

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS



INSIDE > OIP Residents reflect on life one year under the pandemic



MARCH

VOLUME 35 | ISSUE 2 | 2021



Jaime **ANDRADE**

Illinois State Representative • 40th District

My staff and I are here to serve you and our community. We encourage you to reach out with your thoughts about issues that we face together. If you need assistance with constituent services, please let us know and we will work to the fullest extent of the abilities of this office.

Please share your ideas on ways we can improve our community and state.

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A publication of the Old Irving Park Association by, for and about people living in the neighborhood. Old Irving Park neighborhood boundaries includes: Addison on the south, Montrose on the north, Pulaski on the east and the Milwaukee District North Line on the west (from Addison to Irving Park) continuing with the freight/Amtrak railroad tracks from Irving Park to Montrose (i.e., east of Knox Ave.). A map can be found on our website.

The Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) is a non-profit, all volunteer community group active since 1983. The *Old Irving Park News* is published ten times a year.

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A note about the advertisement featured in this issue.

As the Phases to open Chicago occur, check with the individual advertiser by calling or visiting their website for information on their status.

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Cover photo, "virtual school on the porch" by Renée Linnemeyer.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

MUSINGS

In the Time of COVID

This month marks an incredible milestone: one year of collectively enduring the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, our OIPA Board asked our OIP neighbors to share, for posterity, the multitude of unique experiences this unprecedented time has meant to our community. We sought the good, the unexpected, the goofy, the sad; anything that neighbors felt represented this unique time, and as a memory that will endure when you look back on this time.

"I will cherish the Monday through Friday 'Family Lunch' we began last Spring, when my husband, high-schooler, and middle-schooler began working/schooling from home. Our dining room table has never seen so much action."

"We moved to Old Irving about six months before the pandemic hit. Our family was excited for the backyard but never did I think we would have a pool in the summer and an ice rink in the winter! We have also enjoyed all the wildlife, especially the family of rabbits living under our shed. This neighborhood and our new home gave us a sweet slice of outdoors in the big city."

“We will remember the pandemic as the time during which we lost our beloved dog, Banjo, at age 15. We were grateful that the restrictions kept us close to home to take care of her, and a shoutout to our wonderful neighbors on the 3600 block of Keeler Ave. and beyond for their expressions of sympathy, knowing how significant she was to our lives.”



“As a small local business, I tried to bring joy to the neighborhood by having random flower pop-up markets on my front lawn. We were home-bound. The wedding and event floral business was stalled, so we had to think of something! It started as I had an abundance of peonies from a farm in Indiana. Then I collaborated with Keeler Gardens. They provided many of the flowers, and I made hand-tied seasonal bouquets. We had four fun, successful pop-up markets over the summer and fall!”

Photos courtesy of Angela Yorath

4000-4100 block
of Kostner on
Christmas Eve.

“Thanks to our neighbor’s efforts in 4103, who organized luminaries for our entire street. Proceeds from the kits went towards purchases of gift cards from local hotspots CTA and Eris to give to the OIP YMCA and Lydia Home, who used them for raffles and gifts.

We all placed our lights on the sidewalk at the appointed hour and took the opportunity to stroll along and chat with neighbors. I hope this becomes an annual tradition! The photo doesn’t do it justice! Glad to have such fantastic neighbors.”



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

MUSINGS

In the Time of COVID

“I’ve appreciated all of the extra family time we’ve had over the past 12 months. I particularly appreciated a quiet, home-bound three-day weekend while quarantined. We had an outdoor pizza night, s’mores by the firepit, and my daughter organized a four-way driveway pickleball tournament, with brackets, a game schedule, and certificates for the winners. It was so much fun!”

“This past year because of Zoom, I’ve seen my family ‘face-to-face’ more. We’ve celebrated holidays and games meetings, reconnecting in a different way. Two family members had COVID but we are blessed that they had mild cases. Friends and family have gotten me through this event virtually.”



**Graduation 2020 at the
Linnemeyer household**

Photo by Renée Linnemeyer

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

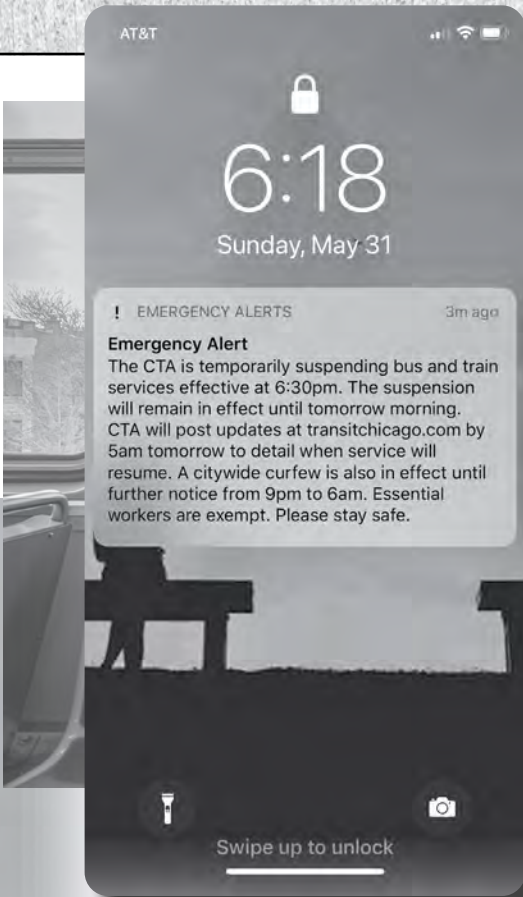


Photo of phone by Renée Linnemeyer

“

I will remember the every-so-often scary experiment of trying on pants with a waistband and zipper just to make sure they still fit. Related: my pajama wardrobe has never been so strong.

”

“We used to be a family always on the go-go-go, but have welcomed the unplanned, but slower pace of life. In the past year, we've gone on many more walks around the neighborhood than ever before. I literally have stopped to smell some roses on our walks. We appreciate all the neighbors who put up holiday decorations, post positive signs in their windows, and maintain beautiful gardens in the neighborhood. It is something we look forward to seeing on our walks.”



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

on February 1, 2021 — Bart Goldberg, OIPA Secretary

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

Commencement: President Chan commenced the meeting, which was again conducted via Zoom at 7:02 p.m. As I write these Last-Minute Minutes on the 22nd (sorry Kathleen), I am filled with a sense of elation that I hope you also share. One reason is that I had felt sick for the last five or six days, and today is the first day I am back to as close as I ever get to "normal". At least for me, that feeling of getting well again is such a joy that it almost makes you want to get sick just for the experience. While not yet recognized in medical circles, I know that Post-Sickness Euphoria (PSE) is real and that people should avoid all salesman while under its deceptive thrall. The other reason is that we are now in the second half of February. I must admit that I was dreading this winter (the cold, the grey, the pandemic, and the long wait for vaccines, etc.). When considering the future in early December, I set surviving until mid-February as a realistic goal. Well, I am very glad to say I made it, and since you are reading these Minutes, I feel it is very likely that you did too. Congratulations to us all! It is just a short step now to spring, vaccines, herd immunity, and a return to a fuller life!

Treasurer's Reports: The Treasurer's Report for January was presented by Lynn Ankney. After many consecutive months of increasing balances, we were due for a fall. The expenses for the month exceeded revenues by about \$2,000. The revenues were not as

high since we are largely past the renewal season. The expenses were increased mainly due to expenses related to the All-Star member's gift baskets. Rest assured that the cost of those baskets was well below the additional revenues generated by the All-Star program. The report was unanimously approved by the Board.

Membership: Meredith O'Sullivan was now able to provide us with year-end membership figures, and they were as wonderful as the end of the fiscal year figures she had previously reported. Our paid membership as of the end of 2020 is now up to 595 households, which is well over 100 more than the 480 memberships we had at the end of the 2019. That is amazing.

All Star Gift Bags: You may recall my kvetching about all of the efforts that some on the Board expended to compile these bags for the eighty or so All Star members of OIPA, so it is with some relief that I can now confirm that they have been delivered. While the bags contained only the finer things (my wife raved about the **Meta Wine**), I must give particular praise to the most unusual item, which was the "Honey Beeswax Soap" produced by a fine local business in Independence Park: **Nature Trace's Company**. The first thing that amused me was the word "beeswax," as it reminded me of prior generations (such as my beloved mother) that would often tell me to "mind my own beeswax." While I had little doubt that I was being told to shut up, I was confused about what this had to do with beeswax. (I just checked Wikipedia, and they speculate that the phrase may relate to women

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OIPA March General Meeting

NOTE: Special Time and Date

Residential Fire Safety Presentation and Q&A



Photo courtesy of www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/media/photos_smoke_alarms

**Presented by Chicago Firefighter and EMT,
John Dzielski.**

> Friday, March 12, 2021 at 12–1pm CST

> Held on Zoom, Meeting ID 921 2941 3642,
Passcode 109881

**All Old Irving Park Association Members are
welcome to attend.**

Fire safety tips including properly using smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers. Having a fire escape plan and knowing your home's exits, tips for safety in single-family homes and multi-unit buildings, and much more.

OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 1, 2021, *continued from page 6*

getting together for candle-making parties back in the colonial period). I imagine that those affairs were probably pretty wild, and when one of the women was overstepping decorum, they could be brought down a notch with this sharp rejoinder. As to the fancy soap, it is sitting on a shelf in our home where we showcase other such things that we are particularly proud of. While my wife says that she would probably enjoy using this honey-soaked soap produced from local beehives at a local micro-farm during her twice-weekly shower, she thinks that it is too fancy to use. For me, it's not a matter of feeling that I am unworthy of such exotic soap. It's just that I have always used a fine bar produced from a real spring in Ireland that leaves me "clean as a whistle."

Zoning and Building Developments: This month, there was still quite a lot to report on the big local projects.

4441 W. Irving Park Road (the Sabatino's Block):

This is the proposed medical facility being built by Northwestern Memorial ("NM") at this site that I have discussed several times before in our Minutes. As stated in last month's Minutes, we issued a Letter of Support for the project (containing some conditions that they were agreeing to meet) in a letter dated January 15, 2021. We continued to discuss our approval for the project at our meeting on 2-1-21. Most of us on the Board also attended both of the Public Meetings that Alderman Gardiner conducted via Zoom on February 4 and again on February 10. The reason that there were two meetings was that the Zoom account being utilized for the first meeting allowed only one hundred participants, and there was such interest that the

meeting quickly filled up with the result that many people could not attend. Everyone who wanted to attend was able to do so the second time. At both meetings, the NM team made their presentation and then fielded questions for over an additional hour. As had been true every step of the way, the NM team (and there were probably eight of them at each meeting) made a great presentation. The majority of the comments probably favored the proposal though there were others who either still had questions or opposed the plan. When responding to concerns the NM team was quick to point out the many changes that they had already made to the benefit of the project that had resulted from the concerns and suggestions that both our Board and our neighborhood had made at prior meetings, and also due to the determined advocacy of Alderman Gardiner.

We were very happy to learn soon thereafter that on February 16, 2021, Alderman Gardiner issued a joint statement with Northwestern Memorial where he acknowledged that they now had his support for the project. We could not be more excited as our Board is unanimous in its belief that the construction of this world-class medical facility will be an incredible boon to our neighborhood. It will be a beautiful building that will provide architectural substance to our neighborhood while providing important medical services to our residents.

We are mindful that many of our neighbors were not in favor of the NM project. We received a letter dated February 12, 2021 that was signed

Continued on page 10

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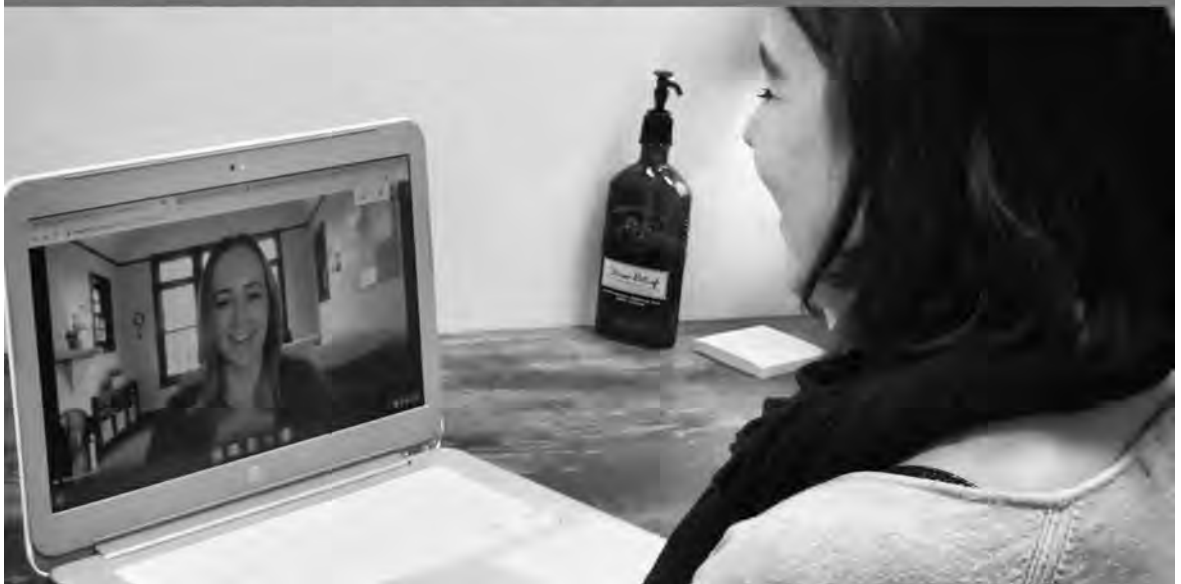
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OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 1, 2021, *continued from page 8*

by about 30 neighbors who were asking us to do what we could to at least slow down the approval process. While it was a very artfully drafted letter, it mostly contained arguments that had been made previously. Some of them, such as the assertion that the development constituted “spot zoning,” had been discussed at the meeting by the Alderman. A relatively small change in zoning classification for an entire block on a major state route containing many different zoning classifications cannot be considered “spot zoning.” The issues raised about the traffic report were ones we had considered previously. The letter also wondered why the Planning Commission was not getting involved, and we have heard many others wondering as well, so we want to address that here.

The short answer is that this project is not big enough to get their attention. Chicago ordinances provide that many types of projects must be vetted by the Department of Planning and Development and then subsequently voted upon by the City Planning Commission (though remember that the City Council can always override them as well). Some projects are required to go before them due to the character of the use (such as schools or spectator sports facilities) or because they are located near the lake or other water, or affect air rights, etc. However, the most common reason that the DPD gets involved is because of the size of the project. Again, there are several different aspects of the size that can require their review. The two most relevant ones to this project and others in our neighborhood are that DPD review is required

for (1) lots with an area of at least four acres or (2) developments containing 75,000 square feet of retail space. The land being developed by NM is only about two acres, and the amount of retail is just a small fraction of what is allowed. In contrast, the proposed GW project at the old Peoples Gas site requires DPD involvement. The lot is about 6.5 acres, and the proposal is for about 100,000 square feet of retail. Either one of these facts are enough to mandate it. Similarly, the Sears site is much larger than the four-acre threshold.

Former Peoples Gas Site: This is the retail project proposed by GW Properties on the site that used to house Peoples Gas. Like with the NM project, we have already conducted many meetings with regard to this project. In the December Newsletter, there is a fairly lengthy recap of the proposed development (including pictures). The project includes about 100,000 square feet of retail space along with some public outdoor spaces, which are better described in that prior Newsletter. On January 11, 2021, this Board sent a letter that was not supportive of the project to GW, Alderman Gardiner, and the Chicago Department of Planning. The main reason for our lack of support was a concern about the lack of residential density around the Six Corners area. After this (and as described in last month’s Newsletter), we again met with GW and the Alderman on January 19, 2021.

We then received on January 22, 2021, a copy of a rather strongly worded letter from the Department of Planning and Development to the Developer. In that letter, the DPD withheld its support on many



OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

different grounds, including their desire that a residential use is included and an implication that the project did not meet the standards of design excellence that they require. Our Board held a special meeting of the Board on January 25 solely for the purpose of discussing this project and the DPD response. The project was further discussed at the February 1, 2021 meeting. While there is not unanimity on the Board at this time as to the desirability of this project, there was a strong consensus that we still have the concerns expressed in our earlier letter. Accordingly, we are presently taking a “wait and see” approach while waiting for any revisions to the project that the Developer might choose to make in response to the concerns raised by our Board, other neighborhood groups, the DPD, and the Alderman.

Former Sears Site at Six Corners: Michael Cannon, a member of our Board, was able to set us up with a meeting on February 3, 2021, with Novak Construction. In particular, we were able to speak with a pair of executives from that large and well-known Chicago contracting firm about their plans for the former Sears site. You will recall that about a year ago, there had been considerable public input concerning a mixed commercial and residential project there, but that Seritage subsequently decided to sell the property to Novak Construction in lieu of developing it. Since Novak has not owned the property for long, Jim Hempleman told us that they are still in the very early stages of trying to decide how to develop this property. He said that his company is very excited about the property and that he could make no commitments at this time, but that the project would probably involve at least two stages. He said

that what some had perceived as “demolition” work at the old Sears building was really just to remove the asbestos safely and that there are no plans at this time to raze the building. We were very pleased to have this initial discussion with Novak and look forward to working with them in the future when they have more information concerning their plans.

The Point at Six Corners: The Board was pleased to note that construction has apparently begun on the Clarendale Six Corners project. This was confirmed in a statement released by the Ryan Companies on January 13, 2021, where they stated that they have closed on their loan financing and are beginning construction. You can view a copy of this statement on their website.

Miscellaneous Real Estate Issues: We discussed some feedback that we have received from Alderman Nugent concerning the proposed residential development at 4300 N. Kedvale. We also discussed a request from the Alderman about our general position on curb cuts that stemmed from a request that the Alderman had received relating to another property.

Future Meetings: We are still not scheduling any public events. However, there will be a lunchtime Zoom presentation on March 12, 2021, that has been arranged by Merry Marwig concerning fire safety. Other possible future events were discussed at our meeting. Please check your emails and our social media sites for further information (including the Zoom links) on these events. Our next Board meeting will be on March 1.

This meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



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Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting

on February 15, 2021 — Bart Goldberg, OIPA Secretary

Zoom Community Meeting: This was a virtual General Meeting that featured some familiar faces and a couple of new ones as well. Most of the meeting consisted of one of our historically most popular types of meeting, which is when some of our elected representatives speak to us about issues in government and issues here at home. The meeting started promptly at 7:00 and was attended by about 35 virtual participants.

Mike Quigley, US Representative – 5th District

Mike Quigley has appeared before us many times before, and it was great to have him back again. He spoke for several minutes and then took many questions. His comments included:

- That a new administration only has at most about a six-month long “honeymoon” period. After that, it will not be possible to pass legislation without bipartisan support (unless the Democrats were to take the rather extreme step of blowing up the filibuster rule).
- He expects that Congress will be able to pass an approximately Two Trillion dollar infrastructure bill in the near future. The money will not only be allocated to many of the obvious needs such as roads, bridges, and transportation, but it will also flow to issues such as climate change damages to our lakeshores and old schools and park facilities.
- Some form of the Care Act will certainly pass soon.
- That he does not see the events of January 6 as an isolated event and that as a result, the US needs to provide more funds to confront domestic terrorism

(as opposed to international terrorism).

- That he thinks that former President Trump may have pardoned himself as a self-pardon does not necessarily need to be made public at the time. However, even if true, and assuming that such an act was held to be valid, the Ex-President would still be liable for any state laws violations.
- That a Civil War is being fought right now within the Republican Party, and that this is very worrisome to him since he firmly believes we need a healthy two-party system.
- Vaccination is obviously the paramount function of government at this time, and he thinks real progress is being made. He stressed that it is a complicated problem that was made harder since the prior administration had no written plan for distribution.
- The problems with the Postal Service are a pressing national concern. The Service was really neglected recently, and the resulting hardships are being felt particularly strongly in rural America. He also is aware of our recent local problems with mail delivery and takes responsibility for the same. He is looking into it and trying to rectify it.
- The Congressman wanted everyone to be aware of a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for individuals to obtain health coverage. You can contact his office for details.
- As always, he stressed the importance of constituent services and said that we should contact his aide Elli at elli.song@mail.house.gov.

OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Jaime Andrade, State Representative – 40th District

- Representative Andrade has also appeared before us many times during the eight years that he has served as the highly responsive state representative for most of us in OIP. We only were able to give him a few minutes of time for his comments at this meeting, but he wanted to attend to introduce the new State Senator. Some of his comments included:
- He gave us an update on the improvements to the Blue Line station that he has been working towards for several years. While frustrated with bureaucratic delays, he was delighted that on

March 5, 2021, he expects to receive the Notice to Proceed Letter for this Six Million dollar project.

- He then hopes to begin construction in April for this three-year project. Some of the improvements will include escalators and canopies for the station. However, there will not be a new elevator as that was prohibitively expensive. The station will remain open during the construction.
- Jamie was excited about the new Speaker of the House and was particularly supportive of the new ten-year term limit for the position of Speaker.

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SNOWMAN CONTEST!

With winter upon us, here is a fun way to get outside and be creative...all while staying at home!:

Build and decorate a snowman and send in photos of your hard work by March 31, 2021 to stephanie@stephaniecutter.com, or tag us in your photos on Facebook and Instagram @StephanieCutterGroup with #CutterSnowmanContest.

We will share entries online, and the snowmen that get the most votes will win prizes!

Visit www.stephaniecutter.com/snowman for more information and full rules!

OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT



Summarized Minutes of the General Meeting on February 15, 2021, *continued from page 15*

Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, State Senator – 20th District

Iris Martinez had served as the State Senator for most of OIP for the last 16 years, and to the best of my recollection, she never appeared before OIPA. Last year she was elected as Clerk of the Circuit Court, leaving a vacancy in the 20th District.¹ Ex-Senator Martinez (who was also one of the Committeepersons that had a vote on this matter) selected Dr. Zayas as her successor. After the relevant Committeepersons' elected her, she was sworn in as our new State Senator on December 22, 2020. I have had the pleasure of meeting her previously and via Zoom before this meeting. I can tell you, and I am sure that anyone who viewed our meeting would agree, that she will bring a welcomed vitality, intelligence, vision, and accountability to her new role. This meeting was a brief visit where she could introduce herself, and we will want to have her back for a longer meeting soon. Some of her comments included:

- She spent some time telling us about herself. She is the sole child raised in a family who valued education and its essential role in an individual's life. She is highly educated and has a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois.
- She is particularly keen to apply academics to the real world. She has expertise in the Early Childhood space.
- She has already accumulated a significant amount of experience in many prior roles (I am saying that she would never say that!). She was particularly

proud of her work with the Chicago Public Schools and the "Culture of Calm" program that she helped to design there.

- She likes to stress that "Community is Family" and has been very active in the Latino Policy Forum.
- She has already established what she is hoping will be a regularly occurring series—a Virtual Town Hall. Representative Quigley has already appeared in one, and she expected to have another one by now with Representative Chuy Garcia. Great idea!
- She also presented a series of graphics that showed her thoughtful approach to governing, including a Roundtable and Youth Council initiative.
- One of her primary objectives is to demystify government and policy for her constituents, and it looks like she is off to a great start in that regard. She invites everyone to visit www.SenatorPacioneZayas.com to sign up for her e-newsletters and get the Zoom link information for Town Halls and other events.
- Lastly, she let us know that her office (which is not yet open to the public due to COVID) has been moved to 3140 W. Montrose Avenue.

Northwest Siders for Racial Equity and Justice (NWS4REJ)

We were delighted to host Rick Graham and Ash Srivastava from this organization. Lisa Madigan sued the Chicago Police Department (CPD) in 2017 to enact

¹ In what most certainly qualifies as a footnote, as your Author (and sort of a member of the press) I should disclose that I ran for this Senate seat in 2018 and was trounced at the polls by Senator Martinez. During the latter half of last year I also spent considerable effort contacting the various committeepersons that would be voting to appoint her replacement in what proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to become the new Senator myself.



OIPA GENERAL MEETING REPORT

reforms in response to a report from the Department of Justice that had found that the CPD had a “pattern and practice” of excessive force violations. The result of that lawsuit was the establishment of a Consent Decree with the CPD. (This is analogous to the establishment of the Shakman consent decree that related to political patronage, which is much better known). Maggie Hickey was appointed as the Monitor under the Decree, and the CPD was given five years to reach compliance. Various time deadlines were set, and so far, less than 30% of them have been met. The NWS4REJ was formed for the purpose of providing feedback to the Monitor as to how successful they are being in achieving the goals of the Consent Decree here on the NW side. They met with us for essentially two reasons:

1. They wanted us to know how big a problem police misconduct can be (not only the human cost to victims, and the loss of prestige to our valued officers, but more than 757 Million dollars in city payouts) and
2. to look for people who might want to participate with them in giving feedback and advocating for the rapid and full implementation of the Decree.

For more information, contact Jac Charlier at jac.charlier@gmail.com.

President Chan thanked all of our speakers for their thoughts and for staying within our time constraints. The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m.

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
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| Ellen Hill | 20 John Silva |
| 1 Anne Gruber | 20 Geoff Reu |
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| 1 Rose Slowikowski | 23 Felix Chan |
| 2 Dipeshwar Grewal | 23 Karl Kuhn |
| 4 Damian Jackson | 24 Josh Davis |
| 5 Beata Nowak | 24 Vilmar Arias |
| 5 Charlene Adamski | 25 Cindy Kuhn |
| 5 Jacob Wilkoff | 25 Janine Kostelny |
| 5 Phuong Johnston | 26 Thomas Jezuit |
| 7 Jennifer Groszek | 29 Alisun DeKock |
| 8 Carlos Eguis-Aguila | 29 Kaitlin Reimann |
| 9 Frank W Nagorka | 30 Dan Jacobs |
| 9 Valerie Ginnan | 30 Victoria Ross |
| 10 Emily Coakley | 31 Cecilia Munoz-Cohlhepp |
| 14 Kimberly Danahy | 31 Jeanne Brady |
| 15 Tonnia Koehler | 31 Phoebe Craig |
| 16 Colleen Smith | 31 Rachel Horvath |
| 18 Barry Bebart | 31 Vanessa Reu |
| 18 Beth Valukas | 31 Marco Acevedo |

March Anniversaries

- 6 Cindy & Karl Kuhn
- 8 Abbie & Dave Dampitz
- 10 Patty & Scott Gustafson
- 15 Liliana & James O'Shea
- 17 Christy & Jonathan Levy
- 23 Jen & Shane Knox
- 24 George Unzueta & Michelle Sekiya
- 24 Kim & Rob Starmann
- 28 Denise & Curtis Giszczynski
- 29 Casey & Kelly Williams
- 29 Cathey Curley & Andrius Markvaldas

Kid & Pet Birthdays

March

- 2 Nala Palmieri
- 2 Scout (who loves Aunt Meredith)
- 7 Blake Toth
- 17 Eloise Kick
- 24 Ben O/Mara



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 membership@oldirvingpark.com or 773-551-4533, so she can add your name and dates to the list.



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Prepared by Tom Brandt

[C] = Court Approved [F] = Foreclosure Sale [S] = Short Sale



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Attached Single Family

4130 N. Kedvale, 208..... \$165,000
3548 N. Keeler, 3F..... \$206,500
4216 N. Kedvale, D \$280,000



2-4 Units

3709 N. Pulaski..... \$360,000 (F)



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NEW SEASON BEGINS WITH SEED STARTING — Claudia Hine



Irving Park Garden Club member Karen Wehrle will kick off the 2021 season with a presentation to members on seed starting. Photo by Claudia Hine.

The Irving Park Garden Club's first meeting of the 2021 season will be a how-to presentation on seed starting. Member **Karen Wehrle**, a volunteer at the Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse since 2007, will share her tips and tricks for successfully beginning vegetables, herbs, and flowers from seed.

Karen says, "I use the greenhouse techniques for my own vegetable plants, of which I narrow down to tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cucumbers. I also start some flowers and herbs ahead. Knowing the timing, conditions, and needs of the seedlings makes each year challenging and fun."

This presentation will be on Saturday, March 20, at 10 a.m., most probably via Zoom. Members will receive log in information by email prior to the event.

Get a head start on the gardening season with a tutorial on seed starting.

Photo by T. J. Hine.



Looking Ahead Is a Challenge

IPGC will meet at least eight times in 2021, March through October. Due to the changing nature of COVID restrictions and our fuzzy crystal ball, exactly how and where the meetings will take place is not entirely clear.

Our calendar calls for a mix of Zoom meetings, outdoor activities, and (fingers crossed) gatherings at St. John's Episcopal Church when permitted. We expect to hold our annual garden walk on the last Saturday in June. There will be a plant exchange and field trip as well.

New Members Always Welcome

Garden club meetings are for members only, but we welcome new members all season long. The cost to join is just \$20/year per household. Think you need to be a master gardener to belong? Think again! Our club is a wonderful mix of people of all ages and skills. Some have large gardens and some only plant in containers on their balconies.

If you are interested in joining us, send an email to claudiahine@icloud.com.

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Huskie Headlines — Renee Klimkiewicz, Assistant Principal

March signifies the one-year mark of life-changing for Scammon Elementary. No one predicted we would find ourselves living, learning, and working through a yearlong global pandemic. As adults, it is difficult to fathom how this experience may shape our lives; this statement resonates even more significant for our children. Yet, we realize that children can possess great wisdom in times of adversity. We asked some of our Scammon students to articulate what they learned through this pandemic.

New Normal

"As a student, everything has changed because it can be hard to concentrate and be productive at first. Then you settle into the 'new normal.' I try not to think about the negative stuff and try to do my best in remote learning and bring positivity to my daily life. Being at home has helped me improve self-esteem and confidence." — **S.R.**



Photo by Taylor Heery on Unsplash

Priorities and Patience

"I miss talking about school and other topics with my friends during lunch. To put it simply, I miss school, math class, and all. But some of the positive things that happened my handwriting significantly improved because I'm learning calligraphy and implementing some of it into my normal everyday writing. My interest in Japanese culture has grown so much that even my dad (the one who sparked my interest in Japan) acknowledged it. I also learned that my 2-year-old sister loves to climb on top of my desk and knock all my stuff down while my 3-year old sister climbs on top of my bed and takes my pillow!" — **V.B.**

Importance of Family

"The most important family member is my grandma because she is alone because my grandpa passed away three years ago, so we keep her company. She doesn't live that far away from our home, and she is close to Scammon School." — **B.P.**

Selflessness

"Now, there are many rules to stay safe, such as keeping six feet away from people, wearing masks while going to stores, restaurants, and many more places. These rules need to be followed so everybody can be safe while all of this is happening in the world." — **Y.S.**



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS | Scammon School

Real-Life Conversations

"When I came home my parents told me to watch the news on the T.V. When I looked on the news it said that students weren't allowed to go to school because of the pandemic and I asked my parents, 'What pandemic?'" – M.R.

A Message of Hope

"I am used to it now because this is how life is going to be until the pandemic is finally over...I pray and hope that one day we can all return to what I call our old lives." – I.Z.

As always, it is humbling to see life through the eyes of a child. We thank them for their words and celebrate their wisdom. Go Huskies!

Are you interested in learning more about Scammon Elementary?

Phone: (773)534-3475

Visit us at <http://scammon.cps.edu>

Or follow us on:

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Facebook: Scammon School



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DONATION DROP OFF: We are now collecting donations on behalf of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. M-F 10AM-4PM / 4184 N. Elston Ave Chicago, IL. 60618

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TAKE A WALK AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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

Then grab your phone, log onto www.oldirvingpark.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.



Easter Basket Program Underway

The Pantry collects donations for its annual Easter basket program for clients' children up to eight years old. Items and assembled baskets are welcome.

The Pantry will give out Easter baskets to clients' children up to eight years old from March 3 to 31 (before Easter on April 4). We are looking for donations of filled plastic eggs, small games and puzzles, plush animals, party-favor-sized toys, and small wrapped candies. Please do not donate Easter baskets except the bucket-type at dollar stores.

Donations can be brought to the Pantry on Mondays or Tuesdays (10 to noon), to Big Helpers (4184 N. Elston Ave.) on Monday through Friday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or the dropbox on the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. (any time). Contact-free registries are available at Amazon, Dollar Tree, and Target. Please see our Facebook page for links. Items can be purchased from those, or they can be used as ideas for in-store purchases.

We also encourage organizations to do their own collections or assemble baskets. Contact Special Events Coordinator Craig Shutt at craigshutt@gmail.com for details or arrange a special delivery.



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.



Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis was named a Coca-Cola "Everyday Hero" for doing so much to help others in need and received his honor and gifts at the Pantry in January. *Photo by Michelle Buchecker*



Pantry Operations Manager Rick Leitl was named the Pantry's 2020 Volunteer of the Year by the Pantry's volunteer crew and received his award from Executive Director John Psiharis. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

Everyday Hero

Congratulations to Executive Director John Psiharis, who was honored by Coca-Cola as an Everyday Hero for doing so much to help others in need. He received the honor and accompanying rewards during our January Tuesday night distribution. Among the gifts he was given were a six-pack cooler, air fryer, and fleece Coke blanket. Coke also sent more than 100 bottles of Coca-Cola to share among the volunteers.

Pantry Program Registration

We continue to register clients to the new city-wide system instituted by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which requires more demographic information and will provide new analytics that will help us apply for specific grants. **If you are a Pantry client and have not yet registered, please use the online form at [gcf.d.link2feed.com](https://www.greaterchicago.org/food-depository/link2feed).**

Volunteer of the Year for 2020

Congratulations to Rick Leitl, Pantry operations manager, who was named the Pantry's Volunteer of the Year for 2020. Rick creates our weekly food order with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, schedules and coordinates deliveries, and ensures stations are continually stocked with food. We appreciate all he does to keep the Pantry operations running smoothly!

We Extend Our Gratitude

Thank you to **Home Run Inn Pizza in Melrose Park**, which donated 150 pizzas with varying toppings to the Pantry. The pizzas were given to clients who registered in the new system and came in early January.

Thank you to everyone who supports our efforts to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," especially as this challenging period for us all continues.



Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Register for Carlson's Virtual Trivia Night— Part Two — Liz Mills

March 19, 2021
7 p.m. on Zoom

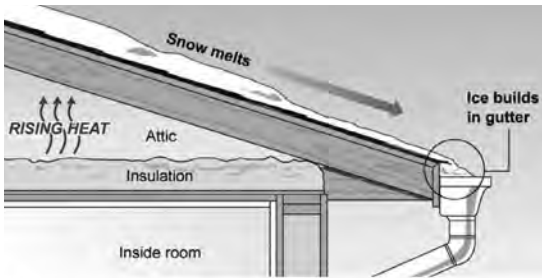
Registration details at
carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Back by popular demand, it's Carlson's Virtual Trivia Night – Part 2! Though we hoped our first Virtual Trivia Night would be the last [eagerly waiting for group gatherings to happen again—in person], we had so much fun the first go around on Zoom, we've decided to do it again!

Virtual Trivia Night takes place Friday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Whether you and your teammates are hunkered down in Chicago or scattered across the globe, you can play together through the magic of Zoom breakout rooms! Virtual tables are \$200 each and can accommodate up to 8 players. \$200 cash prize! Check Carlson's website for registration details at www.carlsoncommunityservices.org. All proceeds benefit Carlson's neighborhood programs.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture, and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mill, executive director, at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Ice Dams can cause water damage to your home. Here's how they form & how to prevent them:



Illustrations courtesy Chicago Tribune. To see the original Tribune article visit <https://www.chicagotribune.com/weather/ct-viz-how-ice-dams-work-2021021>

- Heat rises from the house and into the attic which melts the snow on the roof. The melted snow drips into the cold gutters forming a block of ice known as an ice "dam."
- As the dam enlarges, it traps water behind it which can back up under shingles or seep into the attic.
- From there it can ruin insulation and begin to rot the wood sheathing under your shingles. Sometimes, the water makes it inside where the plaster/drywall is affected.

Quick fixes:

- Remove the ice. Break it into small chunks. Do not use an ax or sharp tool. A blunt mallet is best. Best done by a pro.
- Melt troughs through the dam with calcium chloride. DO NOT use rock salt. A good trough-maker is a tube of cloth from an old pair of panty hose or long sock.

Permanent fixes:

- Keep gutters clean. Essential in our climate.
- Keep the roof cold. Seal all points where warm air leaks into the spaces immediately below the roof sheathing.
- Insulate. The living spaces must be insulated to prevent conduction and convection of heat through the ceiling.
- Vent. Venting the spaces between the insulation and roof sheathing so any heat is carried away.
- Deicing Systems. Professional roofers can install deicing cables under the shingles and/or inside the gutters and down the downspouts so the ice never forms.

Advertise with Us!

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

10 ISSUES PER YEAR

We publish ten issues per calendar year (omitting January and July).

SPECIAL PERKS

Also, if you are a newsletter advertiser, you will be prioritized on our email blasts and Facebook 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!

The advertising rates are amazingly reasonable. **To place an ad visit** www.olderivingpark.com/buy-a-newsletter-ad.



The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator



Belding School has continued the tradition of fun family events, even during the era of COVID, by hosting two extraordinary (virtual) family events: a potluck and a family game night. The January virtual potluck featured a sampler of four international soups and various bread. YUM! We also learned about family soup and chili favorites. In February, parents hosted a Love and Loteria (and tacos) game night. Families pre-ordered dinners from CTA Taco to eat at home and then logged into a virtual family game night featuring Loteria, a traditional game similar to Bingo.

What We Love

In February, Belding held a Valentine's themed virtual dance show that all families watched together. The show was titled "What We Love." Grades K-6 each learned a dance to a song with the word "love" in the title. The dances were recorded at an earlier time during dance class and then edited for the final dance show. To add a unique flair to the show, students submitted videos and pictures sharing things they loved the most. All of the performances brought a feeling of love and joy to all.

See what Belding Elementary has to offer your child!

Each month Principal Heather Yutzy offers virtual school tours for prospective parents. School tours are an excellent opportunity to learn more about Belding school and the community. Upcoming tour begin at 8 a.m. Check out the Belding website: beldingelementary.com for more information on upcoming dates and how to join the virtual tour!



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Psalms 34:8a

"...whoever calls upon the name of

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Romans 10:13



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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 hello@oldirvingpark.com.

Preventative Home Maintenance — Merry Marwig, OIPA Board Member

Kee your home in tip-top shape with regular inspections, replacements of worn parts, and seasonal tune-ups. Make a plan for when you may need to make major home repairs. If you live within the boundaries of the Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program, consider using their home improvement loan program for 0% interest loans up to \$10,000 for home repairs and remodeling. **For more information about the Northwest Home Equity Assurance Program's home improvement loan program, visit <https://nwheap.com/home-improvement-loan-program-guidelines> or call 773-622-0700.**

General lifespan of home equipment and materials:

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- Roof: 15 to 20 years for asphalt/fiberglass shingle; 30 to 50 years for slate/tile roofs
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Chicago Connected is a groundbreaking program that provides no-cost, high-speed internet service to CPS students in their households. This first-of-its-kind program will be one of the largest and longest-term efforts by any city to increase internet access for students over the course of four years.

According to Census data, an estimated 100,000 students lack access to high-speed internet in Chicago. In order to narrow the digital divide for CPS families, Chicago Connected offers up to four years of high-speed internet for CPS families who are most in need.

Since its launch in June 2020, more than 50,000 students have enrolled in the program, which is on track to reach 100,000 students by the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Chicago Connected has also expanded eligibility to more than 235,000 student households.

Over 53,000 newly-eligible families will be notified by U.S. Mail. **Families can check eligibility status and access their activation code at cps.edu/GetConnected.**

Source: <https://www.cps.edu/strategic-initiatives/chicago-connected>

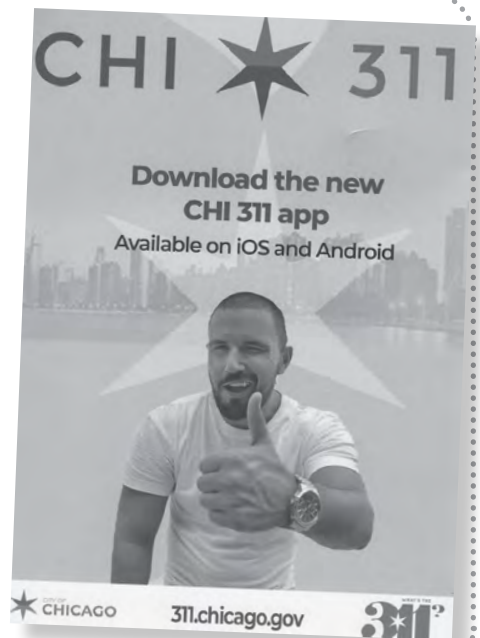
When to Call 311 vs. 911

Call 911 while the incident you are reporting is in progress and the on-site presence of a police officer is necessary to help resolve the matter (e.g., burglary in progress, incident involving injuries, quieting loud neighbors, etc.). You should contact 311 if the incident you are reporting has occurred and the offender is gone from the scene.

Use 311 to find information, request non-emergency services, or report non-emergency issues. You can call 311 to find out what Police District and beat you live in, as well as the date, time and location of your next beat meeting. Contacting 311 gives you easy access to non-emergency police services, from filing police reports to talking to police personnel in your district.

For more information and to download the app or use the services visit <https://311.chicago.gov>.

Source: www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/311ProjectInformation; <https://311.chicago.gov>





St. Edward Scoop — Jenny Dreyer

Welcome Wednesday

**A Great Way to Experience
Our Community**

Join us for a virtual Welcome Wednesday tour scheduled every first Wednesday of the month through June from 8:30–9:30 a.m. This information session, Q&A, and conversation with the principal and current school parents will offer you the opportunity to learn all about our 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. Discover all that St. Edward School offers!

Big Red House Party

Mark your calendars to virtually attend St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser, Big Red House Party, on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 7 p.m. This year's event is a virtual auction and stand-up comedy show featuring Pat Tomasulo. Proceeds from the Big Red House Party event support educational resources, school improvements, and tuition assistance. From a variety of sponsorship levels to offering a cash or item donation, there are several ways you can support our efforts, all found on our website, www.bigredhouseparty.com.

Discover all that St. Edward School offers!

St. Edward School celebrates 111 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th. Please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.

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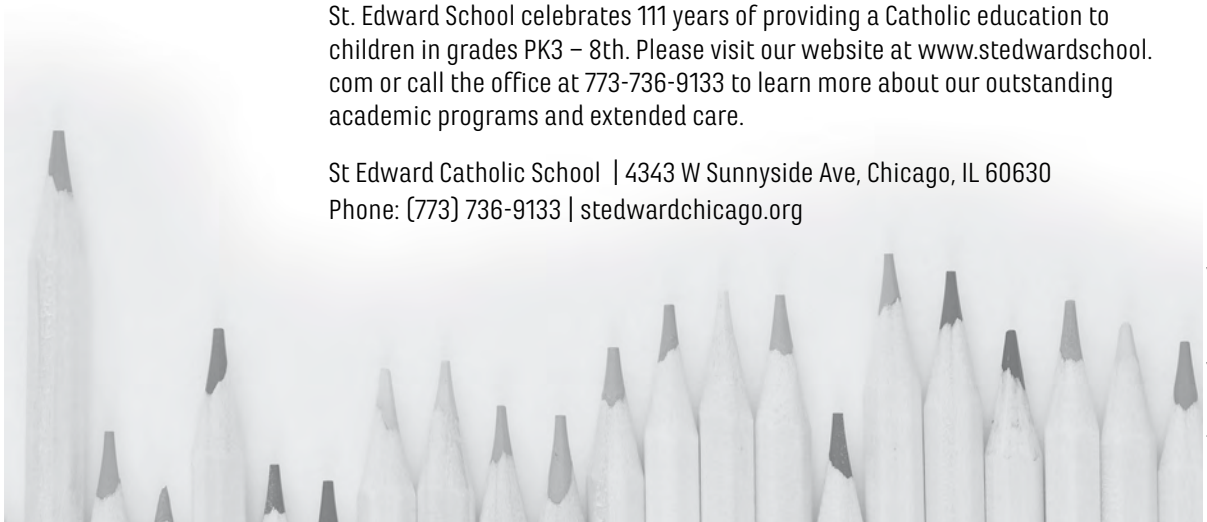


Photo by Jess Bailey on Unsplash

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SCHOOL TOURS**



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CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OIPA NEWS SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Advertising:
First Tuesday
of the month

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

March **Submit your event for our calendar.**

-
- 12 **OIPA March General Meeting** | Residential Fire Safety Presentation and Q&A, Presented by Chicago Firefighter and EMT, John Dzielski | 12–1pm CST | Held on Zoom, Meeting ID 921 2941 3642, Passcode 109881
-
- 19 **Carlson Community Services Virtual Trivia Night—Part Two** | 7 p.m. on Zoom \$200 per table of 8 | Registration details at carlsoncommunityservices.org.
-
- 20 **Irving Park Garden Club** | Presentation on Seed Starting | 10 a.m., Presentation will probably be via Zoom. Members will receive log in information by email prior to the event.
-

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- Renewal
- Gift Membership

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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).

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

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

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 Membership dues received after May 1 will be applied to the following year membership.

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

GIFT MEMBERSHIP: Simply complete the form above or the online form with your neighbor's name(s) and address. You may not know their birthday/anniversary info. That's okay – we'll follow up with them. **IF purchasing online:** Please indicate this is a gift subscription in the final box titled, "Special Instructions."

SEND FORM & PAYMENT TO: Old Irving Park Association, c/o Meredith O'Sullivan, OIPA Director / Membership, 4061 W. Warwick Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

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

Contribute to the OIPA News | SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All members are welcome to submit letters, photos, and articles for publication. Ten newsletters are produced annually (newsletters are not published in the 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. hello@oldirvingpark.com.

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. **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE DOCUMENT.**
- Photos and images should be provided as separate files. **We cannot use photos or images that are embedded or placed in a Word document. We need the original image file.**
- 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	2021	
Publication Month	Advertising	General
April	3/2	3/4
May	4/6	4/8
June	5/4	5/6
August	7/6	7/8
September	8/3	8/5
October*	8/31	9/2
November	10/5	10/7
December	11/2	11/4

* Earlier submission date to accommodate delivery schedule

Foundation presents
Jazz Night
with
**Steve
Thomas**



**Wednesdays
7:00 – 10:00**

FOUNDATION

**5007 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago IL**



Because Good Neighborhoods Don't Just Happen

www.oldirvingpark.com

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

OLD IRVING PARK NEWS

Old Irving Park Association

3749 N. Keeler Avenue

Chicago, IL 60641