

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS



MAY

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 4 | 2026



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 40 Issue 4 May 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: Volunteers from Old Irving Park are helping with spring cleaning to keep our community tidy. 30th Ward Alderwoman Ruth Cruz (center) and her team also joined the effort.

Photo provided by Dan William.

© Old Irving Park Association

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Celebrating Our Graduates — Annie Swingen

Attention OIP parents and guardians of the graduating class of 2026! Is your child among the graduates this year? Whether they are completing Kindergarten or embarking on their journey in higher education, we want to honor and celebrate their remarkable achievements!

Please consider sharing the following details to help us recognize their hard work and dedication:

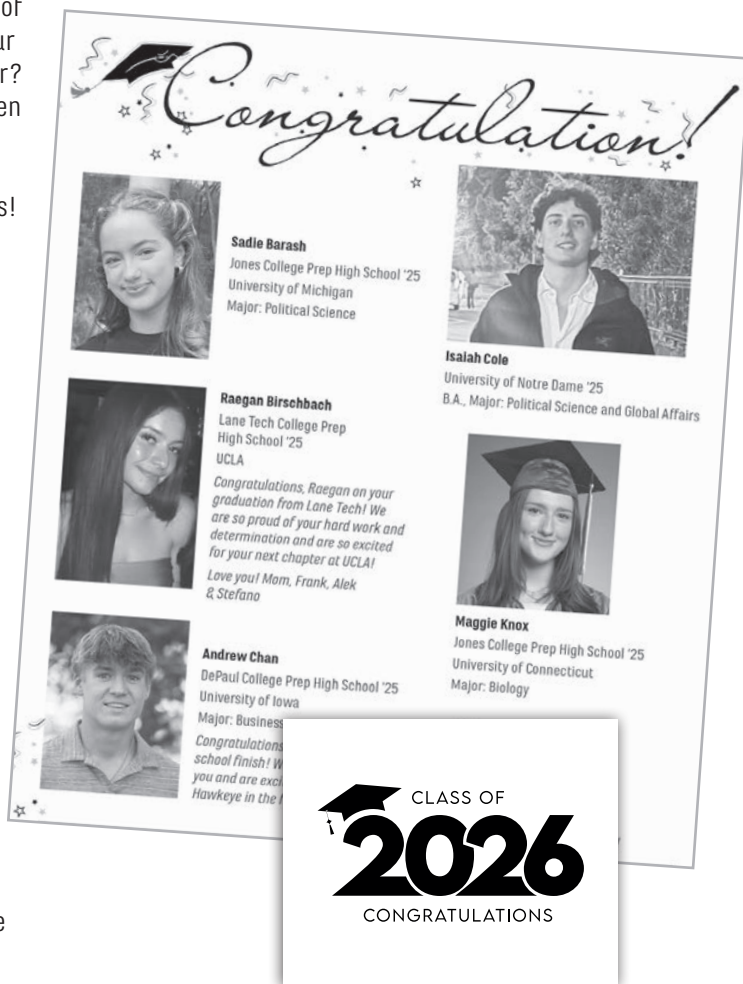
Full Name(s): Let us know who is graduating!

School/Major/Degree: Please specify where they have studied and what they have accomplished.

Picture (optional): A cherished photo will add a personal touch to our tribute.

Message: Feel free to include any special notes, memories, or well wishes you would like to share.

We will create a beautiful spread featuring OIP 2026 graduates, allowing our community to come together in celebration through our print newsletter and online. We can't wait to showcase the amazing milestones of our students!



You can send your submissions directly to Annie Swingen via email at: calnearnearley@gmail.com by May 5.



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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on March 23, 2026 — Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:05 p.m.

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Jacob Berger, Adrienne Chan, Meredith O'Sullivan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank, David Ryan

Communication

• Website Redesign

Jake Berger reported that he met with Meredith O'Sullivan on the morning of March 23 to discuss next steps for the OIPA website redesign. The discussion focused on three primary areas requiring resolution to move the project forward: content updates, layout and design elements, including color scheme, readability, and mobile optimization, and necessary plug-ins such as integration for Keep OIP Clean donations, membership database connectivity, and a native PDF reader for archived newsletters.

Jake and Meredith discussed in detail proposed changes to content, ideas for improved layout and readability, and technical plug-in requirements. Jake will proceed with a page-by-page review of the current website to update and reorganize content and to identify areas where pages should be cross-linked and restructured. Planned additions include a business directory, redesigned neighborhood resources pages, and visual enhancements to

every page. The redesign will also make donation links, such as those for Keep OIP Clean, more prominently visible.

The Board discussed elevating the focus of information on the Old Irving Park Association over neighborhood history content on the website, potentially through a revised navigation structure or prioritizing organizational information on the homepage.

Jake and Meredith also discussed issuing a call for assistance from one to two volunteers with website design experience to support the redesign process, particularly in the areas of readability, mobile optimization, and content development. Jake noted that while he can provide direction and complete some of the work himself, assistance would be beneficial given the volume of subpages requiring attention.

The Board agreed to provide the web developer with examples of websites the organization admires for functionality, color scheme, and other design elements.

Jake brought to the Board's attention that the zoning statement currently published on the website needs to be updated, as the existing language makes the organization appear opposed to new development and increased density. This was noted for future work and continued Board discussion.

Continued on page 6

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on March 23, 2026—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 4*

Ambassador / Zoning

The Board discussed Old Irving Brewery's "Della Days" event. Lynn Ankney suggested reaching out to the brewery to determine if there is a specific time during which OIPA could have a presence at the event. It was noted that this will likely become an annual event for OIB.

Community Engagement

• Mary Foster Art Prints

Nicholas Plagman-Frank and Lynn Ankney are coordinating arrangements for the Mary Foster art prints. Nicholas will send Lynn a photograph of all four prints arranged together for use in the eblast and social media posts.

Lynn Ankney proposed sending a special eblast to members that would include a call for volunteers with website design experience to assist in the website redesign process, an announcement of website updates in progress, availability of the Mary Foster art prints, a call for 2026 graduates, and a call for artwork submissions for the new commissioned neighborhood sign. The Board approved this plan, and the eblast will be sent on Tuesday, March 24.

• Mary Foster Coasters

Adrienne Chan suggested making the Mary Foster coasters available for pickup by members subscribed at the Good Neighbor and All-Star membership levels at the OIPA Ice Cream Social.

Upcoming Meetings

• Peoples Gas Pipeline Replacement Project Meeting

The Board briefly discussed the Peoples Gas Pipeline Replacement project. OIPA was asked by Alderperson Gardner's office to help facilitate a community meeting at St. John's Episcopal Church, but availability and timing did not align. The meeting was instead hosted by the 45th Ward at Clarendale Six Corners.

• General Meeting Schedule

The Board confirmed the following General Meeting dates for 2026:

- **Sunday, June 7** – Ice Cream Social with membership drive component (additional planning needed)
- **Wednesday, September 9** (program to be determined)
- **Wednesday, November 4** (program to be determined)

OIPA Events

- **OIPA Parents Committee Egg Hunt:** Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m.
- **All-Star Party:** Friday, May 1 (event for Neighborhood All-Star premium members)

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

The Board confirmed the following Board meeting dates, generally scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month: April 27, May 18, July 27, August 24,



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

September 28, October 26, and December 14. Board meetings in June and November will be held informally or skipped.

Newsletter

• May Newsletter – Message from the Board

The Board decided to include a call for 2026 graduate information and photos in the May newsletter. Previous board member and friend of the Board, Annie Swingen, agreed to serve as the point person.

Economic Development

• Old Irving Park Marketing Page

The Board discussed the Old Irving Park marketing page as a reminder of a previously approved addition to the website redesign. Jake Berger suggested highlighting why Old Irving Park is a great place to do business. The marketing page will be included in the redesign.

Beautification

• Concrete Planters

The Board approved the use of a photograph of the new concrete planters placed along Irving Park Road to satisfy the rendering requirement for the City of Chicago permit application.

• Christy Webber Projects and Invoices

The Board reviewed the status of active Christy Webber Landscapes contracts and invoices:

- Seasonal Displays in Planters: A 50% deposit of \$9,451.59 was paid on February 11 for the 2026 summer and winter (2026–2027) seasonal displays. The second half invoice is expected on June 1, 2026.

- Mulching in All In-Ground Beds: A 50% deposit of \$1,665.97 was paid on February 11. Mulching work is scheduled for April 27.

- Lighthouse Landscaping: OIPA accepted the updated proposal on March 6 and paid the full invoice of \$9,427.29 on March 16, 2026.

• Lighthouse – Next Steps

Lynn Ankney, Board Treasurer, will accept the contract and submit payment for the metal “Old Irving Park” lettering signage to be refreshed on the lighthouse. The landscape designer, Christy Webber

Continued on page 8

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on March 23, 2026—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 7*

Landscapes, has submitted a request for approval to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the landscaping plan and will communicate with the Board once a response is received.

- **Kostner Mural**

The Board received an update that artist Cyd Smillie is working with the City of Chicago on the permitting process, which requires approval of renderings and design.

- **Purple Neighborhood Signage**

Lynn Ankney reported that she will follow up with Bannerville regarding the relocation of vinyl light post banners belonging to Disney II Magnet School that were placed in locations designated for the new purple Old Irving Park neighborhood identifier metal signage.

- **Neighborhood Sign Artwork Submissions**

The Board discussed that artwork submissions received to date have not met the sign designers' vision of incorporating the artwork as a mosaic. The Board reviewed the budget set aside for signage and discussed communicating the available budget to the designers to explore alternative ideas, as funds remain in the allocation. The Board decided to issue another call for artwork submissions with clarified instructions and scope. The Board also considered the possibility of creating a second neighborhood sign for Montrose Avenue and completing fabrication for future discussion.

Parents Committee

Lynn Ankney confirmed that she will staff an OIPA membership table at the Parents Committee Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m. She will have stickers, newsletters, and signage available to encourage new and renewed memberships.

Administration

- Lynn Ankney presented the Treasurer's report, noting strong advertising revenue, healthy standard and premium membership dues, and allocations for Keep OIP Clean, the Parents Committee, and the final Century House Plaque. A reimbursement for production of the Mary Foster coasters was also processed.
- Adrienne Chan motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. David Ryan seconded the motion, and the Board approved.

The Board of Directors meeting ended at 8 p.m.



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Gardeners, Press Pause — Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener



After a relatively mild winter here in Chicago, it's only natural to feel the pull of the garden. The sun is warmer, the days are longer, and those first hints of green make it tempting to jump right in and start clearing, cutting, and turning the soil.

But this is one moment where patience truly pays off.

Early spring is defined by constant freeze-thaw cycles. These natural shifts create tiny air pockets—called pores—within the soil. Those pores are essential. Healthy soil needs oxygen just as much as your plants do. When soil is compacted too early, those air spaces disappear, leading to poor drainage, waterlogged conditions, and ultimately stressed or rotting roots.

If the ground is still wet, even walking across your garden beds can do more harm than you might expect. If you absolutely need to step in, place a board down to distribute your weight and protect the soil structure.

It's not just the soil that benefits from restraint—your garden's ecosystem does, too.

Last season's stems, seed heads, and fallen leaves are more than just garden debris. They provide shelter for

beneficial insects that are still overwintering. Clearing them away too soon can disrupt this delicate cycle before it has a chance to fully awaken.

Those leaves you left behind in the fall? They're doing important work. Acting as a natural blanket, they help regulate soil temperature and protect emerging shoots from Chicago's famously unpredictable spring weather—yes, even the occasional late snowfall.

As the days become consistently warmer, you can (gently) begin to uncover plant crowns. But instead of bagging up those leaves, let them remain around your plants. As they break down, they return valuable nutrients to the soil, supporting stronger, healthier growth.

It may take a little extra patience—and a willingness to embrace a slightly less “tidy” garden for a few more weeks—but the payoff is worth it.

Give your garden the time it needs now, and it will reward you all season long.

Maureen Taylor, Master Gardener
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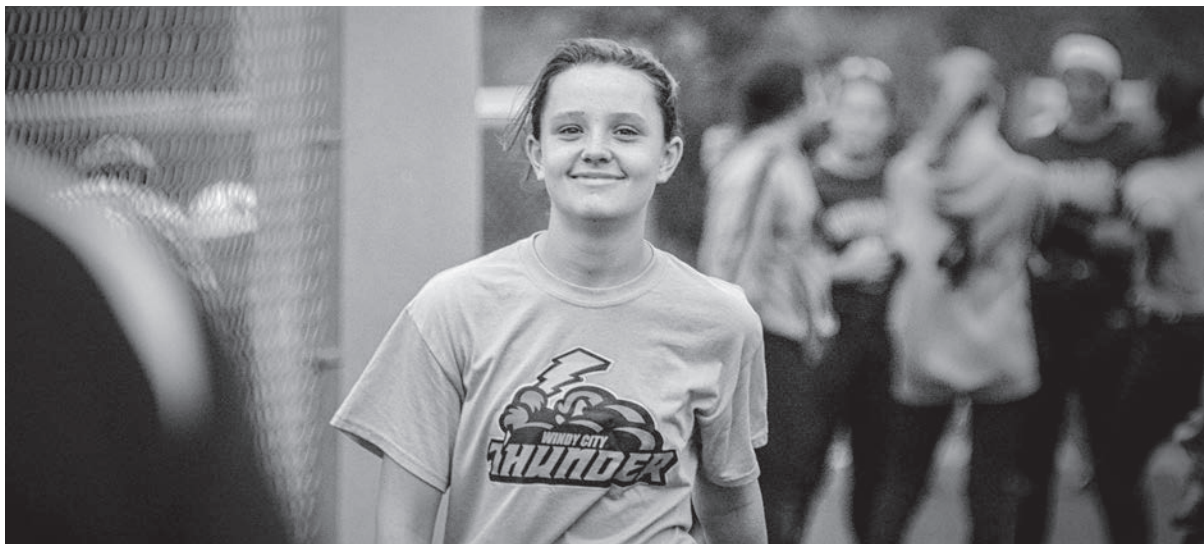
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The Eve Fries Foundation Hosts Inaugural Field Dedication at Little Gompers Park on June 6

— Debbie Fries & Pamela Flores

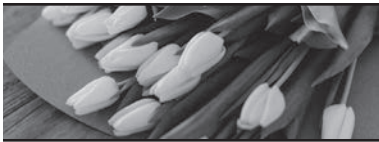
Working alongside the Gompers Park Athletic Association and the Chicago Park District, The **Eve Fries Foundation** is proud to host its inaugural event, BeliEve day, on June 6, a field dedication marking the completion of its first project to invest in girls' softball.

This first initiative includes the installation of a new electronic scoreboard and sunshades for the dugouts at Little Gompers Park, a place where many girls on Chicago's Northwest Side first discover and grow their love for the game.

The foundation was created in honor of Eve Fries, a fierce softball player whose life was cut short at age 17 by a rare brain tumor (DIPG). Eve was strong, passionate, and kind—a leader in both athletics and academics, and a compassionate friend to all. Softball was her love, and through it, she became an even better version of herself.

At the heart of the foundation is a simple but powerful belief: The game changers of tomorrow will be the ones who play the game today. Softball can be a place where girls push limits, learn about life, and build confidence.

Photo above: Whether locked into a play or sharing a smile, Eve Fries showed what it means to truly love the game.
Photo provided courtesy of Debby Fries.



EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S GAME CHANGERS



"When you give a girl a softball, you give her more than just a ball. You give her a sport, and a talent, and hope, and dreams, and friends, a new family, a place to learn about life, room to grow as a person where she can push her limits, and bravery, and courage and memories. And she will have all of these things, simply because you gave a girl a softball"

– Author Unknown

Eve was a lifelong resident of the Old Irving Park community. The dedication will include a commemorative plaque in her honor at the very park where she first fell in love with the game.

The day's activities include:

- A field dedication ceremony (9–10 a.m.),
- Free softball clinics for girls ages 7–9 (10 a.m.–12 p.m.),
- A food truck, DJ, raffle, and
- Girls' softball games.

This event marks the beginning of the foundation's broader mission to support young athletes, strengthen local programs, and invest in the next generation of female leaders.

Join us in honoring Eve's legacy, supporting the Eve Fries Foundation, and celebrating the power of girls' softball. Learn more, support the mission, or make a donation at evefriesfoundation.org.
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Hostas are fairly easy to divide and will go quickly at IPGC's plant exchange in May. *Photo by Davie Bicker.*

When Good Plants Go Wild — Claudia Hine

The Irving Park Garden Club will host its annual plant exchange and luncheon on Saturday, May 16. That's the time members dig up and divide those happy perennials that thrive in our zone and are spreading to places they weren't intended to go.

I contend the best part of being a gardener is procuring plants. It's my number one favorite activity. Second has got to be going to a plant exchange and getting them for free.

But before our members get competitive over which plants they want to take home, they will enjoy a very civilized luncheon courtesy of IPGC. Then our president, Debbie Maher, will draw the tickets for attendees to

take their turn choosing from contributions of tomato seedlings, herbs, divided perennials, and even small shrubs that members will bring to the exchange.

Want to take part in the fun? It's not too late. We invite you to join the club—or renew your membership—at the door when we meet on Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago. The cost to join is \$30/household, payable by cash, check, or Zelle.

Becoming a member has many benefits. Also on the 2026 schedule: Art and the Garden Walk, Midsummer Night's Stroll, Ask the Experts panel discussion, and more.

Questions? Contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com.
You can find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub).



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



Great turnout for IPGC's March meeting to learn more about Body Smart Gardening from speaker Barbara Clark.

Photo by Claudia Hine.

Off to a Good Start

IPGC welcomed several new members and a crowd of 50 people at our kickoff meeting of the season in March. Speakers from **University of Illinois Cook County Extension** gave us a primer on **Body Smart Gardening**.

Jerry Hossli and **Barbara Clark** tag-teamed on a presentation that covered tools, clothing, skincare, scheduling, and more to avoid the aches and pains

that often accompany a stint in the garden. They encouraged us to utilize elevated planter beds and boxes, Dutch or scuffle hoes, reversible garden kneelers, and SPF 50 clothing for our workdays.

Attendees also took advantage of Dave the Sharpening Guy, who was parked nearby to give our tools, shovels, pruners, etc., a good honing before the season begins.

Are You a Southsider?

You may be a White Sox fan—but that's not why I'm asking. IPGC's popular **Art and the Garden Walk** event is being planned for Saturday, June 13. This year we are looking to include the southern border of Old Irving Park **and** gardens south of Addison* for the walk. If you live south of Grace or even south of Addison (to Newport), we want you! You don't have to be a member to showcase your yard on the garden walk, and we will pair you up with one of our exhibiting artists. Not sure about showing your whole yard? You can show just your front yard and/or parkway if you wish.

Want to know more before you commit? Contact the club at irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com for more information.



Art by Mary Foster

Consider showcasing your garden on IPGC's Art and the Garden Walk Saturday, June 13

**Did you know the land along Addison Street and Kedvale Avenue was once the Irving Golf Club, incorporated in 1902? And, today a small area, is the location of the hidden gem, Merchant Park Community Garden.*



May Birthdays

Faustino Aguilera	Kurt Imber	Miranda McCoy	Craig Shutt
Sarah Arvanitakis	Amy Isadore	Brad McDowell	Megan Stalder
Elizabeth Basile	Frances Jochum	Mark McKelvey	Elliott Stepusin
Taylor Belew	Mary Kane	Theresa Mueller	Marisa Tell
Robert Berner	Cassie Kirkpatrick	Tim O'Sullivan	Phil Timberman
Shawon Carlstrom	Kevin Krakora	Leroy Pfeifer	Megan Toth
Frank Chmelar	Adeline Krohmer	Shaun Quinn	Sherra Vehlewald
Thomas Clark	Theresa Lechowski	Sinisa Rasberger	Anna Ware
Allison Clark Young	Hannah Lehman	Jerry Rinard	Steve Warmbir
Miles Comiskey	Burke Leshar	Kate Roche	
Susanna Ernst	Lauren Lopez	Vicci Rodgers	
Alan Gurevich	Wendy Lundgren	Amelia Russo Hickey	
Adriana Hernandez	Debbie Maher	Molly Rutkowski	
Austen Heuser	Michael Manier	Andrew Sarros	
Eric Hickey	Josh Mattingly	Janet Sayre	

KID BIRTHDAYS

Betty Boran
Charles Calloway III
Andrew Chan
Leir Dierdorff
JP Hicks
Clayton Jost
Violet Lane
Charlie McDowell
Sam O'Mara
Melia Pitts
Winter Ryan
Catalina Simmons

PET BIRTHDAY

Dog in Navin house





OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

May Anniversaries

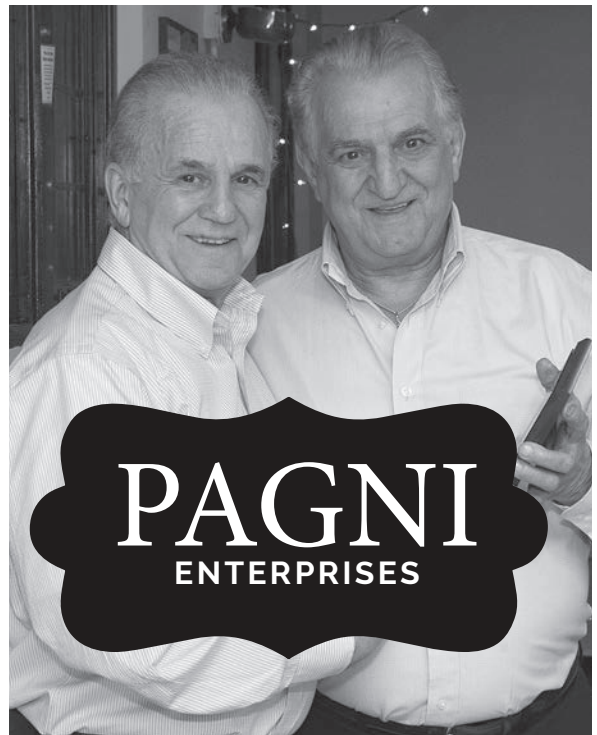
Patty & Jordan Ballard
Barry & Karen Bebart
Leslie & Bob Becksted
Felix & Zarah Chan
Thomas & Michelle Clark
Rosemarie & Thomas Clohisy
Denise & Richard Ghilarducci

Carolyn Goldschmidt & Michael Kharouta
Joshua Hall & Kristen Miller
Timothy & Annette Huizenga
Katie & Damian Jackson
Thomas & Therese Jezuit
Emily & Justin Johanson
Peggy & Lowell Krischer
Demetri & Elpitha Lambros
Olivia & Patrick Lane

Susan Lulich & Randall Coe
Tobi & Josh Mattingly
Sheryl Nichin-Keith & Tom Keith
Maria & Leroy Pfeifer
Vanessa & Geoff Reu
Reetu & Will Sanders
Frank & Mary Pat Serpone
Henry & Susan Strozewski
Connie Taylor & James Burzynski
Cathie Van Wert & Tim Menard



Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? To confirm or edit your household information go to oldirvingpark.com, hover over Membership and then click on Membership Assistance. You will be asked to enter the email address associated with your membership account.

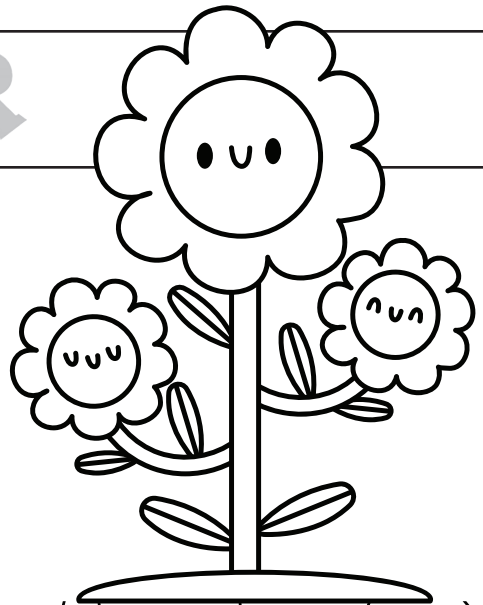
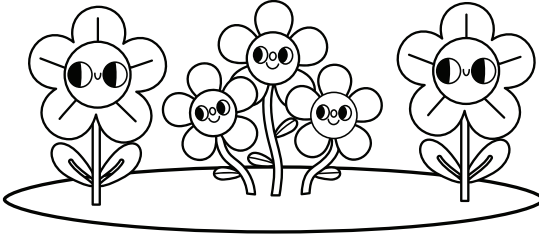


KIDS CORNER

CORNY JOKES

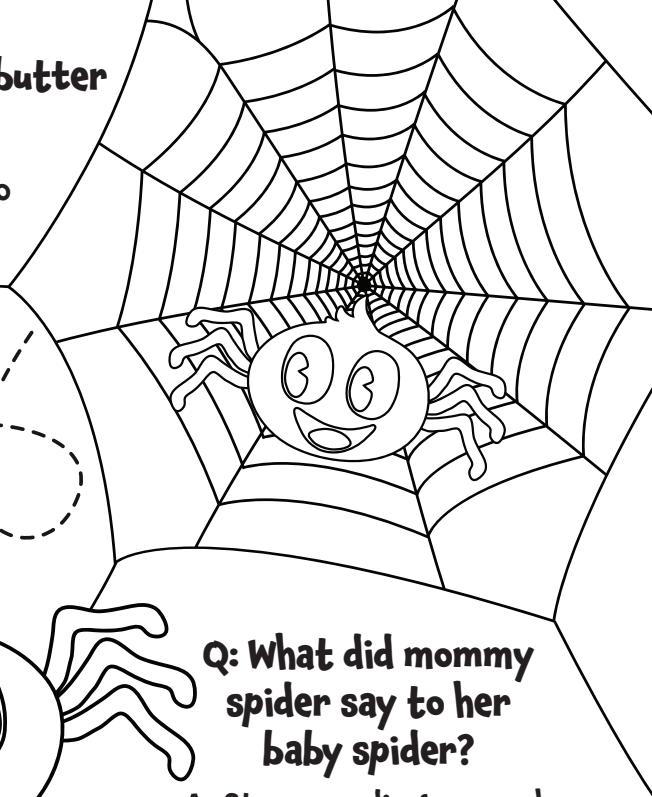
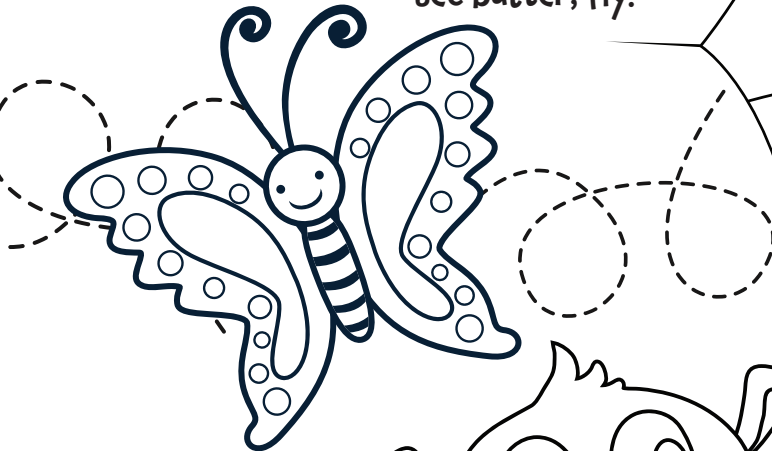
Q: Where is the best place to grow flowers in school?

A: In the kinder-garden.



Q: Why did the boy throw butter out the window?

A: Because he wanted to see butter, fly!



Q: What did mommy spider say to her baby spider?

A: Stop spending so much time on the web!





OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY



Attached Single Family

4342 N. Kedvale, 2A.....	\$197,000
4240 N. Keystone, 2D	\$245,000
4101 N. Keeler, 2B.....	\$247,000
3938 N. Keeler, 2W	\$255,000
4519 W. Irving Park	\$725,000



Single Family

4028 W. Waveland.....	\$622,500
4110 N. Lowell	\$665,000



2-4 Units

4265 W. Montrose	\$335,000
------------------------	-----------

Prepared by Tom Brandt

(C) = Court Approved

(F) = Foreclosure Sale

(S) = Short Sale

Report as of April 2, 2026

April 20 - May 9

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Belding Girls on the Run Take on Grant Park!

Our Belding **Girls on the Run** team (grades 3–5) is gearing up for their big finale! On May 9th, these dedicated athletes will head to Grant Park to participate in the 5K celebration. This event is the culminating activity of a 10-week season spent building both physical endurance and inner strength (gotrchicago.org).

More than just a race, this 5K represents the “finish line” of our recent social-emotional curriculum. Over the past few weeks, the girls have focused on developing a growth mindset, practicing empathy, and building healthy friendships. Crossing that finish line in Grant Park is the ultimate real-world application of the confidence they’ve been cultivating in every practice.

Spring Musical

Come out and see our 4th–7th graders perform *The Lion King Jr.* Friday, May 1, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Students selected this show this year, with over 30 students participating.

Belding International Fest to be Held on May 29

Our school community will host an International Fest, a vibrant celebration of the rich cultural tapestry that makes our building and community so special. From the diverse languages heard in our hallways to the unique traditions shared in our classrooms, this event is a dedicated space to honor the global roots of our students and families.



Dine & Donate

On May 12th, dine in or order out at Irving Park Pizza and Patio to support Belding’s 3rd graders. Make sure you mention Belding, and a portion of the earnings will be donated to the school.

Irving Park Pizza and Patio
2922 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago
irvingparkpizzaandpatio.com

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

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; if children are present, please ensure they can attend safely and quietly. Tours begin at 8 am in the main office. There is no need to RSVP. Please arrive by 7:55 am and check in with security.

The final tour of the school year is on May 19. Tours are a great opportunity to learn more about the school and the Belding community! Check out the Belding website, beldingelementary.com, for more information.

Thank you to all of the donors that made the Belding Bash possible!





Community Connections in Action

— Dr. Madden, Principal, and Ms. Grimaldo, Assistant Principal

Our Friends of Scammon recently hosted another successful fundraiser at Portillo’s (3343 W. Addison St). Events like these give us a chance to connect with families beyond the classroom, strengthening the relationships that make our school community so special.

Discover the Joy of Pre-K at Scammon

Is your little one ready to turn “Why?” into “Wow!”? Choosing a first school is an important milestone—and we’re here to make it a joyful one.

Even if you missed our Pre-K Open House, you can still experience what makes our program special. Simply call the main office to schedule a personal tour. See firsthand how we blend play, curiosity, and foundational learning to give every child the best possible start.

Celebrating 100 Years with Día del Niño

This year, our 3rd Annual Day of the Child (Día del Niño) celebration marked an extraordinary milestone—our 100th birthday!

For a century, Scammon has been a cornerstone of the community. There’s no better way to celebrate our legacy than by honoring the bright futures of our youngest learners and the families who make our school so vibrant.

Upcoming Events

- 5/6 Coffee with Administration
- 5/11–5/15 Scholastic Book Fair
- 5/15 School Musical
- 5/27 8th Grade Pinning Ceremony
- 5/29 Field Day





MOVING



PACKING

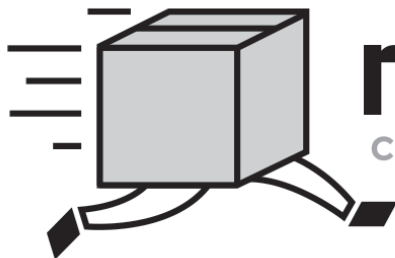


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Stay Connected, Be Informed

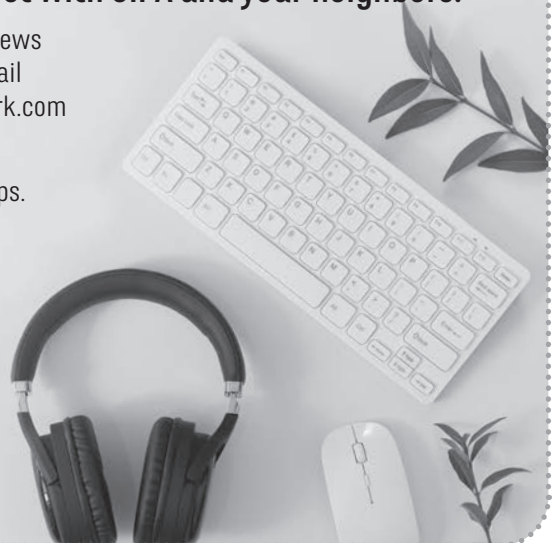
There are a variety of ways for you to connect with OIPA and your neighbors.

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

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
Questions? Contact us
Hello@oldirvingpark.com



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Tuesday – Thursday: 10am – 10pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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Focus on City Services

Information courtesy of 30th Ward Office

Alderwoman Ruth Cruz, 30th Ward | 5418 W Belmont Avenue | 773-628-7874 | Ward30@cityofchicago.org

April showers bring May flowers, but can also lead to flooding. Here are some things to remember when we are experiencing heavier-than-usual rainfall.

Report Clogged Drains: City sewers use restrictors to slow rainwater entering the system, so temporary standing (773-628-7874) to request a sewer inspection.

Keep Catch Basins Clear: Work with neighbors in between street cleanings to remove leaves, trash, and debris from storm drains so water can flow properly. Avoid pushing leaves or trash into the street—it is against city ordinance and can result in a fine.

Go Green: Redirect downspouts away from the sewer system into drainage areas like rain barrels or gardens, and incorporate green infrastructure, like rain gardens and native plants, to help absorb storm water and reduce runoff.

Conserve Water: Delay running dishwashers, washing machines, and bathing during heavy rainfall. **Sign up for Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago – MWRD Action Alerts for Overflow Action Alert Days** (<https://mwrdd.org/community-action/overflow-action>).

Report Flooded Basements: Report any basement flooding to 311. This helps the city understand flooding patterns and find solutions. If you need help reporting in 311, call the 30th Ward office (773-628-7874)!



30th Ward Questions

For general questions, feel free to send an email to the 30th Ward Office (Ward30@cityofchicago.org) or visit the website: www.30thward.org.



SUMMER JOBS

AGES 14-24 APPLY NOW!

GET PAID. GET SKILLED. GET AHEAD.



ChicagoYouthWorks.org

**JOBS FOR
14-24**



**APPLY BY
MAY 29**





Photos by Sara Yoest

Three Brothers Garden Kicks Off the 2026 Growing Season!

— Sara Yoest, Executive Director,
Carlson Community Services

Thanks to grant funding from **The CHLditarod Foundation** and the **Lumpkin Family Foundation**, Carlson was able to make infrastructure improvements at Three Brothers Garden earlier this Spring, rebuilding the aging, damaged garden beds. Seeds for our cool-weather crops were planted in late April, and we will continue to fill the garden beds as the weather improves. We anticipate our first harvests to begin in early June, if Mother Nature cooperates! We look forward to providing our partners at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry with fresh vegetables and herbs for their clients for another season.

We are pleased to announce the return of **Jack Olech** as our Garden Coordinator. Jack will join us for his 2nd season in Three Brothers Garden when he returns to Chicago this month after completing his sophomore year at Knox College.

Please join us in the garden this season! Visit our website at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org and scroll to the bottom of our home page, where you can sign up for email updates and be notified of workdays and harvest days in the garden.

Irving Park Fine Arts Completes 32nd Season

Carlson concluded its 32nd season of the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series in April with an incredible performance by the Apollo Chorus of Chicago. Throughout the season, we featured an engaging variety of remarkable performances and provided a shared cultural experience for the community – for free!

We are grateful for the leadership of Roger Bingaman, founder and artistic director of the concert series, and the entire Carlson Fine Arts Committee, who work together to bring professional music to the community.

The new performance season will start in the fall. We look forward to welcoming you to our future events.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services



Students Thriving at the Magic After-School Place

It is hard to believe that another school year will conclude in just a month! Over 40 students enrolled in Carlson's **Magic After-School Place** have enjoyed a year of friendship, academic success, and a variety of enrichment activities designed to encourage teamwork, discover new interests, and abilities.



Carlson
Community
Services

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 Yuest, Executive Director, at sarayoest@carlsoncommunityservices.org or 312-810-3230.



Help Us Feed Our Furry Friends!

Share the Love: Donate Pet Food Today

The Irving Park Food Pantry aims to provide a few days' worth of pet food to our clients who have pets of all kinds: four-legged, winged, and even those with gills. The items help ensure clients retain the food they buy and don't have to choose between caring for themselves and their pets. We also offer accessories, including leashes and collars, bedding, grooming supplies, and litter.

About half of our clients need pet food, so even with regular donations, we often run low on popular items. We mostly need dry dog and cat food, as well as canned dog food. And we always run out of parakeet seed, which our volunteers often buy themselves to keep on hand. Unfortunately, we cannot accept raw or frozen food.

Local donations can be taken to the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or dropped off on the porches at 3912 N. Kenneth Ave. or 4242 N. Hamlin Ave. at any time. We appreciate your help!

If you would like to make a contact-free donation, use our Amazon or Chewy registries via the QR codes at right.



Janice Jarrett and Lisa Hendricks in the Pantry's Pet Food Corner show off some of the donations they've received, which are needed to help our clients feed their pets. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Amazon



Chewy



We are happy to announce that Emily Thompson, a regular Tuesday-night volunteer and member of our Community Engagement team, has agreed to serve as Volunteer Manager for our monthly Tuesday-night distributions. She takes over from Michelle Buchecker, who will continue as a regular volunteer while working on other Pantry projects and serving on our Board of Directors. *Photo by Michelle Buchecker.*



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



Jewel-Osco Store Manager Chris (not pictured) works with his Meat Department crew (George, Elmer, Leonard, and Steven) to support the Pantry. *Photo by Laura Barnes.*

Jim Motzer of Renewed Hope United Methodist Church delivered the latest quarterly donation from the congregation to Executive Director John Psiharis in March. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



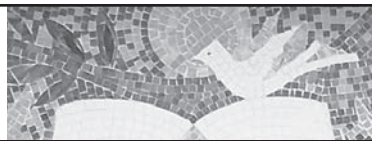
A Big Thank You to:

- The **Jewel-Osco crew at Six Corners** for their outstanding support! They provide protein donations at great prices, cut them to fit our household needs, and make pick-ups easy for us.
- Everyone who supported the Pantry's Hearing & Balance Fair in March, co-hosted by the **Irving Park Lutheran Church** at their facility. Local residents were assessed by students from **Northwestern University's Doctor of Audiology and Physical Therapy programs**. Representatives from **CaptionCall**, **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**, and the offices of **State Representative Lindsey LaPointe** and **Senator Robert Martwick** were on site to provide information about their services.
- All who donated to our spring basket program! We gave out 336 baskets to eligible client's children and donated the extras to Murphy Elementary School.



Pantry volunteer Justin Drogos (behind the table) and Bill Healey (far right), both assistant professors at NU's Feinberg School of Medicine, directed the team of Northwestern physical-therapy students during the Pantry's Hearing & Balance Fair. *Photo by Lynne Anderson*

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.



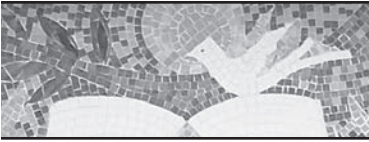
Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director



Spring is bringing out the best of the St. Viator campus! Students are watching the pollinator garden sprout and the neighborhood turn green all around us! They are feeling the pull towards the end of the school year...and our 8th-grade students are looking forward to graduation!



All photos courtesy of St. Viator.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary

Mad Hatter's Masquerade Ball & Auction

The Blue & Gold Gala is on May 2nd! This year's "Mad Hatter's Masquerade Ball" is at the Biagio Banquet Hall in Portage Park. The evening includes dinner, dancing, music, and a silent auction, all in support of our amazing St. Viator Teachers! To purchase tickets or to check out the awesome auction lots, visit: www.bidpal.net/bluegold2026

Summer Camp Offering

This summer, we will host two weeks of summer camp run by the Chicago School of Musical Arts (CSMA). These two June sessions fill the gap between school ending and other camps starting. All students from Preschool to 3rd grade (for Fall '26) are welcome, even if they don't attend St. Viator! Visit <https://chicagosma.com/st-viator-elementary> for details and registration.



Playgroups are Winding Down

Wiggles & Giggles is winding down. The regular session is Thursday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The final meeting is Thursday, May 21, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We will set up to play and enjoy an end-of-the-year party! All friends of St. Viator School with newborn children up to 4 years of age are invited to join us in our Rec Center Gym. Wiggles & Giggles will resume next school year.

Enrollment Continues

Are you looking for a school for your child? We have select spots available! Our final monthly Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tour the school, speak with faculty & staff, and see why St. Viator is the right choice for your family. RSVP today at (773) 545-2173. Contact William Teeple, Admissions Director, with questions: wteeple@stviatorchicago.org.

Connect with us! | Subscribe to our socials so you know the St. Viator Elementary School news! Find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago, Instagram: [stvschoolchi](https://www.instagram.com/stvschoolchi), or X (formerly Twitter): [x.com/ChiViator](https://twitter.com/ChiViator). You can also visit the school website at: www.stviatorchicago.org.



Spring and Summer at St. Edward School

Join us at this spring's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Our first through eighth-grade cast and crew have been hard at work preparing for this production! Shows are in the Dominican Learning Center on Friday and Saturday, May 8th and 9th, at 7 pm. Admission is free. Donations to the theatre department are greatly appreciated.

Warm wishes, Sara Lasica, Principal

St. Edward Parish was founded in 1899 and has been serving the spiritual needs of the Mayfair and Irving Park communities for over 125 years. Follow us on social media@stedparish or visit our website www.stedparish.org to see the various ways you can be part of our family of faith. If you're interested in our award-winning school for your child, visit our school website www.stedwardchicago.org.

School Tours

Discover the St. Edward School difference by joining us for upcoming tours of our award-winning PK3–8th grade school. Register for a tour date on our website (www.stedwardchicago.org).

Big Red Summer Camp

Big Red Summer Camp is back this summer and better than ever! Camp runs for eight weeks, starting June 8, and is open to children entering PK4 through 8th grade. Registration is online. Families can register for the weeks that work best for their summer schedule.



2026 OIPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at www.oldirvingpark.com/join-us. If you don't have access to our online membership form, please complete the form below.

We like to celebrate our members in our newsletter. Birthday and anniversary information is optional. If you wish to be included on the birthday and anniversary page in the newsletter, **you must provide the information annually** to be included (adults members and spouses/partners only).

This is a: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift Membership

NAME (FIRST/LAST)		BIRTH MONTH	
SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (FIRST/LAST)		BIRTH MONTH	
ANNIVERSARY MONTH			
CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY MONTH (LAST NAME OPTIONAL)			
CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY MONTH (LAST NAME OPTIONAL)			
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**NEW!
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Your membership
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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 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. 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
January No issue		
June	Tuesday, 4/28	Thursday, 5/7
July No issue		
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.**
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Advertising Specifications

- **Purchase ad space and upload your ad at:**
www.olderirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad
- **AD SIZES:** Full Page: 6.25" w X 7.5" h
Half Page: 6.25" w X 3.75" h
Quarter Page: 3" w X 3.75" h
- **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

May

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

- 9 & 10 **Kilbourn Park Greenhouse Plant Sale**
(Mother's Day weekend), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
3501 North Kilbourn Avenue



The Friends of the Greenhouse will host a table in the outlying area of the park, featuring donated baked goods, houseplants, succulents, and perennials. All proceeds will support the Greenhouse. Donations of baked goods accepted on the day(s) of the event as early as 8 a.m. Drop off at the Friend's table by the drive-way. Ask for Roseann Skoniecke. Plant donations are also appreciated.

For more information, visit
www.kilbournparkfriends.org.

- 16 **Irving Park Garden Club | Annual Plant Exchange | 11 a.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members Only, \$30/year per household to join.**

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.



www.olderirvingpark.com
hello@olderirvingpark.com
FB: [olderirvingparkassoc](https://www.facebook.com/olderirvingparkassoc)

June

- 5 **End of School Year, Happy Hour**
5:30–7:30 p.m., Le Village CoWork,
3146 W. Irving Park Rd.
- 6 **The Eve Fries Foundation Softball Field Dedication | BeliEve Day**
9 a.m.–4 p.m. | Little Gompers Park,
4222 W. Foster | Free activities all day
- 7 **Ice Cream Social/Quarterly Meeting**
3 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church,
3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago
- 13 **Annual Garden Walk hosted by Irving Park Garden Club | Watch for details**
www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub

August

- 21 **OIPA Back to School Party**

September

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

October

- 24 **OIPA Halloween Parade & Party**

November

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

December

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