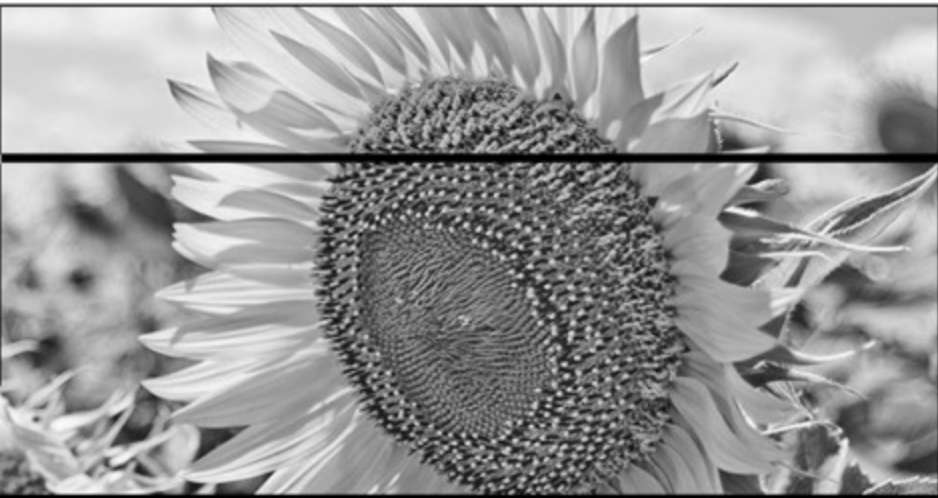


INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



**2021
INDEPENDENCE PARK
FARMERS
MARKET**
SUNDAYS 9AM-1PM
SPONSORED BY
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www.gipna.org

COMMUNITY

Farmers Market to Return in June

Greg Shea

After the pandemic forced the Independence Park Farmers Market out of the park in 2020 and out to Six Corners, plans are moving ahead for a triumphant return. Many of your favorite vendors will be returning along with some new ones that are sure to pique your interest. The Farmers Market will return to the park in June, but not without minor inconveniences.

Masks will be required and an attendance limit will need to be imposed. It is the hope of the Farmers Market planning committee that planned restrictions will ease as Chicago re-opens and vaccination

levels rise.

The planned schedule is for two markets a month on the second and fourth Sundays from June through October. The first market is planned for June 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you have questions or want to help out with the market this year, send an email to farmersmarket@gipna.org.

COMMUNITY

Outdoor Dining? We Got You Covered

Greg Shea

After a long pandemic year and a seemingly endless winter, many neighborhood residents are finally seeing a light at the end of the patio. Yes, outdoor dining season is upon us. Hallelujah. We don't ask for much living in Independence Park. It's really just some warm weather, a nice meal and a cup of coffee or an alcoholic beverage.

And some of our neighborhood establishments have heard us loud and clear. Dan Tafelski enjoyed coffee at Café Urbano's, 4157 North Elston, side patio on one of

the first nice days of the spring. "This has been my go-to coffee spot since I found it in 2017," Tafelski said. "I've been looking forward to sitting outside like this all winter." "It really brings people in," said Tito Rodriguez, a barista at Café Urbano, of their outdoor patio.

Similar to Café Urbano, several establishments added or improved outdoor seating last year as the pandemic hit and indoor dining was curtailed. Paddy Mac's Pub and Grill, 4157 North Pulaski, expects their patio to be a big hit this year. "We just renovated the patio over the winter," Mary MacPhilliamy, a bartender at Paddy Mac's said. "We could barely wait for the nice weather."

Chris Cunningham, the owner of JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop at 3970 North Elston, outfitted a side patio last year and added a fire pit for warmth in the Fall months. The patio has been open since April with several tables for seating. And don't forget to check out the colorful door painted by a local artist.

With vaccination rates climbing and weather getting nicer, are we shifting to a more normal



restaurant world? "Well, we don't know what normal is," said Cunningham, whose restaurant opened in 2019, four months before the pandemic started.

Adding outdoor seating areas became a necessity during 2020 as restaurant seating was limited due to the pandemic. But now the prospect of warm weather and increases in capacity limits is bringing a lot of optimism to restaurant owners. But with optimistic outlooks also comes stress. "There is a little bit of anxiety," Cunningham admitted. "You need staff to manage an outdoor area and to do it well." MacPhilliamy agreed with that

Outdoor Dining Continued on page 2

The regular GIPNA board meetings will be held on Tuesdays, May 4 and June 1, 7:00 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Due to the on-going coronavirus pandemic, some future events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please contact GIPNA (info@gipna.org), IPAC (ipac.chicago@gmail.com), AFAC (athleticfieldpark.com), Friends of Murphy (friendsofmurphy.org), and CAPS (CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org) for updated event information.

MAY

TUES., MAY 4—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

MON., MAY 10 through FRI., MAY 14—Murphy School Gardening Projects. See story on page 10.

TUES., MAY 11—FOM Virtual Meeting, 7 p.m. Go to friendsofmurphy.org for the link.

WED., MAY 12—Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

FRI., MAY 14—Athletic Field Virtual Fundraiser, time TBD.

THURS., MAY 20—John B. Murphy Elementary School LSC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Check www.murphy.cps.edu the week before the meeting for Zoom info.

SAT., MAY 22 through SAT., MAY 29—Murphy Walkabout. See story on page 10.

JUNE

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

SUN., JUNE 6—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info as the location may be different.

TUES., JUNE 8—FOM Virtual Meeting, 7 p.m. Go to friendsofmurphy.org

IN MEMORIAM

Lovely Tribute

Pat Clark

Chris Anderson and Chris Mark won the GIPNA street banner in the silent auction at the Virtual Beer and Barbeque Tasting Fundraiser on December 5. They dedicated their street banner to John Fusco, their neighbor, a GIPNA board member and friend who passed away on November 4.

The new banner is on the light pole on the south side of Irving Park Road at Avers. Pictured are the donors and Florian Pasiliao, John's partner. This site was chosen especially since both John and Florian were such an integral part of the Independence Park Farmers Market in recent years. Their smiling faces greeted everyone who stopped by the GIPNA tent. Thank you very much, Chris and Chris!



for the link.

WED., JUNE 9—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

SUN., JUNE 13—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WED., JUNE 16—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet at Drake and Waveland.

THURS., JUNE 17—Murphy School 8th Grade Graduation. See story on page 10.

THURS., JUNE 17—Movin' to the Music, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Athletic Field Playground.

THURS., JUNE 17—John B. Murphy Elementary School LSC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Check www.murphy.cps.edu the week before the meeting for Zoom info.

FRI., JUNE 18—School of Rock! 6 p.m., Athletic Field Basketball Courts.

SAT., JUNE 19—Athletic Field Sponsored Block Sale in the park and community, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUN., JUNE 20—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info.

FRI., JUNE 25—Movie in the Park, dusk, Athletic Field Ball Fields.

SUN., JUNE 27—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Outdoor Dining Continued from page 1

assessment. "We're already doing pretty well at 50 percent capacity and we just opened the patio."

That's not to say they don't want the business. Bob Theo at the Alps Restaurant, 3637 West Irving Park Road, made it pretty clear. "Come see us," Theo said. "Come on in today or tomorrow. We're ready for you." You heard him, Independence Park. The patios are calling!

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

Photography: Robin Hochstatter and Cindy Schuch

Writers: Pat Clark, Lis Drew, Patti Kimbel, Rebecca Otalvora, Ellen Ryan, Sue Ryan, Greg Shea, Gretchen Shiffing

Special Contributors: Erica Dreisbach, Jenny Dreyer, Kristen Holub, Ms. Laqui's writing class at Murphy School, Kate Livingston, Liz Mills, Kathy O'Neill

Student Contributor: Linley Bassett, 6th grader in the Chicago Public Schools

Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

For submissions for July/August 2021 issue:

Editorial Deadline:

June 10, 2021

Advertising Deadline:

June 10, 2021

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

E-MAIL: INFO@GIPNA.ORG

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

WEBSITE: WWW.GIPNA.ORG

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

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

Join GIPNA on Facebook

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

GIPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alison Benjamin, Treasurer
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3700 Byron - Larry Gates
3800 Byron - Suzanne Edwards
3900 Byron - Roseann Seablom
3600 Central Park - Sharon Gilbert
3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan
3800, 3900 N. Central Park - Tyesin and Zayour Youngberg
3900 Dakin - Joel Contreras
3600 Grace - Allison 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 - Josh 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.

COMMUNITY

New GIPNA Board of Directors and a Fond Thank You to Dickie Nichols

Pat Clark

GIPNA held its annual meeting virtually on Tuesday, April 13, to elect new officers to the Board of Directors. Dickie Nichols, who has been president for four years, turned over the gavel to Kevin Haight, who has been vice president. Scott Dewey is now filling the vice president's shoes. Sharon Sears, Alison Benjamin, Bobbie Bolociuch, Wes Matucha, Sue Ryan, Greg Shea, and Anne Watkins will continue as board members. Jackie Bravo and Lorraine Antieau have been elected as Directors. John Kuczura, Robin Hochstatter, Dickie Nichols, Jodie Bargerone, Pat Clark and Amy Mastroianni are Directors-at-Large. GIPNA would like to acknowledge Lara Lerner as an outgoing board member.

GIPNA would like to thank Congressman Mike Quigley, 5th District of Illinois, Alderman James Gardiner, 45th Ward, and State Representative Jaime Andrade, 40th District, for attending our annual meeting.

At the end of the formal

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.

TO DICKIE NICHOLS IN RECOGNITION OF HER EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD AS PRESIDENT OF GIPNA (2017-2021)



meeting, Kevin Haight presented out-going president Dickie Nichols with a special plaque and said, "Thank you, Dickie. On behalf of this board and the entire Independence Park Community, I would like to say thank you, Dickie Nichols. Thank you for your years of service to GIPNA and your leadership during the past four years.

As president, you have improved and expanded everything this board does. You have kept us engaged as a group while bringing in new faces. You have both chaired and contributed to all the events that build and strengthen our community. When faced with the challenges of a global pandemic, you pulled off the Virtual Beer and BBQ event. That event built and sustained our sense of community during a truly difficult time for all of us.

Working closely over the last year, I have admired just how much you do for this community."

Playing Safe: Reopening our Parks

Liz Drew

One of the most enduring images of the pandemic for me will be the sight of our playgrounds shuttered, caution tape on swings and slides. This year meant adjusting our family's expectations for a trip to the park—taking a masked walk through the green space rather than heading for the slides and climbing ropes at Independence Park. We were overjoyed when the playgrounds finally reopened this spring across the city. Judging by the sounds of constant laughter and screams of delight from the swings, we are not the only ones. Mask wearing is still required and signs around the playground ask families to be careful about distancing—the new normal as we cautiously reemerge.

As we head into summer, most of us are looking forward to a return to social gatherings and shared experiences in our community. With more adults vaccinated, some of the events we missed last summer are finally back on the horizon. Over the last year, Park District staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to safely offer programs whenever possible, but we missed seeing Independence

Park and other neighboring parks operating at full capacity with a range of activities and community partnerships, from soccer leagues to day camps to the farmers market to birthday parties.

This year, Independence Park is planning on holding summer camps with COVID friendly protocols in place. The pool will finally be reopening as well, after nearly a year of repairs and maintenance. The Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC) is also planning on movies in the park, a park clean-up and a concert this summer. Not everything will be the same as before (for example, look for soccer games with masks and limited spectators), but there is a lot to look forward to. Currently, there are no plans for July 4th festivities due to COVID-19 restrictions and the number of people allowed for an outdoor event.

Now more than ever, I appreciate our parks as vital community resources and am grateful for the staff and volunteers who help maintain them. As we return to normal, let's also take the time to express our gratitude for those who make our public spaces work for all of us.

Head to Facebook for more updates and announcements, and to share your favorite park memories and what you look forward to most this summer.



May 8, 2021 GIPNA'S Annual Alley Clean-Up (Pandemic Style)



Grab your own broom and shovel to clean up your alley with your neighbors.



FREE GARBAGE BAGS and WORK GLOVES AVAILABLE at our GIPNA TABLE @ Lawndale and Byron

9:00-12:00 pm

Please join State Representative
Jaime M Andrade
for a
SHRED EVENT & ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Saturday, May 15, 2021
9 am to 11:30 am
(Or until the truck reaches capacity)

Floor & Décor Parking Lot
3443 W Addison (enter at St. Louis)

Co-Sponsored by other local Elected Officials

<p>SHRED TRUCK INSTRUCTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver should remain in their vehicles while it is being unloaded by staff. • Please make sure to REMOVE all paperclips, plastic binders, rubber bands or anything that might obstruct the shredder. 	<p>ELECTRONIC RECYCLING INSTRUCTIONS: Bring all your old and unusable electronics. ONE TV per family.</p> <p>Accepted Items: Monitors, Computers, Laptops, Hardware, Motherboards, Holiday Lights, Printers, Fax Machines, Cell Phones, Telephone Devices, Game Systems, Stereos, Toasters, Blenders & Cables</p>
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For additional information please contact State Rep Jaime Andrade's office at (773) 267-2880.

****MASKS ARE REQUIRED****





COMMUNITY

Spring Tree Care Tips

Dear Neighbors,

Tom Ebeling, Community Arborist at Openlands, offers these simple tips to set your young trees up for a successful growing season.

- Remove any weeds that have sprouted under the tree.
- Apply a new layer of mulch. Rough up the existing mulch and spread it out as much as you are able. Spread the fresh mulch in a layer three to four inches deep, making sure to pull any

mulch away from the base of the tree. Mulch the entire area under the tree's canopy to help keep lawnmowers away.

- Resist the urge to prune! Newly planted trees should not be pruned for the first three years in order to help them get established. If your tree was planted as part of an Openlands TreePlanters Grant, then our team of certified Arborists and Apprentices will prune your tree at the appropriate time.
- Do not fertilize your tree. Sometimes, fertilizer can actually harm the roots of a young tree and should not be applied until the tree has become established (three to six years after planting).
- Prepare your watering schedule for the growing season and start paying close attention to your tree!

Remember, a newly planted tree

will need to be watered once a week for (at least) the first three years. At least 15 gallons of water should be applied to the base of the tree, all at once, so that the ground is thoroughly soaked. Using five-gallon buckets will help you keep track of how much you've watered. If your tree has been in the ground for a few years, then you can water the area within the canopy to encourage the roots to spread. Start watering your tree as soon as the leaves begin to emerge and continue watering all growing season long. Correct watering is the best thing that you can do to help a newly planted tree survive!

Newly planted young trees often lose their leaves and look sickly, due to transplant shock. Be patient: your tree may also bud and leaf a little later than more mature trees in the next

growing season as it continues to adjust to its new home. Be sure to mulch and especially water as recommended above, and your tree should regain its vigor over the coming months.


If you have any questions about spring tree maintenance, please feel free to email me at GIPNAtrees@gmail.com.

We continue to offer a FREE young native tree through a grant from Openlands to anyone with a parkway site who will volunteer to care for the tree as outlined above for three years after planting. A fall planting is projected, and we need at least 10 suitable locations to proceed. Please contact me at the above email address if you are interested in volunteering.

*For the trees,
Lorraine Antieau
TreeKeeper #1630
GIPNA Tree Steward*

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

(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.)

PLEASE PRINT: DATE _____

NAME #1 _____

NAME #2 _____

ADDRESS _____

Check here if new member, new to the neighborhood.

PHONE #1 _____

PHONE #2 _____

E-MAIL #1 _____

E-MAIL #2 _____

Hasnain Jetha: Growing Up in Congo, Uganda and Vancouver

Ellen Ryan

Hasnain Jetha has a “go with the flow” open-minded attitude about life. Considering his life’s journey thus far, that mindset is understandable. The third of four children, Hasnain was born in Kalemie, Democratic Republic of Congo, his father’s home country. He is a Muslim of East-Indian descent whose first languages were Swahili and Gujarati. Because his mom could not go to school, education was a high priority in the Jetha household. So, when he was three, the family moved to Kampala, Uganda, his mom’s birthplace, where the kids could be taught in English as opposed to French. They lived in a compound with other East-Indians and Africans. Life was idyllic but when Hasnain was nearly seven, Idi Amin ordered all Asians out of the country within 90 days. Only as he got older did Hasnain realize the stress his parents endured as his father’s business was totally upended and they had to uproot themselves again. Although only six years old, Hasnain remembers the fear he felt during the 30-mile drive from their home in Kampala to the airport in Entebbe. They were stopped several times by Ugandan police officers, adorned with military rifles, demanding payments before they were able to proceed.

The family lived in Congo for another three-four years, while



the country was experiencing civil unrest. The quiet of the night was occasionally shattered by gun fire. Because all instruction was in French, Hasnain and his siblings did not attend school in Congo. They were, instead, tutored in English two nights a week. Three years later, the family moved again – via Burundi, Belgium and London – to Vancouver, Canada, where they were accepted under refugee status.

Hasnain distinctly remembers the first sights and experiences in the west: being wonderstruck by escalators, huge malls, city lights, skyscrapers (any building over five floors), amusement parks, the shocking overabundance of not just food, but consumer goods, in



every store they entered. It was, indeed, a different world. For the first four years in Vancouver, Hasnain’s dad was gone most of the time, working in Africa. The family had to negotiate a new country, a new language and new customs, almost always without their father. Because he and his siblings knew very little English, they were placed two grades behind in school. Hasnain felt embarrassed and humiliated for being so much older than his classmates. He also endured racial slurs. Nonetheless, Hasnain’s mom provided stability and showered her kids with love, care and tenderness. Hasnain spent ages 11-25 in Vancouver and, most likely due to his somewhat peripatetic childhood, became an avid traveler. In 1991, he travelled to Asia where he met the love of his life (editorializing by author)

Ellen in a Nepalese village. They hiked for over three weeks in the Himalayas and travelled together for 2½ months in Nepal and northern India where they met the Dalai Lama. After a long-distance relationship with Ellen, Hasnain made the ultimate sacrifice to leave his close-knit family. He moved to Chicago where he and Ellen raised their three children, Gibrael, Khalil and Sara.

Hasnain is grateful for all the opportunities afforded him and his family in North America. Nonetheless, regardless of where he has lived, he has always felt like an outsider - a minority in both Africa and North America. This has shaped his world view – one which embraces different viewpoints, lifestyles and cultures. By this author’s estimation, that’s not a bad outlook to have.



Comic by Linley Bassett., 6th grader in the Chicago Public Schools

Let's Talk About Race, Part 3

Rebecca Otalvora

The past two articles that I wrote for *The Voice* were focused on why, as a society, we have faced so many challenges on reconciling that racism, white privilege, and white supremacy are embedded into our culture. Regardless of what race you are, your economic status, or where you or your ancestors come from, these three notions have affected all of us.

Obviously, many people have benefited from the current system. Equally as evident are those who have suffered. After writing a couple of pieces, I have felt frustrated that I simply don't have enough space within these pages to dive deeply into the topic. But I'm hoping to continue

these writings and strive to be more focused.

In my personal life, I've struggled to find a solution that is agreeable with friends and family who don't see the world as I do. With that being said, as a community, and a smaller neighborhood within that community, I believe that a simple step we can take is to consider and connect, before calling out on a social media platform.

Smartphones. Most of us have them. They're as ubiquitous and necessary as many other basic needs. In today's world, a smartphone isn't a luxury. In fact, they've played an integral role in exposing an abundance of injustice. Smartphones are an important tool. They keep us interconnected and hold us accountable. They provide an abundance of resources literally at our fingertips. But sometimes the best intentions have negative

outcomes, and I think this has a lot to do with preemptive attempts to quiet a problem by filming or photographing it.

As a member of our community, I will strive to communicate and connect before recording. Film documentation is so important, and I'm not against using it when necessary. But I do feel that filming a person or a tense event can escalate situations. While I understand that most people have the intention of documenting and therefore de-escalating because of the looming consequences of bad behaviour, there are so many examples of how immediately pressing record and thrusting a phone in someone's face can sometimes have the opposite effect.

While we cannot change the past and none of us can control from whom we were born and what our ancestry is, we can control one major thing. We can

control ourselves. We can stop and think things through before making strong assumptions. Sometimes, just standing next to someone who is being bullied or treated unfairly can be more effective than documenting the injustice. As juvenile as I know this sounds, I've needed this reminder myself plenty of times. And it's beneficial for us all to remind ourselves of this simple fact. We can only control ourselves and how we choose to react to situations.

As we continue to grow and better understand our history as a nation and as individuals, I encourage you to use that information to strengthen relationships both personal and within our wider community. It is with that strength, understanding, and connection, that we can better approach our painful past and move towards a more united future.



GREEN KNOWLEDGE

Getting Ready to Paint?

Pat Clark

You can help the environment and some special needs folks by buying paint from EarthPaint.org, a company that recycles latex and oil paints into new paints. Oil-based paints and stains run \$9 for a gallon, quarts \$5 and pails \$20. You can buy their premium

paint for only \$59.99 per 2-gallon pail. And they will also match your color swatch. When you donate unused water-based paints and stains to EarthPaint, they ask for the following tax-deductible amounts that help pay their Little City staff. These donations help create jobs and grow their recycling program. Those tax-deductible amounts are: a quart is \$2.50, a gallon \$5, and buckets are \$18. Of course, keep the oil-based paints separate from the latex paints. The EarthPaint store and recycling drop-off is located at 365 E. Irving Park Road, Wood Dale, IL 60191. Their business hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Monday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check their web site for business hours and other drop off points (fees

apply).

Another source for low-cost paint is the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 6040 N. Pulaski Ave., Chicago. I've found good quality paint there that is perfect for first coats. Their business hours are Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the website is habitchicago.org. The ReStore is a great place to find all sorts of things for home repair, plus stuff you didn't know you needed.

You can also find paint at the Rebuilding Exchange, 1740 W. Webster Ave., Chicago. Their website is rebuildingexchange.org. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week. This store also has a vast inventory of stuff: tile, lighting fixtures, you name it. And the prices are quite good.

The Chicago Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, Goose Island Facility, 1150 N. Branch St., Chicago, accepts oil-based paint and solvents. Their hours are Tuesdays 7 a.m. to noon; Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The site does not accept empty, dry or leaking paint containers of latex paint.

Overall, we all can help the environment by not buying paints with VOCs (volatile organic compounds). Look for safer options with the following third-party certifications, which indicate paints with less VOC content: Green Wise Gold, Master Painters Institute X-Green, and Cradle to Cradle.

The August C. Kirchoff House, 3854 N. Ridgeway

Patti Kimbel

If only these walls could talk, they might whisper stories of lively dinner parties and boisterous family gatherings held in this home at the turn of the twentieth century. Irving Park and "Grayland"—as Old Irving Park and Portage Park—were originally called—were developing as early suburbs of Chicago. This development was part of a huge housing boom between 1900 to 1920. The dinner conversation likely sparked talk of Weeghman Park (later to become Wrigley Field) just a few miles away along with the newly constructed homes and Art Deco-style stores and flats along Irving Park Boulevard, which sadly no longer exist. Those traveling from Chicago may have come by horse-drawn carriage or enjoyed a train ride here for a mere seven cents. Entering the home, guests first gather in the alcove around the built-in oak banquet seating where they might rest on the stuffed horse-hair cushions or if needed warm by the nearby fireplace. Your gaze would likely be drawn to the dining room which is the most striking room in the home. Here diners can marvel at the amazing millwork, built-in hutch, and coffered ceiling. Another unique feature of the home is the woodwork in between the dining room and the living room. There is oak on the column facing the dining room while the marrying wood facing the living room is cherry. After dinner, entertainment would be enjoyed in 'the music room' in the alcove adjacent to the



living room.

This home was built in 1907 by August C. Kirchoff. It is a Craftsman design with various architectural influences of the time including Arts and Crafts, Prairie, and Mission style. The home was designed by famed architect, Charles Thisslew, who worked all over the city of Chicago. One of his notable commissions is the gatehouse of Mt. Olive Cemetery at 3826 Narrangansett. Thisslew is also well known for designing a handful of the Schlitz Brewery-Tied properties in the early 1900's. The 'tied house' model originated in London and referred to taverns owned by breweries where they only sold their own brand of beer. This business model expanded in Chicago due to fierce competition and competing governmental restrictions on taverns during the nineteenth century. One of these tied-house properties built in 1903 can still be found at 2159 W. Belmont, and was given landmark status by the City of Chicago in 2011. The Schlitz Brewery-Tied multiuse properties were unique for that era in that they were created as brewhouses that only served Schlitz beer. You can still find the Schlitz logo of a globe incorporated into the design of these buildings scattered across Chicago.

August Kirchoff, the original home owner, made his living as a proprietor of wholesale cheese. He moved to the home with his wife Caroline whose maiden name was Kraft. I know what you must be thinking but it is however unknown

if she was a member of the Kraft Foods family. The Kirchoffs moved into their grand new home from their crowded flat on Huron Street downtown with their children Albert and Charlotte.

The home is listed on the Chicago Historic Resources Survey and the home is one of only 3.5% of the city's estimated 500,000 structures that have that honor. The home is a variation on the American 4-Square on a triple lot. It is a 2 1/2 story frame home covered with stucco. The home has 32 stained glass windows that are original to the home. All of the doors in the home are higher than the swinging door in the dining room which was fashioned to be a

seamless part of the hutch in the dining room. The fireplace in the living room has an original copper hood. The bathroom has its original cast iron toilet which remains a unique green.

The garage was originally a carriage house and remnants of an old smokestack remain visible. Additionally, the original wood tracks used for carriages can still be found in the flooring of the garage.

The prior owners extensively landscaped the back lawn with native plantings, a grape arbor, and a pergola which is canopied with wisteria vines that bloom in the summer. Adjacent to the pergola is a koi pond with a waterfall, complete with resident koi, presided over by "Big Al" who is nearly three feet long. The pond is strategically visible from the kitchen sink window always providing a pleasant distraction. We have never been more grateful for this backyard oasis than last summer when it became our primary venue for socializing safely with friends and family.

Every Home Tells a Story: A Neighbor Responds

*The Livingston Family:
Rick, Kate, Henry and Jane*

I just loved reading about the house history from Sue Ryan. We are just the third family to occupy 3939 N. Lawndale. Ron and Ellen

Olech lived here and raised 9 children from 1967 - 2017. They bought the home from George Hill who lived in it with his wife and her sister from the time it was built in 1914.

Over the years both the Hills and Olechs took amazing care of the house, making only a few cosmetic changes and preserving all the original woodwork, including a truly unique fireplace shown here.



News from Carlson Community Services

Liz Mills

Virtual Trivia Night Results In!

Congratulations to "Spiked Proteins" on winning Carlson Community Services' 15th Trivia Night and second virtual event held on March 19th. Carlson treasurer and Old Irving Park resident Melanie Zech and husband Rod led their team to victory. When awarded their \$200 prize, the team generously donated their winnings back to Carlson. The bragging rights and glory remain theirs! Rod and Melanie's team has been victorious in five out of 15 Carlson contests.

While we missed being together in person, a virtual good time was had by all. Thanks to organizers Helen Lira, Melanie Zech, Maria Dimond and Jennifer O'Grady for their help, and to Elena O'Grady for serving as the quiz grader and scorekeeper. Thanks to Pianoman Dan Gillogly for providing musical entertainment as the crowd gathered on Zoom. And of course to the 150 contestants who participated!

Thanks to Old Irving Brewing for donating back to Carlson 10% of orders placed by hungry and thirsty Trivia Night contestants. In all, over \$5,000 was raised for Carlson's after-school program, community garden and concert series. During a year when our fundraising ability has been diminished sharply, the money raised at Virtual Trivia Night will help Carlson manage through these challenging times.

Introducing MAP Summer Camp!

The Magic After-School Place will host a Summer Camp for



students in 1st through 5th grade from June 28th through July 23rd. The four-week camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 3938 West Belle Plaine Ave. The camp will feature small group games, science experiments, Olympic games, water days, arts and crafts, and character development. The cost of camp is \$160 per week and campers must attend all four weeks. Tuition assistance is available. If you are worried your child has missed out on important socialization opportunities, MAP Summer Camp will provide engaging, COVID-compliant opportunities for your child to build friendships and create memories to last a lifetime! To learn more and to register, visit www.carlsoncommunityservices.org/events/.

Calling All Gardeners!

We're eager to begin work in Three Brothers Community Garden. Garden cleanup and planting are on the schedule for late April and early May. If you'd like to be notified of garden work days and events, send us a note at carlsoncommunityservices.org/contact/ and you'll be added to our mailing list. All vegetables grown in

Three Brothers Garden are donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives

through education, culture and service. For more information, visit carlsoncommunityservices.org or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Irving Park Community Food Pantry Update

Kathy O'Neill

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry at 4256 North Ridgeway Avenue provides food to those in need in the 60641 and 60618 ZIP codes. It is open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition to a 3-5 day food supply, pet owners can receive supplies through the Pantry's Pet Food Corner. Special Pantry distributions include Easter baskets, school supplies, winter coats, toiletries and holiday food and toy distributions.

The Pantry seeks donations of toiletries for its spring drive. You can donate to the program at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org. To donate toiletries in person, visit the Pantry on Mondays or Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. or drop off at the Pantry's partner organization, Big Helpers at 4184 North Elston on Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more about supporting the Pantry and volunteer opportunities, visit www.irvingparkfoodpantry.com.



What I learned from COVID

cooking and drawing
to be grateful together we are one
breathe empathy

how to stay safer

independence

wash your hands enjoy your family friends are special patience
being grateful don't spread germs not panicking
family is there forever

What Murphy Middle School Students Learned from COVID via a Word Cloud

A Word Cloud, pictured above, also known as Word Art, is a way to visualize words with the size

of the font denoting the level of importance or prominence. The above featured Word Cloud was done by Ms. Laqui's middle school writing class at Murphy School. The question posed was "What I Learned from COVID?" Words in a bigger font indicate that many students gave this word as an answer to the question. Thank you, Ms Laqui and your students, for giving us a peak at what was learned from COVID. From the looks of it, students are resilient.

St. Edward School Upcoming Events

Jenny Dreyer

St. Edward School's biggest annual fundraiser Big Red House Party was a huge success! The school community thanks everyone who tuned in and donated. Proceeds from the Big Red House Party event include the support of educational resources and school improvements. Big Red Thanks!

Mark your calendar for this upcoming Community Event that benefits St. Ed's: Saturday, June 12, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Stan's Donuts, pick up at St. Edward



School. As the date gets closer, more information can be found on the Community Days page on St. Edward School's website. Thank you for your support!

Join us at an upcoming virtual Welcome Wednesday tour on Wednesday, May 5 or Wednesday, June 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

This information session, Q&A and conversation with the principal and current school parents will offer you the opportunity to learn all about our 2017 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. You can also contact office@stedwardschool.com to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal. Discover all that St.

Edward School offers!

St. Edward School celebrates 111 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. 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.

Murphy Students Explore the Outdoors

Kristen Holub

The weather is warming up and it's becoming more and more inviting to get outdoors and explore the neighborhood again! The students and staff at Murphy School are thankful for some fun and safe ways to celebrate and experience the warmer weather outdoors. A new garden, a new type of walk-a-thon, and a new graduation format will all be part of this May and June at our neighborhood school.

Ms. Shultz, one of Murphy's wonderful teachers who also happens to live in the neighborhood, will be leading Murphy students in some exciting gardening projects this month! Tentative dates are May 10 through May 14, and the

students will be planting kale for food pantry donations and establishing a butterfly garden in the "front yard." Murphy's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) will be looking into getting a new shed for gardening tools and watering cans, and plans to supply soil, repair garden boxes, and provide the plants and items butterflies need to flourish. These plantings and improvements will provide spaces for children to explore and make discoveries outdoors while practicing social distancing at school. The new garden areas will be open for all to enjoy, and the Murphy PTO will be recruiting families and neighbors to help with a summer watering schedule. Please email murphyschoolpto@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Also in May, Friends of Murphy (FOM) is hosting the annual walk-a-thon, though it will be quite different this year due to COVID restrictions. Rather than the focus being on fundraising, FOM

is asking students to go out, and "walkabout!" The 2021 Walk-a-thon Walkabout will take place over a one-week period from May 22 through May 29 and the focus will be on getting outside for physical activity and fresh air, showing our school spirit in and around the neighborhood. Students will be going for walks, either along planned routes or on their own path, and sharing their owl pride by wearing Murphy gear, chalking their sidewalks, posing with posters, and more. Along with offering some fun prizes to participants, FOM will create a video celebrating the culmination of the week-long walkabout to share with the neighborhood and Murphy community. We hope you will post a sign in your window or chalk some encouraging words on your sidewalk to cheer on students the week of May 22 through May 29! More info can be found at friendsofmurphy.org.

Murphy School's 8th grade

graduation will look different this year as well. Scheduled for June 17th, graduation will take place outdoors, and will be held in multiple smaller groups to accommodate social distancing for students and families in the audience. Let's celebrate this year's graduates, who were remote for all or most of their last year at Murphy. We wish them lots of success as they begin their new chapter next fall as high schoolers!

Whether or not you have a current Murphy School student, please feel free to check out the front and side gardens, get involved in the Walkabout, or show your support for the graduating 8th graders. One time or recurring donations are always welcome through FOM's website, friendsofmurphy.org and if you'd like more info about Murphy or are interested in a tour, call the school office at (773) 534-5223 or visit the school's website at www.murphy.cps.edu.

And They Call It Puppy Love: Pandemic Puppies

Sue Ryan

If you feel like you are seeing more dogs frolicking in the park and on sidewalks, it is not your imagination. There has been a surge in pandemic puppies as more people seek out the companionship of the furry kind. It must have something to do with that unconditional love thing that humans can't always provide. Several owners already had one dog, but decided to add another, usually at the urging of their kids. We haven't heard much about pandemic gerbils, hamsters, geckos, turtles or hermit crabs, but maybe because they are under home confinement. Several pups are rescue dogs and a special shout-out to One Tail at a Time which takes in rescues from throughout the country and places them in loving homes. Meet the newest additions to our neighborhood: Croi, Indy, Ivy, Patch, Pickles, and Phoebe.



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*Anyone submitting membership dues by September 19, 2020 will be entered into a drawing for a LIFETIME membership upgrade (\$100 value).



GIPNA

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Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach

UPSIDES OF THE PANDEMIC

1. farting with abandon during Zoom yoga



2. getting to know our neighbors



3. emails from my 6-year-old niece (she needed an account for school)



4. collective joy that the end draws near



indyparka



Jaime ANDRADE

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My staff and I are here to serve you and our community. We encourage you to reach out with your thoughts about issues that we face together. If you need assistance with constituent services, please let us know and we will work to the fullest extent of the abilities of this office. Please share your ideas on ways we can improve our community and state.

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Porch Light Program

*How many
outdoor light
bulbs does it
take to keep a
neighborhood safe?*

We don't know exactly how many, we just know that we need to keep our porch lights on! According to the police department, streets that are brighter are much safer.

As you're aware, the city has seen a significant increase in some crimes over the past year. GIPNA has been working with the 17th District Chicago Police Department, our Alderman and our State Legislator to come up with innovative ideas to keep our neighborhood safe. One initiative that was suggested by the CPD was their Porch Light Program. This program proposes that neighbors leave their front porch lights on all night, making the streets and sidewalks brighter and much safer.

We are asking our wonderful GIPNA community to join forces and help us implement the Porch Light Program in our Independence Park neighborhood. It's super easy to do—just put your front porch light on at dusk and, instead of shutting it off at bedtime, keep it on until the morning.

***Help brighten our day (and our night) and
join us in the Porch Light initiative!***



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