

# INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE



### CHECK IT OUT

## New Independence Branch Library Opens

After years of active neighborhood lobbying, the new Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library system opened to the public on January 22. Four floors of senior housing remain under construction at the facility, located at 4022 N. Elston Avenue.

Architect John Ronan was in attendance, as were many neighborhood

residents, including members of the GIPNA board, members of Old Irving Park Association and West Walker Civic Group, and members of many other community groups from the Northwest Side.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel addressed the crowd and officially opened the two-story mixed-use facility. 45th Ward Alderman John Arena, who was instrumental in getting funding from both the Chicago Public Library and Chicago Housing Authority, and 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino also spoke.

The \$23.6 million dollar project was funded through a partnership of the CHA and CPL system. It will feature 44 units of housing for seniors.

The library represents the combined efforts of members of GIPNA, OIPA, West Walker, and many other civic groups; aldermen Arena, Laurino, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th), and Deb Mell (33rd); and State Representative Jaime Andrade. A special nod of recognition goes to Roberta Bole, who has worked tirelessly in support of the library for many, many years.

### SAVE THE DATE

## GIPNA Annual Meeting Set for April 7

GIPNA will hold its annual meeting at the Independence Park Field House on Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of officer and Board of Director candidates. GIPNA invites neighborhood residents and all of our elected officials to this meeting.

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



## GIPNA Board Meeting, March 6, Independence Park Bungalow, 7 p.m.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## MARCH

**TUES., MAR. 6—GIPNA Board Meeting**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

**MON., MARCH 11—Athletic Field Advisory Council Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park; [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://facebook.com/athleticfield).

**WED., MAR. 13—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting**, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**WED., MAR. 20—Senior Meeting**, 11 a.m., Fairmont Care Center, 5061 N. Pulaski.

**WED., MAR. 20—Independence Park Advisory Council**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

## APRIL

**TUES., APRIL 2—GIPNA Board Meeting**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

**MON., APRIL 8—Athletic Field Advisory Council Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park; [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://facebook.com/athleticfield).

**WED., APRIL 10—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting**, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**WED., APRIL 17—Senior Meeting**, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

**WED., APRIL 17—Independence Park Advisory Council**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

**TUES., APRIL 23—Earth Day Pickin' Up the Parkways**, 4:00 p.m. (event is tentative). Meet at corner of Drake and Waveland; [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://facebook.com/athleticfield).

## MAY

**SAT., MAY 4—Party for the Park**, 5 to 9 p.m., Heineken Pub97; [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

**TUES., MAY 7—GIPNA Board Meeting**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

**WED., MAY 8—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting**, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**MON., MAY 13—Athletic Field Advisory Council Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park; [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://facebook.com/athleticfield).

**WED., MAY 15—Senior Meeting**, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

**WED., MAY 15—Independence Park Advisory Council**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse, [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

## JUNE

**TUES., JUNE 4—GIPNA Board Meeting**, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

**MON., JUNE 10—Athletic Field Advisory Council Meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park; [facebook.com/athleticfield](https://facebook.com/athleticfield).

**WED., JUNE 12—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting**, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**WED., JUNE 19—Senior Meeting**, 11 a.m., 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

**WED., JUNE 19—Pickin' Up the Parkways**, 6 to 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park; [facebook.com/ipacchicago](https://facebook.com/ipacchicago).

## JULY

**TUES., JULY 2—The regular GIPNA Board Meeting WILL NOT BE HELD in July.**

## ZONING

### Zoning Variance Request Ends with Split Decision

In January the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals ruled on a proposed zoning variance for the property at 3721 N. Parkview.

The owners of 3721 N. Parkview Terrace requested a zoning variance in order to build a 7-foot to 9-foot fence with 2-foot by 2-foot masonry piers at the borders of their property. They also requested a variance to build a stairway on the southern edge. The ZBA allowed the stairway. The fence failed to receive three affirmative votes.



SAVE THE DATE

### Gourmet Pancake Breakfast on June 16

It's Dine with Dad time again! The annual Gourmet Pancake Breakfast will return on Father's Day, June 16. Enjoy great food and great friends, and lend your support to one of GIPNA's many community-building efforts. Pancakes will be served at the Independence Park Bungalow, at the corner of Byron Street and Hamlin Avenue.

This year's breakfast theme and menu will be posted on the GIPNA Facebook page and website prior to the event. Tickets will be available on the website and at the door on the day of the event.

## INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE

The Independence Park Community Voice is published by the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA), a 501(C)3 corporation.

This newsletter is for the Independence Park community. Please consider renewing your membership or joining GIPNA now. We need your support. Thank you.

Editorial: Jim O'Connor, Greg Shea  
Photography: April Bayna, Robin Hochstatter,  
Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

For submissions for the May/June 2019 issue:

Editorial Deadline:

April 15, 2018

Advertising Deadline:

April 15, 2018

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

E-MAIL: GIPNAEMAIL@GMAIL.COM

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

WEBSITE: WWW.GIPNA.ORG

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

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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3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan  
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3600 Grace - Allison Benjamin  
3700, 3800 Hamlin - Sharon Nichols  
3900 Hamlin - Linda Lehman  
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3800 Irving Park Road - Linda Lehman  
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3900 Lawndale - Cy Clausen  
3600, 3700 Monticello - Pat Clark  
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3900 Monticello - Cindy Schuch  
3700 Ridgeway - Garri Reardon  
3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta  
3900 Ridgeway - John & Sang Kuczura  
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seabloom

### COMMUNICATION

## E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

All GIPNA members who have access to email should be receiving e-blasts each Thursday. The emails are compiled by GIPNA and feature such news as announcements of events in the community, crime reports, and notices of meetings.

If you're a member in good standing and are not receiving the blasts, send an email to us at gipnemail@gmail.com. We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

### GIFTS & GOODIES

## Fine Craft Fair at Independence Park on April 27

Looking for the perfect present? Get a jump on Mother's Day and support local artisans by shopping at GIPNA's 12th annual Fine Craft Fair. It will be held in the Independence Park field house gymnasium from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. The Fine Craft Fair features the creations of more than 30 area creatives. You'll find original handmade items such as jewelry, textiles, glass, ceramics, and wood pieces.

The Fine Craft Fair is a great showcase for new talent. If you're

a new maker—or new to the neighborhood—please submit an application! The entry fee is \$35 per table (up to 30x72 inches in size); additional space is available for an extra \$10 fee.

Artists should submit their applications (printed on the back cover) with payments no later than March 21, 2019. Please make checks payable to GIPNA, PO Box 18184, Chicago, IL 60618. If you have any questions, please email Terry Ann Cunningham at terryanncunningham@gmail.com. Artist notifications will be emailed to applicants by April 1, 2019.

We'll post information on participating artists and photos of their work on the GIPNA Facebook page throughout April, so keep an eye out!

### BEAUTIFICATION

## It's Time for Our Annual Alley Cleanup

Whether we have a tough winter with heavy snows or a more temperate one—or one like this year, with dramatic swings between the two—one thing remains the same: debris and garbage always accumulate over time. That means spring cleaning.

For more than a decade, we've celebrated Earth Day in Independence Park by gathering neighbors for our annual GIPNA Alley Cleanup. This year's cleanup will be on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. until noon. That's a little later than usual, but better late than never.

Cleaners should report to the GIPNA table located at the corner

of Byron and Lawndale. We'll have shovels, rakes, and brooms for your use, along with garbage bags, courtesy of the 45th Ward. Enjoy a free cup of coffee, then grab your tools and begin the cleanup.

We ask each neighbor to at least clean behind their own house; if the task is handled by a single family, it goes by quickly, and the whole neighborhood benefits. When everyone chips in, the residents of each block can work together to clean up their alley in just a couple of hours.

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

Are you a  
GIPNA member?  
Join today!



Use PayPal at [www.gipna.org](http://www.gipna.org)  
or mail in the form below with a check.  
For information, send an e-mail to: [membership@gipna.org](mailto:membership@gipna.org)

PLEASE PRINT: DATE .....

NAME #1 .....

NAME #2 .....

ADDRESS .....

Check here if  new member,  new to the neighborhood.

PHONE #1 .....

PHONE #2 .....

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**GIPNA**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

(Must be 18 yrs old) Fill in this form, and send with check, payable to GIPNA, to: GIPNA, P. O. Box 18184 Chicago, IL 60618

Check amount enclosed:

Single \$10  Family \$20

Business \$15

Lifetime \$100 per person

Check here if a new member

Annual Dues enclosed: \$ .....

Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA: \$ .....

Total of enclosed checks: \$ .....

Check if you would like to volunteer for events. (GIPNA is an all-volunteer association.)

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

**Food Pantry Seeking Volunteers**

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is looking to add volunteers for its Monday and Wednesday schedules for different activities. Three types of volunteers are needed:

- Delivery crew on Mondays about 9 a.m. to noon (although it's often shorter in that window).
- Set-up crew on Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. to set up tables and food at each station.
- Distribution crew on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon to distribute food to clients.

For more information, contact Volunteer Manager Leslie Frazier at [volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org).

The Pantry has another opportunity for volunteers. Renee Linne-meyer and Sara Yoest prepared baskets for the Pantry's Easter program in 2018. Now the Pantry is looking for a coordinator for the program.

The Pantry seeks a coordinator who can work with the local organizations that prepare Easter baskets for the annual special distribution and recruit one or two local volunteers to distribute them each week (this year in April). The person does not have to physically be available to come to Pantry; the task is to manage basket delivery, buy supplies, and coordinate volunteers for the distributions. For more information or to volunteer, email [craigshutt@gmail.com](mailto:craigshutt@gmail.com)

VOLUNTEERING

**Community Service Hours in Independence Park**

Students in Chicago Public Schools need to complete certified community service hours, and there's no better place to do that than right in your own community.

GIPNA activities provide many great opportunities for students to get community service credits without leaving the neighborhood. Beyond qualifying for service hours, you'll also be helping your community and making it a nicer place—and you may actually enjoy it, too.

Projects and events happen year-round, and we always need help with setup, cleanup, and other tasks. The Independence Park Advisory Council and Athletic Field Advisory Council would be glad for volunteers, too. Here are just some of the projects that could generate community service credits:

**GIPNA**

- Fine Craft Fair: April 27
- Alley Cleanup: May 4
- Pancake Breakfast: June 16
- Farmers Market at Independence Park: June through October

**Independence Park and Athletic Field advisory councils**

- Movies and concerts in the park during the summer
- Fundraisers
- 4th of July (IPAC)
- Fall Fest (Athletic Field)

Notification of when the movies, concerts, and fundraisers are scheduled will be sent through the GIPNA email blast and on the IPAC website ([ipac-chicago.org](http://ipac-chicago.org)) and AFAC website (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/athleticfield/>).





ASK AN EXPERT

## Insider Tips on the Independence Park Neighborhood

What is the best neighborhood place to buy a bottle of wine or beer? We asked Chris Mastroanni about his go-to spots in the neighborhood. The owner of Master Johnny, Inc. gave us a few of his top spots.

"We are a bit snobby about our choices of alcohol," said IP's resident handyman. "After all, life is short."

Mastroanni visits Golden Leaf Liquors at 3652 W. Irving Park Road and the Irving Park Liquor Store across the street at 3976 N. Elston Ave. at Monticello for wine, beer and bourbon. Both are regular stops for Chris and his wife, Amy. He prefers Golden Leaf for wine, but Irving Park Liquor for its extensive beer selection.

What type of wine does he buy? "We prefer a moderately priced Cabernet Sauvignon or Pinot Noir such as Josh, Chateau Ste Michelle, Bogle or the Michael David Freakshow Cabernet." He recommends both stores for their selection and their friendly staff.

Mastroanni is available for your next home project. He might even have an idea or two about a wine cabinet. He can be reached at 773-633-4803.

SWEET CELEBRATION

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 5

For the 30th year, Irving Park Lutheran Church will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Bake Sale. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 5, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the church gymnasium, located at 4057 N. Harding.

The all-you-can-eat menu will consist of Swedish and regular pancakes served with lingonberries, fresh apple topping or syrup, sausages, and beverages. Delicious homemade confections will be available for an additional charge at the Bake Sale table. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children twelve years and under. They can be purchased at the door.

Like Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") in New Orleans, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day is a final celebration before the church season of Lent. According to the IPLC, "Pancakes on Fat Tuesday are a traditional way of using up the once forbidden foods of Lent—eggs, milk, and butter—before fasting begins the next day on Ash Wednesday."

For more information on the Pancake Supper, call the church office at 773-267-1666 or visit Facebook-Irving Park Lutheran Church or [www.iplc.org](http://www.iplc.org)

TALENTED NEIGHBORS

## Making Music in the Harris Household

Josie Harris, of Burley Elementary, and Liv Harris, of Jones College Preparatory, take special care of their vocal cords. And when I, Colleen—eldest sister, also a student of Jones College Prep, and the flute player of our house—say "take care," I only mean they perhaps don't yell as much as they did before.

Did they expect, after fourth grade choir, to still be singing? Who knows, but their enjoyment and talent still lasts to this day.

All right, I lied. Only Josie started with choir at Burley Elementary. Liv was in band, like me, playing clarinet. Unfortunately, while flute was my first choice, and thus I am still playing it to this day, clarinet was her third choice and she found no particular passion. Then choir beckoned, beyond the time of required music classes, in eighth grade. Liv began to get private lessons and now is in the Tuition Free Conservatory (TFC) at Merit School of Music.

Josie's path was more straightforward, like mine. Music class was an option at school a year earlier for her than for me, and despite my pleas, she joined choir instead of band in third grade. And she stuck with it, getting private lessons at Merit and also getting into TFC at the same time that I did, two years ago.

But don't worry. School and Merit aren't the only two places we enjoy music. At home, too,

we have the privilege of listening to our other sister play and sing on the ukulele, and our dad sometimes plays the guitar, and everyone sings sometimes, of course. We've lived in Independence Park since the end of 2007, when I was in kindergarten—now I'm a junior in high school—and with my youngest sister and little brother born while we lived here, we've had plenty of time to expose ourselves to the musical delights of the neighborhood. Whenever a group plays at the Farmer's Market or other neighborhood locales, we enjoy ourselves. Even the occasional squeaky gate we happen to hear when walking around offers joy.

But what of practice? Hopefully, you don't hear us. Though we practice separately, we all practice downstairs, and the high (sometimes screeching, I must admit) notes of the flute and female voices can often be heard throughout the house. Be assured, though, dear readers, when we have our performances, we don't sound half bad.

We can't wait to listen to more great performances around the neighborhood, whenever the weather allows.

—Colleen Harris

|||GIPNA|||

Join today!

Use PayPal at [www.gipna.org](http://www.gipna.org)  
or mail in a check.

For information, send an e-mail to:  
[gipnamail@gmail.com](mailto:gipnamail@gmail.com)



DELICIOUS DUTY

## Old Irving Park Beer & BBQ Challenge Tickets on Sale

Tickets have gone on sale for this year's Old Irving Park Beer & BBQ Challenge. The Challenge will take place on Saturday, August 3, at the St. Viator campus, located at 4140 W. Addison Street. This year's event will feature 20 teams of BBQ pitmasters and local brewers producing 20 tasty BBQ dishes and 40 craft beer tastings!

The concept is simple. The talented brewers and pitmasters from the local area attempt to deliver the ultimate Beer & BBQ pairing. You sample BBQ, taste some craft beer, and you vote on the best pairing of the two.

In 2018, our own "Independence Pork" BBQ team paired up with DryHop Brewers and were named by both the Judge's and the People's choice as offering the

best pairings. Independence Pork served a pulled pork flatbread with elote salad and lime crema, which was paired with DryHop's "Wolves Loose in Koln," a lime sea salt Kolsch.

Two types of tickets are available. A standard ticket grants admission from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The VIP option gets you in an hour earlier, from noon to 5 p.m. All attendees will receive a commemorative tasting glass.

100% of the proceeds go back to the St. Viator Parish to help improve facilities, programs, and the surrounding community in Old Irving Park. To date, past events have raised more than \$180,000 for St. Viator.

Independence Pork is determined to defend last year's first-place performance with another award-winning pairing. If you want to know what that will be, buy a ticket and find out! For more information or to buy tickets, go to [www.beerbbqchallenge.com](http://www.beerbbqchallenge.com).

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- Speakers include:
- Dawson Relocation
  - Everything But The House
  - Stephanie Cutter
  - Local Residents who have recently downsized



March 23rd, 2019  
1:00-3:00pm  
St. Viator Elementary  
Recreation Center  
Lounge (2nd Floor)  
3844 N Kedvale Ave

Go to [stephaniecutter.com/downsizing](http://stephaniecutter.com/downsizing) for more information and to register for this FREE event!



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## Admissions Events

### PreK 3 year old program:

3 or 5 days, full or half day

### PreK 4 year old program:

5 days, full or half day

### Full day Kindergarten thru 8th grade

Rigorous Academic Program

World Language Program

Full time Reading Specialist

Award Winning Fine Arts Program

Peacebuilders Program

Support staff for students

Extracurricular athletics PK3 thru 8th

Enrichment Clubs and Summer Camp

Caring Before and After Childcare

### Weekday Open Houses

9:00 to 10:30 am *While classes are in session*

Wednesday March 13 • May 15

### Sunday, April 7th

Art Zone Exhibit & Academic Fair  
11:30am to 2:00pm

Come see our students share as the school halls are transformed into an art gallery displaying the work they created in this special program. Visit our classrooms where student's academic work is proudly on display.

*Personal tours available upon request*

2019-2020

Application for Admissions

forms are available online and in the school office

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



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School



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## Breakfast & Lunch

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- Application is due no later than March 30, 2016. Please also enclose a check for the \$35 entry fee. The fee includes one 30" x 72" table and two chairs. If you need an additional table and/or 6 feet of additional space, add \$10 to the entry fee (total of \$45).
- Mail this form with check payable to GIPNA to GIPNA, Box 18184, Chicago IL, 60618.
- If you have questions, please email us at [gipnamail@gmail.com](mailto:gipnamail@gmail.com) or call Pat Clark at 312-263-3754. Please make a copy for your own records.

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Please indicate which you need:     Extra Table     Extra Space     I will need electricity.

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**IMPORTANT:** No traditional painting, sculpture, photography, artificial flower arrangements, or licensed characters allowed.

You can incorporate your original photography into your craft item. Live flowers only at your table, if applicable.