

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



COMMUNITY

Come Celebrate Dads at the 19th Annual Gourmet Pancake Breakfast

Patti Kimbel

Bring your Dad and your appetite to our neighborhood association's annual pancake breakfast for Father's Day this year! The event has become a beloved tradition, bringing families and friends together in the neighborhood to enjoy a morning of food, fun, and community joy. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the neighborhood, this breakfast is a perfect opportunity to meet your

neighbors, make new friends, and strengthen the bonds that make Independence Park a wonderful place to live.

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Location: Independence Park Bungalow, corner of Hamlin & Byron

Come and indulge in a scrumptious feast of fluffy pancakes, savory sausages, and plenty of toppings to boot. Every year we have two special pancake flavors that are sure to delight. The 'special' pancake flavors remain top secret so you'll have to come to discover the mystery. In addition to delicious pancakes, there will be an egg dish and sausages. A special children's table will include a variety of toppings for the little

ones.

Tickets will be sold on the GIPNA website (visit gipna.org or use the QR code on the back page), at the Independence Park Farmers Market on June 9, and at the door on June 16. We are keeping the bargain price the same at \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and \$5 for children 12 years old and under.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the special fathers in our lives and come together as a community. Let's show our appreciation for all the dads, grandfathers, and father figures who make our lives brighter every day.

on street corn bites from Mas Tacos, sip a latte from Katherine Anne Confections, and listen to a contemporary jazz trio at Stola Contemporary Art. Or, perhaps enjoy a mini frito pie from JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, a dance class from Extensions Dance Studio, or a flower wall photo op with The Jade Vine?

Pick up your "Explore" passport at Katherine Anne Confections, 3653 W. Irving Park, get it stamped at each location, and turn it in for raffle entries: the more businesses you visit, the more raffle entries you get!

This is a great way to celebrate your favorite Mom, and support our local business community at the same time.

Visit exploreirvingparkchicago.com/mothersdayhop or scan below for more details:

COMMUNITY

Inaugural Mother's Day Hop

Explore Irving Park Chicago, the nascent collaboration of neighborhood businesses, has announced its first group effort to showcase local establishments: the Mother's Day Hop!

On Thursday, May 9 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., enjoy free offerings from over 15 local businesses while riding in a vintage Chicago trolley. Snack



SCAN ME



The next GIPNA Board meetings will be on Tues., May 7, and Tues., June 4 at 7 p.m. Join us online via Google Meets meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd. This link is also on the gipna.org website under "Events."

COMMUNITY EVENTS



MAY

MON., MAY 6—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

MON., MAY 6—Independence Park Monthly Cleanup, 6 p.m. Independence Park.

MON., MAY 6—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse. athleticfieldpark.com.

TUES., MAY 7—Domestic Violence Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Ave. Domestic violence hotline 877-863-6338.

TUES., MAY 7—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd.

WED., MAY 8—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

THURS., MAY 9—Mother's Day Hop, 6-8 p.m. See article on pg. 1.

FRI., MAY 10—Murphy School Walkathon, starts at 1 p.m.

SAT., MAY 11—30th Ward Weekend, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont.

MON., MAY 13—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

WED., MAY 15—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, Room 100.

SAT., MAY 18—Bilingual Tree Walk, 10 a.m., Athletic Field Park.

MON., MAY 20—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

TUES., MAY 21—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Ave.

MON., MAY 27—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

JUNE

SAT., JUNE 1—It's Your Park Day: Mulching and Park Cleanup, 10 a.m.-noon. Independence Park.

SAT., JUNE 1—The Villa Garage Sale, 9 a.m., in the Villa neighborhood.

SAT., JUNE 1—Let's Fiesta, 3800 block of N. Lawndale block party, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. See ad on pg. 8.

MON., JUNE 3—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

MON., JUNE 3—Independence Park Monthly Cleanup, 6 p.m. Independence Park.

MON., JUNE 3—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse. athleticfieldpark.com.

TUES., JUNE 4—Domestic Violence Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Ave. Domestic violence hotline 877-863-6338.

TUES., JUNE 4—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd.

FRI., JUNE 7—Community BBQ, 5:30-7 p.m., Athletic Field Basketball Courts.

SAT., JUNE 8—30th Ward Weekend, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont.

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

MON., JUNE 10—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

WED., JUNE 12—Community Cleanup, 6:30 p.m. Meet at Drake and Waveland.

WED., JUNE 12—CAPS Beat 1733 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

SUN., JUNE 16—Annual Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, 9 a.m.-Noon. Independence Park Bungalow. See article on pg. 1.

MON., JUNE 17—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

TUES., JUNE 18—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Ave.

WED., JUNE 19—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, Room 100.

FRI., JUNE 21—Kickin' It in the Park (Kickball), 6-7 p.m., Athletic Field Park Ball Fields.

SUN., JUNE 23—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will also be a blood drive. Details will be posted on gipna.org and on Facebook.

MON., JUNE 24—30th Ward Night, 5-7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Meet with Alderwoman Ruth Cruz to discuss problems, ideas, etc.

FRI., JUNE 28—Concert in the Park with Devon Delux, 6:30 p.m., followed by Movie in the Park, Barbie, sponsored by Alderman James Gardiner.

MAYO

LUN., 6 DE MAYO—Noche del Distrito 30, de 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

LUN., 6 DE MAYO—Limpieza mensual del Parque Independencia, 6 p.m. Parque Independencia.

LUN., 6 DE MAYO—Reunión de la AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse. Athleticfieldpark.com.

MAR., 7 DE MAYO—Reunión sobre violencia doméstica, 11 a.m., comisaría de policía del distrito 17, 4650 N. Pulaski. Línea directa de violencia doméstica 877-863-6338.

MAR., 7 DE MAYO—Reunión de la junta directiva de GIPNA, 7 p.m., meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd.

MIÉ., 8 DE MAYO—Reunión CAPS Beat 1732, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

JUE., 9 DE MAYO—Día de la Madre Hop, 6-8 p.m. Ver artículo en la página 1.

VIE., 10 DE MAYO—Caminata por la escuela Murphy, comienza a la 1 p.m.

SÁB., 11 DE MAYO—Fin de semana del Distrito 30, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont.

LUN., 13 DE MAYO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

MIÉ., 15 DE MAYO—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, sala 100.

SÁB., 18 DE MAYO—Caminata bilingüe por los árboles, 10 a.m., Athletic Field Park.

LUN., 20 DE MAYO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

MAR., 21 DE MAYO—Reunión de personas mayores, 11 a.m., comisaría de policía del distrito 17, 4650 N. Pulaski.

LUN., 27 DE MAYO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

JUNIO

SÁB., 1 DE JUNIO—Es el día de tu parque: aplicación de mantillo y limpieza del parque, de 10 a.m. al mediodía. Parque Independencia.

SÁB., 1 DE JUNIO—Venta de Garaje de La Villa, 9 a.m., en el barrio de La Villa.

SÁB., 1 DE JUNIO—Let's Fiesta, fiesta en el 3800 de la cuadra N. Lawndale, de 11 a.m. a 6 p.m. Ver anuncio en la página 8.

LUN., 3 DE JUNIO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

LUN., 3 DE JUNIO—Limpieza mensual del Parque Independencia, 6 p.m. Parque Independencia.

LUN., 3 DE JUNIO—Reunión de AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park Fieldhouse. Athleticfieldpark.com.

MAR., 4 DE JUNIO—Reunión sobre violencia doméstica, 11 a.m., comisaría del

COLOR CLUB

Be sure to check out additional art programming and events at Color Club! www.colorclub.events/events

distrito 17, 4650 N. Pulaski. Línea directa de violencia doméstica 877-863-6338.

MAR., 4 DE JUNIO—Reunión de la junta directiva de GIPNA, 7 p.m., meet.google.com/nkn-dcgc-tfd.

VIE., 7 DE JUNIO—Barbacoa comunitaria, de 5:30 a 7 p.m., canchas de baloncesto del campo atlético.

SÁB., 8 DE JUNIO—Fin de semana del Distrito 30, 9 a.m. a 1 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont.

DOM., 9 DE JUNIO—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

LUN., 10 DE JUNIO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

MIÉ., 12 DE JUNIO—Limpieza comunitaria, 6:30 p.m. Nos reunimos en Drake y Waveland.

MIÉ., 12 DE JUNIO—Reunión CAPS Beat 1733, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

DOM., 16 DE JUNIO—Desayuno anual de panqueques para el Día del Padre, de 9 a.m. al mediodía. Bungalow en el Parque de la Independencia. Ver artículo en la página 1.

LUN., 17 DE JUNIO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

MAR., 18 DE JUNIO—Reunión de personas mayores, 11 a.m., comisaría de policía del distrito 17, 4650 N. Pulaski.

MIÉ., 19 DE JUNIO—Reunión mensual del IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, sala 100.

VIE., 21 DE JUNIO—Kickin' It in the Park (Kickball), 6 a 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park Ball Fields.

DOM., 23 DE JUNIO—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. También habrá una campaña de donación de sangre. Los detalles se publicarán en gipna.org y en Facebook.

LUN., 24 DE JUNIO—Noche del Distrito 30, 5 a 7 p.m., 5714A W. Belmont. Reunirse con la Concejal Ruth Cruz para discutir problemas, ideas, etc.

VIE., 28 DE JUNIO—Concierto en el parque con Devon Delux, 6:30 p.m., seguido de Movie in the Park (Películas en el parque), Barbie, patrocinado por el concejal James Gardiner.

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: Carolyn Chandler

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For submissions for July/August 2024 Issue:

Editorial Deadline: June 10, 2024

Advertising Deadline: June 10, 2024

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

Scott Dewey, President
Greg Shea, Vice President
Lorraine Antieau, Secretary
Alison Benjamin, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Bobbie Bolociuch
Carolyn Chandler
Megan Kozonis
Amy Mastroianni
Christopher Rose
Ellen Ryan
Susan Ryan

Directors-at-Large

Jodie Bargerone
Pat Clark
Kevin Haight
Robin Hochstatter
John Kuczura
Dickie Nichols
Delphine Ruiz
Sharon Sears

GIPNA BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

3800 Avers - Candace Wayne
3600 Byron - Jackie Ropski
3700 Byron - Stephanie and Jeremy Smith
3800 Byron - Suzanne Edwards
3900 Byron - Roseann Seablom
3600 Central Park - Sharon Gilbert
3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan
3800, 3900 N. Central Park- Joe and Annie Bailey
3900 Dakin - Holly VanEssen
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 Josh Urban
3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta
3900 Ridgeway - John and Sang Kuczura
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seablom

FUN (DRAISER)

Add a Little Color to Your Front Lawn!

You've probably noticed the colorful GIPNA lawn signs in the neighborhood. The cost for the 12" x 18" flag is only \$20 and includes the flag stand. Go to <https://gipna.org/historic-independence-park-lawn-flags> or order online using the QR code below. Flags purchased by each Friday will be delivered to your front lawn the following weekend.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Independence Branch Library Calendar for May

Jessica Kimpel

Closed May 27

PLAY DAY—Monday, May 6, 13, & 20 @ 10:30 a.m., Meeting Room

Bring a friend or meet a new one during our open and unstructured play group time for kids and caregivers.

For ages up to 5 years old.

STORY TIME—Wednesday, May 1 & 8 @10:30 a.m., Meeting Room

Talk, sing, read, write, and stay to play with us!

For ages up to 5 years old

LEGO® PLAY—Thursday, May 9 @ 4:30 p.m., Meeting Room

Build and inspire others with your creations. All builds will be displayed with a juice box reception to follow. For ages 5+.

SCIENCE CLUB—Thursday, 2 @ 4:30 p.m., On the Stairs

Join us for a series of programs featuring hands-on STEAM activities. For grades 2-6.

BYOB(OOK) Club—Thursday, May 16 @ 6 p.m., Meeting Room

A book club with no assigned reading! Join us to share what you are currently reading or a favorite title you recommend. Meet fellow book lovers and get ideas of what to read next. For adults.

INTERMENT OF JAPANESE AND JAPANESE AMERICANS—

Saturday, May 18 @1 p.m.

Join Jean Mishima, president of Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, for a presentation on the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II. Registration required.

SILENT BOOK CLUB—Tuesday, May 21 @ 6-7:30 p.m., Meeting Room

Readers and introverts unite! Join us for an hour of solo reading of whatever you like. Hang out after to chat with your fellow readers (or not). Light refreshments will be provided. For adults.

COMMUNITY CINEMA, Meeting Room

Enter the Dragon, 1973, R

Sunday, May 12 @ 2 p.m.

The Avengers, 2012, PG-13

Saturday, May 25 @ 10:15 a.m.

Avengers: Endgame, 2019, PG-13

Saturday, May 25 @ 1 p.m.

Events are still being finalized for June through August, but visit the library for an updated list of fun events like the family-friendly Foam Dance Party on Saturday, June 8 at 1 p.m.!

GIPNA Volunteer Party

Susan Ryan

Many folks are drawn to our neighborhood because they have heard it's a wonderful place to live. Others, like myself and my husband, had never heard of Independence Park when we set out to find a house, but were delighted to find a vibrant neighborhood. What contributes to making our community an enviable place to live? In short, it's our neighbors, many of whom volunteer throughout the year to enhance our neighborhood. This year's GIPNA volunteer party was packed with many neighbors who lent their time, sweat equity, brain power, and an array of talents and skills to power GIPNA activities.

Scott Dewey, GIPNA president, rattled off names of those who took leadership roles: Bobbi O'Connor, Megan Kozonis, Christopher Rose, and Sharon Sears (Wine and Cheese Party), Kristen and Andy Holub and Kevin Haight (Pancake Breakfast), Greg Shea (Farmers Market), Carolyn Chandler (*Voice* newsletter), Mark Watkins (Alley Cleanup), Lorraine Antieau (Openlands Tree Planting), Amy Mastroianni (Kickball Tournament), Christopher Rose (Holiday Cookie Exchange), Jodie Barger (E-newsletters) and Sue Ryan (Garden Walk).

But behind these leaders are the many volunteers needed to successfully pull off these activities. If

you are reading this newsletter, it is because neighbors are writing and editing stories and delivering the *Voice* to your door. If you are enjoying the trees planted in parkways, buying fresh veggies at the Farmers Market or strolling through the community garden, you can thank a GIPNA volunteer.

Although Scott Dewey didn't acknowledge himself, he deserves special recognition as president of GIPNA. Scott does the heavy lifting when it comes to organizing events, running monthly meetings and serving as a liaison between GIPNA's and other community groups, local businesses and elected officials. Thank you, Scott!

Each year, GIPNA recognizes one neighbor who has gone above and beyond to improve our community. This year's Volunteer of the Year goes to Christopher Rose. It was an easy choice. Christopher brings an amazing energy, dedication and an Excel skill set to keep GIPNA organized especially for events that have hundreds of details to track. He was instrumental in planning, designing, and organizing the Wine and Cheese Party. He initiated the first GIPNA sponsored Holiday Cookie Exchange at The Cabin, which was a smashing success. Christopher also brings neighbors together with a summer bash on the 3800 block of Lawndale. This year's theme is Fiesta on Lawndale on June 1.

This year, the GIPNA Board created a business partnership award



for those businesses that play a vital role in GIPNA activities especially when it comes to donating food and gift certificates. The inaugural award was presented to Bob Theo, owner of the Original Alps Restaurant and Pancake House, who has been so very, very generous to GIPNA.

As always, GIPNA welcomes volunteers and whatever your talents, there is a place for you. Come join the fun and receive an invitation to next year's volunteer party. For more info on getting involved and making a difference contact info@gipna.org

NEIGHBORHOOD

More Than Books: A Love Letter to the Independence Branch Library

Katie Kobeszka

Dearest Independence Branch Library,

I hope this letter finds you well, surrounded by whispering stories and the laughter of children. As I write this, my heart swells with affection and gratitude for all that you are to me and my family.

From the moment we first arrived in this neighborhood, you captured our hearts with your warmth and charm. You've become more than just a building filled with books; you've become our sanctuary, especially on cold and rainy days.

Every visit to you is a treasure, a chance to escape into the magical world of storytelling and imagination. Watching my little one's eyes light up as she explores and discovers fills me with an indescribable sense of happiness and gratefulness.

But it's not just the books that make you special—it's the sense of community you foster. The connections we've made with other families, the shared moments of laughter and learning, have enriched our lives in ways we never imagined possible.

So thank you, dear library, for being so much more than just a place to borrow books. Thank you for being a source of inspiration, joy, and connection for me and my family. You hold a special place in our hearts, and we are forever grateful for the love and warmth you bring into our lives.

With all my love,
Parents of a busybody toddler



GIPNA Annual Meeting

Sue Ryan

Every spring GIPNA holds an annual meeting to review the work it has done, plan for the future and elect its officers and board of directors. Civic leaders are also invited to update the community on the work being done on behalf of their constituents.

Alison Benjamin reviewed the organization's finances. GIPNA raised funds through several avenues including membership dues, street banners, yard signs, vendor fees from the Farmers Market, ads from the *Voice* newsletter, and GIPNA's biggest fundraiser, the Wine and Cheese Party, which raised \$25,000.

Equally important to how funds were raised was how they were spent. GIPNA generously supported Murphy Elementary School, Disney II High School, Lydia Home, Carlson Community Services, Openlands, and Mutual Aid. Funds were also used to print the newsletter, support the Farmers Market, hire a lawn service for maintenance of the community garden, provide supplies and refreshment for the alley cleanup, and support the first annual Garden Walk, the neighborhood yard sale, and the pancake breakfast.

Robin Hochstatter provided the membership update. GIPNA has over two hundred members with many residents being lifetime members. In addition, Robin noted extensive community engagement through the printed newsletter, e-newsletter, and Facebook. Hard copies of the newsletter were distributed to 750 residents and businesses six times a year and the e-newsletter



reached 995 people. Approximately 230 people follow GIPNA on Facebook.

President Scott Dewey read through a long list of everything that GIPNA volunteers did throughout the year. In addition to events and activities already mentioned, GIPNA held a neighborhood kickball tournament, served as a liaison in public safety issues at CAPS and Police Accountability District Council meetings, coordinated a tree planting through a partnership with Openlands, and instituted the first Bob Theo award for businesses who consistently support our neighborhood. More recently, GIPNA members Scott Dewey and Greg Shea were instrumental in working with local businesses to create Explore Irving Park Chicago (EIPC) as a means to make community businesses more visible.

Alderman Ruth Cruz (30th Ward) rattled off a lengthy and impressive list of everything that she and her staff are doing for the ward. Of note, the city council is working to de-incentivize commercial landlords who keep their

properties vacant because of the tax breaks they receive for doing so. Cruz has created a Community Zoning Committee to advise on zoning issues. Her office has also committed to powerwash and clean underneath the viaduct near the intersection of Irving and Pulaski every month. She is working with the Department of Cultural Affairs to hire artists within the community for neighborhood beautification projects.

Representatives from U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley's office and Illinois State Representative Lindsey LaPointe spoke on their behalf and provided updates.

The final piece of business was voting on the new slate of officers and board of directors, which was unanimously approved. Due to family obligations, two directors stepped down from the board. Delphine Ruiz and Christopher Rose contributed to GIPNA in numerous ways and will be deeply missed. Thank you to all of the volunteers who contribute to the success of our community organization.

Independence Park Farmers Market Returns June 9

Greg Shea

The Independence Park Farmers Market returns for the summer on June 9 and continues on the second and fourth Sundays through October. The market runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on market days.

This year will feature music and events for kids such as a kids craft table, face painting, temporary tattoos and even a magic show. And if you have a child with some shaggy hair, we're again setting up kids haircuts on certain market days.

The market promises to have plenty for adults, too. We'll have yoga from Carol Barry, knife sharpening from Dave Nells as well as coffee and delicious treats from our vendors. But we'll also have fruit and vegetables for the healthy people among us. And if you need some cleaning up, too, we can help with soap from Nature's Trace. The market will feature coffee, baked goods, meats, tacos, cheese, and assorted other goodies.

Planning has already begun in earnest, but we could always use a few new volunteers to help us with events at each market. If you would like to help or just have questions about the market, email us at farmersmarket@gipna.org.

Crikey! Cicadas! How to Prepare

Pat Clark and Carolyn Chandler

Yes, it's going to LOUD this May with all the seventeen-year cicadas emerging. They might creep you out, but they are harmless to people and to most plants, other than some young trees or shrubs. We have a lot of those in the neighborhood after the Openlands tree planting events in the past couple of years, so here's some helpful info.

Cicadas can damage young trees that have been planted within the last year or so because the females make slits in branches

less than quarter-inch in diameter to lay their eggs. The egg-laying doesn't harm any mature tree, but a young tree with mostly thin branches may be a bit more at risk. If you don't have any young trees now, it might be best to wait to plant until June or in the autumn.

You can protect a young tree by wrapping it in fine-mesh netting, such as tulle (think tutus) like that at amzn.to/4avJFv5. Wrap the whole young tree branching area with the tulle for the ultimate protection. Wrap the tree up as early as possible and keep it under wraps until the cicadas are dead. Watch the video at tinyurl.com/ab83jm7p for a demonstration.

GIPNA Board member Lorraine Antieau, who has helped coordinated with Openlands to bring over 100 tree plantings to the

Independence Park area in the past two years, adds this advice: "Netting should be installed after the leaves have emerged but before the cicadas arrive, around the 1st week of May, and removed with the brood has died off, probably by mid-June. It is not good for the tree to leave the netting on longer, as that would impede its growth during the rest of the growing season."

You may have been hearing that we're getting not one, but two periodical broods at the same time, as the 13 year and 17 year cicadas both land on the same year for the first time since 1803! This is true for Illinois as a state, but only one of those broods will be showing up in our neighborhood—we won't see the 13 year brood here as it will come out further downstate. We will,

however, be getting our regular (lighter) cicada emergence later in the summer as we do every year.

The periodical version of this insect event will start in May and will last only four to six weeks. You'll get free fertilizer when all the cicadas die. This probably will be a stinky time as the cicadas decompose.

Where are the periodical cicadas now? They're underground beneath old trees in the form of nymphs, just waiting for the warm weather. They then shed their nymph shells and become adults with 1-1/2-inch-long bodies and those bulging red eyes. Since the cicadas don't have stingers or jaws, the only harm that you might incur is from one plowing into you.

Somme Woods Prairie Restoration

Pat Clark

Indy Park's longtime neighbor Matt Knoop volunteers at Somme Woods Nature Preserve on Dundee Road in Northbrook. Matt is helping to restore the prairie habitat by getting rid of non-native invasive species, such as buckthorn, a tall understory shrub or tree. Matt also helps with seed collecting during the summer and in early fall.

So, what does a volunteer like Matt actually do? Volunteers cut down European buckthorn and other invasive shrubs using hand saws and loppers. These shrubs are very aggressive and block out the sun, thus killing entire

ecosystems. Then the shrubs get tossed into a bonfire. Dress for dirty work: work boots and clothes that you won't mind getting really dirty and possibly a big singed. Work gloves and tools will be supplied and you will be shown how to work safely. It's a good idea to bring along snacks and drinks. This is a mildly physically demanding activity and it can get pretty hot and smoky near the fire. You work at your own pace and listen to your body. This work usually starts in September and runs through June.

Perhaps you are the more meditative type and would prefer to help with seed collection. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes that you can get dirty. Seed collecting may involve a considerable amount of walking, but it's usually at a slow pace. As the

seed ripens, volunteers go out and gather it. In the fall the seeds are removed from their husks and then the seeds are broadcast.

Anyone from 10 years old to senior citizens is welcome to volunteer. Kids are encouraged to show up with or without adults if a release has been signed. High school teachers show up with their classes. Corporations show up too. A waiver is signed each time. The groups range from 5 to 20 people with more working on Saturdays and Sundays.

To register to volunteer at Somme Preserve and Woods visit sommepreserve.org. This is organized by a calendar. You click on the link and register. You can even record the number of hours that you have volunteered. After the first 15 hours you will get a T-shirt and after more hours, you will get a hat. Every time you go to work you must sign a

waiver. Somme Woods is listed on Facebook under [sommewoodcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/sommewoodcommunity), which not only lists the current events, but shows pictures of what volunteers actually do.

The Cook County Forest Preserve website (fpdcc.com/volunteer, Events, Volunteer Page, Ecological Stewardship Days) lists other places that you can volunteer, but this website is not as easy to navigate as the one for Somme Woods.

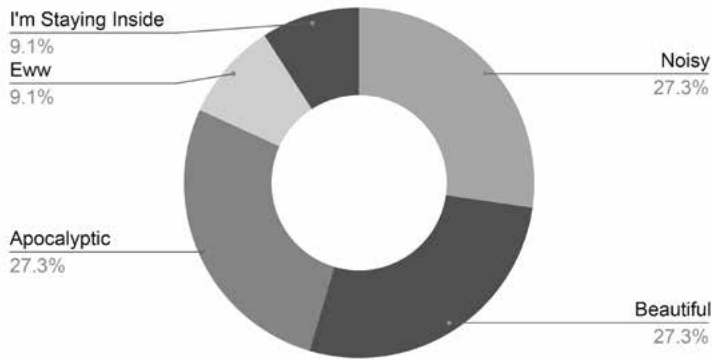
When asked why he wanted to do this kind of volunteering, Matt succinctly replied, "Being outside." After all this work the area is so much cleaner and you get to see the results of all your efforts knowing that the prairie habitat is being restored and the birds, bees, butterflies, animals, and even the native rusty-patch bumblebees are returning. Thanks, Matt!

What Does the Great Cicada Emergence Mean to You?

Carolyn Chandler

In this issue of the *Voice*, we delve into a subject that resonates with both the beauty and oddity of nature: cicadas. These fascinating creatures, known for their dramatic emergences and distinct sounds, have inspired thoughts from our community.

Our last neighbor poll asked “What’s the main thing you think of when it comes to cicada broods like those we’ll see this spring?” Answers varied but here’s a simplified chart of how people responded:



Here’s what some of your neighbors had to say about these intriguing insects.

One neighbor shared a captivating visual comparison: “The stunning shade of green they are when they first emerge from their shells! And how the shells look just like the Ohms from *Nausicaä* (a Ghibli movie).”

April Bayne notes the common sight in our backyards: “I find their discarded exoskeletons attached to wooden items in the garden.”

Stephen B. and Pete Rogers

bring a unique perspective to the table, literally. Stephen points out, “Cicadas are edible and some fine dining restaurants might serve them.” Meanwhile, Pete shares his personal experience with a touch of humor: “These cicadas are delicious! I’ve been waiting for this since the last big cicada event where I grossed out my neighbors by eating them live! And I will do it again!”

Kitty Shanahan adds to the edible angle via the pet world: “Almost all dogs I know enjoy a cicada snack. Since ours is a neighborhood of prodigious dog walkers, I expect to hear a lot of chomping.”

Erica Johnson expresses excitement and a bit of hope: “I’ve been waiting for this since the last major cicada emergence. I hope my teenagers find it fascinating

and enjoyable instead of gross, annoying, or ‘icky’.”

Scott Dewey reflects on the cyclical nature of cicada emergences: “This year being part of the 17-year brood makes me nostalgic about the different chapters of my life I was in during the prior emergences - little kid, college, married with kids, and now middle-aged.”

Bridget Zaremba suggests an artistic approach: “Great subject for photos, using a macro lens.” Meanwhile, Katy Schafer shares

how cicadas have brought people together: “During the first pandemic summer I started going for nature walks every morning with my daughters around our neighborhood and by the end of the summer the nature walks were mostly cicada walks.”

Each of these stories, from visual splendors and edible quirks to nostalgic reflections and communal activities, paints a picture of a community connected through the natural phenomena surrounding them. Cicadas, with their odd charm and predictable unpredictability, continue to be a source of fascination and culinary adventure.

If you have young trees or shrubs, be sure to read the article on page 6 to find out how to prepare for the upcoming emergence. And keep an eye on the e-Newsletter in early June for the next neighbor poll. If you don’t get the GIPNA e-newsletter, visit gipna.org/newsletter and look for “E-Newsletter Sign Up.”

NEIGHBORHOOD

Holy Mole!

Suzie Bohacik

I committed to doing things outside the box and/or trying new things in 2024. And with that being said, I have driven past Mis Moles on Elston so many times over the past two years and the bright red and blue building and the unique design has always caught my attention; however, I never thought I was a fan of mole so I hesitated to ever stop. I am so glad I decided I would give mole a chance because this was a game changer.

I gathered my dining crew and we headed in on a Tuesday evening. The dining room is cute and

colorful and spacious with a lot of tables for small groups of neighbors and friends.

Upon sitting down you are presented with a complimentary bowl of chips and three homemade moles: rojo, pipian, and verde. Chef owner Eufemia has been working in the culinary industry for over 20 years. A lot of her time growing up in El Estado de Mexico was spent in the kitchen where she learned she had a passion for cooking and it shows!

After indulging in our chips and mole, my party ordered queso fundido and we were delighted with the homemade tortillas that accompanied the cheese. The tortillas were warm and fresh and you can eat them plain right out of the tortillero! So good! My party all ordered margaritas and nobody was disappointed—a great addition to the appetizers.

Most of the main courses are served with your choice of mole. Our party of four ordered mole rojo (chicken breast in mole), chile relleno with mole, and enchiladas mole. The latter two were served with the traditional rice and beans; the chicken was served with rice. Our meals were delicious and my only regret is that we didn’t order more! This is one of those places you can go to over and over and not get tired of. My mom is coming to visit soon and I already know we will be dining there during her stay!

And, because I am writing an article on Mis Moles, of course we had to have dessert for research purposes. We went with churros on the recommendation of Eufemia and they were hot and cinnamon and chocolatey and everything you love about a churro!

It never hurts to make a reservation; however, my party of four was seated right away on a Tuesday evening. It did start to fill up though!

I am so glad I tried this spot. Mis Moles has made me a fan of mole! Hope to see our neighbors there!

Take a Neighborhood Nature Walk!

Lorraine Antieau

It's easy to think of nature as happening in parks, forest preserves, at the lakefront or a nature center. If that's your mindset, think again! The natural world is right outside your door, and thanks to tree-lined streets, the nearby parks and schools, and our neighbors' front yards, we can encounter nature every day. You are hereby challenged to enjoy nature walking in our neighborhood!

Start with at least 20 minutes. When you are rushing to get kids to school, running late to work, or leaving in 5 minutes for an appointment, it's not the time to indulge in a nature walk. Wait for a time when you can relax and observe the world around you.

Pause as you step out the door. Make sure you are dressed comfortably for weather conditions, turn your phone's volume down, close your eyes and breathe deeply a few times, do a stretch or two, clear your mind from the activities and worries of your day, center yourself in the present moment.

As you take your first steps, notice what catches your eye. A butterfly fluttering by? Tulips blooming?

Squirrels chasing each other? A caterpillar inching along? Look closely at the markings, shapes and colors of the trees, flowers, birds, animals, and insects you observe.

In a noisy urban environment, listening can be a challenge, but with practice you can begin to tune out the racket and tune into nature's symphony. Which birds sing too early? Which birds drum on tree trunks? What kinds of insects are buzzing? Can you hear the rustle of wind in the leaves or the drip of water after a rain shower? Of course, during cicada season, it's hard to hear anything else in the evenings!

The fragrance of magnolia trees is a favorite of many noses in springtime, and in summer, newly mown grass is a familiar scent. After a rain, it's often easy to detect that "worm smell" just by stepping out the door. However to truly engage your sense of smell, it's often necessary to get "up close and personal" with your subject. Don't be afraid to stick your sniffer into flowers or to hold other natural items close to your nose. Do stones have a smell? How about acorns? Does a green leaf smell different from a brown one? What does dirt smell like?

There are many sensations to experience outdoors: the warmth of summer sun, the cool of grass, the smoothness of a leaf. With suitable caution, gently handle flowers, seeds, leaves, rocks, soil, tree bark, insects, and pine cones to discover the variety of textures nature offers.

Tasting nature is a riskier prospect, so please, be careful about putting anything in your mouth that you are unsure about.

Nature walking is about paying attention. Here are some tools to help you enrich your experience: binoculars help you see far away objects and a magnifying glass



helps you see details. In a journal you can record what birds you hear or when the daisies bloom. A sketchbook can help you focus on details. Taking photos or recording sounds with your phone can aid in remembering and identifying your nature encounters. There are many apps to help with identification, depending on your area of interest.

Walk at different times of day and different times of year. Go out in rain and snow, when it's windy or hot or sunny or cloudy or cold. It really is possible to enjoy nature all year round, so get out there and discover nature in our neighborhood!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Central Park Ave. Street Light Bases

Pat Clark

In December 2021, I surveyed all the street light bases in our GIPNA neighborhood, noting which ones were in dire condition, either rusted-out and/or missing access panel covers. This information was sent to James Gardiner, our alderman at that time.

Many of the street light bases around Independence Park, the 3800 and 3900 blocks of Monticello, and other locations, were replaced in late fall 2022. The

most deteriorated and rusted-out street light bases were on the 3700, 3800, and 3900 blocks of N. Central Park Ave., a major walkway for Murphy Elementary School children. Those were not replaced. In December 2022 I received an email from the Alderman Gardiner's office indicating that his office had requested estimates for those lights and then replacement would be considered on the following year's menu money.

In the meantime, our area was divided up between the 45th and 30th Wards. Now the 3700, 3800, and 3900 blocks of N. Central Park Ave. are the 30th Ward and no longer part of the 45th Ward. In December 2023, I contacted 30th Ward Alderwoman Ruth Cruz's office and sent photos of those worn-out street light bases. Mid-February I received a phone call from Steve from the Streets and Sanitation Department. He promised to take a look at the problem bases. About a week later, I happened to be walking by the 3800 block of N. Central Park Ave. and noticed a giant crane lifting up a light pole! I hurried to see what was going on: three city workers were replacing the rusted-out street light base! Over the course of about 3 days, all the really dangerous light bases were replaced on those three blocks!

The squeaky wheel wins!

LET'S FIESTA

Please join friends & neighbors on the 3800 Block of North Lawndale

Saturday, June 1, 2024

11 am - 6 pm

For more information email 3800Lawndale@gmail.com

RSVP

Add to Calendar

News From Carlson Community Services

Liz Mills

In the final concert of its 30th season, the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee will present the Matthew Beck Trio performing Clarinet Trios of Brahms and Beethoven on Sunday, May 5. The free concert is at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding. The trio is comprised of clarinetist Beck, cellist Allison Chambers and pianist Stephen Uhl.

Matthew Beck is a Chicago based multi-instrumentalist and educator.



He has performed in Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Serbia, and throughout the United States. Specializing in classical saxophone,

Beck has played with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared in theater productions with such renowned companies as Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Marriott Theatre, Music Theater Works, the Mercury Theater, the Paramount Theater and Porchlight Music Theater.

Chicagoland native Allison Chambers fell in love with the cello



at the age of nine. She enjoys an eclectic musical career of teaching, orchestral playing, and chamber music. Allison is a former member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, and presently performs with the South Bend Symphony and Illinois Symphony Orchestras. Allison has collaborated with artists and organizations including Storycatchers Theatre, Chicago Fringe Opera, Jetoj Music Series, and Kenny Loggins.

Chicago native Stephen Uhl completed his Artist Diploma in



Piano Performance in the Spring of 2017 at Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Prior to earning his Artist Diploma, he received his M.M. from the Chicago College of the Performing Arts. His playing has received critical acclaim from *The Reporter* as well as John von Rhein of the *Chicago Tribune*. In the Spring of 2017, he formed the Ostrega Uhl Project with violinist Brian Ostrega. The duo performs a wide range of repertoire, provides a platform for other young musicians, and raises awareness of social justice.

Fine Arts concerts are free, although the audience is invited to make a donation. This season is supported with a generous bequest from the late Doris Peterson, a long-time Fine Arts Series patron. The concert series is a program of Carlson Community Services, a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to connect the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, contact Roger Bingaman at 773-267-1666 or visit carlsoncommunityservices.org.

Visit All the Little Free Libraries

Pat Clark

We've all noticed the little free libraries in our neighbor's yards, perused the titles, and have taken a book or two home to read. I have found some treasures. After finishing the book, I put it in a different little library. These boxes are an especially good source for children's books.

Here are some of the libraries within strolling distance:



3738 N. Monticello

3907 N. Monticello

3718 N. Central Park



4043 N. Central Park

4214 N. Ridgeway

4306 N. Avers



4243 N. Hamlin

3648 N. St. Louis

4056 N. Avers (by garage)



You can build your own little free library. Visit littlefreelibrary.org for very thorough information on how to get started: where you can legally and safely install the library, how to build one, how to register your library with them, and how to set up a steward account that will add your library to their map.

Another option is to donate your books to Books for a Cause, a free bookstore at 2931 N. Milwaukee. Drop off hours are Monday-Friday from noon to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can call them at 800-570-3698.

Irving Park Community Food Pantry Needs Toiletries Donations

John Psiharis

The Irving Park Food Pantry includes a toiletries station along with its various food stations as those essential products have proven popular with clients when they are available. But we often run out. They're hard to source from suppliers at any discount, and our budget can't keep us in stock every week. So we rely on donations from individuals and organizations to help our clients with these items every week. To that end, we're asking for donations of the key basics of toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, razors and shaving cream. Other popular items include body lotion, conditioner, floss, sunscreen, diapers (especially #5 and #6), baby wipes (given to those requesting diapers) and dishwashing liquid.

If you would like to donate, you can use our online Amazon registry to have products sent directly to us. Locally purchased items can be taken to Big Helpers,



184 N. Elston, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or the front porch at 3912 N. Kenneth anytime.

Monetary donations can be made via PayPal at irvingparkfoodpantry.org or by check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618. Both can be marked for the "Toiletries" program.

Thank you to the preschool and 5th-grade classes at St. Viator Elementary School for including us in their Lenten service projects. The preschoolers, with teachers Elizabeth Bachnacki and Donna Sutfn, collected socks for our clients. Meanwhile, the 5th graders with teacher Mrs. Iannelli held a pet food drive. We appreciate their continued support for our special programs!

Thanks also to our friends at the Irving Park United Methodist Church, the Pantry's home until it was sold in 2019, who are joining with Berry United Methodist Church, formerly of Lincoln Square. The groups are worshipping at the Albany Park Ministry Center, formerly the Albany Park United Methodist Church, at 3100 W. Wilson (corner of Albany and Wilson). To celebrate their union and show their support for the Pantry, they held a "Pi Day" on March 14 to raise funds. The group's official beginning will be celebrated May 19 at APMC.

These donations and so many others from members of Old Irving Park are greatly appreciated and

help us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!" Visit irvingparkfoodpantry.org or scan the QR code below.



The last time our streets were resurfaced was during John Arena's tenure as 45th Ward alderman, now nearly 10 years ago. As part of Arena's participatory budgeting initiative, many of us voted for 100% of the available funds to be devoted to street repairs. Let's get involved and bring our streets back to earth.

Food Scrap Composting Update

Alison Benjamin

As of March 1, the Streets and Sanitation Department published a progress report on Chicago's Food Scrap Composting Program. Here's how we're doing, by the numbers:

- 4,200 households signed up
- 67 tons of food scraps have been composted, rather than landfilled

The Department calculates this means 43.8 MT CO₂e greenhouse gas emissions have been diverted from leaking methane at landfills. Food scraps collected were considered clean, that is, free of contamination and ready for composting.

Two new locations for Food Scrap Drop Off have been announced, expanding the service to more neighborhoods.

Edgewater 5853 N. Broadway
Garfield, Ridge
5600 S. Central Avenue

For more information, check DSScomposting@cityofchicago.org. While anyone can access the green carts to drop-off food scraps, filling out the application on the web site helps the city evaluate the program's success. The closest drop-off site to GIPNA is 3143 N. Rockwell (just south of Belmont) open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Help Save Our Streets

Jim O'Connor

When I pull out of my alley and turn east on to Byron, by the time I get to the stop sign I feel like I've been driving across the surface of the moon. All over the Independence Park neighborhood it's the same experience—craters, random bumps, crumbling remnants of past patches and repairs.

If you're interested in better streets, call your alderman's office and make your voice heard. Those who live north of Byron are in the 45th Ward, and your alderman is Jim Gardiner. You can contact his office at 773-853-0799 or at ward45@cityofchicago.org. If you live south of Byron, you're in the 30th Ward with alderwoman Ruth Cruz. Contact Cruz's office at 773-628-7874 or at ward30@cityofchicago.org. The aldermanic offices coordinate with the city Streets and Sanitation department and are aware of any planned gas or sewer work that can affect street repair schedules.



Goodbye Sisters, Hello Maddie and Rob

Ellen Ryan

For many years, long-time neighbors knew the house just west of Disney II as “the nuns’ house.” From 1958 until 1988, D2 was Alvernia, a girls’ Catholic high school. The Franciscan sisters who taught there lived in this house known for its beautiful curved wrap-around porch. After the school closed, the sisters remained there until Maddie Nickels and Rob Paddington purchased it in October 2023.

Maddie hails from River Forest and Rob from Baton Rouge. Maddie moved down to New Orleans to attend college at Tulane. In 2011, she met Rob while visiting a friend in Baton Rouge. They enjoyed each other’s company and that was that. Maddie moved back north in 2016, but then after seeing on Facebook that Rob had just moved up to Chicago, she messaged him about showing him around the city. There was no romantic interest on either side at first, but by the end of the night, Rob was figuring out if, and how, he could kiss her. They were both hooked and became engaged in 2019. They tied the knot two years later.

Happily living in their condo in Humboldt Park and TOTALLY NOT looking to buy a house, Maddie nonetheless enjoyed looking at RedFin listings. She saw a charming home in Indy. Rob said NO WAY - maybe in 18 months. They both wanted a home with character, so she begged and he finally agreed to just take a look at it. They were out late the night before the showing and didn’t feel like going to the appointment, but Maddie dragged Rob there to take a look. The night



after the showing, neither of them slept well. The next day, Maddie texted Rob at work and they went back and forth talking about the beautiful craftsmanship, the wood detail and the overall great character of the house. They called the realtor for a second look and, long story short, they went ahead and purchased it.

Passions? They both love traveling with each other and with their parents. They have a goal to retire early, so they can indulge their passion. Maddie loves “Vacation Robby” a nod to the adventurous, carefree fun they have traveling together. They adore their ten-year-old dog, Desmond. Maddie is hooked on gardening and can’t wait to get her hands in the soil. To the chagrin of their budget, they are always keen to check out some of Chicago’s cool restaurants. They are passionate about their delicious cocktails and seeing Maddie’s parents up in Michigan and Rob’s parents in Georgia.

But right now, their main passion is home improvement. There are lots of things in the house they want to work on. A frozen pipe on the first floor led them to redo the bathroom, which got them into the home improvement mindset. The first-floor plaster that was covered in wood paneling was all cracked, so now Maddie is busy ripping up that plaster and putting up drywall. Not surprisingly, they are currently living on the second floor. The improvements will come, surely but slowly. They love the hood and can’t see themselves

ever leaving it. So, if you see them outside next time you are walking by the “nuns’ house”, give them a hello.

SCHOOLS

Murphy Walkathon - “Walking as One”

Gretchen Siffring

On Friday, May 10, the students, staff, and volunteers from Murphy Elementary School will be walking through the neighborhood in celebration of our amazing community. The theme for this year’s walkathon is ‘Walking as One’ in recognition of how our school and neighborhood community come together to support one another!

The students will be raising funds and will be eligible for prizes for class participation and funds raised, so please consider supporting your neighborhood students through monetary donations or by cheering them along on Friday, May 10 between 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The 2 mile walk will begin and end at Murphy Elementary school and will include both of our neighborhood parks, Independence Park and Athletic Field Park. Student athletes and musicians will be sharing their talents, as well.

To learn more about how you can be a part of this event, please reach out to friendsofmurphyschool@gmail.com or check out our website (friendsofmurphy.org).

Come together for a great cause!
SUPPORT THE MURPHY WALKATHON

WALKING AS ONE
 ★ ★ ★ ★

FRIDAY MAY 10th

DONATE and CHEER US ON!
 ALL MONEY RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO SCHOOL ENHANCEMENTS
 Donations can be left in school office in via cash, check (to Friends of Murphy) or online at friendsofmurphy.org
 (Please note child's name & room number)

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.

Meals to Go and More

Dennis Puhr

If you want to help asylum seekers and get a delicious meal in the process, Dennis Puhr and Bernardo Bello have you covered. This past December, Dennis and Bernardo began Meals to Go and More. They were inspired by the Murphy Elementary moms volunteering and organizing meals, clothing, toiletries, etc. for the newcomer asylum-seeking families attending Murphy. Dennis and Bernardo wanted to help. They wanted to get money to the families to help with legal fees to apply for asylum and secure housing as they transition out of the shelters and into apartments. They began talking with families and discovered some had worked in restaurants, construction, auto shops, and much more. They created a Facebook group (tinyurl.com/t37twvnt) to connect our newcomers with others in our community.

Since December, our newcomers have prepared meals, washed windows, fixed cars and changed oil, cleaned yards, and prepped gardens. Bernardo has also taught several newcomer moms how to create cool balloon creations for birthdays and special celebrations. Several neighbors can attest to their work in our community. Dickie Nichols recently had a spring cleanup and was pleased with the outcome. "They cleaned all the garden beds and basically did the work that I didn't want to do. They were very thorough and now I look forward to my spring blooms." Kate Salkowski was equally impressed with having her windows done. "I was so happy to get our windows cleaned. After a long winter, my windows needed



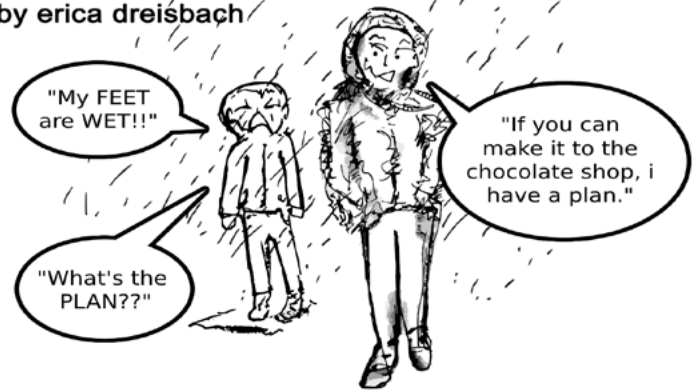
extra care and they did a great job." Kate also was wowed by the tres leches cake. Sue Ryan hasn't had to cook meals on Sundays since she started ordering delicious Venezuelan dishes.

Bernardo and Dennis also volunteer for Murphy Mutual Aid Group, which raises money to support various Murphy families by providing furniture and giving small micro grants. If you'd like learn more about Meals to Go and More and Murphy Mutual Aid, email Dennis Puhr at dennispuhr@gmail.com. Support our Murphy newcomers by ordering a tres leches cake, having your yard cleaned or windows washed, having someone come cook for you or clean your home, or maybe having your car checked out!



Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



"I'm going to give you my dry socks and ask for plastic bags to put over them. And then I'll wear my boots without any socks."



NEIGHBORHOOD

Stolen Summer

Maureen Chap Herron

Yes! There is a movie called *Stolen Summer!* It was made in 2002. It was a part of "Project Greenlight" for HBO.

The exciting thing about it is it was filmed right here in Independence Park, on Dakin Street. Our neighbors who still live here can bear witness to the fact. The camera crew and movie stars filled our street. One neighbor had them use their backyard as a backstage area.

The movie starred Bonnie Hunt as the mother, Aidan Quinn as the father, Kevin Pollak as the rabbi and Brian Dennehy as the priest, just to name a few celebrities. Aidan Quinn portrays the father, a Chicago fireman with a family of

eight children.

Since we live in such a wonderful diverse neighborhood, I believe it is a great movie to share with our families. You will be able to see familiar homes and Independence Park. It's kind of thrilling to see our neighborhood be the backdrop in this movie.

If you go online you can read an excellent review by the late Roger Ebert. He was the *Chicago Sun-Times* film critic from 1967 till his passing in 2013. Ebert won the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism in 1975.

The storyline is touching. It's about two young boys learning about what it might take to get to Heaven.

I hope you find some time this summer to gather your family together to watch this touching story, *Stolen Summer*.

... On the Dog Side

From the haiku journals of Andy Jack



AJ's Classic
Safety Tips...

Wear bright stripes at night
To keep you safe in low light
Let's all safely bike



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Recommended by Dickie Nichols and Pat Clark



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