

# OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



# FEBRUARY

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 1 | 2026



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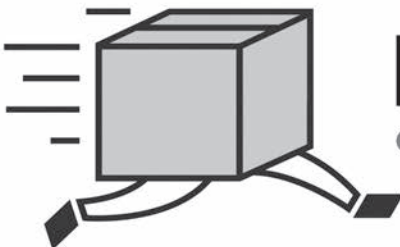


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# OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 40 Issue 1 February 2026

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 by Salri on UnSplash

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# Looking Ahead: OIPA's 2026 Goals, Projects, and Community Events

Plotting the future of Old Irving Park...one reindeer horn at a time.

— Lynn Ankney, OIPA Board Member

**Happy New Year!** Longtime readers know we take January and July off from printing this publication. This pause allows us to catch our collective breath in December and June. Now that we're back into the swing of things, we would like to preview the year ahead.

Below are our goals and plans for 2026. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing you at any of these community events.

### Completion of the DECEO grant (by June 30th)

As we've written in past issues, our Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant will close on June 30th. We have several outstanding approved grant expenditures to make by June 30th.

- Design and relaunch of a new OIPA website
- Installation of 3 additional "Old Irving Park" signs (purple metal to match existing)
- Neighborhood Welcome Signs, at neighborhood perimeters (fabrication and installation)
- Redesign of OIP Local Business Marketing Flyer
- Replacement of Kostner mural (west side)
- Monthly power washing and litter pickup (March–June, or as weather allows)
- Additional in-ground landscaping along Irving Park Road
- Planting and maintenance of 23 new concrete planters along Irving Park Road



**Proof that big ideas and reindeer horns can coexist.** Your OIPA board, especially Meredith O'Sullivan (L) and Lynn Ankney, is looking ahead to 2026 with vision, joy, and just a dash of holiday mischief.

"Because Good Neighborhoods Don't Just Happen" has been OIPA's tagline as long as anyone can remember, and it's true now more than ever. We aim to serve as the glue that binds this community, whether through quarterly OIPA meetings, holiday gatherings such as our June ice cream social or December holiday party, or by advocating for our elected officials on matters ranging from cleanliness and safety to zoning and funding.

If you're reading this, you're a current member of OIPA, and we thank you for your support. Strong membership numbers tell our elected representatives that Old Irving Park residents are organized, committed, and caring citizens who care about their community. We are always looking to strengthen and expand our membership. Do you have a new neighbor? Tell them about OIPA! Membership info and sign-up are at [www.oldirvingpark.com](http://www.oldirvingpark.com)



# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

# 2026 OIPA EVENTS

## Save the Date for these OIPA-led events.

**WED  
FEBRUARY  
4**

OIPA Quarterly Meeting | 7 p.m.

**FRI  
JUNE  
5**

End of School Year, Happy Hour

*hello Summer*

**SAT  
OCTOBER  
24**

Halloween Parade & Party

**WED  
MARCH  
28**

Spring Egg Hunt

**SUN  
JUNE  
7**

Ice Cream Social & Quarterly Meeting 3 p.m.

**WED  
NOVEMBER  
4**

OIPA Quarterly Meeting | 7 p.m.

**FRI  
MAY  
1**

OIPA All-Star Member Cocktail Party

**FRI  
AUGUST  
21**

back to SCHOOL Party

**SUN  
DECEMBER  
13**

Holiday Lights Stroll, Festivities & Dinner



**WED  
SEPTEMBER  
9**

OIPA Quarterly Meeting | 7 p.m.



For more information watch for the OIPA Member E-news and follow us on Facebook.



## Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on November 17, 2025 — Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

**Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom**

**Meeting Started:** 7:07 p.m.

**Attendees:** Lynn Ankney, Justin Antony, Jake Berger, Meredith O'Sullivan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, David Ryan

### Communication

#### • Website Redesign

Jake Berger shared that he has scheduled a meeting with the web designer, Lisa, for Thursday, November 20, at 3 p.m. to discuss initial design ideas and a proposed timeline for the Old Irving Park Association website redesign. Board members were invited to share any input or ideas with Jake in advance of that meeting.

### Ambassador / Zoning

#### • Charitable Donations

Lynn Ankney called for a vote to approve OIPA's annual charitable donations, which will be given in early 2026. The proposed motion included a total of \$5,400 in donations, \$600 for each selected organization, reflecting a \$50 increase over the prior year, to the following organizations:

- Irving Park YMCA
- Irving Park Community Food Pantry
- Carlson Community Services
- Friends of Schurz
- Friends of Scammon
- Belding School

- Disney II Magnet School
- Independence Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library
- Irving Park Garden Club

It was noted that these donations are reviewed annually at the Board's discretion and may be adjusted in future years. Meredith O'Sullivan motioned to approve the donations. The motion was seconded by Nicholas Plagman-Frank and approved by the Board.

#### • Irving Park Road Study

David Ryan provided an informational update on a recent meeting hosted by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, which he and Adrienne Chan attended regarding the Irving Park Road study. David indicated that he would share the meeting materials and notes with the Board for review. No Board action was required at this time.

### Community Engagement

#### • OIPA Holiday Party

The Board reviewed planning updates for the upcoming OIPA Holiday Party. St. John's Episcopal Church has been reserved from 3–8 p.m., and the RSVP has been published and is filling quickly, with attendance capped at 75 people. Lynn Ankney volunteered to manage guest check-in at the door. Lynn also shared that she would follow up with Colleen regarding catering and any hired assistance for the event.



# OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

## • OIPA Holiday Lights Stroll

Justin Antony provided an informational update on the OIPA Holiday Lights Stroll, an event planned and hosted by the OIPA Parents Committee. No Board action was required.

## • Alley Mirrors

Lynn Ankney shared that she followed up with the original resident who had requested alley mirrors; however, there has been no further movement on the request. The Board agreed to leave the item on the agenda and revisit the discussion in late winter or early spring.

## Upcoming Meetings

- The Board reviewed the newsletter deadline spreadsheet and discussed meeting cadence for 2026. The following General Meeting dates were confirmed:
  - Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 7 p.m.
  - Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 3 p.m.  
(in conjunction with the Ice Cream Social)
  - Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.
  - Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 7 p.m.
- Board of Directors meeting dates will be scheduled separately via a Doodle poll sent to Board members.

*Continued on page 6*



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# OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

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## Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on November 17, 2025, *continued from page 7*

### Economic Development

[No updates were provided.]

### Newsletter

The Board discussed newsletter planning and “Message from the Board” topic ideas for early 2026. February’s newsletter will focus on a membership push, publishing the annual events schedule, encouraging neighbor involvement, and promoting the option to gift OIPA memberships. Jake Berger will announce the gift membership option during the OIPA Holiday Party.

### Beautification

- Jake Berger shared that permitting related to ongoing beautification projects is still in process, with the goal of wrapping up before the end of the year.
- The Board agreed to table the lighthouse (structure located at Irving Park Road & the Kennedy Expressway northbound off-ramp) landscaping discussion and the associated vote until a future Board of Directors meeting. Lynn Ankney will request a rendering and examples of a potential spring display for future consideration.
- The Board also agreed to table discussion of the 2026 in-ground planter landscaping until a future Board of Directors meeting.

- Update regarding the removal of the Pulaski CTA Mural:

- David Ryan reported that he contacted the 45th Ward office by phone regarding the Pulaski CTA mural and plans to follow up with an email.

### Parents' Committee

The Board discussed the need for additional volunteers to help backfill leadership roles during special events. It was noted that fundraising efforts are up approximately 40 percent compared to 2024.

### Administration

Lynn Ankney reviewed several large reimbursements and shared that a follow-up email will be sent to Northwestern Medicine to report that the grant funds were used to restore the “Positive Babel” mural. She noted that remaining Northwestern Medicine grant funds are earmarked for the Chicken Mural project (planned for the spring), to the extent the project exceeds DCEO funds.

- Lynn also shared an update on the DCEO Grant budget, including current allocations.
- Meredith O’Sullivan motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded by Jake Berger and approved by the Board.

**The Board of Directors meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.**

OIPA GENERAL  
MEETING | Feb 4

### Cold outside? Yes. Worth coming out anyway? Absolutely.

Join your neighbors for the February OIPA General Meeting—a chance to connect, catch up, and stay in the loop on what’s happening in Old Irving Park. No pressure, no long speeches—just community, conversation, and familiar faces. Bundle up and come on out. We’d love to see you.

February 4 | 7 p.m. | St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago



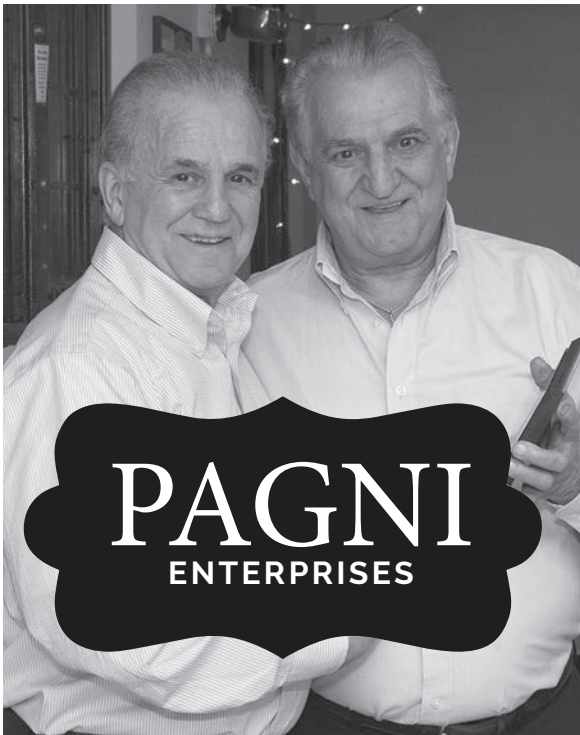
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## Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on January 12, 2026 — Adrienne Chan, OIPA Board Member

**Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom**

**Meeting Started:** 7:07 p.m.

**Attendees:** Dan William, Dave Ryan, Meredith O’Sullivan, Lynn Ankney, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Jake Berger

### Communication

Jake met with Lisa Hazen in November regarding redesign of the OIP website. It was a productive meeting. The new website will be designed on the SquareSpace platform. Board members will need to be trained on this, but the benefit of SquareSpace is that it is inexpensive, highly customizable, and we can make changes to website content directly without having to involve Lisa or a webmaster. The next steps are that OIPA needs to consider the desired changes and get back to Lisa by the end of February. A sub-committee will work on this.

### Ambassador / Zoning

On December 18, Dan William and Dave Ryan had a Zoom meeting with reps from Wards 30, 39, 45 and State Representative Lindsey LaPointe were on the call regarding the unhoused people on Keeler under 90/94. The City is aware of the issue and is operating within protocol; the 45th Ward will work on getting more regular cleaning.

### Community Engagement

- **Holiday Dinner:** 82 people attended the holiday dinner on December 14. It was a great event for all; the board considered a raffle fundraiser to meet the costs of the event without raising membership rates.

- **“Seasons of OIP” Coaster sets for Good Neighbor and All-Star Members** are in production and scheduled to arrive late January/early February. Extra sets may be available for purchase.
- **Mary Foster art prints:** Members will have the option to purchase all four of the Mary Foster prints at OIPA cost. Meredith has 21 remaining prints from the 1st set and will give them to Nick. Nick has secured a vendor for printing Summer, Spring, Winter.
- **Status of Block Ambassador Program:** program will launch in March and we are seeking 6–8 volunteers
- **Date for All-Star Party:** May 1
- **Alley mirrors:** Resident making her way through requested locations to confirm viable hosting prior to OIPA purchasing mirrors and contracting installation services.
- **Old Irving Brewing working on Celebration/ Anniversary event for Old Irving Park.** OIPA connected OIB Operations Manager with Laura Marie Sanchez to identify date.
- There are 4 remaining Century Plaques available.

### Upcoming Meetings

- **General:** Confirmed with St. John’s:
  - Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 7 p.m.
  - Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 3 p.m.
  - Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 7 p.m.
  - Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 7 p.m.
- **Board meeting** schedule for 2026 was determined (generally, 4th Monday of the month)



# OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

- **Newsletter:** Board discussed newsletter deadlines and “Message from the Board” content for March, April and May

## Beautification

- **Christy Webber/Planters Permitting Update:**

Jake has made some progress on the permit application. Additional items required from Christy Webber/OIPA are being gathered.

The Board considered Christy Webber proposals for planter displays and watering, landscaping the “Lighthouse,” and general mulching/Spring maintenance. A list of revisions and additional requests will be provided to Christy Webber.

- **Purple Neighborhood [Street Light Banners] Signage.** Expected install in spring. The Board approved for OIPA to pay \$250 X 2 to relocate the D2 banners installed on the poles slated for purple signs.
- **Neighborhood signage:** The Board discussed options for design and installation of a new community identifier sign at Keeler/Irving Park Road. Community engagement opportunity will be featured in the March newsletter.
- Dave contacted City/Alderwoman Cruz about returning the Aerosol Mural (Pulaski CTA station walls – West CTA wall) to the city; they indicated the mural belongs to the artist.

## Parents' Committee

- Updates: Committee meeting in February, reviewing how we reengage the Committee and the community at large for volunteers.
- 2026 Calendar of events for inclusion in the newsletter.

## Administration

- Treasurer’s Reports for November and December 2025 were approved.

- The Board reviewed remaining DCEO expenditures (deadline June 30, 2026).
- Jake will send calendar alerts for all board meetings and newsletter due dates. We all need to provide him with our preferred email address.
- **1/9/26: Treasurer issued 2026 charitable donation checks.** \$600 (\$50 increase) checks to: Irving Park YMCA, Irving Park Community Food Pantry, Carlson Community Services, Friends of Schurz, Friends of Scammon, Belding School, and Disney II Magnet School. Amazon gift card to Independence Park Branch of CPL. Email into Irving Park Garden Club re: wishes for 2026 donation.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



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2025

OIPA

# HOLIDAY PARTY

The OIPA Member Holiday Party may be behind us, but the joyful memories continue to linger. More than 82 OIPA members gathered for our annual holiday dinner on Sunday, December 14, in St. John's Parish Hall. The space was transformed into a welcoming holiday setting, complete with white tablecloths, candlelight, and festive music.

Continuing a beloved tradition, catering was provided by one of Old Irving Park's favorites, La Villa Restaurant & Banquets. The evening served as the perfect finale to a lively afternoon filled with creativity and fun for our youngest OIPA members.

The afternoon portion of the day was originally planned as an outdoor celebration hosted by the OIPA Parents Committee—featuring activities in the church garden, a holiday light stroll, and a visit to Mrs. Claus's house—unseasonably cold temperatures brought the festivities indoors. The change of plans didn't dampen the spirit. Instead, the parish hall buzzed with holiday music, hot chocolate, food, churros, and an abundance of arts and crafts.

From start to finish, the event was a true community uplifter, capturing the warmth, creativity, and togetherness that define OIPA.



Thank you to our members for capturing the photographic moments:

- Lynn Ankney
- Justin Anthony
- Kristie Hein
- Mark McKelvey
- Meredith O'Sullivan



## February Birthdays

Mike Abbott	Amy Meadows
Bradley Anderson	Ashley Menardo
Nicholas Arvanitakis	Amanda Miller
Shirley Buss	Maria Montadas
Perry Chu	Patrick Muench
Kevin Cisner	Cindy Naudziunas
Carling FitzSimmons	Allison Novak
Irene Flaherty	Randall Patke
Sara Freeman	John Rooney
Denise Giszczynski	Meni Sarris
William Hanzel	Ted Simmons
Richard Hoffman	Will Staker
Dylan Holthaus	Lee Swingen
Timothy Huizenga	Antonio Tabacchi
Lauren Innocenzi	Danielle Tetrault
Andrew Jukes	Richard Tetrault
Tom Keith	Alex Vazquez
Jessica Kick	Christen Walczak
Heather Legan	Casey Williams
Liam McLaughlin	Rodney Zech

## February Anniversaries

Laura Baginski & Patrick Wasser  
Jessica & Jim Covert  
Cate Hall & Will Staker  
Rachel & Pete Horvath  
Gaye & Ken Klopach  
Antonia & Wlodek Pieczonka  
Kate & Mike Roche  
Megan & Eric Stalder  
Lyndon Taylor & Daphne Roscoe  
Erin Walker & C'Aira Shields  
Danielle & Randy West



## KID BIRTHDAYS

**Ethan Ankney**  
**Nathan Coe**  
**Liam Kick**  
**Emmet Rood**

## PET BIRTHDAYS

**Buck Berger**  
**Oliver Hernandez-Whitcomb**  
**Hazey Hernandez-Whitcomb**  
**Daisy Kraft**

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

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 4146 N. Kedvale, 1C ..... \$225,000  
 4110 N. Keystone, 1N ..... \$237,000  
 4239 N. Keystone, 3S ..... \$425,000  
 3809 N. Milwaukee, H ..... \$570,000



## Single Family

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 3704 N. Byron ..... \$745,000  
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## Celebrating Local Talent

OIP neighborhood artists **T. J. Hine** and **Denise Hlad** are featured in *Class Act, 2026*, a juried exhibition at the Gallery of Contemporary Mosaics showcasing current and former students of the Chicago Mosaic School (CMS). The exhibition reflects the wide range of conceptual and technical approaches that make CMS a leading center for mosaic arts education.



### Artist with their work

Left: T. J. Hine,  
"Father Time"  
*Photo by Kathleen Kearns*

Right: Denise Hlad,  
"Clematis in My Garden"  
*Photo by Claudia Hine*

## Women on a Mission

**Anne Lenzini** and **Laurie Bish**, founders of Old Irving Park Women in Business, continue to turn connection into community impact. At the group's December gathering, a portion of proceeds from the annual Holiday Luncheon and Sip & Shop was donated to Irving Park Community Food Pantry, totaling \$450. The donation was gratefully accepted by Community Engagement Manager **Lynne Anderson** and Board President **Liz Mills**—another example of how local women are lifting up their neighborhood together.



Picture above, left to right: Anne Lenzini, Lynne Anderson, Liz Mills and Laurie Bish.  
*Photo by Meg Buchanan*



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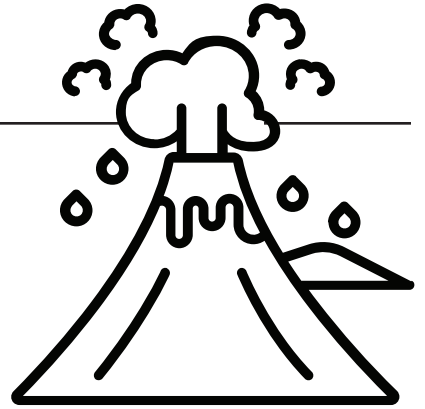
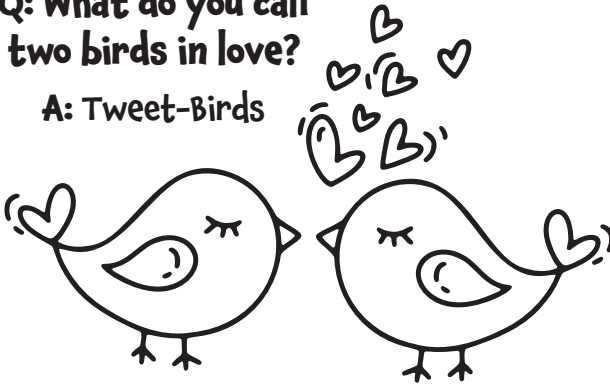
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# KIDS CORNER

## CORNY JOKES

**Q: What do you call two birds in love?**

**A: Tweet-Birds**

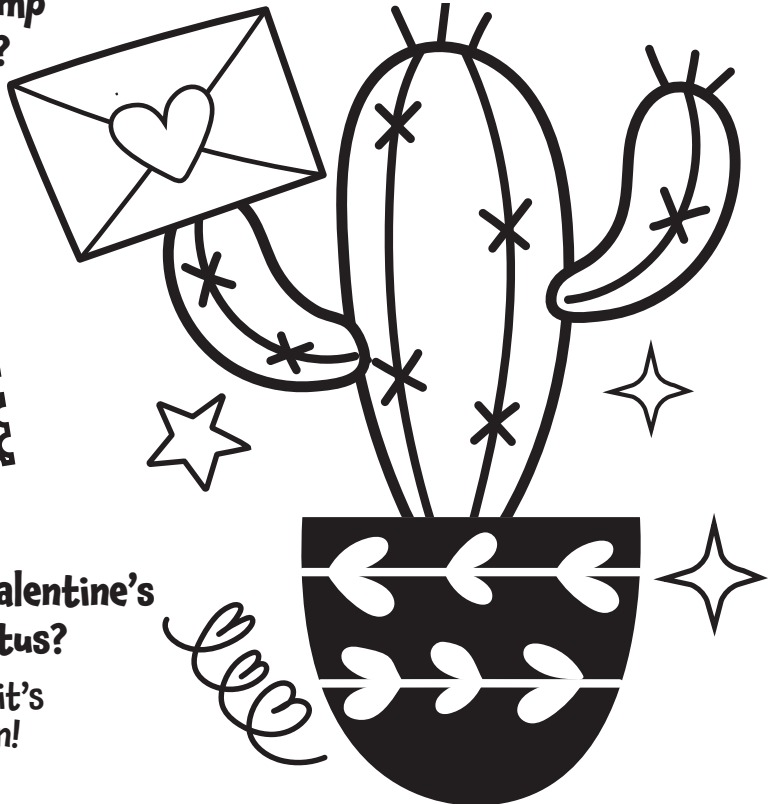


**Q: What did one volcano say to the other volcano on Valentine's Day?**

**A: I "LAVA" YOU!**

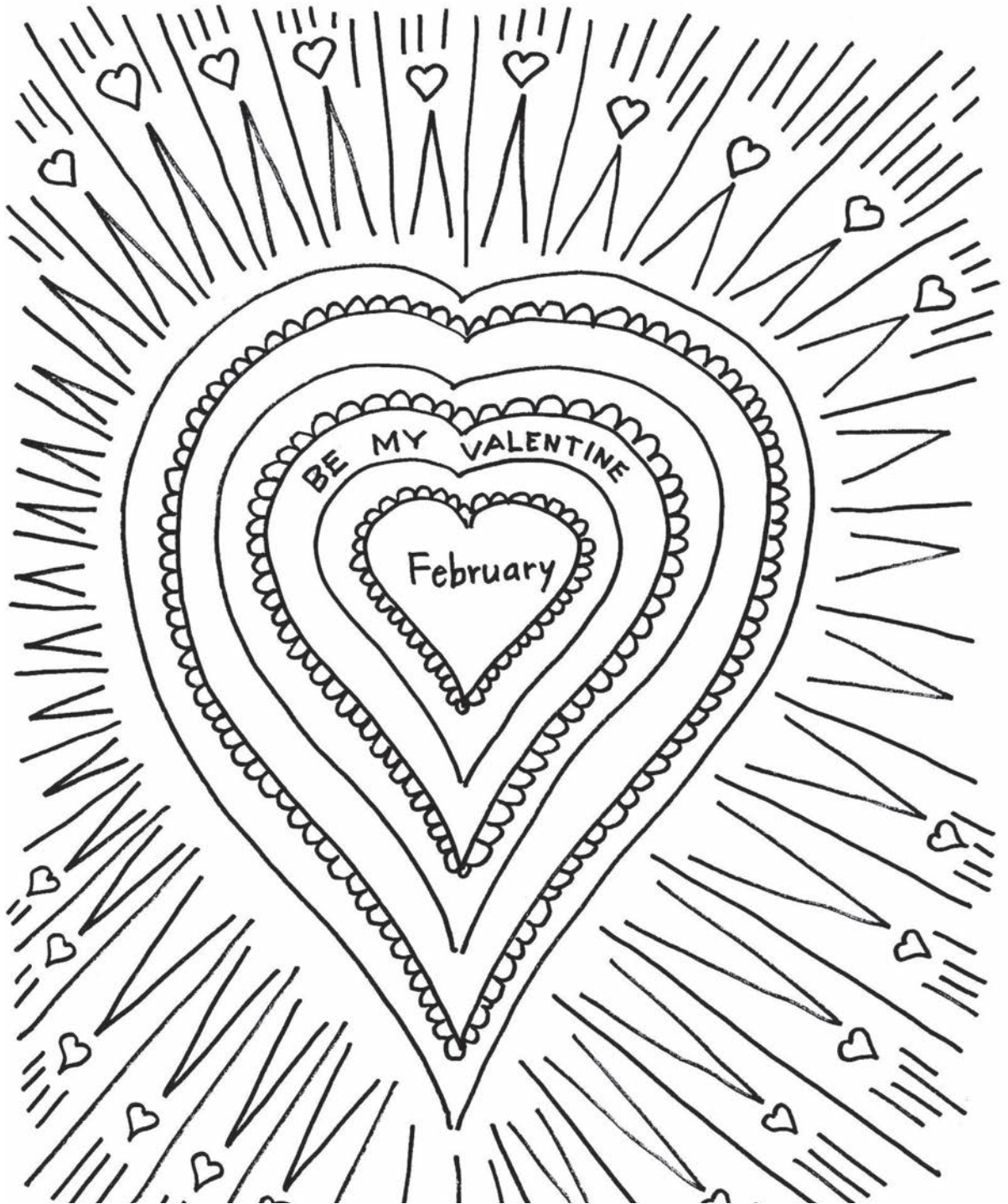
**Q: What did the stamp say to the letter?**

**A: I'm stuck on you.**



**Q: How do you make a Valentine's Day card for a cactus?**

**A: Very carefully—it's a prickly situation!**





# Filament to Offer Two Free After-School Classes for Young People

— Julia Stemper, Associate Director of Advancement

In 2025, Filament pledged to make all after-school programs free of charge to help remove potential barriers to reaching interested young people. Registration is now open for StoryTellers (Winter Session) and WorldBuilders (Spring Session).

---

## StoryTellers

The upcoming session of StoryTellers invites you to make new friends as we celebrate family fun, family adventures, and found family of all shapes and sizes. We'll create our own original stories that explore the world of WATER, as a chance to continue celebrating RAIN and more this season. This class is ideal for young people aged 5–8.

**Tuesdays, 5–6 p.m. | February 3–March 10**

**Registration:** <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35466/production/1252721?performanceId=11699164>

## World Builders

World Builders Spring session uses some of the elements of Filament's SPARK program to invite young people to create their own NEW ideas as we reach far and wide, imagining the unique worlds we can build. Join new friends in learning new skills, honing others, and crafting new stories in worlds we create together. This class is ideal for young people aged 8-14.

**Tuesdays, 5–6:30 p.m. | March 31–May 5**

**Registration:** <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35466/production/1252720?performanceId=11699165>



## Upcoming

Be on the lookout for more details on Filament's next production: ***Farewell Opportunity*** (coming this Spring, a beautiful show for the whole family).

**Filament Theatre—Where families come to play.**  
4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60641 | [info@filamenttheatre.org](mailto:info@filamenttheatre.org) | 73.270.1660\*

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*Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am*

*Sunday: 10am – 10pm*

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***(773) 283-7980 | [www.lavillabanquets.com](http://www.lavillabanquets.com)***



# Blooming Innovation: Keeler Gardens and Illinois Tech Team Up to Grow Greener, Healthier Neighborhoods

**Keeler Gardens** and **Illinois Tech's SoReMo Initiative** are joining forces to enhance urban health and sustainability through nature-based innovation. SoReMo and Keeler Gardens will combine research and nature-based expertise to create data-driven solutions for stronger communities.

SoReMo offers semester-long research fellowships that provide unique interdisciplinary research opportunities for students who want to apply computational, modeling, and design skills to solve a social issue.

This fellowship program will bring Illinois Tech students into direct collaboration with Keeler Gardens. Students will design and implement projects inspired

by Keeler Gardens' mission, with results shared at the end of the spring semester.

Potential fellowship projects include a plant species database, a nature space app, and educational media campaigns that bridge nature, technology, and community. The outcomes will help neighborhoods thrive socially, culturally, and economically while expanding access to nature connections.

"While our immediate focus is Chicago, our long-term vision is much larger: to change how communities everywhere are developed, integrating nature as a foundation for equity and resilience," said Gina Iliopoulos, Executive Director of Keeler Gardens.

This partnership was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Michela Coffaro, in memory of Josephine Coffaro and Leah Betts. We are deeply grateful for her support.

## Join us in funding this initiative:

- Donate to support student fellowships:  
<https://bit.ly/KGSoReMo>
- Support Keeler Gardens operations  
[https://bit.ly/KG\\_Support](https://bit.ly/KG_Support)
- Website: [keelergardens.org](http://keelergardens.org)

Together, we can demonstrate how innovation through nature connections supports thriving communities.



Gina Iliopoulos presents at Illinois Tech. *Photo by Ed Chaplan.*

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[GatewayMontessoriSchool.org](http://GatewayMontessoriSchool.org)

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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.





# Northside Neighborhood History Collection Offers OIP Archives — Gayle Christensen

Interested in the history of the neighborhood founded in 1984?

Would you like to see a photo of your home as it looked in the late 1990s?

Your latest and best source for information about OIP is now cataloged and resides at the Northside Neighborhood History Collection at Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln.

These archives consist of a treasure trove of material from OIPA and the former Irving Park Historical Society (IPHS)—material collected from past board and officers' basements, newsletter editors, and committee chairs—relieving them of custodial duties and freeing up space in their basements and attics.

These materials were painstakingly organized and



Irving Park School Annex, 3700 block 42nd Ave (Keeler), in an undated but circa 1909 RPPC. Carol Szalacha Collection, IPHS Archives.

submitted to the library. Most of the material was accepted and is now accessible by prior arrangement.

Remember the bikini carwash? Asphalt factory? Interested in businesses and developers who pitched their projects to OIPA? History and news about local schools, churches, clubs, politics, and much more? It's all there.

The house photos are the result of two separate projects taken on in the late 1990s:

- IPHS set out to photograph every house, both to document the remaining historic homes and to help prevent demolition of those that are historically significant. These are black and white photos.
- OIPA also engaged in a "photograph every residence" project to support zoning changes that would reflect that most of our residences are single-family homes and two-flat buildings, rather than larger buildings.

Unfortunately, even though both projects were completed, not all of the photos were recovered from the volunteer photographers. However, the chances of finding your home are still pretty good.

You can arrange access to this incredible collection by calling or emailing:

312-742-4455

northsidehistory@chipublib.org

<https://www.chipublib.org/northside-neighborhood-history-collection>



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## Stay Connected, Be Informed

There are a variety ways for you to connect with OIPA and your neighbors.

**OIPA Enews** | Stay up to date with local neighborhood news and happenings. Request to join OIPA's news eblast email distribution group by emailing us at [hello@oldirvingpark.com](mailto:hello@oldirvingpark.com)

**Google Parent Group** (not just for parents) | To join our interactive community google group visit: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/oipa-parents-discuss>

**Facebook** | Our Facebook page is a great way to learn about neighborhood events and issues  
<https://www.facebook.com/oldirvingparkassoc>.

Visit our website  
[www.oldirvingpark.com](http://www.oldirvingpark.com)  
Questions? Contact us  
[Hello@oldirvingpark.com](mailto:Hello@oldirvingpark.com)





## February Events with Carlson Community

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director, Carlson Community Services

### Irving Park Fine Arts Free Concert

The third concert of our 32nd season will take place on Sunday, February 1, at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. We are excited to welcome violist **Willie McLellan**, accompanied by Mio Isoda-Hagle on piano and Alexa Muhly, cello. The trio will perform a number of pieces, including works by Vivaldi, Beethoven, Florence Price, and American composer Caroline Shaw.

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

**Details on our complete Fine Arts Concert Season** can be found on our website at <https://carlsoncommunityservices.org/programs/fine-arts/this-season>.



Photo courtesy of the artist, Willie McLellan



### Volunteer With Carlson Community Services in 2026: Make a Difference in Irving Park

Are you resolving to make a difference in your community in 2026? Carlson Community Services is looking for volunteers to help fulfil its mission of connecting the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. If you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities in any of our three programs, fundraising or on the Board of Directors, **please contact Executive Director Sara Yoest at [sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org) or 312-819-3230**. It is a great way to give back to the community you live in!



## “Laugh Your Winter Blues Away” a comedy show with a cause on February 6, 2026 benefitting Carlson Community

Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Irving Park Lutheran Church GYM, 4057 N. Harding Avenue.



## Don't Miss a Night of Laughter: Join Us for Comedy, Community, and Good Times!

### “Laugh Your Winter Blues Away” a comedy show with a cause on February 6, 2026

On Friday, February 6, Carlson Community Services will host a comedy fundraiser to benefit Carlson's three programs: the Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden and the Irving Park Fine Arts concert series.

*Laugh Your Winter Blues Away*, produced by Chicago Comedy Works, will feature five uniquely hilarious comics for a night of comedy that will be sure to warm your spirit this winter. Perfect for a date night, group of friends or couples, this 21+ show will help you shake the winter blues.

Visit [www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events](http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events) to purchase tickets or scan the QR code.

Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Irving Park Lutheran Church GYM, 4057 N. Harding Avenue. Beer and wine are available for purchase at the show. **Tickets are on sale now! Buy early—we expect a sold-out show.**



Ann Lenzini and Kaitlyn Keely, attendees of the 2025 comedy show fundraiser, anticipating the laughs they're about to share. Ready for punchlines, good company, and a night of nonstop smiles!

*Photo by Kathleen Kearns*



*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](http://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 Yost, Executive Director, at [sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org) or 312-810-3230.*



## Help Fill a Child's Spring Basket With Smiles!

The Irving Park Food Pantry will run its annual spring program during March, providing clients' children 12 years and younger with baskets of toys and goodies (prior to Easter on April 5th). We are collecting donations now so the program is ready for our first week, which is always popular.

Contributions of items for the baskets needed include: 6-inch plush animals, 24-count crayons, party-favor-like toys, filled (with candy or toys) plastic eggs, wrapped candies, and other small treats of any kind.



Volunteer Mary Ann Ballard shows off some of the spring baskets given to clients' children during the 2025 spring event.  
*Photo by Craig Shutt*

### Donations can be made:

- 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** to the enclosed front porches at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. or 4242 N. Hamlin at any time.
- Direct pay donations can be made via PayPal at [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org), or through your Zelle app to [treasurer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:treasurer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org).
- By check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. You can mark your donation as "baskets" to ensure it applies to that program.
- Via our Amazon registry using the QR code.



### Organization Participation

We also encourage organizations to do their own collections or create assembled baskets. If interested, contact the Pantry's Special Programs Manager Craig Shutt at [craigshutt@gmail.com](mailto:craigshutt@gmail.com) for details or to arrange a special delivery.

Article submitted by Craig Shutt, [craigshutt@ameritech.net](mailto: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](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org), | [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org).



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

## Thank You to Our Supporters

- Thank you to Vin Chicago, a family-run wine retailer, for hosting an “Uncorking for a Cause” charity weekend in November. The Pantry’s supporters pushed us to the top of their leaderboard for the third year in a row, bringing our total donation to \$2,039.41!

In all, Vin Chicago donated \$10,245 to participating Chicago nonprofits from the 2025 annual charity weekend.

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



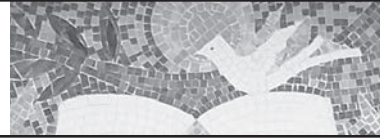
Scott Dewey, president of the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), stopped by the Pantry in December to deliver a donation of \$3,000. Picture above from left to right: Pantry Board President Liz Mills, Scott Dewey, Executive Director John Psiharis, and Pantry volunteer Lorraine Antieau, who also serves as GIPNA’s secretary. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Trey, Emily, and Hannah from the office of Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer volunteered at the Pantry in December. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Holiday Gift program co-manager Edith Maino shows off some of the 250 stockings given to clients’ children ages 12 and younger during our December program.



## Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director



# TRIVIA NIGHT

**Saturday,  
February 7, 2026**

**6 – 11 p.m.**

**St. Viator Gym  
3644 N. Kedvale**

The 8th Grade Class of 2026 is hosting the annual TRIVIA NIGHT to raise funds for end-of-year activities, including the class trip to Springfield. Come out, have fun, and show off your smarts!

Trivia Night is open to all friends of St. Viator School, but is an adults-only event. Cost is \$30 per person (eight people max per table—so four couples for \$240)!

Who is the smartest of all? Only one way to find out! Attend Trivia Night and support the 8th Grade Class of 2026!

Complete the online registration at [bit.ly/StViatorTrivia](https://bit.ly/StViatorTrivia) or use the QR code.



---

**Connect with us!** | Subscribe to our socials to stay up to date on St. Viator Elementary School happenings! Find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago, and Instagram: [stvschoolchi](https://www.facebook.com/stvschoolchi), or visit the school website at [www.stviatorchicago.org](http://www.stviatorchicago.org). Direct your school questions to William Teeple, Admissions Director, at (773) 545-2173.



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## Come see the St. Edward Community in action!

**W**e invite all families to tour our school, meet teachers, talk to parents, and ask our principal about our award-winning school. Register online for an upcoming tour date in February, March, April, or May. Enrollment for the 2026-27 school year is now open for new families with students in PK3-8th grade.

While St. Edward School is known for having a strong, stable, and safe community, we are also nationally recognized for our academic accomplishments. Graduates from our school are admitted to their first-choice high school among competitive Catholic High Schools and selective CPS High Schools. St. Edward is more than a seat in the classroom; it's an investment in your child's future that will set them up for success the rest of their lives. The sooner we can start that foundation, the better!

For more information, visit our school website, [www.stedwardchicago.com](http://www.stedwardchicago.com)

Warm wishes,  
Sara Lasica, Principal

### **Miss the Chili Cook-Off? The Fun Doesn't Stop There**

If you missed our Chili Cook-Off on January 31, mark your calendars for our annual McNulty/Kelly Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Sunday, March 1. This beloved St. Edward Community tradition is held annually in Buckley Hall, 4447 N. Lowell, and raises funds for scholarships for soon-to-be graduates of St. Edward School as they move into high school.

---

### **Big Red Auction**

Save the date for our Big Red Auction on April 18, 2026. St. Ed's is going western for this annual event supporting our school. Join us for a boot-scootin' good time! Tickets will be available on the school website closer to the event.

---

### **Summer Camp Fun**

Don't forget, St. Edward School offers our Big Red Summer Camp for children entering grades PK4-8th. Camp is open to all children in the neighborhood. More information can be found on our website.

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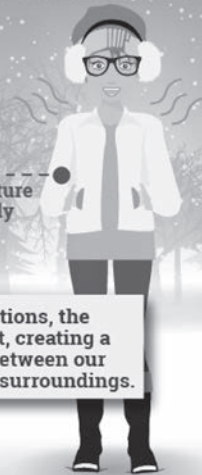
**NO WIND**

The Science of Wind Chill

**WINDY**

**98.6°F**

Average temperature of the human body



Under calm conditions, the body radiates heat, creating a layer of warmth between our skin and the cold surroundings.

**95°F**

Hypothermia begins when our body temperature drops two to four degrees



But when it's windy, the moving air breaks up this insulating layer. It speeds up heat loss by whisking away the warmth from our skin.

Heat is moved away from our bodies.



**National Weather Service Winter Advisory**

[weather.gov/winter](http://weather.gov/winter)



# EMERGENCY HEATING REPAIR PROGRAM (EHRP) 2025-2026

The Emergency Heating Repair Program (EHRP) provides direct assistance to owner-occupied properties in the City of Chicago, helping homeowners repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating systems. Qualified contractors perform the work at no cost to the homeowner with funding provided through the Department of Housing (DOH). The assistance is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

**November 1, 2025, to April 1, 2026**  
You can call 311, go to the CHI311 app, or visit [www.chicago.gov/ehrp](http://www.chicago.gov/ehrp) to apply online

## MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME (2025)

The program is open to Chicagoans who own and occupy a 1-to-4-unit residential property within the city limits. The property must be in habitable condition and not at risk of foreclosure. Commercial and mixed-use properties do not qualify.

Size of Household	80% Area Median Income
1 Person	\$67,150
2 Person	\$76,750
3 Person	\$86,350
4 Person	\$95,900
5 Person	\$103,600
6 Person	\$111,250
7 Person	\$118,950
8 Person	\$126,600

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
312-744-3653 | [DOH@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG](mailto:DOH@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG)



# 2025-26 OIPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at [www.oldirvingpark.com/join-us](http://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)			
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE			
E-MAIL		E-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](http://oldirvingpark.com/join-us)

# Contribute to the OIPA News | SUBMISSION GUIDELINES for Advertising and Content

All Old Irving Park Association members are invited to submit letters, photos, and articles for publication. We publish ten newsletters each year—please note that no issues are released in January or July. Thank you to everyone who contributes content or purchases ad space. Your support keeps our community connected and informed. We look forward to hearing from you!

## General Submission Guidelines

### Community Calendar, Articles & Photos

- Please send articles and calendar items as a Word document, Google Doc, or in the body of an email.
- Include the author's name, company or organization (if applicable), and contact information within the document.
- If your article includes an event that should appear in the Community Calendar, please clearly note it, even if the event is already mentioned in the article.

### Word Count

- Up to 400 words without photos
- 300–325 words with photos and captions

### Content Standards

- Articles should be informational, not advertorial.
- Bylined articles are written in third person, unless they are opinion pieces or personal stories.
- A byline includes the author's name, business name, and contact information.
- Please include your name in the document file.
- Links to websites or Facebook posts will not be accepted as full submissions.

### Editorial Notes

- The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.
- Content may be reproduced with the Old Irving Park Association cited as the source.
- Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the Association.

### Images

- Submit photos or images as separate original files—not embedded in Word documents.
- Include photo captions and photographer credit in the same document as your article.
- If your files are too large to email, please use

WeTransfer or Dropbox Transfer.

- The newsletter is printed in black and white, and all images will be converted to grayscale. Please keep this in mind when selecting and submitting photos.

### Submission Deadlines

- **Advertising:** First Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m. See calendar below for due date exceptions.
- **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.

### Where to Send Your Submission

- Email contributions to Kathleen Kearns at [k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com](mailto:k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com). Include "OIPA Submission" in the subject line and specify the category (advertisement, article, or community calendar).
- For large files, please use WeTransfer or another file-transfer method.

## 2026 SUBMISSION DATES

**\*Due date later or early due to holiday**

Publication Month	Advertising	Content/Articles
<i>January No issue</i>		
March	Tuesday, 2/3	Thursday, 2/5
April	Tuesday, 3/3	Thursday, 3/5
May*	Tuesday, 3/31	Thursday, 4/2
June	Tuesday, 4/28	Thursday, 5/7
<i>July No issue</i>		
August*	Tuesday, 6/30	Thursday, 7/2
September	Tuesday, 8/4	Thursday, 8/6
October	Tuesday, 9/1	Thursday, 9/3
November	Tuesday, 9/29	Thursday, 10/1
December	Tuesday, 11/3	Thursday, 11/5



# Advertise with Us!

Share your business with neighbors! *OIPA News* reaches more than 630 local households, elected city officials and community groups—join us and connect with your neighborhood!

- **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 and Instagram 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.olderivingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad](http://www.olderivingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad).

## Advertising Specifications

- Purchase ad space and upload your ad at:  
[www.olderivingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad](http://www.olderivingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad)
- **AD SIZES:** Full Page: 6.25" X 7.5"  
Half Page: 6.25" X 3.75"  
Quarter Page: 3" X 3.75"
- **ACCEPTABLE AD FILES:** High Resolution (minimum 300 dpi) gray scale; jpg, PDF, or eps. **Microsoft Word files are NOT acceptable.**

## Submission Deadlines

- **Advertising:** First Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m., with exceptions when holidays conflict with dates. Please see the submission dates calendar on page 40.
- **Materials SUBMITTED AFTER** the deadline date will be held over to the next month's issue.

# OIPA & COMMUNITY CALENDAR *of* EVENTS



www.oldirvingpark.com  
hello@oldirvingpark.com  
FB: oldirvingparkassoc

## 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.

## February

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- 1 **Irving Park Fine Arts Concert** | 2 p.m.  
Willie McLellan, Violist accompanied by Mio Isoda-Hagle on piano & Alexa Muhly, cello | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Avenue. Free!

- 4 **OIPA Quarterly Meeting** | 7 p.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago

- 6 **Carlson Community Services presents "Laugh Your Winter Blues Away:"** | 7:30 p.m. | A comedy show produced by Chicago Comedy Works | Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym, 4057 N. Harding Avenue | Visit Carlson website for ticket sales information.

## March

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- 21 **Irving Park Garden Club** | *Body Smart Gardening* | University of Illinois Extension | 10 a.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | New and renewing members welcome.

- 28 **OIPA Spring Egg Hunt** | Info to come.

## APRIL

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- 16 **Irving Park Garden Club** | *Everything You Know About Gardening Is Wrong* | Mike Nowak | 7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | New and renewing members welcome.

## May

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- 1 **OIPA All-Star Member Cocktail Party.** Annual event for the All-Star membership level.

## June

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- 6 **End of School Year, Happy Hour**
- 7 **Ice Cream Social/Quarterly Meeting**  
3 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago

## August

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- 21 **OIPA Back to School Party**

## September

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- 9 **OIPA Quarterly Meeting** | 7 p.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago

## October

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- 24 **OIPA Halloween Parade & Party**

## November

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- 4 **OIPA Quarterly Meeting** | 7 p.m.  
St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago

## December

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- 13 **OIPA Holiday Lights Stroll, Festivities & Dinner**