

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS



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takes a break
during July.

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JUNE

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 5 | 2026



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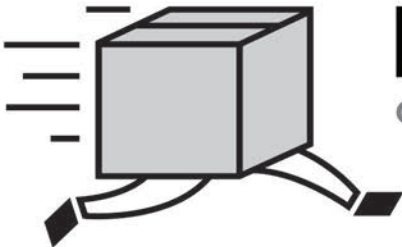


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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 40 ♦ Issue 5 ♦ June 2026

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: Board member Sara Yoest delivered to Lisa Hendricks the results of a pet-food drive done by Mrs. Iannelli and her 5th-grade homeroom students at St. Viator Elementary School.

Photo by Craig Shutt

© Old Irving Park Association



CLASS OF 2026

Congratulations



Devin Alexander

Loyola University Chicago, BS,
Biology, Ecology emphasis



Genevieve Burzynski

Carl Von Linne Elementary,
Graduating Kindergarten



Ethan Porter Ankney

Bachelor of Arts with
Honors in Music Production
& Sound Engineering
Point Blank Music School,
Middlesex University



Christopher P. Cannon

DePaul College Prep,
graduating with Distinction
Future Plans: Swarthmore
College, Political Science and
Economics; will play on Swat
men's lacrosse team.



Clothilde Boyle

Saint Ignatius College Prep
Honors: President of the
Harlequins, Zipoli Music
Award, SICP School Activities
Award
Future Plans: College of
the Holy Cross, Music and
English, Class of 2030

Dear Chris, We are so proud of you and your accomplishments in the classroom and on the lacrosse field. You have grown into a thoughtful, kind and engaged young man. We are so excited to see where this next chapter takes you! Love, Mom, Dad and Helena GO GARNET!



Sara Sofia "Saso" Guthmann

Wolcott College Prep High School

Future Plans: Southern Illinois University, Zoology and Media Arts



Nathan Coe

DePaul College Prep High School '26

Michigan State University

Congratulations on your graduation! Go Spartans!

Love, Mom, Dad and Mac



Isabella Jacobs

St. Edward School, graduating Kindergarten



Elsa Fallen

Edgebrook Elementary

Future Plans: Jones College Prep, Class of 2030



Stellan Goetzinger

Belding Elementary, graduating 1st grade

Congrats, Stellan!

We are so proud of your hard work!

Love, Mom and Dad



Cooper Jurgeleit

Northside College Preparatory High School (Class of 2026)

Future Plans: He is heading to University of Michigan this fall.

Congratulations to you, Cooper! We are so proud of all you have accomplished, and can't wait to see what you will achieve in the future. Good luck in Ann Arbor! Love, Mom, Dad & Charlotte

CLASS OF
2026

Congratulations



Townes Lyon

John J. Audubon Elementary,
graduating Kindergarten



**Edward (Tiago)
McDonogh Mooney**

Lane Tech High School
Future Plans: UIC,
Engineering



Damia Larbes

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign,
BS, Economics



Adam O'Mara

Walter Payton College Prep
Future Plans: University
College of London for
Biochemistry



Thomas Lyons

Disney II Elementary &
Von Steuben High School
Achievements: Student-
athlete (baseball),
member of Old St. Pat's
Foundations Youth Group
Future Plans: University
of Kansas



Ben O'Mara

University of Sydney,
BS, Electrical
Engineering

GRAD



Seamus O'Sullivan

Monmouth College, BA,
Political Science and
Communication Studies
Honors: Award-winning
journalist recognized at the
2026 Illinois College Press
Association convention in the
Sports Game Story category,
Small School Division.



Max Szukala

Lane Tech High School
Future Plans: University
of Iowa, Tippie College of
Business



Donovan Yoest

Lane Tech College Prep
Future Plans: Indiana
University – Bloomington

Clubs: Proud founder of the Anti-Social Social Club on campus; occasional host of Saturdays with Sully on the campus radio station.

Future Plans: Seamus will be a Grad Intern with the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP) at the state capitol in Springfield starting this fall.

Who knows what's next? We can't wait to see what's in store for him.



Adi Shi

Millie's House Daycare,
graduating Pre-K
Future Plans: Belding
Elementary, Kindergarten



Ezra Young

Belding Elementary,
graduating Kindergarten

Dr. Allison Clark Young

University of Illinois
Chicago, Doctor of Nursing
Practice





Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on April 27, 2026 — Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary

Meeting Scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom

Meeting Started: 7:07 p.m.

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Meredith O'Sullivan, Nicholas Plagman-Frank.
[Note: Jake Berger was not present but provided written updates to the agenda prior to the meeting.]

Communication

• Website Redesign and Marketing Page

Via written update, Jake Berger shared that he has begun a page-by-page review of the current website to outline suggested edits for content, navigation, and subpages. The goal is to update content, improve overall accessibility and navigability, and place frequently used resources at the forefront. Jake is also reviewing other websites for models regarding color schemes and usability, and aims to present his suggested edits to the Board by the next meeting.

Additionally, Jake and Meredith O'Sullivan will connect offline to discuss leveraging the expertise of Michael Neault, who has a design background, to assist with ideas, feedback, and execution. The Board noted the importance of delivering all necessary items to the web developer by the end of May or early June. This timeline ensures the developer can be paid and the website completed by the June 30 grant deadline.

The Board also discussed the usage of the OIPA logo and color scheme for the redesigned site and made the formal decision not to change the current logo or color scheme..

Ambassador / Zoning

• Zoning Statement Update

The Board noted the need for a revised zoning statement for the website refresh. Jake Berger volunteered to draft the new statement and will involve his partner, Molly, for feedback, given her extensive real estate experience and previous service on the 47th Ward Advisory Zoning Council.

Community Engagement

• Eagle Scout Project Request

The Board reviewed a request from Anders Fallen, a local Eagle Scout candidate seeking a public location for a community project after his initial plan for a pollinator garden at the Grayland Metra stop was denied. The Board brainstormed several alternative public locations, including Kolmar (Gertrud) Park, Tripp Garden, Belding Elementary School, and Disney II Magnet School. Lynn Ankney will follow up directly with the Scout and his family to share these location suggestions and, if desired, offer OIPA's assistance by way of introduction.

Continued on page 8

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{FACIALS}

{WAXING}

{MAKEUP}

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on April 27, 2026—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 6*

• Alley Mirrors

OIPA member Taylor provided an updated map identifying 8 of the 18 requested alley mirror locations based on neighbor responses. Adrienne Chan volunteered to draft a hosting agreement/waiver to be shared with participating property owners, which will absolve OIPA of liability and ongoing maintenance responsibilities for the mirrors. Lynn Ankney volunteered to walk the mapped locations to make additional notes and recommendations prior to purchasing the mirrors and contracting installation services.

Membership

• Membership Drive and Block Ambassadors

The Board discussed ideas for an upcoming membership drive, including utilizing the Ice Cream Social, mailing OIPA notecards to non-member households, and offering new yard signs. Jake Berger proposed leveraging the Block Ambassador program to assist with the membership drive. The Board decided to table the Block Ambassador idea for further discussion at a later meeting; no specific assignments were made at this time.

• New Yard Signs

The Board discussed designing a new yard sign to replace the aging “We Love OIP” signs introduced during the pandemic. The proposed signs would feature the OIPA logo and the tagline, “Because good neighborhoods don’t just happen.” The Board agreed that the new signs should be printed in full color to incorporate all four of the OIPA logo colors.

Meredith O’Sullivan located the original order details in the shared Google Drive, and Lynn Ankney volunteered to contact the former board member who originally designed and sourced those signs. Lynn will identify the vendor to request updated pricing for the new four-color design.

Upcoming Meetings

• General Meeting & Ice Cream Social – Sunday, June 7

The Board discussed logistics for the June 7 Ice Cream Social, which will also serve as a membership drive. The Board agreed to have back issues of Old Irving Park News on hand to provide non-member attendees an easy reminder to join OIPA after the social. Additionally, the Mary Foster art prints and coasters will be available for purchase. A \$30 Zelle QR code will be created to facilitate seamless on-site payments for the art prints.

• Neighborhood All-Star Party – Friday, May 1

Colleen Kenny provided an update on RSVPs and event setup for the All-Star Party, an exclusive event for premium-level members. The Board recapped offline discussions regarding event promotion, and several Board members volunteered to conduct personal outreach to specific invitees to encourage attendance.

Newsletter

The Board noted that the deadline for 2026 Graduate announcements is Tuesday, May 5, two



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

days ahead of the general deadline of Thursday, May 7th.

Economic Development

(No updates were provided.)

Beautification

• Keep OIP Clean (KOIPC) Ambassador Request

The Board reviewed a request from KOIPC Block Ambassador Janine Kilch regarding graffiti-resistant paint for the columns and bases of the Kostner viaduct under the Kennedy Expressway, as well as a list of potholes and street striping needs in her zone. The Board agreed to contact the 39th and 45th Ward offices to request city services for these items. A broader discussion regarding whether to ask other Block Ambassadors to submit similar infrastructure lists for their zones was tabled for a future meeting.

• In-Ground Beds & Metal Fencing

The Board discussed utilizing DCEO grant funds to replace and unify all metal fencing around the in-ground garden beds. Christy Webber Landscapes provided two vendor recommendations: Chicago Welding Group and The Fence Store. The Board tabled the decision until the next meeting and will continue the discussion offline.

• Lighthouse Landscaping

The Board noted that the updated landscaping proposal was accepted on March 6, and the full invoice of \$9,427.29 was paid on March 16. The landscape designer is currently awaiting approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to move forward; if permission is denied, Christy Webber Landscapes will refund the

payment. The next required step is to accept the contract and submit payment for the metal signage at the lighthouse prior to the June 30 grant deadline.

• Kostner Mural (Chickens)

Artist Cyd Smillie has received the necessary permit from the City of Chicago and issued an invoice for the 50% deposit (\$7,500 of the \$15,000 total) to procure supplies. Painting is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 17.

Parents Committee

The annual egg hunt held on March 28 was a huge success. Approx 600 people in attendance. The committee recently met to review lessons learned for next year. Planning is underway for the 'Start of Summer Happy Hour' on June 5th, and sponsorship for the year remains healthy.

Administration

• Treasurer's Report & Grant Spending

Lynn Ankney presented the Treasurer's report, including a review of recent receipts and expenses. Adrienne Chan motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Colleen Kenny seconded the motion, and the Board approved.

Lynn also presented a budget review comparing actual versus planned spending for the DCEO grant to ensure the organization remains on track to utilize the funds fully. The Board held a brainstorming session to generate ideas for utilizing the remaining available budget. Ideas included:

- Adding new sidewalk planters near the Montrose CTA Blue Line station, recognizing

Continued on page 10

OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on April 27, 2026—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 9*

it as a major entry point to the neighborhood (suggested by Colleen Kenny).

- Installing additional neighborhood welcome signage, similar to the commissioned sign at Irving Park Road and Keeler Avenue.
- Funding additional litter pickup and power washing services.
- Funding the production of the new OIPA yard signs.
- No specific funding decisions were finalized;

these ideas will be discussed further offline and at future Board meetings.

• Grant Deadlines

Via written update, Jake Berger reiterated the critical importance of submitting all permitting applications and finalizing payment to the web developer before the June 30 grant deadline. Jake acknowledged the current delays and committed to wrapping up these items as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors meeting ended at 8:01 p.m.



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Happy Hour

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OIPA AROUND TOWN



All Star Party

The annual All-Star Party, graciously hosted by Colleen and Rich Kenny, had a lively atmosphere filled with laughter and conversations, and the warmth of their hospitality brought everyone together in celebration.

A few of the Board of Directors gathered for a photo at the All Star Party; (From left to right) Lynn Ankney, Meredith O'Sullivan, Adrienne Chan and Colleen Kenny



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Curious what's behind the garden gate? Find out when you attend the Irving Park Garden Club's 2026 Art and the Garden Walk on June 13.

Photo by Claudia Hine.

Green With Envy — Claudia Hine

The Old Irving Park neighborhood is known for its green space, and this spring we've enjoyed seeing all the tulips and early bloomers come to life. But now that summer is upon us, it's time to showcase the beautiful gardens hiding behind the garden gates.

On Saturday, June 13, the Irving Park Garden Club will host its annual Art and the Garden Walk from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year, we will feature gardens south of Irving Park Rd., including some south of Addison St. as well. With more than a dozen sites to visit — many featuring our talented local artists — you'll discover cool corner gardens, well-planted parkways, fancy front yards, bewitching back yards, and a captivating community garden hidden from view.

As for the artists, many of your favorites will be back again this year. In addition, there are several new artists joining us for the day. You'll find paintings, collages, jewelry, notecards, mosaics, restored chandeliers, and more.

The garden walk is free for our members and just \$10/person for nonmembers, payable by cash, check, or Zelle. Tickets are sold on the day of the walk from 9 a.m. until noon at the starting point, which will be announced on our Facebook page and through OIPA's email lists.

For planning purposes, the garden walk is self-guided and covers a distance of approximately 1.5 miles. Gardens can be visited in any order. We encourage you to allow plenty of time to see all the gardens and to support our local restaurants before, after, and along the way.

A Night of Laughter



For those who fondly remember the now-defunct *Chicagoland Gardening* magazine, it will come as no surprise that its humor columnist, Mike Nowak, brought the laughter when he presented to the club in April. With a title, *Everything You Know About Gardening Is Wrong*, he delighted our members with anecdotes, quizzes, and tales of woe that kept us all in stitches.

I'm happy to say that we delighted him too. He reconnected with several of our members, including those who've won Chicago Excellence in Gardening Awards in past years. His follow-up note said, "Wow, what a ride last night! Thank you for the invitation, for your kindness, and for the wine. Your group is very smart and a lot of fun." Indeed.

Speaker Mike Nowak brought his extensive gardening knowledge and his sense of humor to IPGC's April meeting.

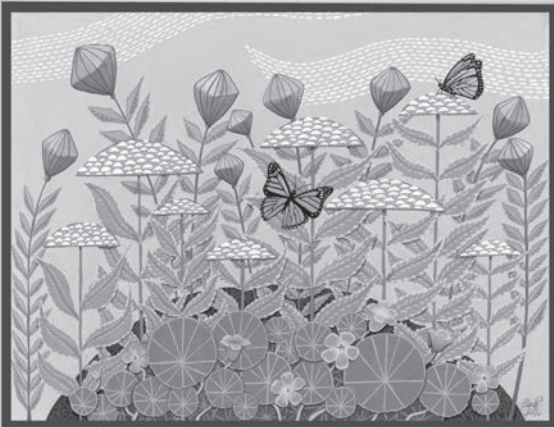
Photo by Claudia Hine.

IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB 2026 GARDEN AND ART WALK

June 13, 2026 | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Featuring several gardens
and local artists**

Tickets: \$10 | Members Free



Denise Hlad is one of several new artists whose work will be displayed on the garden walk.

*Photo by
Claudia Hine.*



Want to join us?

Garden Club Annual dues is \$30/household. Contact irvingparkgardenclub@gmail.com. You can find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub).



June Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Faustino Aguilera | Gail Gogliotti | Allan Milan |
| Alan Allmen | Sharon Graham | Carolyn Morehouse |
| Daniel Alter | Andy Greene | Melissa Morton |
| Jessica Anderson | Colm Heaney | Mark Murra |
| Michael Basile | Denise Hlad | John Neurauter |
| Meredith Belber | Russell Johnson | Wlodek Pieczonka |
| Joe Campbell | William Lachman | Michael Polzin |
| Kathleen Carlson | Diana Lemos | Sheila Quinn |
| Terrie Carpenter | Robert Liebich | Lynn Randall |
| Jessica Covert | Richard Liu | Betsy Ries |
| Tom Danahy | Jeff London | Zach Schmitz |
| Frank Diaz | Susan Lulich | Jeremy Sermersheim |
| Julie Dillon | Fred Lundgren | Mary Pat Serpone |
| Jana Domanico | Jim Lynch | Howard Silver |
| Mary Beth Driscoll | Thomas McDonough | Amy Srubas |
| Robert Fox | Betsy McKelvey | Marisa Stallmann |
| Debby Fries | Tim Menard | Mark Stiglitz |
| Tiffany Goetzinger | James Meyer | George Witchek |



June Anniversaries

- Aaron & Allison Baker
Jesse & Taylor Belew
Elizabeth & Scott Beslow
Allison Clark Young & Matt Young
Emily & James Coakley
David & Cris Evaskus
Sharon Graham & Terry McGuire
Robert & Darci Grum
Kevin & Abby Huang
Matthew Kohnhorst & Sarah Mertz
Scott & Heather Legan
Hannah Lehman & Sinisa Rasberger
Michael Manier & Anthony Mallerdino

KID BIRTHDAYS

- Reny Belew
Louis Cox
Pela Dierdorff
Claire Kissel
Peter Navin

PET BIRTHDAY

- Boo McKasson
Bill Rood





OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

July Birthdays

Xiomara Aguilera	Robert Grum
Fred Alsen	Pete Horvath
Cynthia Andrews	Benjamin Ivory
Oliver Arscott	Gregory Jensen
Bruce Bailey	Rick Kasprzak
Aaron Baker	Janine Klich
Karen Bebart	Shuchi Kumar
Cecile Bloomfield	Dawn LaFleur
Barbara Chadwick	Jim Lawless
Marietta Chmelar	Scott Legan
Eileen Cole	Christine Lopez
Michael Contraveos	William Mason
Blake Dankovich	Nancy Mayer
Lawrence Ehrhart	Daniel McKasson
Ted Ernst	Regina Mergenthaler
Albert Falasz	Sarah Meyer
Darci Grum	Mary Kate Miller

July Anniversaries

Lynn & Jonathan Ankney
Vivian & Bruce Bailey
Jeffrey & Martha Boggs
Jill Bruzzini & Antonio Tabacchi
Isabel Corona & Neal Herink
Daniel Lee & Lauren Finch
Sean & Kellie Fleming
Deborah Gidley & Mike Abbott
Catherine & Colm Heaney
Michael & Lauren Innocenzi
Amy & Jason Isadore
Kelly & Dan Jacobs
Mike King & Andrea Montgomery
Robert & Kathy Liebich
Lindsey Liese & Robert Sadlier
Wendy & Fred Lundgren
Kristen & Jim Lynch
Bradley Marchese & Elise Baros
Thomas & Dee McDonough
Leslie & Michael McGreevy
Cindy & Joseph Naudziunas
Greg & Chyrsa Petersen
Tatyana Ruderman & Drew Ryan
Juan & Veronika Salinas
Howard Silver & Judy Maas
Greg & Lauren Swanson
Christen & Michael Walczak
Mark & Sara Wilke
Marnie & Roman Zabicki

KID BIRTHDAYS

Catherine Chan
Ailis ChuruKanti
Auggie Coli
Milo Johnson
Rhys Johnson
Morgan Jost
Amelia Kissel
Colbie Toth
Allie Whitcomb
Katelyn Whitcomb
Mia Whitcomb

PET BIRTHDAY

Luna Campbell
Stas Sekiya

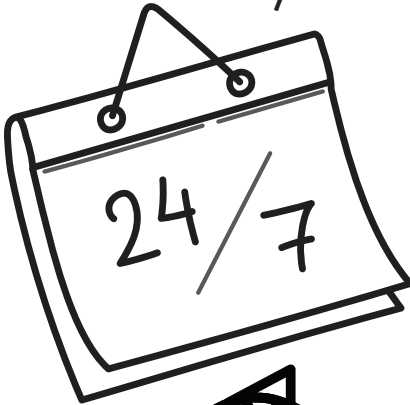
Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? To confirm or edit your household information go to oldirvingpark.com, hover over Membership and then click on Membership Assistance. You will be asked to enter the email address associated with your membership account.

KIDS CORNER

CORNY JOKES

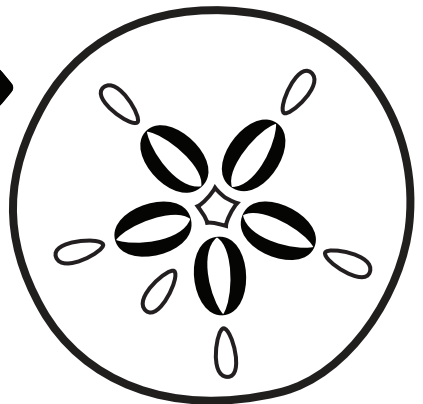
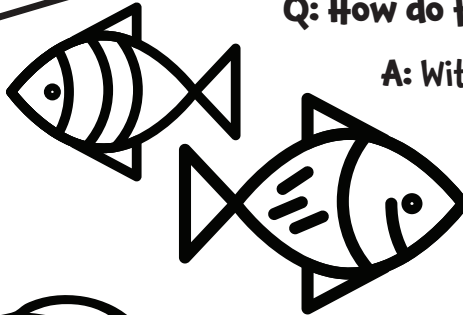
Q: What did the Calendar say to the Wall-clock the moment it became June 1st?

A: "I am dis-mayed."



Q: How do fish pay their bills?

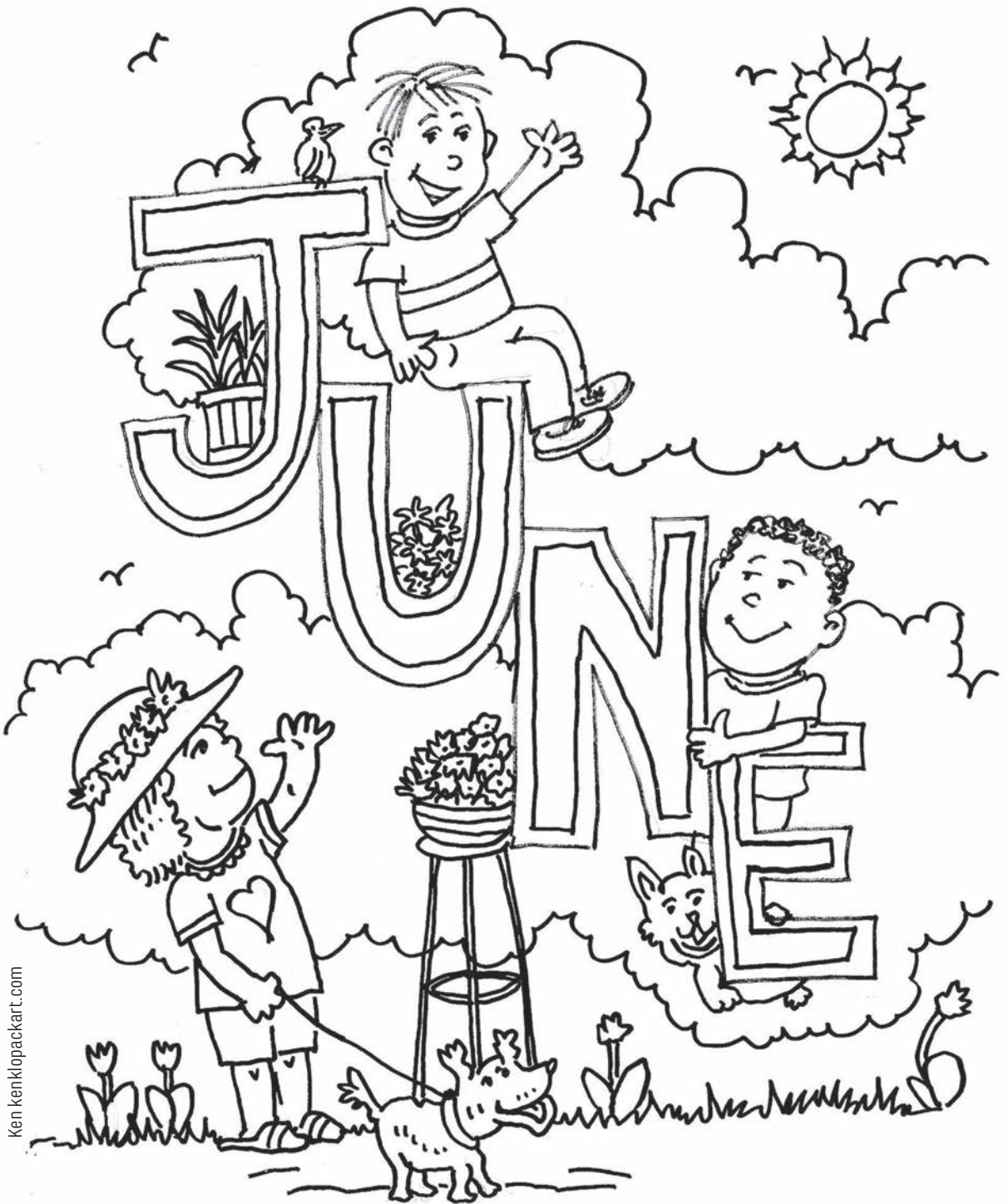
A: With sand dollars.



Q: Why do bananas wear sunscreen at the beach?

A: So they don't peel!





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Prepared by Tom Brandt

(C) = Court Approved
(F)= Foreclosure Sale
(S) = Short Sale

Report as of May 2, 2026



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Pick Up Soccer Games at Kolmar Playlot

— Marnie Zabicki



Open to both girls and boys who love soccer.

If you have a 5th–8th grader who LOVES SOCCER and will have chunks of free time over the summer, let's see if we can get a soccer pick-up group going at our local Kolmar Playlot field. I'm imagining a text thread where we can message something like: "Who's free to kick a soccer ball around at Kolmar in an hour or two? My kid is bored out of his/her/their mind and needs to get out of the house—would love some company!" Open to both girls and boys who love soccer.

Like many other kids at this age, my 11 and 13-year-olds are aging out of a summer filled with structured camps. I'm embracing the unstructured freedom, but I also know that he will benefit from having a go-to group of neighborhood kids he can call on to play soccer when he's bored at home.

The hope is that we parents can get this group going, but that after a little while, the kids will take more ownership of the coordinating. My 11-year-old does not have a cell phone yet (though we are considering a watch soon). Because we are stuck between a rock and a hard place of not having a land line—and

holding out on going full-out phone before high school—I'd like to take some initiative to get a parent text thread going to coordinate last-minute soccer pick-up games at the field at Kolmar Playlot. The benefit of keeping this super local is that we can send our kids out to the park on foot or bike with a couple of hours' notice—or coordinate for the following day.

If this sounds like a good fit for your family and your child, fill out the Google form at the QR code to add your information.

Please read the two important disclaimers before you add your information. I'm just a local parent looking to connect my child with other soccer-loving kids in the neighborhood this summer.

— *Marnie on Kolmar Avenue*

DISCLAIMER A: I want to be clear that I'm not volunteering to supervise soccer pick-up games. I'm all about giving my pre-teen kids more independence to get themselves around on their own, including jaunts to the park to meet up with friends (and potential new friends).

DISCLAIMER B: No bullying will be tolerated. If several children report that a particular child consistently bullies others, acts with meanness or aggression that makes the experience feel unsafe for others, or targets particular children in a demeaning manner, their parents will be taken off the text thread and will not be alerted to future get-togethers. While I will not be supervising, I trust my child when he says that someone is making a situation feel unsafe for himself or others (unfortunately, we've had much too personal experience with this).



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The Belding Bash: A Triple Crown Success!

— Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

The Belding Parent Group hosted its 8th annual Belding Bash fundraiser. Historically, this event has raised tens of thousands of dollars to bring exciting improvements to the school. Bids were placed on everything from extra recess and being principal for a day, to sports tickets and a private cruise on Lake Michigan. Through the amazing generosity of parents, community members, and Belding staff, this event exceeded its goal, raising enough money to support our efforts to renovate Belding's 125-year-old gym.

Congratulations to the Remarkable Class of 2026!

The halls of Belding are buzzing with pride as we celebrate the incredible achievements of our graduating Class of 2026. After years of hard work, curiosity, and community engagement, these students are ready to spread their wings and take on the next chapter of their academic journeys. We are thrilled to announce that our graduates will be representing us at some of the city's most prestigious high schools. From Selective Enrollment powerhouses to beloved neighborhood gems, the Class of 2026 is headed for greatness!

Our students have earned seats at a diverse range of top-tier institutions, including:

- Northside College Prep & Walter Payton
- Whitney Young & Lane Tech
- Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center
- Taft High School

All photos provided by Belding School.



Big Wins in the Market: Congratulations, Eduardo!

Huge kudos to 8th grader Eduardo Reyes for securing a top statewide prize in the Illinois Stock Market Game essay competition! Under the guidance of IB Math teacher Hannah Schlecht, our 8th graders recently completed a deep dive into financial literacy. The unit challenged students to simulate the market, act as financial coaches, and demonstrate mastery by writing a comprehensive essay on investment diversity and responsibility. Eduardo's achievement highlights the incredible financial savvy of our students.

Congratulations on your "blue chip" performance, Eduardo!



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Belding School

A Roaring Success

The Pride Lands came to life at Belding, and what a spectacle it was! Our talented cast and crew of 4th through 8th graders delivered an energetic performance of *The Lion King Jr.*, proving that "greatness" truly comes in all sizes. Congratulations to our performers for their courage and creativity. You truly "felt the love" from the community!



Back to school!!! Don't forget...

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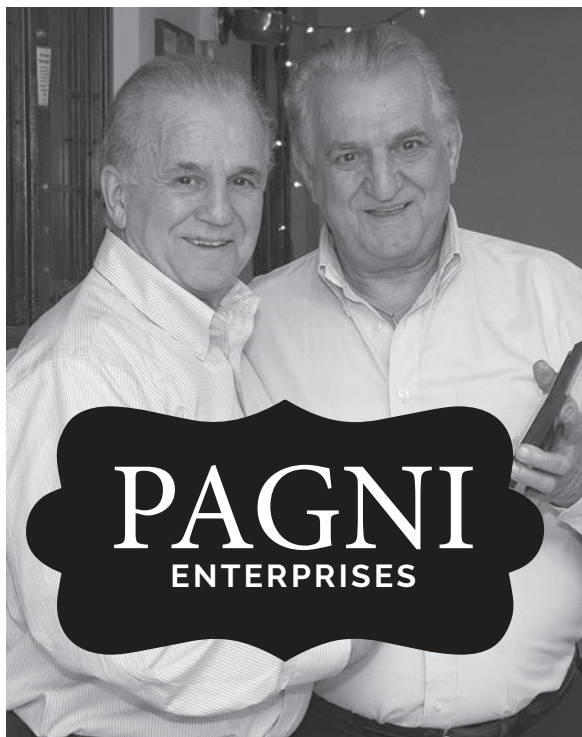
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Stay Connected, Be Informed

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>.

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Meet Liz Drew, Carlson's NEW Executive Director

I am delighted to introduce myself formally as Carlson Community Services' new Executive Director. I am deeply inspired by Carlson's mission and programs and look forward to getting to know the community as a partner in this work.

Born and raised in Chicago, I've had the privilege of living around the world and working in the State Department and the White House, including as an advisor on refugee issues in the Obama administration. Through my consulting practice with mission-driven clients, and as a nonprofit leader, I've also designed and secured funding for multiple large-scale programs from Chicago to Ukraine to advance the rights and well-being of vulnerable communities, including asylum seekers and torture survivors.

My husband Dan and I are raising our two kids in Independence Park, where we continue to experiment with urban gardening as a form of climate action and a source of joy in turbulent times. Our kids are proud Owls at Murphy Elementary, where they benefit from access to arts and music education and performances. We've seen firsthand how enriching arts and music programming can be for families. I draw deep inspiration and peace from volunteering

Photo courtesy
of Liz Drew



regularly at the Irving Park Community Food Pantry and at Murphy. As a working parent, I also understand the critical importance of safe, enriching aftercare for all children and believe that the Magic After-School Place is a truly vital resource. Building on my experience and networks, I hope to strengthen Carlson's volunteer base and deepen partnerships with local nonprofits and other CPS schools to expand our reach and impact.

While I will always have my eye on the world beyond our borders, I love being firmly rooted in this community. I am honored to step into this role at Carlson, building on an incredible legacy of leadership and service. I hope you'll reach out to me in the weeks and months ahead—please consider this a standing invitation to have coffee, a walk, or a chat by phone to share your reflections and ideas for our new chapter: lizdrew@carlsoncommunityservices.org



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. Or call 312-810-3230.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services



Join us in Three Brothers Garden

Our first Tuesday harvest of the 2026 growing season will take place on June 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. Whether you are a returning volunteer or are helping for the first time, we look forward to seeing you!

We'll be harvesting early greens, conducting general cleanup, weeding, and perhaps some more planting. We need your help! We'll be working between 6 and 7 p.m.—come any time in between. Bring garden gloves if you have them. No prior garden experience necessary. Children are welcome.

Jack Olech is returning for his second season as our summer garden coordinator. Jack has just completed his sophomore year at Knox College and is excited to be back in Three Brothers Garden to welcome volunteers and lead our Tuesday harvests.

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Honoring the Life and Service of Officer John Bartholomew — Dave Ryan



Portrait of Officer John Bartholomew
provided by Dave Ryan.

Officer John Bartholomew was a proud 10-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, serving in the 17th District and patrolling the streets of Albany Park and Old Irving Park with dedication and care.

John was remembered by his colleagues for his infectious smile and unmistakable sense of humor. He brought intelligence, compassion, and enthusiasm to his work each day, often volunteering for assignments and showing an unwavering commitment to his community. Those who served alongside him will tell you that, above all, John was devoted to his family—he carried their love with him and looked forward to returning home to them safely.

John was so much more than a police officer. He was a loving husband, a devoted father, a cherished son and brother, and a loyal friend. He had a way of making people feel seen, valued, and supported, leaving a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by his wife, his three-year-old daughter, and two stepsons whom he loved deeply.

John's service, spirit, and love for his family and community will not be forgotten.



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2026 Schedule

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Help Our Herb Garden Thrive: Donate Seedlings!

The Irving Park Food Pantry has opened its herb garden for the year and is asking for donations of seedlings to help it along. The garden allows us to offer clients a range of peppers and fresh herbs each week. Volunteers harvest them each week and offer them to clients immediately.

Any extra seedlings of peppers or herbs that we receive are passed along to clients, who enjoy having their own harvests to help them feed their families. If you have any left from your own garden, you can take plants to the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or the front porches at 3912 N. Kenneth Ave. or 4242 N. Hamlin Ave. any time.

Visit Us at the Independence Park Farmers Market

Pantry volunteers will staff a booth at the Independence Park Farmers Market, sponsored by the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), on the fourth Sunday of each month this summer (June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, and October 25). Stop by to say hi, ask questions, learn about volunteering, or donate

Grateful for the Support

Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, items, and assembled baskets for our spring program, which provided about 350 baskets to clients' children ages 16 and younger. Most of our remaining baskets were donated to students at John B. Murphy Elementary School and delivered to **Dr. Rebecca Shick**, the principal, by volunteer **Liz Drew**.



Pantry gardener Lisa Hendricks shows off some of the bounty from last year's herb and pepper garden. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



Aisha Ghori Otaki and Ayesha Ahmed from the Muslim Community Center visited with Executive Director John Psiharis, getting a tour and seeing how we operate. *Photo by Craig Shutt*



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Full Plate Program Grant

We are happy to say the Pantry has received a \$5,000 grant from the **Full Plate Program**, powered by the **Grubhub Community Fund** and administered by the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The program, now in its third year, is supported by Grubhub's "Donate the Change" round-up feature, which allows customers to round up their purchase price to the nearest even amount and donate the difference.



Sergio Yanez and Madeline Strasburg from the Illinois Coalition for Immigration & Refugee Rights dropped off more than 200 reusable bags that will assist our clients with their monthly food distribution. *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.



QR code for the Pantry's Amazon registry of school supplies.

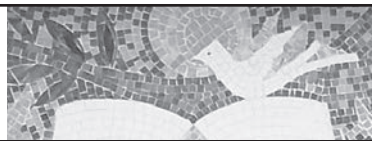
Coordinator Mary Ann Ballard prepared school-supply bags for students during our 2025 drive. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Brighten Back-to-School: Donate School Supplies!

We're already gearing up for our annual school-supply drive, which will begin in mid-July, as schools are starting classes early. We'll give all children of clients in our priority service area (60641 or 60618 ZIP codes) a bag of supplies for kindergarten through high school.

The program continues through August and provides a variety of age-specific supplies, including loose-leaf paper (narrow- and wide-rule), pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors, crayons, regular and colored pencils, pens, rulers, highlighters, and more.

Local donations can be dropped off at Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or the front porches at 3912 N. Kenneth Ave. or 4242 N. Hamlin Ave. any time. If you would like to help us purchase supplies, please donate at our website, irvingparkfoodpantry.org, via PayPal, Venmo, credit cards, or Google Pay. You can mail a check to the Irving Park Food Pantry at 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave, Chicago, IL, 60618. We appreciate your support for this annual program!



Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

It's time to send our 8th-grade Eagles across the graduation stage and on to high school. It has been exciting to learn where they will go next, and bittersweet to say goodbye after all these years. We wish them well.

Looking Forward

We're excited to welcome new students and families to St. Viator! Playdates and meet-ups will begin soon, offering a wonderful opportunity to connect and build community before the school year starts.

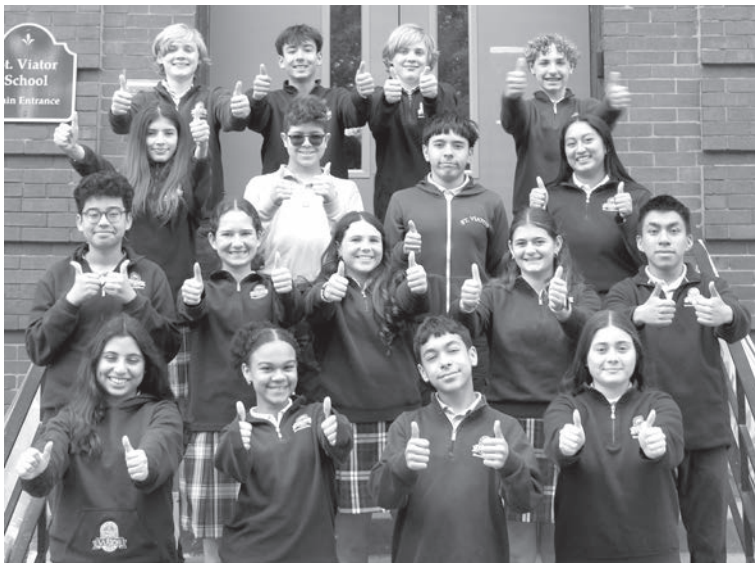


Photo by Will Teeple



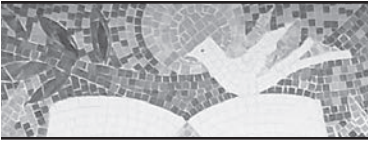
Enrollment Information for 2026-2027!

Still exploring options for your child this fall? We're happy to share that enrollment remains open. It's not too late to enroll your child; select spots are still available! We will continue to offer tours and enroll students throughout the summer. If you're considering St. Viator, we'd love to connect and answer any questions.

Contact William Teeple to get your name on the wait list: (773) 545-2173. Don't delay!

Photo at left: Three year old preschool students delighted to stretch during a movement exercise. *Photo by N. Garrison*

Connect with us! | We'll continue sharing our summer happenings, so be sure to subscribe to our socials to stay up to date on St. Viator Elementary School news! Find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago, and Instagram: stvschoolchi, or visit the school website at www.stviatorchicago.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary



MAD HATTER'S MASQUERADE BALL



Thank you, Sponsors!

We appreciate all of these sponsors who contributed to the success of the 2026 Blue and Gold Gala! Thank you!



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There were **many** other donors and contributors to the Gala. We appreciate everyone's support of St. Viator Elementary School!

Blue & Gold Gala: "The Mad Hatter's Masquerade Ball"

The 2026 Gala was a success!

We exceeded our fundraising goal for our Teacher Assistance Program. We love our St. Viator Teachers, and these funds empower us to support them when they return in the Fall. Our thanks go out to the sponsors, donors, and contributors who made the event possible. And many thanks to our St. Viator Parents on the Gala Planning Committee—their love for St. Viator School shone throughout the evening.

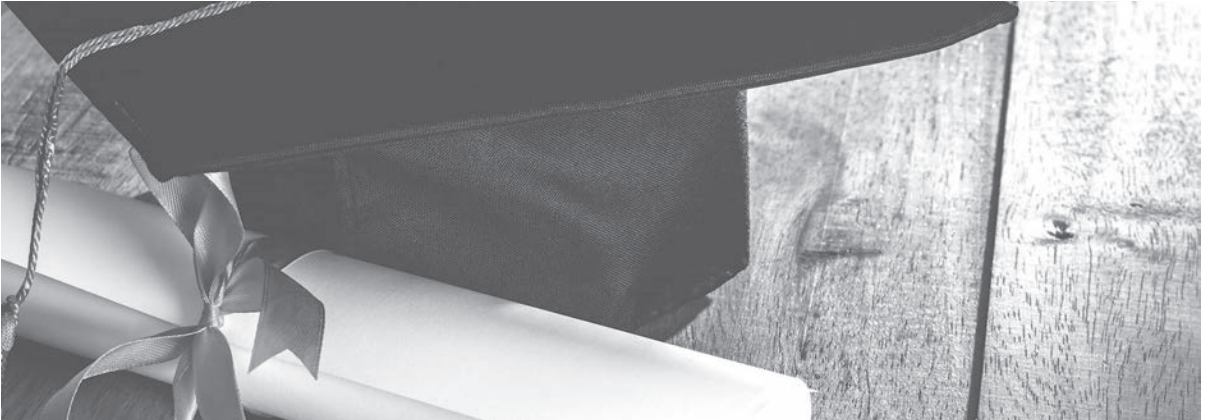
Corpus Christi Procession

The SS Viator & Wenceslaus Parish Corpus Christi Procession is Saturday, June 6th. Join us for 5 p.m. Mass at the St. Viator Church site, then walk with us through the neighborhood to the St. Wenceslaus Church site. There are more details in the Parish Bulletin: <https://bit.ly/ViatorBulletin>. All are welcome!

Wishing all our neighbors and school families a wonderful, safe, and fun-filled summer. Have a great time exploring and making memories!



Summer at St. Edward School — Sara Lasica, Principal



Our students and staff are finishing the 2025-26 school year strong! The Class of 2026 graduated at the end of May and will attend many area high schools including Resurrection College Prep, St. Patrick High School, Northside College Prep, Lane Tech College Prep, and Loyola Academy. We are excited to see what they accomplish in this next step in their education.

School Tours

Discover the St. Edward School difference by joining us for upcoming tours of our award winning PK3-8th grade school. Email cweyers@stedwardschool.com to schedule a tour of our wonderful school and become part of the St. Edward School community!

Big Red Summer Camp

Big Red Summer Camp is back this summer and better than ever! Camp runs 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. Many weeks are full or close to capacity. Don't wait to sign up! (<https://stedparish.org/big-red-summer-camp>)

More Summer Fun

Totus Tuus Summer Camp will run July 19–24 for incoming 1st-6th graders (day session) and incoming 7th-12th graders (evening session). Registration and more information can be found on the St. Edward Parish website (<https://stedparish.org/totus-tuus-1>).

St. Edward Parish was founded in 1899 and has been serving the Mayfair and Irving Park communities' spiritual needs 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.

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

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ANNIVERSARY MONTH			
CHILD OR PET NAME (FIRST), BIRTHDAY MONTH (LAST NAME OPTIONAL)			
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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		
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.**
To place an ad visit www.olderirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad.

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

June

- 5 End of School Year, Happy Hour**
5:30–7:30 p.m., Le Village CoWork,
3146 W. Irving Park Road
- 6 The Eve Fries Foundation Softball Field Dedication | BeliEve Day Event**
9 a.m.–4 p.m. | Little Gompers Park,
4222 W. Foster | Free activities all day—
Scoreboard dedication. Free softball clinics.
Food. Raffle. Music. | **Check out the Eve Fries Foundation page on Facebook for event information**
- 7 Ice Cream Social/Quarterly Meeting**
3 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church,
3857 N. Kostner Avenue
- 10 Carlson Community, Tuesday Harvest in Three Brothers Garden | 6–7 p.m. | 4107 N. Pulaski Road**
- 13 Irving Park Garden Club | Art and the Garden Walk | 9 a.m.–2 p.m. | Tickets only available at the starting point (TBA) on the day of the walk | \$10/person; Free for members | Rain date is June 14**

July

- 16 Irving Park Garden Club | Midsummer Night's Stroll | 7–9 p.m. | Members Only | \$30/year per household to join**
- 26 Kilbourn Park Art & Garden Walk**
Noon to 5 p.m. | Interested in being a Garden Host & Artist Host?
Sign-Up using the QR.



August

- 28 OIPA Parents Committee Back to School Party**

September

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

October

- 24 OIPA Halloween Parade & Party**

November

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

December

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

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



OIPA
Ice Cream Social
♡♡ ♡♡ ♡♡ ♡♡
Sunday, June 7 * 3 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church