

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS



JUNE

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 5 | 2020



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OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 34 ❁ Issue 5 ❁ June 2020

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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A note about the advertisement featured in this issue.

Most of the ads were placed before the stay-at-home mandate and may not reflect the current situation. As the Phases to open Chicago occur, check with the individual advertiser by calling or visiting their website for information on their status—some businesses modified in some way to stay open and follow CDC guidelines.

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Cover: Photo by Barbara Cohn



The Social Distance Summer: Chicago Edition

— Scott Legan

Greetings neighbors, this is Scott Legan, OIPA board member, and currently held up in my house on Kostner. Being stuck inside has been a challenge for most of us, especially those with small children. We've tried to keep our children entertained, keep work commitments, and manage the stress of the current situation. My family is excited for warm weather to arrive and the opportunity to go outside, even if we are having a "Social Distance Summer."

So many of our favorite summer activities will likely be off-limits this summer, so I have curated a list of "hidden" Chicago attractions that families can enjoy while social distancing.

1. The Wicker Park Lawn Cannon

Though this former American Legion house is now privately owned, the cannon is still visible from the street at 1558 N Hoyne Avenue.

2. Cubs Fans Forever Burial Wall

Drive a bit north of Old Irving to the Bohemian National Cemetery. The cemetery has a replica of the outside wall of Wrigley Field. At the wall, you can have your remains rest with all the other die-hard Cubs fans. While you are there, walk through the cemetery and see if you can find the Eastland Disaster Memorial.



Photo credit: Ahundt on Pixabay

3. Giant Busted Clock

In the middle of Ogden Park Plaza on Columbus Drive is Floor Clock II, by Vito Acconci, a 72-foot-diameter clock, visible from space but often overlooked on the ground. Unfortunately, the hands of the clock have been damaged by skateboarders.

4. Agora: Forest of Rusty Walking Torsos

Robin Williams was a donor to Magdalena Abakanowicz's sculpture that is 106 pairs of iron legs walking in the southern corner of Grant Park.

5. Eternal Flame

If you have ever been to the Christkindlmarket during the holiday season, you might have noticed a little fire that the pigeons use to keep themselves warm. As much as the pigeons would disagree, this was an eternal flame meant to honor those who served in the armed forces. It has been lit since 1972.

6. Batcolumn

Batcolumn (or Bat Column) is a 101-foot-tall outdoor sculpture in Chicago, west of the loop on Madison. Designed by Claes Oldenburg in 1977, it takes the shape of a baseball bat standing on its knob. It consists of gray-painted Corten steel arranged into an open latticework structure. There was quite a bit of controversy and protests around the sculpture citizens heralding an “expensive joke.”

7. Atomic Chain Reaction Monument

The first atomic chain reaction occurred on the campus of the University of Chicago. Located at Ellis and 56th St; this is a memorial to the birth of the atomic age.

8. Final Challenge: Beginning & End of Route 66

If you are looking for some exercise, walk from the beginning to the end of Route 66! Route 66 historically started in Chicago and made its way to Santa Monica Pier in California. The start is at Jackson and Michigan Ave (on Jackson). However, California thought that they should get a starting point too if people were heading back east, so one block west on Jackson is the end. Driving from the start to the finish of Route 66 took people over two weeks to do when it was first constructed. You can complete it in about a minute! A summer without the beaches, parks, and festivals is not a typical Chicago summer, but I hope this can start you on a fun hunt for new (less crowded) summer adventures in our city.

9. Hill Street Blues Police Station

At the corner of Maxwell and Morgan, find the original outside of the Hill Street Blues police station. It is the facade used for Chicago PD!

10. Vertical Map of Chicago River

Sometimes even a native Chicagoan can get lost downtown. It's nice to see that the designers of 300 S. Wacker Drive have built a giant map of the riverfront on the side of the building.

11. Queen's Landing

While in 1959, over a million spectators came to this spot near Buckingham Fountain, few people know how it got its name. Queen Elizabeth who was the first reigning British monarch to visit Chicago was brought ashore to the location by a royal barge and received by Mayor Daley.

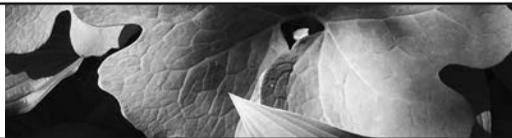
12. Bob Newhart Statue

Moving up the shoreline to Navy Pier, at the east end of the pier, you can take a seat and tell your problems to Dr. Bob Hartley from the Bob Newhart Show.

TAKE A WALK AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Do you enjoy architecture, local history, and walking around our neighborhood?

Then grab your phone, log onto www.olderirvingpark.com/house_history and hit the sidewalks of Old Irving Park. We've recently uploaded highlights from the first five years of the Irving Park Historical Society's house walk program. Every featured home includes the address and picture, architectural details to be observed, and fascinating historical information ranging from notable inhabitants and original construction costs.



Summarized Minutes of the Meeting on May 4, 2020

— Bart Goldberg, OIPA Secretary

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

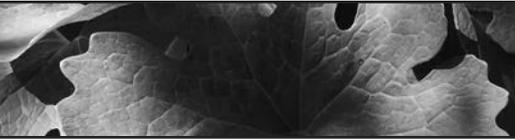
Commencement: President Chan commenced the meeting at 7:35 pm. This was our second meeting that we conducted via Zoom. Per the instructions from the Board, I showed up for the call wearing a mask. While I didn't really think that the virus could be spread over the Internet, I am not a trained epidemiologist and did not want to cause a scene by not obeying a social distancing request. In hindsight, I should have realized that this was a joke before noting that no one else had one on. Hilarious. It seems that a majority of the Board finds my unmasked face a distraction. When I protested that my wife likes my face just fine, one of the females on the Board said that was nonsense, and that she had heard that my wife sometimes threatens to place my face in some dough to make gorilla cookies (reprising the line from the great Redd Fox as Fred Sanford). Ow! After I lamely resorted to the Pee Wee Herman retort "I know you are, but what am I?" we got down to business.

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Ankney presented her Treasurer's Reports for April. For the month our receipts were just about equal to our expenses. Our advertising revenue was down a bit as can be expected due to the pandemic, but our membership dues were well above the norm. This was true for both regular and premium dues. We are confident that the reason for this was the positive reaction to the We Love OIP signs that we had distributed to our members (to be fair Merry Marwig from our Board both designed them

and distributed them). On the expense side the outlays were increased with the contribution to the Garden Club. The financial report was unanimously approved by the Board.

Membership Update: Meredith O'Sullivan reported that we presently have 587 people receiving our newsletter, the vast majority of which are members, but it also includes a few parties that are given complimentary issues such as our advertisers. The great news was that this was an increase of 57 people in just one month, which again, we attribute to local pride relating to the OIP signs that are now in our yards. We are also 52 members above where we were at this time last year. The OIP tote bags for 2020 have also been distributed now. We had ordered 110 but due to the new members we were running short, so we came up with a plan to address the demand. Many thanks to Colleen Kenny (who could never be described as a "bag lady") for designing and ordering the totes.

Newsletter: We discussed the schedule for further "Message From the Board" articles, including the article being written by Scott Legan in this issue about summer activities while social distancing. We also made the decision to publish a July newsletter. Normally, that is a vacation month for us, but it was decided that it was worth the extra costs to supply one more dose of community during these trying times. We also determined that an additional section would be added to the website containing pictures and information about some prior House Walks that had been put on by the Historical Society. This has already occurred by the time of the publication of this Newsletter.



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

Additional Kindness Activities: There was much discussion about other things that can be done to provide additional normalcy. It was decided that we would create a way to honor local 8th Grade, High School and College graduates since they have been shortchanged without appropriate pomp and circumstance. We will be using the special July issue to publish pictures and congratulations. Your dog completing obedience school does not qualify. OIPA had donated \$1,000 for the Food Pantry Matching Drive, and we were thrilled to find out that approximately \$16,000 was raised as described in a separate article in this newsletter. Great, great, job to all concerned!

Zoning and Development: There was not much going on this month in this sphere. However, since the

development at "The Point" will once again be brought before the City for approval (which is expected this time) we had been asked by Dan Walsh from the Ryan Companies to present an additional letter of support, and we said that we would be glad to do so.

Future Meetings: We have now cancelled our Annual Ice Cream Social which would have been held in early June. This is obviously very disappointing for me since Representative Andrade could always be counted on to attend, and in my experience he doles out a pretty generous scoop. However, we are working on a substitute event right now that some people may like even better. Watch for postings! Until then Stay Safe and Stay Sane.

This meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Stephanie Cutter



Irving Park Real Estate

Let's Garden Together while we are #AloneTogether!



For the third year, Stephanie will be distributing Sunflower seeds to homes and businesses all around Old Irving Park in an effort to grow and display a community-wide garden of large sunflowers.

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#IrvingSunflowers
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OIPA | ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



June Birthdays

1	Carolyn Morehouse	10	Betsy McKelvey	21	Michael Polzin
1	Debby Fries	10	Kelly Ferenc	22	Amy Srubas
2	Ryan Gettler	10	Mark McKelvey	23	Betsy Ries
3	Alan Allmen	10	Robert Elworth	23	Bob Riley
3	Mark Murray	11	MaryPat Serpone	24	Richard Liu
4	Ed Caplan	12	Tim Menard	24	Sheila Quinn
5	Terrie Carpenter	13	Jim Lynch	24	Susan Lulich
6	Howard Silver	13	Sharon DeBates	24	Thomas McDonough
6	Mary Lou Agronomoff	14	Robert Liebich	25	Larry Delby
6	Prutha Davis	16	William Lachman	26	Leona Mae Quinlan
8	Kristin DeHaan Simon	16	Zach Schmitz	26	Michael Basile
8	William Dearhammer	19	Andy Greene	26	Tom Danahy
9	Charles Southwick	19	Carolyn Hackleman	28	Janice Alvizu
9	Fred Lundgren	21	Jeremy Sermersheim	30	Robert Fox
9	Robert Seibel	21	Mark Palmieri		

June Anniversaries

1	Harry & Joyce Owen (50th Anniversary!)	23	Christy Ludwig & Nick Meiers
1	Urban Wellness	23	Devin & Liz Breen
3	Beata & Artur Nowak	23	James & Chelsea Looby
5	Whitney & Sean McDonald	24	Emily & Emily Coakley
8	Richard & Rosemary Knight	24	Julia & Steve Poskus
9	Dana & Paul Moran	24	Liz & Scott Beslow
9	Karen & Bill Whitehead	24	Michael & Deborah Maron
10	Annie & Lee Swingen	25	Kris & David Cloud
10	Bart & Missy Goldberg	25	Marisa & Bob Tell
10	Michael Manier & Anthony Mallerdino	26	Hannah Lehman & Sinisa Rasberger
12	Kara & John Wagner Sherer	26	Rachel & Peter O'Mara
13	Charlene & John Adamski	26	Sean & Nina Elliot
13	Lindsay Hunter & Ben Lyon	27	Alison & Joe Weston
13	Matt Young & Allison Clark Young	27	John & Theresa Mueller
14	Ally Skoog-Hoffman & Ben Hoffman	28	Scott & Heather Legan
16	Brad & Megan Toth	30	Melanie Szymanski & Kevin Newman
16	Janine & Kyle Kostelny		



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.

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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OIPA Neighbors, Did You Get Your Sign?

The OIPA mini yard sign "We love OIP" campaign is going strong. It seems especially relevant now. We've been using our FB page to share information, promote our newsletter advertisers and other local businesses, and keep neighbors connected.

Want one for your lawn or window? All paid-up members are eligible for a sign (let us know if you did not receive yours yet). Not a member? Dues are only \$25/household! For details & to join/renew online: www.oldirvingpark.com/join-us



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

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4520 W. Larchmont	\$675,000
4024 W. Belle Plaine.....	\$840,000
4036 N. Kenneth	\$887,000
3842 N. Keeler	\$1,050,000



Attached Single Family

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4126 N. Kedvale, 103	\$146,000
4212 N. Keystone, 2A.....	\$160,000
4247 W. Montrose	\$363,500
4221 N. Keeler, 3.....	\$370,000



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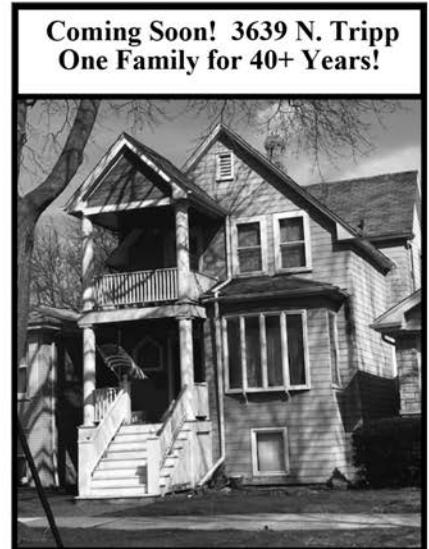
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Main Street Makeover — Claudia Hine



The planter formerly known as Glaze gets a new home under the OIPA clock at Lowell and Irving Park Rd.
Photo by Claudia Hine.

If you travel up and down Irving Park Rd. regularly, you may have noticed a slight change in the scenery. On April 27, the Irving Park Garden Club moved several of its square containers along the route, and one was decommissioned due to cracked and broken concrete.

"Casimir," the planter near Walgreen's on Pulaski, was so badly deteriorated that Mike Basile had to empty it and remove it from the street scape. Mike has been tending that container for 20 years since it was installed in 2000.

"Spot," the planter that was in front of the shuttered Pert Cleaners, has been moved to a much more visible location at the southeast corner of Irving Park Rd. and Keeler Ave. Mike will plant and water "Spot," as we consider a new name more fitting for that location.

"Glaze," the planter near Dunkin' that is tended by Madelyn Ryan, was moved a half-block west to reside under the big clock OIPA installed several years ago. That location will give it better visibility and will require a name change, too.



IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB



Meeting Schedule Still on Hold

Due to Illinois' shelter-in-place orders, the garden club cancelled its May field trip to Sunrise Greenhouse in Grant Park, IL, and also its plans to gather in the yard of Don and Carolyn Jensen, who were set to host the annual plant exchange this year. However, we did manage to hold a "virtual" plant exchange with gardeners offering their divided plants through an email exchange with social distancing pickup. As no wine was consumed, it paled in comparison to last year's event (where this writer discovered she was wearing two different shoes), but it did give us a chance to spread some joy and do something good for our fellow gardeners and planet Earth.

Several of the Irving Park Garden Club's 20-year-old concrete planters are deteriorating, such as Casimir, which was located near Walgreen's at Irving Park Rd. and Pulaski. It was removed in April. *Photo by Claudia Hine.*

"Maverick," which sits near Chicagoland Firearm Training, had to be jostled back into place after the utility work was completed at Irving and Kenneth. Gayle Christensen tends this planter.

Similarly, "Whistler," which sits in front of Finom Coffee in the Whistle Stop Inn historic landmark building at Irving and Keeler, was jostled slightly west to give it better visibility at that corner. Gina Iliopoulos and Ed Caplan of Keeler Gardens take care of that planter.

The garden club is grateful to Mike Basile and T. J. Hine for their muscle and enthusiasm to complete this work before our Community Planting Day, which was May 16. That was the day all our planter adopter-volunteers collected the flowers that OIPA donated via Farmers Market Garden Center to beautify our neighborhood. Thank you, Mike, T. J., OIPA, and FMGC. We appreciate you!

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***** SPECIAL ISSUE *****

Call for Contributions to the July OIPA News

A few ideas:

- Give a shout-out to a kind neighbor.
- Did you recently visit a new business or restaurant? Then share your great experience.
- Write a fun story about our neighborhood.
- Share your knowledge on a topic.
- Honor a recent graduate.

Deadline for advertising submissions is June 2; editorial submissions is June 4, by 5 p.m. to k.kearns@kearnsdesign.com. Please include "OIPA submission" in the subject line of the email. **See page 36 for full details on article submission requirements and advertising opportunities.**

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Building a Pollinator Habitat or other Nature Space

— by Gina Iliopoulos & Ed Caplan

We want to thank everyone in our community for supporting Keeler Gardens. We started broadcasting “Live from Keeler Gardens” in late March. Since then, we have been fortunate to have people (practicing social distancing) enjoy our pollinator habitat.

We initially were scheduled to present “How to Build a Pollinator Habitat” at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. Due to the show’s cancellation, the Get Growing Foundation shifted to a YouTube educational series, and we present via their channel. We share some of the presentation features with you here in the newsletter. If you would like to watch the video, you will find it at <https://bit.ly/KGBAPH>.

As of this writing, neighbors are already starting to build pollinator habitats based on our step-by-step process. Briefly, our process includes setting your



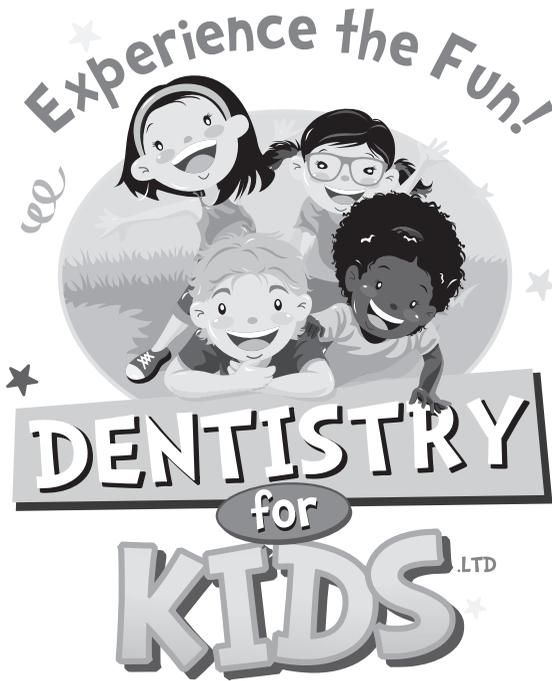
intentions for your nature space, choosing your site, determining your resources, finalizing your specific design, and actual installation. The end result you get to enjoy the area for years to come.

Building a pollinator habitat may seem like a few simple steps, but each step is very detailed and unique to the creator of the space. That is where Keeler Gardens can help. If you want to create your unique nature space, we can walk you through all the steps with as much hand-holding you need. We can guide you through the process, take your inspiration, and create something incredible and valuable for your family and the community.

If you would like more information on building a nature space, visit Keeler Gardens or contact us via email Gina@KeelerGardens.org. We would also gladly offer a detailed class/webinar to get everyone motivated to build their own nature space. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @KeelerGardens and visit our website KeelerGardens.com to stay connected.

Keeler Gardens is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization improving the health and sustainability of urban community life through environmental experiences, supporting diversity and youth development, and building a love of nature.





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Neighbors Who Rock, Play, Sew — Heather Debby



Photo by Corinne Wimmer @littlejoyrock



Photo by Heather Debby

When the shelter in place order began, **Corinne Wimmer** started taking breaks from her home office by walking the neighborhood. She noticed how many others OIPers were out taking walks, and she began to wonder how she could create something small to brighten up a challenging time. An artist and aspiring muralist, Corinne created #littlejoyrock. She paints beautiful rocks and places them in creative spots all over the neighborhood. When people find her works of art, they are encouraged to tag her on Instagram and then hide the rocks somewhere new to spread the fun to others. My family was lucky enough to discover a #littlejoyrock in front of our house one day, and now we are obsessive hunters who have spent hours traipsing through the neighborhood hunting for “the mushroom rock” or “the Peppa rock.” Artist Corinne has enjoyed the chance to experiment and develop her skills as an artist while getting some stress relief. She plans to continue #littlejoyrock through the quarantine and occasionally create and share rocks when this is all over. Corinne feels lucky to live in Old

Irving Park, and as the mother of her two biggest fans, I can say that we are fortunate to have her as a neighbor and appreciate the creativity and heart she has brought to this tough time.

Wheel of Kilbourn

During the first weekend of the shelter in place order, when all the news was breaking, **Emily Plagman** felt like she needed to do something to bring a bit of a bright spot to a tough time. With her husband, **Nicholas Frank**, Plagman decided to take advantage of a front porch wall they “were not using” to create the “Wheel of Kilbourn.” Each day, they place the category clue on their porch and set up the letters “Wheel of Fortune” style, and neighbors submit letters and solutions to their block’s Facebook group. At appointed times during the day, Emily flips the letters, occasionally with an audience of children who hope to be the ones to solve the day’s challenge. On Friday,



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | OIP Reaches Out



businesses and organizations in our area, including the **Irving Park Food Pantry**, **Hands to Help Ministries**, **Engine 69**, **Backlot Coffee**, and **even our local postal workers**. The group plans to continue to sew masks throughout the quarantine. They hope to expand their outreach beyond our neighborhood boundaries, including offering help to a Native American reservation in Arizona that is looking for assistance. Though they have stayed home, these women have done an incredible job of reaching out.

Photo by Emily Plagman

the neighbor who has won the most puzzles that week selects a charity and “wins” a donation to that charity. As of May 1st, the “Wheel of Kilbourn” had donated \$300 to local organizations, with multiple neighbors on the block chipping in to provide prize money. Emily and Nicholas plan to continue the “Wheel of Kilbourn” for the duration of the Shelter in Place order and for special occasions afterward. Though this time can be stressful, Emily shares that they have loved the chance to become more involved in the neighborhood and continue to feel that they really lucked out by moving here.

Friends Join Forces to Make a Difference

A twenty-eight year resident of Old Irving Park, **Barbara Cohn** has long been involved in many of our local organizations. When the current health risks made it inadvisable for her to volunteer in person, she began brainstorming ways she could help out from home. With her friends **Vicci Rodgers**, **Frances Lewis**, and **Ellen Hill**, she began sewing masks for organizations and people who needed them. The women work as a team, with Vicci organizing and cutting materials while others exercise their sewing skills. Together, they have donated over 400 masks to



Photos by Barbara Cohn



Pantry Numbers More Than Double

The number of clients coming to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry during April and early May more than doubled previous weekly totals, as a crew of existing and new volunteers worked steadily to provide food to everyone. With so many neighbors out of work and sheltering at home, weekly totals have ranged up to 200 or so, from a previous count of about 75 per week.

Meeting this need has grown steadily more challenging as food sources have been reduced, requiring a search for alternative, more expensive sources. Fortunately, organizations and individuals have risen to the occasion and donated in many ways.

- **iheartirvingpark.com**, a consortium of neighborhood groups, including the **Athletic Field Park Advisory Council, Friends of Murphy, GIPNA, Hearth & Crust, Independence Park Advisory Council, Jet's Pizza, JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, OIPA, Murphy School PTO, the Dinham and Guillaume Families, and West Walker Civic Association**, which provided matching grants that raised \$16,610.
- **Tyson Foods**, donated \$5,000 to our COVID-19 Urgent Needs fund as part of its hunger-relief efforts, the primary way the company gives back to its communities.



Members of Irving Park United Methodist Church stopped by the Pantry to deliver a \$10,000 donation from the sale of their building at Keeler & Grace. Attending were (l-r): Financial Secretary Tracy Brown, Pastor Hope Reyes (presenting the check to Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis), Finance Committee Chairman Mike Blaha, Pantry Board Member Sara Yoest and IPUMC members David Foster and Vicci Rodgers, who have been with the church since the Pantry was founded 36 years ago by IPUMC member Leila Duncan.

Photo by Craig Shutt

Article submitted by Craig Shutt (773-282-3627; craigshutt@ameritech.net).
John Psiharis, Executive Director, Irving Park Community Food Pantry
e-mail: info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org, | www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Irving Park Community Food Pantry



Irving Park Food Pantry Client Services Coordinator Elvia Esparza helps distribute a donation of Detroit-style pizza slices sent for Pantry workers by Jet's Pizza, owned by Dan O'Donohue, an OIP resident.

Photo by Craig Shutt



Lifeway Foods delivers cases of its kefir probiotic beverage to Irving Park Food Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

- **The Stephanie Cutter Group**, donated \$1,000
- **Hundreds of our neighbors** gave amounts of varying sizes, totaling thousands of dollars in the past month via the PayPal link at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org.
- **KOVAL Distillery** donated four gallons of its homemade hand sanitizer.
- **St. Viator Elementary School**, donated 80 pounds of pasta and 50+ jars of sauce, a donation it received from Racconto Pasta after the school's fundraising event was canceled.
- **Lifeway Foods**, which has made regular deliveries of its probiotic kefir beverage.
- **Long Grove Confectionery** made several donations, including 4,200 pounds of peppermint and regular pretzel balls, to treat clients.
- **Our many neighbors** have stepped in to replace some of our long-term volunteers sheltering in place.

• **Special thanks to the congregation of Irving Park United Methodist Church**, who donated \$10,000 from the sale of its building at Keeler & Grace, the Pantry's home for 35 years. We are grateful for the donation and their unwavering support that helped us grow and thrive through the years as we worked at our mission to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."



Deliveries from the Greater Chicago Food Depository to the Pantry have expanded as client numbers have grown. Still, it cannot provide the variety of foods needed due to cutbacks in sourcing. *Photo by John Psiharis*



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

New Shading Installed on Belding Playground

In the fall, the Belding Parent Group held a fundraiser to help make improvements to the Belding playground, and all the hard work has come to fruition. While the Belding playground is relatively new, it was beginning to see some wear and tear on the surface. Additionally, on sunny days, the playground can become brutally hot. Belding parents raised enough money to fix the holes on the surface and install brand new shade covers. The Belding park is currently closed, but everyone looks forward to checking out these new features when we're able to reopen!

Appreciating Our Teachers from a Distance

Belding families showed their appreciation for all that teachers are doing to support their students during distance learning. During Teacher Appreciation Week, students received kind notes from families and were able to pick up sweet care packages (from a distance) compiled by administration and parents. As difficult as the challenges of distance learning have been, Belding teachers have worked so hard at keeping the classroom spirit alive, and it was good to let them know how much everyone appreciates their hard work.



Photo courtesy of Belding School

Virtual Talent Show

On May 22nd, Belding hosted a virtual talent show featuring amazing acts by some of Belding's awesome students! Acts include piano playing, gymnastics, dance, and magic tricks. Families were able to watch the performances via Zoom, and it was quite impressive how creative the performers were from home. Not to be outdone, teachers sent in videos competing in silly Minute to Win It competitions. The event was an excellent way for students, staff, and families to feel connected during the quarantine.

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Advertise with Us!

The OIPA News is distributed to approximately 600 area residents, in addition to surrounding neighborhood groups and elected city officials.

11 ISSUES PER YEAR (Special July Issue this year)

We usually publish ten issues per calendar year (omitting January and July), but this year we will have a special July Issue.

SPECIAL PERKS

Also, if you are a newsletter advertiser, you will be prioritized on our email blasts and Facebook posts. We have over 6,000 online followers. Our monthly post can reach up to 24K, and our post engagement is usually 15K. That means consumers see and engage with our Facebook posts!

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Rare Nest Mural Project

An ongoing program/project, Rare Nest Gallery provided free Mural Kits to families in the Avondale and Old Irving Park neighborhoods. The first round of 50 kits included a large four foot by three foot, heavy black or gray paper roll, a material kit with colored chalk, pencils and other pigments, and a specially developed “Suggestion / Instruction Sheet” that highlights murals in this area. The instructions also include notes, drawings, and diagrams written and designed by veteran Wicker Park artist **Megan Williamson**. The program, publicized through social media and word of mouth has generated an enthusiastic response—the kits were scooped up within 90 minutes!

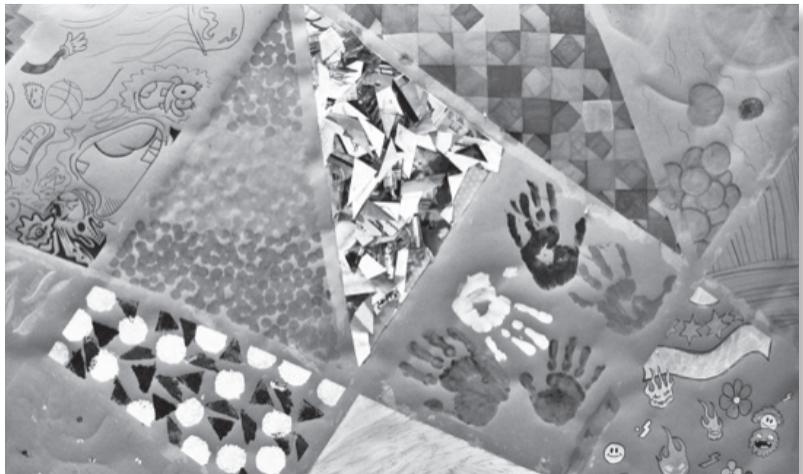
The first results of the Mural Project were revealed last week, and we are delighted. The **Yost family** provided this report, “All five of us in our family worked on the mural, including our oldest daughter 13, son 11 and youngest daughter 8. We used a variety of art supplies we had at home, including paints, Sharpie markers, Posca markers, mod podge, chalk, finger paint, dot paints, colored pencils, and watercolor pencil. Several of the supplies were included in the mural kit provided by Rare Nest Gallery.”

Special thanks to the lovely **Kris & Dave Cloud** for lending their porch as a contactless pick-up point.

Photo courtesy Sara Yost



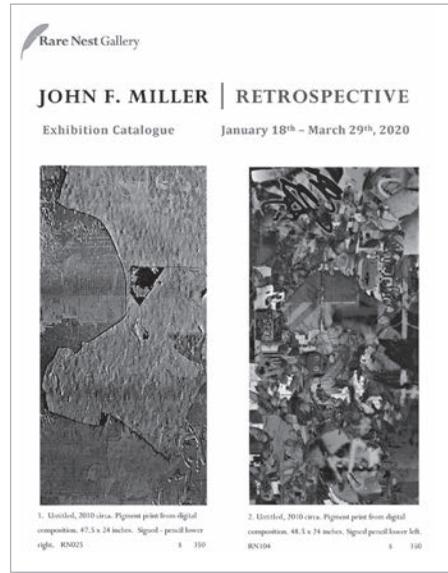
Photo courtesy Rare Nest Gallery





John Miller Works Acquired by Union League Club

Rare Nest Gallery is delighted to report that two works on paper by **John Miller** was recently acquired by the renowned Union League Club (ULC) collection. Rare Nest held a retrospective of John's work in January, 2020. The ULC collection comprises more than 700 paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and photographs, and embraces a diversity of style, geography, and chronology. American art, particularly Midwestern art of the twentieth century, forms the nucleus with essential works by Roger Brown, Walter Ufer, and Gertrude Abercrombie. The ULC Art Committee was established in 1891 and is responsible for hosting a variety of programs throughout the year, including lectures, exhibitions, and acquisitions. Explore the ULC Collection at www.ulcc.org.



Moving Forward With Purpose

Rare Nest continues to seek and encourage collaborations with artists and the community. We are cataloging extraordinary work from twelve artists and estates, researching collections, and trying to remain connected to the people we love. We are especially grateful for those supporters who have reached out over the last few weeks. Despite the uncertainty, we have faith that the world is learning/listening, and a new age may be dawning. Among other seismic shifts, we may come out of this historic moment with a better appreciation of art and artists.

Resources for Artists

Creative Capital's List of Resources for Artists
creative-capital.org

Hyperallergic
Daily Report on the Impact of COVID19 on the Art World
Hyperallergic.com

Virtual Museum Visits
Google Arts & Culture features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's.
artsandculture.google.com

Visit rarenestgallery.com to read profiles of artists, explore archives and more.

Rare Nest Gallery

Reservations are requested for all events
3433 North Kedvale, Chicago | 708-616-8671 | keith@rarenestgallery.com



St. Edward Scoop – Jenny Dreyer

Fund-a-Need Program

Our Fund-a-Need program to purchase new, flexible furniture for each classroom will continue into the fall. To date, the school has raised enough funds to begin the purchase of flexible furniture options for a few classrooms! In honor of the Class of 2020, donate \$20.20 to Fund-a-Need. Your donation will be matched, and if we raise \$5,000, we can name a classroom after the Class of 2020!

Visit www.stedwardchicago.org/fund-a-need.html to donate.

Congratulations to the class of 2020!

We are BIG RED proud of our St. Edward 8th grade class! These are some of the high schools our graduates will be attending in the fall:

- DePaul Prep
- St. Patrick
- Lane Tech
- Regina Dominican
- Loyola Academy
- Trinity
- Notre Dame

Explore all that St. Edward School has to Offer!

St. Edward School is a 2017 recipient of the National Blue Ribbon. Learn all about what this vibrant school and community offer Pre-K through 8th-grade students. Discover how St. Edward's academics and how iReady instruction empowers teachers to enable students to achieve success in the classroom. Find out about the extensive fine arts programs, including visual art, music, and theater, and explore the wide variety of extracurricular activities and athletics. Before and after school care is available.

Take our virtual school tour at:

<https://youtube.com/MIMJMjo01k>

For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com.



Photos courtesy of St. Edward School





Celebrating 110 Years of Excellence in Catholic Education!

Explore all that St. Edward has to offer!

Schedule a tour on our website or by calling the school office.

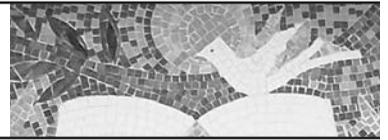
- **LEARN** all about what this vibrant school and community offer Pre-K through 8th grade students.
- **DISCOVER** St. Edward academics and how iReady instruction empowers teachers to enable students to achieve success in the classroom.
- **FIND OUT** about the extensive fine arts programs including visual art, music and theater and explore the wide variety of extracurricular activities and athletics.

St. Edward is a Catholic elementary school offering Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade, designated a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for Exemplary Education in 2017. Providing excellence in education, we offer outstanding Academics, Art, Music, Technology, Physical Education, and Extra-curricular Activities to all grades. In addition, we offer full time and part time Preschool for 3 & 4 year olds.

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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.



Parents everywhere try to maintain school instruction and discipline at home with their children, they have all come to the same conclusion: Teaching is hard work and requires tremendous dedication and patience! Teacher Appreciation Week was extra special this year with a full suite of activities via email and Google Classroom to make sure all of St. Viator's teachers could feel the kids' love from afar:

- "Make 'em Smile Monday" was full of funny stories.
- On Tuesday, each student posted 5 positive words to describe their teacher.
- On Wishful Wednesday, the kids told their teachers what they wish for them.

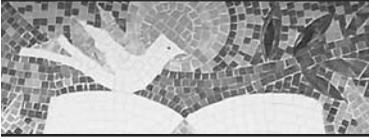
- Thankful Thursday was full of gratitude.
- To wrap things up on Freestyle Friday, kids wrote poems and songs and drew pictures in honor of their teachers.

And many students visited the school premises to write colorful thank you messages to the St. Viator teachers and staff as part of "Chalk the School Walk."

Gratitude

Thanks to the **Stephanie Cutter Group** for this cheerful message of appreciation for teachers everywhere!

"We Love Our Teachers" photo by Sara Yoest



E-learning is going strong!

Even the music and gym classes are meeting online these days. Mrs. Goslin's 2nd and 3rd graders had a blast making baking soda & vinegar volcanoes for STEM class. Thanks for the extra effort serving as a cleanup crew—parents!

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Our 8th graders will be honored and celebrated this June in keeping with social distancing guidelines. A big round of applause to all as they embark on new journeys in these uncertain times!

Applications for the 2020-2021 school year are still being accepted. Join our spirited and caring community!

Contact us:

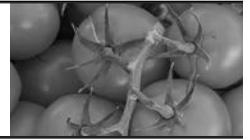
Marge Tiritilli: mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org
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Find us on Facebook –

St. Viator Elementary School and Parish



Tristan Meier bikes to school to take part in "Chalk the School Walk," where students decorated the pavement in honor of St. Viator's teachers and faculty members. *Photo by Sara Yoest*



News from Liz Mills, Carlson Community Services Executive Director

Greetings! As I write this in early May, we are still sheltering in place, and Carlson programming has been suspended since mid-March. But I'm hopeful that by the time you read this, some aspects of Carlson programming will have resumed, especially work in Three Brothers Garden. The garden was fallow in 2019, and our gardeners are itching to get back to work. We're eager to resume providing the Irving Park Food Pantry with fresh produce. With a two-fold increase in clients due to Covid-19, the food pantry needs fresh vegetables now more than ever. To keep us safe as we work in the garden, we are relying on the guidance of NeighborSpace, a Chicago organization that assists community gardens. If you'd like to volunteer in the garden, add your name to our mailing list at carlsoncommunityservices.org.

World Beat Percussion Trio Postponed

We were disappointed to postpone our April 26th World Beat Percussion Trio, but the Trio has agreed to reschedule the concert for our 2020/2021 season. We're excited about the coming Fine Arts season, which might look different because of social distancing guidelines. Plus, stay tuned for information about virtual Fine Arts concerts!

Magic After-School Place

Although the Magic After-School Place program has ended for the year, we'll be gathering with the MAP team over the summer to show our appreciation for the incredible impact they have on MAP families and students. Our program director is hard at work, researching grants, planning for next year, and staying in touch with MAP families.

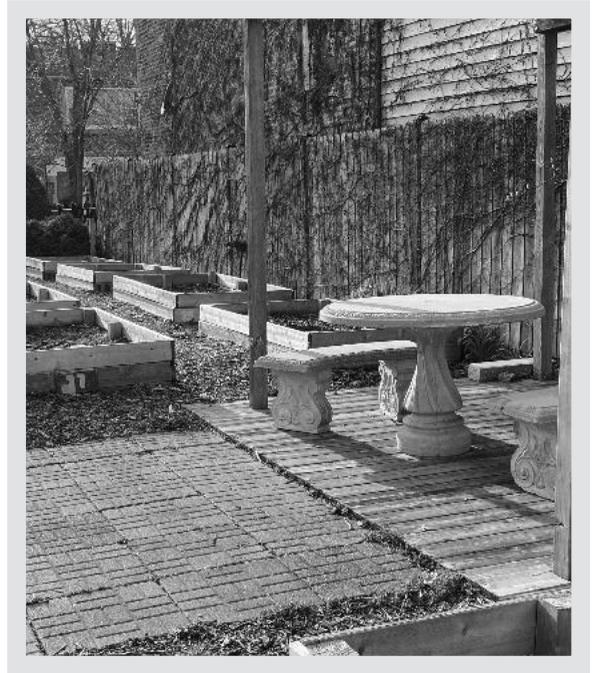


Photo provided courtesy of Carlson Community Services

Stay Update with Carlson News

To keep up to date on when our programming resumes, follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletter at carlsoncommunityservices.org. On behalf of the Carlson Board and Committees, we wish you and your family good health and peace.

Carlson Community Services is 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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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

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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



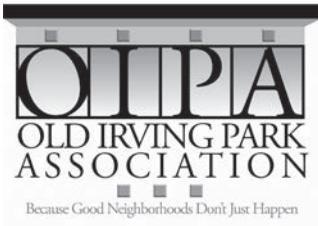
NOTICE: As Phases for reopening plans take shape, please watch for updates from OIPA and the individual organizations that usually post events in our calendar. Information can be found on Facebook or the organization's website.

A note about the advertisement featured in this issue. *Most of the ads were placed before the stay-at-home mandate and may not reflect the current situation. Check with the individual advertiser by calling or visiting their website for information on their status—some businesses modified in some way to stay open and follow CDC guidelines.*



Start sharing 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!

2021 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

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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: 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 month of January. 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. **Include in the document the author's name, company or organization (if applicable) and contact information. If submitting images, please include photo captions and photographer credit.**
- 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.
- 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.olderirvingpark.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
July	6/2	6/4
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

Foundation presents
Jazz Night
with
**Steve
Thomas**



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Chicago IL**



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FB: [oldirvingparkassoc](https://www.facebook.com/oldirvingparkassoc)

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

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