

# INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE



LOOKING BACK...AND AHEAD

## The Year in Review

In 2018 the GIPNA board and its much-appreciated volunteers got together to...organize a **Neighbors Night Out** to break the winter blues...do some spring cleaning in the annual **Alley Cleanup**, held in conjunction with Earth Day...host the another **Fine Craft Fair** at the Independence Park Field House, giving everyone the chance to give Mom a beautiful creation by one of the many artists in our community... giving Dad his due on **Father's Day at the Gourmet Pancake Breakfast**, when friends and neighbors gathered at the Independence Park Bungalow to enjoy food, coffee, and conversation... support **beautification efforts** in the community by funding maintenance on the Monticello and Ridgeway gardens and the IDOT-owned lot on Hamlin... host a **Meet & Greet** to introduce new

17th District commander Sue Moss to the community...continue to produce *The Voice*, our legendary newsletter... organize and oversee the **Farmers Market**, where on two Sundays a month through the summer neighbors mingled, munched, enjoyed live bluegrass music, and stocked up on delicious fresh produce, meats, baked goods, and more...and held another **Wine and Cheese Party**, which allows us to donate to our local schools and keep important programs alive.

These events and activities help make Independence Park a tight-knit community and a great place to live. They require work, though, and we'd like your support. Each one requires planning, phone calls, organization, legwork, and many helping hands. Please consider all these events and amenities you enjoy, and contact us at [volunteers@gipna.org](mailto:volunteers@gipna.org) to let us know how you can help.



**GIPNA Board Meeting, November 7, Independence Park Bungalow, 7 p.m.**

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Thanksgiving!



### NOVEMBER

**WED., NOV. 7**—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Bungalow.

**SAT., NOV. 10** 6th Annual Wine & Cheese Party, 4 to 7 p.m., Independence Tap.

**MON., NOV. 12** Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, facebook.com/athleticfield.

**WED., NOV. 14** CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

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

**WED., NOV. 21** Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse; facebook.com/ipacchicago.

### DECEMBER

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

**MON., DEC. 10**—Athletic Field Advisory Council, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park, facebook.com/athleticfield.

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

**TUES., DEC. 18**—Senior Meeting, 11 a.m. to noon, 17th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski.

**WED., DEC. 19**—Independence Park Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse; facebook.com/ipacchicago.

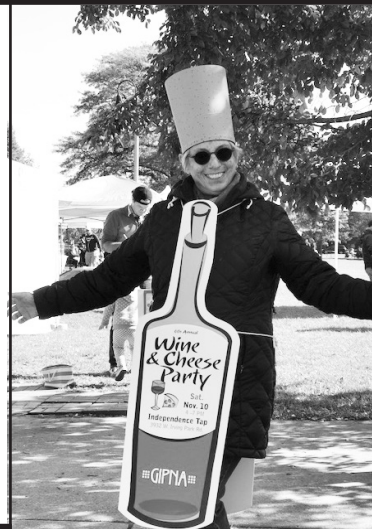
### JANUARY

#### FUN FOR FUNDS

## Wine and Cheese Party at Independence Tap

It's that time again! On November 10, GIPNA is holding its annual Wine and Cheese Party at the Independence Tap. The Wine and Cheese Party, a neighborhood favorite, is a fundraiser to benefit John B. Murphy School and the Independence Park Farmers Market.

Join in the fun, enjoy excellent wines and cheese, visit with friends and neighbors—and most importantly, support Murphy School and the many Independence Park kids who attend. Beyond the food and fellowship, there will be raffles, a



Silent Auction, and the ever-popular Neighbors Wine Basket!

Proceeds from the Wine and Cheese Party have enabled GIPNA to donate tens of thousands of dollars to Murphy School, supporting the arts and music programs through some significant budget cuts. The event also supports the Independence Park Farmers Market, which costs GIPNA more than \$3,000 each summer.

The party will be held on Saturday, November 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Independence Tap, 3932 W. Irving Park Road. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door—a price that brings you unlimited wine, appetizers, and fun. You can purchase tickets online at [www.gipna.org](http://www.gipna.org).

**Stephanie Cutter**  
Local Real Estate

#### CHARITABLE EFFORTS

## Josi's, Cutter Group Aid IPCFP

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry thanks Stephanie Cutter of Coldwell Banker and Barbara Murphy, owner of Josi's Frozen Yogurt Café at Six Corners for their recent event to raise money for the Pantry. On behalf of the Pantry, Stephanie hosted Free Fro-Yo day at Josi's in July, with Barbara donating 20% of pre-tax sales and Stephanie matching that donation. Customers who attended also donated on their own, and Stephanie, through her Stephanie Cutter Group: Chicago Real Estate organization, made an additional donation based on a percentage of every home sale made by her group.

The result was a combined donation from Josi's, Stephanie, her group, and neighbors of nearly \$975. The Pantry thanks everyone for their support.



## INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE

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

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

Editorial: Jim O'Connor and others  
Photography: April Bayne, Robin Hochstatter, and Wes Matucha  
Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

**For submissions for the January/February 2019 issue:**

Editorial Deadline:  
December 15, 2018

Advertising Deadline:  
December 10, 2018

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

**E-MAIL:** GIPNMAIL@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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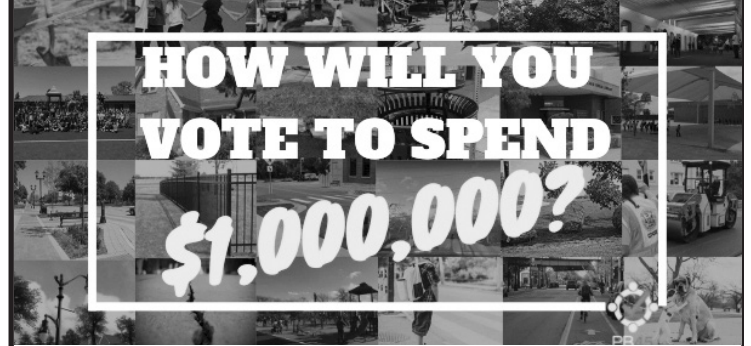
3800 Avers - Candace Wayne & John Jemilo  
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3700 Byron - Larry Gates  
3800 Byron - Suzanne Edwards  
3900 Byron - Roseann Seablom  
3600 Central Park - Sharon Gilbert  
3700 Central Park - Bob Brutvan  
3800, 3900 Central Park - Vania Bandelli  
3900 Dakin - Joel Contreras  
3600 Grace - Alison Benjamin  
3700, 3800 Hamlin - Sharon Nichols  
3900 Hamlin - Linda Lehman  
3700 Irving Park Road - John Kuczura  
3800 Irving Park Road - Linda Lehman  
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3800 Lawndale - Pat Matthews  
3900 Lawndale - Cy Clausen  
3600, 3700 Monticello - Pat Clark  
3800 Monticello - Barbara Shaw  
3900 Monticello - Cindy Schuch  
3700 Ridgeway - Gerri Reardon  
3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta  
3900 Ridgeway - John & Sang Kuczura  
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seablom

### COMMUNICATION

## E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

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

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



### COMMUNITY ISSUES

## Participatory Budget Results Are In

45th Ward Alderman John Arena announced the results in the 2018 Participatory Budget voting. Each year Alderman Arena sets aside a portion of the menu money provided by the city to be used for projects picked by his constituents.

This year 45th Ward residents voted on ways to spend \$1 million in menu funds. The voting total was 761, the highest total ever in the ward. The results are as follows:

- 49% of the funding voted to be allocated toward street resurfacing (\$490,000).
- 535 votes to repair sidewalks throughout the ward (\$150,000).
- 368 votes for community garden start-up costs (\$15,000 per garden).
- 313 votes for colored LED lights under the viaduct (\$240,000).
- 290 votes for a dog park at Austin-Foster Park (\$100,000).

Among the runners-up were proposals for decorative trash cans, fencing and lighting near the Gladstone Park Metra stop, a wrought iron fence at Wilson Park, and updated lighting on Milwaukee Avenue and near Independence Park.



## Safety Study of Addison-Kennedy On-ramp

*Should I stay or should I go?* Blue Line commuters in Independence Park know the uncertainty that accompanies crossing the Kennedy on-ramp to Central Park at the Addison L stop. You may have the light, but drivers itchy to hit the road are prone to make the turn anyway.

GIPNA board member Jodie Barger, a professional researcher, studied traffic data on the intersection and on the efficacy of possible solutions. She found that in the past three years there have been 65 collisions on Addison and two on the west-bound on-ramp. Most incidents occurred because drivers were following too closely, failed to yield right-of-way, or disregarded the signal—but only two accidents were due to erratic or aggressive driving. These causes point to the unsafe design of the intersection due to its complexity and its extremely high pedestrian and traffic volume. Pedestrians were involved in 15% of the collisions.

Among the solutions available are:

- Pedestrian-lead lights, which give crossers time to get out into the street before cars are allowed to proceed.
- No Right Turn on Red (RTOR) signage at westbound Addison and the freeway. Studies show that No RTOR actually reduces wait time for high-volume right-turn intersections and significantly improves safety for drivers and pedestrians.



- A green right-turn arrow to improve traffic flow and improve safety by ensuring that right-turning cars and pedestrians don't share the intersection.

Jodie's research suggests that a legal RTOR decreases through traffic at an intersection, and is a dangerous arrangement for people not in cars. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported in 1981 that RTOR intersections increase accidents by 43% to 107% for pedestrians and 72% to 123% for bicyclists. This research has been replicated several times in the years since.

Other studies show that RTOR intersections also will be a win for drivers. An NTSB study estimates the increase in crashes at 23%. "The best situation is when cars can make a continuous turn," Barger noted. "Therefore, the best design prohibits the right on red and provides a green turn arrow so that right turning drivers have a period of exclusive right of way to the ramp."

Essentially these improvements will be a win for drives and for pedestrians—reducing the backup of drivers waiting to turn right onto the freeway and reducing accidents for everyone.

Owen Brugh, chief of staff to 45th Ward Alderman John Arena,

confirmed CDOT has sent a work order to install pedestrian-lead lights at the crosswalk. Alderman Arena will introduce the No RTOR ordinance at the same meeting. (It will then go to committee.) Brugh also informed GIPNA that the Alderman may be able to use some of the 45th Ward's menu funding for the right-turn arrow.

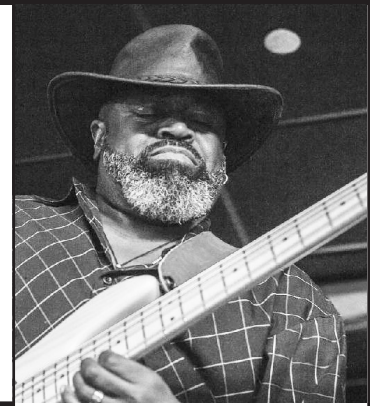
## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

### News from Carlson Community Services

**Carlson Trivia Night Fund-raiser:** Dust off your thinking cap and gather your teammates—it's time for Carlson's Trivia Night! The annual contest to crown Irving Park's biggest brains will be held on Friday, November 2. Proceeds will benefit Carlson's after-school program, community garden and concert series.

Teams of 8 can purchase a table for \$280. Wine, beer, and soda will be sold at the bar, and you can bring your own snacks. Trivia Night takes place at the Irving Park Lutheran Church gym at 4057 N. Harding from 7 to 10 p.m. The event is open to adults 21 and older. For more information or to register your team, e-mail Helen Lira at [helen@chilira.com](mailto:helen@chilira.com) or 773-406-9821.

**Bear Williams Band Holiday Show:** Blues and Americana roots artist Bear Williams will bring his blues band to the Irving Park neighborhood for a special holiday show as part of the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series. The Bear Williams Band will perform on Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding Ave. The concert will feature Bear's original songs along with bluesy



versions of Christmas songs.

Bear, who also has performed as Larry Kimpel, was raised in Chicago and spent 25 years in Los Angeles touring and recording with musicians ranging from Mavis Staples and the Staple Singers to Anita Baker. His early influences include blues legends Howlin' Wolf, Robert Johnson, and R.L. Burnside.

Other concerts in the series include Mary Jo Neher, horn, and Joe Burgio, organ, on February 17 and John Ling and his mariachi orchestra on March 24. All concerts are at 2 p.m. at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The concerts are free of charge, but donations are gladly welcomed. A reception with the artists will be held after each concert, hosted by the IPFAC. Dates and programs are subject to change. For more information, contact Liz Mills at [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

Carlson Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps at-risk kids succeed with The Magic After-School Place (MAP), provides vegetables to people in need and beautifies our neighborhood with Three Brothers Garden and makes fine arts affordable and accessible through the Irving Park Fine Arts Concert Series. For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org).



2018  
INDEPENDENCE PARK  
**FARMERS  
MARKET**

GOODBYE TO SUMMER

## Farmers Market Season Comes to a Close

The final Farmers Market of 2018 was held on the last Sunday of October. Thanks to all of our neighbors and vendors who made another great year possible.

The high point every market is neighbors and friends enjoying themselves, kids making crafts, and the Indy Park Jammers bringing the bluegrass. Attendees once again enjoyed the Children's Craft table, and the Book Swap remains a very popular event at the markets.

A huge thanks goes to managers Greg Shea, Dickie Nichols, and Amber Joiner-Hill, and to the many booth volunteers. They helped with GIPNA memberships, collected foods for the market baskets, sold tickets to special events such as the annual Wine and Cheese Party, offered priceless GIPNA paraphernalia, handled LINK and credit cards purchases, set up canopies and tents, and so much more. Special

thanks goes to Andy Holub and John Kuczura, the mainstays of set-up and teardown for each market.

Thanks, everyone, for another terrific year!

CRIME

## Smart911 Program Promises Greater Efficiency

Today 80% of 911 calls are placed from mobile phones. As a result, 911 centers face a new challenge. Home phone lines deliver a name and address from the police database, but all a mobile phone provides is a number and a very general location.

The City of Chicago is offering a program called Smart911 ([smart911.com](http://smart911.com)). You can register your mobile phone number and create a Safety Profile. The information in your profile comes up on a screen when your 911 call is received. Your profile is available not just in Chicago, but in any participating Smart911 center nationwide.

According to the website, you can provide as much information as you want—not just name and address, but details such as medical information, contact information, vehicle descriptions, and more. The service is guaranteed to be “free, private, and secure.”



TALENTED NEIGHBORS

## Making Music in Independence Park

Hi there! My name is Max Besse- sen and I've been your neighbor for just over a year now. You might have passed by a realtor- style sign sporting my face on Lawndale or heard me squawk- ing the saxophone from the second floor.

I'm a professional jazz musi- cian, and I'm very grateful to be a part of the community here in Independence Park. Getting to know Chicago through GIPNA events, Murphy school, and the Farmers Market has been some of the best parts of moving here. I've also really enjoyed teaching private lessons to a few of my neighbors and getting to know everybody at our awesome block party!

I grew up in Denver, Colorado, but moved away to do a dual BA/ BM at Oberlin College & Conser- vatory studying pre-law and jazz saxophone. After graduating in 2016 I did a one-year fellowship with an organization called the Beebe Fund that took me to India, Thailand, Ghana, and Cuba for music study, teaching, and performance.

Since August 2017, I have



been living and working in this great city. I play at weddings, bar mitzvahs, corporate events, the Chicago Jazz Fest, Andy's Jazz Club, the Green Mill—just about anywhere you hear music, you can find me!

A band I co-lead called “Echoes” released our first EP in August of this year and toured Europe and the U.S. My first album as a bandleader will be released later this winter. Without the vibrant arts community of Chicago at large and the tranquil-but-still-cool environment of Independence Park specifically, none of these projects would have been possible.

I also teach middle school band through Orbert Davis' Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, and I maintain a studio of private piano, drum, flute, saxophone, and clarinet students from my apartment in the neighborhood. I'd love to hear from you if you are interested in music lessons, a performance, or if you just want to stop by and say “hey.” See you around the neighborhood!

## FARMERS MARKET MANAGER WANTED

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** GIPNA needs a manager and assistant manager for next year's Farmers Market. We have a lot of support in place for new leadership, but if we can't find a couple of neighbors to step in, we won't be able to sponsor the market in 2019. If you're interested, or if you'd like to get more information, please contact us at [volunteers@gipna.org](mailto:volunteers@gipna.org).

## Thirteen Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You

The Chicago Police Department wants to remind you that the holiday season is also prime time for burglaries and break-ins. Our local CAPS district distributed the following information, straight from the perpetrator's mouth:

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste. . .and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom—and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door. Understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at [www.faketv.com](http://www.faketv.com))

# ||| GIPNA |||

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# Stephanie Cutter



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3 or 5 days, full or half day
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- Support staff for students
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- Enrichment Clubs and Summer Camp
- Caring Before and After Childcare

**Monday November 12 - Special Shadow Day**  
We invite, and encourage, all 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade prospective transfer students to attend a special Shadow Day Open House. Get to know St. Viator!  
*RSVP required to [mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org](mailto:mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org)*  
Students and families not able to participate in this shadow day, may still get a school tour between 9:00am - 10:30am.



### WINTERFEST! Nov 30, Dec 1 & 2

All are invited to this community event. It will feature an outdoor skating rink, food and drinks, craft show, visits with Santa, tree and wreath sales and much more!

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



## John B. Murphy Elementary School

The Caring Community

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