

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



SCHOOLS

Disney II Open Campus Policy Lets Kids Loose in IP

Every school day, Disney II Magnet School students roam the streets, alleys, and playgrounds of the Independence Park community. That's because Disney II, at 3900 N. Lawndale, has instituted an open campus policy that allows junior and senior students to leave the school grounds during the lunch period from 11 a.m. to noon.

Several years ago, when Chicago Public Schools made public the plan to install a high school campus in the TMMS building, GIPNA expressed several concerns, prominent among them the difficulties of inserting hundreds of students into a residential neighborhood. Unlike most new high school sites, the Disney II campus has no outdoor recreational area—when the kids walk out of the school, they're virtually in our

front yards.

Neighbors have reported more and more kids wandering the streets and alleys in the middle of the day. We've also heard of harassing incidents on the Independence Park play area, such as parents and young children being confronted with loitering, sidewalk-hogging, and profanity.

In November, members of the GIPNA board met with Disney II interim principal Kathleen Speth and 45th Ward education liaison Catherine Marchese to discuss the issue. We learned that the policy actually was instituted in the 2014–15 school year without notice to the community. Speth and assistant principal Angie Newton are new at Disney for this school year and say they have no knowledge of past policy decisions.

They claim the school has no choice but to implement open campus because it has insufficient space to feed the entire school population (around 240 kids) at the same time. (This year is the first with a full senior class at Disney II, which now occupies the

17th District School Officer Theo Kerkeres is stationed at Disney II. He has these suggestions:

The neighbors and home owners need to start reporting all crime going on in the neighborhood. If they observe a crime, they should call 911 immediately and give a full description of the offender(s). The description should include the offender(s) race, sex, height, weight, a hairstyle if visible, if they are wearing a hat and color of the hat, full clothing description as well as colors of the clothing worn, and a direction the offender(s) are traveling. Victims and witness should also notify the police if they have video or pictures of the incident and the offender(s). Let individuals know that they can remain anonymous even after talking to the police. Disney II needs to communicate to the students that the behavior displayed by some of these students will no longer be tolerated and arrests will be made as well as suspensions.

entire facility.) More than 200 juniors and seniors are eligible for the open campus program.

The school is responsible for student behavior and activity during the entire school day, whether the student is on school grounds or out on the streets. In response to community complaints and 45th Ward involvement, the administration has addressed the issue with the students. A log of complaints is being maintained, and the 45th Ward is exploring the feasibility of building out

additional space within the facility. To report an incident, call the main school office at 773-534-5010.

The Disney II administration asked for time to implement changes, and GIPNA and the 45th Ward office will follow up in the coming weeks. One change under consideration is to make open campus available only to top-performing students. The Chicago Police 17th District is aware of the issues; we've requested a squad car be stationed by the park at the lunch hour.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



JANUARY

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

TUES., JAN. 10 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

WED., JAN. 11 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

TUES., JAN. 17 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to noon, 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., JAN. 18 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Field House, info@independencparkchicago.com.

FEBRUARY

SAT., FEB. 4 Party for the Park, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Mirabella Restaurant, 3454 W. Addison, athleticfieldpark.com.

TUES., FEB. 7 GIPNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

TUES., FEB. 7 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

WED., FEB. 8 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

FRI., FEB. 10 Neighbors Night Out, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., location to be determined.

WED., FEB. 15 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Field House, info@independencparkchicago.com.

TUES., FEB. 21 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to noon, 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

MARCH

TUES., MARCH 7 GIPNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

TUES., MARCH 7 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

WED., MARCH 8 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

WED., MARCH 15 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Field House, info@independencparkchicago.com.

TUES., MARCH 21 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to noon, 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

APRIL

SAT., APRIL 1 Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

TUES., APRIL 4 GIPNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

WED., APRIL 12 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

TUES., APR. 18 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to noon, 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., APR. 19 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Field House, info@independencparkchicago.com.

45TH WARD NEWS

Participatory Budgeting on Hiatus for 2017

The 45th Ward office announced that Participatory Budgeting, the program that allows ward residents to vote on the use of a portion of the discretionary aldermanic menu money, will not take place in 2017.

45th Ward Alderman John Arena said changes in the city's timeline were a major factor in the decision. "I have determined that by skipping the 2017 cycle, my office can focus on improving the process, increasing our outreach efforts, and making important infrastructure improvements in 2017," Arena said in the ward newsletter.

The Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) moved the deadline for submission of infrastructure improvements up by several months. "In previous years, the process would start in the fall and wrap up in May, with residents voting on various projects," said Arena. "For the 2018 Participatory Budgeting cycle, the process will start in early 2017,

and residents will vote in the fall."

With the change in the cycle, the 2017 menu money will be spent on projects that have been approved by voters but came in at a higher cost than initially estimated. Arena also plans to focus on residential street repair throughout the ward as well as pedestrian safety issues. The ward office and the Participatory Budgeting Committee are going to focus on outreach efforts to increase involvement in the process and voter turnout.

Those interested in becoming involved in the Participatory Budgeting process can email the 45th Ward office at ward45@cityofchicago.org or call 773-286-4545.

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.

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: Jim O'Connor and others
Photography: April Bayne and others
Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

For submissions for the March/April 2017 issue:

Editorial Deadline:
February 10, 2017

Advertising Deadline:
February 10, 2017

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

E-MAIL: GIPNMAIL@GMAIL.COM

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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.

GIPNA Email Address

GIPNA's email address is:
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Please use this address for all correspondence.

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COMMUNICATION

E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

All GIPNA members who have access to email should be receiving e-blasts each Thursday. 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 gipnmail@gmail.com. We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.



UPDATE

New Independence Park Library Slated for 2019

The 45th Ward office informs GIPNA that a new Independence Park library will be built on Elston, north of Irving Park Road, on the current site of Hollerbach Funeral Home. The new library construction is expected to be completed by early 2019.

Owen Brugh, chief of staff for 45th Ward Alderman John Arena, told GIPNA that the property on Elston has been purchased and requests for proposals have gone out to architects and other vendors. The building will feature a library on the first floor and offer senior housing

on the second floor, which will enable the project to qualify for CHA funding. Brugh credits the mayor's office with the idea.

While the new library is under construction, no interim site is confirmed for the Independence Branch Library. Plans to reopen at its former site at Irving Park and Central Park are on indefinite hold. The 45th Ward office continues to work on possible solutions.

State Representative Jaime Andrade; Aldermen John Arena, Marge Laurino (39th), Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th), and Deb Mell (33rd); and eight Northwest Side community groups banded together to sustain the momentum for a new library. Thanks to all for their hard work and perseverance.

A COOL IDEA

First Winter Market Held in December

In December GIPNA co-hosted the first Winter Market, a cold-weather version of our popular Independence Park Farmers Market.

The Winter Market set up in the parking lot of the Farmers Market Garden Center on Elston on a crisp Sunday morning. Vendors set up indoors and outside; shoppers could sip on hot cider or chai tea and check out products from familiar

vendors from the Independence Park Farmers Market and from the Garden Center. Shortly after the market opened snow began to fall, and everyone enjoyed the picturesque sight of dozens of snow-dappled Christmas trees.

The new owners of the Garden Center were delighted with the event and will look for other ways to participate in the community. Thanks to Greg Shea, Dickie Nichols, and Sharon Nichols of the Farmers Market committee for working with the Garden Center to make this happen.

Are you a GIPNA member?

Join today!



Use PayPal at www.gipna.org or mail in the form below with a check.

For information, send an e-mail to: gipnamail@gmail.com

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(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

Check amount enclosed

Single \$10 Family \$20

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Lifetime \$100 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 off-volunteer association.)

POLICE

CPD Superintendent Addresses Community on CPD Use of Force Policy

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson attended the December GIPNA meeting to speak to the Independence Park community about the new Use of Force Guidelines that CPD will adopt for 2017. Also present were Chief Anne Kirkpatrick, head of CPD's Bureau of Organizational Development; 17th District Commander Elias Voulgaris; and 45th Ward Alderman John Arena.

In a short overview and introduction, Johnson explained that the new policy reflects a major shift in perspective in interactions between officers and the public. The old policy of escalation mandated meeting force with escalating force; the new policy is specifically "committed to the sanctity of human life" and requires officers to assess and try to de-escalate the force used in a given situation.

Kirkpatrick has been hired specifically to oversee CPD training in the new policy, with the goal of helping

officers make quick and confident judgments in heated situations that require split-second decisions. She went through the main points of the guidelines and provided more detail, including:

- Interested officers will be certified in crisis intervention, which will help in interactions with the mentally ill. Kirkpatrick said ideally 35% of officers would have CI training, but committed only to training as many as possible. She added that CI training will be a requirement for consideration for promotion.

- The definition of deadly force has been expanded, which will decrease the number situations where it is employed.

- In a major shift, officers are now obligated to intervene when they witness another officer violating the use of force guidelines, and to report any violations they witness. A hotline for reporting such violations will be set up, and penalties for harassing reporting officers will be instituted.

This is the first time CPD has solicited public input on a policy decision. In fact, CPD extended the deadline for public feedback for a day to accommodate the meeting on December 6.

GIPNA

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Use PayPal at www.gipna.org or mail in a check.

For information, send an e-mail to: gipnamail@gmail.com



CITIZENSHIP

Clear Sidewalks Could Save You Money

Shoveling your snow and keeping the sidewalk clear in front of your house is part of being a good neighbor. It helps commuters and residents both, and contributes to the common good. It could also save you \$500—a day.

In 2015 the City Council approved fines of up to \$500 per day for failing to keep your sidewalk shoveled. In a city this strapped for cash, are you willing to risk it? (The Editor knows of one neighbor who was cited last year and had to go to court.)

People walk to trains, buses, schools, and stores all day long, and without a wide, clear path through snow and ice, it's especially difficult for seniors, people with disabilities, and children to walk safely. What's more, the law in Chicago says that property owners and occupants are responsible for keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Some of our residents go above and beyond the call of duty, clearing not only their own sidewalks but those of the neighbors around them as well. If you can, take a look at the neighbors on either side of you and help as much as you can.

Frequently Asked Questions About Sidewalk Snow Removal:

Who is responsible for clearing

the snow and ice from sidewalks? According to the Municipal Code of Chicago, "Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any building or lot of ground abutting upon any public way or public space shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. . ." It's everyone's responsibility to make sure the sidewalks are clear of snow and ice. We're all pedestrians, and we all benefit from having a safe, clear, and continuous path to travel.

How long do I have to clear the sidewalks? If the snow stops falling before 4 p.m. you have three hours to clear except on Sunday. If the snow stops falling after 4 p.m. or on Sunday, you have to clear before 10 a.m. on the next day.

How much snow do I need to clear to comply with the ordinance? The Municipal Code of Chicago requires individuals to clear a 5-foot wide path along the sidewalk, where conditions allow. This width allows pedestrians in wheelchairs, people with children in strollers, students walking to school, and individuals with assistive devices mobility and access.

Remove snow and ice along all sidewalks adjacent to your property—move snow to your yard or the parkway adjacent to your property. Don't push snow from the sidewalk into the street, and don't cover the crosswalks with snow. Keep alley entrances clear, and don't pile snow around fire hydrants.

SCHOOLS

Disney Addressing Parking Problems With New Guidelines for Parents

The streets around Disney II High School are jammed each morning and afternoon with parents dropping off and picking up their kids. Neighbors report cars standing in the streets and blocking driveways as dozens of cars jockey for prime positions on Lawndale, Byron, and Ridgeway.

In an effort to address these issues, Disney II sent an email to parents in December with the following directives.

- As of December 6, north-bound traffic was restricted on the 3900 block of Lawndale to create a smoother traffic flow, and parents are directed not to park on that block.
- No double-parking to drop off kids.
- No parking where there are traffic cones.
- Students are directed to exit the school on Ridgeway in the afternoon to allow a turn west onto Byron to exit the neighborhood.
- No parking in handicap spots, alley entrances, or in front of driveways. Early arriving parents should park only on Byron or Ridgeway.

GIVING BACK

GIPNA's Community Donations for 2016

As is our custom, GIPNA's Board of Directors exercised its holiday spirit by donating money from its general fund to support local schools, charities, and charitable efforts in 2016.

Funds from the Wine & Cheese Party (see story on page 6) once again were earmarked for John B. Murphy School. We had another successful party and, with a little bit extra from the general fund, were able to donate \$10,000 to Murphy

School for its music and arts program. The check was presented at a school assembly in December.

We also continued our support of the Adopt-a-Family program, presenting gift cards to the principals of Murphy School and Disney II Magnet High School to be given to families of their choice. The board also voted to make donations to Lydia Home, which supports families in crisis and children in abusive situations; the Irving Park Community Food Pantry, whose service area includes Independence Park; the Independence Park and the Athletic Field advisory councils; and Carlson Community Services, to help support its after-school programs.



LOCAL ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

A Life in Pictures

It's difficult to sum up a 30-year career as a staff photographer for the City of Chicago in a few words. Whether I was documenting cracks in the sidewalk or hanging out of a helicopter, the job was never boring.

As one of Mayor Harold Washington's photographers, I had the honor of capturing his last public appearance. I've been in the Loop tunnels under the river and on top of the Willis Tower. Covering all of the Chicago team celebrations was intermittent, but great fun when they finally happened.

With the transition from film to digital taking place, it was a great time to be a photographer. About six years ago I decided to move on from my City position, and I now do freelance assignments along with golf course and fine art photography.

I capture most of my images in what better photographers than I call "sweet light," the short period on either side of sunrise and sunset. Aiming for the perfect

balance of skylight and foreground is always a challenge, but it became much easier with the onset of digital.

I use HDR, which stands for high dynamic range. This is a series of different exposures of the same subject, captured using a tripod and then stitched together to show detail in the shadows and the highlights. This technique appears fake when it's overdone, but when a subtle hand is applied the scene can really transform into a wonderful image. My "digital darkroom" allows me control over my images I only dreamed about with film, and with a 24-inch printer I can reproduce large prints with the click of a mouse.

While some photographers travel to exotic locales for their subject matter, I believe you don't need to leave your own backyard to create beautiful photography. Some of my favorite images have been taken in the neighborhood and showcase my penchant for infrastructure—bridges, roads, the "L." Over my career I've been fortunate to document a gorgeous skyline and meet some fantastic people while continuing to hone my craft.

— Peter Schulz

EVENT RECAP

Lots of fun on Tap at Wine and Cheese Party

This year GIPNA's annual Wine and Cheese Party was held at the Independence Tap in November, and we had another terrific time. As a result, we'll be able to donate \$10,000 to John B. Murphy School to support its programs.

Neighbors and friends turned out for raffles and games, a silent auction, and a chance to enjoy fine wine, fine food, and fine companionship. Attendees enjoyed the drinks and conversation, along with the chance to bid on gift certificates and donated works from local artisans.

As in past years, funds raised by the Wine and Cheese Party are earmarked for Murphy School and for the Farmers Market expenses. GIPNA cleared a little more than \$8,000; by unanimous vote of the GIPNA board of directors, we decided to beef that up a bit and match last year's donation of \$10,000 to Murphy.

Thanks to Bobbie Bolociuch, designers and decorators Pat Clark and Sharon Sears, freebie solicitor extraordinaire Roberta Wilk, cheese and nosh czar Jen Bird, and many other volunteers for all their work in the weeks leading up to the party. And thanks to our incredible Independence Park neighbors—your generosity makes everything we do possible.





||| GIPNA |||

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We are supporters of the GIPNA Wine & Cheese Parties.

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2:00-4:00pm**

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Wednesday February 15 • March 15 •
May 17 • and Friday April 7

2017-2018

Application for Admissions

forms are available online and in the school office

Please feel free to contact Marge Tirilli with any questions or to schedule a personal tour.
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I have lived in the Independence Park Neighborhood for more than 15 years, my children attend our level 1+ Murphy Elementary where I served on the LSC.

I am involved with volunteer activities throughout our neighborhood and with our neighborhood association. My commitment and personal connections in the community suit me perfectly to market and sell your northwest side home.

If you are curious about your home's value I would be happy to provide a free market analysis.



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JOIN TODAY

GIPNA Membership: What Does Your \$10 Buy?

Community-building activities and events

Independence Park Farmers Market

School Fundraisers

Community Gardens

Craft Fairs

Garage Sales

Alley Cleanups

Gourmet Pancake Breakfasts

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 events and services that make Independence Park the hidden jewel of the Northwest Side require time and money. Our wonderful volunteers give their time, and GIPNA membership helps provide the money. Please join GIPNA to make 2017 the best year yet, and if you're already a member, please renew.