



OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



DECEMBER

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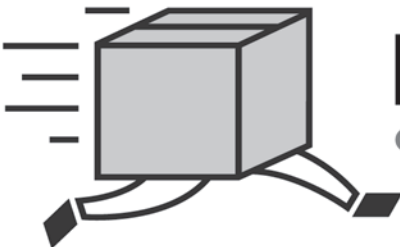


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A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for, and about people living in the neighborhood. Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries include Addison on the south, Montrose on the north, Pulaski on the east, and the Milwaukee District North Line on the west (from Addison to Irving Park) continuing with the freight/Amtrak railroad tracks from Irving Park to Montrose (i.e., east of Knox Ave.). A map can be found on our website.

The Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) is a non-profit, all-volunteer community group active since 1983. The Old Irving Park News is published ten times a year.

www.ouldirvingpark.com

FB: ouldirvingparkassoc

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Cover Photo: the Charles M. Loucks House, an 1889 Queen Anne-style house at 3926 North Keeler. Photo by Terry McGuire and Sharon Graham



Restoration Work on an 1889 Queen Anne

— Terry McGuire and Sharon Graham



The Charles M. Loucks House, an 1889 Queen Anne-style house at 3926 North Keeler, has been our home for 24 years. Maintaining it is always a work in progress.

The most challenging area is the tallest part: the turret on the southeast corner, a hallmark of all Queen Anne homes. This past month, a close inspection of the top of the turret with binoculars showed that a great deal of work needed to be done.

Peeled paint was on the four windows at the top, and damaged and rotted wood was above and below the windows. Very little paint remained on the four decorative pressed metal chevrons above each window. Millwork missing. Extensive scaffolding around most of the turret was necessary to get the work done.

The photos taken by the restoration crew clearly illustrate the difference before and after the work was completed.





ELEGANCE & CHARM RESTORED



With winter approaching, it is crucial to complete the repairs promptly. Fortune Restoration, a company that has worked on many homes in this neighborhood, estimated that the work could be finished by early November. In fact, they completed it before the end of October.

Besides the work on the turret, decorative pieces above the front porch and woodwork around all four sides of the building were scraped, sanded, and repainted.

The photos taken by the restoration crew clearly illustrate the difference before and after the work was completed. A paint color consultant from JC Licht, who collaborates with Fortune Restoration, contributed innovative ideas to enhance the home's appearance.

The scaffolding was set up in just one and a half days, with the entire project wrapped up in under a week.

As a result, the house is now well-sealed for winter and looks much more like it did when it was originally built. As a Chicago Landmark home, it is expected to endure for at least another fifty years.



Photos provided by Terry McGuire and Sharon Graham. And courtesy of Fortune Restoration.



OIPA GOOD NEIGHBORS | A Journey of Gratitude



NEIGHBORS SENDING NEIGHBORS A LITTLE SHOUT OUT FOR ACTS OF KINDNESS

After living in Logan Square for 15 years, my husband, Bryan, and I knew we needed more space for our growing family. Our search eventually brought us to Old Irving Park, a neighborhood we were not familiar with. The beauty of the homes attracted us, as did the yard sizes and the ease of still being able to get downtown. A journey that took years in the making, a stint on *House*



Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts (second from right) surrounded by her support team.

Photo provided by Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts.

Hunters, and 15 months of construction to renovate our home, we finally moved in as the pandemic was setting in. As we experienced the uncertainty of the world around us, I started to question our decision to move to OIP as, after all, I really loved Logan Square. Much to my surprise, I was overwhelmed by the strong feeling of community, and I knew it was exactly the place where I wanted to raise my family.

In the Spring of 2023, my life forever changed when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. The outpouring of love and support that my family received from our neighborhood was a testament to how amazing this community is. No one wants to hear the words “you have cancer,” but what I can tell you is when you have a community that rallies around you, supports you, and empowers you, it means so much to someone going through this journey. For all the people who helped with my kids, brought us meals, provided Spotify chemo playlists, walked our dog, and went for walks with me, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!

Besides my husband Bryan, for being the best partner I could ask for, I wanted to extend a special THANK YOU to Maria Ricotta, Liz Beslow and Shoshana Friedman. You three have pulled me through the mud and have kept me moving despite all my tears and complaints. You know I love a good party, so you threw me an epic “Ta-Tas Be Gone” party with just a few weeks’ notice. You even helped me execute my beloved kids Halloween party the week before my last chemo session.

I truly can't thank you enough!
Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts

Old Irving Park

HOLIDAY *Stroll and Dinner*

Check out holiday decorations with us
and stay for a special dinner for OIPA members

DECEMBER 8TH at 4:30PM

St John's Courtyard - 3857 N Kostner

4:30-5:15 pm

Kids Holiday Music Show

Complimentary cocoa and churros

Photos with Elsa and Elf on the Shelf
courtesy of



5:15-6 pm Lights Stroll - led by Elsa and the Elf

5:45-7:45 pm OIPA Holiday Dinner - for OIPA Members **RSVP REQUIRED**

Donate to the IPCFP
Holiday Wishlist



Questions? hello@oldirvingpark.com





Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 28, 2024 — Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:04 p.m.

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

Communication

- An OIPA member emailed the Board to ask for assistance with the cleanup of construction debris left on the parkway on the 3700 block of Kenneth. The Board discussed and decided to escalate the matter to 30th Ward Alderperson Ruth Cruz’s office.

Ambassador/Zoning

- State Representative/Senator
 - Update regarding the earmarked funds (\$900k) for the Irving Park Transportation Hub.
 - The Board discussed the desire to see this money prioritized for capital improvements involving pedestrian safety.
 - More information is needed regarding the status of the earmarked funds and what portion, if any, of the funds have already been committed to projects.
 - The decision was made to follow up with State Senator Martwick’s office before proceeding with OIPA’s recommendations.
- Update regarding the \$250k DCEO Grant application process.

- Several application documents have been completed, and two remain.
- During the meeting, the Board reviewed one of the remaining documents, the project narrative, and discussed how the grant money could be spent.
- During the discussion questions were raised about reporting requirements of the grant. Clarification about requirements will be brought to OIPA’s Grant Manager during the next check-in.
- In preparation for the OIPA General Members Meeting on November 13, the Board agreed to use the following tasks to frame round table discussion topics:
 - General beautification & landscaping
 - Necessary upgrades to OIPA’s website and database
 - Trash collection and pickup
 - Supporting and building relationships with other local community organizations and non-profits
 - New murals and mural improvements
 - Pedestrian safety improvements
 - Pigeon and nuisance abatement
 - Other eligible tasks based on community input
- Following the November 13 meeting, the Board will discuss and qualify tangible ideas about how to spend grant dollars and divide responsibilities to move projects forward.



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Community Engagement

- Carlson Community Services has requested OIPA to serve as a sponsor for their November 16 Trivia Night. The Board put forward a vote and unanimously approved a \$250 donation.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, November 13: OIPA General Members Meeting – Community input for DCEO grant projects
 - The Board discussed the format of the meeting and decided to organize small groups each centralized on a specific topic and led by an OIPA Board member to facilitate discussion and take notes.

- Following the meeting the Board will discuss and qualify the ideas gathered from members and decide which projects to prioritize.
- Sunday, December 8: Holiday Party
 - The Board discussed the options for location, menu, and format of the 2024 Holiday Party, which included returning to La Villa Strada or moving the location to St. John’s reception hall. The latter option would involve catering the food, hiring servers, and potentially providing entertainment. After much discussion, the decision was made to gather more information on each option and make the final decision offline.

Continued on page 8



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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 28, 2024 *continued from page 7.*

Newsletter Planning

- Content for the December “Message from the Board” was discussed, and it was decided to pivot from the overview of annual donations typically shared ahead of the holidays to an overview of the DCEO Grant.

Administration

- Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer, presented the September financial report. September saw

strong income from membership renewals, advertising, and the Keep OIP Clean fundraiser at Community Tavern. Outgoing funds for predictable expenses such as newsletter publication, meeting, and an OIPA Parents Committee event were shared. Scott Leagan motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report, and it was approved by the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting

on November 13, 2024, 7 p.m. — Submitted by Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer

OIPA Director **Jake Berger** called the meeting to order promptly at 7 p.m. Jake thanked the approximately 40 neighbors who answered the call to brainstorm ideas to improve our neighborhood via an operational grant furnished by the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

During the first 15 minutes of the meeting, the OIPA Board members discussed details about the \$250,000 operational grant awarded to OIPA by DCEO. Details included:

- Illinois State Senator Rob Martwick is responsible for this grant being awarded to OIPA.
- The grant reimburses allowable expenditures from July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.

- We are working through the application phase preceding the actual spend/reimbursement cycle. (Read: OIPA does not receive a check upfront)
- We have a Grants Manager (employed by and assigned to us by DCEO) who is guiding us through the process

For the remaining 45-minutes, we conducted three rounds of 10-minute long small group brainstorming sessions at five different themed tables:

- General beautification and landscaping – planters, greenspace
- Clean up – Garbage, pigeons
- Murals and Signage – Viaduct Murals, Metal Signage



OIPA Board (left to right) Dave Ryan, Annie Swingen, Scott Legan, vice-president, Lynn Ankney, Treasurer, Jacob Berger, Michael Cannon, president, Meredith O'Sullivan, Adrienne Chan. Not pictured: Nicholas Plagman-Frank, secretary and Colleen Kenny



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

- Pedestrian safety improvements – raised crosswalks, infrastructure
- Outside the box – things not already listed

Each themed table had at least one OIPA Board member to lead the discussions and capture the ideas. In addition to the neighbors who assembled, we had **Chris Lempa** from Senator Martwick’s office (pictured with Michael Cannon, OIPA president) and **Dana Fritz** from Congressman Quigley’s office who participated in the idea generation.

After the three sessions, the five tables’ consolidated ideas were displayed on giant Post-it notes around the room for all to read and digest. The next steps are for the OIPA Board to review all generated ideas, prioritize which ones can be accomplished via the grant, and incorporate them into the DCEO’s required project budget template.

We look forward to updating the community on the grant process via this publication, the General Meetings, and the OIPA News email list.

Questions? Send us a note at Hello@oldirvingpark.com.



OIPA members participated in three rounds of small group brainstorming sessions, each lasting 10 minutes, to share ideas about community projects.



What is Renewed Hope? — Vicci Rogers

A Reconciling Methodist Church was born on May 19, 2024, from the vital merger of Irving Park United Methodist Church and Berry United Methodist (Lincoln Park). Pastor Matthew Krings leads this congregation, which shares a totally accessible ministry center (former Albany Park UMC) at the corner of Albany and Wilson (3100 W Wilson) renewedhopeumc.org. Renewed Hope is an authentic and compassionate community of spiritual seekers, inclusive of all. Through Christ's example, the church joyfully and intentionally lives out God's love. The church seeks creative ways to provide healing and wholeness to our world and invites all to join us as we strive to follow the way of Christ.

Joining two churches means cleaning out storage units. In doing so, a quilt, created in 1990, was found! It measures 12'x12' with 36 squares from reconciling churches across the country at the time. It is a testament to the more than 50-year-long movement to



bring LGBTQ religious life out of the closeted shadows. "The re-dedication of the recovered tapestry serves as a kickoff for the Renewed Hope Colloquium, a series of talks and events as we engage in justice-making strategies on the intersection of issues like racism, ableism, ageism, xenophobia, and transphobia," said Mathew Krings, pastor of Renewed Hope.



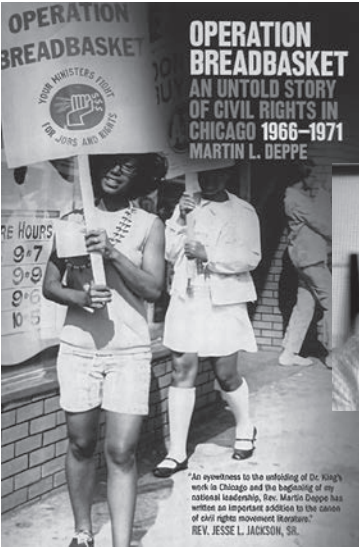
A hidden treasure, a quilt created in 1990, was found while cleaning out the church's storage units.



Earlier this year, the Renewed Hope Colloquium featured David Foster (pictured at left), Chicago Temple Historian and Author of "Sermon in Stone: The Story of the Chicago Temple." Foster Outlined how the building and its founders used the city as inspiration and strove to link commerce to mercy through a "humane ministry." Church leaders saw the Chicago Temple "as a building for everyone with enormous social and religious influence."



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | United Methodists Church



Rev. Martin Deppe will lead the Renewed Hope Colloquium conversation on the role of faith communities in civil rights on Saturday, December 7, from 2-4 p.m.

Rev. Deppe is the author of "Operation Breadbasket: An Untold Story of Civil Rights in Chicago, 1966-1971." He was lead pastor at Irving Park UMC from 1991-1999. Beyond his work at Operation Breadbasket, Deppe was active at all levels of the United Methodist Church, authoring dozens of social justice resolutions from the Northern Illinois Conference area to the general church. Recently, Rev. Deppe has been involved in the CTS Jackson Oral History Project. There is no charge for the program, but please register on the church website at renewedhopeumc.org.

Rev. Martin Deppe
Co-founding member
of Operation
Breadbasket

Continued on page 14

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What is Renewed Hope?, *continued from page 13*

Congratulations to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

In 1984, Leila Duncan convinced the Irving Park UMC Church Council to get behind the creation of a food pantry. Until the church was sold in 2018, the IPCFP shared this space on the corner of Grace and Keeler in Old Irving Park. While celebrating the past 40 years, the Pantry is looking at transforming to serve the community's future needs better. Renewed Hope is proud to be a Partner with the Pantry, as many of our members have served on its BOD and as volunteers.

Vicci Rodgers, of Irving Park, with John Psiharis, executive director of the Pantry, at the May 19 "birth" of Renewed Hope UMC.



Shown (L-R): Sina Kraneis and Linda Fay with the RH Women in Faith and Alexa Hernandez and Gabriela Ortega-Baez were the first recipients of this annual award for seniors pursuing healthcare careers.

Health Care Scholarships at Schurz

The Renewed Hope United Women in Faith awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two seniors at Schurz High School who are pursuing careers in health care. These scholarships are dedicated to the memory of Joyce Mylander, a Schurz alumna who was a lifelong member of the church and served as its office manager for many years. Joyce warmly welcomed people from all walks of life into the church. She was born and raised in this neighborhood, and she had a deep fondness for her school and church. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, more information is available on the church website at renewedhopeumc.org.

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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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



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4200 N. Kildare \$668,000
3753 N. Kilbourn \$748,000
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4302 N. Lowell \$835,000



Attached Single Family

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4130 W. Byron, 303 \$156,000
4101 W. Berneau, 201 \$192,500
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3916.5 N. Kedvale, 2E \$230,000
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4308 W. Waveland, 1 \$270,000
4322 N. Kedvale, D \$367,000
3825 N. Milwaukee, C \$395,000

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December Birthdays

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Robert Bloomfield	Shawn LaFleur
Jill Bruzzini	Demetri Lambros
Rebecca Calloway	Elpitha Lambros
Courtney Carlstrom	Bertha Magana
Chris Chan	Helen McDowell
Zarah Chan	Dana Moran
Demian Christiansen	Allison Mutlu
Sabrina Cimo	Gina Oderda
Molly Clayton	Laura Ozog
Barbara Cohn	Antonia Pieczonka
Stephan Cohn	Kevin Randall
Caleen Coli	Laura Marie Sanchez
Lucy Diaz	Erin Sarris
John Dowd	Jeanette Schrader
Terry Fallen	Gregory Snyder
Kellie Fleming	Rob Starman
Gerald Gierke	Susan Strong-Dowd
Patrick Ginnan	Mary Sussman
Victoria Granacki	Robert Tataryn
Patricia Gustafson	Nate Tovo
Scott Gustafson	Christine Vertucci
Amy Hanks	Michael Walczak
Amy Hennessey	Mark Yoest
Michael Innocenzi	Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts

December Anniversaries

Kate & Jeff Cain
Gayle Christensen & Michael O'Brien
Frank Diaz & Patricia Hernandez
Zachary Osner & Holly White
Brian Pearson & Stephen Stockley
Ryan & Sonia Perkins Mata
Aimee & Colby Starck
Michelle & Elliott Stepusin
John Thuet & Frances Jochum
Linda Townsend & Michael Polzin
Beth Valukas & Peter Barash
Gregory Snyder & James Meyer

KID BIRTHDAYS

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

PEI BIRTHDAYS

Aubie Arevalo
Titus Liese



January Birthdays

Rachel Allmen	Gareth Grossnickle	Michael O'Brien
Lynn Ankney	Annmarie Handley	Michael Rakotz
Peter Barash	Annette Huizenga	Caitlin Rinard
David Bremner	Alberto Ilustre	Robert Sadlier
Joan Bychowski	Jason Isadore	Michael Sebastian
Sarah Cantor	Joe Jamrosz	Emily Sermersheim
Rosemarie Clohisy	Emily Johanson	Kate Simmons
Emily Coakley	Bob Jones	Elizabeth Slosarski
Lis Dankovich	Mike King	Kim Starman
Daniel Degnan	Kathryn Kleisch	Greg Swanson
Peter Doetschman	Joanne Krakora	Itaf Sweiss
Diane Ehrhart	Kathy Liebich	Joy Westendorf
Abby Ernst	Lindsey Liese	Holly White
Courtney Funkhouser	Renee Linnemeyer	Mark Wilke
Denise Ghilarducci	Bryan McCoy	Dean Wolf
Richard Ghilarducci	Anne Morrissy	Angie Yorath
Susan Gidley	Mete Mutlu	Marnie Zabicki
Sharon Graham	Matthew O'Brien	

January Anniversaries

Maria & Ted Bougher
Caleen & John Coli
Michael Giese & Kristyn Krzyzaniak
Rhys & Liz Jones
Javier & Sophia Jugo
Bryan & Miranda McCoy
Leanne & Jack Neurauter
Bryan Pitts & Jocelyn Zolna-Pitts
Emily & Jeremy Sermersheim



KID BIRTHDAYS

Seamu Greene

Bren Hicks

Tahlia Nouri

Rory Wilke

PET BIRTHDAYS

George & Kirby

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.

KIDS CORNER

CORNY JOKES

Q: What did one snowman say to the other snowman?

A: Do you smell carrots??



Q: Why do birds fly south in the winter?

A: Because it's too far to walk!



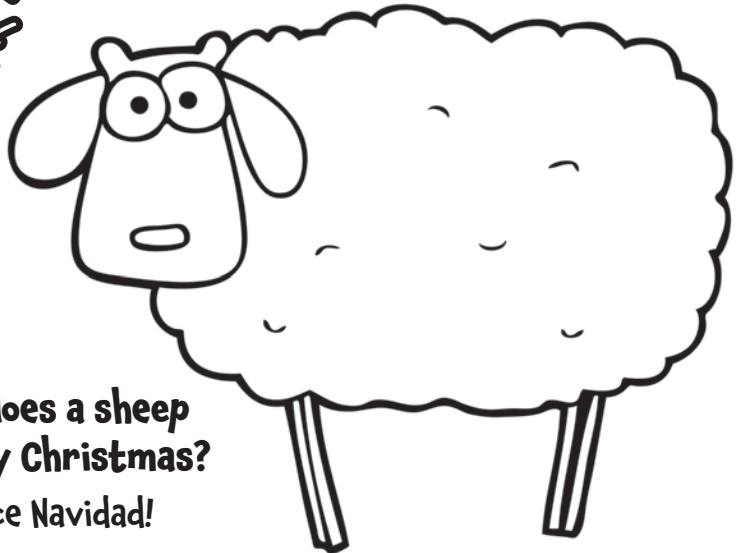
Q: What kind of photos do elves take?

A: Elfies!



Q: What falls at the North Pole and never gets hurt?

A: Snow!



Q: How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?

A: Fleece Navidad!



Festive Fun





Remembering the Founders of the Old Irving Park Association

—Laura Marie Sanchez, excerpted
obituary from the Daily Courier,
Prescott Valley



Jack D. Wilson and Elizabeth “Liz” Wilson, founding members of both the Old Irving Park Association and the Irving Park Historical Society (now OIPA’s history team), both passed away in September.

Elizabeth Skoglund was born on July 23, 1939, in Chicago. She outlived both her parents, Arthur and Rita Cosgrove Skoglund, as well as her only brother, James.

Jack D. Wilson was the son of the late Donald and Virginia Wilson. A U.S. Army veteran, he attended college on the G.I. Bill, which allowed him to begin a 37-year career in information technology. During his 30 years with Amoco Corporation, he worked on their first online system and a groundbreaking competitive intelligence system for top management.

Jack and Liz married in 1970 and enjoyed 54 years together. While living in Chicago, Liz balanced motherhood with a successful career as a real estate broker and investor spanning over forty years. They had two children: daughter Kerry Wilson, who resides in Prescott, and son Jack D. Wilson Jr., who lives in Chicago.

Both Jack and Liz shared a passion for community involvement and championed historic preservation causes. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, they rehabilitated old houses, including their own,

the Charles N. Loucks House (now owned by OIPA members, Terry McGuire and Sharon Graham, see page 2). Along with Dan and Mickey Leavy, they established the Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) and the Irving Park Historical Society (IPHS). These organizations hosted neighborhood rehabilitation fairs, facilitated research on local history, and prioritized civic engagement as the Old Irving neighborhood underwent significant development during the latter part of the 20th century.

Jack and Liz were avid collectors of American art glass and pottery, frequently traveling to enhance their collection. Jack authored “Phoenix & Consolidated Art Glass 1926-1980” and served as an adviser for Schroeder’s “Antique Price Guide” for ten years. Some of their pieces were featured in table settings during early Housewalks.

In 2000, Jack and Liz retired to Prescott, Arizona. Jack served as Mayor of Prescott from 2007 to 2009 and continued to work on the city’s tourism strategy after his term. Liz volunteered for many years at the Sharlot Hall Museum, which is a four-acre, eleven-building history museum in central Arizona. The couple was also active in local Prescott organizations, including Prescott Sister Cities, VASA, and The Questers.

Liz passed away after a long illness, and Jack died due to complications from pneumonia. A celebration of life for both was held in Prescott on September 27, 2024.

We remain grateful for their contributions to our neighborhood.

Photo provided by Laura Marie Sanchez



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SUPERHEROES SPOTTED IN OIP

— Claudia Hine



A Kentucky coffeetree sapling gets a healthy drink of water after being planted at the Tripp Garden last month. *Photo by Claudia Hine*

The Old Irving Park community received the wonderful gift of 15 or so native trees for barren parkways last month. Thanks to a partnership between OIPA and Openlands, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving open spaces and natural resources, our neighborhood became more beautiful and more environmentally friendly. Trees are actual superheroes in the fight against climate change.

With a combination of OIP residents and Treekeeper volunteers from Openlands, holes were dug, trees were situated, dirt was backfilled, and mulch was applied to each tree. The last step — watering — will be crucial to the survival of these saplings.

Irving Park Garden Club's Tripp Garden was the recipient of one of these trees, a Kentucky Coffeetree, which is native to the Midwest and Chicago region. With leathery, reddish-brown seedpods for winter interest, its tolerance to pollution makes it suitable for our tough urban environment. It can grow to a height of 60–75 ft and typically lives for 100–150 years.

In addition to the wonderful Openland volunteers, IPGC is grateful to members **Mike Basile**, **Barry Bebart**, **Laird Larsen**, and **Jon Miller** for supplying some of the muscle needed to get our tree into the ground.

Why Plant Native Trees?

Native trees, which are plants that were found here before European settlement, are noninvasive and don't crowd out our native species. They support our local wildlife, and they combat climate change by storing carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, thus purifying the air we breathe. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service reports that in one year, a mature live tree can absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide, which is permanently stored in its fibers.



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

According to Audubon, research by entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oak trees support more than 500 species of caterpillars whereas Ginkgo trees, commonly planted landscape trees from Asia, host only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes more than 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a significant difference.

Don't really care about birds, bees, bats, butterflies, beetles, and other insects? Well, you might want to rethink that. These pollinators feed the world by pollinating crops such as apples, bananas, blueberries, strawberries, melon, peaches, potatoes, vanilla, almonds, coffee, and chocolate, not to mention all of our flowering plants.

Curious About the Garden Club?

IPGC is on hiatus until March 2025, but if you want to join our club, email irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com, and we'll keep you informed as our 2025 plans develop. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

With 100+ members, we represent all skill levels. Our gardens may be large or fit on a patio. We're growing trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, and seeds, and we all share one thing. We want to learn. We engage speakers who educate us on best practices, and we also have fun, including hosting an annual plant exchange, garden walk, and Midsummer Night's Stroll. We'd love for you to join us.



**Wishing you and your family
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We look forward to seeing you
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Belding School



Photos provided by Belding School.

The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

ABC Day

It was a day of excitement and joy for the first Awesome Belding Celebration (ABC) day! Students and staff started the day with their annual walk-a-thon, where the generous Belding community raised a record-breaking \$53,000 for twelve weeks of art for all students. In the afternoon, Belding athletes were celebrated during the pep rally along with the winners of the very spirited door-decorating contest. Then, to celebrate their fundraising goal, **Principal Mandi Durkin** and **Assistant Principal Arman Cortes** took to the field, where students made them human sundaes.



Principal Mandi Durkin and Assistant Principal Cortes after the sundae slam.

Junior Achievement Day

Junior Achievement of Chicago is a nonprofit that inspires and prepares young people for success. Volunteers from Charles Schwab (Pictured above with Belding students.) went into multiple classrooms to teach lessons on topics covering financial literacy, job exploration, the global marketplace, and their communities.

December Fundraiser

Head over to the **Easy Street Pizza** on Irving Park Road on December 3, to support Belding's 2nd graders. Eat in the restaurant or order takeout. Make sure you mention Belding; 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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Giving Tuesday is December 3— Keep Your Dollars in the Neighborhood

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

As you determine where your charitable giving can make the most impact, please consider donating to Carlson Community Services. Our 2024 Giving Tuesday campaign will directly benefit our Magic After-school Place (MAP) program. Since 2006, hundreds of neighborhood children – the majority from low-income and single-parent households – have had a warm, caring environment every day after school. The Magic After-school Place offers students academic support, stability, enrichment activities,

and fun every day that Chicago public schools are in session. We are thrilled that our enrollment is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. However, we are finding that more families than ever before need tuition assistance. Working families from all income levels can benefit from the MAP program, which has tuition tiers based on household income. We believe all children deserve to grow and learn in a supportive, stable environment. Your Giving Tuesday donation will help us provide tuition assistance to families with the greatest need, ensuring they have access to high-quality after-school care. A donation of \$90 will cover one week of full tuition for a MAP student. Scan the QR code to be directed to Carlson's secure PayPal site or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org and click the green Give Today box on our homepage. We appreciate your consideration.



Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Free Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 8

Join us in welcoming Bear Williams and his Band for a free holiday concert on Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. Bear Williams, aka (Larry Kimpel) is a Chicago-based



Photo by Sara Yoest.

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.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services

blues/Folk Artist who records and tours internationally. He is the co-founder of GVR Records distributed by INgrooves/Razor's Edge/Virgin Music Group. The Indie label is the sole vehicle for Bear's music projects. Bear and his band always draw a big crowd!

The holiday concert will be held in the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at 4057 N. Harding Avenue at 2:00 p.m., immediately followed by a festive reception. The concert is free; donations to support future programming are welcome.



The Bad Momz will return in 2025

Mark your calendar! The Bad Momz of Comedy will return to the Irving Park Neighborhood on February 28, 2025, for a show to benefit Carlson Community Services. Watch our Facebook page for details on when tickets will go on sale, or visit our website at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page, where you can sign up to receive Carlson email updates.



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Contribute to the *OIPA News*

We welcome individual article submissions for the OIPA newsletter!

Here are a few ideas:

- Give a shout-out to a kind neighbor.
- Did you recently visit a local business or restaurant? Then share your experience.
- Write a fun story about our neighborhood or a fond memory.
- Share your knowledge on a topic.
- Attend an event? Share a photo (please include photo credit).

Guidelines: For editorial submission guidelines see page 40 for full details.



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Happenings at the Y

— Ron Anderson, Executive Director

Community Health and Wellness Resource Fair

The Irving Park YMCA recently hosted a successful Community Health and Wellness Resource Fair, bringing together 15 local businesses and organizations to offer valuable resources and support to the Irving Park community. Thank you to everyone who attended this free event, where participants could explore health and wellness services, engage in fun activities, and connect with others. We look forward to more community events! Stay updated by signing up for email alerts, visiting our Concierge Desk, or checking our Events webpage.



Volleyball Tournament

Get ready to serve up some fun this December with our Bump, Set, and Spike Volleyball Tournament at the Irving Park YMCA! Whether you're a seasoned volleyball player or just looking to have a good time with friends, this friendly one-day competition is open to everyone. The tournament, which is for players ages 15 and older, will take place on Saturday, December 14, from 3 to 6 p.m. Teams will consist of a maximum of seven players, and the cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, which includes a team t-shirt for each participant. Registration is required for each player, so be sure to sign up early to secure your spot and get ready for a fun-filled day of volleyball! Register in person or call the front desk at 773-777-7500.

Photos provided by the YMCA.



Irving Park YMCA
4251 W. Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60641
773.777.7500
irvingparkymca.org



Breakfast with Santa

Get into the holiday spirit at our annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 14, from 8 to 10 a.m.! Enjoy a delicious buffet-style breakfast, fun craft stations, and a special visit from Santa himself. Early Bird registration runs through December 6. Tickets are just \$5 per person. After December 6, regular registration will be available from December 7 to 13 for \$10 per person. Children under 2 years old attend for free! The event will be held in the Large Gym. Stop by in person or call the front desk at 773-777-7500 to register. Don't miss out—register early to secure your spot!



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Help the Pantry *Celebrate the Holidays!*

The Irving Park Food Pantry is providing its clients in the 60641 and 60618 zipcodes with an entire holiday meal on December 18, along with gifts for children 12 years old and younger during a special distribution. We're asking for your help with this annual program.

We provide the meal that day to all our regular, eligible clients (those who have visited the Pantry three times this year). The menu comprises meat, sides, and desserts for the entire family. The Thanksgiving dinner is in addition to the regular array of groceries they'll receive during our three distributions this month (December 4 and 11 from 9 a.m. to noon and December 10 from 6 to 7 p.m.; we are closed December 25 and January 1).

We are requesting monetary donations instead of food contributions. You can donate via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or by sending a check made out to the Pantry at 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. By donating money, we are able to purchase food from suppliers who offer us generous discounts, which greatly increases our purchasing power. Thank you for your support!

Our annual holiday gift program offers a variety of age-appropriate gifts we bundle together. Gift

selections can be found at our Amazon registry and will be shipped to the lister Pantry volunteer's address (please do not ship directly to the Pantry). Ordering from the registry ensures we receive the needed number of items for each age group.



QR code to the Amazon registry to select toys for the Pantry's holiday program.



Holiday Toy Coordinator Jay Wade shows off some of the stockings the Pantry gave to clients' children 12 years old and younger last year. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Article submitted by Craig Shutt, craigshutt@ameritech.net. John Psiharis, Executive Director
Irving Park Community Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618 | 773-283-6296
Email: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, | www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



Eric Zorn served as master of ceremonies at the Pantry's 40th anniversary celebration at the Irish-American Heritage Center in October. *Photo by Carma Park*



Pantry Board members Kate McClelland, Marcy Sherrill and Eleanor Kepp celebrate the Pantry's 40th anniversary at the Irish American Heritage Center in October. *Photo courtesy Marcy Sherrill*



40th Anniversary Celebration

Thank you to everyone who attended our 40th Anniversary celebration in October at the Irish American Heritage Center. It was a great opportunity to talk with our supporters. A number of local dignitaries, including **State Representative Lindsey LaPointe** and **Alderswomen Ruth Cruz and Samantha Nugent**, plus **Carlson Community Services President Sara Yoest** lauded the Pantry and our volunteers for our commitment to the community.

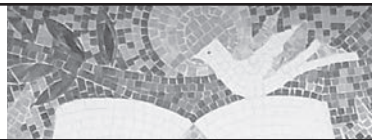
We appreciate everyone's support and donations, which help us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

John Psiharis, Executive Director
Irving Park Community Food Pantry,



Carlson Community Services Executive Director Sara Yoest speaks at the Pantry's 40th Anniversary celebration in October, as Alderwoman Ruth Cruz look on.

Board members Sara Yoest and Liz Mills attended the Irving Park YMCA's Community Health & Wellness Event in October. More than a dozen community partners shared resources for healthy living. *Photo courtesy IP YMCA*



Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

St. Viator Welcomes the Winter Holidays!

WINTERFEST



We are hosting our annual Winterfest celebration on Saturday, December 7. Activities 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 popcorn! The Santa Shuffle will kick off at 10 a.m., and Winterfest will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Join us!

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup

Our Rec Center Gym is so delightful when the weather outside is frightful! We invite our community friends with newborn children up to 4 years of age to join us! Adults stay with their children to enjoy playing with our mats, hula hoops, tunnels, and more! We will meet once in Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Join us!

Enrollment Information

We won't host an Open House in December because the holidays keep everyone busy. Contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, to schedule an individual family tour. He is happy to meet with you to tour the school building and discuss your elementary school questions. You can reach Mr. Teeple at 773-545-2173.

Save the Date: Catholic Schools Week Open House

Mark your calendar for our Catholic Schools Week Open House on Saturday, January 25. The event runs from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with Parent Ambassadors offering school tours and answering questions. During our reception, Mr. Slawik, our Media Studies Teacher, will open a time capsule he sealed in 2005! Come and see this part of our history!



Above photo: Mr. Slawik. *Photo provided by St. Viator.*

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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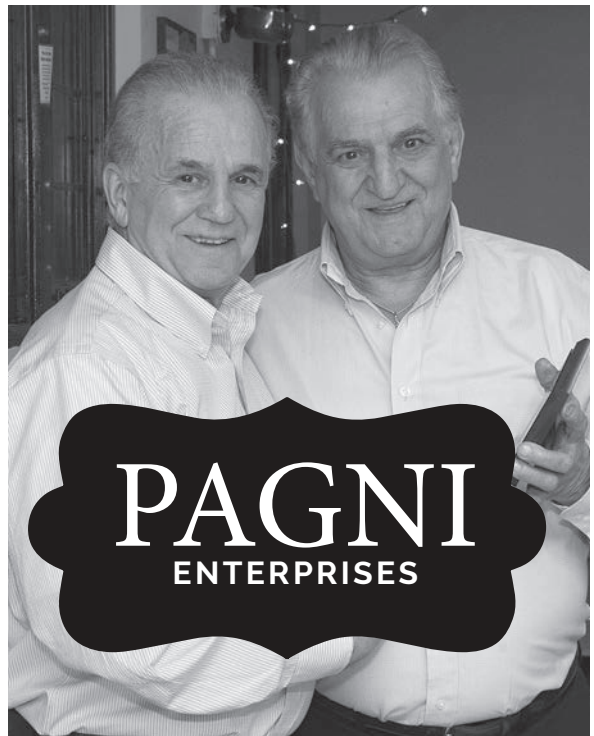
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2024–2025 OIPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

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

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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.

2025 SUBMISSION DATES (NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES)

*Due date later or early due to holiday

Publication Month	Advertising	General
February	1/2	1/2*
March	2/4	2/6
April	3/4	3/6
May	4/1	4/3
June	5/6	5/8
August	7/8*	7/10*
September	8/5	8/7
October	9/2	9/4
November	9/30*	10/2
December	11/4	11/6

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.**

General 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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December

- 8 OIPA Holiday Family Fun Activities, Holiday Light Stroll & OIPA Members Holiday Party**
St. John's Courtyard, 3857 N. Kostner.
Schedule:
4:30–5:15 p.m.: Kids holiday music show, complimentary cocoa and churros, and photos with Elsa and Elf on the Shelf
5:15–6 p.m.: Lights stroll, led by Elsa and the Elf on the Shelf
5:45–7:45 p.m.: Member dinner at St. John's lower level. The dinner is for current OIPA members; space is limited, and you must RSVP.
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- 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.
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January

- 19 Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert**
featuring Missing Piece, Chicago-based musical duo, violinist Dan Galat and cellist Kelly Quesada | 2 p.m.
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 H. Harding Avenue.
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February

- 12 OIPA Quarterly General Meeting**
7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Speakers: Local elected officials.
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- 28 Carlson Community Services** presents the Bad Momz of Comedy | 6:30 p.m.
Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, 4057 N. Harding Avenue
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April

- 12 Egg Hunt hosted by OIPA Parents Committee** | Belding School playground
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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.
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- TBD All-Star Party**
Cocktail Party Social event for the All-Star membership level.
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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.