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NEWS



NOVEMBER

VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 9 | 2024

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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 38 ✨ Issue 9 ✨ November 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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Photo by Diliara Garifullina

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Shopping Local Matters — Dan William, OIPA Director

While walking home from work, I noticed several online retailers dropping off packages, which made me wonder, “How much of that money stays in our community?” Like many of my neighbors, I want a vibrant, thriving community, but the increasing number of vacant storefronts and dwindling local options show that we may be supporting online retailers to our detriment.

The Old Irving Park Association recently oversaw a business identification study to understand better what businesses operate within our neighborhood. This study is particularly important because, according to the American Independent Business Alliance, only \$0.11 to \$0.14 cents of each dollar spent online or at large chain stores remains in the local economy. The rest goes to distant headquarters, warehouses, and other locations, leaving behind just a small portion to support delivery services or temporary local jobs.

In contrast, shopping locally has a far greater impact. \$0.48 to \$0.68 cents of every dollar spent at local businesses stays within the community. This money supports local wages, suppliers, and service providers, circulating back into the local economy multiple times. This “multiplier effect” helps sustain jobs, fund public

services, and generate local wealth. By supporting local stores, we are investing in a stronger, more resilient community.

As part of our Phase I study, we identified approximately 130 retail businesses in Old Irving Park and 30 vacant storefronts. This diversity of businesses includes dining, specialty retail, services, health and wellness, arts, and entertainment. We aim to increase awareness of these local options so that we can make informed choices about where to spend our money.

While the study is still in its early stages, we are excited about its potential. Phase II will focus on identifying local trade services, such as plumbers and electricians, and Phase III will examine professional services, including accountants and lawyers. We are committed to sharing our findings with the community once the project is complete.

Our goal is to increase awareness of the wealth of local options available, fostering a more robust local commerce and a stronger, more vibrant Old Irving Park.

Let’s all play our part in supporting local businesses. By shopping locally, we can keep our community vibrant and thriving!





MOVING



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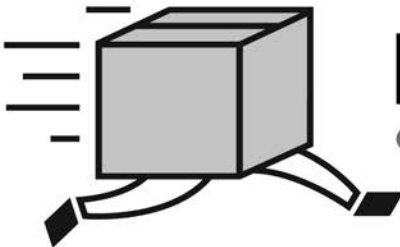


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Join the Wait Until 8th Movement in Old Irving Park!

By Liz Beslow



We are very excited to announce that Old Irving Park Parents are joining the national **Wait Until 8th** movement. This movement encourages families to delay giving their kids a smartphone until at least the end of 8th grade. Over 75,000 parents nationwide have already taken the pledge, and now our local community is getting involved to help reduce the peer pressure kids face about having smartphones before high school.

With growing concerns over the impact of social media on mental health, even the U.S. Surgeon General has issued warnings about the risks smartphones pose to children. From anxiety and depression to sleep issues and smartphone addiction, these devices can have a significant negative impact on kids. By joining forces as neighbors, we aim to protect our children's well-being and delay smartphone usage until high school.

How Can You Get Involved?

- **The first step is taking the pledge** (use the QR code at right). Once 10 families from the same grade

sign on, the pledge becomes active, and you'll receive updates about which families are part of this growing community. Your participation can help build solidarity among parents, reducing the pressure on kids and parents alike.

- **Join our free newsletter** at <https://waituntil8thoip.substack.com> and follow us on Instagram at @WaitUntil8th_OIP.
- **To get even more involved, join our founder's group.** We'll be organizing future events such as book clubs, movie screenings, social gatherings, and even setting up tables at community events to spread the word. We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in helping out or want to learn more! Email us at WaitUntil8thOIP@gmail.com.

Take the pledge!





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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on September 30, 2024 — Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:10 p.m.

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

Before the meeting, there was a discussion about the dates and times for the Board meetings and sharing this information on the OIPA shared calendar. **Nicholas Plagman-Frank** offered to schedule the meetings in Zoom for the rest of the fiscal year.

Ambassador and Zoning

39th Ward

- Update regarding the status of pedestrian infrastructure requests on Kostner and Keeler at Collom
 - Director **Adrienne Chan** contacted the 39th Ward Alderperson’s office and received a response, sharing that they would coordinate with the 30th Ward (Alderperson Ruth Cruz) regarding short-term improvements. There are no other updates currently.
 - Sidewalks are being replaced on the north side of Kostner Ave. The Board decided to contact the 39th ward for details about the plan.

45th Ward

- Update regarding \$900k earmarked for the Irving Park Transportation Hub

- The Board discussed current recommendations that State Senator Rob Martwick’s (Illinois 10th District) office shared. Board Director Dan William shared details from an email he received from the Senator’s staff. According to the email, the 10th District is currently proposing bird slides and additional bird abatement technology on I-beams under the Kennedy Expressway. Raised sidewalks are also being proposed. The Senator’s office is seeking additional ideas and recommendations from OIPA about how any leftover funds could be spent.
- Adrienne Chan asked for clarification about where specifically the bird slides would be installed. Netting is currently being replaced (over sidewalks only, due to concerns over trucks coming into contact where netting is to be placed over the roadway), and the southbound lanes have already been completed. There was also a discussion about funding for CTA elevators and where that money comes from.
- The Board decided to get clarification from State Senator Martwick’s office and US Representative Quigley’s office about the funding sources for these two projects (pedestrian safety/bird abatement and CTA elevators). The Board will follow up with the IL 10th District office and ask for clarification.
- There was also a discussion about raised



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

sidewalks, including what they look like and how they would be implemented. A picture was circulated in the Zoom chat.

board directors and allow them to coordinate the pickup location plan offline.

Upcoming Meetings

General Meeting

- The logistics of the next General meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, were discussed. **Dan William** shared his desire to continue building on the momentum of OIPA's recent successful fundraising efforts. This suggestion turned the

Continued on page 8

Community Engagement

- The Board discussed the logistics of distributing original art prints to Good Neighbor and All-Star members. The two options included delivery of prints to members' porches versus hosting pickup locations for distribution. Because of concern about exposing the prints to the elements, the decision was made to divide the artwork up between three



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on September 30, 2024, *continued from page 7.*

conversation to how the organization should use State grants earmarked and corporate donations gifted to OIPA. An idea was shared to use the November meeting to gather ideas from members about how grants could be spent. OIPA Vice President **Scott Legan** proposed a roundtable discussion for the November 13 meeting centered on neighborhood initiatives.

Holiday Party

- After a lengthy discussion about the purpose and goal of hosting an annual holiday party, the Board decided to survey La Villa, Unforgettable Lounge, and Eris for availability, food options, and ambiance.
- Introducing a theme for the party, like “Ugly Sweater,” was also shared. Three board members will coordinate with the businesses and share the information with the full Board.

Board Meetings

- The Board reviewed the dates of the upcoming Board of Directors meeting on October 28, November 18, January 27, and February 24.

Newsletter Planning

- Submission deadlines for upcoming OIPA newsletters were highlighted. Board submissions for content are due for the November newsletter by October 10 and for the December newsletter by November 7.
- Content for November and December, “Message from the Board,” was discussed.



Image provided by Openlands.

Beautification

- Openlands Tree Planting—A question was raised about whether OIPA is responsible for gathering volunteers for this event. Through conversation, it was determined that Openlands provides volunteers through its organization and that homeowners receiving a tree are also asked to volunteer.
- The Board brainstormed options for pigeon abatement under our neighborhood viaducts.

Administration

- OIPA Treasurer **Lynn Ankney** presented the financial report. Notable receipts included advertising revenue of \$1,223.22, \$3,956.50 received for the Keep OIPA Clean fundraiser dinner, and \$1,000 received for the Parents Committee. Expenses included newsletter design, print, and distribution costs.
- **Meredith O’Sullivan** motioned to approve the August financials, seconded by **Michael Cannon**, and approved by the remainder of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



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The Art of Epilepsy — Claudia Hine

Two OIP residents, **Kaitlyn Keely** and **Hannah Ruark**, participated in an art exhibit and gallery event sponsored by the Hidden Truths Project (HTP), a nonprofit with a mission to raise awareness about the pervasiveness of the hidden disability of epilepsy. HTP's goal is to improve the quality of life and well-being for individuals with epilepsy, their families, and their caregivers.

The exhibit, "Epilepsy: Illuminating Shadows, Bridging Gaps," was held at Jackson Junge Gallery, 1389 N. Milwaukee Ave., from September 24–28. It included an "Artists Talk," hosted by HTP's founder and president, Neurologist **Julie Thompson-Dobkin**, and featured stories from several featured artists. Both Kaitlyn and Hannah spoke about their entries in the show.

Kaitlyn discussed the three black-and-white photographs she had on display, which were all floral based. "Photography allows me to open my eyes and

heart to see the world differently," she said. "When you first look at the black-and-white photo of the rose, you see something beautiful on the surface, but when you look closer, you notice more of the fine details and shapes within the rose. I think this can also be said about living with epilepsy. When someone is diagnosed with epilepsy, their life is forever changed. However, when you look closer into the fine details of our lives, there are many pieces. Just like flowers, we are all affected by epilepsy differently."

Hannah's work, "Burnt Out," included a print, puzzles, and posters that incorporate the words "ignite. burn. repeat." She explains, "This reflects my exhaustion and frustration. The frustration of constantly going through seizures each time and not getting a break. The image itself is a depiction of a wax person; it has been burned all the way to its feet. One could say the image is burned to the wick's end. It is frustrating



Kaitlyn Keely's photographs are inspired by the hidden beauty she sees, whether walking in nature or on the streets of downtown Chicago.
Photo by Warren Perlstein.



NOTABLE NEIGHBORS



having seizures recurring, and the melted person represents that.”

Additionally, a fundraising event was held on September 28 at the gallery, giving attendees an opportunity to mingle with the artists, enjoy delectable food, beverages, and desserts, and celebrate the evening’s honoree, Dr. Anna Serafini, epilepsy section chief and director of the Women with Epilepsy Program at University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Serafini focuses on epilepsy issues particular to women, including the impact hormonal changes, contraception, and pregnancy can have on the frequency of seizures.

OIP residents and proud moms, **Beth Ruark** is a board member of HTP and **Kathleen Kearns** served on the host committee for the event. To learn more, visit hiddentruthsproject.com.

In addition to the matted print, Hannah Ruark’s “Burnt Out” image is also available as a poster or puzzle.

Photo by Warren Perlstein.

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There are two types of collisions: territorial aggression, in which a bird attacks its reflection, thinking it is a rival. This problem is most common in spring as male birds are establishing and defending territories. The second is full-speed collisions, in which the bird doesn't realize the difference between the window and its environment.

Birds are most active where vegetation is present. Plants and bushes placed near your windows are a common cause of bird strikes in the reflection of the landscape and sky in a window.



Anti-Collision Treatments for Existing Windows

Several DIY and professionally installed options exist to deter small birds from colliding with your window. Put decals, stickers, sun catchers, mylar strips, masking tape, or other objects (even sticky notes) on the outside surface of the window. But remember, these solutions are only effective when spaced very closely.

The Cornell Lab lists these options for creating a safe environment for birds:

- **Close blinds or curtains.**
- **Move interior plants away from windows.**
- **Place bird feeders directly on windows.**
- **Turn off the lights.**
- **Tempera paint or soap.** Mark the outside of the window with soap or tempera paint. Use a grid pattern or creative patterns up to four inches by two inches.
- **Window Decals.** Put decals, stickers, sun catchers, mylar strips, masking tape, or other objects (even sticky notes) on the outside surface of the window. Spacing is key. These are only effective when spaced closely and placed outside the window. *Note that hawk silhouettes do little to deter birds.*
- **Dot Patterns and Tape.** Long-lasting tape products make it easier to apply the correct spacing of dots across your window.
- **Acopian Bird Savers.** Also known as "zen curtains," these closely spaced ropes hang over windows. They do the work of tape or decals but are easier to install and can be aesthetically pleasing.



NATURE IN THE CITY

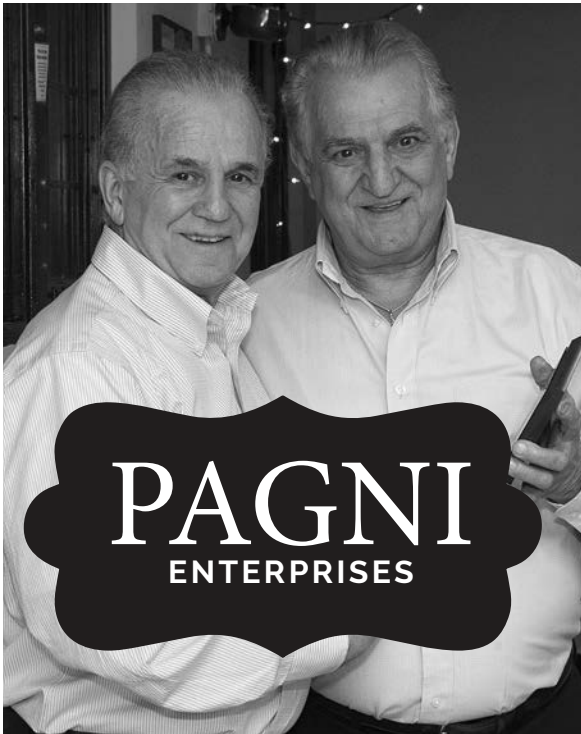
- **Screens.** Installing mosquito screens over your windows is very effective as long as they are on the outside of the window and cover the entire surface.
- **Netting.** Cover the glass on the outside with netting at least three inches from the glass, taut enough to bounce birds off. Small-mesh net (around 5/8") is best so that birds don't get their heads or bodies entangled but will bounce off unharmed. You can mount the netting on a frame, such as a storm window frame, for easy installation and removal.
- **One-way transparent film.** Products such as Collidescape permit people on the inside to see out but make the window appear opaque on the outside. According to Sheppard, they can reduce the amount of light that comes into your window

(this can also reduce your cooling costs).

For a more detailed overview of solutions, the American Bird Conservancy, a nonprofit group, has reviewed about 200 window materials and treatments for bird safety, types of glass for new construction, films, decals, and others for existing windows.

Resources

- American Bird Conservancy, www.abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/
- The Cornell Lab: "All About Birds," www.allaboutbirds.org
- Great video webinar on YouTube from Audubon New York: "An Inside Look: The Science and Solutions for Bird-window Collisions."



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



Single Family

- 3722 N. Tripp \$690,000
- 4020 W. Warwick..... \$1,160,000
- 3606 N. Keeler..... \$1,469,000
- 3903 N. Kostner \$1,640,000



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November Birthdays

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Sarada Amani
Ahmet Arsan
Sruti Balakrishnan
Maria Brandao Gomez
Rob Buckley
Shalini Campbell
Michael Cannon
Jonathan Cernak
Adrienne Chan
Patrick Cicere
John Coli
Jim Covert
Mark Dillon
Meghan Doetschman
Maureen Durkin
Taya Fallen
Sean Fleming
Dan Funkhouser
Michael Giese
Curtis Giszczynski
Steve Goetzinger
Carolyn Goldschmidt
Jose Gomez
Claudia Hine
Marie Hoffman
T.K. Horeis
Margaret Jahn
Therese Jezuit
Gudrun Jocis
Janice Jones
Jeffrey Kessler
Robert Kleisch
Mike Koehler
Lowell Krischer
Roger Leshinsky
Jeff Linnemeyer
Ed Maher

Peter Makielski
Kerry O'Brien
Margaret O'Donnell
Nicholas Plagman-Frank
Diana Powers
Diane Roels
Franco Sambataro
Will Sanders
Brad Schotanus
Kara Spak
Aimee Starck
Joseph Stypka
Brad Toth
Justin Ware
Karen Wehrle
Matt Young
Melanie Zech

November Anniversaries

Mike & Stacey Blaha
Heather & Chris Boran
Virginia & Jonathan Cernak
Jean & Chris Faris
Molly Clayton & Dipeshwar Grewal
Richard & Marie Hoffman
Bob & Janice Jones
Debbie & Ed Maher
Nancy Munsterman & Richard Tetrault
Randall & Susan Patke
Sarah & Patrick Ryan
Erin & Meni Sarris
Kristin DeHaan Simon & Jason Simon
Mary Kane & Nate Tovo
Kara Spak & Steve Warmbir

NOVEMBER KID & PET BIRTHDAYS

KID BIRTHDAYS

Winston Campbell
Maren Cicere
Stellen Goetzinger
Lily Horvath
Wes McDowell

Clark O'Donnell
Sonia Sanders
Alex Wolf
Andrew Wolf

PET BIRTHDAYS

Gus Arvanitakis
Apollo the dog



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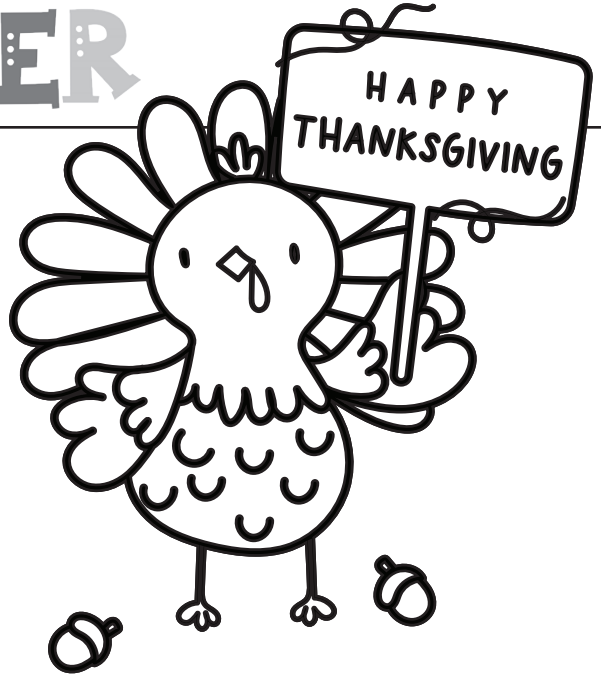
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KIDS CORNER

CORNY JOKES

Q: What side of a turkey has the most feathers?

A: The outside!



Q: What do librarians take when they go fishing?

A: Book worms!



Q: Why can't an egg tell a joke?

A: It will crack up!



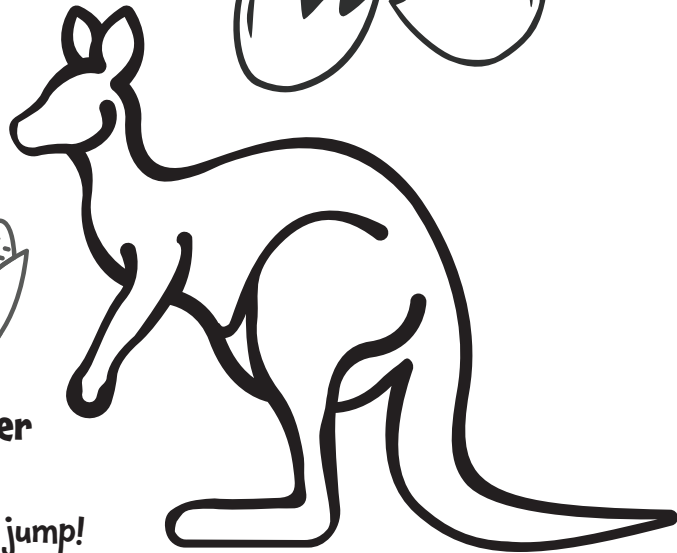
Q: What has a ton of ears but can't hear a thing?

A: A corn field.



Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Sears Tower?

A: Of course! The Sears Tower can't jump!



COLOR THE CHANGING LEAVES





End of Season Celebration

— Claudia Hine



The Irving Park Garden Club will meet for the final time this year to celebrate the holidays and the end of a fabulous season for our club and gardeners in general. Our potluck dinner and art show will be held Thursday, November 21, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

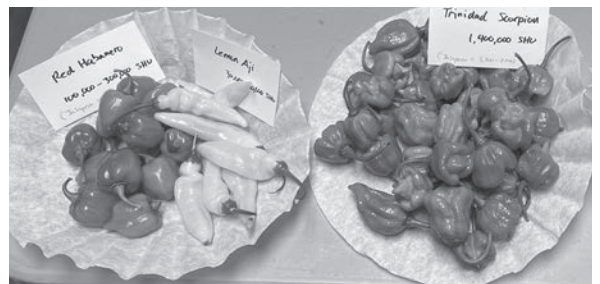
There is much to celebrate. All of the club's officers were reelected for new two-year terms for 2025-2026. They include **President Debbie Maher**, **VP Chris Omiotek**, **Secretary Sue Geisler**, and **Treasurer Kate Roche**.

This past season brought wonderful speakers to educate and inform us on a variety of topics. The club also held its annual Art and the Garden Walk featuring 14 gardens and the work of 13 artists. A well-attended plant exchange and luncheon gave members an opportunity to vie for many sought-after plants for free. And the popular Midsummer Night's Stroll was clearly our social event of the season.

So What's Next?

IPGC's Advisory Committee recently met to brainstorm speakers and plans for the 2025 season. A survey conducted by member **Karen Bebart** gave the committee much to chew on as they pored over ideas and suggestions that the survey revealed.

As always, we'll try to put together a calendar of events that will entice new members to join us next March, when our club celebrates its 35th anniversary.



Vivian Thomas shared her pepper harvest at IPGC's September meeting.



Leave the Leaves

This is a reminder that the Irving Park Garden Club encourages you to make fall cleanup a bit easier and leave the leaves around trees and in garden beds to provide shelter for bumble bees, mason bees, and so many other pollinators. But be sure not to shred the leaves, Shredded leaves will not provide the same cover as leaving them whole, and you may be destroying eggs, caterpillars, and cocoons along with the leaves.

Beyond leaving the leaves, Bee City USA, an initiative of the Xerces Society, says many insects use hollow stems as nesting sites, so keep these stalks until spring to provide habitat. In particular, "cavity nesting" bees utilize these hollow stems.

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

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



This fall, leave the leaves around trees and in flowerbeds to protect pollinators and make your garden cleanup easy.
Photo by Claudia Hine.



Photo by Stephanie Klepcki on Unsplash.

Grateful Hearts

As November is the traditional time of year to express thanks, IPGC is so lucky to have wonderful members who participate in any number of ways. We are thankful for the hard workers who spent time at the Tripp Garden, led by **Mike Basile**; the generous contributors to the snack table at our meetings; the setup and cleanup crews; to **St. John's Episcopal Church** for hosting us; to our wonderful officers and Advisory Committee, and a special thank you to **Carolyn Aronson**, for designing our newsletter, and **Laura Marie Sanchez** for audiovisual support. A note of thanks also to **Starbucks** for the contribution of coffee for our meetings and to **Trish Hinkes**, who handles the order and delivery for us.



The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator



Head Over to Easy Street Pizza for November & December Fundraisers

Mark your calendars for two fundraising opportunities! On November 12th, dine in or order out at Easy Street Pizza on Irving Park Road to support Belding's preschoolers. Then, on December 3rd, head on over to support our second graders. Make sure you mention Belding and a portion of the earnings will be donated to the 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 just come! Please arrive by 7:55 a.m. and check in with security. Upcoming tour dates include November 13 and December 11. Tours are a great opportunity to learn more about our school and Belding community! You can also check out the Belding website at beldingelementary.com for more information.



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Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presents Organist Annika Sundberg on November 3

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

The first concert of the Irving Park Fine Arts 31st Concert Series is on Sunday, November 3, 2024. The concert features renowned organist and native Chicagoan **Annika Sundberg**.

Annika will perform works from J.S. Bach and Dan Locklair and will feature selections from African American composers Thomas H. Kerr and Jeffery Mumford on the beautiful Casavant organ, built by the Casavant Freres Limitee of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada. More than 2,500 pipes are in the three expression chambers of the organ loft, which has been an integral part of the music program at the Irving Park Lutheran Church since its dedication in 1953.

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. It is free, and donations to support future programming are welcome. Additional concerts this

season include **Bear Williams** and his band on December 8 and Missing Piece a Chicago-based musical **duo violinist Dan Galat and cellist Kelly Quesada (pictured below)** on January 19, 2025.



Image courtesy of Missing Piece. Images By Liina Raud.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. For more information, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page. You can opt-in to receive our email newsletter or direct inquiries to Sara Yoest, Executive Director, at sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org or 312-810-3230.



Carson's Trivia Night – Saturday, November 16

Have you assembled and registered your team? We hope you are planning to attend Carlson Community Services' annual Trivia Night on Saturday, November 16, 2024, in the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at 4057 N. Harding Avenue. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and trivia will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

As Carlson's largest fundraiser of the year, Trivia Night has become a beloved community event since 2009. It supports Carlson's Magic Afterschool Place, the Three Brothers Garden, and the free concert series. Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$300 (\$325 after November 8) and compete for a \$250 cash prize and bragging rights!

For more information and to register your team, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org/events. This event is open to adults 21 and over. Wine, beer and soda will be sold at the bar. Join us, it's a great night out!

Three Brothers Garden produced over 500 lbs. in 2024

This season, the Three Brothers Garden produced just over 500 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs for the Irving Park Community Food Pantry! Especially notable this year were our several varieties of tomato plants, which produced over 300 pounds of tomatoes. We enjoyed a bountiful year thanks to our dedicated volunteers who cared for the garden all season and ensured that we delivered fresh vegetables to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry every Wednesday morning between June and October.

If you are interested in learning more about the Three Brothers Garden, please sign up to receive our email newsletter at <https://carlsoncommunityservices.org>.

See you in the garden next Spring!



Photos of Casavant organ and tomatoes by Sara Yoest.

Holiday Lights Stroll & Member Holiday Party



Save the Date • December 8, 2024

Start with family holiday fun, then take a stroll through the neighborhood to admire the lights. Complete the evening by joining us for the OIPA Members Holiday Party dinner.

.....
Watch for details.





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Happenings at the Y — Ron Anderson, Executive Director



Fall into Fun with Kids Night Out

The **November Kids Night Out** at the Y is scheduled for Friday, November 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The price is \$15 and includes dinner for each registered child. Enjoy a night out while the kiddos fall into fun at the Y.



Community Forum

As the planning begins for 2025, we want to hear from you about what programs and services you'd like to see the Y offer. Irving Park Y leadership will lead these forums, which will be held in late November or early December. Watch our Facebook page for details.



Save the Date – Breakfast with Santa

Our annual **Breakfast with Santa** event will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 8 to 10 a.m. It will include a full buffet-style breakfast, craft stations, and a visit from Santa. Registration will open on November 18.

Photos provided by the YMCA.



Irving Park YMCA
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Pantry Collecting Hats, Scarves & Gloves Until November 17



The Pantry is collecting new hats, scarves, and gloves to provide our registered clients with the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes later this month. This program replaces our annual coat drive, which we are unable to run this year.

We will give out the items to qualified clients in our service area on November 20 during our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution from 9 a.m. to noon.

Use the QR code below to make a contract-free online donation through our Amazon registry. If you would like to make a monetary donation so we can purchase more items, please use the PayPal link at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or mail a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618, and mark it for "winterwear."

You can drop off locally purchased hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for men, women, and children at any of our drop-off locations listed below until Sunday, November 17.

NOTE: Please limit your donation to hats, scarves, and gloves only. We have no space for other items.



If you would like to purchase items. This QR code will take you to the Pantry's registry for hats, scarves, and gloves donations.

Donations can be taken to:

- Alderwoman Ruth Cruz's office, 5418 W. Belmont Ave. (call 773/628-7874 for times).
- BIG Helpers store, 4184 N. Elston Ave. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).
- Compass Real Estate (Three offices: 2044 W Roscoe St., 1653 N. Milwaukee Ave. and 2350 N. Lincoln Ave., 3rd floor.)
- Irving Park YMCA, 4251 W Irving Park Rd. (dropbox in the lobby)
- Jet's Pizza, 3951 N. Kimball Ave., (dropbox in the waiting area)
- Old Irving Brewing Co., 4419 W Montrose Ave. (noon to 10 p.m.)
- State Representative Lindsey LaPointe's office, 4349 N Milwaukee Ave. (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.–Fri.)
- Front Porch at 4242 N. Hamlin Ave. (anytime)
- Front Porch at 4043 and 4115 N. Harding (anytime)
- Front Porch at 4731 Kiona Ave. (anytime)
- Front Porch at 3822 N. Tripp Ave. (anytime)

If you have a large donation or want to run a drive, please email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org for suggestions or to arrange delivery. Thank you for your support!

Article submitted by Craig Shutt, 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



During a recent distribution, several local politicians sent representatives to talk with our clients. They included Magda Herron (second from left), field representative & grants manager, and Madeleine Tutwiler (third from left) from Congresswoman Dalia Ramirez's office, along with Julia Murtychian (far left), outreach director for State Representative Lindsey LaPointe. Executive Director John Psiharis welcomed their participation. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Brianna from the Irving Park YMCA shows off their container, which will collect winter hats, scarves, and gloves for the Pantry until November 17. *Photo courtesy Irving Park YMCA.*



Members of the Sage Brigade, Alderwoman Rossana Rodriguez's group of volunteers who visit seniors to help them apply for programs and more, picked up food at the Pantry to take on their visits. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Raymond Hasbrook from the Chicago Fire Department Foundation dropped off more than 200 smoke detectors. Assistant Operations Manager Laura Barnes was on hand to accept the donations. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Executive Director John Psiharis congratulates the Pantry's Volunteers of the Year, Don Mac Gregor (center) and Greg Shea, who was voted for the award by the Pantry's volunteers. *Photo by Marcy Sherrill*



Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

St. Viator Elementary School enjoys our community connections in November!

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup

We invite our community friends with newborn children up to 4 years of age to join us in our Rec Center Gym for a safe playtime. We lay down mats and bring out hula hoops, tunnels, and more! Adults stay with their children to enjoy this complimentary event offered by St. Viator Elementary School for our neighbors and friends. We will meet on November 7 and 21, and December 5 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Join us!



Photo provided by St. Viator.

Enrollment Events Continue

Open House is Wednesday, November 13, from 9–10:30 a.m., and it allows you to see a school day at St. Viator Elementary School. Parent Tour Guides are ready to walk you through the school and answer your questions. If this date and time don't work with your schedule, contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, at (773) 545-2173 to schedule an individual tour.

Intramural Weekend

In this round of intramural basketball, the boys play ball while the girls will cheer them on (that will flip in the spring). Join us in the Rec Center Gym for our intramural tournament on Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. All friends of St. Viator School are welcome.

Save the Date: Winterfest 2024

Our 2024 Winterfest falls on Saturday, December 7.

Activities for this all-day event include a "Santa Shuffle" fun run, crafts, face painting, food, drinks, and even a holiday train! Stay with us into the evening for a holiday movie and some popcorn! Follow our socials for details.

Connect Online! We constantly update our events, so subscribe to our socials to stay up on St. Viator Elementary 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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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

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

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

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E-MAIL 2

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ANNUAL
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is up for
renewal on your
anniversary date

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 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.		
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.



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OIPA & COMMUNITY CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



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hello@oldirvingpark.com
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November

- 3 Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert**
featuring organist Annika Sundberg
| 2 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church,
4100 N. Harding Ave.
- 13 OIPA Quarterly General Meeting**
7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church,
3857 N. Kostner Ave.
**Round table discussion: neighborhood
initiatives and grant funding**
- 16 Carlson Community Services' Trivia
Night** | Irving Park Lutheran Church
gym | 4057 N. Harding Avenue. Visit
carlsoncommunityservices.org/events
- 21 Irving Park Garden Club** | Member
Holiday Potluck Dinner | 7 p.m. |
St. John's Episcopal Church,
3857 N. Kostner Ave.

December

- 8 OIPA Holiday Family Fun Activities,
Holiday Light Stroll & OIPA Members
Holiday Party**
Details to come.
- 8 Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert**
Bear Williams & his band, | 2 p.m. |
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym,
4057 H. Harding Avenue. Holiday concert
followed by reception.

January

- 19 Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert**
featuring Missing Piece | 2 p.m.
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym,
4057 H. Harding Avenue.

February/March

- TBD OIPA Quarterly General Meeting**
7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church,
3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Speakers: Local
elected officials.

April

- 12 Egg Hunt hosted by OIPA Parents
Committee** | Belding School playground

May

- 14 OIPA Quarterly General Meeting**
7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church
Garden, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | "Getting
Ready for Summer: Irving Park Garden
Club, greenspace adoption and more.

TBD All-Star Party

Cocktail Party Social event for
the All-Star membership level.

June

- 8 (tentative) Ice Cream Social + End of
School Year Party + Teen
Service Forum** | St. John's
Episcopal Church Garden,
3857 N. Kostner Ave.

Submit your event for our calendar.

Submissions are due the first Thursday of the month.

Send your contributions to: Kathleen Kearns at k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com.

Please include "OIPA submission" in the subject line of the email.