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NEWS



February FEBRUARY

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 1 | 2020



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A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for and about people living in the neighborhood. Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries includes: 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.

oldirvingparkasn@yahoo.com
www.oldirvingpark.com
FB: oldirvingparkassoc

Delivery Staff

- Mary Lou Agronomoff
- Devin, Owen & Asha Alexander
- Lynn Ankney
- Bridget Bauman
- Sandra Broderick
- Barbara Chadwick
- Gayle Christensen
- Adrian & Oliver Christiansen
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New Neighbor Packets

Claudia Hine

Parents Committee

- Lynn Ankney
- Renée Linnemeyer

Zoning

Bart Goldberg

Delivery Coordinators

Meredith O'Sullivan (Chair)
meredithosullivan@gmail.com
773-551-4533

- Barbara Chadwick (N. of Irving)
- Bart Goldberg (S. of Irving)
- Anna Zolkowski Sobor (Mailings)

Editor / Design & Production

Kearns Design Group
k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com

Advertising

Colleen Kenny, oipaadvertising@gmail.com

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Cover: Photo by Jesse Goll on Unsplash

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



LOCAL
Sweethearts
— Anna Sobor

Buying local increases
community health
& promotes more local wealth!

February is that long month—especially with Leap Year in 2020—when winter starts settling in our bones. Thankfully, Hallmark has invented a holiday where we can show our affection to each other by celebrating Valentine’s Day on February 14.

This year commit to shopping locally for your partner, pet, or favorite person. As the Albany Park Chamber of Commerce reminds us, “By supporting small businesses, I am supporting my community.” If you look closely, you will notice the many unique places which surround us, not only in Old Irving and at Six Corners, but Irving/Austin, Jefferson Park, Avondale, Albany Park, and more.

Here’s a non-scientific list based on personal preference to get you thinking about what to get yourself—and your Valentine! Most places offer gift certificates.

Coffee & More

- **Backlot Coffee** | 3982 N Avondale Ave
- **Finom** | 4200 W Irving Park Rd
- **Perkolator Coffee** | 6032 W Irving Park Rd
- **Weston’s Coffee & Tap** | 4872 N Milwaukee

Bakery Goods & More

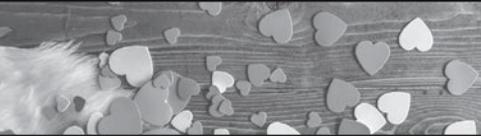
- **Delightful Pastries** | 5927 W Lawrence Ave
- **Dell Cove Spices & More** | 4302 N Pulaski Rd (retail store by appointment only) visit dellcovespices.com

Dining Out—*food & drink*

- **The Cabin at Old Irving** | 4104 N Pulaski Rd
- **CTA Tacos** | 4219 W Irving Park Rd
- **Community** | 4038 N Milwaukee Ave
- **Eris Brewery and Ciderhouse** | 4240 W Irving Park Rd
- **Fannie’s** | 4042 N Milwaukee Ave
- **Hearth & Crust** | 3608 W Irving Park Rd
- **Jet’s Pizza** | 3951 N Kimball
- **La Villa Ristorante** | 3632 N Pulaski Rd
- **Lake Effect Brewing Co.** | 4727 W Montrose Ave
- **Old Irving Brewing** | 4419 W Montrose Ave
- **Shokran Moroccan Restaurant** | 4027 W Irving Park Rd
- **Smakosz Polish Restaurant** | 5619 W Lawrence Ave
- **Tatas Tacos** | 4929 W Irving Park Rd

Services, Products & More

- **The Beauty Crew** | 4048 N Milwaukee Ave
Makeup & hair, special event makeup, skincare.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

- **Distinct Bath & Body** | 4046 N. Milwaukee Avenue
All natural, handcrafted bath & body products. Classes.
- **Kingston Reflexology** | 4034 N Milwaukee Ave
Massage therapy, acupuncture treatments & more.
- **Pursuit Supply Company** | 4316 W. Irving Park Rd
Home brewing. Analog photography. Classes, camera repair, & film processing.

- **Fearless Cooking** | 4410 N Milwaukee Ave
Offering cooking classes & private events.
- **Filament Theater** | 4041 N Milwaukee Ave
Immersive theatre for young people and adults.
- **National Veterans Art Museum** | 4041 N Milwaukee Ave
Veteran-created art inspired by military service.

Vintage & more

- **Thrift & Thrive** | 6025 W Irving Park Rd
Large outpost for used & vintage home goods & apparel.

Art, Theater, Dance & Experiences

- **Aerial Dance** | 4028 W Irving Park Rd
Performance, and instruction of aerial dance.
- **Baltic Art Glass** | 4346 N Milwaukee Ave
Gallery & Classes.
- **BATL Axe Throwing** | 4842 W Irving Park Rd
Axe throwing in 'arenas.' Great for date night or groups.

Check out local Chambers for more listings

- Six Corners: sixcorners.com/business-directory
- Pulaski & Elston: pebachamber.org/members
- Jefferson Park: jeffersonpark.net/member-directory



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Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 6, 2020 – Bart Goldberg, Secretary

Attendees: Adrienne Chan, Lynn Ankney, Scott Legan, Meredith O’Sullivan, Anna Sobor, Annie Swingen, Merry Marwig and Bart Goldberg

Commencement: We had the privilege of meeting at the Blue and White House, that being President Chan’s suitably stately and beautiful OIP home. She probably agreed to supply the location and the excellent treats due to the convenience of not having to travel for the meeting, as her Presidential schedule is brutal. But possibly she felt that the location would make it less likely that Lynn Ankney would choose that night to act

upon her long-rumored desire to impeach her. I am glad to report that it worked, and that even Lynn enjoyed her hospitality. She commenced the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Treasurer’s Report: Lynn Ankney presented her Treasurer’s Reports for November and December of last year. The receipts exceeded expenditures for November. In December there more expenses due to the cost of the Holiday Party (which was discussed and felt to be very successful). Overall, the financials still looked very strong. The financial report was unanimously approved by the Board. The Board also passed a resolution to



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gardens



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

combine our two bank accounts into one account. Lynn also reported that she filed our Annual Report with the Office of the IL Attorney General.

Membership: Meredith O’Sullivan reported on our current membership figures. We have been leaving “oops” flyers to remind some people that had not yet renewed to please do so. We understand that the delivery of these flyers is sometimes erroneous in that the recipient had already renewed, and we apologize for any resulting confusion. Meredith provided us with an interesting breakdown of our membership numbers. When advertisers and the few members we have comped are both included our total membership at the end of the calendar year in 2019 is 522,

compared to 470 at the end of the prior year. This gain of 11% in a year is really quite remarkable.

Charitable Donations: As per our usual custom, the Board makes a charitable donation to various NFP’s that support our community on an annual basis. This year we have decided to give \$500 each to nine different organizations for a total contribution of \$4,500. The recipients are the Irving Park Food Pantry, the Irving Park YMCA, Friends of Independence Park Library, Carlson Community Services, UpBeat Music and Arts, Schurz High School, Belding Elementary, Disney II, and Scammon. The gift to UpBeat was a new one for

Continued on page 6

We’ve been serving folks in our community for a generation.

We will take all the time necessary to understand your needs, and explain your options.

We are long time Irving park residents and friends, raising our families and making friends here.

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Laurie Bish
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Broker Associate
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teambish.com

annelenzini.bairdwarner.com

OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Board Meeting Minutes,

continued from page 5

us. This was done partly to give them some assistance in repairing the premise after the shooting tragedy, and also because they are a worthy charity in their own right given the nearly 100 music scholarships for their facility that they award to students. We usually also make a gift to the Garden Club, but not until the spring. As always, we encourage you to visit their websites and give further if your finances should allow.

Newsletter: Meredith and Lynn have taken the lead working with our editor Kathleen Kearns on a new

improved production schedule for our newsletter. The goal is to have them at everyone's door by the 1st of the month. As a result, we have revised the due dates for submissions from both our contributing writers and our advertisers. This is also a motivating factor in our recent decision to move our board meetings up two weeks so that they are now on the first Monday of the month.

Old Irving Park Signs: Lynn continues to work with Alderman Nugent to see if we can obtain City funding for four new metal signs to be constructed on light poles on Irving Park Road. These signs are quite

Continued on page 8



Dr. Kirk Kollmann Dr. Cissy Furusho

**Wishing you and your family
a healthy and Happy New Year!
We look forward to seeing you in 2018!**



**Drs. Kollmann & Furusho,
Marisela, Cassidy, Letty, Aricelli,
Nicky, Adam, Tanisha, Lajarius,
Zee and Lakylia**

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We encourage you to stop by if you need help accessing state services and to share your thoughts and ideas on ways to improve our community and state.



Jaime Andrade, State Representative, 40th District

OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Board Meeting Minutes,

continued from page 6

expensive and it would be a tremendous outcome if we should be able to score them. As of now, it is still too early to tell. However, steps are definitely being taken on another project that is being spearheaded by Merry to decorate our community with signs proclaiming our love for Old Irving Park. Merry showed us some very promising designs that she is working on. The next step is to price them. The intention is to produce what would probably be small yard signs that you could put near your garden or shrubs, or in the window. They would then be distributed to all OIPA members free of charge in the hopes that they would display them.

Entering the Google: I could be the wrong person to try to explain this as I am not particularly technologically adept. However, Merry is doing something very important for our Association which is to get our newsgroup off of Yahoo and onto Google. This is partly because of a change in policy at Yahoo that requires us to do this, and also that the techno-sophisticates like Merry that understand a lot more than I do, have told us that Google is way better. However, I wonder if it is really a thinly veiled prejudice against southerners as the term "Yahoo" may sound sort of hillbilly to some. (As a transplanted southerner that moved here nearly 45 years ago I am wondering when I will finally be fully accepted. After all, I no longer even drink Mountain Dew... , or at least not at breakfast). Merry and the literate part of the Board proceeded to discuss the logistics of moving our contact information to the new Google Group, and then smaller details including the email names to be given to the various subgroups and functions. Merry's work is very much appreciated!

Future Meetings: We discussed topics for several of our next General Meetings. The very next one will be on February 10, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at St John's Episcopal Church. The subject matter will concern the US Census that will be taken this year, including why it is important, how it is taken, and related employment opportunities. Our own Anna Sobor will be the featured speaker. You can learn about why our beloved state of Illinois will probably soon have less representation in Congress, so for comfort you are invited to have one of our complimentary wines or beers, sit a spell and just ponder for awhile. We hope to see you there.

This meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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says Jehovah.

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sins are like

scarlet, they

will be as

white as snow..."

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SEEN AND NOTED IN OLD IRVING



OIPA *Holiday Party*

OIPA President Adrienne Chan and Membership Chair Meredith O'Sullivan (pictured above) welcomed members to the annual holiday party held at Eris Brewery and Cider House in December.

Thank you to all who attended. And special thanks to members who brought gifts for the Irving Park Food Pantry Holiday Program.



OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



February Anniversaries

- 2 Megan & Eric Stalder
- 11 Carol & Robert Szalacha
- 12 Danielle & Randy West
- 14 Kate & Mike Roche
- 27 Laura Baginski & Patrick Wasser

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 James Looby | 14 Dave Pierce | 23 Liam McLaughlin |
| 2 Meni Sarris | 14 Irene Flaherty | 25 Casey Williams |
| 3 Heather Legan | 16 Richard Hoffman | 25 Jessica Kick |
| 3 TJ Danahy | 16 Townes Lyon | 25 Liam Kick |
| 4 Natasha O'Donnell | 17 Maria Montadas | 26 Emmet Rood |
| 4 Tom Keith | 17 Mike Abbott | 26 Jasmin Cardenas |
| 5 Chris Craig | 18 Amy Meadows | 26 Nathan Coe |
| 5 Randall Patke | 18 Amy Nuttelman | 27 Shirley Buss |
| 6 Joey Sevigny | 18 David Cloud | 28 Richard Tetrault |
| 6 Sara Freeman | 19 Kevin Cisner | 29 Beth Young |
| 7 Joshua Boggioni | 20 Denise Giszczynski | |
| 7 Katie Kozisek | 20 Lee Swingen | |
| 7 Rodney Zech | 21 Dave Sheets | |
| 8 Andrew Gardner | 21 Tootie McKelvey | |
| 8 Missy Goldberg | 23 Lauren Innocenzi | |

Is your birthday or anniversary missing from this list? Not sure if you provided your info in your renewal form? If so, please contact Meredith O'Sullivan at meredithosullivan@gmail.com or 773-551-4533, so she can add your name and dates to the list.

Pets

- Devin
- Pokey the barking dog

Stephanie Cutter



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 3733 N. Keeler..... | \$621,000 |
| 3944 N. Kilbourn | \$665,000 |
| 4242 N. Keeler..... | \$668,000 |
| 3754 N. Kildare (F)..... | \$675,000 |
| 3945 N. Tripp..... | \$765,000 |



Attached Single Family

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 4126 N. Kedvale, 2..... | \$ 71,500 |
| 4306 N. Keystone, 202..... | \$108,000 |
| 4326 N. Keystone, 1D..... | \$112,244 |
| 4215 N. Kedvale, 6N..... | \$115,000 |
| 4247 N. Keystone, 204..... | \$117,000 |
| 4249 N. Keystone, 103 | \$130,000 |
| 4248 N. Keystone, 2B | \$155,000 |
| 3916 N. Kedvale, 2W..... | \$172,000 |
| 3916 N. Kedvale, 5-1E..... | \$177,000 |
| 4308 N. Waveland, 1..... | \$209,000 |
| 4346 N. Pulaski, 201..... | \$264,000 |
| 4452 W. Dakin, D | \$320,000 |
| 4039 N. Kilbourn, 1S..... | \$385,000 |



2-4 Units

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 4116 N. Keeler | \$599,975 |
| 4027 N. Kilbourn..... | \$656,000 |



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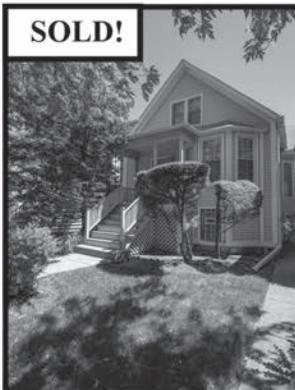
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First, please let me say.....
Thank You!

To all of my clients—past and present, who have placed their Trust in me, I am most appreciative, and I look forward to being of Service in the future. Yes, the Spring Market is here! It's not our green lawns or flowers, but the passage of January and the Super Bowl that signal the start to the Spring Market in Chicago! Interest Rates are at historic lows, so now may be the perfect time to sell and/or buy. Please put my 27+ years of experience to work for you and... Call me today!

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**Tom Brandt
773-230-6997**



The Buzz at Belding — Lisa Owens, 4th Grade Reading/Social Studies Teacher

Students Reporters Take the Lead

Written by featured Buzz student reporter, Luke J.

In addition to our digital newspaper, we have a news station to bring you news videos. Visit this link to watch the videos <https://tinyurl.com/ull9tbt>. You will find videos from the Fun Run, Rock-a-thon, sports, and last but not least, Hamilton's music directors visiting the class of 301. We also provide you multiple written news articles that report about sports, Belding events, such as the construction, the Rock-a-thon, and the Fun Run. For this issue, the reporters of the news articles are Addison, Tamara, Yacine, Alex R, Abubakr, Sanel, and Luke. The news anchors are Ayesha and Nadia. The videographers are Addison, Luke, Tamara, and Vermaat. The people who wrote the news anchors' script are Vermaat, Alex S, and Luke. We started by brainstorming topics, preparing questions, and taking video. We made significant revisions to our work and articles. We have done our best to get you the best news at Belding. Stay tuned for more news from the Belding Buzz.



Featured reporter Luke J. who writes for the Belding Buzz.

Winter Wellness Fest

Belding hosted a Winter Wellness Fest on January 16. The goal of the event was to engage students and families around the importance of eating well, movement, safety, and mental health. It was exciting to bring our school community together for a night of learning and fun. There were five health-related workshops and five physical activity classes. Also, there was a vendor fair with various community organizations sharing information about their programming/services. We were excited to start the new year by providing an experience that encouraged our students and families to LIVE WELL!

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

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. The tours are an excellent opportunity to see Belding teachers and students in action and to learn more about our school. Upcoming tour dates include:

- February 11
- March 10
- April 14.

Tours begin at 8:00 a.m. in the school office.



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Huskies Headlines

— Renee Klimkiewicz, Curriculum Coordinator



Level 1+ Accomplishment

We couldn't be more proud to share that Scammon Elementary is a Level 1+ school for a third consecutive year. Our growth remains strong and our attainment has significantly risen. Thank you to all our students, teachers, and parents for your commitment. We are proud to be your neighborhood school!

90% Math growth

84% Math attainment

88% Reading growth

74% Reading attainment

95.7% Attendance

The Final Spelling Bee

On December 18, fifteen students proudly walked the stage to showcase the power of spelling. The competition was exciting and fierce. In the end, Emily Rodriguez claimed the first place title. We commend all our participants for their endurance and commitment. We can't wait for Ms. Rodriguez to compete in the citywide competition!

Giving Back

During the holiday season, Scammon's Student Council orchestrated its 3rd Annual Food Drive. The council worked with ease and grace to ensure others would enjoy a holiday meal. In the end, our Scammon community displayed great generosity with a large donation of 1,453 lbs of food to the Irving Park Food Pantry. We are grateful to have such a supportive school.

A Whole New World!

We are excited to announce we will partner with The Goodman Theater in another musical this year! In the spring, we will take a trip to Agrabah! Yes, that's right; we will be putting on a professional production of the musical "Aladdin." We can't wait to make Scammon a whole new world! Look out for our show in May 2020.

School Tours

To learn more about Scammon Elementary or schedule a tour call (773) 534-3475, visit <http://scammon.cps.edu>. Follow us on: **Instagram** @scammon_school

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Sunday 10:00am-11pm



St. Edward Scoop – Margaret Hemma, Communications/Development



ATTENTION St. Edward Alumni! Do you want to give back to your school?

We have a great opportunity for you to double your donation! Thanks to a St. Edward alum, all donations to this year's Fund-a-Need for new classroom furniture will be matched dollar for dollar! This is exciting news and will help us achieve our goal of purchasing new furniture for our classrooms, teachers, and students twice as fast!

You can get more information on collaborative classrooms, or how to donate visit the St. Edward School website at stedwardchicago.org/fund-a-need.

Thank you for your support!

February Welcome Wednesday

St. Edward School will host a Welcome Wednesday on February 5, for prospective families. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the main school building, 4343 W. Sunnyside. Meet our principal, teachers, and students! Sign-up at www.stedwardschool.com. Discover all that St. Edward School has to offer.

St. Edward School is a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon.

In 2020, St. Edward School & Parish celebrates 110 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. Before and after school care is available.

Please visit our website at stedwardschool.org or call us at 773-736-9133 for information. Our campus is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible to the Kennedy and Edens expressways, walking distance from the Blue Line, Metra station and the Montrose and Cicero Avenue bus lines.



St. Edward School

www.stedwardschool.com



WELCOME WEDNESDAY SCHOOL TOUR DATES

February 5, 2020

March 4, 2020

April 1, 2020

May 6, 2020

*Have a cup of coffee, tour the school, meet school staff and parents!
Sign up for a Welcome Wednesday tour at www.stedwardschool.com
or to schedule an individual tour, call the school office or send an email to
office@stedwardschool.com*

Explore all that St. Edward has to offer!

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Stay tuned for upcoming events at stviatorchicago.org or on our Facebook page. Twitter: @ChiViator & Instagram: @stvschoolchi.

Viator Vibrations — Stacey Stevens / Kris Nielsen

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week kicked off on January 25th with an open house and mass. There is a focus on service during Catholic Schools Week, with each grade level participating in a different service project. As part of Catholic Schools Week, several new members were inducted into the St. Viator chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, which is for students in grades 6-8 who demonstrate outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, and service. Congratulations to our new NJHS members!

Reading for Fun

St. Viator's "Battle of the Books" program, now its 4th year, had students in grades 3-6 participating in a Jeopardy-style team-based reading competition throughout January. Sixteen books were selected, and each student was responsible for reading at least four of them. Our reading specialist, Mrs. Wasielewski, the parent coaches, and the audience had a great time cheering on the students as they competed for the championship trophy based on their reading comprehension and memory skills.

Trivia Night

Test your mental mettle at the annual St. Viator trivia night on February 8th. Spaces are still available for individuals and teams, contact JFrank@SpencerStuart.com for tickets, and more information. Gym doors open at 6:30 p.m. Trivia 7-10 p.m., music until 11:30 p.m. Proceeds from this event will help pay for the 8th-grade class trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events at the gym (St. Viator Rec Center, 3644 N Kedvale) are open to the community.

Learn With Us Open House for Pre-K | February 12, 9-10:30 a.m. We are inviting all parents and children who are interested in 3 and 4-year-old preschool programs to our 'Learn With Us' day. Visit the classrooms while they are in session. You can talk to teachers and your child is welcome to interact with current students and participate in classroom activities. Please RSVP to Marge Tiritilli at mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org or 773-545-2173 x33.

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup | February 6 and 20, 9-10:30 a.m. This fun and FREE playgroup is for children ages newborn - 4 and their parents/caregivers. Open gym with balls, blocks, hula-hoops, and so much more!

Primary Gym | February 1 and 15, 8:30-10 a.m. Primary gym offers a relaxed yet active environment where children and parents can participate in basketball, baseball, scooters, floor hockey, parachutes, and more. Open to children ages 3 through 3rd grade. \$20 per family for the year.

OPEN REGISTRATION

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2019-2020 school year. Secure your spot early, as our Pre-K 3 & 4 classes fill up quickly. St. Viator Elementary School & Parish is a diverse and thriving community. Learn more by attending an event or taking a tour of the school. Contact us at 773-545-2173. Visit www.stviatorchicago.org



A Ministry in the Community — Robin Koptik, Artist in Residence at IPUMC

Irving Park United Methodist Church has stood the test of time for over a century. It has been a welcoming presence to people of all ethnicities, cultural affinities, backgrounds, sexual orientations—all who wish to be included in the Body of Christ. We welcome everyone wishing a sense of acceptance and belonging in a community of devotion and worship. People of every turn have come through its open doors, to be baptized, take the sacred vows of marriage, and learn what it means to be in communion with one another in Christ. Some congregants have spent their entire lives rooted in this incredible place. But the Church is more than a building—it is a people intent on living a life of fulfillment. And that life continues, much as it will in an unknown future, as we are still in covenant with God and one another, no matter the place.

On November 24 the last on-site service for the Irving Park United Methodist Church was held at 3801 N. Keeler. After the service a wonderful brunch was served in the basement. Following the brunch a decommissioning service was held, in which the keys were passed to the building's new owners, the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago, a spiritual community of diverse beliefs, with a rich heritage of its own. **Pastor Hope**

Chernich expressed gratitude over the fact the building is still being used as a religious site and is not slated for demolition. In the future, it will bear the name Home of Harmony, a place, likewise, welcoming all seekers of divine understanding.

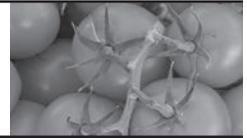
Pastor Hope and Pastor Lindsey also expressed gratitude to all in the community for their ongoing support. They invite people to stay connected on Facebook or on the webpage, "to see where God is leading us next in our mission to the community. In the New Year, we will begin looking for space to worship," Pastor Hope confides, as the Church's Launch Team embarks on its mission to find a permanent place to abide. It is, in a sense, a whole new process, which will bring great joy, re-planting the Church and restoring the exuberance of knowing we are still going strong. May the love and peace that surpasses all understanding be with you all and, again, many thanks for standing with us.

Please note our new mailing address: P.O.Box 411174, Chicago, IL 60641-1174.

Our other contact information remains the same: 773-283-6262; email, irvingparkumc@comcast.net. Visit www.irvingparkumc.com for updates and news.



The last on-site service for the Irving Park United Methodist Church was held on November 24. Members of the IPUMC community are pictured at left during the decommissioning service, which the keys to the building's were passed to the new owners, the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago



Calling All Broadway Musical Fans

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is pleased to present "Beloved Broadway," a review of popular tunes from Broadway musicals on Sunday, February 23. A quartet of vocalists from Music Theater Works will perform favorite songs from past Music Theater Works seasons under the direction of **Roger Bingaman**, Artistic Director of the Fine Arts Series, and Music Director at Music Theater Works. Fans of Broadway musicals won't want to miss this performance! The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., at 2 p.m. A reception with the



artists will follow the concert, hosted by the Fine Arts committee.

The final concert of the season will be held on April 26 with *Drums of Africa* performing an interactive demonstration. Concerts are free of charge, but donations are gladly welcomed.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series is in its 26th season of bringing high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is a program of Carlson Community Services, a non-profit serving the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766.

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Pantry's Holiday Program a Success

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Pantry's first Holiday program in our new home a big success! We provided 190 households (approx. 670 people) with the fixings for a holiday meal.

We distributed more than 240 toys to 105 families with children, along with a game or puzzle to each family, countless stocking stuffers, books, and hats and gloves. The generosity of our community ensured we had toys remaining, which were donated to the Magic After School Place run by Carlson Community Services and the Jesse Sherwood Elementary School in Englewood.

Thanks & Gratitude

Special thanks to long-term supporter **FDC Foundation**, which provided a grant of \$33,000 in 2019 to run programs and help with moving expenses.

We also received significant donations during the holiday season from **Faith United** (\$14,000) and the **Viatorians through St. Viator Catholic Church** (\$3,000).

We especially wish to thank the following organizations that hosted toy drop-off boxes: **Irving Park Lutheran Church, Irving Park YMCA, Oak Street Health, Old Irving Brewery Co., Portage Grounds, St. John's Episcopal Church, and Ward 45 Ald. Gardiner's office.**

Food drives helped at year's end, including those run by **International Christian Assembly of God, Pet Supplies Plus, Petco, Portage Park Elementary School, Jonathan Y. Scammon Public School** and **Wintrust Bank.**

Special thanks also to the **Indy Park Bluegrass Jam**



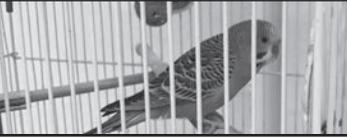
Volunteers, including Toy Room co-coordinator Sara Yoest (back row, right) prepare to greet clients and help them select toys for their children (up to 12 years old) during the Pantry's holiday program. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Band, which donated the \$700 in tips it made at the GIPNA Farmers Market this summer.

We also want to thank **Dorie Westmeyer**, who sponsors a "Lunch with Friends" from grade school (St. Joan of Arc), high school (Regina Dominican), college (Marquette University), work, and her neighborhood. Together they sponsored a five-member Pantry family, buying clothing and toys. The group has gathered for 35 years and has sponsored a Pantry family for about 17 years.

We appreciate all of the volunteers who helped with the Monday setup and Wednesday distribution, plus all who donated to the program. Together, you helped brighten the holiday season for hundreds of our neighbors and ensured we continue to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

*Article submitted by Craig Shutt. John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry
3801 N. Keeler Ave., Chicago IL 60641 | e-mail: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, Web: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.*



New Furry Friends Delight Students

Exciting things are happening at Gateway Montessori. The Elementary Guide (teacher) went to visit a family farm in Elizabeth, Illinois, and returned with two bunnies. The bunnies are sisters from a different litter. The older rabbit is one year old, and almost all gray, and the younger bunny, born in September, is white with gray and brown markings.

Maria Montessori had animals in her first classroom in Italy in 1907. "It's interesting to observe their behavior," said one of the children, of course, they're cute and fuzzy, and "it's nice to have a pet in the classroom," said another child, but "you get a new set of responsibilities, and you learn more about rabbits."

The whole class helps to take care of the bunnies, including changing their bedding, cleaning their

cage, and feeding. The class pets include a three-year-old Betta Fish named 'Dale the Veiltailed Male' and a recent addition earlier this year, a Parakeet named after Maria Montessori's son, 'Mario.' The bunnies don't yet have names, but several children made suggestions such as Charlotte, Angel, Snowball, Chocolate Chip, and of course, Cotton Tail. When asked what other animals the children would like to have in their class, they suggested a chameleon, snake, squirrel monkey, prairie dog, or a cat, but "not a kangaroo, because they punch."

If you would like to know more about the importance of animals in the Montessori classroom, please call our school, 773-539-3025, or visit www.gatewaymontessorischool.org.



CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

**General
Submissions:**
First Thursday
of the month

February

-
- 1 Independence Park Library | **Getting Started: Home Organization Workshop with Jen Knox, Professional Organizer** | 10–11 a.m. | 4024 N. Elston Ave.
-
- 4 Schurz High School | 12 p.m. | Immigration Clinic
-
- 10 OIPA General Member Meeting | 7:30 p.m. | St John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N Kostner Ave.
-
- 23 Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents **Beloved Broadway** | 2:00 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., Free Admission, Reception Follows
www.carlsoncommunityservices.org
-



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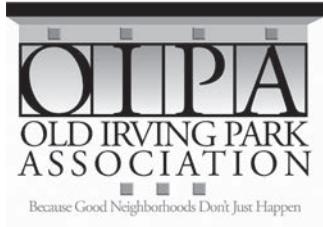
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Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online membership form at www.olderirvingpark.com/join-us If you don't have access to our online membership form, please complete the form below.

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).

NAME (FIRST/LAST) BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

SPOUSE/PARTNER NAME (FIRST/LAST) BIRTHDAY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
 expire August 31 and are due by September 1.
 Membership dues received after May 1 will be applied to the following year membership.

MEMBERSHIP DUES (per household)

Membership Benefits: Monthly meetings, hand delivered paper newsletter, member/spouse birthday and anniversary published in newsletter, ice-cream social, holiday dinner

- \$25/year Standard – \$15/year Standard Seniors (age 65+)
- \$75 Good Neighbor: Standard membership plus — name(s) and birthday(s) of your child(ren) and/or pet in newsletter, and an OIPA Tote Bag.
- \$150 Neighborhood All-Star: Good Neighbor membership plus — admission for two to an exclusive cocktail OIPA party.
- Add \$17/year for OIPA NEWSLETTER deliveries out of boundaries. (Boundaries: South of Montrose, North of Addison, West of Pulaski & East of Milwaukee District North railroad tracks adjacent to Kilbourn/Kolmar)

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 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 Meredith O'Sullivan, OIPA Director / Membership, 4061 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: Old Irving Park Association **OR** join/renew online: olderirvingpark.com/join-us

Contribute to the OIPA News | SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All members are welcome to submit letters, photos, and articles for publication. Ten newsletters are produced annually (newsletters are not published in the months of January and July). We extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who continue to submit articles, photos and purchases ad space for the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

General Submissions | Community Calendar, Articles & Photos

- Please send articles and calendar items as a Word document, in an email or Google doc. Document should include the author's name, company or organization (if applicable) and contact information.
- 400 words maximum without photos, 300/325 with photos.
- Submissions as Links to websites or Facebook are NOT accepted.
- Articles should be information-based and should not contain advertorial content. Bylined articles should be written in third-person, unless the submission is an opinion piece or a personal story. Byline includes the author's name, business name and contact info.
- Photos and images should be provided as separate files. We cannot use photos or images that are embedded in a document.
- Photos should be accompanied with photographer credit and a caption(s). If submitting photos for an article, please include captions and photo credits in the same document as your article.
- If your files are too large to email, please use <https://wetransfer.com>. You can send several files at a time using wetransfer.
- The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Information printed in the newsletter may be reproduced with Old Irving Park Association cited as the source. Opinions in this publication do not necessary reflect the official position of the Old Irving Park Association.

Advertising Submissions

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

Submission Deadlines

- **Advertising:** First Tuesday of the month by 5 p.m.
- **General Submissions:** First Thursday of the month by 5 p.m.
- **Materials SUBMITTED AFTER** the deadline date will be held over to the next month's issue.
- **Send your contributions to:** Kathleen Kearns at k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com. Please include "OIPA submission" in the subject line of the email. Also include the category of the item you are submitting —advertisement, article or community calendar.



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