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NEWS



APRIL

VOLUME 39 | ISSUE 3 | 2025



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 39 ✨ Issue 3 ✨ April 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.

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Cover Photo: Maureen Taylor

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Now is A Great Time to Support Local Businesses

— Jake Berger, OIPA Director

In the November Newsletter, OIPA Director Dan William wrote about the importance of shopping locally and supporting small businesses in our community. Dan wrote that when you buy a product or service from a national chain retailer, almost \$0.85 to \$0.90 of every dollar you spend leaves the community. Conversely, when you support a local business, almost half to two-thirds of every dollar you spend stays in the community through paying wages locally and supporting local suppliers and service providers. Accordingly, supporting locally owned small businesses helps build a vibrant and economically self-sustaining community.

Spring is usually an exciting time in the Old Irving Park business community, with seasonal businesses reopening and new businesses opening up after the slow post-holiday months—particularly businesses within the service industry. This year is no different: there are many new or reopened businesses in the community that are ready for your support.

This year is a good one for new restaurants opening in Old Irving Park. In February, the long-awaited **Cozy Corner** (4048 N.



Pulaski) opened at the location of the old Salvation Army. Cozy Corner is a locally



Sloane Berger, the adorable daughter of Jake Berger, delights in spending time with her parents while they have a delicious breakfast at the vibrant new Cozy Corner restaurant.
Photo by Jake Berger.

owned breakfast and lunch restaurant with four other locations in Chicago. My partner, daughter, and I had the opportunity to visit for breakfast shortly after it opened. The space is stunning, especially the murals of local scenes that local artists painted on the interior walls. After the warm and friendly staff greeted us and immediately offered us piping hot coffee, we enjoyed a delicious, very generous portion of corned beef hash and eggs benedict with prompt and excellent service. Overall, this family-friendly establishment is highly recommended (especially by our 6-month-old daughter as pictured above).



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Rickshaw (4304 N. Pulaski) also opened in February in a former restaurant space near the corner of Cullom and Pulaski. Rickshaw serves up delectable Pakistani and Indian “street food” and some other offerings, like burgers and fried chicken sandwiches, at incredibly reasonable prices. Like Cozy Corner, Rickshaw also features some impressive murals that a local artist painted on the walls. When I visited, I had to try the butter chicken and the naan, which were both excellent. The portions were also very generous, and I was stunned at the affordability of the prices. I’m excited to return to try the rest of the menu—though the wait times might be longer once everyone in the community discovers this gem.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on February 24, 2025— Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Jake Berger, Michael Cannon, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Meredith O'Sullivan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, and Dan William

Ambassador / Zoning

30th Ward

- Update regarding the Thursday, January 30 Zoom meeting with Alderperson Cruz regarding the property at 3800 N. Milwaukee.
 - The Board has been participating in public meetings regarding this property.
 - Recently, the city intervened by enforcing code violations against a specific tenant.
 - The Board thanks Alderperson Cruz for engaging with neighbors and collaborating with the community to implement community-driven ideas to address the quality-of-life concerns surrounding this property.

45th Ward

- Members of the Board of Directors attended a February 13 meeting hosted by Alderperson Gardener regarding 4035 N Cicero Ave, the former Sears Auto site.
- A development plan was presented to neighbors adjacent to the site, the Chambers of Commerce, and Board members present to transform the site into a new retail development including a Pita Inn

restaurant, Wells Fargo bank, and a Burlington store.

- There are no zoning changes required to develop this site, which is outside the Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries.
- While the Board of Directors would have preferred to see additional residential density on this site, we are grateful that we were invited to review the plan and share our input.

State Representative/Senator

- The March *OIPA News* shared an update regarding the \$900k earmarked for the Irving Park Transportation Hub.
 - The Board is waiting for feedback from stakeholders regarding a PowerPoint presentation that was shared following the December meeting that detailed the recommendations OIPA is advocating for.
 - IDOT will lead project decisions for the project that will be implemented by CTA.
- Regarding the \$250k DCEO Grant
 - As of February 11, OIPA has completed all steps in the budget/narrative process.
 - DCEO is drafting a grant agreement.
 - The grant manager has shared that the grant timeline has been extended through June 30, 2026.

Continued on page 6

26TH ANNIVERSARY!

OIPA

EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH
10AM

Schurz High School Field
Entrance at Waveland and Lowell

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on February 24, 2025, *continued from page 4*

Community Engagement

- The Board discussed the progress of distribution of the original prints created by Old Irving Park artist Mary Foster.
 - Member pickup of the first print in the series, spring in OIP, has been slow.
 - The Board discussed pursuing a different method of distribution next year.
- Bird abatement under OIP viaducts
 - The Board discussed OIPA member Angelisa Harris's proposal to serve as an OIPA Special Project Advocate (SPA).
 - The decision was made to approve Angelisa's proceeding with her advocacy plans to advocate for and find additional funding paths for this issue.
- Alley mirror installation request
 - OIPA member Taylor Klassman wrote to the Board requesting that some DCEO grant money be used to install alley mirrors.
 - Taylor provided excellent follow-up information regarding procurement, cost, and city rules.
 - After some discussion, the Board decided to expand on the initial request and identify all locations within OIP that may benefit from alley mirrors. The procurement and installation will be outside of the DCEO grant process.
- Additional action items were assigned to Board members to move this project forward.
- Improved traffic calming measures at the corner of Berteau and Kostner Avenues
 - The Board discussed the options around this blind intersection.
 - Board members will reach out to Alderpersons in the 39th and 45th Wards to push this forward.

Upcoming Meetings

- General Meeting: Wednesday, May 15
- The Board of Directors discussed topics for the next quarterly members' meeting.
 - The ideas presented were:
 - Providing updates about the progress of the DCEO grant dispersal and projects being funded with the grant dollars.
 - Asking a city department to present on an engaging topic like water reclamation in Old Irving Park.

Board Meetings

- March 24
- April 28
- May 26

Newsletter

- The April "Message from the Board" was discussed, and Jake Berger volunteered to write a review of



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

the new Cozy Corner restaurant, which opened in March at 4048 N Pulaski Rd.

- The upcoming publication deadlines for the OIP News are April 3 (for May), May 8 (for June), and July 3 (for August). OIPA does not publish a newsletter in July.

Beautification

- The mural, "Positive Babel" under the Metra tracks in Irving Park Road and murals at the Pulaski CTA Blue line station have been targeted for restoration.
- Alderperson Ruth Cruz has shared that artist Tony Passero, who painted the original murals, was engaged to complete this work.
- Funding sources for this mural restoration have not yet been communicated with the Board.
- The Board plans to use DCEO and Northwestern grant dollars to restore all the other murals throughout Old Irving Park.

Parents' Committee

- The OIPA Parents' Committee held its 2025 planning meeting on February 26.
- The annual OIP egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at Schurz turf field.

Administration

- Distribution of OIPA's annual \$550 donations to eight neighborhood organizations is complete.
- The checks have all been written, with the exception of the Irving Park Garden Club, which will receive its donation in May.

Treasurers Report

- OIPA Treasurer Lynn Ankney presented the financial report for January.
 - Membership dues and newsletter advertising were the highest ticket receipts for the month, followed by payouts for continued development of the membership FileMaker database and postage lead disbursements.
 - Adrienne motioned to approve the financial report. The Board approved the January Treasures report.

The meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.

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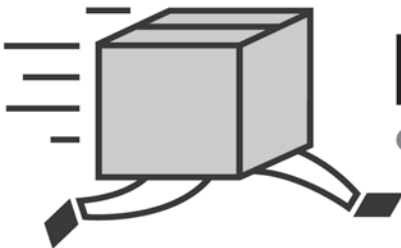


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Back to Basics— Claudia Hine

Gardening with native plants is trending for good reason. Native plants restore biodiversity and support birds, bees, butterflies, insects, and other pollinators that are threatened by loss of habitat. Nurseries are carrying an increasing number of native plants for gardeners to add to their yards, but what to buy and where to start?

The Irving Park Garden Club has invited **Nicki Achor of North Branch Natives** to speak at our April meeting. Nicki's presentation, "5 Things To Start Your Native Plant Garden," will give members a place to begin without becoming overwhelmed at the nursery. Nicki says she will "kick off the talk with why we garden

with native plants to clue folks into what they're all about."

North Branch Natives is a homegrown, sustainable Chicago business offering gardening solutions and support for the DIY native gardener. Nicki has a horticulture degree from Purdue University, with a focus on public gardens. She has amazing knowledge of Illinois native plants and all the bees, butterflies and birds that visit them.

This meeting takes place on Thursday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago.

Irving Park Garden Club members will learn some basics about native plants from Nicki Achor, North Branch Natives, at the April 24 meeting.

Photo courtesy Nicki Achor.



Preparing to Plant

Power vegetable gardening took center stage as we kicked off our new season in March. Members returned to renew their dues and to hear **Mark Lyons, CEO of Green Thumb at Your Service** (greenthumbatyourservice.com), offer tips and tricks for growing delicious, sweet, crunchy vegetables.

His presentation reviewed the basic techniques of vegetable gardening and also covered watering, pest control, and harvest.

Members also took advantage of **Sharpening By Dave** to have their tools, shovels, knives, and other tools honed for the upcoming season.



Photo courtesy Mark Lyons.



It's Not Too Late To Join

IPGC meetings are the members only, but it's not too late to sign up. We're holding the line on our dues for the year—just \$25.00/household, payable by cash, check, or Zelle.

You can join (or renew) at the door.

We've got a great season planned, including our Art & the Garden Walk in June and the Midsummer Night's Stroll in July. We're also starting a new mentorship program to connect experienced gardeners with newbies who could use a little advice.

Questions? Contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com.

OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN OIP



Prepared by Tom Brandt

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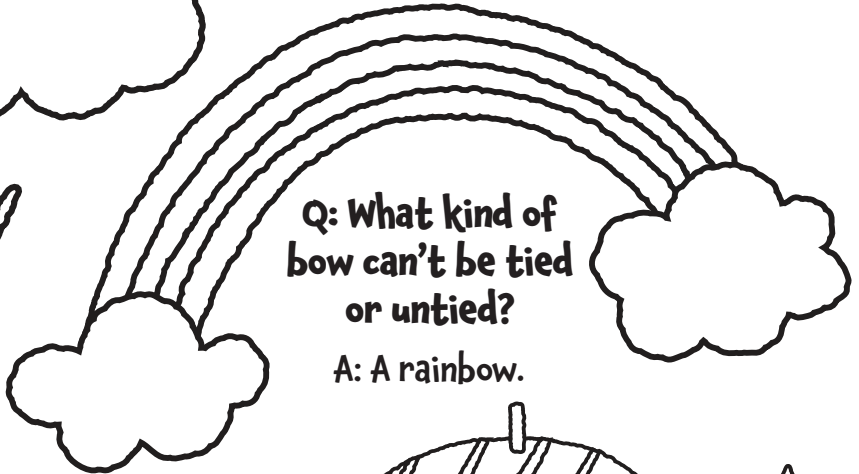
Q: What falls, but never needs a bandage?

A: The rain.



Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

A: Pilgrims!



Q: What kind of bow can't be tied or untied?

A: A rainbow.



Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

Spring apparently wasn't bad either!



Q: Why are frogs so happy?

A: They eat whatever bugs them.

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April Birthdays

Bindu Alexander	Illeana Gomez	Sheryl Nichin-Keith
James Barrett	Jorge Gomez	Dan O'Donohue
Mike Blaha	Garrett Harabedian	Erin O'Donohue
Chris Boran	T. J. Hine	Peter O'Mara
Steve Boudreau	Lindsay Hunter	Mike Perez
Sandra Broderick	Katie Jackson	Tatyana Ruderman
Meridith Cannon	Justin Johanson	Betty Scott
Virginia Cernak	Rhys Jones	Frank Serpone
Thomas Clohisy	Rochelle Jones	Jason Sitko
Jo Ann Coli	Mary Kuhn	Nilda Soler
Michelle Daily	Nicholas Lilovich	Marc Sussman
Elaine Euler	Kristen Lynch	Catherine Tataryn
Carly Forsthoefer	Anthony Mallerdino	Julie Tye
Mary Foster	Mary Ann McLaughlin	Deanna Varagona
Elizabeth Fox	Marjorie Monaghan	Len Wanger
Kate Geisler	Paul Moran	Julie Whittington-Cirton
Andrew Gilmore	Jaime Murray	

April Anniversaries

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

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.

KID BIRTHDAYS

Helena Cannon
Sophie Horvath
Ellie Lynch
Imogen Sadlier
Rohan Sanders
Julia Simmons

PET BIRTHDAYS

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Gardeners Resist the Urge!

— Maureen Taylor



Photo provided by Maureen Taylor.

After a relatively mild winter as we've just had in Chicago, we gardeners are more than eager to get out in the garden and get to work clearing and cleaning, but I urge you to hold off a bit—or now, anyway. Winter and early spring in the garden are basically a series of freeze and thaws cycles. These cycles create tiny air spaces called “pores” in the soil, which are essential for healthy plants. Soil is a living organism and, as such, needs oxygen to exist. Without adequate oxygen, plants become waterlogged, and their roots will rot.

If you dig or even walk on your beds too early when the soil is wet, you will damage your soil by eliminating these air spaces. If you must walk in your garden, lay down a wood plank and walk on that instead.

You should also resist the urge to clean up your beds too early. Even though we are all anxious to see what is starting to grow, it is better to wait. There are insects

living in the old shoots and stems of your plants. You don't want to disturb them.

Hopefully, you left the leaves on your flower beds last fall. These leaves help to regulate the temperature of the soil. Removing this organic cover will expose tender shoots to our unpredictable spring weather. We have had snow as late as May in years past. The leaves will decompose on their own and give essential nutrients back into the soil.

As consistently warm weather arrives, you can expose the crowns of the plants but do not put the leaves in the trash. Leave the material around the roots of your plants instead. If you can live with the look of the decomposing leaves for a few extra weeks until the plants leaf out, your garden will thank you for being more productive.

Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener
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The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator



Belding 5th graders sporting their 80s neon looks.. Photo provided by Belding School.

Someone Special Dance

Last month, Belding families and students in grades Pre-K through 5th danced the night away at the Someone Special dance. This year's theme was Ready, Set, Glow and included 80s retro music, along with their best 80s neon attire. Everyone had a great time as they enjoyed pizza, some fun music, and even a photo booth to capture memories to last a lifetime,

STEAM Night

Belding families came out for an evening of science fun. Kids of all ages participated in labs and various hands-on activities related to science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

This year's STEAM night even offered new labs that included extracting DNA from strawberries, bubble painting, catapults, galaxy-calming jars, and many more.

OIPA Donation

Belding is extremely grateful for OIPA's donation to our school. We will use the funds towards recess equipment to purchase more basketballs, soccer balls, and portable soccer nets. Our students gave their input on this purchase.

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

Principal Durkin or Assistant Principal Cortes offer tours one morning each month to interested parents. Tours are geared toward adults, so if children are present, please ensure they can safely and quietly attend the tour. **Upcoming tour dates are April 9 and May 14. 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.**

Check out the Belding website (beldingelementary.com) for more information.



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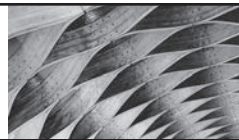
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Introducing Flannau Duo: A Bold Fusion of Piano, Percussion, and Playful Absurdism!

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson
Community Services

Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert on May 18, 2025

The fourth and final concert of the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee's 31st season will take place on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. We will welcome Flannau Duo, a dynamic, new music-loving, tour-de-force ensemble combining piano, percussion, electronics, improvisation, and absurdism! The duo members are Jonathan Hannau, piano, and Kyle Flens, percussion. Jon and Kyle first performed together as part of the 2021 Thirsty Ears Festival. Shortly after, they schemed to create an official identity solely out of puns and hybrid names. They wear flannels to all their concerts! The duo specializes in eclectic programming, not adhering to any specific musical aesthetic. Flannau Duo performs in the Chicago area and beyond, exploring a multitude of sounds, styles, and moods from composers and artists from every musical corner. The duo is the recipient of a 2023 Chicago DCASE individual artist grant. www.flannauduo.com



Photo provided by Flannau Duo

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series intends to bring high-quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago free of charge and provide professional Chicagoland artists a venue for performance and growth. The 31st season was supported in part by a generous donation from Dr. & Mrs. Dominick and Sylvia Maino.

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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Contribute to the *OIPA News*

We welcome individual article submissions for the OIPA newsletter!

Here are a few ideas:

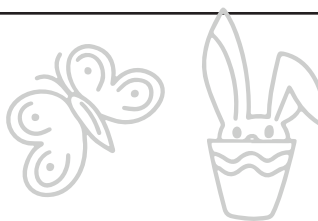
- Give a shout-out to a kind neighbor.
- Did you recently visit a local business or restaurant? Then share your experience.
- Write a fun story about our neighborhood or a fond memory.
- Share your knowledge on a topic.
- Attend an event? Share a photo (please include photo credit).

Guidelines: For editorial submission guidelines see page 32 for full details.





The Spring Basket Program is Currently in Progress.



The Irving Park Food Pantry's annual spring program, designed to provide children aged 12 and under from eligible families with baskets of toys and treats, will conclude on April 16th, just days before Easter on April 20th. We are still accepting donations to ensure we have enough items to distribute.

We're asking for contributions of dollar-store plastic bucket-style Easter baskets (please don't donate other types to aid consistency), along with 6-inch plush animals, small cars and toys filled (with candy or toys)

plastic eggs, wrapped candies, and other small treats of any kind.

Contactless donations of items can be made using our Amazon registry with 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 (or using the QR code here).

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

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



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



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



Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to **Katherine Duncan of Katherine Anne Confections**, who donated 150 pieces of chocolate to the Pantry in February. We appreciate their continued support!

Thank you to **Pet Supplies Plus**, which donates pet food every week to the Pantry's Pet Food Corner. We make regular pickups at three stores of all types of food and accessories used by about half of our clients. We are always seeking pet food, especially wet and dry cat food, and we appreciate their regular donations.

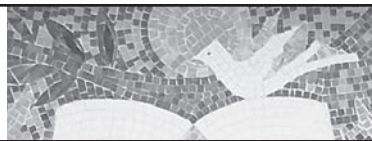
Members of the Pantry's Outreach Registration Team staffed our booth at Chicago's CityKey card program in March at the Irish American Heritage Center. *Photo courtesy of the Irish American Heritage Center.*



Sarah from Katherine Anne Confections shows off the boxes of 150 pieces of candy the company donated to the Pantry in February. *Photo by Liz Mills.*



Lisa Hendricks unloads her car of a week's worth of pickups she made at several Pet Supplies Plus stores in the area, which regularly donate pet food and accessories to the Pantry. *Photo by Craig Shutt.*



Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

Great Month for Enrollment!

There are two enrollment events in April. On Friday, April 11, we will host our Art Zone Open House. We hang student artwork in our halls, transforming the school into an art gallery. This is an evening event from 5–7 p.m.

Our monthly Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., as usual. Our Parent Ambassadors offer a guided tour of the school with their “Parent Perspective” added! RSVP today at (773) 545-2173.

We are accepting applications for all grades, from 3-year-old preschool to 8th grade. If you can’t make the April dates, contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, to schedule an individual family tour: (773) 545-2173 or wteeple@stviatorchicago.org.



Playgroups Continue to Meet

The Wiggles & Giggles playgroup will meet once in April, on Thursday 4/3/25, from 9–10:30 a.m., in our Rec Center Gym. We invite our community friends, with newborn children up to 4 years of age to come and enjoy this complimentary program. Adults stay and socialize while children play with the toys, tunnels, and more! Join us!

Lenten Activities

If you wish to pray the Stations of the Cross, come to the St. Viator Church site on Fridays. We will pray the stations after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and again at 3 p.m. Check the parish website, www.ssviatorwences.org/, for the Holy Week schedule.

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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Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 10pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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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 32 for full details.

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)

ADDRESSCITYSTATEZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAILE-MAIL 2

NEW!
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS
Your membership
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.

2025 SUBMISSION DATES		
[NO JANUARY OR JULY ISSUES]		
*Due date later or early due to holiday		
Publication Month	Advertising	General
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.

Hey neighbors and families...

activities and knowledge sharing
for a clean & green Northwest Side.



Northwest Side EnviroFest 2025

April 5, 2025 | Portage Park Fieldhouse | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
4100 N Long Ave. Chicago, IL 60641

Join State Rep. Lindsey LaPointe and State Sen. Martwick for
a day of Enviro Fun to kick off Earth Month!

EnviroFest will feature:

- Over a dozen enviro-focused local and statewide organizations
- Three, free live sessions on important environmental issues.
- Fun, interactive activities for our planet's youngest environmental stewards
- Free raffles and giveaways

Scan to RSVP



Learn More

OIPA & COMMUNITY CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



www.olderirvingpark.com
hello@olderirvingpark.com
FB: olderirvingparkassoc

April

-
- 12 **Egg Hunt hosted by OIPA Parents Committee** | 10 am | Schurz High School
-
- 12 **Meet the Easter Bunny hosted by OIPA Parents Committee** | 9 am – Noon | 3826 N. Lowell Ave.
-
- 24 **Irving Park Garden Club | Native Plant Gardening** | 7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members only; \$25 to join

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.
-
- 17 **Irving Park Garden Club | Annual Plant Exchange** | 11 a.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members only; \$25 to join
-
- 18 **Irving Park Fine Arts Concert** | Flannau Duo, featuring Jonathan Hannau and Kyle Flens | 2 p.m. Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. Free! Reception to follow.
-
- 9 **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.
- The advertising rates are amazingly reasonable.
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