issues in our community – the community plays an important role in these decisions. I will also help

magnify OIPA's voice to engage meaningfully with the 30th, 39th, and 45th Ward Aldermanic Offices on issues that affect community members' daily lives, such as neighborhood cleanliness and beautification, availability and efficiency of city services, and public safety. OIPA is an essential stakeholder in ensuring that OIP is a great place to live, work, do business, and raise families. I'm hopeful that we can help its already strong voice continue to grow stronger over time.

Adrienne Chan

Past/Present Participation with OIPA: Director 2016-17, Vice President 2017-2019, President 2019-2023, Director 2023-present

Past/President Volunteer Activities (non-OIPA): Junior League of Chicago, St. Edward School Parent Organization, St. Edward School Auction Chair, St. Edward Parish Harvest Bash and Garden Ministry, Irving Park Garden Club

Past/Present Professional Experience: Transactional Attorney (Contracts, Commercial Real Estate)

Goals/Priorities as a member of the OIPA Board:

I've lived in OIP with my husband and children (now teenagers) for 15 years. The strong community bond was one of the first things that stood out to us about this neighborhood. OIP neighbors are always lending a hand and working to keep our neighborhood a safe, clean, and friendly place to live and raise families. As a board member of OIPA, I look forward to expanding our beautification efforts, supporting new and existing neighborhood businesses, and fostering relationships with our elected officials and neighboring community groups.

Continued on page 4

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



OIPA Candidate Statements | Board of Directors

Continued from page 3

Meredith O'Sullivan

Past/Present Participation with OIPA: Director. How long? Sometimes, it seems like decades, but I think I joined the board in 2016. I handle membership and coordinate with all of our fabulous block captains to distribute the almost monthly newsletter.

Past/Present Volunteer Activities (non-OIPA): In my free time, I volunteer weekly at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. In years past, I was a board member of the Friends of Downtown, a member of the Junior League of Chicago, a tutor at 4th Presbyterian Church, and a volunteer at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly RIC).

Past/Present Professional Experience: I wear a lot of hats. I teach a real estate course part-time at DePaul and a 10-year cash flow modeling course to college students across the country with an amazing organization called Project Destined. I have held various roles over 30 years in institutional real estate,

including financial services, asset management, development, and partnership relationship management. I have some aptitude with spreadsheets and databases, which has been helpful for our membership database.

Goals/Priorities as a member of the OIPA Board: A lot of my time over the last year has been spent on the new membership database (designed by OIPA member Jeff London). This has been a great partnership, and I hope to bring in more volunteers who might want to get involved periodically but are not ready to commit to a board position. And I am always thinking about transitions—I won't be in charge of membership forever, and I hope to find folks who will take over when the time is right. I would also like to encourage conversations about zoning and density—what is our collective vision for Old Irving Park? My husband and I moved here in 2001 and raised three babies, now young adults, in this fabulous neighborhood. I met great friends at a local co-op, the Garden Club, and the OIPA board. We love this neighborhood and its awesome residents. I am happy to continue with membership and the newsletter as long as I am allowed.



NEW NIGHT!

Wednesday, September 4 | 7 pm

**at St. John's Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner Ave.**

Board of Directors elections & social event



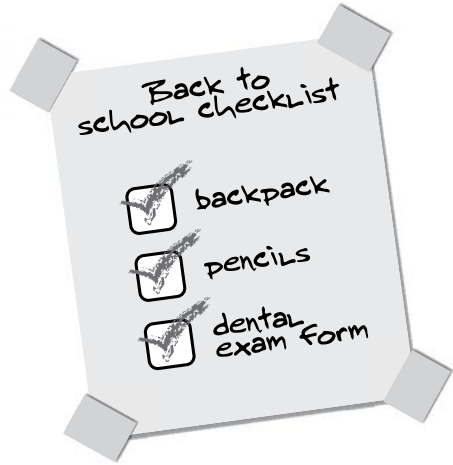
Old Irving Park TreePlanters | Fall 2024

The Old Irving Park Association invites you to participate in the Openlands Tree Planters Grant project this Fall. OIP homes, businesses, and community spaces in the neighborhood are encouraged to submit a request for a tree. Openlands will provide the trees and tools necessary to plant trees and requests volunteers to assist with the planting. Planting is scheduled for September (Date TBD).

Tree request deadline to Openlands is August 14.

**To request a tree planting, use the QR code
or visit <https://bit.ly/OIPA-Trees2024>**





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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on June 3, 2024—Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meet started at 7:02 p.m.

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Jake Berger, Michael Cannon, Adrienne Chan, Scott Leagan, Meredith O’Sullivan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, and Dan William

Treasurer’s Report

Lynn Ankney shared her screen and presented the OIPA financial report for May 2024. Revenue streams included newsletter advertising, standard and premium membership dues, donations for Keep OIP Clean, and a single century home plaque sold. Disbursements were heavy in May, reporting debits for newsletter publication (design & print), meeting expenses (rental & refreshments), premium membership perks (All-Star cocktail party), Keep OIP Clean viaduct cleaning, a charitable donation to the Irving Park Garden Club for their spring raised planter plantings, website expenses, and finally OIPA Board Directors’ and Officers’ insurance. In all, spending outpaced by over 5 to 1, which is expected in May because of the large amount of known costs hitting the books.

Lynn asked for a motion to approve the May financials. Meredith made the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board members present.

Leadership Report

- The Board discussed filling some gaps in the organization’s roles and responsibilities. A couple of Board members are overcommitted and need to shed responsibilities that have fallen on them over the years. This fueled discussion about involving

additional OIPA members by forming committees, each led by a specific board member, and which responsibilities need Board oversight vs. which can be managed independently by community members.

Lynn suggested each Board member take the month of June and consider the roles they currently play and where each person thinks gaps exist. After completing this homework, the Board will reconvene in July and make decisions for the next fiscal year.

- The next topic of discussion regarded OIPA’s involvement in a new group formed to the east of our neighborhood boundaries, “Explore Irving Park Chicago.” This group is working to support businesses and economic development in greater Irving Park, including the possible creation of a Special Service Area (SSA). Since the current boundaries of the potential SSA do not cross Old Irving Park boundaries, the Board made the decision to forgo active involvement but to stay in the loop by requesting updates about EIPC’s progress and scheduled events that we can share with OIPA members via email and social media.
- **Fundraising Dinner at Community Tavern**
After an update from Dan William regarding his research and planning for this event, decisions were made by the Board to lock the ticket price for OIPA’s inaugural fundraising dinner at \$155 per person and choose Thursday, September 26, as the event date. More information about the menu and other details about the evening will come soon.



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Communication Report – Not discussed

Membership Report

- Original artwork produced by artist and OIPA member Mary Foster was discussed next. Nick Plagman-Frank gave an update to the Board about the final preparations needed before printing the first installment of this seasonal neighborhood series. The Board expects to be ready to make an announcement soon about distribution of this year’s print for our Good Neighbor and All-Star members.

Newsletter Report

- The Board discussed August’s message *From the Board*, which will include candidate

statements from Directors seeking a two-year term beginning in August. Directors were tasked with submitting statements to the publisher before July 5.

30th Ward Report – No updates

35th Ward Report – No updates

45th Ward Report – No updates

Beautification Report

OIPA is working to organize tree planting in partnership with Openlands Treekeepers this fall—more information will come soon.

Continued on page 8



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on June 3, 2024, *Continued from page 7.*

Community Engagement Report

- **Parents Committee** – The Board discussed the OIPA Parent’s Committee’s upcoming End of School Party on June 7 at Disney II. OIPA will be highlighted as a sponsor of the event and Nick Plagman-Frank will attend to ask attendees who are not already OIPA members to join us.
- **Century Plaque Program** – OIPA has less than 25 century home plaques remaining in inventory. The OIPA Board discussed the cost of replenishment, but the original producer is no longer in business, and costs have skyrocketed to more than \$250 per plaque. Because of this, the decision was made to sunset the program after the remaining plaques are

sold. If you have a home that is 100 years or older you can purchase one of the final century home plaques, \$60 for OIPA members and \$100 for non-members. More information is on our website.

Meeting Report

- **June 9 – OIPA Ice Cream Social** – St. John Episcopal Church Garden at 3 p.m. The Board decided to purchase ice cream novelties for this event and divided responsibilities for picking up and delivering treats and setting up in the garden.
- **September 9 – OIPA General Meeting** – Board Director elections and social event at St. John’s Episcopal Church

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on July 9, 2024— Submitted by Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer

Attendees: (in person at Annie Swingen's home) Lynn Ankney, Jake Berger, Michael Cannon, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Scott Leagan, Meredith O'Sullivan, Annie Swingen, and Dan William (via Zoom).

New Board Meeting Template

The Board reviewed and agreed to an agenda template for our monthly Board meetings. The new standard agenda will simplify the preparation for our meetings and also mimic our shift towards committees, which we hashed out later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Lynn Ankney presented the monthly financials for June, which is also our fiscal year-end. After approving the June financials, the Board reviewed high-level analysis that compared major expenses (e.g., printing and design costs) with revenues (e.g., advertising, membership dues) over the past six years. Of note this year was the addition of the Keep OIP Clean and Parents Committee line items that appear in both our revenues and expense categories.

A fiscal year end snapshot appears on page 12 of this issue.

Board Member Roles & Responsibilities

In an effort to better distribute the work across the OIPA Board and bring in OIPA members to the fold, we are moving all work into a committee-based structure. We reviewed all tasks we take on as a Board, placed them within committees, and assigned either a Chairperson and/or at least one

Member to each committee. We will share more about these committees and our need to fill spots in next month's newsletter. Not all OIPA work needs to be completed by our Board alone, and we know our organization will be stronger and more effective when we tap into the talent, passion, and commitment of our membership!

Mexican Wine-Themed Dinner at Community

We discussed logistics for marketing and registering guests for our inaugural fundraising dinner, which will be held on Thursday, September 26, at Community Tavern. All proceeds will benefit the Keep OIP Clean initiative. Spots are limited to 65 people, and more information can be found on the inside back cover.

2024-2025 Meeting Schedule

We're making some changes! We sketched out the entire fiscal year ahead in terms of general meetings, board meetings, and social community events. The big headline of the meeting is that we're having just four (roughly quarterly) general meetings and moving to the first Wednesday (rather than Monday) of the month. The consensus was that fewer meetings (and not on Mondays) would allow us to plan more effectively in advance and rally more community support (read: attendance!).

We'll share our upcoming year of events in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for our first meeting following the summer break: Wednesday (new night!),



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

September 4 at 7 p.m. We'll meet in the St. John Episcopal garden (weather provided; otherwise, in the lower level) at 3857 N. Kostner. We'll have our Board Director elections and host any new local businesses that have opened in the past year. More information will come as we secure RSVPs from local businesses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



NEW NIGHT!

Wednesday, September 4 | 7 pm

at St. John's Episcopal Church | 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Board of Directors elections and social event



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OIPA TREASURER'S REPORT



Old Irving Park Association – Fiscal Year End Report (June 30, 2024)	
BEGINNING BALANCE as of July 1, 2023	
Bank of America Checking	\$49,615.37
RECEIPTS	
Newsletter Advertising	\$9,885.83
Membership Dues - Standard	16,546.78
Membership Dues - Premium (+ donations)	10,806.88
Keep OIP Clean	8,946.87
Parents Committee	6,326.00
Century House Program	96.91
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$52,609.27
DISBURSEMENTS	
Newsletter - Design	\$8,376.00
Newsletter - Print	9,040.00
Postage, Envelopes + Office Supplies	681.13
Meeting Expenses - Rental + Refreshments	2,880.67
Premium Membership (Bags + Party)	5,509.96
Membership (Fliers, Yard/Window Signs)	-
Keep OIP Clean	5,890.00
Parents Committee	4,918.34
Charitable Donations	5,500.00
Website / Wufoo	665.08
Database Project	4,788.14
Directors' and Officers' Insurance	831.00
Federal and State Annual Reports	25.00
Murals	-
Greenspaces	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$49,105.32
ENDING BALANCE as of June 30, 2024	
Bank of America - Checking	\$53,119.32



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



Single Family

4164 W. Byron	\$415,000
4036 W. Waveland	\$680,000
4024 W. Waveland	\$699,000
4352 N. Kostner	\$700,000
4016 W. Belle Plaine	\$816,000
3934 N. Kostner	\$880,000
3750 N. Lowell	\$955,000
3719 N. Keeler	\$1,375,000



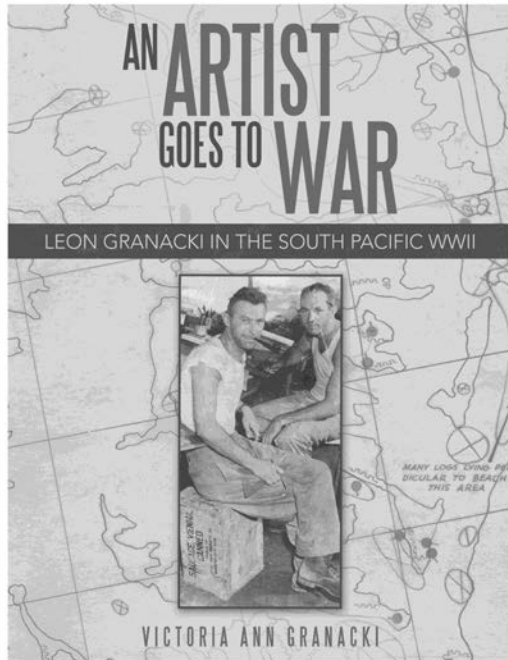
2-4 Units

3730 N. Kostner	\$837,000
-----------------------	-----------



Attached Single Family

4015 N. Milwaukee, 208....	\$201,000
3649 N. Kedvale, 1B	\$215,000
4132 N. Kedvale, 310	\$215,000
4336 N. Keeler, 3C	\$275,000
3874 N. Milwaukee Ct.	\$425,000
4440 W. Hutchinson	\$509,000
4042 N. Pulaski, 4E	\$510,000
4512 W. Hutchinson	\$562,000
4158 W. Cullom	\$660,000
4306 N. Kedvale, B	\$675,000
4154 W. Cullom	\$675,000



An illustrated biography of a former OIPA resident recounts how one soldier used his art skills to survive World War II.

Original maps, jungle watercolors, journal illustrations, scrapbook photos, and over 200 letters home to Leon's extended Polish American family in Chicago reveal his longing for family, shared holidays, fishing, and a woman to love. They tell what it felt like on a very personal level to be part of a raging war in the South Pacific.

Leon Granacki was a 40-year resident of Old Irving Park and St. Viator Parish. His home at 3736 N. Keeler, which has been in the Granacki family since 1953, is an OIPA Century Home.

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August Birthdays

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Dan Andrews	Liz Jones
Vivian Bailey	Elizabeth Joyce
Allison Baker	Barbara Karp
Patty Ballard	Nicki Klein
Leslie Batterson	Gaye Klopach
Michelle Bauman	Harry Lee
Anne Bennison	Christine Lofton
Erin Brandenburg	Patricia Lohenry
Jeff Cain	Caitrin McElroy
Michael Cier	Karen McGinnis
Shawn Cirton	Laura McKee
Tara Connors	Mollie McSherry
Derek DiSera	Randy Melton
Linda Fay	James Monk
Brian Finlay	Shawn Mpistolarides
Morgan Foster	Markisan Naso
Jodi Fugate	Tracy Naso
Susan Hobgood	James Novak
Kelly Jacobs	Tina Oleary
Christine Jamrosz	Sonia Perkins Mata
Wade Johnston	Jan Pietraszek

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Marites Richardson
Robert Ross
John Ruark
Veronika Salinas
John Sherer
Mary Kay Shutt
John Spilman
Colby Starck
Clyde Steele
Susan Strozewski
Robert Taney
Braydon Thompson
John Thuet
Charlotte Tyre
George Unzueta
Bernardo Verdaguer
Susan Voelz
Patrick Wasser
Carol West
Daniel Wilson
Michael Yzquuirre

August Anniversaries

Sarah & Nicholas Arvanitakis
Michelle & Steve Bauman
Meredith Belber & Michael Rakotz
Jake Berger & Molly Rutkowski
Tom & Katie Brandt
Shashank & Brittany Churukanti
Sabrina Cimo & Demian Christiansen
Jocelyn & Matthew Crnich
Marianna & Tadeusz Czajko
Meghan & Peter Doetschman
Jana Domanico & Patrick Lawlor
Lawrence & Diane Ehrhart
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Jeffrey & Sarah Kessler
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William Mason & Sara Freeman
Betsy & Mark McKelvey
David Mielcarek & Ewa Tran
Dan & Erin O'Donohue
Lauren & Mark Palmieri
Andrew & Dana Sarrost
Kate & Ted Simmons
Catherine & Robert Tataryn
Julie & Roger Tye
Emily Wachowiak & William Hanzel
Justin & Anna Ware
George Witcheck & Katy Steele
Nicole & Roger Leshinsky
Jennifer & Don Rood
Dean & Kinsey Wolf

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KID BIRTHDAYS

Christopher Andrews

Finn Arvanitakis

Brooks Berner

Lily Boran

Sawyer Boran

Matthew Coe

Samson Dampz

Henry Isadore

Julian Lopez

Dalilah Nouri

Whitman O'Donnell

Mack Rood

Ezra Young

PET BIRTHDAYS

Jasper Hackleman

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? You can confirm or edit your household information on our website. Go to oldirvingpark.com and hover over Membership and then click on Membership Assistance. You will be asked to enter the email address associated with your membership account.

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IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



Crafting Herbal Remedies

— Claudia Hine

The Irving Park Garden Club will offer members a hands-on class in “**Backyard Herbalism**” on Saturday, August 17, as **Deb Kraemer of Abbey Brown Herbal Soaps** will guide us through a journey of connecting with nature and crafting our own herbal teas and remedies. Deb has traveled to herb and botanical farms, distilleries, and perfumeries around Europe and here at home and she brings years of experience practicing the art of formulating.

“Herb gardens are known to help one connect with plants, reduce stress, improve mental clarity, and bring mindfulness and relaxation to you every day,” says Deb. Popular herbs that members can bring to the class include basil, mint, lavender, rosemary, chamomile, lemon balm, calendula, and thyme. Attendees will leave inspired to bring out the herbalist that is in all of us.

Backyard Herbalism will be held at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., at 10 a.m. It follows a scheduled Tripp Garden Cleanup Day with Mike Basile that begins at 9 a.m. so members who wish to do both activities can do so.

2024 Garden Club Meeting Dates

- Saturday, August 17
- Thursday, September 19
- Saturday, October 19
- Thursday, November 21



Herbs grown in the backyard can be used for both culinary and medicinal purposes. *Photo by T. J. Hine.*

Members Take a Midsummer Night’s Stroll

In July, IPGC held a casual wine and cheese social, one of our most popular events. This year our hosts were Mary Foster and Emily and Nick Plagman-Frank, who live a block apart on the northwest side of our neighborhood.

Strollers had an opportunity to visit two lovely gardens, reconnect with other members, and enjoy the hospitality of our wonderful hosts. It’s always a night to remember.



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



Visitors to the Krischer's garden chat with Peggy (left) and Lowell (far right) at Art and the Garden Walk in June. *Photo by Mary Foster.*



Opening up their gardens for this year's Midsummer Night's Stroll are Nick and Emily Plagman-Frank (left) and Mary Foster (above). *Photos by Claudia Hine and Peggy Krischer.*

Garden Walk Fundraiser

In June, 14 south side OIP gardens were open to the public at IPGC's annual Art and the Garden Walk. A record number of tickets were sold to help the club defray operating costs for speakers, meeting expenses, Tripp Garden upkeep, refreshments, etc.

"I heard nothing but glowing comments from everyone who attended," said President **Debbie Maher**.

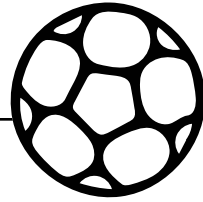
Participants at this year's event included **Laird & Linda Larsen; Antonia & Wlodek Pieczonka; Peggy & Lowell Krischer; Jen O'Brien & Grant Link; Christine & David Ischkum; Maureen Taylor; Debra Schwartz & Michael Brosilow; Robert & Kerren Quezada; Claudia & T. J. Hine; Keeler Gardens/Gina Iliopoulos; Angie & Martin Yorath; Lisa & Mark Kelly; Kate & Mike Roche; and Janet Middleton & Brian Beaugureau.**

Artists displaying a wide range of work included Carolyn Aronson, Antonia Pieczonka, Mary Foster, Christine Ischkum, Sandra Schwarzbeck, Trinita Logue, Bad Moms Collective, T. J. Hine, Ed Caplan, Angilily, Rick Kasprzak, Laura Marie Sanchez, and Eileen Cole.

"It takes a village to put together an event like this, and I want to send a big thank you to everyone involved," said Debbie. "And thank you to all who braved the heat to join us."

More To Come

Our season is half over, but it's never too late to join the Irving Park Garden Club. In addition to our hands-on Backyard Herbalism class in August, future meetings/topics for this year include the Homegrown National Park initiative, Tackling Garden Weeds, and a holiday potluck dinner. With half the season over, we're offering a reduced-price membership at just \$15/household. Contact us at irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com and we'll get you signed up.



Corny Jokes

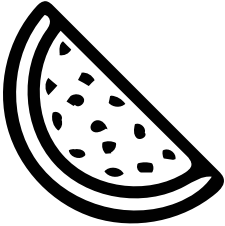
Q: How do all the oceans say hello to each other?

A: They wave!



Q: When do you go at red and stop at green?

A: When you're eating a slice of watermelon!



Q: What travels all around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A postage stamp!



Q: Why do fish like to eat worms?

A: Because they get hooked on them!



Q: What is a shark's favorite sandwich?

A: Peanut butter and jellyfish!

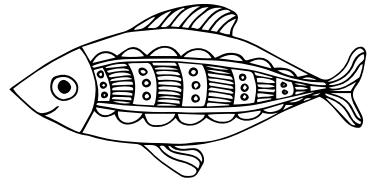
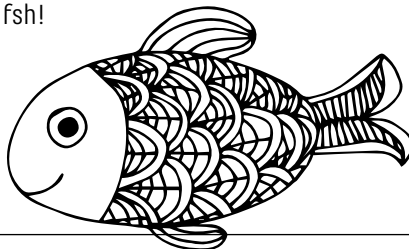
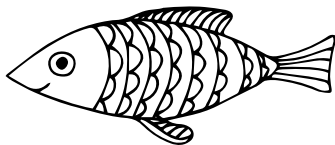


Q: What is a frog's favorite summertime treat?

A: Hopsicles!

Q: What do you call a fish that doesn't have any eyes (i's)?

A: A fsh!

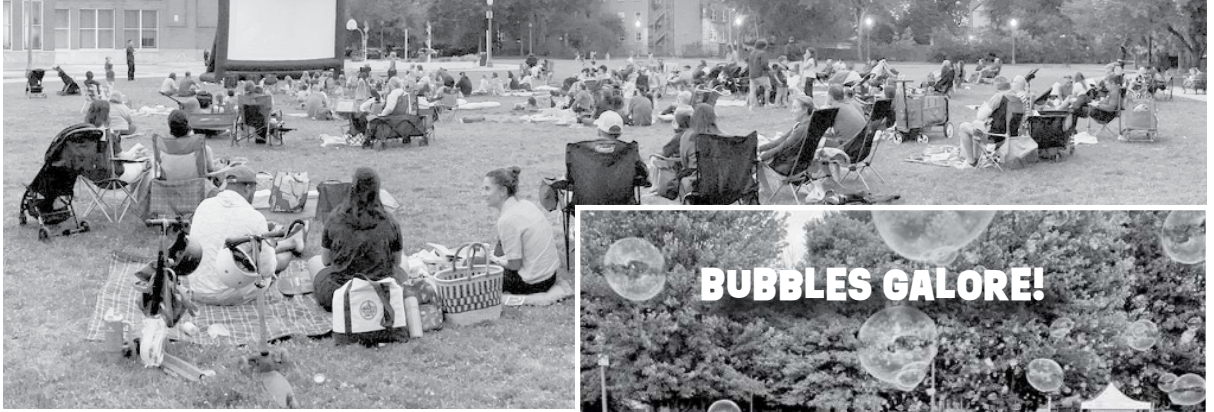


SUMMER is BETTER with a SPLASH OF COLOR



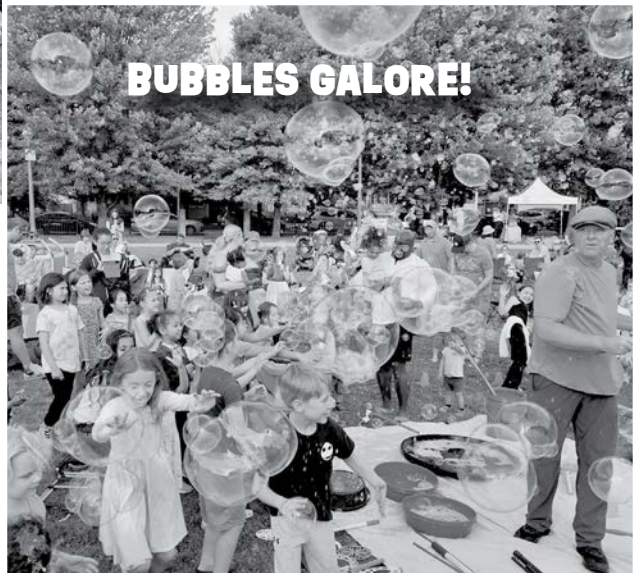
Ken kenklopackart.com

OIPA Happenings this Summer



OIPA PARENTS COMMITTEE celebrated the end of the school year with a Movie Night

Thanks to Erin, Nick, Emily, Asher, Claire, Justin, Anna, Margaret, Brit, James, and Lynn and their crew for a successful and fun event.



Emily, aka OIPA Pied Piper, entertains the kids as they wait for sunset for the movie to start.



Photos provided by Erin Sarris & Justin Antony.

OIPA Ice Cream Social

Members of the OIPA Board (pictured below) prepare for the General Meeting and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 9 at St. John's garden.

Pictured from left to right: Scott Legan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, Adrienne Chan, Lynn Ankney, and Meredith O'Sullivan.



Photos by Merdith O'Sullivan



All Star Party

The Board of Directors gathered for a photo at the All Star Party graciously hosted by Colleen and Rich Kenny in May.

Listed in order from top.

Row left:

Annie Swingen
Adrienne Chan
Colleen Kenny
Lynn Ankney, Treasurer
Michael Cannon, President

Row right:

Jacob Berger
Scott Legan, Vice President
Meredith O'Sullivan
Dan William
Dave Ryan

Not pictured:

*Nicholas Plagman-Frank,
Secretary*



The charming Aster Jade, a wonderfully sociable little one, effortlessly captivates the hearts of everyone she meets. As the daughter of Emily Plagman-Frank and OIPA Secretary Nick Plagman-Frank, it's no surprise that this bright-eyed child possesses such an enchanting presence. Her natural charisma and infectious giggles make her the center of attention at any gathering, leaving a trail of smiles in her wake.





Another Great Year at the Magic Afterschool Place

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

The Magic Afterschool Place (MAP) completed another year in early June with a party celebrating the students with pizza, ice cream sundaes, and student awards. Carlson proudly offers high-quality, affordable after-school care for students at Belding Elementary School through the MAP program. Under the leadership of MAP Director **Rebecca Haneberg** and her staff, which includes **Lauria Paliga**, **Kelli Cline**, and **Emily Moreno**, neighborhood students had a safe place to go after school to complete homework and enjoy a variety of extracurricular programming throughout the school year, such as science experiments, cooking, art projects, and gardening. Registration and enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year is underway.

For more information, please contact Rebecca at mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org.



Photos by Sara Yoest.



Three Brothers Garden Update

Ongoing Tuesday night harvests at the Three Brothers Garden.

All are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings from 5–7 p.m. to harvest vegetables and help with garden maintenance such as weeding and watering. Vegetables harvested on Tuesday evenings are delivered to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry on Wednesday mornings for immediate distribution to Pantry clients. So far, we have harvested over 50 pounds of greens, lettuce, beets, and radishes for the Pantry! Soon, our tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, peppers, and tomatillos will be ready for picking. If you'd like to be notified of garden workdays and our Tuesday evening harvests, which will continue through early October, sign up for our newsletter at carlsoncommunityservices.org.

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 Sara Yoest, Executive Director, at sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org. Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletters at carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Carlson Community Services

Welcome Back Ruth!

We're happy to welcome **Ruth Bouman** back as our TBG intern! Joining us for a second summer, Ruth leads our Tuesday night harvests, delivers vegetables to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, oversees garden maintenance, and helps coordinate garden volunteers and volunteer communications. Ruth attends Saint Louis University. We're so grateful to have her leadership again.

Participate in our Plant a Row for the Hungry Program.

Dedicate a row in your home garden to growing fresh produce for donation to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. A variety of crops is welcome! Drop off your donation on Tuesdays before 6 p.m. at the pergola in the Three Brothers Garden. We will bring your donations to the Pantry on Wednesday morning.



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773.599.3327



Happenings at the Y — Ron Anderson, Executive Director



Photos provided by Irving Park YMCA.

Back to School Bash

The YMCA's annual event will be held on Friday, August 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. All are welcome to this free community event, during which the Y will highlight its fall programs and services. The Y will also distribute back-to-school kits to any families in need. Check out our Facebook page for more event details.

New Turf Space Enjoyed by Campers

Earlier this summer, the Y officially opened the new outdoor turf space (below), highlighted with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6. The campers have enjoyed endless fun these last several weeks. The Y team is excited to extend the use of the turf space this fall for sports, rentals, and other special requests. To learn more, reach out to Sarah Stearn at sstearn@ymcachicago.org

Fall Kids Night Out

The next two offerings will be held on Friday, August 23, and Friday, September 20. Enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy engaging activities, plus pizza at the Y. To sign up or learn more, call the Y at 773.777.7500.



Irving Park YMCA
4251 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60641
773.326.2624
irvingparkymca.org



Buying or Selling in Old Irving Park? Call Katie!



As a lifetime resident of Old Irving Park and a member of top-producing Team Fallico, nobody knows our local neighborhood better than I do. If you're considering a move, I'm here to help you navigate the spring real estate market. Contact me to talk about your plans!

Katie Luczak
773.495.8822
katie.luczak@dreamtown.com
teamfallico.com



Get Ready for School: Pantry to Provide Students with Essential Supplies

with your help

— Craig Shutt, Publicity & Special
Events Coordinator



The Pantry is offering a bag of school supplies to all clients' children in kindergarten through high school this month to help students start the new school year strong. If you would like to contribute, please do so as soon as possible, as the program continues until the end of the month.

To create the bags of supplies, we need:

• loose-leaf paper (narrow and wide ruled)	• #2 pencils
• spiral notebooks (narrow and wide ruled)	• crayons (24 pack)
• pocket folders	• colored pencils
• glue sticks	• pens
• scissors (safety and high school)	• rulers
• erasers	• highlighters
• dry-erase markers	

You can drop off your donations at the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave., 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or on the enclosed front porch at 3912 N. Kenneth Avenue anytime.

You also can donate via our registry at Amazon through the QR code (right) or on our Facebook page or make a donation via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or mail a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago.



Photo by Jessica Pope: www.pexels.com/photo/a-student-with-a-backpack. Photo by Miesha Renae Maiden: www.pexels.com/photo/crayon-lot

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.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Thank You to Our Donors, We Appreciate the Support

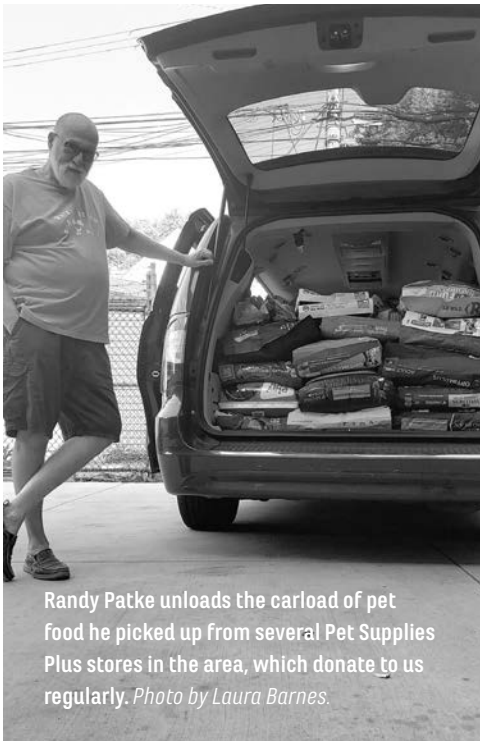
- Thank you to the crew at **Three Brothers Garden**, a partnership between **Carlson Community Services** and **Irving Park Lutheran Church**, who deliver freshly harvested produce and herbs to the Pantry all summer.
- Thank you to **Donation Impact Manager Monique Mudie** and her team at **Earth Breeze** for donating 30 cases of their ultra-concentrated ecological detergent sheets to the Pantry. The shipment amounted to 3,840 packages worth \$76,800!



Gayle Christensen, a volunteer at the Pantry and a member of the Irving Park Garden Club, shows off some of the herbs Garden members donated to the Pantry. *Photo by Michael O'Brien.*



Margie Pomonis and Anna Szuwarski unpack some of the cookies donated by a very generous Girl Scout and her mom. They brought in 120 boxes of cookies, enough to give a box to our clients who wanted one. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Randy Patke unloads the carload of pet food he picked up from several Pet Supplies Plus stores in the area, which donate to us regularly. *Photo by Laura Barnes.*



GIPNA's Farmers Market

Pantry volunteers will be staffing a booth at GIPNA's Farmers Market at Independence Park on August 25th. Stop by to say hi, ask questions, learn about volunteering, donate money, or donate toiletries.

Pantry Board members Corey Friedman (left), Liz Mills, and Executive Director John Psiharis greeted visitors to the GIPNA's Farmers Market in June. We'll be back again on August 25th. *Photo by Don Mac Gregor.*



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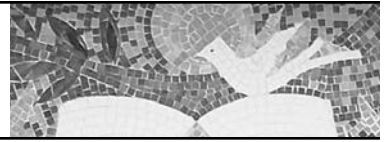
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Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

St. Viator Elementary School welcomes students on Monday, August 19! We stepped out last spring with significant improvements to our building and student body. Our STEM lab “reboot” started with a fresh paint job, re-organization, and a new curriculum. Students are already enjoying the new space! Looking at the i-Ready diagnostic, students recorded phenomenal growth on their reading and math assessments. 87% of St. Viator students are reading at, or above, their grade level! And 78% of St. Viator students are at, or above, grade level in math. We look forward to building on this momentum this year. The school is in order, ready for the students—let the learning begin!

Are you still looking for a preschool or elementary school option for the 2024-2025 school year?

We have limited seats available in select classrooms, Pre-K through 8th grade. Enroll today! Contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, at 773-545-2173. Not ready to enroll? You can also reach out to schedule a school tour at www.stviatorchicago.org/tour.



Photo credit: Sara Yoest, William Teeple, and Huguette Cogan

Cross Country Season Starts

Our athletic calendar starts with Cross Country. The team is already practicing! The first meet is the Evanston North Shore 2024 Invitational on September 5. Go Eagles!



Summer hours for the St. Viator office are Monday – Thursday from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

The first school day for the 2024-25 school year is Monday, August 19.

Connect Online! **Good things are happening at St. Viator Elementary School! Follow our socials to stay up on school news! Find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago, and Instagram: stvschoolchi, or visit the school website at www.stviatorchicago.org.**

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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

**Note: OIPA General Meetings are not held in August.
Have a great Summer. See you in September**

August

- 17 Irving Park Garden Club | Hands-On Class – Backyard Herbalism with Deb Kraemer | 10 a.m. – Noon | St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Members Only | \$15 to join until end of year

ALL SUMMER through August) The Chicago Public Library, Independence Branch, (4024 N. Elston Ave) programs for all ages; visit chipublic.org/summer to view the calendar.

September

- 4 OIPA September General Meeting | 7 p.m. | St. John’s Episcopal Church | 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Board elections. Note this is on a new night—Wednesday!
- 26 Keep Old Irving Park Clean Fundraiser Dinner & Wine Pairing | 6 pm | Community Tavern, 4038 N. Milwaukee Avenue | See inside back cover page for details.

SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 6TH



Sunday, October 6, 2024 ~ 1- 4 PM

Join the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in celebrating 40 years of neighbors helping neighbors.

Irish American Heritage Center
4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago

Invites to follow.
Contact: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org



Irving Park Community Food Pantry

2024–2025 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

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CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY MONTH (LAST NAME OPTIONAL)

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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 for Advertising and Content

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.

2024 SUBMISSION DATES	*Due to holidays	
Publication Month	Advertising	General
NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES.		
No July issue		
September	8/6	8/8
October	9/3	9/5
November	10/1	10/3
December*	11/5	11/7

Advertising Specifications

- **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.



*Taste the wine
& support
a great cause.*

**Join us for a fundraiser to
Keep Old Irving Park Clean**

**Three Courses & Wine Pairing
featuring Mexican Wine
from Casa Magoni**

**Thursday, September 26
6 pm**

**Community Tavern
4038 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago**

Seating is Limited
Reserve Your Space Today



Use the QR code to
view the menu on
our website.

Indulge in an evening of elegance and philanthropy by joining us for a Mexican-themed Wine Dinner at Community Tavern that promises to delight your senses while making a positive impact.

But this event is about more than just savoring fine wine; it's about coming together to support a great cause as a community. All proceeds from the evening will be dedicated to the "Keep OIP Clean Initiative." Your participation will contribute to providing much-needed resources and support to continue this initiative launched by Dan William.

Enjoy the ambiance, the camaraderie, and the satisfaction of knowing that your enjoyment is also an act of community support.

To secure your reservation to this inaugural dinner, please send payment of \$155 per person (inclusive of gratuity) via either by Zelle to treasurer@oldirvingpark.com or mail a check payable to "Old Irving Park Association" to Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer, 4313 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago, IL 60641



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

4313 North Keeler Ave

Chicago, IL 60641