

OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



MARCH

VOLUME 39 | ISSUE 2 | 2025



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 39 ✨ Issue 2 ✨ March 2025

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.

Delivery Staff

Devin, Owen & Asha Alexander
Kristin Arevalo
Elizabeth Basile
Sara Bishop
Sandra Broderick
Colleen Callahan
Gayle Christensen
Adrienne Chan
Adrian & Oliver Christiansen
Rosemarie Clohisy
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Parents Committee

Justin Antony
Erin Sarris
Emily Weseman

Delivery Coordinators

Meredith O'Sullivan (Chair)
membership@oldirvingpark.com
773-551-4533
Lynn Ankney (Co-chair)
Kate Roche (Mailings)

Advertising

Colleen Kenny, oiipaadvertising@gmail.com

Editor / Design & Production

Kearns Design Group
k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com

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Update on \$900K State of Illinois Grant for the Irving Park Transportation Hub

—Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer

As we've been reporting, State Representative Lindsey LaPointe and Senator Robert Martwick secured a \$900,000 grant to be used for improvements to the "Irving Park Transportation Hub." This area encompasses our CTA and Metra stops and the surrounding areas bound by Belle Plaine to the north, Keeler to the west, Byron to the south, and Pulaski to the east. The funds will be spent by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and work will begin in 2026.

The offices of LaPointe and Martwick recognize that safe pedestrian access to public transportation is a longstanding problem for our community and sought participation from the OIPA Board to paint the current picture of the pedestrian experience and provide input on desired improvements. On Wednesday, December 11th, the OIPA Board attended a Zoom meeting that included over 20 professionals representing the CTA, Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Given the unique location of the hub, which encompasses city and state roadways and on/off-ramps to the Kennedy Expressway, the potential scope of work demands significant coordination across multiple government agencies.

Following the meeting, our Board provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing our prioritized requests for improvements (i.e., how to spend the \$900k). The presentation included Google Maps photos of every intersection our pedestrians traverse as well as pictures of proposed improvements (raised crosswalks, curb "bump-outs," clearer signage). Our summarized request was as follows:

"To enhance pedestrian safety around the viaduct, which is surrounded by busy streets and blind spots that encourage speeding, we advocate for raised crosswalks, curb extensions, and high-visibility signage at all crosswalks. Large planters strategically placed at intersections and barren areas near on-and off-ramps would create protective buffers between pedestrians and traffic while adding aesthetic value. Additionally, we recommend installing trash receptacles throughout the area to minimize food waste, further discouraging pigeons."

We await specific feedback from our presentation, but it is our understanding that IDOT maintains the ultimate decision-making power with regard to the grant.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on January 27, 2024— Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:03 p.m.

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

Guest Speaker

The Board of Directors meeting started with OIPA member and OIP neighbor **Angelisa Harris** addressing the Board to offer her skills and experience working within the federal government to continue bird abatement momentum within the neighborhood. Angelisa identified the opportunities she sees through different federal, state, and local channels to move the needle on this effort and suggested conducting a demonstration project to identify solutions that work.

Board members shared the information they had regarding abatement efforts that had already been adopted, largely with little impact, and thanked Angelisa for her willingness to be involved. OIPA Board President Michael Cannon said that while the Board is not currently pursuing special funds for additional bird abatement that, the Board would back Angelisa’s ideas and leverage her experience to rally governing channels, city departments, and elected officials to get funds earmarked for this.

Ambassador/Zoning

State Representative/Senator

- Update regarding the earmarked funds (\$900k) for the Irving Park Transportation Hub.

Board members met with members of CDOT, IDOT, DCEO, Rep Lapointe, a rep from Martwick’s office, and members of the CTA on December 11, 2024.

- Those present felt that there was good representation and that the right people were involved in this call.
- Each agency spoke and committed to continuing the conversation with each other about OIPA’s priorities.

Update regarding the \$250k DCEO Grant

- Lynn Ankney updated the Board regarding conversations with OIPA’s Grant Manager about sub-grant and capital advancement options.
- The Board decided not to pursue any sub-grants but to revisit charitable contributions to neighborhood nonprofits later in the year.
- Lynn also passed along additional information the Grant Manager had shared, such as that OIPA could seek an extension for the grant dispersal.

Chicago Transit Authority – Belmont and Irving Park Blue Line Station Accessibility, Repairs and Upgrades Project

- The OIPA board was invited to participate as a consulting party regarding the preservation of historically significant properties near the project sites.
- Given the locations of the Irving Park and Pulaski Blue Line CTA station houses underneath the Kennedy Expressway, it is extremely unlikely that

Continued on page 6

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on January 27, 2024, *continued from page 4*

any of the historic properties identified by the project engineers in Old Irving Park will be affected by this project.

- The Board recognized the invitation and declined the offer to be a contributor.

30th Ward – Alderwoman Ruth Cruz

- A recap was given from the Tuesday, November 19 meeting with Alderwoman Cruz regarding the multi-tenant sports facility at 3800 N. Milwaukee Ave. [issues with parking, bike lane safety, and building violations.]
- OIPA Board members were present at this meeting to support neighbors. They received concrete steps that the Alderwoman was going to take with the property owner, business owners and managers, and patrons of these businesses.
- We appreciate that Alderwoman Cruz is holding this meeting and prioritizing steps to remediate this problem.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, February 12: OIPA General Meeting
The Board is working on getting elected officials lined up to provide updates
- Monday, February 24: OIPA Board Meeting
- Monday, March 24: OIPA Board Meeting
- Friday, May 9: OIPA All Star Party - tentative

Newsletter Planning

- Content for the March message from the Board for March was discussed.
- The Board decided to provide additional information about the ideas submitted to governing agencies, including examples of some of the pedestrian safety improvements that the Board has asked for from the \$900k earmarked for the Irving Park Transportation Hub.

Administration

- OIPA Treasurer Lynn Ankney presented the November and December financial reports. Both months saw strong receipts from membership renewals and dispersals for newsletter design and print and gatherings like the OIPA and Parents Committee Holiday events. Meredith O'Sullivan motioned to approve the financials, seconded by Michael Cannon, and approved by the full Board.
- Lynn moved on to propose that OIPA give the same \$550 donation to the charitable organizations that OIPA donated to in 2024. After a short conversation, Michael Cannon motioned to approve the charitable contributions, seconded by Meredith O'Sullivan, and approved by the full Board.

Meeting ended: 8:11 p.m.

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Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 19, 2025, 7 p.m.

– Submitted by Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

OIPA Board President Michael Cannon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He welcomed roughly 30 people in attendance and shared an announcement from the Board member and OIPA Beautification Committee chair **Dan William**.

Monthly neighborhood cleanings by Clean Slate will start on March 17 with power washing viaducts beginning in mid-April.

Michael then turned over the floor to the first elected official in attendance.

Alderpersn Ruth Cruz – 30th Ward

- **Garbage Bin Improvements:**

New garbage bins with removable lids will be

installed on the south side of Irving Park Road in the 30th Ward to prevent litter spillage.

These bins will have special covers to deter residents from using them as personal trash disposals.

- **Curbstoning Ordinance (Illegal Car Sales):**

New legislation sponsored by Alderpersn Cruz was passed to address illegal parking and selling of cars on the street. Previously, illegally parked cars were marked for seven days, but sellers would move them to reset the process.

The new ordinance allows the Chicago Police Department (CPD) to tow cars that do not have valid license plates immediately.



Alderpersn Ruth Cruz



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

• Infrastructure & Gas Utility Projects:

Several road repaving projects are on hold due to People's Gas projects delayed by an Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) ruling.

Updates will be provided after People's Gas meets to discuss the future of the work schedule.

• 3800 N. Milwaukee Business & Community Concerns:

Local businesses and residents are working together to address traffic congestion and illegal parking in the area. Meetings are ongoing to find a long-term solution.

• Murals & Graffiti Cleanup:

Alderspersion Cruz's office is working with artists and cultural departments to restore murals in the 30th Ward within the Old Irving Park boundaries. Some graffiti removal is delayed due to ongoing mural restoration efforts.

• Space to Grow Program:

The city is working with Metropolitan Water Reclamation to introduce environmentally friendly playgrounds in schools.

The 30th Ward office has identified and approached schools within the Ward to see if they would be interested in participating.

• Speed Limit Legislation:

A proposal to lower the Chicago citywide speed limit to 25 MPH was discussed in the city council but faced opposition due to a lack of a clear implementation plan.

Alderspersion Sam Nugent – 39th Ward

• New Plumbing Regulation:

A new ordinance sponsored by Alderspersion Nugent requires bonded, licensed plumbers to handle city water tap connections made to the water main to ensure water safety.



Alderspersion Sam Nugent

• Participatory Budgeting:

The fifth round of participatory budgeting will start in March, allowing residents to propose and vote on community improvements in the 39th Ward.

• Business Openings & Complaints:

Cozy Corner Diner is nearing completion but does not have an official opening date yet.

Concerns about an overflowing dumpster at 4214 W. Cullom have been reported and are being addressed.

OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 19, 2025, 7 p.m., *continued from page 9*



Alderperson Jim Gardner – 45th Ward

- **Infrastructure & Development Updates** for the former Sears auto center site are planned in the 45th Ward's new commercial developments, including a Burlington retail store, Wells Fargo bank, and a Pita Inn restaurant.
- **Infrastructure projects in Old Irving Park**, including new streets and sidewalks, are in progress.

Efforts are being made to continue cleaning up viaducts, including updating lighting near the viaduct at Belle Plaine and Kostner.

Representatives from State Senator Robert Martwick and State Representative Lindsay Lapointe's Offices

- **Update regarding the grant process for the Irving Park transit corridor**

The grant focuses on improving pedestrian safety

and beautification around the CTA Irving Park Blue Line station.

The proposal was submitted in December and is still waiting for approval.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has been contacted to expedite the process.

Once IDOT approves, funds will be allocated, and the CTA will receive them for implementation.

Representatives from US Congressman Mike Quigley's Office

• Congressional Updates

Jenny and Victoria from Congressman Quigley's office emphasized the importance of staying engaged in local and national issues.

The office is launching a portal to collect stories from those affected by recent executive orders.

People are encouraged to reach out with concerns, subscribe to, and follow their weekly e-newsletter.

Outreach Director from The Clarendale – Six Corners

• Relax, Refresh, Renew Wellness Fair

Saturday, February 22 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The meeting concluded with a welcome for new members and an open floor for additional questions for the officials and their representatives.

The meeting concluded at 7:53 p.m.

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Ready, Set, Grow!— Claudia Hine

Want to grow a huge zucchini? Mark Lyons, CEO of Green Thumb at Your Service, will present Power Vegetable Gardening at the Irving Park Garden Club's March meeting.

Photo courtesy Mark Lyons.

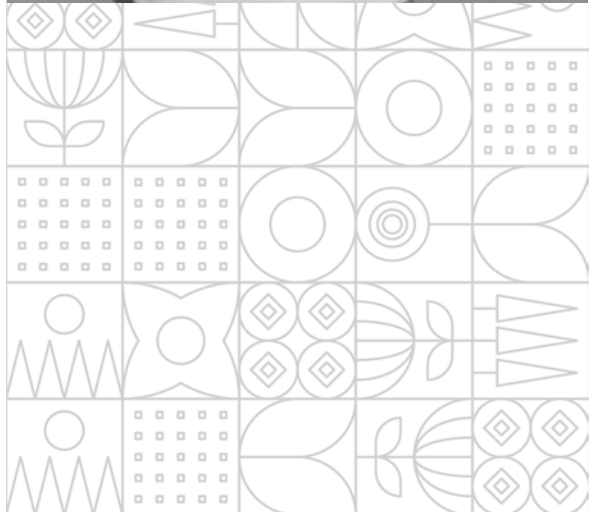
Yes, we know, it's too soon to plant your vegetables. But there's still so much to do first. You could be thinking about site selection, seed starting, fertilization, and soil preparation.

Wondering where to begin? We've got you covered. The Irving Park Garden Club will open its 2025 season on Saturday, March 15, with a presentation on Power Vegetable Gardening by **Mark Lyons**, CEO of Green Thumb at Your Service.

Lyons, an experienced garden coach, will review the basic techniques of vegetable gardening, the backyard hobby that's growing in popularity, so you can grow delicious, sweet, crunchy vegetables. He also will cover watering, pest control, and harvest. Both new and experienced gardeners will learn something they can use.

Parked outside the church and back by popular demand will be **Sharpening By Dave**. Drop off your garden clippers, pruners, shovels, etc., at his truck before you come into the meeting, and they'll be ready to go when you need them this spring. Charges apply.

This meeting takes place on Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago.



Learn how to grow and harvest delicious tomatoes and more as IPGC kicks off its 2025 season.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



Time to Join, Time to Renew

March is the beginning of our club's 2025 season; we meet monthly from March to November. Once again, we're holding the line on our dues for the year—just \$25/household, payable by cash, check, or Zelle.

You can join or renew at the door, so be sure to get us on your calendar. We've got a great season planned, including presentations on wildlife in the backyard and planting keystone plants that benefit our fragile environment.

Questions? Contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com.

Bring your tools to IPGC's March meeting. Sharpening by Dave will be there to get them ready for use when you need them.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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[F]= Foreclosure Sale
[S] = Short Sale



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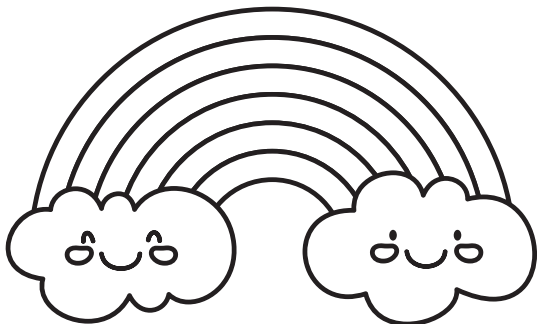
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KIDS CORNER

CORNY JOKES



Q: Which type of bow can't be tied in March?

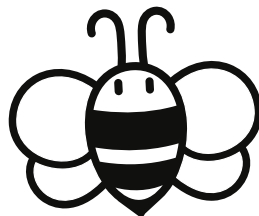
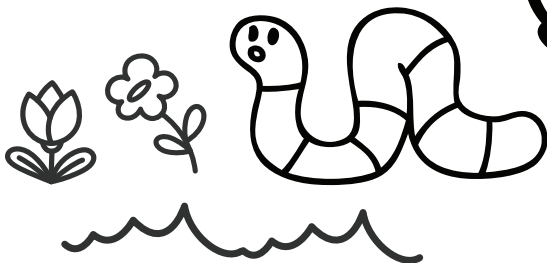
A: Rainbow

Q: What is the best flower for a boy to give his mom?

A: Son-flower!

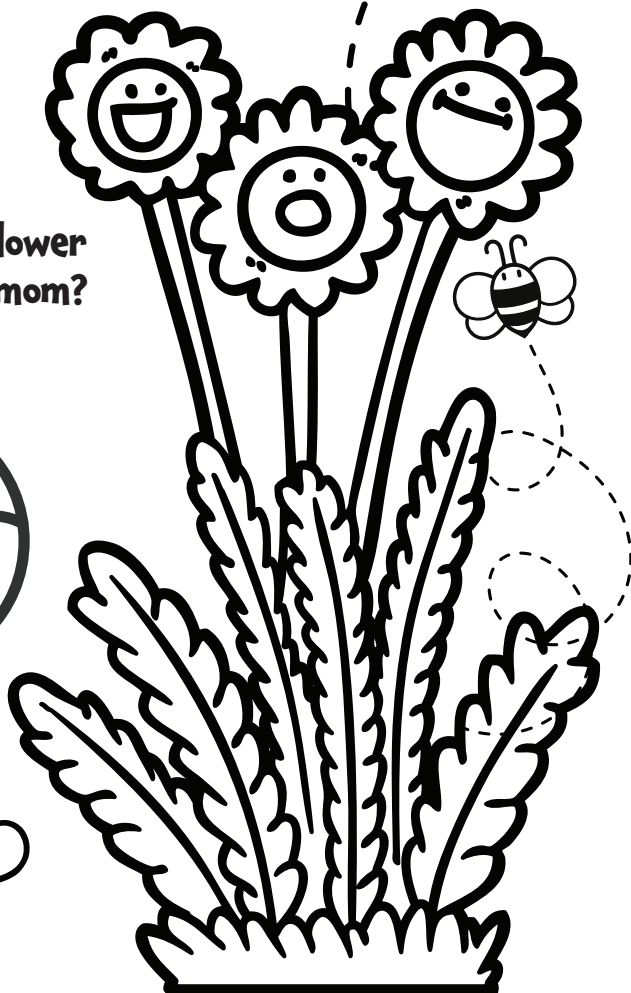
Q: What did the mother worm say to the little worm who was late?

A: Where in earth have you been?



Q: Why is the letter "A" like a flower?

A: A bee comes after it!







March Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Charlene Adamski | Dan Jacobs | Ryan Perkins Mata |
| Mario Arevalo | Thomas Jezuit | Geoff Reu |
| Vilmar Arias | Katie Johannigman | Vanessa Reu |
| Emily Bulger | Mai Phuong Johnston | Paul Rutstein |
| Felix Chan | Matt Knutson | Michelle Sekiya |
| Shashank Churukanti | Tonnia Koehler | Richard Slosarski |
| Steven Clay | Olivier Lopez | Colleen Smith |
| James Coakley | Kat Makielski | Michelle Stepusin |
| Bruce Dean | Susan McCallan | Eileen Stern |
| Alisun DeKock | Amanda McKasson | Lauren Swanson |
| Thomas Denio | Samantha Mortensen | Bob Tell |
| Jayne Deno | John Mueller | Beth Valukas |
| Cheryl Flores | Nathan Musgrove | Jacob Wilkoff |
| Valerie Ginnan | Frank W Nagorka | Roman Zabicki |
| Dipeshwar Grewal | Joseph Naudziunas | |
| Rachel Horvath | Liam O'Connor | |
| Damian Jackson | Zachary Osner | |

March Anniversaries

- Charles & Rebecca Calloway
Denise & Curtis Giszczynski
Patricia & Scott Gustafson
Christy & Jonathan Levy
Tracy & Markisan Naso
Kim & Rob Starmann
Michelle Sekiya & George Unzueta
Nicholas & Emily Plagman-Frank
Jen & Shane Knox
Casey & Kelly Williams



KID BIRTHDAYS

- Violette Cernak
Eloise Kick
Miles McKasson
Ben O'Mara
Adam Pietraszek
Scout Ryan
Daphne Simmons
Blake Toth

PET BIRTHDAYS

- Scout Cannon
Taco Cernak
Beau Klich
Digit Koehler
Aegamemnon Nguyen

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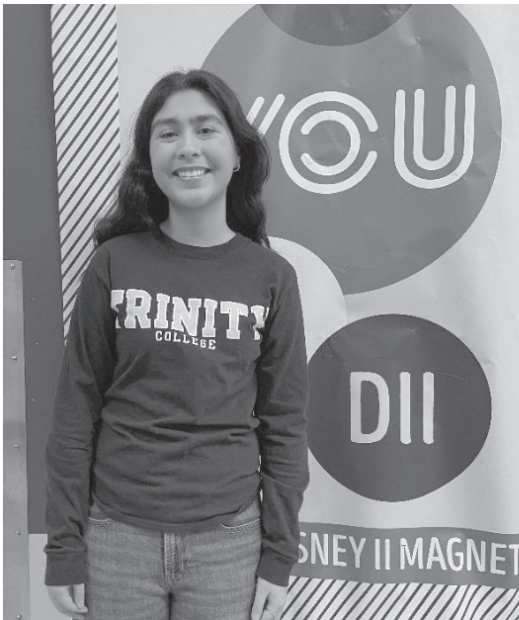
Disney II Magnet School is proud to have two students named Posse Scholars! — Eileen Schnepff

Disney II Magnet High School proudly congratulates seniors **Karina Anaya** and **Carisma Jones** on being named 2025 Posse Scholars. Both students will receive full-tuition scholarships to attend college!

The Posse Foundation is a non-profit organization that identifies, recruits, and trains individuals with extraordinary leadership potential and selects an annual group of “Posse Scholars” who receive full-tuition leadership scholarships from Posse’s partner colleges and universities.

“The Posse model works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can catalyze individual and community development, and...believes that a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to complex social problems.”

Students and their “Posses” help bring more outstanding leaders from diverse backgrounds to college campuses; they help these institutions



Disney II's Posse Scholars: Karina Anaya (left) and Carisma Jones (right).
Photo courtesy of Disney Magnet School.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Disney Magnet School

become more welcoming to students from diverse backgrounds; and they support their students, many of whom are first-generation college goers, persist in their academic studies and work toward graduation and success in the workforce.

Disney II is thrilled that our supportive community has played an important role in shaping the lives of both of our incredible Posse recipients. Karina, who came to Disney II in 7th grade, will attend Trinity College in Connecticut. She is proud to be the first person in her family to attend college and is most excited to head to the East Coast and study Mechanical Engineering. Carisma has been a student at Disney II since Kindergarten and will attend Oberlin College in Ohio.

Carisma is most excited about this new phase, where she will be exposed to people and ideas that will help her make a big impact on campus and our country!

Both Karina and Carisma exemplify the opportunities that exist at Disney II. And both are eager to take the skills they developed at Disney II to the next chapter in their lives.

Disney II Magnet School is a PK-12th grade fine arts and technology magnet school serving students throughout Chicago. You can learn more about Disney II by visiting our website at www.disneyiimagnet.org or following us on Facebook and Instagram @Disneyiimagnet.



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The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

Spring Fundraiser

The Belding Parent Group will be hosting the Belding Bash on Saturday, April 26th at LaVilla Restaurant. Our neighborhood school will have a dinner and silent auction for capital improvements. Historically, the event has furnished Belding with a gymnasium climbing wall, playground shades, nature play space, new hallway flooring, bathroom updates, a reading and wellness room, and technology updates.

Ways to Support Belding School

Do you own a local business and are willing to donate a silent auction item? Can you donate in-kind items such as catering, spirits, or hospitality services to make our event successful? Can you offer others resources to support this fantastic annual event? Please email HelpBelding@gmail.com so we can collaborate and provide tax documents. Thank you!



Wellness Fest

Belding students, families, and even teachers enjoyed an evening of fitness and fun during this year’s Wellness Fest. There were a variety of activities, from Zumba and yoga to journaling to reflect on fitness goals. Members of the Chicago City Soccer Club and Beat the Streets Chicago also held sessions along with various health and wellness vendors.

Belding students enjoy some fun movement during the Wellness Fest
Photo provided by Belding School

Are you curious to see what Belding Elementary has to offer your child?

Principal Durkin sets aside one morning each month to give tours to interested parents. Tours are geared toward adults, so if children are present, please ensure they can safely and quietly attend the tour. Tours begin at 8 a.m. in the main office. There is no need to RSVP. Please arrive by 7:55 a.m. and check in with security.

Upcoming tour dates include March 19th and April 9th. Tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about the school and the Belding community! You can also check out the Belding website www.beldingelementary.com for more information.



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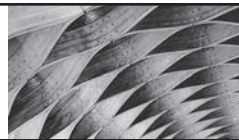
Tom Dyke, PT, DPT, OCS

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Think Spring!

The Three Brothers Garden Prepares to *Grow*

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

As we slowly start to enjoy warmer weather and more sunshine during March, the Three Brothers Garden Committee will begin to plan for another season in the garden. In 2024, the garden harvested 529 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs. Combined with 103 pounds of vegetables donated by neighborhood gardeners through our Plant A Row initiative, Carlson and the Three Brothers Garden delivered 632 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in 2024.

The Three Brothers Garden helps Carlson fulfill its mission of connecting the Irving Park Community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. If you have an interest in urban gardening or giving back to the community, spending time outdoors and gathering with your neighbors for a common purpose, we encourage you to volunteer with the Three Brothers Garden in 2025. For more information, email Sara Yoest sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org or visit our website at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org. Scroll to the bottom of our home page, where you can sign up for email updates and notified of workdays and harvest days in the garden. The garden is a great opportunity for neighbors of all ages.



Photos 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.

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— Rachel B. ★★★★★



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We Invite You to Contribute Basket Donations and Make a Meaningful Difference!

The Irving Park Food Pantry will run its annual spring program starting in late March, providing clients' children 12 years and younger with baskets of toys and goodies through our distribution on April 16 (before Easter on April 20). We are now collecting donations for the program, so we're ready for our first week, which is always popular.

We need contributions of dollar-store plastic bucket-style Easter baskets. We want a consistent style of baskets, so please don't donate other types. We also need along 6-inch plush animals, small cars and toys, filled plastic eggs (with candy or toys), wrapped candies, and other wrapped/packaged small treats.

Contactless donations of items can be made using our Amazon registry using the QR code on this page. Baskets (Jumbo Easter-Themed Plastic Footed Baskets) can be purchased in bulk through the Dollar Tree website or in the store.

Locally purchased donations can be taken to the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday through Friday or the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. at any time.

We also encourage organizations to create their collections or assembled baskets. Contact the Pantry's Special Programs Coordinator, Craig Shutt, at craigshutt@gmail.com for details and to arrange delivery.



The Pantry started its program to provide baskets to clients' children 12 years old and younger in April before Easter. *Photo: Craig Shutt*

Use the QR at right to order from the Pantry's Amazon registry for the spring basket program.



Use QR code at right to shop at Dollar Tree online for baskets that the Pantry uses for its spring basket program.



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



(Left) Lizzie McKenzie, artistic director and co-founder of Extensions Dance Company, and some of her crew dropped off a big food donation with Operations Manager Rick Leitl during the holidays. The group held a food drive during their holiday dance performances this season. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Molly Clark shows off some of the birthday kits provided to the Pantry by Radical Generosity, which are popular with clients. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Thank you to Vin Chicago, a family-run wine retailer, for hosting an “Uncorking for a Cause” charity weekend in November, in which shoppers could request a percentage of their purchase be donated to a local charitable group. Vin Chicago donated \$8,800 to Chicago nonprofits and \$2,026 to the Pantry for placing first in the program!

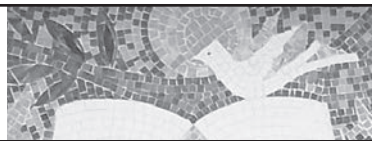
Thank you to everyone who supported our Winterwear Drive this fall! We gave out most of the hats, scarves, and gloves on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and gave out more to Tuesday-night clients in January. The remainder, primarily women’s and children’s hats and gloves, were donated to the HANA Center to distribute to their clients. In all, we gave out approximately 1,700 items to families in our neighborhood!

Thanks to Jet’s Pizza co-owners Dan O’Donohue and Bryan Gilbert for donating pizzas to our clients after closing during our final distribution of the year.

We appreciate everyone who helped with our holiday programs through monetary, food, or gift donations. We appreciate everyone’s support in every way to help us help our neighbors in need throughout the holidays!



Julie Halley and Catherine Keller show off some of the hats, scarves, and gloves given to clients during our winterwear drive. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

Playgroups Continue to Meet

St. Viator Elementary School will continue our Wiggles & Giggles indoor play group as we move through the cold weather. This month, we meet on Thursday, 3/20/25, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in our Rec Center Gym. We invite all our community friends with newborn children up to 4 years of age to join us! Wiggle & Giggles is a complimentary program where adults stay and socialize while children enjoy playing with hula hoops, tunnels, and more! Join us!



Photo by Nappy



Now Accepting Applications!

We are accepting applications for all grades, from 3-year-old preschool to 8th grade. Our next School Open House is Wednesday, 3/12/25, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We will pair you with a Parent Ambassador who will give you a guided tour of the school with the added "Parent Perspective". Monthly Welcome Wednesday Open House events will continue through May, but don't wait!

If the March date doesn't work for you, please contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, to schedule an individual family tour: (773) 545-2173 or wteeple@stviatorchicago.org.



Photos provided by St. Viator Elementary School.

Connect Online There are many events during the first quarter of 2025. Subscribe to our socials to stay up on St. Viator Elementary School news! Please find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago, and Instagram: [stvschoolchi](https://www.instagram.com/stvschoolchi), or visit the school website at: www.stviatorchicago.org.

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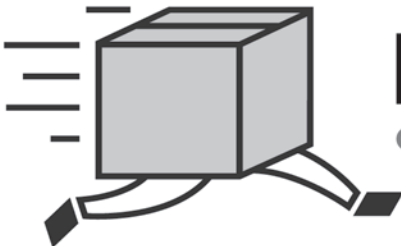


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2025 OIPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at www.olderirvingpark.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

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is up for
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anniversary date

Membership Level (per household)	In area DUES	Out of area DUES*	Benefits
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Senior (Age 65+)	\$20	\$45	Same as Standard membership
Good Neighbor	\$95	\$120	Standard + kid/pet birthdays in newsletter and OIPA tote bag
Neighborhood All-Star	\$195	\$220	Good Neighbor + admission for two to an exclusive OIPA cocktail party

* Dues + postage for mailed newsletter

GIFT MEMBERSHIP: Simply complete the form above or the online form with your neighbor's name(s) and address. You may not know their birthday/anniversary info. That's okay—we'll follow up with them. **If purchasing a gift membership online:** Please indicate "this is a gift subscription" in the final box titled, "Special Instructions."

SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO: Old Irving Park Association, c/o Lynn Ankney, OIPA Treasurer, 4313 N Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60641.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: Old Irving Park Association **OR** join/renew online: olderirvingpark.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
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



www.olderirvingpark.com
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FB: olderirvingparkassoc

March

- 15 **Irving Park Garden Club** | Power Vegetable Gardening with Mark Lyons | 10 a.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members only; \$25 to join

April

- 12 **Egg Hunt hosted by OIPA Parents Committee** | Schurz High School

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.

Advertise with Us!

The OIPA News is distributed to approximately 600 households, in addition to surrounding neighborhood groups and elected city officials.

- **10 ISSUES PER YEAR** | We publish ten issues per calendar year (omitting January and July).
- **SPECIAL PERKS** | Also, if you are a newsletter advertiser, you will be prioritized on our email blasts and Facebook posts. We have over 8.2K online followers. Our monthly post can reach up to 24K, and our post engagement is usually 15K. That means consumers see and engage with our Facebook posts!
- The advertising rates are amazingly reasonable. **To place an ad visit www.olderirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad.**

