

OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



MARCH

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JAIME



ANDRADE

Illinois State Representative • 40th District

Staterep40@gmail.com • (773) 267-2880

District Office 3007 W. Irving Park Rd, Suite A-Front Office



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



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.

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Cover: Photo by Kathleen Kearns

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Next Level Recycling – Lynn Ankney

By now, everyone knows the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” I’m hopeful that we all use the Chicago blue bin recycling system for the typical household items we discard on a daily basis: paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum, and most plastic—except #6; We remember it in our household with the reminder “nix six.”

But what about the unusual stuff that doesn’t feel quite right to throw in the trash, but doesn’t qualify for the city’s recycling pickup? Here’s a list of recycling drop-off locations for trash no-no’s and recycling “yes, but with a little more effort on your part” items.

The Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility

1150 N. Branch Street (Exit Division and you’ll find it two blocks east of the Kennedy)

Hours: Tuesdays (7 a.m.–Noon); Thursdays (2 – 7 p.m.); first Saturday of every month (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Electronics: TV, computer, keyboard/mice, printer, fax, scanner, VCR, DVD, cable/satellite receivers, video game consoles, music players (mp3 players, iPods, etc.)

Chemicals: household chemicals (bleach, drain cleaners, etc.), batteries, oil-based paints, solvents (stains, paint strippers, sealers), compact fluorescent light bulbs, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, auto fluids, herbicides, pesticides and insecticides, propane tanks for BBQ grills, aerosol cans, mercury (thermometers, switches, thermostats), small fire extinguishers.

The following items **are not** accepted at the Branch Street facility: See information below the list for alternate recycling options for many of these items:

- Alkaline batteries
- Fireworks
- Paint (latex acrylic and water-based)
- Controlled substances/narcotics
- Smoke or carbon monoxide detectors
- Household appliances (microwaves
- Toasters
- Coffee makers
- Stoves
- Refrigerators
- Washer & dryers
- Air conditioners, humidifiers & dehumidifiers etc.
- Blenders
- Medical waste (such as sharps needles, lancets, bio-hazards)
- Vacuum cleaners
- Films, reels, cd’s, dvd’s, videotapes, cassette tapes, etc.
- Answering machines
- Calculators
- Digital cameras & video cameras
- Paper shredders
- Power tools
- Print cartridges
- Stereo equipment
- Telephones
- Typewriters.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Best Buy: Accepts many items not accepted by North Branch above, including appliances, vacuums, ink/toner and cameras

Nearest locations: 2100 N Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60614
5425 Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077

Visit www.bestbuy.com and type in "recycling" in the search bar in the upper left corner of the homepage for a complete list and recycling guidelines.

Walgreens: Prescription and over-the-counter medications. Walgreens safe medication disposal kiosks allow individuals to safely and conveniently dispose of their unwanted, unused or expired prescriptions, including controlled substances, and over-the-counter medications. The kiosks at Walgreens pharmacies are available during regular pharmacy hours.

Do you have unwanted stuff not listed above? Two websites may help:

- Use the **Illinois EPA website** to double-check disposal and recycling guidelines—especially as recommendations and laws change. Visit www2.illinois.gov/epa/ and select "Land Pollution & Waste Disposal" under the Citizen drop-down list.
- The **Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County** has a comprehensive, searchable recycling directory. You can visit www.swancc.org/ and click on "Recycling Directory."

If you have some other recycling options, shoot us an e-mail at oldirvingparkassn@yahoo.com, and we'll share your ideas in a future issue of the Old Irving Park News or on the OIPA Facebook page or e-mail blast.

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2019 SALES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

February 3, 2020 – Annie Swingen, Vice-President and far less loquacious than OIPA Secretary Bart Goldberg

Attendees: Lynn Ankney, Adrienne Chan, Colleen Kenny, Merry Marwig, Meredith O'Sullivan, Anna Sobor and Annie Swingen

The Board meeting commenced at 8:23 PM; the late start time was due to an exceptionally thorough and interesting tour of Meta Wine's new space located at 4300 West Montrose Ave.

Treasurer's Report:

Lynn Ankney presented the January financial report which was unanimously approved by the Board. High-fives to UpBeat Music and Arts, Belding and Scammon elementary schools and YMCA for their donation thank you notes; you'd make your respective mothers proud.

Membership:

Meredith O'Sullivan reported on our current membership figures, there have been no substantial changes as compared to December 2019.

Report on Board Projects:

- Merry Marwig reported on quotes collected for OIPA yard signage. We will continue to gather information and submit designs for garden signs to be disseminated to OIPA members interested in showing their love for the 'hood.
- Annie Swingen confirmed "membership reminders" sent out to 2019 members who "may have forgotten" to renew their membership.



Old Irving Park Association Treasurer **Lynn Ankney** stopped by the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in January to drop off the group's annual donation, see the Pantry's new space and learn about upcoming programs from Executive Director **John Psiharis**.

Photo by Craig Shutt



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

• Lynn Ankney reported on the confirmed funding of metal “Old Irving Park” signs via Ald. Samantha Nugent’s office for a streetscaping project along Irving Park Road. Additional details provided at the general meeting.

Other discussion:

The Board also discussed upcoming general meeting topics including March’s “New Business Introductions” and the general desire to support local business and encourage economic development as well as April’s general meeting all about saving those birds and bees via planting pollinator gardens.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

OIPA GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2020 ✦ 7:30 p.m.

St. John’s Episcopal Church
3857 N. Kostner

Please check our website or e-blasts for details.



Stephanie Cutter



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FREE DOWNSIZING SEMINAR!

Moving from a home you have lived in for decades can be overwhelming. Join us to learn about the process and hear from others who have been through it!

Speakers to include:

- Dawson Relocation
- Stephanie Cutter
- Local Residents who have recently downsized

Saturday, May 2nd, 2020

2:00-4:00pm

3644 N Kedvale Ave
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Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 10, 2020 – Bart Goldberg, Secretary

The “This Whole Meeting is Out of Order!” Meeting: To paraphrase the great Al Pacino in “And Justice For All,” while our meeting was highly informative and entertaining, he would not have been wrong to scream “You’re out of order! You’re out of Order! This whole meeting is out of order.” Since I like to think that I do more than simply report the facts, I feel an obligation to analyze the root causes behind the chaos. As a result, I submit the following multiple choice question:

Question: Why did our normally well-choreographed meeting veer from course as if it had no rudder, as if there was no such thing as a beginning, middle, and an end?

Possible Answers:

- (A) Because President Chan was able to attend only for the first 30 minutes due to other pressing requirements, leaving former President Lynn Ankney to try and control the throngs in her stead;
- (B) Because the nice people from Meta Wine brought along some of their libations to share and the room may have been a little buzzed;
- (C) Because we were simply out of practice after going a couple of months without a meeting due to the holidays;
- (D) Because we had many special guests drop in (see below) and their schedules had to be accommodated;
- (E) All of the above.

Ding, ding, ding if you answered “E”.

Attendance, and Commencement of Meeting: In front of approximately 60 OIP’ers, President Chan called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. This was impressively prompt as people were still milling around enjoying the liquid refreshment that Meta Wine had brought along. I heard a couple of regulars discuss whether or not it was good manners to grab a second glass before settling down, and then deciding that it was. Normally, our President would have greeted newcomers and discussed recent developments at this time, but due to the presence of both of our Aldermen (and knowing that each needed to get to other engagements) she yielded the floor to them.

Alderman Samantha Nugent (39th Ward): Alderman Nugent came by to share some very exciting news with us, namely that she had succeeded in gaining approval and funding for some gorgeous new permanent metal signs for our community. She had informed us a few months ago that there might be a way to obtain funding if all parties acted quickly to move on this project to obtain the signs, and since that time she had been working with CDOT, and PEBA (the Pulaksi Elston Business Association) and OIPA to do so. She announced at the meeting that she had approval for ten of these rather pricey signs that will be placed on light poles (probably five on each side of the street between Kildare and Kostner). We were involved in their design, and they will be purple with six arch-shaped cut-outs and they will say “Old Irving Park.” They should really provide some gravitas and landmarking for “downtown” Old Irving Park. We know that Alderman Nugent really fought for this, and we are very appreciative.



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Alderman Jim Gardiner (45th Ward): Next up was Alderman Gardiner and he really had big news for us as well. But initially he introduced his **Ward Superintendent, Charles Sikanich**, and stressed that he was the man to contact when we were in need of City services in our ward. Nice to know! He then proceeded to discuss the progress he has been making with regards to the major issues regarding our neighborhood and the Six Corners area. He briefly discussed the revised plans that he is now supporting for the development at the former Sears site, which will include 421 apartments, 13 townhomes, a health club and ground floor retail shops. More information about it can be seen on the 45th Ward website. He then talked about a meeting that he has scheduled to show the community the revised plans for the building known as "The Point." That meeting will have

occurred when you read this, and I would imagine that you will be able to get the details about this on the website as well. This was particularly good news for the community as it would probably be fair to say that there has been growing unrest here about what has been not so fondly referred to as "The Hole". That hole has existed since 2014 and has been the bane of both our prior Alderman and this one as well; particularly when Alderman Gardiner did not approve of the initial proposed development that had contained senior living and retail. While he did not share the details with us at this meeting, it was clear that there is now a revised project that still contains senior living and retail (and

Continued on page 8



Alderman Gardiner discussed the development plans for the former Sears site with OIPA members.

Photo by Kathleen Kearns

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scarlet, they

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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



General Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 7*

presumably with the same developer]. He stressed that after he had turned down the earlier proposal that negotiations continued with the developer, and that the new plan that will be revealed is more to his liking and well worth the relatively slight delay. The Alderman was quite proud of this, and it does sound very exciting. He also mentioned that the combination of senior living on one of the corners at Six Corner and a large apartment complex on another, with retail on both sides should really make a nice synergy and go a long way towards the revival of Six Corners. He also mentioned that his personal goal was to bring one half of a billion dollars of new development to the area during his first term and that with these two projects (the combined cost is about 330 million) he is already over half way there, and that all of it is being privately funded so as not to require government assistance or tax benefits.

The Alderman also shared news concerning the Irving Cicero TIF (tax increment financing) district. The Alderman had been working hard to spend the funds (approximately 1.5 million) that are in the Irving Cicero TIF ever since his election. This TIF was created many years ago and it has been receiving a portion of the real estate taxes in the small area within that TIF. The rules concerning TIF's provide that if the money is not spent (meaning actually used on a construction project, as opposed to just being allocated or planned) by a certain date (within 23 years from its creation which is the end of this year for this TIF) then the money is forfeited from the TIF and transferred to the general City funds. So it must be used by the end of this year, or our community forever loses the benefit of the money that was placed into this TIF out of our tax dollars. The rules also provide that the money must be spent on projects that are geographically within the



OIPA President Adrienne Chan (back row, third from left) attended the 39th Ward Civic Leader breakfast with Mayor Lightfoot and Commissioner Cox, hosted by Alderman Sam Nugent on January 30.

Photo courtesy of Alderman Sam Nugent



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

boundaries of the TIF. That is the real problem as the area contained in the TIF is small and a large part of it is in the parking lot at Jewel.

The Alderman announced a plan for infrastructure and beautification improvements in the area that roughly makes a triangle bounded by Cicero Avenue, Irving Park Road, and Belle Plaine Avenue. Within that area there will be improved lighting (LED with humpback lights for the sidewalks), wider crosswalks, new streets and alleys, alley aprons, and sitting areas. It will also include brick pavers with lighting to connect the new development on the Sears site across Cicero at Cuyler, and then over to Milwaukee Avenue, so that people will be able to walk to businesses on Milwaukee more easily. The cost of this work will be about three million and it is being paid partly from the above TIF and partly from the Portage Park TIF (which is even larger both geographically and in terms of funding, and has to be spent by the next year). I am afraid to describe it further as it all gets rather complicated, but the point is that the Alderman is doing everything he can to make sure that these funds are not lost for our community. This was also good news and we thank both of our Aldermen for attending and sharing these with us.

Announcements: President Chan told us about a great event where she had recently been a participant. Alderman Nugent had invited her to attend a 39th Ward Civic Association Meeting that would feature Mayor Lori Lightfoot. The Mayor spoke with them about two new initiatives in particular. One concerned new procedures being implemented at the Department of Planning and Development. Certain large developments must be reviewed and approved by the Plan Commission, before being sent to the City Council for final approval. The new rules would

require that the plans be posted on line 15 days before the initial meeting of the Plan Commission, thereby providing greater transparency. This process is after the project has been vetted by local aldermen. The other initiative concerned the creation of the new Office of Public Safety Administration. This will be an umbrella organization that will contain the police, fire and emergency departments. By combining certain administrative functions it is hoped that there will be new efficiencies and decreased costs that will allow 151 officers to be moved back on to the streets.

Continued on page 10

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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



General Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 9*

President Chan then turned over the podium to Ex-President Lynn Ankney, to fill in for her for the rest of the meeting. Visibly thrilled to once again be in charge, and knowing that the audience had been patiently waiting to hear from the Meta Wine people, she started to introduce them. Then a loud voice seemingly emanating from the otherwise demure Anna Sobor started channeling her inner Al Pacino by yelling "You're out of Order! You're out of Order. The Census presentation is next!". Since we have no security at our meetings, Lynn realized that she had to back down and let Anna take the floor. In fairness to Anna, this order had been set by email earlier in the day and Lynn had failed to "read the memo".

Anna Sobor – US Census Presentation: Anna spoke briefly to tell us about a vital subject for the health of our government, that being the US Census. She is



Anna Sobor outlines the benefits and importance of the US Census.

Photo by Kathleen Kearns

a recruiter for the Census Bureau (with an official government ID) and is looking to find people to take part time jobs helping to take the 2020 census. The job pays a very nice wage in the amount of \$29.50 per hour. You can work as little as 8 hours per week or as much as 40 hours. The census is a vital project, and is extremely important for our area since urban areas are historically undercounted for reasons such as the homeless or families living in apartments that the census taker finds hard to access. Some people intentionally evade the census taker because they fear that the information is going to be used by the Government against them. Fortunately, such retribution will not happen. This undercounting leads to two major negative consequences for us. The first is that when allocating seats in Congress or even in Springfield the people of Chicago are under-represented, and as a result we have less power. The second is that the federal government bases the funding it provides to states on their population. It has been estimated the US government pays the states about \$1,500 per person per year. As a result, a single person who is not being counted costs our state about \$15,000 in government services during the ten year term of the census. This is terribly ironic. The very people that most need the social services being provided by government do not receive as much as they otherwise could because they are not being counted in the census.

Please contact Anna at masobor@yahoo.com to make some very nice money while working for a good cause. Lynn then started to again introduce Meta Wine, when she was interrupted once again.



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Representative Jamie Andrade (40th District):

Representative Andrade and his trusty assistant, Eddie, entered the room, apparently straight out of a coal mine, as they were wearing matching vests with yellow reflector stripes and were sporting high-beam headlights strapped to their heads.

When Representative Andrade got out of his gear he came to the podium to tell us some exciting news concerning improvements to our local blue line stops. The first thing that he mentioned was pigeon abatement as he knows that solving this old problem is a real priority in this neighborhood. While working on other long term solutions Rep Andrade has been paying Eddie out of his personal campaign account to regularly clean the concrete around the Irving Park Blue Line Station, and it has made a considerable

difference. (At this point I was thinking that the reason for their mining outfits was because they had been out working on the pigeon mess this evening, but I was wrong, as it turns out that this is just how

Straight from working with his team, Representative Jamie Andrade (40th District) gave an overview of work to date on the Blue Line Station.

Photo by Kathleen Kearns



Continued on page 12

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OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



General Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 11*

they dress when they are knocking on doors at night during campaign season). The main thing that our Representative wanted us to know was that he was able to get the state legislature to pass a bill in August providing for Six Million Dollars to be used for improvements to our Blue Line Stations. The biggest part of the work will include the installation of two new heavy duty escalators. One will be on Pulaski (where there have been only stairs in recent years) and the other on Irving Park Road, where there is an escalator that is usually out of order. The leaking roof to that station will also be repaired since rain water falling on the old escalator contributed to why it did not work. It will also include improved lighting, and the installation of three water connectors onto Irving Park Road, which will mean that Eddie will be able to finally use a power washer when cleaning out the area. Representative Andrade also told me that he hopes to pass a trailer bill in the new session that will allow funding for additional methods of pigeon abatement. Well done Representative Andrade!

Featured Speakers - Meta Wine: Finally, Lynn was able to introduce us to Walter, Jen and Peter from Meta Wine. Walter Clements is the founder of this very novel business opening soon in our neighborhood. It is located at 4300 W. Montrose which was the site of a carpet distributor for the last generation. It is a gorgeous old building with 30 foot ceilings and huge windows that was originally the site of an ice house. Meta Wine will be selling fine wines that they have bought in bulk from some of the best wine producing regions in the world. Tasty little morsels like a Cabernet Sauvignon from Yakima Valley Washington or a Sauvignon blanc from the northern coast of



Walter Clements, founder and CEO of Meta Wine. (left), and Jennifer Crowley, general manager, serve samples of their offerings to the delight of OIPA members.

Photo by Kathleen Kearns

California. When I say in bulk, they buy in 1,000 liter allotments (about 250 gallons for us Americans). They then sell the wine from their vats to be placed in bottles or containers as desired by the customer. They will initially sell to restaurants who can in turn sell it as a wine by the glass. They will also sell to the general public. Customers can bring their own bottles back as they encourage recycling, and the wine will either be capped or corked for them. People can also order their own private labels and Meta Wine makes the labels for them so that they can have their own brands, which are often intended for special occasions (whereas my wife may want to buy some where the label simply says "water").

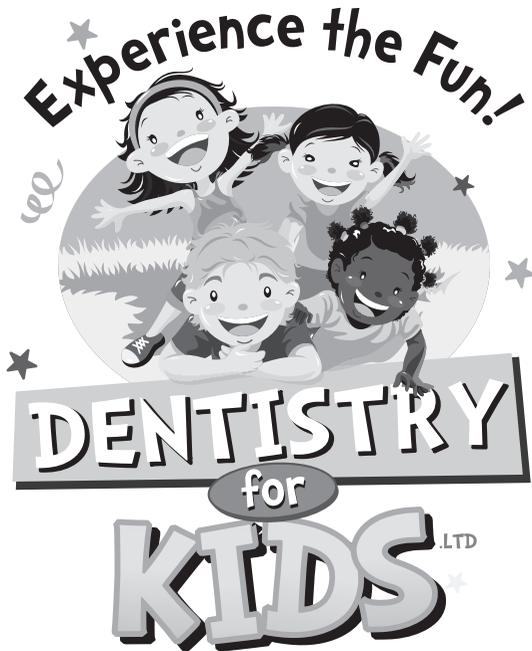


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

They expect to open to the public in about four months. However, they are also planning an additional tasting room that they hope to have opened at the end of the year. The space will be available for private parties, and since it is so large (14,500 square feet) they also hope to have a recreation room theme where people can play various activities when visiting. They have received some very good media coverage for their unique idea, that being the sale of wine in bulk at more affordable prices, with a fun (not snooty) vibe. They may well be the beer guys of wine. They have signed a 20 year lease so they are in for the long haul. They pledged to be good neighbors with hours that

will not go late into the night. They have a parking lot that holds 20 and will offer valet service when they have events. They will be applying for a public place of amusement license to give them greater flexibility in hosting special events. Very exciting. Good luck and thanks for bringing the wine!

Next Meeting: It will be on March 9, 2020 at St. John's at 7:30 p.m. and we will be featuring new local businesses. Please check our website or e-blasts for details. See you there!



Dr. Kirk Kollmann Dr. Cissy Furusho

Let's make it a Children's Dental Health Year!

Dentistry for Kids, Ltd. visited several schools in the area during the month of February, Children's Dental Health Month, to provide dental health education.

We hope you make it a Children's Dental Health Year and encourage your families to be health conscious every day of the year!

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OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



March Anniversaries

- 6 Cindy & Karl Kuhn
- 10 Patricia & Scott Gustafson
- 28 Denise & Curtis Giszczynski
- 29 Cathey Curley & Andrius Markvaldas
- 29 John & Debbie Cook
- 29 Kelly & Casey Williams

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.

March Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Anne Gruber | 14 Kim Danahy | 25 Janine Kostelny |
| 2 Dipeshwar Grewal | 15 Tonnia Koehler | 25 John Buss |
| 2 Karen Fitzgerald | 17 Eloise Kick | 26 Tom Jezuit |
| 2 Nala Palmieri | 18 Beth Valukas | 27 Steve Poskus |
| 4 Staja Szukala | 20 Eileen Stern | 29 Alisun DeKock |
| 5 Jacob Wilkoff | 20 Geoff Reu | 30 Dan Jacobs |
| 5 Phuong Johnston | 20 Steve Sonberg | 30 Victoria Ross |
| 6 Ally Skoog-Hoffman | 21 Olivier Lopez | 31 Phoebe Craig |
| 7 Jennifer Groszek | 22 Diane Discher | 31 Vanessa Reu |
| 8 Carlos Eguis-Aguila | 22 John Mueller | |
| 8 Lisa Yeadon | 22 Raymond Wachala | |
| 9 Frank W Nagorka | 23 Karl Kuhn | |
| 9 Valerie Ginnan | 24 Josh Davis | |
| 10 Emily Coakley | 24 Vilmar Arias | |
| 13 Richard Slosarski | 25 Cindy Kuhn | |

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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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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 the Super Bowl that signals the start to the Chicago's Spring Market! 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
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Photo by Jeffrey Hamilton
on Unsplash

Think Outside the Phlox — Claudia Hine

The Irving Park Garden Club will begin its 2020 season with a presentation by Nina Koziol entitled “The Artful Gardener: Breathing New Life into Your Garden.” Koziol has taught at the Chicago Botanic Garden and The Morton Arboretum since 1997 and has written for the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicagoland Gardening* magazine.

This program will look at public and private gardens (and their creators) — from the quirky and magical to the elegant and innovative — and the plants and garden art within them. If you need inspiration, this program is for you.

Time To Renew

This presentation takes place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 3827 N. Kostner Ave. (use Byron St. entrance). As March is the beginning of our new season, all garden club memberships are up for renewal at this meeting. Annual dues are just \$20/household. New members are always welcome.

Dave Is Sharp, a tool-sharpening service, will be parked outside the church that morning. Dave will be available to attendees that need their garden tools (or knives) sharpened. OIPA members are invited to take advantage of this service as well. Prices vary.

Also at our March meeting, the garden club’s planters on Irving Park Rd. will be “put up for adoption.” Members will ensure they are planted and watered during the season.

We’re the Irving Park Garden Club. We like to dine, drink, and dig. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/IrvingParkGardenClub) or contact me at claudiahine@icloud.com.



Nina Koziol will show members of the Irving Park Garden Club how to “color outside the lines” at the March 21 meeting. *Photo courtesy Nina Koziol.*



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

Our 30th Year

Plans for our 2020 season include presentations on climate change, worm composting, and creating a bird oasis. We'll hold a plant exchange, planter adoption, nursery field trip, midsummer night stroll, hands-on class, and our popular garden walk.

As our club had its beginning in 1990, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year. As a special event, the IPGC board is planning a guided tour of the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park. Date and details are still to be determined.

We're ready for spring. Hope you'll join us.



Let us lead you down *your* garden path.

Be ready for warmer weather with our signature Spring Clean Up service

Anne Roberts Gardens has been helping create gorgeous gardens in Old Irving Park for over 20 years – and we are getting ready to dig in again this year. Whether you're dreaming of **landscape design**, a **stone or paver patio and walkways**, a **rain garden**, **native pollinator garden**, **vegetable garden** or even **storm water management**, let Anne and her team get to work – so you can enjoy your dream garden.

Get in touch today – mention this ad to receive your initial design at no cost. See all of the possibilities at **AnneRobertsGardens.com**, or call **773.777.7064**.

4414 N. Kenneth Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630





IT'S SPRING - LET'S GET ORGANIZED!

– Debby Fries

Spring cleaning was on the top of my mind—I was ready to get organized, although the thought of it was overwhelming. Where do I start first? Luckily I got the answer when I attended a “Control the Clutter” workshop at the Independence Park Library led by Jen Knox long-time Old Irving Park resident and owner of Get Neat Get Knox.

Jen illustrated different ways to contain a family's every-day chaos, create routines for smoother daily schedules. And for those with children, she discussed how to engage them so they can participate in the organization process too.

Jen also outlined what to expect if you decide hire a professional organizer. She starts with a consultation to get to know you, talks through what works and what isn't working in your homes. Jen identifies challenging areas and makes suggestions about where to start—often with high-traffic drop zones, such as kitchens or entryways—that cause stress or anxiety. After the workshop, I was so ready to get organized, and Jen was the answer to getting it done.

Overall the process was cathartic. I gave away garbage bags full of items that were taking up space and finally organized my home, systematic way. Jen's approach worked because she favors function

above all else. She made sure that all the organizational systems we put in place were ones I could keep up on my own.

She worked with me on my kitchen cabinet and closet overhauls, as well as a complete basement, declutter and repurpose. She recommended containers, bins, and shelving systems to optimize my space. I expressed that I wanted to donate and possibly sell a few things. Jen had a list of resources to donate, sell, or haul items away!

I would have never been able to organize my home as efficiently or effectively without the help of a professional organizer, and I certainly wouldn't have thought of many of the storage solutions that I ultimately used. My only regret is that I didn't find Jen Knox sooner.

If you're procrastinating or feeling overwhelmed about where or how to start your spring cleaning or organizing project, I highly recommend hiring a home organizer. Why not one of our very own OIP neighbors. Jen Knox is a professional member of the National Association of Productivity and Organization Professionals (NAP0) and is fully insured. GetNeatGetKnox@gmail.com, getneat-getknox.com, 312-961-7928. *Photo courtesy of Jen Knox.*



Photo by Jason Leung on Unsplash



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Keeler Gardens to Present at the 2020 Chicago Flower & Garden Show – Gina Iliopoulos

Join Keeler Gardens on Saturday, March 21, 2020 as we present on three different topics at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, all connecting you with nature.



“Connect with Nature: Exploring Nature Play and Its Benefits” Garden Stage 1 at 4:30 p.m.

And if you are interested in how our youth can benefit from more time in nature, Ed will talk about nature play and its exceptional benefits to the development of foundational skills in young children.



Many of us have watched the Chicago Flower and Garden Show evolve and become a unique combination of green living, art, and inspiration. This show is truly geared to the city, with displays on urban agriculture, city gardening, and green-themed event décor. You can see flowers in many garden settings and demonstrations, the photography competition, food demonstrations, and kid’s activities, too. There are a myriad of themes on display, presentations to take in, and creative design endeavors. The show runs from Wednesday, March 18 to Sunday, March 22, 2020.

Stay tuned to Facebook and Instagram, @KeelerGardens, for a coupon code for your tickets to the show.

Keeler Gardens is a 501(c)(3) improving the health and sustainability of urban community life through environmental experiences and building a connection to nature. Visit us at KeelerGardens.com.

“Building a Pollinator Habitat” Garden Stage 3 at 1:00 p.m.

Do you want to build a pollinator habitat?

Gina will walk you through the basic steps, even get you started with a worksheet to guide you in your planning. The image-based presentation follows Keeler Gardens through the production of our habitat to inspire you to build your own.

“Focus on Flowers with Your Mobile Device: Digital Photography in the Garden” Garden Stage 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Do you just like looking at all the displays, but don't want to get to get your hands dirty? Ed will connect you with nature via your smartphone, directing you on capturing special images, with a professional touch. He'll also show you where and how to share them on social media, specifically garden community platforms.



Pantry Sets Trivia Night for March 21!

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has set March 21 for its first annual Trivia Night fund-raiser! It will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church's gym at 4057 N Harding. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the competition begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$200 for a table of eight in advance or \$30 for individuals at the door. For information, to register and payment options, email info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org or our Facebook page.

Easter Donations Needed

The Pantry will give Easter baskets to clients' children from March 10 to April 8 (before Easter, April 12). We are looking for donations of dollar-store Easter baskets, plastic eggs (empty or filled), wrapped candies, candy bars, and small toys.

Bring donations to the Pantry from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday; from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on February 11 and March 10 or any time at the bin on the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. You can also order from our Amazon Wish List and have items delivered to the Pantry. For a link, see the Pantry's Facebook page. If you have questions or have a group that would like to put together baskets, email craigshutt@gmail.com.

FDC Provides Grant

The Pantry was awarded a grant of \$33,000 for 2020 from the FDC Foundation. The FDC Foundation grant continues funding for our "Fresh Foods for Better Health" effort and the Client Resources Coordinator position. Thank you to Grant Writer **Cathy Foster** for



Volunteers prepared more than 200 baskets last year. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

her work on the documentation and to **Bookkeeper Lisa Albrecht, Treasurer Steve Slaber, Office Manager Gayle Christensen**, and volunteer **Gloria Price** for help in preparing, assembling and submitting the grant.

Gratitude We appreciate all of the support from everyone who helps us meet our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!" Recent donors were:

- The **Old Irving Park Association (OIPA)**, which made its annual donation to the Pantry in January.
- The **Dinham and Clausen families**. The kids sold handmade ornaments to benefit the Pantry and sent us \$54 from their sale.
- **T&D Electrical** (3344 W. Irving Park Rd.), which ran a drive for us in December that included food, toiletries, and men's socks.

*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.*



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



Belding students danced through the decades in this year's 3rd annual dance showcase. On January 30 and 31, students in grades K-8 proudly displayed the super techniques they have been studying during their weekly dance class. Led by Belding's fantastic dance instructor, Kelly McCann, each grade performed a piece showcasing the various genres they have learned during the first semester of the school year. Additionally, each dance was also set to music from different decades, starting from the '40s and moving through modern times. Highlights of the show include Broadway, ballet, hip hop, and modern dance, with the spotlight being the Belding 7th-grade students showing off impressive tap-dancing skills. | *Photo courtesy of Belding School*

STEAM Night

One of Belding's favorite family events is back with a new twist. Math and Science teachers are teaming up to bring all kinds of hands-on STEAM activities to students. The event will be on March 12 from 6:00-7:30 p.m., there is no cost to attend. In addition to traditional science activities (slime anyone?), students can also choose from math art, math games, and math obstacle courses. Students are always excited and enthusiastic about learning important math and science concepts while having a great time! Don't miss this fun evening of learning through exploration!

Tour Our School

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

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers school tours for prospective parents. A school tour is an excellent opportunity to see Belding teachers and students in action and to learn more about our school. Upcoming tour dates include March 10, April 14, May 12, and May 26. Tours begin at 8:00 a.m. in the school office.



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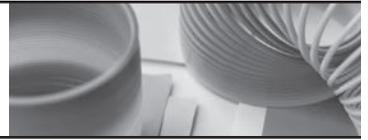
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Huskies Headlines — Giovanni Toledo



Math Team Continues to Make Scammon Proud!

Scammon students continued their involvement this year in the Chicago Junior Mathematics League (CJML). This year's second math competition was hosted at the selective enrollment school, Lane Tech. The 8th-grade team placed 1st in their division at Lane Tech and 2nd place city-wide! In addition to the team results, four students placed in the top five for their scores during this competition. We are incredibly proud of the work the students and teachers are doing, as they encompass the level of academic rigor happening at our school.

A Unified Vision – ILT Focus

The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) at Scammon School was busy creating a new vision for the school. After weeks of work that sought to include staff-wide input and feedback, as well as guidance from our Local School Council (LSC), the team is extremely proud of the vision that was crafted. Our next step is to identify ways all staff and students will embody the vision in the school. The next meeting will be an exciting one as we begin to make this vision, something exemplified throughout the culture of the school.

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

Twitter @ScammonSchool

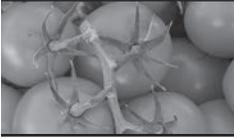
Facebook Scammon School

Movies at Scammon – More Than Just a Movie Night

Our family movie night this past month continues our mission to be not just a school but a community hub. This PAC sponsored event hosted 150 people (students and parents) who enjoyed a communal movie. We are looking forward to our next event and continued efforts to engage our community.

ESL Classes Continue

The partnership between Wilbur Wright College and Scammon School continues this spring semester with adult ESL classes. We are happy to foster a culture of learning for members of the community. And to count ourselves among the institutions offering classes for adult learning.



World Beat Percussion Trio to Perform

The World Beat Percussion Trio will perform an interactive concert on Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church (4100 N. Harding Ave.). Concerts are free of charge, but donations are gladly welcomed. Free Admission, Reception follows For info visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org

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.



From left are: World Beat Percussion Trio—Jeff Handley, Tina Laughlin, and Brandon Podjasek

OIPA MEMBERS, WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS!

- Do you have any fun meeting topics or desired guest speaker requests?
- What will pull you away from home on a Monday night?
- A couple of topics to consider are: cool stuff you found during a renovation, bullet journaling in the digital age, and urban farming, composting and chicken keeping.

If you are interested in a topic, chances are others will be too.

Send ideas to oldirvingparkassn@yahoo.com.



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St. Edward Scoop

– Margaret Hemma, Communications/Development



St. Edward's alumni are invited to the Big Red Bash on Saturday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. at Iron Horse Ale House at 6158 N. Northwest Highway. Dinner, open bar, silent and live auctions, and raffles! Celebrate St. Edward School's 110 years of Catholic education!

Photo by Samantha Gades on Unsplash

Corned Beef Dinner

Our annual McNulty/Kelly Corned Beef Dinner is Sunday, March 1, beginning at noon in Buckley Hall (gym) of the St. Edward School campus. (4447 N. Lowell). All proceeds from this event will provide scholarships to St. Ed's 8th graders that will attend Catholic high schools in the fall.

Upcoming Events

These upcoming Community Events give you a night off from cooking and benefits St. Ed's!

- **Thursday, March 5**

Panda Express, 2949 W. Addison, Chicago, 60618; flyer needed (available online).

- **Thursday, March 26, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Eris Brewery, 4240 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, 60641; No flyer needed but must mention St. Eds.

Thank you for your support!

Welcome Wednesday

Please consider St. Edward School. Join us for Welcome Wednesday, March 4, with registration beginning 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.

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

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

For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com or call us at 773-736-9133. Our campus is located at 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue, easily accessible with proximity 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*

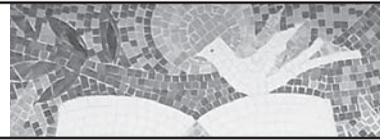
Explore all that St. Edward has to offer!

St. Edward is a Catholic elementary school offering Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. Providing excellence in education, we offer outstanding Academics, Art, Music, Technology, Physical Education, and Extra-curricular Activities to all grades.

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St. Edward School - 4343 W. Sunnyside Avenue - Chicago, IL 60630 - Phone: 773.736.9133



Viator Vibrations — Stacey Stevens / Kris Nielsen

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

A Little Competition Can Be Fun!

The friendly competition was in the air during the girls' intramural basketball tournament the weekend of January 31–February 1. This annual event, the 3rd–8th grade girls were challenging their peers on the court, while the 3rd–8th grade boys took center stage at halftime, performing dance numbers choreographed to their favorite songs.

Veteran and novice basketball players alike hit the court during the annual girls' intramural basketball tournament.

Photo by Huguette De Alba Cogan

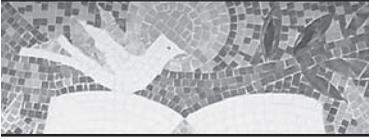


Photo by Bill Oxford on Unsplash

St. Viator to Host “ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY” SPRING FLING

St. Viator's annual spring fundraising gala has a brand-new format to kick off the new decade. Christened the Spring Fling, it will take place in the Viator Rec Center on March 28. The itinerary features dinner & drinks, dancing, Live Band Karaoke, a bags tournament, and Silent Auction. We are striving to make Spring Fling as close to zero-waste as possible. Local commercial composting service Collective Resource will handle the waste generated at the event, and non-compost items will be recycled. We have switched to paperless communications and invitations and environmentally-friendly decorations. We are excited to do our part in diverting waste from local landfills!

For information about supporting this event and promoting your business to the St. Viator school, parish, and alumni community, please email viatorspringfling@stviatorchicago.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | St. Viator Elementary

Trivia Night a Success

The 8th-grade class hosted Trivia Night for adults across the community on February 8. Teams vied for bragging rights, a cash prize, and new this year, the prestigious Saint Viator Cup.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wiggles & Giggles Playgroup – March 5 & 19, 9–10:30 a.m. This fun and FREE playgroup is for children from newborn to 4 years old and their parents/caregivers. Open gym with balls, blocks, climbers, hula-hoops, and so much more.

Primary Gym – March 7 and 21, 8:30–10 a.m. Primary gym offers a relaxed yet active environment where children and parents can participate in basketball, scooters, floor hockey, parachutes, and more. Open to children ages 3 – 3rd grade. \$20 per family for the year.

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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

March

-
- 9 OIPA General Member Meeting | 7:30 p.m. | St John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N Kostner Ave.
-
- 21 Irving Park Garden Club | 10 a.m. | **The Artful Gardener: Breathing New Life into Your Garden with Nina Koziol** | St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave. | Free for members; \$20 to join

April

-
- 26 Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents World Beat Percussion Trio | 2 p.m. | Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., Free Admission, Reception follows. www.carlsoncommunityservices.org
-

Start spreading the news...

The OIPA News. Please consider passing this newsletter on to a neighbor as a gentle reminder to renew his/her household membership or, better yet, give to either a new resident on your block or someone not familiar with OIPA.





JOIN TODAY!

2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

This is a:

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Gift Membership

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).

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

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

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL E-MAIL 2

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: oldirvingpark.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. The document should include the author's name, company or organization (if applicable) and contact information. Please also include photo captions in the document.
- 400 words maximum without photos, 300/325 with photos and captions.
- 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.com.
- 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 ad space 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.

SUBMISSION DATES		
Publication Month	Advertising	General
April	3/3	3/5
May	4/7	4/2
June	5/5	5/7
July/No Issue	—	—
August	6/30	7/2
September	8/4	8/6
October	9/1	9/3
November	10/6	10/1
December	11/3	11/5



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

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