

# OLD IRVING PARK



NEWS



# FEBRUARY

VOLUME 35 | ISSUE 1 | 2021



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# OLD IRVING PARK NEWS | Volume 35 ❁ Issue 1 ❁ February 2021

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

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

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*Cover photo by Renée Linnemeyer*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

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Each February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”<sup>1</sup> Also, Chicago’s history has overlooked many of Black Chicagoans’ accomplishments. This includes our city’s founding father, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the first non-Indigenous settler of the area. The following article shares the history of the Point du Sable family and their impact on our city.

— Merry Marwig, OIPA Board Member

# The History of Chicago’s Founding Family — the Point du Sable Family — Merry Marwig



Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, heralded as modern-day Chicago’s founding father, was a fur trader who became the first non-Indigenous resident of what became the City of Chicago. Point du Sable and his wife, Kitihawa, a Potawatomi woman, settled on the northern bank of the Chicago River in the 1780s, setting up a successful farm and trading post near where present-day Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River.

Jean Baptiste Point du Sable was Black, of African descent. Little is known about his birth date or birthplace, although it is speculated that he was born in 1745 in Haiti to a French

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Bust of Jean Baptiste Point du Sable by artist Erik Blome at Chicago’s Pioneer Court (located near the junction of the Chicago River and Upper Michigan Avenue).

*Photo courtesy of Jyoti Srivastava. Printed with permission.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

mariner father and his mother, an enslaved person of African descent. After studying in France, Jean sailed to New Orleans, ultimately making his way up the Mississippi River as a fur trader. He met his wife, Kitihawa, a member of the Potawatomi tribe, in Peoria and married in the 1770s. They had two children, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable Jr. and Suzanne.

Jean and Kitihawa's trading post on the Chicago River (nearby where the present-day Apple store is located off Michigan Avenue) served a diverse constituency including Native Americans, British, and French explorers. In addition to goods, they offered translation services. Jean and Kitihawa spoke multiple languages — including Spanish, French, English, and several Native American dialects. Their trading post was quite successful financially, affording them a comfortable life. The trading post included a house with fine walnut furniture, mirrors, oil paintings; two barns, a horse-drawn mill, a bakehouse, a poultry house, a dairy, a smokehouse, and accommodations for employees, a garden, and an orchard.

The history of Jean and Kitihawa was mostly forgotten after the sale of their property in 1800 to Jean La Lime an agent of William Burnett and John Kinzie. The city of Chicago did not officially recognize the Point Du Sable family as they did other early pioneers. The founding of their successful trading post was often miscredited to John Kinzie as the Kinzie homestead. Kinzie was even given a plaque in 1913 honoring the site, with no mention of the Point du Sable family.

However, in 1933, several African-American groups sought to bring the history of Point du Sable to light after their family's history was overlooked for over a century. The groups honored the family at the Century of Progress International Exposition, where a replica

of the Point du Sable cabin was included in the history of Chicago exhibit at the fair. In 1961, Chicago's DuSable Museum, dedicated to the study of African American history, was chartered. In 1965, a plaza at the Point du Sable trading post site was built and named Pioneer Court. The Jean Baptiste Point du Sable Homesite was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. In 2009, a bronze bust of Jean Baptiste Point du Sable was erected at the site. In 2010, the Michigan Avenue bridge was renamed the DuSable Bridge in his honor. In 2020, Chicago alderman introduced an ordinance to rename Lake Shore Drive in Point du Sable's honor, which at the time of this publication is still under consideration.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month#>



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## Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting

on January 4, 2020 (purportedly) — 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 7:07 p.m. The first order of business concerned my motion to correct the Agenda for the meeting since it seemed to have an incorrect date. How could it be 2021 when 2019 was just concluded? While I know that some people think that I have a preternatural ability to see only the positive in the world, I have absolutely no recollection of 2020. I have great confidence in the number system that I learned in grade school so I knew that there should have been a year between 2019 and 2021. Could this be what is known as a “leap year”? The rest of the Board was firm in their resolve concerning the correct date. I could sense a troubled certitude, a worry that during the two months that had elapsed since our last meeting that increased senility had wreaked its havoc upon the eldest member of the Board. Therefore, in order to maintain unity with the rest of the Board, and to mollify their concerns I am provisionally agreeing that this “is” 2021 (while I secretly hope that this error will soon be corrected). And if I am wrong: then in the immortal words of Emily Litella, I reserve the right to say “Never Mind”.

**Treasurer's Reports:** The Treasurer's Reports for November and December were discussed. The November report included the receipt of a large amount of membership dues. The only unusual expense was the approximately \$850 that was spent on repairs to our neighborhood murals, which

included some graffiti removal and painting touch-ups. I am told that they were greatly improved. The December report had increased expenditures because six of the eight charities that we had contributed to at the end of last year (the eight were Belding, Disney II, Scammon, Schurz, IP Food Pantry, IP YMCA, Independence Branch Library, and Carlson Community Services) had cashed their checks. We were concerned that the other two might have held off because a Lynn Ankney autograph may be worth more than \$500 on the secondary market, but we have been assured that they will cash them this month. Both reports were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Membership:** Meredith O'Sullivan reported that our great growth spurt has continued unabated (and this may be why some think we are getting too big for our britches). At the end of 2018 we had 470 members, and by the end of 2019 we were up to 522, but the total at the end of the purported year of 2020 was an amazing 613. This included 54 members at the All-Star level. This is just great news and we are so appreciative of all of our members.

**Zoning and Building Developments:** This month there was still quite a lot to report on the two main projects.

**4441 W. Irving Park Road (the Sabatino's Block):** As I have detailed in prior Minutes we have participated in numerous meetings concerning the proposed medical facility being built by Northwestern Memorial (“NM”) at this site. At the outset we want to make clear that we have received and reviewed a large amount of very constructive feedback from our community



## OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

concerning this project. We have forwarded the concerns to the NM team and the Alderman to pass along your questions and concerns, and they have responded thoughtfully to virtually all of it. Many of your concerns, along with concerns that we had raised independently have found their way into the present plans. Of course, some of the suggestions that were made by the community and the Board were not incorporated in their plan, which is of course their prerogative. It should also be said that all of their plans are not yet finalized, and that we are in communication with them regarding tweaks to their plans. As detailed below there will be a community meeting via Zoom on February 4, 2021, and we really encourage everyone to view the proposal, and to weigh in with their comments.

Since the last issue of this Newsletter we were provided with the traffic study, which we reviewed thoroughly. That review led to a number of additional questions and to further email discussions with NM. We conducted an additional Board Meeting on November 23rd (I have not published separate Minutes for this meeting as it largely concerned just this development and the People's Gas site, and the contents of that meeting are included herein). In that meeting we discussed the traffic study and concluded that the installation of a new traffic light at Kilbourn and Irving Park Road will help to alleviate the traffic impact on our community. We were more concerned about if the parking garage was sufficiently large to handle the volume of visitors (due to confusing language in the traffic report there had been a lot of misinformation in our community about the parking, but even when corrected it was still a concern). We were also concerned about the loss of one left turn when proceeding east on Irving Park Road into the

northern section of our community. Additionally, we wanted to address once and for all the issue of whether or not the complex could be built in such a way that the entrance to the garage would be directly off of Irving Park Road (instead of Kilbourn). We conducted another meeting with NM on December 17th, 2020. As always (because they are a very professional organization) it was a pleasant meeting. However, they made clear that entrance directly on Irving Park Road was a complete non-starter. One reason for this has to do with the offset of Kilbourn Avenue, which intersects with their site in a location that leaves no good place for a traffic signal, which would be necessary for exiting traffic to turn into the west-bound lane. Another reason is that they would lose internal parking spaces. To correct for that they would need to add the fifth floor of the building back on (they had already removed that floor and dug down deeper for more underground parking at the request of the community) and that it would simply also make the project too expensive. In their presentation they also presented other options for the entrance to the building along with a list of the pros and cons of each, and a review of these options again made clear that the present configuration (with one entrance on Kilbourn and exits on both Kilbourn and Kenneth) was the best choice for the neighborhood.

We continued to discuss all of this at our 1-4-21 Board Meeting, and it was decided to make a few additional inquiries and then to move towards a conditional approval of the project. After several revisions, the Letter of Support (which was conditioned on certain modifications) was completed and sent out on January 15, 2021. Since that time it has been announced that there will be a community meeting hosted by Alderman

*Continued on page 6*

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# OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

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## Summarized Minutes of the Board Meeting on January 4, 2020, *continued from page 5*

Gardiner concerning this project on February 4th at 6:30 p.m. It will be conducted via Zoom and the info is: Meeting ID – 958 2497 5091 and Passcode – 472732. We encourage everyone to participate so as to make their opinions known to Alderman Gardiner before he makes his decision. There are still improvements to be made to the project and we are still working towards that end. However, it is our opinion that when viewed in totality the NM development will be a great addition to our community.

**Former People's Gas Site:** This is the retail project being proposed by GW Properties on the site that used to house People's Gas. Like with the NM project we have already conducted many meetings with regards 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. Those prior Minutes state that this General Meeting with the Developer, Alderman and the OIPA community was on November 9, 2020. This is a typographical error on my part as it should have been November 16, 2020 (While your Secretary has no excuses and therefore offers to tender his resignation, part of the confusion was that we had also had a meeting concerning the development on November 9th, but that one was just with the Developer). The development was then further discussed by the Board in its meeting on November 23rd. GW (the Developer) subsequently sent us the traffic study we requested, but our consideration of the project was delayed a bit for two reasons: the first being the time we were

focusing on the NM project and the second being news that was being received about the Sears site. The relevance of the former Sears site was that as a result of the sale of that site from Seritage to Novak Construction we were hearing indications that any new development there might not have a residential component. Since our Board desires increased density near the Six Corners intersection, and since there was now some doubt about if residential would be included at the Sears site, the Board was now concerned about the People's Gas site being wholly commercial. The issue was debated at length at our January 4th Board Meeting, and it was decided that we could not support the project at this time due primarily to concerns about needing increased residential density. Accordingly, after sharing several drafts of a letter noting those concerns, the Board sent the letter on January 11, 2021 to GW, Alderman Gardiner and the Chicago Department of Planning.

On January 19, 2021 we attended a subsequent Zoom meeting with the GW team and Alderman Gardiner to further discuss the situation. At that meeting the zoning attorney for GW argued that she did not think that any permits could be issued at Sears (except for permits relating to only any remodeling of the current building) without Aldermanic and DPD approval. We acknowledge that such an opinion could be somewhat self-serving when being advocated by the development team. We found it more important that Alderman Gardiner agreed that any future developer of the Sears site would have to bring the project to his office, and that he understood our desire to have a residential component included in that development



## OIPA BOARD MEETING REPORT

and that (as is his custom) no decision would be made without community participation (including us). On January 25, 2021 our Board will meet again to reconsider our opinions concerning this site, and we will of course keep you posted.

**Parties and Future Meetings:** As mentioned previously both the annual Holiday Party and the All-Star Party have been canceled. This was largely due to a sentiment on the Board that life itself is such a party right now, that any further organized parties would be superfluous. However, we did discuss at some length the contents of the gift bags being delivered

to people in lieu of the All-Star party. Life was simpler when Colleen Kenny took care of that party and we just showed up. No other public meetings have been scheduled at this time. However, there are a couple in the works including a daytime presentation concerning fire safety (always very relevant in the winter) and a possible Fearless Cooking Class. Please check your emails and our social media sites for further information on these events. Our next Board meeting will be in February.

This meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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## February Birthdays

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kevin Cisner           | 16 Will Staker        |
| Thomas Keith           | 17 Liliana O'Shea     |
| 1 Nicholas Arvanitakis | 17 Sydney Thomson     |
| 1 Patrick Muench       | 17 Andrew Jukes       |
| 2 Meni Sarris          | 17 Maria Montadas     |
| 3 Danielle Tetrault    | 17 Mike Abbott        |
| 3 Heather Legan        | 18 Amy Meadows        |
| 4 Natasha O'Donnell    | 20 Denise Giszczynski |
| 5 Randall Patke        | 20 Lee Swingen        |
| 5 Chris Craig          | 21 Dave Sheets        |
| 6 Joey Sevigny         | 23 Charity Miska      |
| 6 Sara Freeman         | 23 Paige Passman      |
| 7 Joshua Boggioni      | 23 Lauren Innocenzi   |
| 7 Katie Kozisek        | 23 Liam McLaughlin    |
| 7 Rodney Zech          | 23 Ted Simmons        |
| 8 Missy Goldberg       | 25 Casey Williams     |
| 9 TJ Perrine           | 25 Jessica Kick       |
| 10 Carrie Healy        | 26 Jasmin Cardenas    |
| 13 Sharon Perrine      | 27 Shirley Buss       |
| 13 Michelle Foik       | 28 Richard Tetrault   |
| 14 Irene Flaherty      | 29 Beth Young         |
| 16 Richard Hoffman     |                       |

## February Anniversaries

- 2 ERIS Brewery and Cider House
- 2 Megan & Eric Stalder
- 12 Danielle & Randy West
- 14 Kate & Mike Roche
- 15 Sarah & Russell Kamp
- 16 Cate Hall & Will Staker
- 17 Cyril & Mary Koscinski
- 20 Jessica & Jim Covert
- 21 Rachel & Pete Horvath
- 27 Laura Baginski & Patrick Wasser

## Kid & Pet Birthdays

### February

- Pokey Goldberg
- 3 TJ Danahy
- 21 Tootie McKelvey
- 25 Liam Kick
- 26 Emmet Rood
- 26 Nathan Coe

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

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4226 N. Kolmar .....	\$460,000
4412 W. Waveland .....	\$545,000
4216 N. Kolmar .....	\$595,000
3854 N. Kostner .....	\$660,000
3933 N. Kilbourn .....	\$699,900
4327 N. Keeler .....	\$1,030,000
3716 N. Tripp .....	\$1,135,000
3942 N. Lowell .....	\$1,200,000
3939 N. Kenneth .....	\$1,387,500



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4123 N. Keeler, 2E .....	\$110,000
4126 N. Kedvale, 203 .....	\$133,000
4249 N. Keystone, 206 .....	\$138,750
4228 N. Keystone, 2C .....	\$140,000
4215 N. Keystone, 2A .....	\$140,000
4334 N. Keeler, 3B .....	\$142,500
4149 N. Tripp, 7 .....	\$144,000
4201 W. Addison, 3B .....	\$149,000
3737 N. Pulaski, 2S .....	\$174,300 [F]
3945 N. Kostner, 2 .....	\$200,000
4044 N. Kedvale, 1A .....	\$255,000
4239 N. Keystone, 1S .....	\$259,000
4346 N. Pulaski, 201 .....	\$275,000
3827 N. Milwaukee, D .....	\$315,000
3866 N. Milwaukee Ct .....	\$374,000
3817 N. Milwaukee, G .....	\$375,000
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3848 N. Milwaukee .....	\$287,000
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# Grateful for Good Neighbors — Renée Linnemeyer



I've always known we have the best neighbors, but throughout the pandemic, the people of 3800 North Tripp have helped me keep my sanity. While Chicago has been following stay-at-home orders, our neighbors still find a way to connect and help each other. Roberta Marsteller and I had so many good talks while gardening & sharing plants from the earliest possible spring day through the latest possible fall day. Greg Lakota brought his tools and helped my son and I take down an old fence section on what was likely the hottest day of the summer. Al & Jane Falasz touched me with a sweet phone call just to check-in and also delightfully surprised me with the gift of a beautiful red geranium that became

During a Saturday block check-in, the kids took advantage of the snow and built some adorable snowmen while the adults chatted! My daughter, Avery Linnemeyer, and our two little neighbors, Brady & Bear Oliver enjoyed creating snowmen.

*Photo by Renée Linnemeyer*

a showpiece in my backyard. Charin and David Kent always save the day when I'm missing ingredients for a recipe and do not want to go to the store. Tony Bobalik faithfully and patiently taught my daughter piano lessons—even when it had to be virtual. Steve and Vivian Thomas hosted the most wonderful free "Pop-up Front Porch Jazz Concert" for the entire block and picked up Praying Mantis egg sacs to add to our gardening fun. Prutha & Josh Davis opened their



## MESSAGE FROM A NEIGHBOR

newly-constructed front porch for socially distanced outdoor glasses of wine—with heated blankets provided! Craig and Mary Kay Shutt opened their porch to accept donations on behalf of the Irving Park Food Pantry. Lindsey and Brian Hayes delivered freshly baked Christmas cookies. Norah Jones and Tim Cox not only loaned us outdoor movie equipment and gave block kids access to their enviable backyard and driveway basketball hoop, but they also proposed the idea for a Block Thanksgiving Toast. So Thanksgiving Day, we all met outside to bring some cheer to the occasion when we missed our extended families. Gwen Moore and Meredith Oliver not only

ruled the neighborhood with Christmas decorating, but they also suggested we turn that Thanksgiving neighbor gathering into a weekly standing event. Now every Saturday at two o'clock, we mask up and head outside to check-in and say hi to people outside of our immediate household. Everyone is invited. It has been uplifting to regularly see all those neighbors previously mentioned and Frances and Mick Lewis, Chris Hill, John and Tasha Wilkins, Carol Guy and Bob Sargus, and Katie McGowan, Diane Boisvert, Patrick Cicere, and Gina Ordera. We have a special block, and I have never been more thankful for good neighbors!

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# IPGC Members Mourn Loss of Legend — Claudia Hine

A horrible fire in Old Irving Park on Thanksgiving Day destroyed a beautiful Century House and tragically took the lives of its owners, **Carol and Bob Szalacha**, along with their pets. The couple had been married 35 years. Bob was a Korean War veteran who worked for Engineered Lighting for most of his career. Carol was a longtime member of the Irving Park Garden Club, well known for her gorgeous garden, in which she hosted many luncheons. Carol also served the club as president from 1996–1999 and 2008–2009.

*A few days after the fire, one of our members, **Nora Naughton**, a good friend of Carol's, shared her reflections on what had happened. Nora has given permission for IPGC to publish her thoughts in the Old Irving Park News as follows:*

Yesterday was the end of my COVID 19 quarantine. I had been trapped and preoccupied by an illness I had tried hard to avoid. I wanted to feel alive. Yet, I knew the end of my quarantine would include a visit to the house where Carol and Bob had lived and died. Morbid, perhaps, but I simply had no choice. I pulled into Carol and Bob's driveway, behind their van, like I've done a hundred times before. The van appeared to be unscathed, as if it were merely waiting to go on another outing, to Marshall Michigan, to Gethsemane, to Sunrise garden center, to Kane County flea market, to Milaeger's, to Hobby Lobby, or Big Lots.

I got out of my car. The air smelled like a campfire. The ground was littered with bits of roof shingles and insulation. When I looked up, the house's devastation was so much worse than it appeared



Carol Szalacha was a legend in the Irving Park Garden Club.  
*Photo by Claudia Hine.*

on the news. The Victorian turret that I loved and envied had no roof, two layers of siding burnt away, the original wavy wood cladding, visible for the first time and indecorously beautiful to me. The turret still formed the corner of the building, holding onto the second floor bedroom where Bob was reportedly found. The windows had already been boarded up. The brown painted porch steps, where Carol and Bob would sit on a warm summer night, each with a drink in hand, with their dog on a long leash, chatting with neighbors, now those steps were laid with flowers left in remembrance and sorrow.

*Continued on page 16*

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## IRVING PARK GARDEN CLUB

---



Walking to the south side of the house, the cedar trellis gateway to the garden still stood, slightly charred. The garden beyond, from what I could see, would survive the fire, if not what may come next. I looked up to the second parlor, the one just off the kitchen, where I used to chat with both of them, Bob in his wing chair by the bay window, Carol in her recliner by the fireplace, the mantel always decorated for the season. I had to remember from past years the mantel's glass candle sticks and harvest of pumpkins and fall leaves because I did not visit this year during this odd and isolated Thanksgiving. The second parlor, where I believe Carol died, now was open to the sky, the second floor above it, just gone, only the chimney to the fireplace remained; awkward, crooked, stretching

up to where the roof had been. I cried. Loss made my breath shudder.

When I turned away, I saw that there was a new tree planted in the parkway. Over the summer, Carol had asked me to help her hunt down a Dawn Redwood. She didn't want to wait for the city to plant a new tree and didn't want to be bound by the city's restrictions either. She wanted to replace the parkway tree that had died with the same tree that had grown so well in their backyard. The perfectly conical tree that Bob, an admirer but not a connoisseur of Carol's gardening, nevertheless thought was the most beautiful tree he had ever seen.

I gave Carol a few options, none great, either a nice but expensive specimen or a small one gallon twig. I didn't hear what she decided. Our contact was more limited in this time of COVID 19. But there it was, the surprise of a nice-sized tree, the root ball well planted, perhaps a little disturbed by the hoses of the firemen; around it the grass, as the newspapers reported, was muddy and beaten down. Yet the tree still stood, a sign of Carol's determination, her vision for beauty, so strong, even in a pandemic, even in poor health, with supplies short—she had prevailed. I smiled.

I won't be certain until spring that the tree is a Dawn Redwood but I really have no doubt. Nothing could stop Carol when her mind was made up. If she couldn't personally accomplish what she wanted, she knew how to direct others to get it done. Who in the garden club hadn't been directed by Carol at some point to help bring her plans together? Inclusive plans that benefited the whole club or the neighborhood at large. I admired her tenacity, her ability to get help even if it tired out those she leaned on. She would push to get something done, and accomplished more than I could even imagine doing.

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www.botanic.com.au/uk/the-garden/gardens-plantings/trees/dawn-redwood



Dawn Redwood

Carol wanted to plant a Dawn Redwood in her parkway, a tree with feathery bright green needles that bronze in the fall, an anomaly, a deciduous conifer, a relic, 100 million years old and yet endangered, the only species remaining in the genus *Metasequoia*. Hopefully, this tree that Carol had planted will remain in the parkway even if everything else on the property is torn down. Hopefully, it will grow tall and beautiful, its grace, available to all of Bob and Carol's neighbors and anyone else who passes by. Hopefully, it will thrive, just as Carol envisioned. — *Nora Naughton, 11/30/2020*

**Update:** The parkway tree was removed by the city in order to shut off the water. However, Carol's daughter, Debbie, took the tree to her home to keep it alive.

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

## District Office Info

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Office

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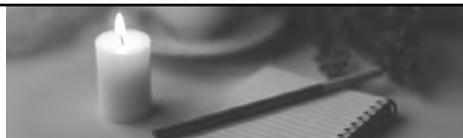
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# Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness

— Merry Marwig, OIPA Board Member

**O**n December 31st, 2020, the Hands To Help Ministries, which has served people experiencing homelessness in the Six Corners/Irving Park/Portage Park neighborhoods for over a decade, closed permanently. In the absence of this vital local resource, the Old Irving Park Association has compiled a list of resources available to our neighbors to help those in need of housing assistance.

Please note that there are many reasons why our neighbors may lose housing, including an economic crisis, domestic violence, physical or mental illness, being kicked out of a family home, substance and alcohol abuse, and physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

### Local Resources

#### Chicago City Services

- **Call 311 or 312-744-5000.** If you or the person you are assisting is homeless and needs shelter, tell the operator that you are homeless and in need of shelter. Also, ask for "Short Term Help."
- **Chicago Coalition for the Homeless:** [www.chicagohomeless.org/faq-studies](http://www.chicagohomeless.org/faq-studies)
- **Legal aid** and advice for those experiencing homelessness: call the CCH Law Project on its toll-free helpline, 800-940-1119.
- **Catholic Charities:** [www.catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/OurServices/Homelessness.aspx](http://www.catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/OurServices/Homelessness.aspx)
- **Emergency Assistance Department:** 312-655-7500
- **The Night Ministry:** [www.thenightministry.org/get-assistance](http://www.thenightministry.org/get-assistance) or 773-256-7549
- **The Northwest Side Housing Center** - housing consulting: [www.nwshc.org/](http://www.nwshc.org/)

#### • **City of Chicago Community Service Center**

The Community Service Centers help individuals and families in need access a wide range of resources from shelter, food, and clothing to domestic violence assistance, job training/ placement, and services for the formerly incarcerated. Clients can also get information about rental, utility, and other financial assistance programs. The centers also serve as warming and cooling centers during extreme weather periods.

- Centers' hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. [www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/provdrs/serv/svcs/community\\_servicecenterlocations.html](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/provdrs/serv/svcs/community_servicecenterlocations.html)

The closest location to Old Irving Park is the Trina Davila Community Service Center at 4312 West North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639. 312-744-2014.

- **Deborah's Place:** [www.deborahsplace.org/housing-information-and-resources/](http://www.deborahsplace.org/housing-information-and-resources/)
- **Veteran's housing:** [www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/veterans/resources/housing.html](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/veterans/resources/housing.html)
- **Chicago Housing Authority Waitlist:** call (312) 913-7400 or visit <https://applyonline.thecha.org/Eligibility.aspx>
- **YMCA - Irving Park:** reduced-rate rental housing - call 773-326-2633 for more information
- **The Heartland Alliance:** services for people experiencing poverty, [www.heartlandalliance.org](http://www.heartlandalliance.org)
- **The Working Group on Homelessness in Jefferson Park,** [jeffparkwgoh@gmail.com](mailto:jeffparkwgoh@gmail.com) or call 773-655-4357 to volunteer for this effort

## National Resources

- **National Coalition for the Homeless:**  
[www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)
- **ShelterListings.org:** [www.shelterlistings.org](http://www.shelterlistings.org)
- **Homeless Shelter Directory:**  
[www.homelesshelterdirectory.org](http://www.homelesshelterdirectory.org)
- **American Red Cross:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- **United Way-AIRS:** <http://211.org>
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency:**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:** [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)
- **YMCA:** [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net)
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness:**  
[www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org)
- **Transitional Housing Organization:**  
[www.transitionalhousing.org](http://www.transitionalhousing.org)

- **Community Action Partnership:**  
[www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)
- **Youth Homelessness & Run Away Prevention:**  
[www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org)
- **National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty:** [www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)
- **U.S. Social Security Administration:** [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture:** [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)
- **Feeding America:** <http://feedingamerica.org>
- **Health and Human Services for the Homeless:**  
[www.hhs.gov/homeless](http://www.hhs.gov/homeless)
- **National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics:** [www.nafcclinics.org](http://www.nafcclinics.org)
- **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans:**  
[www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)
- **VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH):**  
[www.va.gov/HOMELESS/housing.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/housing.asp)

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# Winter Car Safety Tips — Merry Marwig, OIPA Board Member



**K**ee yourself safe while driving this winter season by ensuring you are prepared in case of emergencies and that your vehicle is in good working order.

### Winter kit items to keep in your car:

- Jumper cables
- Emergency flares, reflective triangles, or fluorescent distress flags
- Ice scraper & small broom
- Car cell phone charger
- Blankets
- Road salt, cat litter or sand (for better tire traction)
- Shovel
- Flashlight & Batteries
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable snacks
- Matches
- Extra hats, gloves, scarves
- First aid kit
- Pocket knife

### Winter car maintenance checklist:

- Antifreeze levels
- Battery and ignition system
- Brakes
- Exhaust system
- Fuel and air filters
- Heater and defroster
- Lights and flashing hazard lights
- Oil
- Thermostat
- Windshield wiper equipment and washer fluid levels

*Photo by Edwin José Vega Ramos from Pexels*



## TIPS FROM A NEIGHBOR



### Other winter driver safety tips:

- Keep your gas tank full. At a minimum, always have at least a 1/2 tank of gas in the car if you are stranded.
- Install good winter tires and make sure they have enough tread.
- Don't drive through flooded streets. Six inches of water can stall a vehicle. One foot of water can make a vehicle float.
- If a power line falls on your car, **STAY IN THE CAR** until a trained person can safely remove the wire and remove the electrical risk.
- If you pull over in an emergency, use your parking brake to ensure your car doesn't roll.
- Be aware of black ice, especially on bridges and overpasses, where ice forms more quickly.



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## Pantry Changes Registration System to Better Serve Community

In conjunction with the **Greater Chicago Food Depository**, the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in January began using a new registration system for clients in our service zip code areas of 60641 and 60618

The system, **Link2Feed**, requires additional demographic information about the people in the household. It asks for basic information about race, age, and housing status and does not ask about citizenship. No one will be disqualified from receiving food by their responses.

The form asks for email contacts so we can communicate better with clients about key information, such as weather closings or changes to procedures. The demographic information will provide details that will help the Pantry apply for a broader range of grants that require such breakdowns, giving us access to more food and funding opportunities.

The enrollment forms are networked throughout the GCFD's pantries, so clients need to enroll only once regardless of which Pantry they first visit.

All clients must provide this information before receiving their food during their first visit to the Pantry in 2021. To speed this process, clients can go online to the GCFD enrollment page at <https://gcf.link2feed.com>



Holiday Gift program coordinator Sara Yoest gave out 374 stockings of gifts and treats to children up to 12 years old in December, thanks to supporters buying out the Pantry's virtual Wish Lists of toys at Amazon and Target. *Photo by Craig Shutt*

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



## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported our “virtual” Holiday Meal and Holiday Gift programs in December. Your support helped us provide our clients with the makings of a holiday dinner and gave each child up to 12 years old a stocking of gifts. The program gave out 374 stockings, the few remaining were donated to Sherwood Elementary School in Englewood, with the help of Principal Alice Buzanis.

We especially want to thank all the organizations, businesses, community groups, and families who ran food drives or made donations to the Pantry during the holiday season. There are too many to list, but we have acknowledged them on our Facebook page. We encourage you to scroll through the page to see those who have supported us during this challenging and difficult year.

Thank you for all your support in helping us meet our mission of being “Neighbors Helping Neighbors!”



The Pantry donated classroom kits of a Colgate-sponsored toothbrushing program to several elementary schools in December after the Greater Chicago Food Depository provided a huge supply. Meredith O'Sullivan delivered some of them to Mandi Cohen, assistant principal at Belding Elementary School. *Photo by Kathy O'Neill*



OIPA resident Dan O'Donohue, co-owner of Jet's Pizza at Kimball and Irving Park Rd, had individual pizza slices delivered to our volunteers during both our Tuesday night distribution and final Wednesday program in December. Tuesday night volunteer manager Michelle Buchecker helped lay out the slices once the Pantry closed. *Photo by John Psiharis*



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## The Buzz at Belding — Michele Stefl, IB Coordinator

### **Belding 8th graders give back with International Baccalaureate® Community Project**

The Community Project allows 8th-grade students to identify a need in their school and community and address that need through virtual service learning. In conjunction with their Civics class, students have been researching and focusing on such topics as homelessness, women's rights, animal abuse, BLM, global warming, and helping veterans, to name a few. We look forward to seeing our 8th graders become agents of change in Belding, Chicago, and the world!

### **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 dates are December 15, January 19, and February 16 and begin at 8:00 a.m. Check out the Belding website: [beldingelementary.com](http://beldingelementary.com) for more information on how to join the virtual tour!



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*Psalms 34:8a*

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*the Lord shall*

*be saved."*

*Romans 10:13*



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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](mailto: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](http://www.stephaniecutter.com/snowman)  
for more information and full rules!



## Virtual Trivia Night Results In! — Liz Mills

Congratulations to “Oh Snap!” on winning Carlson Community Services’ 14th Trivia Night and 1st ever virtual event. **Pat & Greg Morin** led their team to a two-point victory over 20 other teams in a tight contest. When awarded their \$200 prize, the team generously donated their winnings back to Carlson. The bragging rights and glory remain theirs!

While we missed being together in our usual venue at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym, we all had a virtual good time. Through the magic of Zoom technology, each team gathered in a breakout room to discuss their quiz answers and socialize. Thanks to organizers **Helen Lira, Melanie Zech, Maria Dimond, and Jennifer O’Grady** for a successful event. And to **Elena O’Grady**, who served as the quiz grader and scorekeeper.

Round sponsors **Wintrust Bank, Free Range Insurance,** and the **Carlson Board & Committees** helped make the event a financial success. \$6,500 was raised for Carlson’s after-school program, community garden, and concert series.

### Flash Food Drive Delivers Diapers and Groceries to Food Pantry

Carlson Community Services kicked off the season of giving with a flash food and diaper drive in November for our partners at the Irving Park Food Pantry. Thanks to Irving Park Lutheran Church members and Carlson contributors’ generosity, 90 bags of groceries and diapers were collected in one day and delivered to the Food Pantry.



21 teams competed in Carlson’s Virtual Trivia Night on Zoom. Good fun for a good cause! .  
*Photo by Liz Mills.*

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



## Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Virtual Concert Series

Since the pandemic began, the Irving Park Fine Arts concert series has moved to remote performances. You'll find **Dueling Pianos 2.0**, and our **Summer Concert** on Carlson's YouTube channel. While we miss seeing our audience face-to-face, we're happy to keep offering free programming while giving professional musicians the opportunity to perform. If you missed the concert in December, check out **The Max Besesen Trio (pictured above)** performing **A Jazz Christmas** on Carlson's YouTube channel or [www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events/](http://www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events/). Max is an Irving Park resident and a talented jazz musician and composer.

The Carlson Community Services board of directors wishes to acknowledge and thank the Old Irving Park Association for its \$500 donation. And heartfelt thanks to the many neighbors who have supported Carlson us during the pandemic. Whether it was by participating in our Virtual Trivia Night, donating to a Giving Tuesday event, or by supporting our annual appeal, you've helped us keep our doors open during this unprecedented time.

Carlson Community Services Executive Director Liz Mills (right) accepts a \$500 check from Old Irving Park Association treasurer Lynn Ankney. Carlson is grateful to have received this generous holiday gift from OIPA. *Photo by Meredith O'Sullivan.*

## Magic After-School Place (MAP)

**Rachel Lockhart**, the director of the Magic After-School Place (MAP) continues to stay connected with MAP students and families. It's been our custom to give each child a gift at the holidays, but since we weren't in session in December, Carlson sent each family a gift card to continue the tradition. Families were grateful for the gifts. Here are few comments we received:

*"We think about you often—the boys really miss MAP so much. The school year has been a real struggle with online learning, and the difference MAP made on their homework and them having a dose of daily fun is truly missed."*

— Mom of 3rd & 5th grade boys

*"Since this is my last year at Belding I might not be able to see you guys so often, but I just want to say thank you for all these years I've been at MAP. I am really thankful for every MAP staff that I got to meet."*

— 8th-grade girl





## St. Edward Scoop — Jenny Dreyer

### Welcome Wednesday

Discover all that  
St. Edward School  
offers!

Join us for our virtual Welcome Wednesday tour on February 3 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. If you cannot attend this session, Welcome Wednesdays are scheduled the first Wednesday of each month through June.

St. Edward School is grateful for our teachers and staff who continue to maintain our students' safety and well-being. We began the 2020-2021 school year stronger than ever masked up but in person (following our health and safety protocols).

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](http://www.stedwardschool.com) or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.



*Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash*

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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

**Submit your event for our calendar.**

**NOTICE: COVID-19 in Chicago.** IMPORTANT CHICAGO REOPENING NOTICE

The State of Illinois has announced that Chicago can move to Tier 1 Mitigations, effective January 23, 2021. These restrictions are the most up to date and take precedence over the industry-specific guidelines if there are points of contradiction. For details visit [www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/reopening-chicago](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/reopening-chicago).

**A note about the advertisement featured in this issue.** *Check with the individual advertiser by calling or visiting their website for information on their open status and hours of operation.*

## 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](mailto:hello@oldirvingpark.com).**

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- Renewal
- Gift Membership

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

We like to celebrate our members in our newsletter. Birthday and anniversary information is optional. If you wish to be included on the birthday and anniversary page in the newsletter, **you must provide the information annually** to be included (adults members and spouses/partners only).

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

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

ANNIVERSARY MONTH & DATE (OPTIONAL)

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL E-MAIL 2

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

### MEMBERSHIP DUES (per household)

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

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

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

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

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE:** Old Irving Park Association **OR** join/renew online: [olderirvingpark.com/join-us](http://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](mailto: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](https://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](http://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](mailto: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
March	2/2	2/4
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

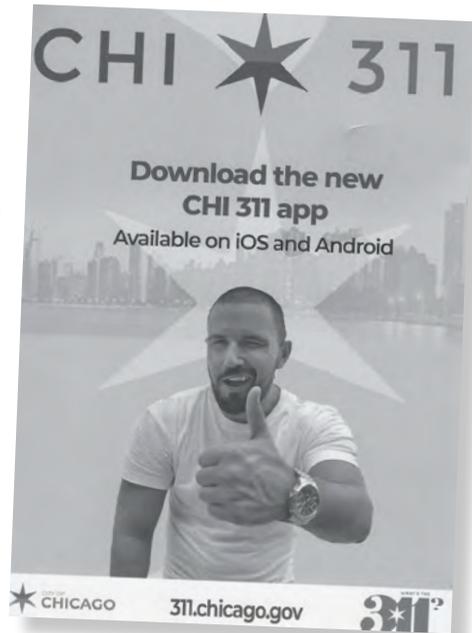
## When to Call 311 vs. 911

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](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/311ProjectInformation); <https://311.chicago.gov>



## 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](http://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.



**OIIPA**  
OLD IRVING PARK  
ASSOCIATION

Because Good Neighborhoods Don't Just Happen

[www.oldirvingpark.com](http://www.oldirvingpark.com)

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

**OLD IRVING PARK NEWS**

Old Irving Park Association

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