

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



COMMUNITY

Enjoy Little Free Libraries!

Cindy Schuch

Reading is such an important and informative pastime for a lot of people. Over the last few years, a wonderful phenomenon known as Little Free Libraries has developed here and all over the world. People have built little libraries of various shapes, sizes and materials in front of their homes, parks, and businesses. Some of these libraries are registered through <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>. In the spirit of sharing and community, these libraries allow everyone a chance to get books for free or leave books for other people to take.

Our little library was developed out of the desire to honor the memory of my mother and her passion for reading. I had the wonderful experience of having my mother, Ann, live with us for the last two years of her life. She was constantly reading. She always said she "Could travel the world by opening up a book and losing



herself in the experiences. You can travel back in time or go to places you would never be able to go." My husband Michael and I built the house out of love. He would give her a book every birthday and holiday.

My mother read so many different kinds of books; some rooted in real life stories and some for education. She was very fascinated by counseling and anything related to human behavior. She actually went back to school and got her master's degree at age 70

in Psychotherapy. She worked for several years as a counselor.

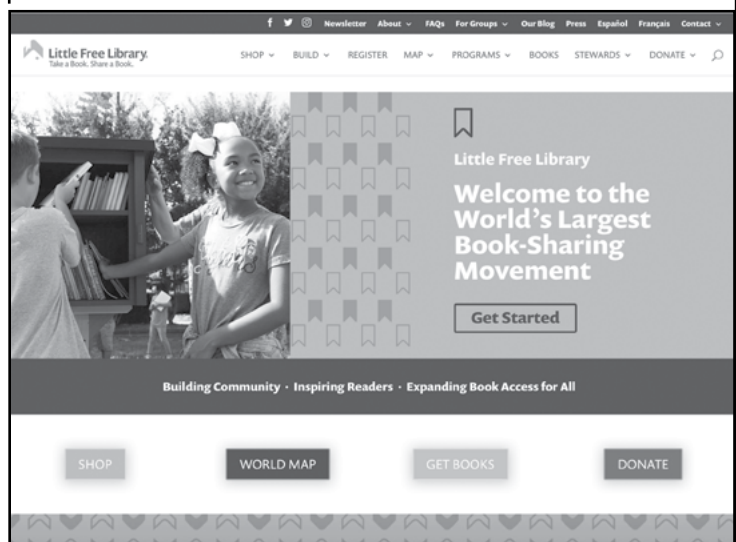
When we cleaned out her house, we brought a lot of the books here to populate her little library and we donated a lot of her therapy books to the Heartland Institute in Arlington Heights. Along with books, I have used ours to also pass along some music and movies and a few bookmarks.

There are at least 10 little libraries within a two-mile radius of Irving Park Road and Elston. So I hope you get a chance to take a look and see if there is anything you would like to read. And if

you have books you want to pass along, please feel free to leave them for someone else to enjoy.



Editor's note: Little Free Libraries in our neighborhood are located on the 3900 and 3700 blocks of N. Monticello, 3700 block of N. Central Park and in front of the fieldhouse (facing the baseball fields). If you have a big load of books or more obscure titles, you can donate them to Books for a Cause, a free bookstore at 2931 N. Milwaukee Ave.



**The regular GIPNA Board Meeting is Tues., March 1, 7:00 p.m.
Join us online via Zoom. Meeting I.D.: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



MARCH

TUES., MAR. 1—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA

WED., MAR. 9—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., hybrid meeting with the option of in-person at Athletic Field Fieldhouse or virtual. Register in advance for webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95837877597>, Password: D2lsc

MON., MAR. 14—AFAC General Meeting and Annual Officer Elections, 6:30 p.m. at Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse.

TUES., MAR. 15—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

WED., MAR. 16—Disney II Local School Council Meeting, 6:45-7:45 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/95837877597>. Meeting ID: 958 3787 7597, Password: D2lsc

THURS., MAR. 17—CPS CIMPAP Mobile Vaccination event at Murphy Elementary School, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

THURS., MAR. 17—Murphy School Local School Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Murphy Library, Room 206.

WED., MAR. 23—Friends of Murphy, 7 p.m., online Zoom meeting, [friendsofmurphy.org](https://friendsofmurphy.org/events/) for link.

APRIL

SAT., APR. 2—Easter Egg Hunt, Athletic Field Park Playground. Check athleticfieldpark.com for more information.

TUES., APR. 5—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA

THURS., APR. 7—CPS CIMPAP Mobile Vaccination event at Murphy Elementary School, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SAT., APR. 9—Easter Egg Hunt, 11:30 a.m., Independence Park. See article on page 5 for information and QR code.

TUES., APR. 12—GIPNA Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. Check gipna.org for more information.

WED., APR. 13—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., hybrid meeting with the option of in-person at Athletic Field Fieldhouse or virtual. Register in advance for webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95837877597>, Password: D2lsc

TUES., APR. 19—Disney II Local School Council Meeting, 6:45-7:45 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/95837877597>. Meeting ID: 958 3787 7597, Password: D2lsc

TUES., APR. 19—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

THURS., APR. 21—Murphy School Local School Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Murphy Library, Room 206.

SUN., APR. 24—Irving Park Fine Arts Committee, 2 p.m., Max Bessesen, saxophone, "Music from the Aquarian Age," Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. Check carlsoncommunityservices.org for updates. See article on page 4.

WED., APR. 27—Friends of Murphy, 7 p.m., online Zoom meeting, friendsofmurphy.org for link.

MARZO

MARTES, 1 DE MAR.—Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA

MIÉR., 9 DE MAR 9—CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 7 p.m., reunión híbrida con la opción de presencial en el Athletic Field Fieldhouse o virtual. Regístrese con anticipación para el seminario web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95837877597>, Password: D2lsc

LUN., MAR. 14—Reunión general de AFAC y elecciones anuales de funcionarios, 6:30 p.m. en el Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse.

MARTES, MAR. 15—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

MIÉR., MAR. 16—Reunión del consejo escolar local de Disney II, 6:45 p.m. a 7:45 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/95837877597>. ID de reunión: 958 3787 7597, Contraseña: D2lsc

JUEVES, MAR. 17—Evento móvil de vacunación CIMPAP de CPS en la escuela

primaria Murphy, de 10 a. m. a 1 p. m.

JUEVES, MAR. 17—Reunión del Consejo Escolar Local de la Escuela Murphy, 5:30 p.m., Biblioteca Murphy, Salón 206.

MIÉR., MAR. 23—Friends of Murphy, 7 p.m., reunión de Zoom en línea, friendsofmurphy.org para el enlace.

ABRIL

SÁBADO, APR. 2—Búsqueda de huevos de Pascua, patio de recreo del parque Athletic Field. Visite www.athleticfieldpark.com para obtener más información.

MARTES, APR. 5—Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA

JUEVES, APR. 7—Evento de vacunación móvil de CPS CIMPAP en la escuela primaria Murphy, de 10 a. m. a 1 p. m.

SÁBADO APR. 9—Búsqueda de huevos de Pascua, 11:30 a.m., Independence Park. Consulte el artículo en la página 5 para obtener información y el código QR.

MARTES, APR. 12—Reunión Anual de GIPNA, 7 p.m. Consulte gipna.org para obtener más información.

MIÉRCOLES, APR 13—Reunión CAPS Beat 1732, 7 p.m., reunión híbrida con la opción de presencial en el Athletic Field Fieldhouse o virtual. Regístrese con anticipación para el seminario web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95837877597>, Password: D2lsc

MARTES, APR. 19 Reunión del Consejo Escolar Local de Disney II, 6:45-7:45 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/95837877597>. ID de reunión: 958 3787 7597, Contraseña: D2lsc

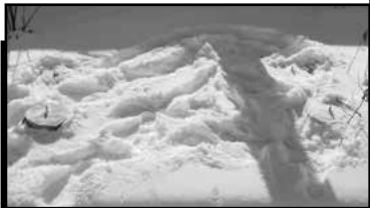
MARTES APR. 19—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

JUEVES, APR 21—Reunión del Consejo Escolar Local de la Escuela Murphy, 5:30 p.m., Biblioteca Murphy, Salón 206.

DOMINGO, APR 24—Comité de Bellas Artes de Irving Park, 2 p.m., Max Bessesen, saxofón, "Música de la Era de Acuario", Iglesia Luterana de Irving Park, 4100 N. Harding Ave.

Consulte carlsoncommunityservices.org para obtener actualizaciones. Ver artículo en la página 4.

MIÉRCOLES, APR 27—Friends of Murphy, 7 p.m., reunión de Zoom en línea, friendsofmurphy.org para el enlace.



NEIGHBORS

Outrage!!!

The John Jemilo Bench

Roberta Wilk

We lost our wonderful neighbor, John Jemilo, on November 15, 2019. In recognition of John's service to our community, a bench was installed at the south end of the 3800 block of Avers Avenue. The bench was simply inscribed: "John Jemilo—A Good Man."

The bench was a welcomed rest stop for family, friends, and strangers alike. Then, during the weekend of November 12, 2021, the bench was mysteriously stolen! The only remains were concrete anchors and bolts that held the bench in place. Family and neighbors were incensed at this, and so currently there is an effort to replace the bench. We are hoping that by late spring, there again will be that tribute to our "John Jemilo—A Good Man."

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
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For submissions for May/June 2022 Issue:

Editorial Deadline:
April 10, 2022

Advertising Deadline:
April 10, 2022

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.

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3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan
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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 & 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. 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.

Carlson Community Services News

Liz Mills

Space available at MAP!

Carlson Community Services' after-school program, the Magic After-School Place (MAP), is in its 15th year of providing high quality, affordable after-school care for children attending Murphy and Belding Schools. We welcomed students back to MAP last fall for in-person programming and have a few additional spaces available. With a fully vaccinated staff, strict attention to COVID protocols, and additional cleaning protocols, MAP is a great destination for neighborhood kids after school. Our income-based tuition structure makes MAP a valuable partner for working families who need a safe place for their children after school. Equally important, children receive homework help and tutoring, play group games and enjoy social time with friends. Program space is generously donated by Irving Park Lutheran Church, helping us do this important work in our community. MAP meets from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. every day CPS is in session at the IPLC gym located at Harding and Belle Plaine. For



more information and to enroll your child, contact Rebecca Haneberg at mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Free Jazz Concert April 24th

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present saxophonist Max Bessesen in the final concert of its 2021-2022 season on Sunday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. In a program titled Music from the Aquarian Age, Bessesen and friends will present jazz covers from the 1970s. Pieces by Joni Mitchell, Pat Metheny, Eddie Harris and others will be performed by a quartet of top-flight Chicago jazz musicians. 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!

Bessesen is a former Irving Park resident who now lives and works in New York City. He first performed for the Fine Arts series in a recorded holiday concert in 2020. He is eager to perform again for a "live" audience! (Program subject to change. Check our Facebook page and web site for updates and any COVID-19 mitigations.)



The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee, now in its 28th 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 and theatrical events to the northwest side of Chicago. The series is a program of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit our web site at carlsoncommunityservices.org. Sign up for our newsletters or follow us on Facebook if you'd like to stay informed about all that is happening!

GIPNA Banner Campaign Lights Up the Sky

Sue Ryan

It's a bird! It's a plane! It MIGHT even be Superman, but what I really had in mind is your name on a GIPNA lamppost banner. There's still time to sponsor a

banner to replace the tired and torn banners from yesteryear. Your sponsorship of \$350 covers the costs of the banner, printing, installation and a personalized inscription of your choice. Whether you're a family or a business or a family business, help brand and beautify our neighborhood. You could even get together with neighbors and sponsor a banner on behalf of your block. Your banner would be installed in spring of 2022 and guaranteed to

remain for five years.

Is your curiosity piqued? If so, go to GIPNA.org or scan the QR code where you can complete the application and payment for your personalized banner. The deadline is March 31. Banner locations are given on a first come, first served basis, so secure your spot today. Questions? Contact Dickie Nichols at dickie.nichols@gipna.org.

We thank our generous sponsors who recently purchased banners:

Equilibrium USG; Guardian Heating & Cooling Service, 3916 N. Central Park; JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, 3970 N. Elston; Golden Leaf Liquors, 3652 W. Irving Park; Alps Restaurant, 3637 W. Irving Park.



Finding Community in the Community

Sue Ryan

According to happiness guru Arthur Brooks, one sure way to the path of happiness is through doing good for others. If academic philosophers aren't your thing, take it from sage Betty White who mused that the secret to a long and rich life is "kindness and consideration of somebody besides yourself."

Community anchors such as schools, churches, parks, libraries, civic and non-profit organizations often rely on volunteers to provide or enhance their services. If you are seeking a way to get involved in our community, below are just a few options:

- Carlson Community Services
- Churches: Irving Park Lutheran Church, St. Edward, St. Viator, SOW, and Tapestry Fellowship
- Greater Independence Park Neighbors Association (GIPNA)
- Independence Branch Library
- Irving Park Food Pantry
- Irving Park Mutual Aid
- Parks: Athletic Field Advisory Council (AFAC) and Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC)
- Schools: Disney II Magnet School and John B. Murphy Fine Arts Elementary School

Many of us experience the poverty of time and can barely hang on trying to meet family and job obligations. Yet, if you have a few hours to spare a month, invest in your community and you'll realize that Betty White did have the key to happiness.



Irving Park Community Food Pantry News

Craig Shutt

Pantry Starts Easter Basket Program

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will give out Easter baskets to clients' children up to 10 years old from March 23 to April 13 (prior to Easter on April 17). We are looking for donations of filled plastic eggs, small games and puzzles, 24-count boxes of crayons, small plush animals, party-favor-sized toys and wrapped candies. Please do not donate Easter baskets; we are only looking for items to fill the baskets.

Donations can be taken to Big Helpers, 4184 N. Elston Ave., on Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or the drop box on the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. (any time). Contact-free registries are available at Amazon and Walmart. Links are available on our Facebook page. Items can be purchased from those lists or they can be used as ideas for



Make Easter basket related donation via Amazon and Walmart.

in-store purchases.

We also encourage organizations to do their own collections or assemble baskets (using only dollar-store bucket-type baskets, please). Contact Special Events Coordinator Craig Shutt at craigshutt@gmail.com for details or to arrange a delivery.

The Pantry is also still collecting toiletries for its Choice table, allowing clients to select from a menu of personal care items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, razors and shaving cream, baby wipes, and dishwashing liquid, among others. If you would like to donate to that program, the items can be taken to the same drop-off locations as mentioned above or you can donate via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or by check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.

Thank you to the members of the Sts. Viator and Wenceslaus Church's Girl Scout troops, who



put together dozens of birthday party kits for our clients! The kits include cake mix, frosting, candles, candies, plates and napkins in a festive gift bag. We appreciate the Scouts' support and their creative approach to thinking about our clients' needs.

Thank you to Aldermen Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and Jim Gardiner, both of whom donated 500 N95 masks to the Pantry. The masks are being given out to clients and volunteers to help keep everyone safe and healthy through the pandemic surge.

We appreciate everyone's support as we continue our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"

Easter Egg Hunt at Indy Park

Bryan Coble

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Sow Community Church will be sponsoring the Independence Park Egg Hunt at 3945 N. Springfield Ave. in the park on Saturday, April 9! The Independence Park Advisory Council will also be sponsoring a free spring craft for the kiddos during the same time. If due to COVID, we can't do the crafts at the Egg Hunt, kits will be given out so the project can be done at home. The event

starts at 11:30 a.m., but you must sign up to take part. Only a limited number of spots will be open, so please make sure to sign up at <https://linktr.ee/sowcommunity> so you can join in. We will raffle off some prizes, everyone will get a free treat bag, and we will have about 6,000 eggs in total to find. Remember spaces are limited, so act fast!

Here is the QR code to use to sign up:



SCHOOLS

Support Grassroots Democracy: Participate in Local School Councils (LSCs)

In the city of Chicago, Local School Councils (LSCs) serve as a governing body for each district-managed school in the Chicago Public School (CPS) system.

Local School Councils are responsible for:

- Approving the school based academic plan (CIWP)
- Approving the alignment of budgetary resources to the CIWP

- Engaging in the annual evaluation of contract principal's professional practices
- Selecting or renewing contract principals

Comprised of parents, community, educational, and student members, LSCs serve as an important vehicle for participatory democracy, providing a wide variety of stakeholders an opportunity to make important decisions about how students in their communities will be educated.

The upcoming Local School Council elections are in April. Consider running for the LSC as either a parent of a child in the school or as a community representative. If you are not yet ready for elected office, take time to read

up on the candidates, attend the candidate forum and vote. CPS is also seeking election judges. Judges are paid \$250 PER DAY worked and are required to attend a two hour unpaid training session. For more information about the elections, check out <https://www.cps.edu/about/local-school-councils/>.

Key Dates

- Friday, March 4 Deadline to file for candidacy
- Tuesday, March 8 Deadline to apply to be an LSC judge.
- Monday March 21 to Friday March 25 LSC Candidate Forums
- Wednesday, April 20 Murphy Elementary School Election
- Thursday, April 21 Disney II Magnet High School Election

(from Chicago Public Schools website)

THE ARTS

Stola Spring 2022 Update

Patti Kimbel

Our neighborhood art gallery, Stola Contemporary Art, 3738 W. Irving Park Road, has an exciting spring lineup. Their current exhibit, The Best of Women, is sponsored by the Women's Caucus for Art, which is also celebrating its 50th year anniversary with this special showing.

This exhibit runs through March 13th.

Following that, there will be the exhibit The Days of Quarantine by Caren Helen Rudman, with an Artist's Reception, April 2nd, from 5-8 p.m.

This exhibit runs March 18th through April 24th.

The final spring showing will feature Rahmon Olugunna, running April 29 to June 5, with a reception date to be announced.

Check the webpage for more information and updates at: <https://stolacontemporaryart.com/>

ENVIRONMENT

Does Litter Drive You Crazy Too?

Pat Clark

Who do you contact to get litter cleaned up? Here's a list of some resources:

Private business or residence: For businesses or private residences with excessive trash, including on their parking lot, parkway, yard, sidewalk, etc., try calling or emailing the owner first to politely ask them to clean up their trash. If they don't do anything, you can report them for a Sanitation Code Violation through 311. The city will visit and issue a warning fairly quickly. It is the owner's responsibility to keep their property and parkway clean. The link is: <https://311.chicago.gov/s/article/sanitation-code-violations>.

Highway areas: IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) is

responsible for green spaces next to ramps, fenced-in areas next to the highway, and fenced-in areas under overpasses. You can reach out to IDOT through their website to report a trash problem at this link: <https://apps.dot.illinois.gov/WER/?from=>. It may take them a while depending upon the time of the year. You should receive confirmation in about 3-4 weeks that the area was cleaned.

The City of Chicago ward offices are responsible for all other areas near highways, such as non-fenced sections under overpasses and the sidewalks nearby. Plus, the ward office is responsible for emptying overflowing trash bins and wire baskets. Reach out to our alderman, James Gardiner, at ward45@cityofchicago.org for problems in our neighborhood. Or you can make a wire basket request through the 311 website/app. The link is https://311.chicago.gov/s/new-service-request?typecodeid=a1Pt000000Q7fcEAC&language=en_US.



Is Your Lawn Safe for Your Kids and Pets?

Robyn McMurray Hurtig

Spring is on its way and with it comes lawn care companies, many of whom use pesticides and toxic chemicals to try and beautify your lawn. The truth is you don't need anything dangerous on your lawn to make it beautiful. When you use dangerous chemicals on your lawn, it's affecting your neighbors next door, your neighbors down the block, your community's water system. On and on.

There are many reasons to care about using pesticides and herbicides. The most critical reason for you might be how it affects your children and your pets.

How Do Pesticides Affect Our Children?

Pound for pound, children have much higher exposures to pesticides than adults do, just through normal daily activity. What's especially frightening is how vulnerable children's brains

are to pesticides during fetal and early childhood development. Researchers are learning that children's developmental processes are easily disrupted by small amounts of toxic chemicals; amounts that would be virtually harmless for adults.

Why Are Pesticides So Toxic to Children?

The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) lists many reasons why pesticides are more toxic to children:

- An infant's brain, nervous system, and organs are still developing after birth.
- A baby's immature liver and kidneys cannot remove pesticides from the body as well as an adult's liver and kidneys.
- Infants take more breaths per minute and have more skin surface relative to their body weight.
- Children often spend more time closer to the ground, touching baseboards and lawns where pesticides may have been applied.
- Children often eat and drink more relative to their body

weight than adults. This can lead to a higher dose of pesticide residue per pound of body weight.

- Babies crawl on treated lawns and carpeting. Crawling may dislodge pesticide residue onto a baby's skin. The baby also breathes in pesticide-laden dust.
- Young children are also more likely to put their fingers, toys, and other objects into their mouths.

How Pesticides Affect Our Dogs

Dogs live in the yard much differently than we do. You and I sitting on the back patio is not the same as our dog rolling around in the grass. That's why dogs are at a greater risk (and kids, too). A higher risk of bladder cancer for dogs is one example of how dogs are affected by lawn chemicals.

Chemicals are commonly detected in grass residues from both treated lawns and untreated

lawns suggesting chemical drift from nearby treated areas. As a result, dogs can be exposed to chemicals through contact with their own lawn (treated or contaminated through drift) or through contact with other grassy areas on their walks.

Find Out What Your Landscaper Is Using on Your Lawn

If you don't know what your landscaper uses on your lawn, it's okay to ask. Take a photo of the label your landscaper provides you or ask for a safety data sheet for their products. If you need help understanding what's on the label—email me (robyn@iamgreenwise.com) an image or the product name and I can get answers for you.

An organic approach to lawn care will give you that beautiful lawn, and, more importantly, it will be 100% safe! That's a good thing for you, your children and pets, your neighbors, and our environment!

Get the Lead Out

Sue Ryan

If your home was built before 1986, you likely have lead pipes that carry your water into the house. Not all pipes leach lead into the water supply, but the city is offering free testing to determine whether your drinking water is contaminated. Follow the instructions in this link <https://www.chicagowaterquality.org/home#how> and click on the 'How Testing Works' at the top of the page to

order an in-home test kit. If you don't want to order online, you can also call 311 to request a kit. Once you collect the samples, mail it in and you will receive a lead analysis. You also have the option to schedule an appointment for someone to come to your house to collect the sample. If you decide that pipe replacement is needed, the city won't pay to install them, but it will waive the permit fee. The Build Back Better bill does allocate money to replace lead pipes, but counting on this source anytime soon may be a pipe dream.

WORRIED ABOUT EVICTION? ★

Visit Chicago.gov/Eviction

Don't Self-Evict

If you get an eviction notice, know that only the Cook County Sheriff's Office can carry out an eviction. It is illegal for your landlord to try to remove you from your home.

Get Legal Help

Rentervention is a free and confidential service through Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing. Get your legal housing questions answered and get connected to more resources. Call 312-347-7600, visit rentervention.com, or text "hi" to 866-7RENTER (866-773-6837).

Get Financial Help

You may be eligible to get up to 15 months of assistance, or you can check the status of your current application. Visit Chicago.gov/RentHelp

Connect to a Shelter

If you need to seek short-term shelter right away, please call 3-1-1 from anywhere in Chicago for placement.

Scan this QR code for more information.



Exploring the World Through Books with the Help of a Book Club



Sue Ryan

There is only so much Netflix binging I can do before feeling like a blob and wondering what happened to my day or night, or in some cases, both. The same is true with doom scrolling given the events of the past year. My balm has been books and my book club.

Books can give an in-depth look at historical and current events, social and cultural norms. Books can transport you into another country, another time period and transform your views on a topic. Books can nourish your soul and who can't benefit

from that?

If you need motivation to read novels, then join or start a book club. Nearly 28 years ago, my sister, Ellen, and I started a book club with nine other friends. Some of the names and faces have changed as people have moved, but eight of us have been together since April 1994. And Maggie, the newbie, joined in 2002. When we started, only one person had children and now there are 23 kids among us – actually all but two are now adults. The passage of time comes sharply into focus with that fact.

On the last Tuesday of each month, we gather, except in December when we carol or bake cookies. Our book club is rather informal with no designated leader and no structured format. We have kept the size to 11 knowing that not everyone makes it every month. We take turns hosting and serving treats. Our rigorous book selection process consists of tossing out the question “Does anyone have a suggestion for next month?”

We have a few guidelines: books generally have to be available at the library and should not exceed 500 pages. We tend to read more contemporary fiction, but non-fiction memoirs and biographies make the list as do a fair share of classics which are always available at the library.

Our books have taken us to every continent, spanned centuries, and crossed empires. Plots have taken place in the Chinese countryside during the 70s (*Life*), the French resistance movement in the 40s (*Nightingale*), the swamps of North Carolina (*Where the Crawdad Sings*) and Algeria during a plague (*The Plague*). The most recent books, *American Dirt* and *Behold the Dreamers*, have opened my eyes to those trying to migrate to the U.S. after fleeing desperate situations in their countries.

I would like to think that books have made me more empathic as I see the world through the eyes of another. Life's tough issues are not always black and white. Fleshing out the gray areas forces me to examine

complex situations where characters have to choose the least awful choice. My moral compass is challenged when a mom steals food in order to feed her kids. Some books that were hardest to get through were also the most memorable.

As anyone in a book club knows, it isn't just books that get discussed. Kids, jobs, spouses, travel, politics, city life, entertainment are sprinkled throughout the conversation. Over the years, we have been through health scares, child-rearing woes, schooling dilemmas, job losses, and deaths of our parents. The themes in books often are played out in our lives. I am grateful that my friends are thoughtful, aren't afraid to voice a contrary opinion and always have illuminating insights.

Books can whisk you away without leaving your house which is handy during a pandemic. If you would like to see the list of the nearly 300 books we have read, send me an email at susanpryan@gmail.com.



St. Edward School News

Jenny Dreyer

Looking for a new Pre-K – 8th grade school for the 2022-2023 school year? Link to register for more information and take a campus tour on our website, stedwardschool.com.

At St. Edward School, our early childhood learning programs prepare our three and four year olds by incorporating the academic, emotional, social, physical and spiritual needs to nurture and teach the whole child and encourage qualities needed for lifelong learning.

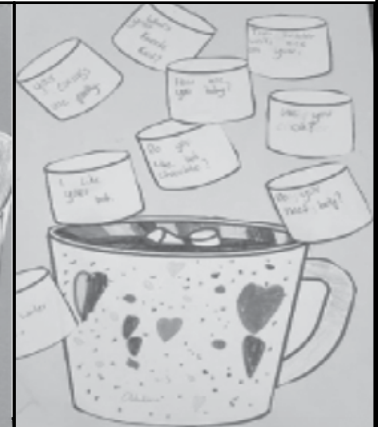
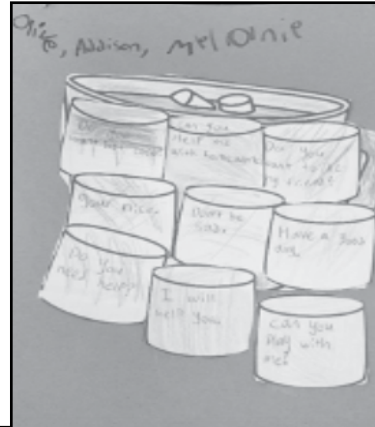
Our K – 8th grades develop the whole child through rigorous academics, creative arts including music, theater and visual art, physical activity and sports, and our Catholic faith that honors the unique gifts and talents of each of our students.

Save the date to attend St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser, **Big Red Auction & Comedy Night on Saturday, April 2, 2022**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. This year's event will feature an online auction and an in-person stand-up comedy show, which will be broadcast live on our YouTube channel. Proceeds from the **Big Red Auction & Comedy Night** event support educational resources, school improvements and tuition assistance. There are several ways you can support our efforts, including donating an item to the auction, becoming a sponsor and buying a raffle ticket or ticket to the event. For

Hot Cocoa of Kindness with Murphy School Buddies in Rooms 202 and 302

Gretchen Siffring

Murphy School's 7th grade students in Ms. Laqui's class and 2nd grade students in Ms. Mendoza's class talked about what it means to be kind. They then created hot cocoa cups of kindness, using words and ideas to be friends with classmates. Here are some of the final products from our buddies.



more information or to buy tickets, visit <https://stedwardchicago.org/big-red-auction.html> or email auction@stedwardschool.com.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Community Events that benefit St. Ed's and give you a night off from cooking! Thank you for your support!

Nonno Pino's

Thursday, Mar. 10
6718 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago

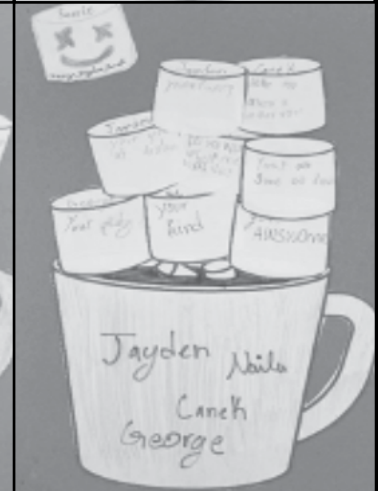
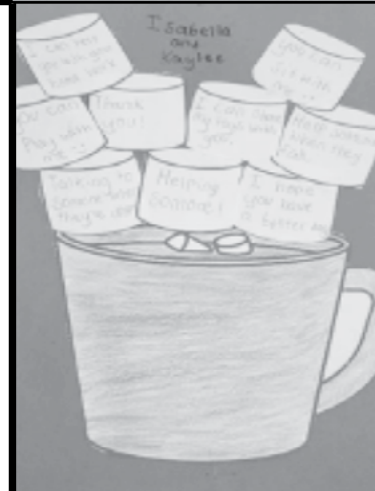
Mention St. Edward School when placing your order!

Culver's

Monday, Mar. 21, 10 a.m. -10 p.m.
4939 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

Must mention St. Edward School when placing your order!

St. Edward School celebrates 112 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. You can contact office@stedwardschool.com to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal. St. Edward School is a **2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School**. For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.com or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and extended care.



Thank you!

Carolyn Boudreau

With this year's Murphy Match all wrapped up, we couldn't be more impressed with the gift our community has given to Murphy Elementary School! Over \$14,000 dollars was raised in just a few weeks. Our generous individual donor and our Owl's Nest Donors Circle matched every dollar donated.

Our total of \$28,785 allows Friends of Murphy to invest in Murphy School arts programming, facility improvements and educational trips. We could not have done this without our generous individual donor, our community sponsors (Maxine Snider Inc., Old

Irving Park Apple Tree Children's Learning Center and State Rep. Jaime Andrade), our Owl's Nest Donors Circle, and without each and every one of our families who helped spread the word about the Match this year! With over 100 individual donors online and in person, it's amazing to see the community taking action to get the word out about our wonderful Murphy School. Thank you so very much!



Windy City Playhouse Reopens

Patti Kimbel

Have you been missing live theater or are you just sick of being stuck at home and in need of a little excitement? If so, you're in luck because our nearby gem of a theater, Windy City Playhouse, is excited to announce its return to live theater with two new productions. The world premiere of *SONS OF HOLLYWOOD* opened at the flagship location, 3014 W. Irving Park Road, on January 26th and runs through April 16th. Audiences will find themselves transported back to the Golden Age of the film industry. The production is inspired by the remarkable true stories of the gay silent film stars William ("Billy") Haines and Ramon Navarro along with their dear friend Joan Crawford. In 1925, Billy and Ramon were at the

height of their careers as silent film stars and enjoyed life as Hollywood royalty. Then everything changed when the Motion Picture Production Code with its morality clause brought to an end the no-holds-barred attitude of Hollywood and its acceptance of its gay stars. The film stars grapple with facing this new oppressive reality and whether or not they can survive with Hollywood's new unforgiving rules and what this change will mean for their lives. You'll have to see the show to find out if they choose love or their passion for the screen!

Their second current production, *A Recipe for Disaster*, is an immersive theater experience and has been described by the *Chicago Tribune* as a farce designed for fun. James Beard Award-winning Chef Rick Bayless teamed up with Playhouse Directors Amy Rubenstein and Carl Menninger to create this production. Based on Bayless' real-life experiences, the stage is one of the hottest

new restaurants in the city and it's influencer night. Everything that could go wrong does, including a chef that calls in sick, an unexpected visit from the health inspector, and the busboy happens to be hiding a wild pig. Guests are invited to feel like a fly on the wall for this production. If you happen to be in the Rick Bayless fan club, you might be interested to see the show March 23rd-27th as Rick himself will be taking on the role of Jude in the production! The admission price includes six bite-sized tastings conceived by Chef Bayless, one cocktail sampling from Lanie Bayless, and two wine pairings. The production takes place at Peterino's at 150 N. Dearborn in the Loop and is currently scheduled to run through April 24th.

The playhouse currently has COVID protocols including proof of vaccination or a recent negative PCR test for entry, and masks to be worn at all times. I can verify that they were meticulous


in checking vaccinations cards along with identification cards at the door. There are two types of seating options: House and Top Shelf. The Top Shelf seating is a movie-theater style seat with a cupholder.

Who knew we had an award-winning theater company in our backyard? In its short tenure, Windy City Playhouse has already amassed seven Joseph Jefferson Award nominations, eleven Chicago Theater Awards, including the 2018 Trailblazer Award and three International Centre for Women Playwrights' 50/50 Awards. Windy City Playhouse premiered in March 2015 and is a non-profit Equity theater. Their mission is to present contemporary, relevant, and approachable art. They have also become known for immersive theater experiences and productions.

A live theater show may be the perfect antidote to escape the winter doldrums while also supporting our local playhouse.

Are you a GIPNA member? Join today!

Pay at www.gipna.org or mail in the form below with a check. For information, send an e-mail to: membership@gipna.org

 MEMBERSHIP FORM <small>(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</small>	PLEASE PRINT: DATE NAME #1 NAME #2 ADDRESS Check here if <input type="checkbox"/> new member, <input type="checkbox"/> new to the neighborhood. PHONE #1 PHONE #2 E-MAIL #1 E-MAIL #2						
Check amount enclosed: <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$150 per person <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if a new member							
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Annual Dues enclosed:</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA:</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total of enclosed check:</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </table>	Annual Dues enclosed:	\$	Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA:	\$	Total of enclosed check:	\$	
Annual Dues enclosed:	\$						
Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA:	\$						
Total of enclosed check:	\$						
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you would like to volunteer for events. (GIPNA is an all-volunteer association.)							

Michael Ruiz Listened to His Mom

Ellen Ryan

I always tell my kids, "Listen to your mom!" Let's see what happened when Michael Ruiz did just that.

Michael, 23 years old, was born and raised on Ridgeway Avenue along with an older brother and a younger sister. He went to Blaine Elementary for grade school. He attended high school at Notre Dame and graduated from DePaul University with a degree in Developmental Psychology in May 2020.

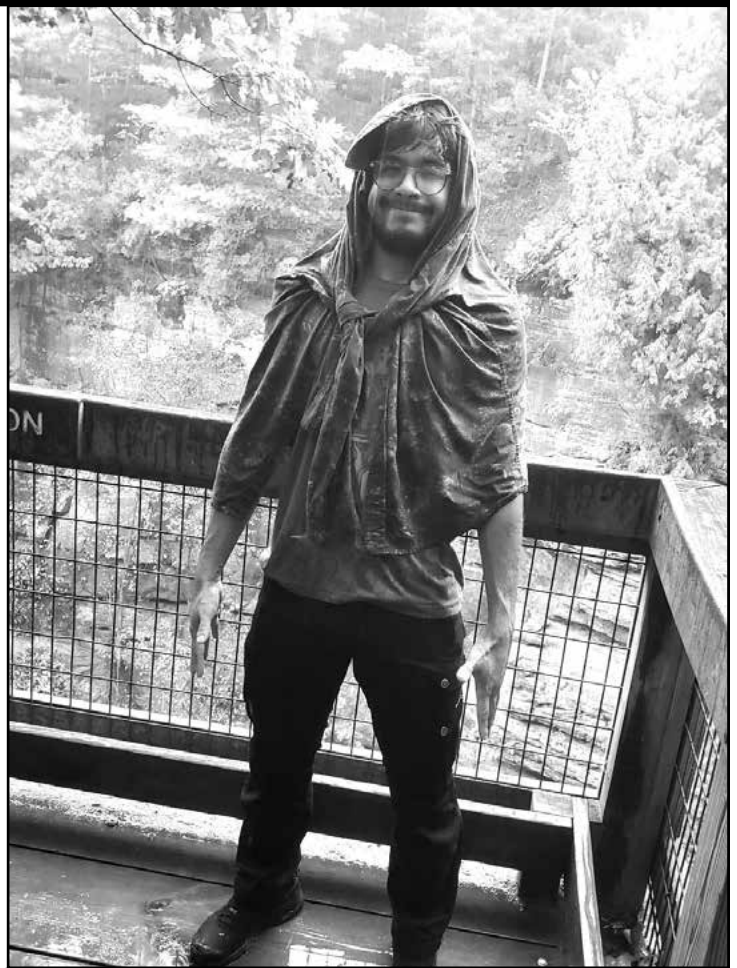
Michael worked at a few restaurants while at DePaul and post-graduation. With COVID still raging in March of 2021, Murphy School was open but had smaller classroom sizes. Michael's mom Delphine, a CPS employee, told him that Murphy needed responsible adults in the classrooms to assist the overwhelmed teachers who were teaching in the classroom and over Zoom. She suggested that he apply for a position. Michael did so and was hired to spend his time keeping an eye on the kids and performing miscellaneous tasks.

His role evolved to a Special Education Classroom Assistant in August 2021. He is now paired with second grade students with behavioral, emotional and social needs. He works with them to recognize their needs and learn how to express them in a healthy manner. He is gratified to see the

positive impact his work has had on the students. In light of how their education was so disrupted by COVID, Michael is so happy to see how much they have progressed.

Michael has had several other jobs, but this one is, hands down, the single most educational job he has ever had. Michael LOVES what he does and loves Murphy. This is ironic because, up to the time he started at Murphy, he didn't know anything about the school and had never stepped inside it even though it was about a block away from his home. The principal, Dr. Zelenka, and vice-principal, Dr. Shick, are the two most wonderful bosses with whom he has had the pleasure to work. He and the teachers are very much a team. He's been in tight-knit work groups before, but has never experienced this cohesiveness anywhere before.

Michael plans to work at Murphy for the next couple of years. Unfortunately for Michael, he no longer has the "best commute" since he has moved to Noble Square. As a kid in grammar school, Michael often stopped by the counselor's office to talk about various issues in his life. That memory, along with this fulfilling experience of working with these high needs kids, has spurred him on to think about graduate work in counseling. He is contemplating counseling either in or out of schools or even, at some point, teaching. He has already been accepted into a counseling graduate program. And all (or at least partially) due to him listening to his mom.



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

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||| GIPNA |||

THE GREATER INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Kim Laurel and Her Dog Andy Jack

...On the Dog Side

News, views and occasional haiku from and about Independence Park neighborhood canines and felines.

In the yard this week...a street haiku about Andy Jack

February blows

So the big suet ball falls

My dog devours it



...On the Cat Side

Dateline GIPNA, Andy Jack reporting and embedded near Disney II:

Feral cats demand milk, "We do all the work, free cream for all."

GIPNA domestic cats retort: "Well, we have to live with humans and play dress up... So get in line."

Story developing....



Have a short perspective from your pet?

Send it in with a black and white photo or drawing to newsletter@gipna.org.

POETRY

Detach

Emily Webber

Footsteps on concrete, on snow,
on salted cracks in the sidewalk.
A new scarf from Kindlemarket,
Cinched too tight in my buttoned
wool coat.
Just warm enough for the damp
chill ahead.

My cortex tells me it is time to be
present.
That winter is the season for let-
ting go,
For easing into what lies ahead.
For accepting that the year behind
really was, just as it was.

My heart is not so easily won.

The irony of planning for
happiness
Is merging theory with
applications.
Cognition bumps into reality
With a surreptitious plop.

What starts as the pristine inef-
fable melds
Like sweating rubber on the
tarmac,

Into one of all possible blocks.
A splintery citadel, barren over
the independent sky.

We cannot be other than we are.

Floating restless, serene and
guided.
Our daily lives breathe past us,
Effortless moments born of
appearance and emptiness,
Love and wisdom.

Even hundreds of wedding
dresses later,
Tooth and nail through middle
school snapshots
My amygdala had long forgotten,
The dakini of now and always is
forever in dance.

Our demons have never even
come into being.

Let that which is, and that which
is not, simply rest.
May you greet what you already
have,
And seek the ground you have
always known.
May your lollipops ever find their
center.

And I'll see you round the block.

|||GIPNA|||

Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach

Video call with my in-laws
in Romania ...



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Elementary School

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Admissions Events

PreK 3 year old program:
3 or 5 days, full or half day

PreK 4 year old program:
5 days, full or half day

Full day Kindergarten thru 8th grade

Rigorous Academic Program

iReady, Achieve 3000 & Lexia Core 5

STEAM Enrichment Curriculum

World Language Program

Full time Reading Specialist

Award Winning Fine Arts Program

Peacebuilders Program

Support staff for students

Extracurricular athletics PK4 thru 8th

Enrichment Clubs and Summer Camp

Caring Before and After Childcare

Wednesday, March 16 • 9:00 - 10:30pm

Friday, April 8 • 9:00 - 10:30pm

Visit our school and celebrated, newly remodeled, gym. Meet faculty, staff and parents who will be available to answer all your questions.

Please RSVP to mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org

Open House

Art Show and Academic Fair

Sunday, May 1 • 11:30-2:00pm

We celebrate our students' artistic and academic achievements. Our halls will be a fine art gallery and our rooms will have examples of our students' finest academic work. Faculty and staff will be present. *If you would like a personal tour this day an RSVP is required.*

2022-2023

Application for Admissions

forms are available online and in the school office

Please feel free to contact Marge Tiritilli with any questions or to schedule a personal tour.
 4140 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60641 • 773-545-2173 • mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org
www.stviatorchicago.org

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will be accepting transfer students in 10th and 11th grade for the 2022-23 school year.

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Interested parents/guardians should email jcardenas28@cps.edu or call (773) 534-5010 with questions and to receive an application.

Learn more at: www.disneyiimagnet.org

Students in grades K-9 can apply to Disney II via the GoCPS lottery. The application for 2023-24 will open in the Fall of 2022.

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Last Call to Sign Up for Free Parkway Trees!

Lorraine Antieau, GIPNA Tree Steward

One thing that greatly enhances life in our neighborhood is our beautiful trees. If you've ever walked down our tree-lined streets on a sunny summer day, enjoying the rustling green leaves and the cooling shade they provide, you know what I mean! That is why GIPNA works actively with Openlands, an organization dedicated to connecting Chicagoans to nature. As one of their many programs, Openlands offers neighborhoods in the Chicago area grants and support to increase the number of trees on their streets. In 2020, Openlands, through a grant to GIPNA, planted 21 free native trees in parkways in our neighborhood.

We applied for a new grant in 2021, and our application was approved, but because of COVID, neighborhood plantings were backed up, and GIPNA was too far down the list for a planting date in 2021. In late January, we were informed that we've moved to the top of their list for a planting day in 2022 and more recently we received notice that GIPNA is on the schedule for a planting day this spring!



Beyond beautifying our neighborhood, trees provide a variety of environmental benefits, and have also been shown to increase property values. You are invited to apply as a volunteer to receive a free native parkway tree. Openlands will survey the parkway at each address ahead of time for suitability of space and species of tree. Openlands staff, along with neighborhood volunteers, will plant the trees on a day to be determined, possibly in early April, rain or shine. Recipient volunteers agree to water and mulch the young tree for at least 3 years, getting them off to a healthy start. The deadline for applying to receive a tree is March 10, so time is short! Please email me at GIPNAtrees@gmail.com right away if you are interested.

P.S. If you'd like to help out on planting day, it's a great chance to meet some neighbors and the awesome people from Openlands, find out more about trees, ask questions and get involved! Please email me at the above address to let me know your interest, and I will keep you informed of date and time.