

# INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE



## FUNDRAISER

### Wine & Cheese Party Record Breaker

*Patti Kimbel*

A twinkling ballroom with two walls lined with silent auction items, another with delectable food, and the show-stopper of wine tastings on another, all while a musical trio played on the stage, set the scene for a Wine and Cheese Party to remember. There were more than a few records set this year, starting with the number of revelers (topping over 150). This included both old-timers and newbies from the neighborhood (or just new to the event). We were delighted with the showing of a number of our political representatives; for some this was their first year in attendance! Thanks to State Senator Rob Martwick, State Representatives Lindsey LaPointe and Jaime Andrade who sponsored our event. We were also delighted a few candidates running for Alderperson attended.

The Color Club ballroom provided the perfect backdrop for the party this year. The board is grateful to the owners Abby Monroe and Josh Dihle who charitably donated the space for our use. If you haven't been to the Color Club before, you can now find weekly performances of comedians, musicians, and artists. Abby reported that it remains their mission to provide the space to help support local neighborhood causes. Thank you Abby and Josh and we hope to be back again!

This year's theme, "Around the World," included wine tastings from France, Spain, Chile, Argentina, Italy and the U.S. The suggested start of this tour included a Brut Spritzer paired with liqueurs favored with persimmon, saffron, or aronia. We are lucky to have Jordan Tepper of

Apologue Liqueurs as an Indy Park resident, who generously donated the liqueurs.

The wines were selectively paired with delicious truffles from local chocolatier, Katherine Anne's Confections. She currently has two storefront locations in Chicago, and fortunately for us, will be opening a third location on Irving Park Road in early 2023. All of her truffles were



generously donated for our event. We even had a mead to sample with Second City Meadery donating a case of the "Existence is Pain" black currant and vanilla mead. This provided extra pleasure to those with a sweet palate.

A trio from our Farmers Market Indy Park Jammers provided the musical accompaniment and added ambiance to the party. A special thank you to performers

*Continued on page 2*

**There will not be a GIPNA Board meeting in January. The February meeting will be Tues., Feb. 7, 7 p.m.**

**Join us online via Zoom. Meeting I.D.: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## JANUARY

**TUES., JAN. 3**—The regular GIPNA Board Meeting WILL NOT BE HELD in January.

**MON., JAN. 9**—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park. There will not be a meeting in February.

**WED., JAN. 11**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park. Email CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to confirm the date and time.

**MON., JAN. 16**—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**WED., JAN. 18**—FOM Meeting, 7 p.m. See friendsofmurphyschool.com for info.

## FEBRUARY

**TUES. FEB. 7**—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

**WED., FEB. 8**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park. Email CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to confirm the date and time.

**MON., FEB. 20**—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**WED., FEB. 22**—FOM Meeting, 7 p.m. See friendsofmurphyschool.com for info.

**TUES., FEB. 28**—Mayoral and Aldermanic Elections. See the map and article on page 9 for information on your ward and precinct.

## ENERO

**MARTES, ENE. 3** La reunión ordinaria de la Junta de GIPNA NO SE CELEBRARÁ en enero.

**LUNES, ENE. 9** Reunión AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Parque Athletic Field. No habrá reunión en febrero.

**MIÉRCOLES, ENE. 11** CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park. Envíe un correo electrónico a CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para confirmar la fecha y la hora.

**LUNES, ENE. 16** Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.  
**MIÉRCOLES, ENE. 18** Reunión FOM, 7 p.m. Visite friendsofmurphyschool.com para obtener información.

## FEBRERO

**MARTES, FEB. 7** Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

**MIÉRCOLES, FEB. 8** CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park. Envíe un correo electrónico a CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para confirmar la fecha y la hora.

**LUNES, FEB. 20** Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**MIÉRCOLES, FEB. 22** Reunión FOM, 7 p.m. Visite friendsofmurphyschool.com para obtener información.

**MARTES, FEB. 28** Elecciones de Alcaldes y Concejales. Consulte el mapa y el artículo en la página 9 para obtener información sobre su barrio y recinto.

## COLOR CLUB

Be sure to check out additional art programming and events at Color Club! [www.colorclub.events/events](http://www.colorclub.events/events)

*continued from page 1*

Tim Porcelli, Tim Schneckcloth, and Bob Huston.

In the raffle this year, there wasn't just one Neighbors Wine Basket, but three along with two separate magnums of wine up for bidding. There were some very happy winners of those prizes. The silent auction items were tremendous this

year outnumbering prior years', and included such swag as an autographed book by Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, beautiful one of a kind artwork and stained glass, holiday arrangements, and all kinds of gift certificates from our local businesses. Thanks to all our generous donors and those who added to the competitive spirit in outbidding each other for prizes.

Personal bias aside, Scott Dewey did a phenomenal job as the organizer of the event and spent many hours of his free time to coordinate all of the planning. Scott had a wonderful team that also put in tremendous work collecting raffle items, decorating the event space, and volunteering during the event. The core committee to be recognized includes Dickie Nichols, Bobbie Bolociuch, Kevin Haight, Megan Kozonis, Alison Benjamin, Pat Clark, Sharon Sears, Christopher Rose, Dan Doughty, and Greg Shea.

Special accolades to Bobbie Bolociuch for not only securing cases of donated wine but also the unique additions of the liqueurs and mead. Bobbie added her special touch in coordinating the pairings with Katherine Anne's chocolates. Megan Kozonis and Dickie Nichols coordinated the Wine Basket raffle and

led the team obtaining the abundant Silent Auction items, championed by our number one auction gatherer, Roberta Wilk. Christopher Rose and Sharon Sears took the lead on decorating and bringing that special sparkle to the ballroom. JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop provided a delicious assortment of cheeses, crackers, and cookies; much gratitude to Chris Cunningham, who generously donated all of the food. It was hard to miss trying your hand at the Cork Game this year, so many thanks to Steve McKenzie and Carol Lynn Coughlin for running it.

Proceeds from this event will support Murphy Elementary and the Independence Park Farmers Market. Final gratitude to our generous sponsors including our Platinum Sponsors Greg and Liz Shea, Silver Sponsors Alternative Home Improvement, Doggy Dojo, State Senator Rob Martwick, State Representatives Lindsey LaPointe and Jaime Andrade, and Bronze Sponsors Stay and Play Café, Wintrust, and Emy's Hair Studio.

To join the Color Club's e-newsletter for updates on events, you can email to [info@colorclub.events](mailto:info@colorclub.events) or follow on Instagram: @colorclubarts. Consider joining a dance class in the new year.

## INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE

The Independence Park Community Voice is published by the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), a 501(C)3 corporation.

**This newsletter is for the Independence Park community. Please consider renewing your membership or joining GIPNA now. We need your support. Thank you.**

Editorial: Sue Ryan  
Photographers: Jackie Bravo and Robin Hochstatter  
Staff Writers: Lorraine Antieau, Pat Clark, Patti Kimbel, Ellen Ryan, Sue Ryan, Gretchen Siffing

Special Contributors: Alison Benjamin, Kim Laurel and her dog Andy Jack, Liz Mills, Dr. Rebeca Shick, Craig Shutt, Ann Watkins

Calendar Translation: Jackie Bravo

Copy Editors: Suzanne Edwards, Sharon Gilbert, Adam Weiner

### For submissions for March/April 2023 Issue:

Editorial Deadline:

February 10, 2023

Advertising Deadline:

February 10, 2023

The editorial board reserves the right to edit all submissions. Errors in advertisements are the sole responsibility of the advertiser.

**E-MAIL:** INFO@GIPNA.ORG

**MAIL:** GIPNA, P.O. BOX 18184  
CHICAGO IL 60618

**WEBSITE:** WWW.GIPNA.ORG

The Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA) is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the Independence Park community by involving, informing, and encouraging people to participate in matters relating to the community, and by protecting the historical, social, cultural, and architectural character of the neighborhood.

This all-volunteer publication is made possible by the creative voices of our community and the generous support of area advertisers.

## Join GIPNA on Facebook

Check out the GIPNA Facebook page for news, alerts, and conversation with your neighbors. Post your own comments to get the word out on your activities and announcements. To find the page and like it, search for GIPNA: Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association.

### GIPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Haight, President  
Scott Dewey, Vice President  
Sharon Sears, Secretary  
Alison Benjamin, Treasurer

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Bobbie Bolociuch  
Jackelin Bravo Vicere  
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Susan Ryan  
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Robin Hochstatter  
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Dickie Nichols  
Delphine Ruiz

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3600 Byron - Jackie Ropski  
3700 Byron - Stephanie and Jeremy Smith  
3800 Byron - Suzanne Edwards  
3900 Byron - Roseann Seablom  
3600 Central Park - Sharon Gilbert  
3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan  
3800, 3900 N. Central Park- Joe and Annie Bailey  
3900 Dakin - Joel Contreras  
3600 Grace - Alison Benjamin  
3700, 3800 Hamlin - Sharon Nichols  
3900 Hamlin - Linda Lehman  
3700 Irving Park Road - John Kuczura  
3800 Irving Park Road - Linda Lehman  
3700 Lawndale - Dorene Jordan  
3800 Lawndale - Mark and Casey Watkins  
3900 Lawndale - Cy Clausen  
3600, 3700 Monticello - Pat Clark  
3800 Monticello - Barbara Shaw  
3900 Monticello - Cindy Schuch  
3700 Ridgeway - Dawn and John Urban  
3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta  
3900 Ridgeway - John and Sang Kuczura  
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seablom

### COMMUNICATION

## E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

All GIPNA members who have access to email should be receiving e-blasts twice a month. The emails are compiled by GIPNA and feature such news as announcements of events in the community, crime reports, and notices of meetings.

If you're a member in good standing and are not receiving the blasts, send an email to us at [membership@gipna.org](mailto:membership@gipna.org). We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

### RESOURCES

## Important Phone Numbers

*From the Office of State Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas*

### Mental Health

Call4Calm Text Line- Text TALK to 552020 for English  
Text HABLAR to 552020 for Spanish

Envision Unlimited- 773-769-2139

Kedzie Center- 773-754-0577

Rincon Family Services- 773-564-9070

### Housing Assistance

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp.- 773-227-6332

Hispanic Housing Development Corp.- 312-291-5421

Northwest Side Housing Center- 773-283-3888

### Social Services

Albany Park Community Center- 773-509-5657

HANA Center- 773-583-5501

Logan Square Neighborhood Assoc.- 773-384-4370

North River Commission- 773-478-0202

### Health Care

ASI Home Services- 773-278-5130

Community First Medical Center- 773-282-7000

COVID-19 Rapid Testing, North Shore Clinical- 773-570-6510

Erie Helping Hands Health Center- 312-666-3494

Oak Street Health Portage Park- 773-644-5989

### Food Assistance

Chicago Hope, Inc.- 773-499-9763

Open Arms Ministry Food Distribution Center- 773-987-4677

Polish American Assoc. Pantry- 773-282-8206

Irving Park Community Food Pantry- 773-283-6296

### Government Resources

Attorney General's Fraud Hotline- 1-800-386-5438

Find a Child Care Provider- 312-823-1100

IL Application for Benefits Eligibility- 1-800-843-6154

IL Department of Employment Security- 1-800-244-5631

IL Department of Public Health Hotline- 1-800-889-3931

IL Department of Aging Senior Helpline- 1-800-252-8966

### COMMUNITY

## Have an Idea for the Newsletter?

If you want to see something in the neighborhood highlighted or just want to provide feedback, reach out to us at [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

## Parkway Tree Replacement Options

*Lorraine Antieau,  
GIPNA Tree Steward*

After the fall tree removal season, does your parkway look like this?



Or this?



The city planted new trees at some of the sites in December. If yours was not one of them, visit the City of Chicago's Tree Planting page at: [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/streets/provdrs/forestry/svcs/tree\\_planting.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/streets/provdrs/forestry/svcs/tree_planting.html) to request a replacement tree. You will have the opportunity to fill

out the form online, and even to choose the type of tree you'd like. The Forestry Bureau will take into account your preferences, along with the conditions at the site and species of trees available at the time of planting. Applications are addressed in the order received, and there is no timeline given for how long the process will take, but you will eventually have a young tree planted in your parkway at no cost.

Another exciting option for receiving a free native parkway tree is to sign up through the Openlands Tree Planters Grant. Our neighborhood received this grant in fall 2020 and again in spring 2022. Almost 50 trees have already been planted, and we plan to keep the momentum going by applying again in 2023!

It is NOT necessary to have had a tree removed recently to qualify for a tree through Openlands. You must simply have enough space in your parkway and a willingness to volunteer to care for the young tree by watering it weekly during its first three growing seasons. This can be a great opportunity to increase your property's value, experience the thrill of connection to nature, teach your kids or grandkids about the importance of trees, and contribute to the beauty and health of our neighborhood environment.

Email me at [gipnatrees@gipna.org](mailto:gipnatrees@gipna.org) if you are interested in participating in this opportunity. Please include your street address, phone number, and email address, and I will add you to our growing list of tree host volunteers.

We can keep our neighborhood beautiful by continuing to plant and nurture trees!



### NEIGHBORHOOD

## How Old Is Your House?

*Alison Benjamin*

The Independence Park community is not only made up of great neighbors, but also a "through the decades" tour of Chicago's residential architectural styles every time we take a walk. Homes here can date from the 1890s all the way to the 2010s, giving us so much to look for: Workers' Cottages, Chicago Bungalows, a true Chicago Greystone, even an elaborate Queen Anne.

If you are interested in learning just how your home fits in the timeline, a detailed publication from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, *Your House Has A History*, is a great place to start. Look for it on the Landmark Commission's website, under Publications. This guide takes you through the many steps of a research hunt to discover when your house was built and just who has lived there.

This search is a lot more 'old school' and complicated than a click-and-print project. Not all records are digitized and some are located in widely scattered libraries, archives, and city departments. Some of the first places to try are:

- Building Permits - Tells when the home was built and, sometimes, who lived there. Permits can be found at the UIC Library, Department of

Documents and Maps.

- Neighborhood Histories and Fire Insurance Maps - Insurance maps date from the 1900s and detail all buildings and construction on individual lots throughout the years. The Chicago Historical Society, UIC Library, and the Newberry Library are sources for Fire Insurance Maps. Some of these maps are online, some on microfilm.
- The Harold Washington Library also has a great collection of materials for building research. Branch libraries often have copies of histories written by neighborhood historical societies or longtime residents.

Three things to know in advance to simplify using records:

- 1) Chicago street addresses changed in 1909. You can verify the current and former address of your home at any of the libraries listed.
- 2) Check your tax form for your home's PIN - the Property Identification Number used by Chicago and Cook County to identify land parcels. This number is on your real estate tax forms.
- 3) Also useful is the legal description of your property. It should be on your deed or title and can be helpful when checking records in City Departments.

Editor's note: If you have researched your home's history, we would like to hear about it. Contact us at [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

SAFETY

# Your Cook County Sheriff's Prescription Drug Take Back Program

Anne Watkins

Since 2017, the Cook County Sheriff's Office has destroyed more than 97,677,941 pills through their Prescription Drug Take Back Program, which collects and destroys unwanted prescription drugs at 80 permanent collection sites, at community take back events, and through their mail back service. This is a free, anonymous, and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs.

Cook County residents can safely dispose of their unwanted medicines by taking them to a collection box located throughout Cook County or to designated community prescription drug take-back events. Participating local law enforcement and government agencies and pharmacies will accept unwanted Covered Drugs, including most prescription and over-the-counter medicines for disposal. The two closest sites to the GIPNA area are the Walgreens at Irving and Kedzie and the Chicago Police Department 17th District at 4650 N. Pulaski Ave.

The service is free of charge for County residents. Collection is handled on an anonymous basis. Encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes is a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid

addiction from ever starting.

Never leave medicine lying around unattended. Never throw medicine in the trash, down the sink, or flush it down the toilet. The best way to get rid of unwanted medicine is through a take back program so that medicine will not contaminate drinking water. The waste medicines are sent to a disposal facility where they are destroyed by high temperature incineration.

Mail-back envelopes are available for residents who are elderly or home-bound and have limited mobility. There is no cost to residents to use this service.

Learn more by calling 1-84-GOT USD RX (1-844-688-7379) or visiting <https://www.cookcountysheriff.org/departments/community-relations/community-programs/rx/>

NEIGHBORHOOD

## Your Byline Here

The Independence Park Community Voice is looking for a few writers to craft stories about our neighborhood. If you are looking for a way to give back to your community and you like to write, then we need you. We are seeking writers across the neighborhood, across generations, and across interests. The commitment is one story every two months and you can choose topics which interest you. We are also searching for a new editor to start August, 2023. So if you have given up your dream of writing for the New York Times, but still want to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, then drop us a line at [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

# ||| GIPNA |||

SUPPORT THE  
*Murphy Match*

DONATIONS DOUBLED FROM  
DEC 14th to JAN 31st  
[friendsofmurphy.org/match](http://friendsofmurphy.org/match)



Money raised through the Murphy Match will support arts programming, building improvements, and community outreach. Examples of how your donations have made a difference include:

- Free after-school theater programs
- New bike racks
- New projector and screen for the auditorium
- New gym floor and rock-climbing wall
- Food and clothing for families experiencing difficult times
- Coming next spring...new outdoor basketball hoops!
- Thank you for supporting your neighborhood elementary school! Donations can be made at:

<https://www.mightycause.com/story/Murphymatch2022>

SCHOOLS

## Murphy Match 2022

Friends of John B. Murphy Elementary School (FOM) are excited to partner with you, our community, to raise money for the students at Murphy through our Murphy Match 2022! Murphy Match will run until January 31, 2023.

During this time, donations made to Friends of Murphy will be doubled by a group of anonymous donors! This means your donation will have twice the impact for Murphy!



# Thank You to All Who Made the Holidays Brighter

*Craig Shutt*

The Irving Park Food Pantry's board, staff, and volunteers thank everyone who supported our special programs during the holiday season. Some of the contributors we thank are:

- Mount Olive Church for holding its annual food drive after Thanksgiving. Members of the congregation met at Jewel at Sixth Corners and provided shoppers on their way in with a list of our most-needed items, so they could buy them and donate them on their way out.
- Owner Chris Cunningham and the staff at J.T.'s Genuine Sandwich Shop for donating the proceeds from their summer sales at the GIPNA Farmers

Market at Independence Park. The total came to \$4,300!

- Owner Barry Sorkin at Smoque BBQ, who donates 100 loaves of bread during the second week of each month to help ensure all of our clients can receive bread during our two distributions that week, which often depletes our inventory before day's end.
- State Representative Lindsey LaPointe and Alderman Samantha Nugent for donating masks. We still require N95 masks to keep our volunteers and clients healthy, but they are harder to find these days.
- Several schools have made large and diverse donations recently: Dever Elementary School (food), Farnsworth Elementary School (coats), Reilly Elementary School (Halloween candy) and Carl Schurz High School (toiletries).
- -Park Ridge Presbyterian Church,

whose members have been volunteering on a regular basis and collected a variety of items for us in December, including money, food, hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries, socks and candy.

- Redeemer of Calvary, St. Viator and St. Wenceslaus churches for regularly collecting canned and non-perishable food items for the pantry.
- Harvest Trolley- Chicago for their periodic donations of food items nearing their expiration dates and for providing discounts on various items we need on short notice.
- Many others contributed as well. We thank them all for their continued support that helps us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"
- e-mail: [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org)
- Web: [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org)



## JOIN TODAY GIPNA MEMBERSHIP: WHAT DOES \$10 BUY?

- COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
- INDEPENDENCE PARK FARMERS MARKETS
- SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- ALLEY CLEANUPS
- GOURMET PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- THE INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE NEWSLETTER
- E-BLASTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ALERTS
- A VOICE WITH THE 45TH WARD
- SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS DON'T JUST HAPPEN—A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD COMES FROM A GREAT DEAL OF WORK AND COMMITMENT. THE EVENT AND SERVICES THAT MAKE INDEPENDENCE PARK THE HIDDEN JEWEL OF THE NORTHWEST SIDE REQUIRES TIME AND MONEY. DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, GIPNA HAS HAD TO CANCEL FUNDRAISING EVENTS, SO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE THE PRIMARY MEANS TO RAISE MONEY. OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR TIME, AND GIPNA MEMBERSHIP HELPS PROVIDE THE MONEY. PLEASE JOIN GIPNA TO MAKE 2021 THE BEST YEAR YET. IF YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER, THANK YOU.



# GIPNA

THE GREATER INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## News from Carlson Community Services

Liz Mills

### Trivia Night Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who participated in Carlson Community Services' Trivia Night to benefit Carlson's programs. In our 19th overall and first in-person contest in three years, a crowd of 150 players battled for \$200 in prize money and bragging rights.

"Go Forth," a team led by Ruth Olech won the eight-round competition. The team generously donated their \$200 in prize winnings back to Carlson Community Services. The glory and bragging rights remain theirs! The evening netted over \$11,000 for Carlson's programs -- The Magic After-School Place, Three Brothers Garden, and the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series.

Thanks to the following Round Sponsors and donors who helped make the evening a financial success. Round sponsors were Dorie Westmeyer, Charles Rutenberg Realty; 19th Dist. Rep. Lindsay LaPointe; Irving Park Lutheran Church; Pastor Erin Bouman; Holly Van Essen, Mobile Physical Therapy; Leona's Pizzeria; Clarity Partners and Carlson Board Members. New this year was the Leona's Food Truck filled with pizzas and sandwiches to keep the contestants nourished. A shout out goes to our many volunteers and to our host, Irving Park Lutheran Church for their help in making the event a success. Another fun night in the neighborhood for a great cause!

### Three Brothers Garden News

Three Brothers Garden had a great season! In addition to providing neighbors served by the Irving Park Food Pantry with fresh vegetables, the garden served as an outdoor space for neighbors to gather weekly for a common purpose. We welcomed several new volunteers as well as students looking for service hours, all under the guidance of our Garden Intern, **Claire Lyons** and Garden Committee Chair, **Lizz Bisesi**. Thanks to all who volunteered throughout the season, including Independence Park residents Sue and Ellen Ryan.

In 2022, we donated 420 lbs. of vegetables to the Food Pantry. Thanks to generous neighbors, our donations were bolstered by home garden surplus, which we gladly took to the Food Pantry Wednesday mornings. Founded in 2009 and a program of Carlson Community Services, Three Brothers Garden is located at 4107 N. Pulaski. If you'd like to get involved in planning for the 2023 season, contact Liz Mills at [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

### Irving Park Fine Arts Committee Presents Max Bessesen February 12th

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present a free concert featuring saxophonist Max Bessesen on Sunday, February 12th at 2 pm. Praised for his "saxophone virtuosity" by Downbeat Magazine, Max is a young composer and performer based in New York City. A former resident of Independence Park, Max performed a holiday jazz concert for the Fine Arts series in 2020, which was recorded due to the pandemic. We are thrilled to have Max back in Chicago and performing for us in person!

The concert will be held at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The concert is free, but donations to support future programming are always

welcome.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee, now in its 29th season, was created by **Roger Bingaman**, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional music to the northwest side of Chicago, free of charge.

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 Mills at 773.398.6766 or [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).



# Homemade Rat Poison Recipes

*Dickie Nichols and Pat Clark*

Yes, you can make homemade rat poisons that are effective and don't require that awful bait that is toxic to other animals. Thanks to Dickie Nichols, who did the research on this delightful topic.

Here are a couple of recipes for homemade rat poisons:

### Homemade rat poison with cornmeal and baking soda:

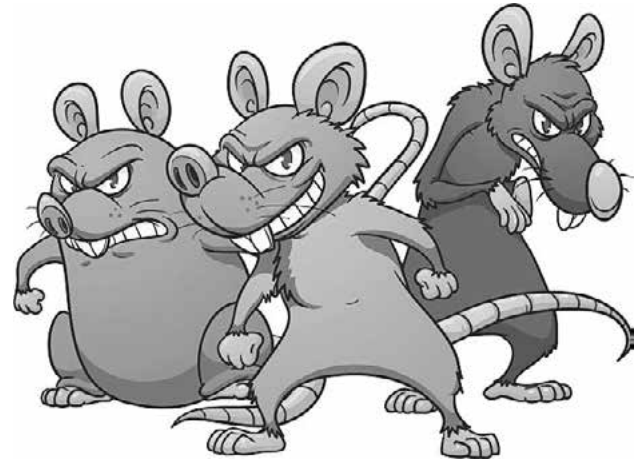
Mix a cup of cornmeal with either a cup of powdered chocolate mix or sugar. Add in one cup of baking soda. Blend well. Fill jars with the bait mixture until they are about half full. Place the jars in the areas that rodents frequent. Rats can't burp or pass gas and can't digest

cornmeal. With the baking soda in the mix, they basically blow up in a couple of days. That sounds inhumane until you learn that one rat can have as many as 500 babies in one season! This mixture isn't toxic to other animals or to any birds of prey in case the rat gets picked off before it croaks.

### Homemade rat poison with boric acid:

*Always wear a pair of gloves before making this rat poison.*

Place a cup of boric acid in the bowl. Add chicken broth slowly, just half teaspoon at once. Stir the mixture repeatedly after each bit of broth is added. You want to end up with a thick paste. Roll the resulting paste into marble-sized balls. Place the balls in small containers that are disposable. This way, you can easily relocate the bait if you want.



Additional information can be found at [ratpoisonfacts.org/](http://ratpoisonfacts.org/).


More information that you didn't know you wanted to know:

Rats have a powerful sense of smell and will not go anywhere they can't smell first. You can repel rats from your home and garden with scents they dislike, such as clover, garlic, onion, hot peppers containing capsaicin,

house ammonia, used coffee grounds, peppermint, eucalyptus, predator (cat) scent, white vinegar and citronella oil. One of the simplest things to do is to wash down your garbage cans with ammonia. Further info on scents can be found at [pestpointers.com/scents-that-rats-hate-and-how-to-use-them/](http://pestpointers.com/scents-that-rats-hate-and-how-to-use-them/).

## Are you a GIPNA member? Join today!

Pay at [www.gipna.org](http://www.gipna.org) or mail in the form below with a check. For information, send an e-mail to: [membership@gipna.org](mailto:membership@gipna.org)



**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(Must be 18 yrs old) Fill in this form, and send with check, payable to GIPNA, to: **GIPNA P. O. Box 18184 Chicago, IL 60618**

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**Business \$15**

**Lifetime \$150** per person

Check here if a new member

Annual Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total of enclosed check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Check if you would like to volunteer for events. (GIPNA is an all-volunteer association.)

PLEASE PRINT:    DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #1 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #2 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if    new member,    new to the neighborhood.

PHONE #1 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #2 \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL #1 \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL #2 \_\_\_\_\_



# Bye Bye Bollards

*Sue Ryan*

Just when I was getting good at guessing how long it would take the bollards to be mowed down at the entrance to the Kennedy Expressway, they disappeared altogether. Bollards are the four-foot pillars set up five feet from the curb to provide a shorter and, hopefully safer, pedestrian crossing to the L. Bollards were an imperfect solution, because they were mowed down within weeks of installation by impatient drivers or semis. In October, the Department of Transportation installed a cement curb cut so pedestrians are more visible and have a shorter path to cross. However, anyone who walks to the Blue Line L at Addison knows that drivers turning right to access the expressway often don't yield to pedestrians, so please be careful. We don't want another white cross.



# Aldersperson Races

*Sue Ryan*

VOTE in the upcoming election on February 28, 2023, with any run-offs scheduled for April 4, 2023. Who doesn't want to trudge to the polls in the middle of winter? But it is important. Your alderperson has significant power on issues ranging from zoning decisions to whether your pothole-riddled block will ever be paved. Your alderperson can support existing businesses and services and encourage new ones to come. Most of the GIPNA boundaries are in the 30th Ward with six candidates vying to replace Alderman Ariel Reboyas, who announced his retirement. For neighbors north of Byron, the 45th Ward has six candidates, so take a look at them.

GIPNA, the Old Irving Park Association and the Villa Improvement League are hosting a 30th Ward Candidate Forum on January 18, 2023, at NEIU's El Centro Campus at 3390 N. Avondale. The forum will start at 6:30 and is free of charge. Come listen to what the candidates have to offer. There is not a candidate forum scheduled for the 45th Ward yet. We will alert readers through our e-blast and Facebook page if one will take place.

Below are candidates for the 30th and 45th Wards listed in alphabetical order. The precinct maps will show you which ward you are in. Polling places have not yet been finalized, so check the Chicago Board of Elections website before heading out.

## Aldersperson 30th Ward

**ANDREW A. CLEAVER**, 5138 W. Waveland Avenue, Chicago 60641

**RUTH CRUZ**, 2831 N. Moody Avenue, Chicago 60634

**JESSICA W. GUTIERREZ**, 2631 N. Melvina Avenue, Chicago 60639

**RORY MCHALE**, 4726 W. Grace Street, Chicago 60641

**JUANPABLO PRIETO**, 4206 W. Melrose Street, Chicago 60641

**WARREN WILLIAMS**, 3304 N. Hamlin Avenue, Floor 1, Chicago 60618

## Aldersperson 45th Ward

**JAMES "JIM" GARDINER**, 5941 N. Mobile Avenue, Chicago 60646

**SUSANNA ERNST**, 5228 W. Giddings Street, Chicago 60630

**MEGAN MATHIAS**, 3821 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Unit B, Chicago 60641

**ANA SANTOYO**, 4415 N. Lamon Avenue, Chicago 60630

**JAMES SUH**, 4054 N. Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago 60641

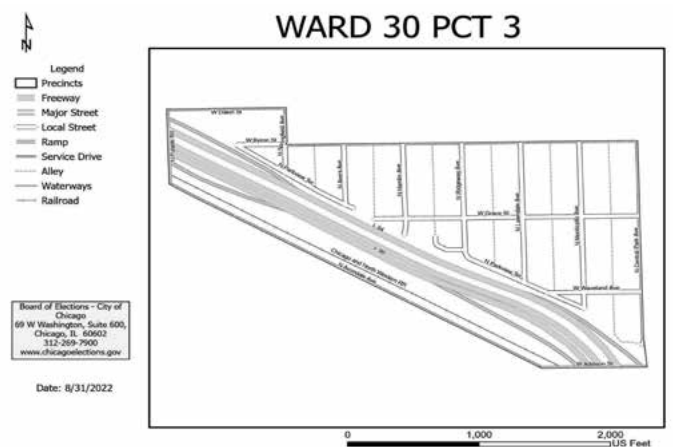
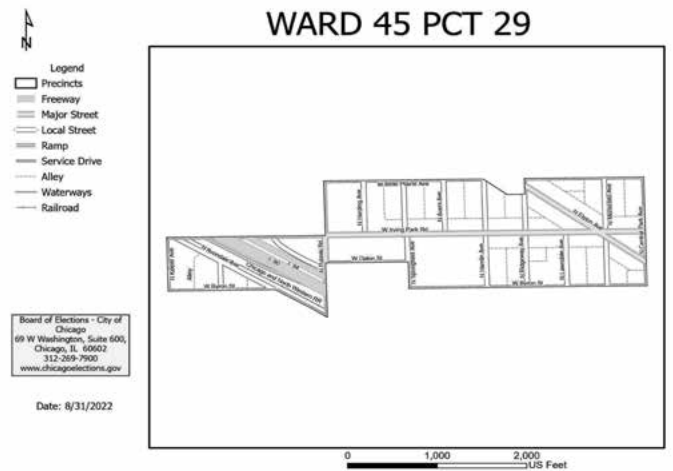
**MARIJA TOMIC**, 5626 N. Menard Avenue, #1, Chicago 60646

# What Ward Am I In Now?

*Pat Clark*

Yes, it's so darned confusing with all the 2022 ward boundary changes. Here's maps for the 30th and 45th Wards and the precinct maps. If you want to zoom in for a better look, at your particular address and precinct, go to <https://www.chicagoelections.gov/en/ward-maps-and-aldermen.html>

Final polling places for the February 28, 2023 election won't be finalized until late January, but you can use the most recent list of polling places for reference: <https://app.chicagoelections.com/Documents/general/Polling%20Place%20List%20G2022.pdf>



## Murphy School, a Proud Neighborhood Chicago Public School

*Dr. Rebeca Shick*

When I became an educator I wanted to work in a neighborhood school because this type of school is the heart of a community. More than just an education is forged in a neighborhood school; it is also a nexus of relationships and community, a refuge, a space of joy, and more.

Generations of families bring their children to the neighborhood school and through this the staff gets to grow with them, welcome new babies and sit with grief of loss. Neighborhood schools are special places, Murphy School is no exception. Over the last six months we have done a lot of things! It is hard to list all of them but suffice it to say, they all tie directly into our mission and vision to meet the needs of the whole child and the continuous engagement of our school community to build excellence.

In being responsive to the needs of our school community, the result is a strong learning environment and positive student achievement outcomes. In the coming months we will be writing our strategic plan for continuous improvement or the CIWP (Continuous Improvement Work Plan) and we invite all stakeholders to participate in this process. We will be mapping out our next two years of work, our goals, and how we will meet them. Check out our weekly newsletter to keep up to date with important information. We also offer school tours, come check out Murphy! Email [lrleverenz@cps.edu](mailto:lrleverenz@cps.edu) or [jjburton5@cps.edu](mailto:jjburton5@cps.edu)

## Carol Valentino-Barry's Yoga Class at Independence Park

*Ellen Ryan*

Looking for a New Year's Resolution? There's the Keto Diet, joining a health club, reading more books, cutting back on alcohol.

After talking with Carol Valentino-Barry, I'm adding another excellent option: YOGA. Carol was born and raised in this neighborhood and attended St. Viator's grade school. She lives in West Walker where, with her husband Kevin, she raised her two sons Augustine and Gabriel. Carol has been teaching yoga at Independence Park since 2004! If you've met Carol, you can see she is as fit as they come. She ran track at Madonna High School and stayed in shape at University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, taking fitness and strength training classes. She eventually became certified as a group fitness instructor and taught everything from water aerobics to circuit training to step aerobics.

Back in the early 2000s, her husband Kevin encouraged her to try yoga, which can improve both your physical and mental health. Carol said there's a reason the practice of yoga has been around for over 2,000 years. There are SO many parts to yoga that, as a regular fitness instructor, Carol would never have considered. It wasn't until she went to school to become a yoga instructor that she learned about its "soft" benefits. The stretching and strength components in yoga are likely obvious, but there are so many other subtle body influences



one learns as their yoga practice develops. For example, it calms the nervous system by lowering the levels of two critical stress hormones: cortisol and adrenaline. Resetting these helps with anxiety and stress and tempers the fight/flight reactionary tendencies we have.

Doing yoga also improves your sleep. You'll feel better, think more clearly and be more patient. You will reap the benefits of the oxygenated blood going to the brain. And, finally, you will start to feel your body again. In everyday life, we detach from our bodies so much because we are constantly thinking, constantly judging. Just inhaling, exhaling and dropping one's collar bone makes one more engaged in that very moment. When you have the space to be calm, you can work on the larger picture instead of the minutiae of our daily doings, which often takes over way too much mental energy.

Carol talked about yoga's benefits to society at-large and mentioned a study in Washington, D.C., where several Buddhist monks meditated for six weeks and the crime rate dropped by 25%. Was that more than a coincidence? Did they meditate for themselves or for society at-large? A strong yoga practice benefits

both. It's about attaching to something larger than oneself.

Carol leads a yoga session each Monday and Wednesday at Independence Park from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The cost is \$48 for six weeks or \$10 for a drop in. If you are so inclined, join the four to twelve people at Indy, some of whom have been regulars since Carol started teaching it in 2004. Or you can Zoom it in, an option made available since the pandemic, by calling or texting Carol at 773-428-0892 or emailing her at [carolvalbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolvalbarry@sbcglobal.net). Give it a try. Namaste!

### YOUR HEALTH

## Do You Have a List of Your Meds and Allergies Handy?

It's a good idea to keep a printed list in your wallet and/or electronically on your phone about medications that you are taking, medications or foods that you are allergic to, a listing of any surgeries that you have had, plus any medical conditions. That way if you are unable to communicate in a case of an emergency, EMTs will have a better idea of how to care for you. Also include the name and phone number of your PCP and emergency contact info.

# About the Hamlin On-Ramp

Sue Ryan

Did you know that back in the day you could access the Kennedy Expressway at Hamlin? Our neighbor and resident historian Duke Alyward was born and raised in the Independence Park neighborhood and is the go-to person about Indy lore.

The Kennedy Expressway opened on November 6, 1960, linking the Loop to O'Hare. Currently residents access the Kennedy either on Irving or Addison, but when it first opened there was a third access point. According to Duke, his grandfather, who was an architect and lived on Hamlin, quipped that it would be nice if he could jump on the Kennedy at Hamlin. While Duke is unsure how much clout his grandfather had, the final plans included an on-ramp and off-ramp but only in one direction. Curiously, you could only access the on-ramp

to go downtown and could only exit going westbound. Pity the poor reverse commuter.

Some neighbors opposed the Hamlin access because of traffic and fears (whether warranted or not) of increased crime. In a Chicago Tribune article (12/3/1990), John Kos who was in charge of expressway repairs said the Hamlin ramps would be closed for traffic safety reasons noting that there was not enough land for weave lanes which allowed cars to safely merge onto the expressway. In 1992, the ramps were demolished and a cul-de-sac now abuts the expressway. It is hard to imagine that the ramps were ever there. But if you ask Duke, you can picture kids sledding down the dirt mounds during the construction phase and Duke's grandfather shaving off two minutes on his commute downtown.

If you are curious about our neighborhood's history, take advantage of our local historian and pose your question at [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

## Wine and Cheese Fundraiser



# #GIPNA# Join today!

For information, send an e-mail to:  
[info@gipna.org](mailto:info@gipna.org)

## ... On the Dog Side

K. Laurel & her dog Andy Jack



Andy's Haiku for the New Year...

A fruitful New Year  
To all may abundance come  
with joy and good health





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- Served on Board of YWCA and Lifespan, fighting domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking
- Local small business owner and attorney
- Active community member and volunteer for mutual aid, local community organizations and chambers (including the GIPNA kickball tourney!)

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Purchasing a banner is a very inexpensive way to advertise your business and show your neighbors your support for our community.

Get together with your neighbors and purchase a banner to represent your block like the 3700 Block of Lawndale did (take a look on the corner of Lawndale and Irving Park Road). Let's get a competition going to see which blocks come through!

This is a great opportunity to show your support for our neighborhood. The purchase of your banner will proudly display the name of your business, a person you would like to honor or memorialize or your proud block of neighbors.

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