

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS



Don't miss the
**SEPTEMBER
GENERAL
MEETING**

September 9 | 7 p.m.
See page 3



SEPTEMBER

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 7 | 2026



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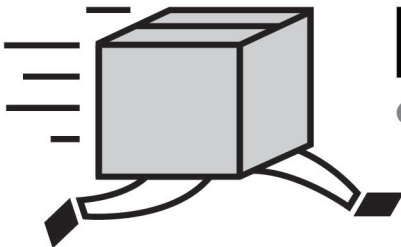


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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 40 ♦ Issue 7 ♦ September 2026

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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Board..... 2

Uncovering The Bonds That Unite
Chicago's Neighborhoods..... 4

OIPA Board Meeting Report 6

OIPA | Anniversaries & Birthdays 12

Irving Park Garden Club 14

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Gray House 16

Kids Corner 18

OIP Real Estate Activity..... 20

Irving Park Community Food Pantry.... 22

Scammon Elementary 26

Belding School 28

Carlson Community Services 30

St. Viator Elementary 32

St. Edward School 34

OIPA Membership & Renewal Form 35

Advertising, Article Submission
Guidelines & Deadlines..... 36

Advertise with Us Inside Back Cover

OIPA & Community Calendar Back Cover

Cover: Jahmal Cole Comes to Old Irving Park, see story on page 4.

Photo by Maddie Morelli

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TOP 10 REASONS

TO ATTEND OIPA'S "BACK TO FALL" SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Lynn Ankney and Jake Berger

The OIPA Board is excited to welcome everyone to its "Back to Fall" general meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Garden (3857 N. Kostner Avenue)**, and to see many OIPA members there.

While you should attend every OIPA general meeting because they are great ways to connect with your neighbors and hear about neighborhood happenings, you should attend this one in particular if:

1. **You are committed to democracy.** Do not miss this opportunity to vote for OIPA's unopposed slate of Director candidates!
2. **You are an art connoisseur.** We know you have been waiting with bated breath to purchase new artwork, including a certified authentic and bespoke set of Old Irving Park art prints by Mary Foster.
3. **You like art, but you're on a budget.** You can't enter the free raffle to win an awesome Great Depression/WPA-inspired Old Irving Park poster if you don't come!
4. **You're already starting your holiday shopping for non-OIPA members.** We'll have coasters, stickers, and a new yard sign! It's been clinically proven that people who live in Old Irving Park but aren't OIPA members love OIPA swag.
5. **You're hungry and/or thirsty but are shocked at the price of grocery shopping.** Enjoy free wine, cheese, and non-alcoholic refreshments with your neighbors while discussing how crazy prices are at the grocery store and restaurants have gotten.
6. **You haven't gotten up on your soapbox for a while.** While we unfortunately do not have an actual soapbox, OIPA meetings are a great forum to share neighborly comments about neighborhood issues.
7. **You're outdoorsy and/or like nature.** Weather permitting, we plan on holding our meeting outdoors in the church garden. Come eat, drink, and hang out outside!
8. **You've been meaning to attend an OIPA meeting, but haven't gotten around to it.** You've gotta start somewhere!
9. **You didn't find this *Message from the Board* humorous.** The OIPA Board always enjoys hearing feedback from its members about the Messages from the Board, the Newsletter, and general feedback.
10. **You want to be an Old Irving Park resident who is involved and connected with your neighbors.** OIPA general meetings are a great way to meet your neighbors, hear about neighborhood issues and events, and connect with neighborhood stakeholders—**Because Good Neighborhoods Don't Just Happen!**



“Back to Fall”

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 9

7 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Garden

3857 N. Kostner Avenue

**Wine, cheese, and non-alcoholic
refreshments will be provided**

*In case of bad weather, we'll meet in the
lower-level Parish Hall (enter off Byron).*

UNCOVERING THE BONDS THAT UNITE CHICAGO'S NEIGHBORHOODS

One Chicago, 77 Communities: Jahmal Cole Comes to Old Irving Park — Meredith O'Sullivan and Anna Zolkowski Sobor

What makes a neighborhood a community? Is it the people who show up, the small projects that make a block better, the stories shared between neighbors—or all of it together?

Jahmal Cole, founder and CEO of My Block, My Hood, My City (M3), is spending 77 months trying to answer that question. Through his Live 77 project, Jahmal, along with his family, is living in each of Chicago's 77 distinct community areas for one month, getting to know the people, places and organizations that make each neighborhood unique.



From left to right: Jahmal Cole, founder and CEO of My Block, My Hood, My City, joined by Anna Sobor, former OIPA President and Sinead O'Sullivan on a tour of Old Irving Park neighborhood.

Photo by Maddie Morelli

The idea grew from Jahmal's own experience volunteering at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. He noticed that some young people had never experienced parts of their own city that many Chicagoans take for granted. They had never been to the lake, ridden in a taxi or seen the city from the top of the Sears Tower. Those experiences made Jahmal realize how much our surroundings and our exposure to people and places beyond our own blocks can shape what we believe is possible for ourselves.

That realization became the foundation for M3, a South and West Side Chicago-based nonprofit founded by Jahmal in 2015 with a mission to "inspire youth, empower communities, and build a better world one block at a time."

Live 77 takes that mission in a different direction. Rather than simply visiting neighborhoods, Jahmal is immersing himself in them. He is asking residents to show him what makes their communities work: Who is making a difference? What challenges are neighbors tackling together? What traditions and gathering places bring people together? And what can one neighborhood learn from another?

Discovering Old Irving Park

In August, Jahmal and M3 intern **Maddie Morelli** spent time exploring the Irving Park community area, including Old Irving Park, the Villas, Independence Park and West Walker.

Their visit to Old Irving Park offered a firsthand look at the many ways neighbors turn ideas into action. Jahmal volunteered at the Irving Park Community

UNCOVERING THE BONDS THAT UNITE CHICAGO'S NEIGHBORHOODS

Food Pantry and learned about projects led by the Irving Park Garden Club. He also met with OIPA representatives **Anna Sobor**, former OIPA president, and **Meredith O'Sullivan**, OIPA board member, who took Jahmal and Maddie on a tour of the neighborhood.

Along the way, they talked about some of the projects and traditions that have helped shape Old Irving Park, including the new playlot replacing the large asphalt parking lot at the former Irving Park School, murals beneath bridges and viaducts, efforts to repurpose historic buildings such as Eris Brewery, and work to preserve historic homes through landmark status.

They also shared the less visible, but equally important, ways OIPA helps build community: family events, neighborhood cleanups, the monthly *Old Irving Park News*, and communication networks that help neighbors stay connected and informed.

None of these efforts alone defines a neighborhood. Together, they tell a story about people who care enough to get involved.

And that may be the most important part of Jahmal's Live 77 journey. By spending time in each community, he is shining a light on the people who quietly make Chicago work—neighbors, volunteers, organizations and local leaders who see something that could be better and decide to do something about it.

For OIPA, it was an opportunity to share what makes Old Irving Park special. For Jahmal, it was another chapter in a much bigger Chicago story: discovering the strengths that exist on every block and building connections between people who might otherwise never meet.

We encourage OIPA members to learn more about Jahmal Cole, My Block, My Hood, My City, and the Live 77 project at formyblock.org.



OIPA board member Meredith O'Sullivan (right) shares highlights of Old Irving Park with Jahmal Cole.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

on July 27, 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, Dan William

Communication

• Website Redesign and Marketing Page

Jake Berger reported that he met with Michael, an OIPA member and community volunteer with design experience, in mid-May to discuss the process and ideas for redesigning the website. Per Michael's suggestion, Jake is creating a spreadsheet to map the proposed architecture of the new site, with the goals of consolidating pages, improving visibility, and enhancing navigability, directories, and landing pages. Jake is also focusing on searchability, both through external search engines and by adding an internal site search feature, and is reviewing other websites as models. Jake will circulate the architecture spreadsheet to the Board when completed, expected within the next couple of weeks. Board members with suggestions for example websites or color schemes are encouraged to share them with Jake.

The Board discussed additional ideas for the redesign, including reviewing other civic organizations' websites for inspiration, scheduling a follow-up meeting with the web developer, and

creating a prominent landing page for donations and membership. Jake will also contact the existing web designer to get her input on improvements that could be made.

Ambassador / Zoning

• 39th Ward Civics Meeting

Jake Berger and Dan William attended a meeting hosted by the 39th Ward on June 16, which brought together representatives from neighborhood civic organizations on the Northwest Side of Chicago. The Alderperson was actively engaged, and CAPS representatives from multiple districts attended. Jake and Dan noted it was valuable to connect with other neighborhood organizations, many of which face challenges like or more fundamental than those experienced by OIPA. The Board discussed whether it would be beneficial for OIPA to interface with neighboring organizations to offer guidance and support.

Common themes shared by organizations in attendance included challenges with recruiting members, scheduling events, and recruiting new board members. The Board reflected on OIPA's strengths, including its active Parents Committee, strong sense of community, and engaged membership base.

• Aldermanic Elections – February 2027

The Board held an initial discussion about the upcoming February 2027 aldermanic elections



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

and the possibility of partnering with other civic organizations to host candidate debates. There was a brief discussion about potential venues for hosting such an event, but it was noted that the location is a minor line item in organizing this heavy lift. Adrienne Chan noted that the 45th Ward may require the most coordination, as two challengers had already announced, and volunteered to reach out to contacts at other organizations in the 45th Ward to gauge interest in taking the lead, with support from OIPA, since only a small section of Old Irving Park falls within that ward. No decisions were made regarding debates in the 30th or 39th Wards, as only one challenger had been announced in the 30th Ward at the time of the meeting.

• 39th Ward – Kilbourn Pedestrian Island

The Board noted that the request for clearing of weeds and addition of native plantings (or installation of weed barrier/mulch) in the Kilbourn pedestrian island along Irving Park Road remains outstanding. Dan William took an action item to contact 30th Ward Alderperson Ruth Cruz's office to inquire whether this space can be included in IDOT's maintenance along the Irving Park Road corridor.

Community Engagement

• New OIPA Yard Signs

Distribution of the new OIPA yard signs was

Continued on page 8



What Matters Most Deserves A Plan

August is here, and summer is the perfect season for making memories with the people you love. While you're enjoying vacation, backyard barbecues, and time together, it's also a good reminder to make sure your family is protected no matter what the future holds.

Whether you've been meaning to create a trust, name guardians for your children, or simply get organized, now is a great time to start.

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Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on July 27, 2026—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 7*

completed on July 11. Meredith O'Sullivan, Lynn Ankney, and David Ryan distributed the signs to newsletter delivery volunteers.

• **Meeting with Jahmal Cole, My Block, My Hood, My City**

The Board discussed a request from My Block, My Hood, My City regarding founder Jahmal Cole's "Live 77" initiative, in which he lives in all 77 community areas of Chicago, one month at a time, to highlight each neighborhood's strengths. In August, Jahmal will be living in Irving Park and expressed interest in meeting with OIPA to learn more about the organization's community work and connect with other organizations serving the neighborhood. Meredith O'Sullivan and Jake Berger will meet with Jahmal on Friday, August 7, at Backlot Coffee. They suggested walking a stretch of Irving Park Road and showing some of the residential streets in the neighborhood during the visit.

• **Alley Mirrors**

Lynn Ankney volunteered to contact a neighbor who has a mirror displayed on their property to get sourcing suggestions. Lynn asked that Adrienne Chan complete the previously assigned release letter absolving OIPA of ongoing liability and maintenance responsibilities for the mirrors.

Membership

• **Membership Drive Planning**

The Board discussed timing and ideas for a membership drive. Jake Berger suggested late summer or early fall. Lynn Ankney proposed the September General Meeting as a strong venue to

encourage membership, framing it as an "End of Summer / Back to OIPA" event. Ideas discussed included:

- Outreach to new homeowners after delivery of their complimentary OIPA newsletter issue
- Raffling OIPA items for attendees at the September General Meeting
- Using the September newsletter cover as a promotional poster for the meeting
- Writing a "Top Ten Reasons to Attend Our September and Other General Meetings" message from the Board
- Distributing flyers to non-member households using existing printed materials
- Encouraging current members to invite a non-member neighbor, with an additional raffle entry as an incentive

Membership

• **General Meeting Schedule**

The Board confirmed the following General Meeting dates:

- **Wednesday, September 9** – Elections of Directors, Welcome Back meeting; the Board discussed a membership drive theme but did not finalize the plan
- **Wednesday, November 4** (program to be determined)

• **Neighbors Night Out**

The Board noted that scheduling for the August/September Neighbors Night Out will be attempted



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

with Portage Park Neighborhood Association (PPNO) and Jefferson Park Forward (JPF).

• Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

The Board confirmed the remaining 2026 Board meeting dates: August 24, September 28, October 26, and December 14. The November Board meeting will be skipped.

Beautification

• In-Ground Garden Bed Fencing

A photograph was shared of new fencing recently installed around the in-ground garden beds following the Northwestern Medicine construction project as a potential improvement using any remaining DCEO grant dollars.

• Murals

The Board discussed several mural-related items:

- Positive Babel Mural: The Board discussed the current mural, which consists of only two colors and does not discourage tagging. Ideas were shared regarding cleaning, maintenance, and measures to discourage future tagging. David Ryan volunteered to speak with the artist when he is next in town working on another mural in the coming months.
- Jumbo Jet Mural: The topic of OIPA potentially funding materials to repair the mural by artist T. Passero was raised but not decided during this meeting.
- Milwaukee/Kilbourn Viaduct: The Board discussed the possibility of painting a mural or adding other beautification at this location. The Board decided not to pursue a new mural at this time but will keep this topic on the agenda for future discussion and prioritization.

• Sidewalk Gap Repair

The Board discussed obtaining an estimate to seal sidewalk gaps around viaducts to eliminate weed growth using Sikaflex Polyurethane Sealant. Dan William volunteered to obtain quotes for this repair in several areas around viaducts.

• Lighthouse

The Board discussed the status of the lighthouse landscaping project and decided to continue moving forward with the plan despite IDOT's delayed maintenance of their property directly adjacent to the proposed landscaping area.

Regarding the metal "Old Irving Park" lettering signage for the lighthouse, Adrienne Chan sent a follow-up to Iron & Easel, the fabricator, on July 27. This work needs to be completed and paid for.

• Purple Neighborhood Signage

The Board reported that installation of the purple Old Irving Park neighborhood identifier signs was completed during the first week of June. In July, the Board was informed that there is budget available for two additional signs. The Board discussed potential locations near the Kennedy Expressway but did not finalize selections; additional follow-up is needed.

• Neighborhood Sign Design

The Board noted that four preliminary design concepts were previously submitted by artist Laura Marie Sanchez, and feedback was provided. Adrienne Chan submitted a follow-up request to the artist on the day of the meeting regarding the status of the next design iteration; no updates were available at that time.

Continued on page 10

OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on July 27, 2026

—Nicholas Plagman-Frank, OIPA Secretary, *continued from page 9*

• Subaru Dealership

The Board discussed the unmaintained public way in front of the Subaru dealership properties, which encompass approximately three city blocks along Irving Park Road. One current board member and one former board member have requested the dealership maintain these areas. Dan William offered to visit the dealership to introduce himself and ask the manager to assist with cleanup of the public way in front of their properties.

Parents Committee

- The Board noted that an end-of-summer event is scheduled for August 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Disney II Magnet School. Planning is well underway with strong sponsor turnout, including multiple first-time sponsors.

Administration

• Treasurer's Report

Lynn Ankney presented the Treasurer's reports for May and June. Lynn highlighted income and disbursements and shared that the balance of the savings account has been transferred to checking to pay out the remainder of the DCEO grant funds allocated. The Board also reviewed the Keep OIP

Clean budget, discussing the available balance and previously approved planned allocations. No new funding decisions were made.

David Ryan motioned to approve both the May and June Treasurer's reports. Adrienne Chan seconded the motion, and the Board approved.

• DCEO Grant Spending Update

Lynn Ankney provided the following updates on the DCEO grant:

- Confirmation was received on June 9 that the grant has been extended through June 30, 2027.
- A new Grant Manager was assigned as of June 23.
- The System for Award Management (SAM) renewal was completed on July 14.
- The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Audit Certification was completed on July 14.
- Interest earned on DCEO grant funds while held in the recently closed savings account was returned to the State of Illinois on July 15, according to the terms of the grant agreement.

The Board of Directors meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

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September Birthdays

John Adamski	Dee Krause
Kristin Arevalo	Kristyn Krzyzaniak
Laura Baginski	Patrick Lane
Blake Batterson	Kathryn Leshor
Steve Bauman	Nicole Leshinsky
Bob Becksted	Judy Maas
Stacey Blaha	Tobi Mattingly
Tom Brandt	Andrea Montgomery
Steve Broderick	James Nenaber
Cara Buffa	Jack Neurauder
John Bullistreon	Meredith O'Sullivan
Melinda Bustamante	George Roa
Tom Camell	Marian Roche
Michelle Clark	Mike Roche
Diana Clegg	Jessica Rueda
Randall Coe	Kaitlin Salisbury
Jean Faris	Reetu Sanders
Brittany Finlayson	Dana Sarros
Jorge Garcia	Kiki Schotanus
Katie Hau	Gerta Sorensen
Patricia Hernandez	Katy Steele
Mark Hudson	Midge Stocker
Kevin Johnson	Annie Swingen
David Jones	Roger Tye
Kristin Jukes	Amber Uskali
Pete Jurgeleit	Cathie Van Wert
Matt Kamykowski	Mike Vehlwald
Justin Katz	Emily Wachowiak
Tracy Kennedy	Erin Walker
Michael Kharouta	Collin Wiese
Shane Knox	Sara Wilke
Katrina Kopps Rigali	

KID BIRTHDAYS

Leo Arvanitakis	Elise Lopez
Genevieve Burzynski	Frances Mason
Louis Calloway	Adam O'Mara
Maya Campbell	Cassius Ryan
Amanda Gomez	Sophia Unzueta
Paige Horvath	Quinn Wilke
Miller Leach	Silas Young
Avery Linnemeyer	

PET BIRTHDAY

Sammy Krause Van Alstin

Gus & Benny Reagan



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.



OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

September Anniversaries

Joanna & RJ Acosta
Cynthia & Dan Andrews
Dorothy & James Barrett
Adam & Emma Becker
Megan Beseth & Andy Greene
Cecile & Robert Bloomfield
Sandra & Steve Broderick
Jasmin Cardenas & Jesus Nuñez
Kevin Cisner & Terrie Carpenter
Steven Clay & Mary Kate Miller
Lis & Blake Dankovich
Thomas Denio & Laura McKee
Julie & Mark Dillon
Elaine Euler & Rob Buckley
Debby & Kurt Fries

Kate Geisler & Garrett Harabedian
Gail & Frank Gogliotti
Jennifer & Robert Groszek
Kristin & Andrew Jukes
Janine Klich & Gregory Jensen
Katrina Kopps Rigali & Chuck Rigali
Ronnie Kuller & Patrick Murray
Danny & Sierra Leach
Matthew Lieser & George Roa
Renee & Jeff Linnemeyer
Christine & Olivier Lopez
Helen & Brad McDowell
Amy Meadows & Tom Camell
Maureen & Jonathan Miller

Samantha Mortensen & Cameron Fevig
Allison & Mete Mutlu
Kerry & Matthew O'Brien
Gina Oderda & Patrick Cicere
John & Terri Reuter
Jerry & Caitlin Rinard
Bo Shi & Shuchi Kumar
Craig & Mary Kay Shutt
Kevin Sweetland & Ivonne Contreras
Karen Wehrle & Scott Tomlin
Julie Whittington-Cirton & Shawn Cirton
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Learning from the Best — Claudia Hine



The Irving Park Garden Club will tap into its local talent as it conducts an Ask the Experts panel discussion for the September general meeting. Four of our neighborhood's talented members will share the spotlight as they impart their tips and tricks for gardening success dealing with Chicago's clay soil and unpredictable weather.

This is just the second Ask the Experts panel discussion the club has held. It follows a highly successful meeting last year that drew rave reviews from our members. Last year's participants included **Sarada Amani, Denise Hlad, Gina Iliopoulos, and Maureen Taylor.**

Speakers for this year's panel will be announced shortly. The meeting will be held September 17 at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

A Walk Down Waveland & Warwick

In July, the club held one of its most popular events, the Midsummer Night's Stroll. Originally scheduled for July 16, the club was forced to postpone due to wildfire smoke blowing in from Canada that blanketed our city and made for very unhealthy air quality.

Luckily our hosts were able to reschedule two weeks later on July 30, and boy did they ever entertain us. Nearly 80 members came out to enjoy our annual wine and cheese social on a beautiful evening in two fabulous backyards.

This event takes place between two nearby gardens so members can stroll from one to the other. Our hosts this year, **Mike Roche and IPGC Treasurer Kate Roche**, were paired with across-the-alley neighbors **Janet Middleton and Brian Beaugureau.** That made for a stroll so easy, no one spilled their wine along the way.



These two gals know how to throw a party. Janet Middleton (left) and Kate Roche entertain the garden club on a beautiful evening in two fabulous gardens during our annual Midsummer Night's Stroll. *Photo by Vicci Rodgers.*



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



Great turnout at IPGC's July event. Nearly 80 members attend our popular wine and cheese social. *Photo by Claudia Hine.*



Keeler Ave. is well represented at IPGC's stroll. Attendees include (from left) Jonathan Ankney, Betsy McKelvey, OIPA Treasurer Lynn Ankney, Mark McKelvey, and Maire Dempsey. *Photo by Vicci Rodgers.*



Perhaps the youngest attendee at the stroll, Aster Jade is the daughter of Emily Plagman-Frank and OIPA Secretary Nick Plagman-Frank. *Photo by Vicci Rodgers.*

Moving Indoors

As fall is upon us, our members turn their attention to the houseplants they tend inside. To teach us the basics of caring for our indoor plants, **Lynn Fosbender of Rooted Living** is on the docket for our October 17 meeting. Located at 2918 N. Milwaukee Ave., Rooting Living offers houseplants, workshops, and a selection of products that encourage sustainability.



This presentation is a great follow-up to our August Hands-On Class where Angie Yorath of Angilily Flower Studio taught a workshop on how to create a succulent dish garden. Attendees all took home a container of their own unique design using a variety of succulent plants.

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).



A New Chapter for an Old Irving Park Landmark

— Anna Zolkowski Sobor

The Phebe and John Gray House has stood at 4362 W. Grace Street for nearly 170 years. Now, with its designation as an official Chicago landmark and the placement of two new plaques in front of the historic home, its remarkable story—and the story of the people who helped preserve it—will continue to be shared for generations to come.

Dave and Kris Cloud welcomed neighbors, historians, preservation advocates and local officials to celebrate the plaque placement and dedication at the Gray House, the oldest home in Old Irving Park. Among those attending were representatives from the **Norwood Park Historical Society**, **Ald. Ruth Cruz (30th)**, **Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) President Dan William**, and many of the people who helped the Clouds research and pursue Chicago Landmark status for their home.

Built in approximately 1856, the Phebe and John Gray House was originally part of a large farmstead outside Chicago's city limits. John Gray and his family were among the area's early settlers, having moved to Illinois from upstate New York. Gray served as the first Republican sheriff of Cook County from 1858 to 1860.

The Italianate-style, wood-frame home includes two main floors and a distinctive third-story cupola. Designed by an unknown architect, the home predates the area's annexation to Chicago in 1889 and remains an important physical connection to the early history of Old Irving Park.



The new plaque that sits in front of the historic Gray House.

The journey to landmark designation was truly a community effort.

The Clouds thanked the many people who helped them along the way, including **Keith Bringe**, Rare Nest Gallery, local historian **Bill Tyre** and others who contributed their knowledge and research.

For Tyre, the project had a particularly personal connection. An Old Irving Park native and the current executive director and curator at the Glessner House, Tyre shared research he had begun as a teenager. At just 17, he was one of the founding members of the former Irving Park Historical Society. His parents, **Charlotte** and the late **Roger Tyre**, were also deeply involved with both OIPA and the Irving Park Historical Society for decades. Charlotte still lives in the neighborhood on Kedvale Avenue.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Gray House

The preservation effort also benefited from an unexpected neighborhood connection. Ann Schlaffman and her daughter, Eliza, are Kostner Avenue neighbors of the historic home. When Ann purchased her own home, she inherited a collection of John Gray's deeds and property records, materials that proved valuable in the landmark research process.

With landmark status now in place, the exterior elevations and rooflines of the Gray House are protected from significant alteration or demolition.

The plaques now standing in front of the home do more than mark the age of a historic building. They represent years of research, a commitment to preservation and the collective efforts of neighbors, historians and advocates who understood that once a piece of history is lost, it cannot be replaced.

For Old Irving Park, the landmark designation of the Phebe and John Gray House ensures that one of the neighborhood's earliest stories will remain part of its future.



Dave and Kris Cloud (center) with the group of dedicated individuals who helped secure landmark status for the historic Gray House.

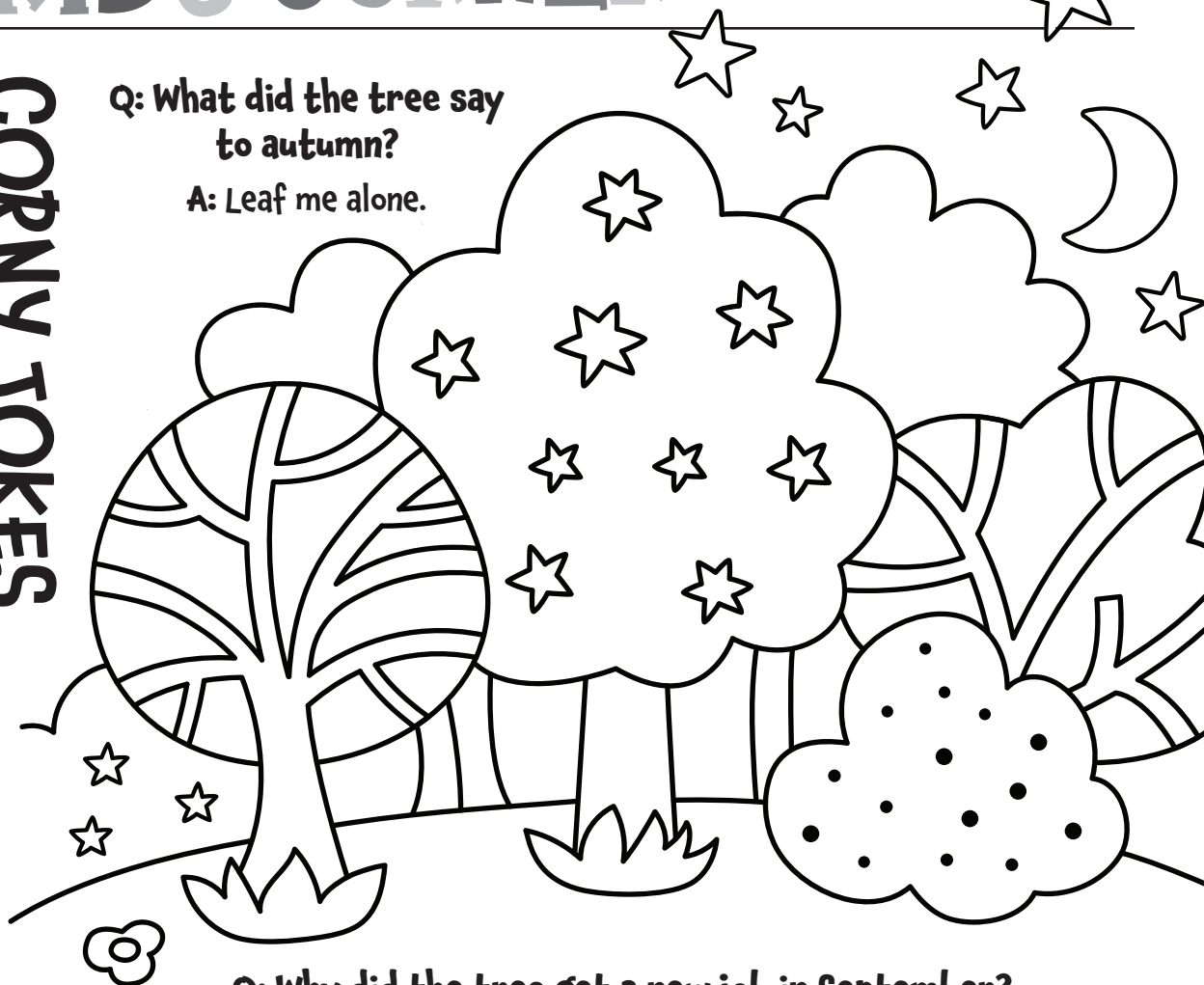
Photos by Anna Zolkowski Sobor

KIDS CORNER

Corny Jokes

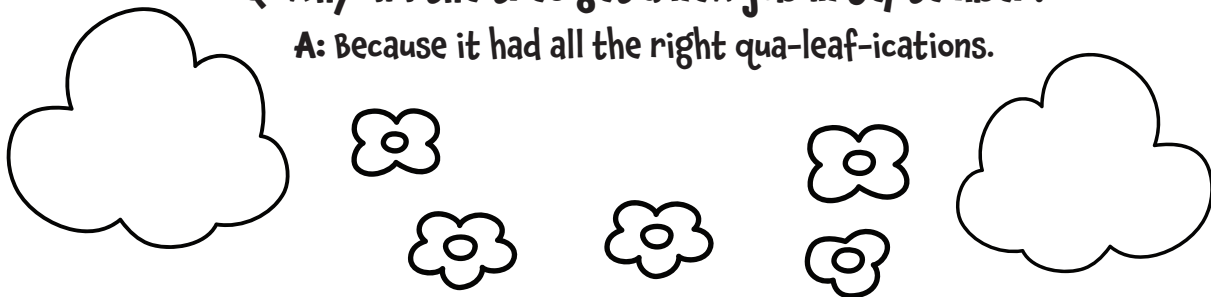
Q: What did the tree say to autumn?

A: Leaf me alone.



Q: Why did the tree get a new job in September?

A: Because it had all the right qua-leaf-ications.



SCHOOL DAYS

September



OIP REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY



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4229 N. Keystone, 1F	\$285,000
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4125 N. Keystone, 601	\$390,000
4239 N. Keystone, 2N	\$516,000
3860 N. Milwaukee	\$595,000



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3845 N. Milwaukee	\$662,500
4051 N. Keystone	\$820,000
4023 W. Addison	\$850,000

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3755 N. Kostner	\$949,000
3638 N. Keeler	\$965,000



Prepared by Tom Brandt

(C) = Court Approved

(F) = Foreclosure Sale

(S) = Short Sale

Report as of July 24, 2026



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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



Program coordinator and board member Kate McClelland, board president Liz Mills, Andrea Guthmann, and Melanie Zech gave out hats, scarves, and gloves to clients during our program in October 2025.

Photo by Craig Shutt

The Pantry is collecting new hats, scarves, and gloves for registered clients in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes to help keep them and their families warmer this winter. The program will run through October (7, 13, 14, 21, and 28).

To make an online donation through our Amazon registry, use the QR code.



Local donations can be dropped off at the Big Helpers store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or left on the front porches at 3912 N. Kenneth Ave. or 4242 N. Hamlin Ave. at any time.

If you would like to make a monetary donation so we can purchase the specific items we need, please

donate on our website, www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org, via PayPal, Venmo, credit cards, or Google Pay. You can also mail a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave, Chicago IL 60618, and mark it for "winterwear."

You can drop off locally purchased hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for men, women and children until Sunday, October 25. But earlier is better! NOTE: Please limit your donation to ONLY new hats, scarves, and gloves. We have no space to offer other items.

If you have a large donation or want to run a drive, please email Lynne at community@irvingparkfoodpantry.org for tips or to arrange delivery. Thank you for your support!



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Thank You for the Support

Thank you to **Jeff and Susan Miller Tweedy**, who donated a portion of the proceeds from Jeff's solo charity concerts in May. The donation came to \$60,282, which went into the Pantry's capital campaign for the new facility we're gearing up to build. For a quick overview of that initiative, visit the Pantry's YouTube channel using the QR code.



My Block, My Hood, My City Comes to Old Irving

We were pleased to welcome **Jahmal Cole, founder and CEO of My Block, My Hood, My City** to the Pantry in August. Jahmal has undertaken an initiative called Live 77, where he is living in all 77 neighborhoods of Chicago, one month at a time, to highlight each neighborhood's strengths and help people see the power they already have.

For the month of August, Jahmal lived in Irving Park and came by to visit, along with his assistant, **Maddie Morelli**. He toured our facilities and talked with Executive Director John Psiharis and other volunteers, many of whom were big fans of his work.

At right: Members of the Pantry's board (left to right): Marcy Sherrill, Corey Friedman and Craig Shutt with Executive Director John Psiharis) greeted Jahmal Cole of My Block, My Hood, My City when he visited the Pantry in August. *Photo by Maggie Morelli*

Stop By and Say Hello

Pantry volunteers will be at GIPNA's Farmers Market at Independence Park on September 27. Stop by, learn about volunteering, or donate money for our various programs.



Susan Miller Tweedy (right) presents Holly VanEssen, chairwoman of the Pantry's capital campaign, with a check for \$60,282 to help with our capital campaign. *Photo courtesy Susan Miller Tweedy*



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.



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Friday – Saturday: 10am – 12am

Sunday: 10am – 10pm

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Upcoming Events—Dr. Madden, Principal, and Ms. Vale, Assistant Principal

- 9/2 Coffee with Administration
- 9/9 Open House: Current Families

Improvements to Our Husky Den

Our summer brought many exciting improvements for our Huskies to enjoy! We are grateful for new furniture that will support collaboration, teamwork, and communication among our students, as well as new mats for our gym walls to keep our space safe for sports and recreation. Our playlot has also been repaved and is ready for our students to play!

Interested in learning more about Scammon Elementary?

Website: www.Scammon.cps.edu

Facebook: Scammon School

Instagram: Scammon_School



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Closed Sunday and major holidays (call to inquire).

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Belding School



Tour Belding— Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

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

TOUR DATES for 2026-2027

- September 15, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- December 8, 2026
- January 12, 2027
- February 9, 2027
- March 16, 2027
- April 27, 2027
- May 18, 2027

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Stay Connected, Be Informed

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

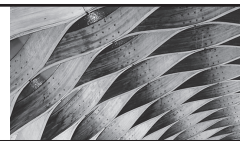
OIPA Enews | Stay up to date with local neighborhood news and happenings. Request to join OIPA's news eblast email distribution group by emailing us at hello@oldirvingpark.com

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





A New Season Begins at Carlson

—Liz Drew, Executive Director

It's been a great summer at Three Brothers Garden, thanks to the many family members, friends and neighbors who have spent time tending, harvesting and sharing the garden's bounty. A special shout out goes to the college students who spent part of their summer with us. We wish them all a wonderful school year!

For those staying local, the growing season isn't over yet. Three Brothers Garden will continue harvesting well into the fall, and volunteers are always welcome to join us every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m.

Located at 4107 N. Pulaski Road, at Belle Plaine Avenue, Three Brothers Garden is an organic community vegetable garden with a simple but powerful mission: growing fresh food for neighbors. The produce harvested in the garden is donated to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry for distribution to local families and individuals.

The garden is a partnership between Carlson Community Services and Irving Park Lutheran Church and has been bringing the community together since 2009. Over the years, more than 10,000 pounds of fresh produce have been grown and delivered to the Pantry. Seasonal harvests include lettuce, radishes, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, carrots, Swiss chard and a variety of herbs.

Three Brothers Garden is also a certified Monarch Waystation, featuring native plants, including milkweed, that provide important habitat for butterflies and other pollinators.

Volunteers of all ages and experience levels are welcome. A typical Tuesday evening may include weeding, picking and washing vegetables, and preparing the harvest for delivery to the food pantry the following morning. No gardening experience is necessary, and children are welcome to participate.

Home gardeners can also help through the Carlson Community Harvest. Those with a surplus of fresh vegetables, fruits or flowers from their own gardens can bring their bounty to Three Brothers Garden on Tuesday evenings before 7 p.m. during the growing season. Donations are then shared with clients of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Carlson Community Services

What began in 2009 as a vacant lot has grown into much more than a vegetable garden. With the help of neighborhood volunteers, the original site was cleared, the soil prepared and 20 raised cedar beds constructed. Today, the garden continues to be a place where neighbors grow food, build community and help one another. It has also hosted lectures, book discussions, cooking and canning demonstrations, potluck suppers and other community gatherings.

Three Brothers Garden, 4107 N. Pulaski Road at Belle Plaine Avenue, Tuesday Volunteer Nights: 6–7 p.m., May through October. For more information: LizDrew@CarlsonCommunityServices.org

Magic After-School Place (MAP)

The Magic After-School Place serves children enrolled in Kindergarten through 8th grade at Belding School. MAP operates Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. and follows the Chicago Public Schools calendar. MAP staff walk enrolled children to the Irving Park Lutheran Church educational building at 4057 N. Harding Ave. After enjoying a healthy snack, the children begin work on homework, a strong focus of the program.

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.



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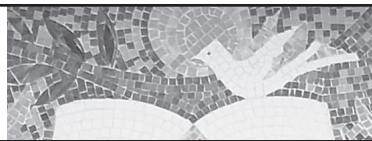
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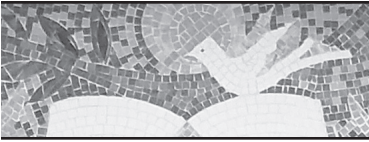
Viator Voice — William Teeple, Admissions Director

The school year is in full swing at St. Viator Elementary School, and we're keeping the momentum going! Our return to school has been excellent, and students are settling into their classes. Programming is starting up, from athletics to after-school activities. We are launching into a great school year, building on our back-to-school excitement!

Photos courtesy of St. Viator



Connect Online | Follow our socials to stay current on school news! Find us on Facebook: St. Viator Elementary School and Parish, Chicago; Instagram: stvschoolchi; or X (formerly Twitter): @ChiViator. Learn more about us on the school website at: www.stviatorchicago.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary

Cross Country Season Continues

The Cross Country team practices during the week and runs meets on the weekends. The first meets are later this month. Watch our socials for updates on the runners. Let's Go Eagles!

Jog-A-Walky

September means the Jog-A-Walky "fun run" on our campus. Students collect pledges, then complete laps around our school course. All students participate in the Jog-A-Walky, from our 3-year-olds to our 8th graders. Everyone raises funds to support our school operations. You can support St. Viator, even if you don't have an eagle to pledge - contact our Main Office!

Contact Us!

Back-to-school experience not what you expected? Still looking for a seat for this school year? Is your 3-year-old ready for school? We have seats available in select classrooms, Pre-K through 8th grade! William Teeple, Admissions Director, (773) 545-2173, can answer your questions.

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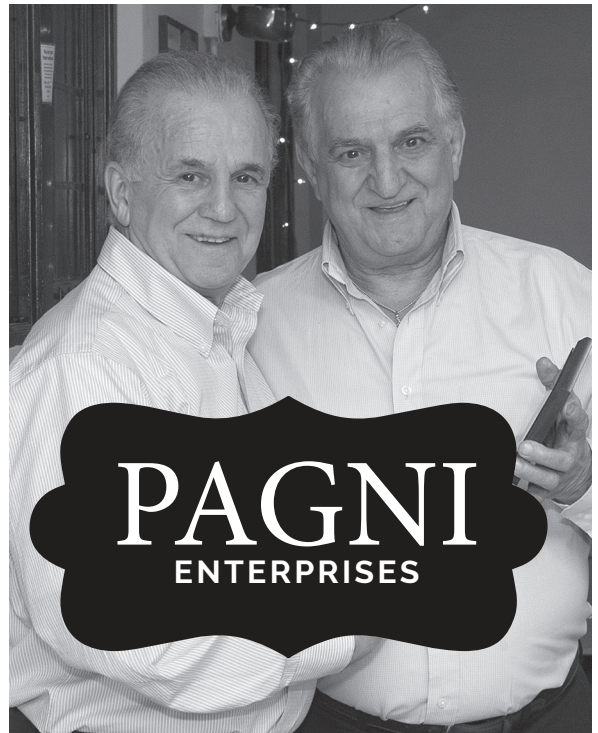
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Welcome to St. Edward School — Sara Lasica, Principal



St. Edward School students and staff are happy to be back in the classroom for the 2026-2027 school year. Did you know mid-year enrollments are available? Contact the school to learn more, including financial aid availability.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Edward Parish's Harvest Bash Saturday, October 3!

Join us on Saturday, October 3 for our annual Harvest Bash! We will have a variety of activities for every age, with Lowell Ave. blocked off!

Kids Bash will run from 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. and include carnival games & prizes, a petting zoo & more, dinner served at 5:30 p.m. with live entertainment to follow. Pre-sale tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids. Community hero discount (firefighter, police, EMT) is \$15 for adults (up to two tickets per hero) and \$7 for kids (up to three tickets per hero).

Every dinner ticket includes a free adult beverage, soda, or water. Tickets go on sale beginning September 1, both online and in person after all Mass times.

Class of 2027 Fall Mum Fundraiser

The 8th grade class of 2027 is selling beautiful fall mums, homegrown with outstanding "bloom power" by Kolze's Corner Gardens in Woodstock to cover graduation expenses.

An assortment of colors is available for purchase: \$20 each or three for \$55. Prepaid orders only through Thursday, September 23.

- The order website is https://onecau.se/_mvptf1.
- Pick up at 4447 N. Lowell Ave. on Thursday, October 1, from 2–5 p.m. and on Friday, October 2, from 3–5 p.m.

The class of 2027 thanks you for your support!

St. Edward Football Season Begins

Football season kicks off in September with the first game on Thursday, September 10, at 6 p.m. at Gompers Park. Come cheer on the team!

St. Edward Parish was founded in 1899 and has been serving the Mayfair and Irving Park communities' spiritual needs for over 125 years. Our award-winning school and discover how we build a strong foundation for your child. Learn about our thriving community, outstanding academic programs, service work, and extended before and after-school care. To schedule a tour, email cweyers@stedwardschool.com. For more information, visit www.stedwardschool.com or call the office at 773-736-9133. Follow us on social media @stedparish

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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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		
July No issue		
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.oldirvingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad.

Advertising Specifications

- **Purchase ad space and upload your ad at:**
www.oldirvingpark.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



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

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.

September

- 9 **OIPA Quarterly Meeting** | 7 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church | 3857 N. Kostner Avenue
- 17 **Irving Park Garden Club** | Ask The Experts Panel Discussion | 7–9 p.m. | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members Only | \$30/year per household to join

October

- 17 **Irving Park Garden Club** | Speaker: Lynn Fosbender, Rooted Living | Houseplants: Basics of Caring for Your Indoor Plants | 10 a.m. – Noon | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Members Only | \$30/year per household to join
- 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**