

INDEPENDENCE PARK
COMMUNITY

VOICE



EVENTS

Fine Craft Fair at Independence Park on May 6

Your best chance to buy a Mother's Day gift is Saturday, May 6, at the 10th annual Fine Craft Fair. The fair will be held in the gymnasium at the Independence Park fieldhouse from noon to 4 p.m.

Local artisans will offer original handmade craft items such as jewelry, textiles, glass, ceramics, baby clothes, and handmade cards. Of course, the treasures for sale aren't limited to just those items—all fine craft disciplines are welcome. All work must be original and

handmade by the artisan (nothing from a kit). You can incorporate your original photography into your craft item. **IMPORTANT:** No traditional paintings, sculpture, photography, artificial flower arrangements, or licensed characters, please.

The entry fee of \$35 per table (up to 30 x 72 inches in size) reserves one space; if your display requires more than one space, there will be an additional \$10 fee. Tables and two chairs will be supplied. If you need electricity, please indicate that on the entry form.

Submit checks for fees with your application (on the back cover) no later than April 1, 2017. Make checks payable to GIPNA, PO Box 18184, Chicago, IL 60618. If you have any questions, please email gipnamail@gmail.com or call Pat Clark at 312-263-3754.

SAVE THE DATE

GIPNA Annual Meeting Set for April 23

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers is scheduled for Sunday, April 23. The venue will be announced in an email blast (when we've figured out where it is).

The Nominating Committee will

present the slate of officer and Board of Director candidates. GIPNA invites all of our elected officials to this meeting, and we usually have a great turnout of local luminaries.

The meeting will begin with a one-hour social hour, followed by a short meeting and the election. Please consider attending this event to support the GIPNA Board and mingle with your neighbors and friends.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



MARCH

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

TUES., MAR. 7 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://www.facebook.com/athleticfield).

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

THURS., MAR. 9 Terrarium Seminar, Farmers Market Garden Center. Check www.gardenchicago.com for more information.

WED., MAR. 15 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ipacchicago).

TUES., MAR. 21 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

TUES., MAR. 21 Terrarium Seminar, Farmers Market Garden Center. Check www.gardenchicago.com for more information.

SAT., MAR. 25 Breakfast with the Bunny, time TBD, Independence Park Fieldhouse. For details see [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ipacchicago).

APRIL

SAT., APR. 1 Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

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

WED., APR. 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 12:00 p.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

SAT., APR. 22 Earth Day Park Work Day, time TBD, Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

WED., APR. 19 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse; [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ipacchicago).

SUN., APR. 23 GIPNA Annual Meeting. Time and location TBD.

WED., APR. 26 Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison. The Murphy School band will be playing.

SAT., APR. 29 Annual Alley Clean-Up, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the corner of Byron and Lawndale.

MAY

TUES., MAY 2 GIPNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

SAT., MAY 6 Independence Park Playground Official Opening, 12:00 p.m.

SAT., MAY 6 Tenth Annual Fine Craft Fair, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Independence Park gymnasium.

TUES., MAY 9 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://www.facebook.com/athleticfield).

WED., MAY 10 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

THURS., MAY 11 Hispanic Outreach Community Beat Meeting, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 17th District Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski Rd. Representatives from 911-311 (OEMC), city services and elected officials. Meeting will be in Spanish and English.

SAT., MAY 13 Annual West Walker Garage Sale, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

TUES., MAY 16 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., MAY 17 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse; [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ipacchicago).

SAT., MAY 20 Independence Park Yard Sale, Independence Park.

JUNE

SUN., JUNE 4 Portage Park Farmers Market, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Irving Park Road and Long.

TUES., JUNE 6 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://www.facebook.com/athleticfield).

TUES., JUNE 6 GIPNA Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

SUN., JUNE 11 Independence Park Farmers Market, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WED., JUNE 14 CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

TUES., JUNE 14 Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

THURS., JUNE 15 Movin' to the Music, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison.

SUN., JUNE 18 Portage Park Farmers Market, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Irving Park Road and Long.

TUES., JUNE 20 Senior Meeting, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

WED., JUNE 21 Independence Park Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse; [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ipacchicago).

FRI., JUNE 23 Movie in the Park, dusk, Independence Park.

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 May/June 2017 issue:

Editorial Deadline:

April 10, 2017

Advertising Deadline:

April 10, 2017

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

E-MAIL: GIPNAMAIL@GMAIL.COM

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.

GIPNA Email Address

GIPNA's email address is:
gipnamail@gmail.com.

Please use this address for all correspondence.

GIPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobbie Bolociuch, President
Jen Byrd, Vice President
Alison Benjamin, Treasurer
John Kuczura, Secretary
Pat Clark
Dickie Nichols
Sharon Nichols
Jim O'Connor
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John Fusco, At-Large

GIPNA BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

3800 Avers - Candace Wayne & John Jemilo
3600 Byron - Jackie Ropski
3700 Byron - Larry Gates
3800 Byron - Suzanne Edwards
3900 Byron - Roseann Seablom
3600 Central Park - Sharon Gilbert
3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan
3800, 3900 Central Park - Vania Bandelli
3900 Dakin - Joel Contreras
3600 Grace - Alison Benjamin
3700, 3800 Hamlin - Sharon Nichols
3900 Hamlin - Linda Lehman
3700 Irving Park - Bruni Lugo
3700 Lawndale - Dorene Jordan
3800 Lawndale - Pat Matthews
3900 Lawndale - Cy Clausen
3600, 3700 Monticello - Pat Clark
3800 Monticello - Barbara Shaw
3900 Monticello - Cindy Schuch
3700 Ridgeway - Gerri Reardon
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 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 gipnamail@gmail.com. We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

EVENT RECAP

AFAC Parties for the Park

On February 4, more than 100 friends and neighbors attended the Party for the Park to celebrate our community and support Athletic Field Park. Partygoers enjoyed the food and beverages of Mirabella Italian Cuisine and Bar, a new restaurant in the former Mirabel site. Attendees browsed

a wide array of silent auction items provided by local artists and neighborhood businesses, restaurants, bars, and theaters.

The Athletic Field Park Advisory Council would like to thank all who attended and supported the event. The funds raised will support park programming and improvements as well as free community events such as Movies in the Park and Movin' to the Music.



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

THE GREATER INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PLEASE PRINT: DATE.....

NAME #1.....

NAME #2.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE #1.....

PHONE #2.....

E-MAIL #1.....

E-MAIL #2.....

GIPNA
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

- Check amount enclosed:
- Single \$10 Family \$20
- Business \$15
- 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 all-volunteer association.)

NEW BUSINESS

New Food Options
Spring Up in IP



Springtime brings blooming flowers, budding trees... and two new dining opportunities in the community. This spring Independence Park neighbors can partake of a couple of very different but equally exciting menus.

Fittingly Delicious is coming to 3939 West Irving Park Road, the former Al Dente Restaurant space, in late March. Its website, fittinglydelicious.com, says the company grew out of a meal prep company created by athletes, trainers, health geeks, and foodies who were brought together by their love of fitness and bodybuilding. The principals saw that while their friends and clients worked out and were physically active, they didn't necessarily know what to eat or how to prepare it, and were frustrated by busy lifestyles and lack of training.

Fittingly Delicious offers prepared meals personalized to fit individual fitness goals such as weight loss or general fitness. The meals are promised to be "natural, delicious, nutritious, additive- and preservative-free, mostly gluten-free, have no added sugar, and focus on non-inflammatory foods."

Fittingly Delicious says its meals

are appropriate for athletes, competitors, and anybody who needs a healthy, tasty weekly food plan. It plans to offer online ordering on a specific schedule for either pick-up or delivery. Check the website for more information and an announcement of the opening date.



To enjoy a familiar favorite, save room for a slice at **Hearth & Crust Restaurant** in early spring. Started by Independence Park neighbors Eileen and Chepe Garcia, this full-service restaurant at 3608 West Irving Park Road will feature a wood-burning oven for baking its specialty: pizza. The Garcias also own the Zagat-rated Buona Terra in Logan Square, and the **Hearth & Crust** opening date is planned for the 15th anniversary year of Buona Terra.

When Eileen was asked why she and her husband wanted to open a pizza restaurant, the answer was simple: "We love pizza!" **Hearth & Crust** will also offer contemporary American foods—dishes prepared with a mix of Mediterranean, Latin, and Asian influences for both meat eaters and vegetarians, plus some vegan options. Of course, there will also be a well-stocked bar.

The Garcias hope **Hearth & Crust** becomes a venue for families, neighbors, and friends. The restaurant initially will be open for dinner seven days a week and will also offer takeout, with the intent of eventually extending to lunch and brunch seatings.



LOCAL BUSINESSES

A Gem of a Store: AVP Jewelry and Beads

When it comes to running errands, so many of us jump in our cars and do business outside of our neighborhood.

Well, you'd be surprised how many wonderful small businesses are right around the corner here in Independence Park. These stores are run by passionate owners who have worked hard to make their dreams of running their own small businesses come true. They're good neighbors to the community and often provide goods and services for our many GIPNA activities.

One such shop is AVP Jewelry and Beads at 3960 N. Elston Avenue.

This extraordinary store is owned by Ana Pizarro and Diana Ortega. Pizarro and Ortega, both Ecuadorian natives, worked at Caravan Beads on Lincoln for more than ten years, where they honed their jewelry and business skills.

When Caravan closed its doors in 2014, they decided to go out on their own.

At AVP, Ana and Diana offer jewelry repair services and jewelry-making classes. And AVP also stocks a large selection of beads, chain, stringing materials, tools, and more—an impressive amount of inventory in this small shop.

You may have shopped for hand-crafted jewelry at art shows—AVP offers the opportunity learn to make your own. Classes teach skills such as basic stringing, wire work, bead weaving, resin projects, knotting, metal work, and embroidery.

AVP can also provide private group lessons so you and your friends can learn together. Or you can book a party at the shop for a special occasion. For more information on their hours, classes, events, and inventory, visit avpjewelry.com or call 773-971-0002.

Avoid the traffic and get your extra steps in by shopping local at this gem of a store.

—Robin Hochstatter

BEAUTIFICATION

With Spring Comes the Annual Alley Cleanup

This year we didn't get the double-digit snowfalls and the dirty plowed piles that sat for months, but debris and windblown garbage build up over the winter just the same.

We have the answer to that in Independence Park: our annual GIPNA Alley Cleanup, which lets neighbors get out in the spring sunshine and sweep, rake, and shovel up the dregs of winter. This year's cleanup will be on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. until noon.

GIPNA will set up a volunteers' table at the corner of Byron and Lawndale. Cleaners should report to pick up shovels, rakes, brooms, and garbage bags for your use, courtesy of the 45th Ward and Alderman John Arena. GIPNA will supply a free cup of coffee (and maybe a tasty doughnut) before you grab your tools and begin the cleanup.

We encourage each neighbor



to at least clean behind their own house; when the whole family tackles the task it goes by quickly, and the entire neighborhood benefits. When everyone chips in, the residents of each block can work together to clean up their alley in just a couple of hours.

If you have school-age children, this is an opportunity for them to fulfill their community service requirements. For information, please call Alison at 313-720-5268 or contact gipnamail@gmail.com for further details. We'd be glad to have the students be a part of our cleanup crew.



Champion Level Gymnast

Ask Avery Byrd how she got started in the sport that has changed her life, and the answer is simple. "My brother was a gymnast," she says. "I used to watch him flip and swing and it looked like a lot of fun, so I started doing it too. In the beginning, it was really easy—I was just a little kid having fun doing cartwheels and somersaults."

Times have certainly changed from her somersault days. Avery, now 13 years old, is a champion level 8 gymnast with the Chicago Park District, rising as far as state champ on bars and beam in 2015 and achieving top placements at her first regional competition in 2016. The medals and trophies that fill her bedroom to bursting attest to her success at one of the world's most challenging sports.

Avery began competing at Peterson Park's gymnastic center nearly a decade ago, starting in small "Twinkle Stars" classes and quickly moving to the competitive team. Her first competition, however, didn't go so well. Avery recalls she "saluted to the judges, did my first round-off, missed the flip-flop, and landed flat on my back.

"I cried, but I wasn't hurt—I was only five or so, and it scared me. I placed fifth out of five, and my mom took me for ice cream. After that I left tumbling and started artistic gymnastics, moving up through the levels each year and learning harder and harder skills."

Avery's older brother Gavin was also a competitive gymnast, so there was a drive to succeed both



at the gym and at home from the very earliest days. "My brother and I would mess with each other at practices," Avery says. "We would always compete to see who could learn a skill first. My first flip-flop I ever did was a competition I started with Gavin to see who could do one first. The whole gym was cheering us on, and I ended up beating him and won doughnuts!"

Avery thinks of her friends and coaches at Peterson as family, and the gym as her second home—understandable since she now practices three hours a day, six days a week. "I am closer to my gym family than even my school friends," she says. "My coach Carey is literally a lifesaver; he can catch anything or spot a skill and catch me if I fall.

"When I was little I almost went to Lakeshore Academy because a coach there approached my mom about me, but I am glad I didn't because I wouldn't have met the people I've met. We don't have a lot of fancy equipment like private gyms, but I think it's a good thing because we work that much harder to learn a skill quicker."

Having achieved such a high level of success, the tiny powerhouse hopes to stay in the sport throughout high school and, if she can still manage the skills, even



into college. Avery would recommend gymnastics to any young person looking for an activity: "It keeps me fit, challenges me, takes out my energy, and has taught me how to go for something I am scared of. It gives me confidence and makes me comfortable in my skin—instead of skinny legs,

mine are muscular, and I like being strong.

"Some days I love [training] and some days I hate it because it is so hard, but I've learned to manage a goal step by step. I also love being a part of a team. If my teammates do better than me, I am happy for them."

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

CCS Soup & Bread Event

In February, more than 200 people attended Carlson Community Services' Soup & Bread for Carlson fundraiser. They enjoyed the Indy Park Bluegrass Jammers while sampling delicious soups from Bourgeois Pig Cafe, Community Tavern, Hot Woks Cool Sushi, Mirabella, and Tre Kronor.

Forty-five gallons of soup were served, along with dozens of loaves of bread. Neighborhood cooks included Sarah Steedman, Susan Ford, Dorene Jordan, Ellen Olech, Sara Anderson, and Holly Lundquist.

CCS and event co-chairs Rebecca Haneberg and Ruth Olech thank raffle donors Dell Cove Spices, Mike Jordan, Rebecca Haneberg, Bruce Anderson, Tara McKee and the neighbors who donated to a wine basket, and all the volunteers who made the evening run smoothly.

The event raised nearly \$3,000 for Carlson's neighborhood programs: the Magic After-School Place, the Three Brothers Garden, and the Irving Park Fine Arts Series. For more information, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org.



GREEN NEWS

The City's 7-Cent Solution to Plastic Pollution

As of February 1, a 7-cent check-out bag tax is being collected on all disposable paper and plastic bags used in Chicago. The city hopes this new bag tax will reduce the number of disposable bags used in Chicago.

There are multiple disposable bag exemptions, including:

- Paper and plastic bags used to package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, cookies, or small hardware items, or to contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, or fish (prepackaged or fresh).
- Dry cleaning or garment bags, newspaper bags, or bags provided by a pharmacist to contain prescription drugs.
- Bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as garbage bags, pet waste bags, or yard waste bags.
- Bags provided by a dine-in or take-out restaurant to contain food or drink purchased by the restaurant's customers.

For more information please call the Chicago Department of Finance's Business Contact Center at 312-747-4747 or email at revenue@cityofchicago.org.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Banner Honors Jessi and David's Excellent Adventure

Jessi and David Chartier have lived in the Independence Park area for three years. They love the neighborhood for its wonderful spirit of community and its unmistakable charm—but also because it does such an excellent job every year at uniting wine and cheese for a great cause.

When the Chartiers saw a street banner was up for raffle at the 2016 Wine and Cheese Party, they couldn't resist—and instead of going with a family or business



name on their banner, they decided to try an uplifting message for these trying times. The phrase on the banner, now located at 3911 W. Irving Park on the south side of the road (just west of the Zipcar lot), is taken from a classic fable about two time travelers with a phone booth and a renewed motivation for learning history and living life.



APPRECIATION

GIPNA Honors Its Wonderful Volunteers

In January, GIPNA hosted a get-together at the Alps Restaurant and Pancake House to recognize the most important people in the neighborhood: the volunteers who give their time to help make all of our efforts possible.

After an enjoyable hour of beverages, light noshes, and conversation, GIPNA president Bobbie Bolociuch welcomed the gathered neighbors and expressed our sincere gratitude for all their work. Volunteers do prep work, cook, bus tables, and clean up at the annual Gourmet Pancake Breakfast; they set up and tear down the GIPNA tent at each Farmers Market, and man the table in between. They clean alleys in the spring and distribute newsletters all year long.

In recognition of exceptional service, GIPNA named several Volunteers of the Year.

• Florian Pasilio and Kris Nowak earned this distinction with their contributions to the

Farmers Market. Florin worked the GIPNA table at nearly every Farmers Market last summer, and Kris was a mainstay of the setup and teardown crew. (He really has it down to a science.)

• Roberta Wilk, Sharon Sears, Pat Clark, and Jodie Barger were honored for their contributions to the Pancake Breakfast—as was Alps owner Bob Theo, who could be named Volunteer of the Year every year for his generosity to the neighborhood.

• And two junior volunteers received special recognition: Molly Dennis provided energetic assistance at the 2016 Pancake Breakfast, and Raven Barron was a cheerful presence at the GIPNA Farmers Market table for the whole summer.



COMMUNITY NEWS

IPFAC Presents Carthage Faculty Trio

On Sunday, April 23, the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee (IPFAC) will present the Carthage Faculty Trio in the final concert of its 2016-2017 season.

The concert—featuring Wael Farouk, piano, Andrew Williams, violin and Allegra Montanari, cello—will be held at Irving Park

Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave., at 2 p.m. The program will include Johannes Brahms' Trio No.3 in C minor, op. 101. A reception with the artists follows the concert. Admission is free, and donations are welcome.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series is now in its 23rd season. Its mission is to bring high-quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. IPFAC is a program of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 non-profit. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or call Liz Mills at 773-398-6766.





LOCAL ARTIST

Spirit of the Dance

A longtime Independence Park resident has started a dance studio in Logan Square. In January, Deborah Byczkowski opened VOLTA Performing Arts, a studio devoted to dance technique education, creative self-expression, creative movement, and social connections through dance.

Byczkowski, daughter of Central Park block representative Vania Bandelli, sees dance as much more than just executing steps. "We engage student's critical thinking in order to develop a deeper sense of self-awareness," she says. "We aim to have our students discover a deeper understanding of their own structure and how to move efficiently within that frame instead of just trying to imitate a shape."

One of the guiding principles at VOLTA is the integration of anatomy, kinesiology, and physics principles into the dance curriculum. Byczkowski has adopted the Revolutionary Principles of Movement (RPM) philosophy, under which every student receives individual attention to address their unique needs. Progress is measured by individual improvement, rather than comparison to the rest of the class.

Byczkowski holds a teaching

certificate from the American Academy of Ballet and has received three RPM Scholarships. VOLTA has an all-female staff and also features an artist-in-residence program. The goal is to ensure students experience and learn beyond the walls of the studio.

"Dance education is about more than proper technique training," says Byczkowski. "It's vital that young dancers engage with the dance community, attend dance concerts, participate in master classes, and attend talk-backs and lectures with professional dance companies, independent artists, dance historians, and other dance professionals."

Classes are offered in creative movement, ballet, tap, jazz, and contemporary and modern dance, geared toward skill levels from toddlers to 18-year-olds. The residency program will offer low-cost rental space and, ideally, generate a cooperative relationship between VOLTA's youth program and professional dance artists in Chicago.

To find out more about VOLTA, or to inquire about classes, visit the studio at 2142 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the website at volta.dance, or email info@volta.dance.

CRIME

Theft Prevention Tips to Protect Your Car

Good news on crime: The Chicago Police Department reports the number of reported auto thefts in Chicago has declined. CPD credits increased enforcement and a greater awareness by drivers, and offers these common-sense measures to help prevent your auto from being stolen:

- Always try to park in well-lit, heavily traveled areas as close to your destination as possible.
- When you park, always roll the windows up tight, lock all doors, and take your keys/key fob with you.
- Never leave your car with the motor running, even if only for a minute to run into a store or your home.
- Never hide spare keys in a secret place or in a magnetic key box under the hood. Car thieves routinely check the visors and ash trays, and look under the floor mats.
- Some thieves use tow trucks to take cars. To avoid being towed by a thief, turn your wheels toward the curb and apply your emergency brake.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock both your car and the garage.
- Don't leave your automatic garage door opener in your car—it's easier for a thief who enters your garage through the side door and breaks into your car to get the vehicle out.

- Check periodically to ensure that your vehicle identification number (VIN) is intact. This is a small metal plate, usually by the driver's side, where the dashboard and windshield meet.
- If you see someone tampering with your vehicle, use discretion about approaching the person. He or she may be armed. Instead, call 9-1-1 and inform the call taker that you are reporting an auto theft "in progress."
- If you're selling a vehicle, don't let a stranger take it for a test drive alone. If a prospective buyer wants to take the car to a mechanic for an appraisal, volunteer to deliver and pick up the car.
- When buying a used car, be certain that the seller's name and address are verified, and be sure that VIN on the registration card is the same as the one on the car.

And if your car is stolen...

- Keep your vehicle's title at home, not in the glove compartment of your car. This will prevent a thief from using the title to "prove" he owns the car.
- Consider etching your VIN into all car windows, T-tops, and other expensive removable parts. This will help the police identify stolen auto parts.
- Carry a card listing your license plate number, VIN, engine type, and body style. Relay this information to the police quickly if your car is stolen.

News from the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Holiday Program Feeds 952: On December 21, the Pantry provided a holiday meal to 952 people in 262 households during its annual Holiday program. The Pantry provided toys to 273 children of clients, along with board games, stocking stuffers, and books. Thanks to donor contributions, the Pantry provided 50 toys to the Magic After School Place program run by Carlson Community Services, 28 to the IPUMC Hispanic Mission, three



IRVING PARK COMMUNITY

Food Pantry

bags of toys to Shorewood Elementary School in Englewood, and a box and bag to St. Viator's holiday adopt-a-family program.

Pantry Receives FDC Grant:

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry has received a \$30,500 grand from the FDC Foundation. The money will fund the Pantry's nutrition programs for clients and pay for a Client Resources Coordinator position during 2017.

⌘ GIPNA ⌘

Join today!

Use PayPal at www.gipna.org

or mail in a check.

For information, send an e-mail to:

gipnamail@gmail.com

JORGE'S **LANDSCAPING**
Lawn Maintenance Specialists

Lawn Maintenance • Tree Removal
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We maintain the three GIPNA Gardens
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SPRING HAS ARRIVED AT FARMERS' MARKET

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TERRARIUM SEMINARS

MARCH 9TH AND MARCH 21ST

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- **Application is due no later than April 1, 2017.** Please enclose a check for the \$35 entry fee, with an additional \$10 for 6 feet of additional space.
- Mail this form with check payable to GIPNA to GIPNA, Box 18184, Chicago IL, 60618.
- If you have questions, please email us at gipnamail@gmail.com or call Pat Clark at 312-263-3754. Please make a copy for your own records.

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