

# INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE



## COMMUNITY

### 16th Annual Gourmet Pancake Breakfast

*Sue Ryan*

The smell of sausages and pancakes wafting from the Independence Park bungalow on Father's Day meant only one thing: The annual (sans the pandemic years) GIPNA Gourmet Pancake Breakfast

was back. This year's menu did not disappoint: Only the Zest for Dad Pancake, Dad's Favorite Pecan Pie Pancake, Feta Late Than Never Scramble egg dish, The Elmo Cake for the kids, sausages and enough sweet toppings that were sure to keep dental practices thriving. The crowd listened to the Indy Park Jammers who played under clear blue skies.

On hand were our representatives (and a few who want to become our representatives) from

various levels of government who explained who's in and out in the ever shifting boundaries. Thanks to Jaime Andrade, Rob Martwick, Lindsey LaPointe, Delia Ramirez and Anthony Quezada for coming out and explaining why they deserve our votes. .

Thank you to Dollop Coffee, Metropolis Coffee through JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, and Greg Shea for donating drinks and in-kind donations. Big shout out, as always, to Bob Theo from The Alps

for eggs, sausages, pancake batter and the use of ovens and delivery service. Major kudos to GIPNA board members who took the lead in bringing the event together: Bobbie Bolociuch, Kevin Haight, Alison Benjamin, Scott Dewey and Sharon Sears. And thank you to the wonderful volunteers (it takes a small army to pull this off!) and the Independence Park staff, who all contributed to make the pancake breakfast successful and so much fun.



## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Second Annual Community Garage Sale Set for August 13

*Pat Clark*

The second annual community garage sale will be held Saturday, August 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first one was held two years ago in conjunction with the Athletic Field Park Advisory Council and was a smashing success. Details will be put on gipna.org and included in the bi-weekly e-newsletter as they become finalized.



The regular GIPNA board meeting will not be held in July. The August meeting is Tues., Aug. 2, 7 p.m.

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

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## JULY

**SUN., JULY 3**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**MON., JULY 4**—Independence Park Fourth of July Celebration, 10 a.m. to noon. Line up at the corner of Hamlin and Irving Park Road. See facebook/ipacchicago.com or www.independenceparkchicago.com for more information.

**TUES., JULY 5**—The regular GIPNA Board Meeting WILL NOT BE HELD in July.

**TUES., JULY 5**—Pickup for the Park (park cleanup), 6:30-7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

**SUN., JULY 10**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**MON., JULY 11**—Independence Park Cleanup, 6-7 p.m.

**WED., JULY 13**—CirquesExperience, 1:45-3:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park near basketball court.

**WED, JULY 13**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**WED., JULY 13**—IPAC Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

**FRI., JULY 15**—Concert in Independence Park: Ramblin'Rose, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**FRI., JULY 15**—Independence Park Movie, *Wayne's World*, dusk.

**SUN., JULY 17**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**WED., JULY 20**—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6-7 p.m. Meet at the corner of Drake & Waveland.

**THURS., JULY 21**—Moving' to the Music, Featuring DJ Monty, 5-7 p.m., Athletic Field Park Playground.

**SUN., JULY 24**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**FRI., JULY 29**—Athletic Field Park Movie, *Cruella*, dusk, Ball Fields.

**SAT., JULY 30 and SUN., JULY 31**—Independence Park Midsommer Mayhem 10: Mad World, presented by SMC, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, 2:30 p.m.

**SUN., JULY 31**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

## AUGUST

**MON., AUG. 1**—Independence Park Cleanup, 6-7 p.m.

**MON., AUG. 1**—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**TUES., AUG. 2**—Pickup for the Park (park cleanup), 6:30-7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

**TUES., AUG. 2**—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

**SAT., AUG. 6**—Free Pet Health Fair for Cats and Dogs, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 017th District Police Station, 4650 N. Pulaski Rd., south parking lot. Free vaccines and microchips for first 100 animals; nail trimming services, pet-friendly crafts, various pet vendors, pet goodie bags and more. Email: caps.017district@chicago-police.org or call 312-742-4588.

**SAT., AUG. 6 and SUN., AUG. 7**—Independence Park Midsommer Mayhem 10: Mad World, presented by SMC, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, 2:30 p.m.

**SUN., AUG. 7**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**TUES., AUG. 9**—IPAC Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

**WED., AUG. 10**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**SAT., AUG. 13**—Irving Park Neighborhood Garage Sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Check gipna.org for information.

**SUN., AUG. 14**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**WED., AUG. 17**—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6-7 p.m. Meet at the corner of Drake & Waveland.

**THURS., AUG. 18**—Movin' to the Music, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park Playground.

**FRI., AUG. 19**—Independence Park Movie, *A League of Their Own*, dusk.

**SUN., AUG. 21**—Chicago Latin Groove Band, 1-2 p.m., Athletic Field Park, south of the Ceramics Studio.

**SUN., AUG. 21**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**FRI., AUG. 26**—Athletic Field Park Movie, *Sing 2*, dusk, Ball Fields.

**SUN., AUG. 28**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## JULIO

**DOM. 3**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**LUN. 4**—Celebración del 4 de julio en Independence Park, de 10 a.m. al mediodía. Haga fila en la esquina de Hamlin e Irving Park Road. Consulte facebook/ipacchicago.com o www.independenceparkchicago.com para obtener más información.

**MAR. 5**—La reunión ordinaria de la Junta de GIPNA NO SE CELEBRARÁ en julio.

**MAR. 5**—Pickup for the Park (limpieza del parque), 6:30-7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

**DOM. 10**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

**LUN. 11**—Limpieza del Parque Independencia, 6-7 p.m.

**MIÉR. 13**—CirquesExperience, 1:45-3:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park cerca de la cancha de baloncesto.

**MIÉR. 13**—CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**MIÉR. 13**—Reunión de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

**VIER. 15**—Concierto en Independence Park: Ramblin'Rose, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**VIER. 15**—Película Independence Park, *Wayne's World*, anochece.

**DOM. 17**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**MIÉR. 20**—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6-7 p.m. Reúnase en la esquina de Drake & Waveland.

**JUE. 21**—Moviéndose al ritmo de la música, con DJ Monty, de 5 p.m. a 7 p.m., Patio de recreo del Athletic Field Park.

**DOM. 24**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

**VIER. 29**—Película del Parque del Campo Atlético, *Cruella*, atardecer, Campos de Pelota.

**SÁB. 30 Y DOM. 31**—Independence Park Midsommer Mayhem 10: Mad World, presentado por SMC, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, 2:30 p.m.

**DOM. 31**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

## AGOSTO

**LUN. AGO. 1**—Limpieza del Parque Independencia, 6-7 p.m.

**LUN. AGO. 1**—Reunión AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Parque del Campo Atlético.

**MAR. AGO. 2**—Pickup for the Park (limpieza del parque), 6:30-7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

**MAR. AGO. 2**—Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

**SÁB. AGO. 6**—Feria gratuita de salud de mascotas para gatos y perros, de 10 a.m. a 1 p.m., estación de policía del distrito 017, 4650 N. Pulaski Rd., estacionamiento sur. Vacunas y microchips gratuitos para los primeros 100 animales; servicios de corte de uñas, artesanías para mascotas, varios vendedores de mascotas, bolsas de regalos para mascotas y más. Correo electrónico: caps.017district@chicagopolice.org o llame al 312-742-4588.

**SÁB. AGO. 6 Y DOM. AGO. 7**—Independence Park Midsommer Mayhem 10: Mad World, presentado por SMC, Shakespeare's Motley Crew, 2:30 p.m.

**DOM. AGO. 7**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**MAR. AGO. 9**—Reunión de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

**MIÉR. AGO. 10**—CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**SÁB. AGO. 13**—Venta de garaje en el vecindario de Irving Park, de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. Visite gipna.org para obtener información.

**DOM. AGO. 14**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

**MIÉR. AGO. 17**—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6-7 p.m. Reúnase en la esquina de Drake & Waveland.

**JUE. AGO. 18**—Movin' to the Music, 5:30 p.m. a 6:30 p.m., Patio de recreo del parque Athletic Field.

**VIER. AGO. 19**—Película Independence Park, *A League of Their Own*, anochece.

**DOM. AGO. 21**—Chicago Latin Groove Band, 1-2 p.m., Athletic Field Park, al sur de Ceramics Studio.

**DOM. AGO. 21**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**VIER. AGO. 26**—Athletic Field Park Película, *Sing 2*, crepúsculo, Ball Fields.

**DOM. AGO. 28** Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

## INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE

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

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

Editorial: Sue Ryan  
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### For submissions for September/October 2022 Issue:

Editorial Deadline:  
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Advertising Deadline:  
August 10, 2022

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

**E-MAIL:** INFO@GIPNA.ORG

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

**WEBSITE:** WWW.GIPNA.ORG

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

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

## Join GIPNA on Facebook

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

### GIPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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- Tyesin and Zayvour Youngberg  
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  
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 John Urban  
3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta  
3900 Ridgeway - John & Sang Kuczura  
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seablom

### COMMUNICATION

## E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

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

If you're a member in good standing and are not receiving the blasts, send an email to us at [membership@gipna.org](mailto:membership@gipna.org). We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

### RESOURCES

## Important Phone Numbers

*From the Office of State Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas*

### Mental Health

Call4Calm Text Line- Text TALK to 552020 for English  
Text HABLAR to 552020 for Spanish

Envision Unlimited- 773-769-2139

Kedzie Center- 773-754-0577

Rincon Family Services- 773-564-9070

### Housing Assistance

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp.- 773-227-6332

Hispanic Housing Development Corp.- 312-291-5421

Northwest Side Housing Center- 773-283-3888

### Social Services

Albany Park Community Center- 773-509-5657

HANA Center- 773-583-5501

Logan Square Neighborhood Assoc.- 773-384-4370

North River Commission- 773-478-0202

### Health Care

ASI Home Services- 773-278-5130

Community First Medical Center- 773-282-7000

COVID-19 Rapid Testing, North Shore Clinical- 773-570-6510

Erie Helping Hands Health Center- 312-666-3494

Oak Street Health Portage Park- 773-644-5989

### Food Assistance

Chicago Hope, Inc.- 773-499-9763

Open Arms Ministry Food Distribution Center- 773-987-4677

Polish American Assoc. Pantry- 773-282-8206

Irving Park Community Food Pantry- 773-283-6296

### Government Resources

Attorney General's Fraud Hotline- 1-800-386-5438

Find a Child Care Provider- 312-823-1100

IL Application for Benefits Eligibility- 1-800-843-6154

IL Department of Employment Security- 1-800-244-5631

IL Department of Public Health Hotline- 1-800-889-3931

IL Department of Aging Senior Helpline- 1-800-252-8966

### 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](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

# Tree Planting Day: A Great Day in Our Community

*Lorraine Antieau,  
GIPNA Tree Steward*

Neighborhood excitement ran high on Saturday, April 23 — one of the few sunny days for the month — as 40+ volunteers gathered for our Tree Planting Day, sponsored by Openlands and GIPNA! The enthusiasm and hard work of neighbors, tree recipients, Girl Scouts, Murphy School students and parents, and GIPNA board members made the day extra fun, and the expertise and friendliness of the Openlands team added to the spirit of the event. State Senator Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas also stopped by and visited with participants.

A total of 35 trees were planted throughout the neighborhood, including a few on Friday at addresses a little further away. This will be a great boon for our community in years to come as these young trees mature, adding shade and beauty to our streets.

Assigned to different crews, volunteers fanned out into the nearby streets, led by Openlands apprentices. One group stayed at Murphy, which received six trees on its campus. The apprentices provided education about planting and caring for trees, then participants got to help with the planting process. Each tree was planted at a location where residents/owners have agreed to care for the young trees for three

years by watering weekly during the growing season, and mulching twice a year.

A big thank-you to Murphy School and Dr. Zelenka for hospitality in allowing us to use the school as the central gathering location; to Penny Shultz, Murphy Garden Club sponsor, and the Garden Club participants, and to Murphy's PTO for providing coffee and donuts. And, of course, applause and appreciation to every volunteer who contributed to making the day a huge success!

Special appreciation to the Openlands team: Tom Ebeling, Community Arborist, for his support in coordinating our Tree Planters Grant; Al De Reu, neighborhood TreeKeeper extraordinaire, for looking out for the well-being of our trees, and to the whole Openlands team for loving trees and being enthusiastic supporters of getting trees planted in neighborhoods!

If your parkway needs a tree and you missed getting one this time around, please email



[gipnatrees@gipna.org](mailto:gipnatrees@gipna.org) with your name, address, and phone number, and you'll be added to the list of candidates for our next grant application. Likewise, if you have other questions about neighborhood trees, please don't hesitate to email me at that address.

PARKS

## Happy Trails to Maureen Perez, Therapeutic Recreation Director

*Sue Ryan*

Maureen Perez recently retired as the director of the Therapeutic Recreation Program at Independence Park after 35 years of service. Maureen oversaw one of the largest Therapeutic Recreation programs in the Chicago Park District providing services to 65 children and adults with disabilities at any given time. Maureen started as a volunteer during her freshman year of high school and never left. She worked her way up from volunteer, to paid staff and then to director. Although retired from the Park District, Maureen will continue her passion by working for the Special Olympics. Congratulations, Maureen.



NEIGHBORHOOD

## Banner of a Fundraiser

Sue Ryan

Thank you to all the businesses, neighbors and Murphy School for brightening up the neighborhood with new banners. Congrats to the 3700 block of N. Lawndale for banding together for its own banner. Next time you are out and about on Elston Ave. or Irving Park Road, look up at the newly designed bright banners and then patronize the businesses that support GIPNA.

1. Alps Original Pancake House
2. Chicago Bibles and Books
3. Equilibrium U.S.G.

4. Golden Leaf Liquors
5. Guardian Heating and Cooling
6. JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop
7. John Burks Real Estate
8. John B. Murphy Elementary School



9. Neighbors on the 3700 block of N. Lawndale

If you missed the first round, fear not. Spots are still available. Use the QR code to order your own personalized banner or team up with your neighbors and show the 3700 block of N. Lawndale it's not the only cool block in the neighborhood. Remember that money raised supports the maintenance of the community

gardens, the Farmers Market, this newsletter and our local schools.

Use the QR code to order your banner today.



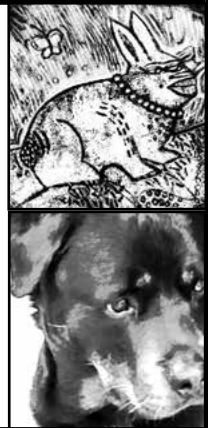
NEIGHBORHOOD

## ... On the Dog Side

Andy Jack

News, views and occasional haiku from and about Independence Park Neighborhood canines and felines.

On the porch this week . . . Andy's haiku for summer:  
 Season of the bun  
 GIPNA rabbits like to run  
 Count the hops for fun



NEIGHBORHOOD

## A Parkway Dollhouse for All to Enjoy

Ellen Ryan

Art abounds in this great city and one needn't head to "hipster" 'hoods or downtown to enjoy it. We have Stola Art Gallery on Irving Park Road and the artist-run Color Club on Elston Avenue. Now, one can add to that the amazing, adorable dollhouse on the parkway of Poppy and Jeff Sealy's home on the 4000 block of N. Monticello Ave., up for about a year now. This is not your average dollhouse. Think of the miniature rooms exhibit at the Art Institute.

Poppy had two inspirations for this dollhouse. Years ago, she saw a plywood castle that had windows which would light up with popular characters if



one put a foot on a pedal. She thought it was the coolest thing. That, coupled with the fact that her grandmother had an exquisite dollhouse of her own, got Poppy's wheels spinning. So, when Ladybug & Friends Daycare and Pre-School opened up just a few houses south of her and Jeff, Poppy thought it would be great to have a dollhouse the kids could look at and enjoy while out on their daily walks. When the pandemic hit, Jeff and Poppy had their quarantine project and got started.

This was and is definitely a team effort. Jeff is a carpenter and he and Poppy went back and forth about its design for about a year. Then they got going with Jeff creating the structure from scratch and Poppy supplying figures for the dollhouse. She frequents thrift and dollar stores. They have some figures from when their son was little and Poppy inherited many "fancy" figures from her grandma. She also loves doing crafts so she makes many of the figures, such as the pool table, and the cat and dog, out of clay and acrylic paint.

The dollhouse has six rooms with different scenes/themes in each of them. Poppy has painted the rooms and she and Jeff put the characters in together. Look closely, along with the figures from different sources, you'll see a cool fireplace, an intricate grandfather clock and stove – compliments of Poppy's grandma.

What's unique about the dollhouse is that Jeff and Poppy change it up about three times a year. They develop themes and choose figures to use all at once. They try not to use characters twice, though there is one constant item ALWAYS in the upper left hand room: a photo of Poppy's grandma. She loved her dollhouse hobby and passed this love on to Poppy.

Check the dollhouse out. You can spend quite a while looking at an outer space room and characters from *The Big Lebowski* and *The Kingpin*, to name two. Poppy said they have received nothing but very positive feedback from everyone and hopes that their unique, ever-changing dollhouse inspires others to create and display art so the community can see and enjoy it. If anyone has any questions about the dollhouse, please feel free to reach out to Poppy at pop-pette1@gmail.com.



NEIGHBORHOOD  
FUN(DRAISER)

## Kickball Tournament Is Back and Your Presence Is Requested

*Sue Ryan*

Are you looking for a healthy way to vent your frustrations? Aren't we all? Sign up for the second annual GIPNA Kickball Tournament on September 17, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Independence Park. You do not have to be a professional kickball player, especially since I don't think there is such a thing. Anyone can kick a big rubber ball and trot around the bases. Come to the park at noon and expect to have fun. The tournament is limited to those 18 and older, so you need not worry about speed. Last year, Team Ridgeway defeated Team Monticello. As this is also a GIPNA fundraiser, we would like to add more teams to this year's tournament. Registration is \$30 per person. To sign up, go to <https://gipna.org/new-products/single-person-registration>.



FUN(DRAISER)

## Add a Little Color to Your Front Lawn!

Our new lawn flags have just arrived! Show your support for your neighborhood and add some cheer to your lawn by displaying our new lawn flag.

The cost for the 12" x 18" flag is only \$20 and includes the flag stand.

You can purchase and pick up your flag at the Independence Park Farmers Market.

You can also order online by using the QR code below or go to: <https://gipna.org/historic-independence-park-lawn-flags>

Flags purchased by each Friday will be delivered to your front lawn the following weekend.



COMMUNITY

## News from Carlson Community Services

*Liz Mills*

### Volunteer at Three Brothers Garden

Regular Tuesday night harvests have started at Three Brothers Garden. Experienced and novice gardeners alike are welcome to join us Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The work is easy, social and fun! Teens looking for service hours are encouraged to volunteer. If you'd like to be notified of garden work days and harvests, email your contact info to [lizmills@carlsoncommunity-services.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunity-services.org) and you'll be added to our email list. All vegetables grown in Three Brothers Garden are donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry. The garden is at 4107 N. Pulaski Road, next to the Irving Park Lutheran Church parking lot.

### Plant a Row for the Hungry with Three Brothers Garden

If your home vegetable garden is producing more than you and your family can enjoy, Three Brothers Garden has a solution. In a program called Plant a Row for the Hungry, you can dedicate a row in your garden to growing crops for the Irving Park Food Pantry. Simply bring your surplus to the garden on Tuesdays before 6 p.m. (Donations can be placed on the table under the pergola.) Veggies will be brought to the Food Pantry Wednesday morning for immediate distribution to Food Pantry clients.

### Magic After-School Place (MAP) Enrolling for 2022-2023!

The Magic After-School Place (MAP) is enrolling students for the 2022-2023 school year. MAP serves children in kindergarten through 8th grade at Belding and Murphy schools. Our focus is on homework completion and engaging activities designed to encourage socialization and fun! With a sliding scale tuition structure based on income, MAP is a valuable partner for working, low-income families who need a safe place for their children to go after school. Irving Park Lutheran Church generously donates program space at their gym at 4057 N. Harding Ave. Registration information is available at [carlsoncommunityservices.org/programs/magic-after-school-place/registration-and-tuition/](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org/programs/magic-after-school-place/registration-and-tuition/). Contact our program director, Rebecca Haneberg, at [mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:mapdirector@carlsoncommunityservices.org) for more information.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org) or contact Liz Mills at 773.398.6766 or [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).



NEIGHBORHOOD

## How Are Ward Menu Monies Used?

*Sue Ryan*

In Chicago, aldermen receive a pot of money to use at their discretion. This is known as Aldermanic Menu Money. The funds between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million annually are generally for ward improvements that are not covered by the city's capital budget. Some wards use participatory budgeting (PB) in which neighbors vote on an array of projects put forth by those in the ward. This was the case for the 45th Ward with our previous alderman (Arena). It was easy to determine how these monies were spent because after the votes were tallied, the winners were announced and funded in the next year's budget.

Some critics of participatory budgeting claimed that it was a

popularity contest rather than based on the needs of the ward. Still PB brought the community in and provided opportunities to think creatively beyond road repairs. Ideas were gleaned from the community and included park improvements, lighting, community gardens and sidewalk repairs. Residents also voted on the percentage of the budget to allocate to street resurfacing.

Our current alderman, Jim Gardiner, does not use PB and allocates nearly all money to road-related projects with the exception for \$220,000 for a spruced-up alley on the 4200 block of Kilpatrick. It is unclear how resurfacing projects are prioritized as the alderman did not respond to our request for details.

Over the past four years (2019 to 2022), Gardiner had a total of \$4,886,715.77 in menu money. The budget proposed by Arena for 2019 was done in an election

year and was not adopted by Gardiner which was his prerogative. The only exceptions were a few items that may have had contracts approved before Gardiner took office. For more information on the issue see the article in Block Club Chicago: <https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/09/24/after-pulling-austin-foster-dog-park-funding-ald-gardiner-defends-decision-to-scrap-arena-era-participatory-budget-plans/>

In the budget years covering 2019 to 2022, few dollars were allocated to streets within the GIPNA boundaries. Of the nearly \$5 million in menu monies, \$75,912 was allocated to resurfacing projects for the 3900 block of N. Lawndale Ave. and the 3900 block of N. Springfield Ave. in 2019. Budgeting is often done a year prior to the budget year and it is unclear whether the resurfacing allocation to our neighborhood was made under Arena's proposed budget that went under

contract before Gardiner was sworn in.

If you want to see a detailed breakdown of how menu monies are allocated, check out the Chicago Office of Management and Budget website: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/obm.html>. In the middle of the page, click on 'Aldermanic Menu Postings.' This is a drop-down menu by year. Note that each annual document covers all wards and is organized by ward number, so you need to scroll to nearly the end (around page 130) to view Ward 45.

The 45th Ward covers hundreds of blocks, many in need of resurfacing. Although a yearly allocation of \$1.5 million per year seems like a lot of money, it certainly is insufficient to meet the demand. Still, it is important to understand how aldermanic discretionary monies are spent given that they come from your tax dollars.

NEIGHBORHOOD

## Which Ward Am I In?

*Sue Ryan*

The City Council's tug-of-war over ward redistricting ended just before the deadline that would have put the options directly to voters. The GIPNA boundaries have been parsed into different wards. Most of us have been shifted to the 30th Ward. However, if you live in the area bordered by Byron and Irving Park Road and the west side of Central Park Ave., and the east side of Pulaski Road, you remain in the 45th Ward. The exceptions are those residing on the south side of Dakin St. and the apartment building on the west side of Springfield Ave. between Byron St. and Dakin St. which are in the 30th Ward. And if you live on the east side

of Central Park Ave. you are in the 35th Ward. In this case, a picture is worth a thousand words, but trying to get a new map that is legible has been problematic. The new boundaries will go into effect May 2023.

The 30th Ward (Reboyras). Ward Office: 3559 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60641. Email: [ward30@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward30@cityofchicago.org) [ward30@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward30@cityofchicago.org). Phone: (773) 794-3095.

The 45th Ward is represented by Alderman James M. Gardiner. Ward Office: 5425 W. Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60630. Email: [ward45@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward45@cityofchicago.org). Phone: (773) 853-0799.

The 35th Ward (Rosa). Ward Office: 2934 N. Milwaukee Ave. Unit C. Chicago, IL 60618. Email: [ward35@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward35@cityofchicago.org). Phone: (773) 887-3772.

Year	Total \$\$ Allocated to Ward 45	Total \$\$ Allocated Within GIPNA Boundaries
2019	\$1,320,000	\$75,912
2020	\$1,320,000	\$0
2021	\$1,500,000	\$0
2022*	\$746,715.77	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,886,715.77</b>	<b>\$75,912</b>

\* Allocations for 2022 have not been fully allocated.



# Save GIPNA's Ash: Round Two

*Patti Kimbel*

Calling all tree lovers: Support our existing ash trees and stave off any more tree removals in our neighborhood. In 2020, GIPNA launched a campaign to save our ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer. The campaign was a wonderful success in securing funding to treat 50 ash trees in our neighborhood parkways. The treatments need to be repeated ideally every two years, so we are due for the next treatment this summer. A special fund designated for the ongoing treatment of our ash trees was established in 2020, and while you can donate at any time, we need to once again build up our coffers to support this ongoing effort. Please consider supporting the effort by donating at: [gipna.org/saveourash-trees](http://gipna.org/saveourash-trees) or scan the QR code.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is



an invasive beetle that attacks and slowly kills ash trees. The EAB originated in Asia and was first detected in Illinois in 2006. This tiny but deadly beetle literally sucks the life out of a tree from the inside. The larvae of this green menace bore into a tree and feed under the bark. The infestation results in a slow death for the tree as it can no longer transport needed water and nutrients from the ground. Once a tree is infected by this strangler, death is certain within a two to four-year time period.

The EAB is responsible for the death of millions of ash trees across the U.S. Some estimates are as high as hundreds of millions. There are an estimated 45,000

ash trees left across Chicago. The City had been treating these trees, but due to budget cuts discontinued treatment and instead began cutting them down. In Independence Park, we identified 50 parkway ash trees suitable for treatment and saving and had a very successful response from many of you to help support that treatment. The treatment costs roughly \$150 to \$200 dollars per tree and lasts for two to three years. GIPNA secured a discounted rate for the treatment.

Many of you passionately care about our trees and want to protect them. This is further

evidenced by our momentous planting of new trees in cooperation with the Openlands organization over the past few years. Many thanks to our neighbor Lorraine Antieau for coordinating our partnership with Openlands. Trees are a vital part of what makes this neighborhood beautiful. Additionally, the benefits of trees are immeasurable including improved water quality, wildlife protection, and a cooling effect which helps lower energy bills. Mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a home's property value. In case this was not convincing enough, your donation to the GIPNA 501(c)3 fund is tax deductible.



## ALLEY CLEANUP

# They Came, They Cleaned, They Conquered

*Sue Ryan*

It takes a village along with rakes, gloves, trash bags and donut holes to clear away the debris that lay hidden (or not) in our alleys. Special thanks to those who went above and beyond their own back alley to clean up other spaces. Pete Rogers, Mark Watkins and Ellen Ryan provided neighbors with cleaning supplies and directions for which alleys needed attention. A cadre of folks headed to the east side of the neighborhood and another to the west side. If you noticed that your alley has been spruced up, thank your neighbors.





# Pantry Starts School Supply Drive

*Craig Shutt*

The Irving Park Food Pantry has begun collecting school supplies for its annual distribution that will take place in August for clients' children in grades 1 through 12. Our goal is to ensure every student can start the new school year strong.

We know it's early to be thinking about going back to school, but our program begins August 3rd, so the earlier we receive supplies the better shape we will be in to ensure we have enough for our first week.

To create the bags of supplies, we are in need of loose-leaf paper (narrow and wide ruled), spiral notebooks (narrow and wide ruled), pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors (safety and high school), erasers, #2 pencils, crayons (24 pack), colored pencils, pens, rulers, highlighters, and dry-erase markers.

Donations can be dropped off at Big Helpers at 4184 N. Elston Ave. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or the enclosed front porch at 3833 N. Tripp Ave. anytime. You also can

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donate via contact-free online registries at Amazon and Target. Use the QR codes here to connect to them online. Thank you for your support of this annual program!

Welcome to Pastors Gerardo and Judy Rodriguez, who will become the new pastors at Emanuel United Methodist Church (our home) later this summer. They already have begun volunteering at the Pantry, and we look forward to working with them to make the Pantry even stronger in the community.

The Pantry has re-established its herb garden, which was popular with clients at our former location before we moved three years ago. The garden is in need of donations of gardening tools and other items. If you would like to help or donate, please contact Lisa Hendricks, who is coordinating the program, at [lisa.29bi@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.29bi@comcast.net).

To donate funds to help us purchase items, make a PayPal donation at [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or mail a check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618.

Thank you for all your support in helping us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



## SCHOOLS

# Happy Trails To You, Dr. Zelenka

*Gretchen Siffring*

On June 3, the Murphy community, past and present, came together to celebrate the career of Dr. Christine Zelenka. Dr. Zelenka retired from her role as principal at John B. Murphy Elementary School after leading the school for more than 14 years. She is only the eighth principal in Murphy's almost 100 years of serving the children of Irving Park.

Dr. Zelenka began her distinguished career with Chicago Public Schools in 1988 as a classroom teacher at Onahan Elementary School. She moved to Murphy as the assistant principal in 1997 and was selected by the Local School Council to become principal in 2008. During her tenure, she had a significant

impact on the Murphy community. She led the Fine & Performing Arts magnet cluster program at Murphy to ensure that all students experience dance, drama, music, and visual arts. She also sustained arts partnerships with CAPE, Old Town School of Music, Music House, Filament Theater, and Ravinia Festival. She also led the renovation of Murphy's gymnasium, stage, and outdoor gardens. She has woven social and emotional learning (SEL) into Murphy's school culture by sustaining a 25-year practice of Responsive Classroom and close affiliation with Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL). She fostered community and ritual as part of school-life through annual traditions like Career Day, the Spelling Bee, Bike-Fix-It Day, Twins Day, History Fair, Clothes Swap, and the Oceanarium.

Thank you, Dr. Zelenka, for making Murphy one of the top schools in Chicago.

We are excited to welcome our new principal, Dr. Rebeca Shick. Dr. Shick has been serving the Murphy community for the past 15 years; with nine years as a middle school teacher and almost six years as the assistant principal. Her dedication, passion, and experience will ensure Murphy continues to be the Caring Community where all students are able to learn and thrive.



## Summer Sizzle and It's Block Party Season!

*Susan Dowd*

Welcome to the warmth of spring, summer and fall. With the green-ing and blossoming of the seasons comes the joy of being outside. Nothing could be more iconic for doing that than our neighborhood block parties.

Everyone at the inaugural block party held in the 3800 block of Lawndale Ave. on June 4 pointed me to Christopher Rose as the person most responsible for the fabulous decorations of blue and yellow in honor of Ukraine and sumptuous tables (decorated with chandeliers) of food and his special punches, so I asked him all about it. "We wanted to do something at the very beginning of the summer, like a summer kick-off, and we also didn't want to compete with the other block parties. Plus, it was nice and cool, too." Chris didn't want to take all the credit, even though everyone around said he deserved it: "Jennifer Pembroke started it off with me and of course Britany Styles, Jody and Julie Fernandez helped with everything, too."

I spent a few hours enjoying some fried chicken, a la Mary Ann Karwowski, had some of Chris' yummy, cherry-lemon punch, chatted with my Lawndale-and-beyond neighbors, and sipped a bit of wine, too. Thanks, Bobbie and Jim. In the background, the kids were delighted to jump to their heart's delight in the Jumpy House, and some folks competed

for the corn hole trophy. Chris arranged to collect funds to cover expenses with a glass jar and electronic donating.

There are long-standing block parties in the neighborhood as well. Holly Van Essen was happy to share a bit about the Dakin block part. Usually held on the 3rd or 4th weekend in July, this year it's scheduled for July 30. "The big draw for the kids is just the freedom the street closure brings; they can run and ride bikes, scooters and skateboards without the worry of traffic. We always order a Jumpy House from the city as soon as they start taking orders so that we're sure to get one. We also request our Block Party permit from our alderman. In the past we've shared a roast pig or tamales and rice, and had a band as well, but last year we all cooked different meats and assembled tacos together. Beverages are BYOB. There are scavenger hunts, relay races and a water balloon toss. We cap off the evening with a raucous game of Capture the Flag."

My block, the 3800 block of Ridgeway, has a long-standing block party, too. There have been different iterations of it over the years. At one point it grew to be Ridgeway Fest with a banner over the street, pony rides, roasted pigs, a dunk tank and even the Jesse White Tumblers, but always at its core has been the focus on the kids. In recent years, we've blended old school with some things that were added during the Fest days. It's usually held the 2nd Saturday in September; September 10th this year. You're likely to enjoy kid's races, piñatas, shared dishes, grilled burgers and

dogs, a cake walk with prizes for the best cake, Jumpy Houses (that we've rented ourselves because the city program only operates when school is out), bonfires, s'mores and lots and lots of laughter and FUN. There's a committee of organizers and most everyone volunteers for something during the day. There's a charge of \$30 per family or \$10 per person. Beverages are BYOB.

The last block party of the season is held the 3rd or 4th weekend in September in the 3600 block of St. Louis. I chatted with Bernardo Bello while he took a few minutes from his volunteering at the retirement party honoring Dr. Christine Zelenka from our very own Murphy Elementary on June 3rd.

Bernardo said, "Everyone pretty much cooks their own food and of course we have a Jumpy House." When pressed about what he thought was the favorite activity of the day, he said, "Oh, we have a donut eating contest. Donuts are hung on strings and contestants try to eat it all with their hands behind their backs. There are no prizes, just bragging rights. It's fun to watch and the glazed donuts are from Krispy Kreme!" I think I just might try to enter that contest this year!

"Back in the day, Avers had some great block parties when



our kids were small," Roberta and Ken Wilk told me. "We even had a band; it was lots of fun." Last year the 3700 and 3900 blocks of Lawndale tried out block parties; we'll watch to see if they come back out again this year. Everyone I've partied with or spoke with about block parties have always sung the benefits of hosting one — getting to know our neighbors better, camaraderie, joy and the best of all, the lasting memories for kids and adults alike.





SCHOOLS

## Congratulations to the St. Edward Class of 2022!

*Jenny Dryer*

We are so proud of our graduates and all that they have accomplished during their years at St. Edward School. This fall they will begin their high school careers at highly selective private and CPS schools including St. Patrick, Loyola Academy, Resurrection, DePaul College Prep, Northside College Prep and Whitney Young.

Make sure to come visit our St. Edward School table at this year's Independence Park Farmers Market to find out more about our Exemplary High Performing Blue Ribbon school. We look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have for the upcoming school year.

### Summer at St. Edward

Looking for a summer camp? KidzToPros is offering a variety of camps for different age groups throughout the summer. Totus Tuus is offering two summer faith camps the last week of July: day-time camp for kids entering 1st – 6th grades and evening camp for 7th – 12th grades. Learn more at [stedwardschool.com](http://stedwardschool.com).

### Big Red Congrats to St. Ed's Track & Field Team!

This year was the first time St. Edward participated in the State Track & Field Meet in Peoria in Division 1A. Congrats to TJ (class of 2023) who came in 5th in state in the 800 meter and Peyton (class of 2022) who finished 15th in state for long jump! Both set new personal records in their events! We are Big RED proud of the accomplishments of the entire team.

Looking for a new Pre-K – 8th grade school for the 2022-2023 school year? Register for more information and schedule a campus tour on our website, [stedwardschool.com](http://stedwardschool.com).

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PARKS

## Ceramics at Athletic Field

*Tamara Lenart*

My name is Tamara Lenart and I am a potter who does almost all of her work at Athletic Field Park. I think a ceramics class at Athletic Field Park is probably the most wonderful fun anyone might ever have. In the 10+ years that I have been working with clay there, I have had all the help I could ever want, and really the tools and clay bodies are first rate as well — not to mention your fellow students who are just as fine and serious about art as you could ask for. The building itself, which is the old shower house for the baseball players, is also pretty comfortable. To make a long story short, I highly recommend this

park program, students and staff included.

Editor's note: To find out more about the ceramics studio at Athletic Field Park, go to <https://www.athleticfieldpark.com/ceramic-studio> for studio hours and class schedule.



## Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach

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## Central Park Block Rep Needed

Our wonderful young block reps, Zayvour and Tyesin Youngberg, have been delivering *The Voice* to the 3800 and 3900 blocks of Central Park Avenue for a couple of years now. They are moving onto other projects, so GIPNA needs a new pair of legs to cover those two blocks. The newsletter packet is delivered to your doorstep and then the block rep, who gets a free GIPNA membership, delivers the newsletter to their neighbors. It doesn't take much time, maybe 30 to 45 minutes or so every other month and you will get to meet new friends. Please contact [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org) if you can help out. Thank you very much!



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**Ten Sundays**

9 AM – 1 PM:

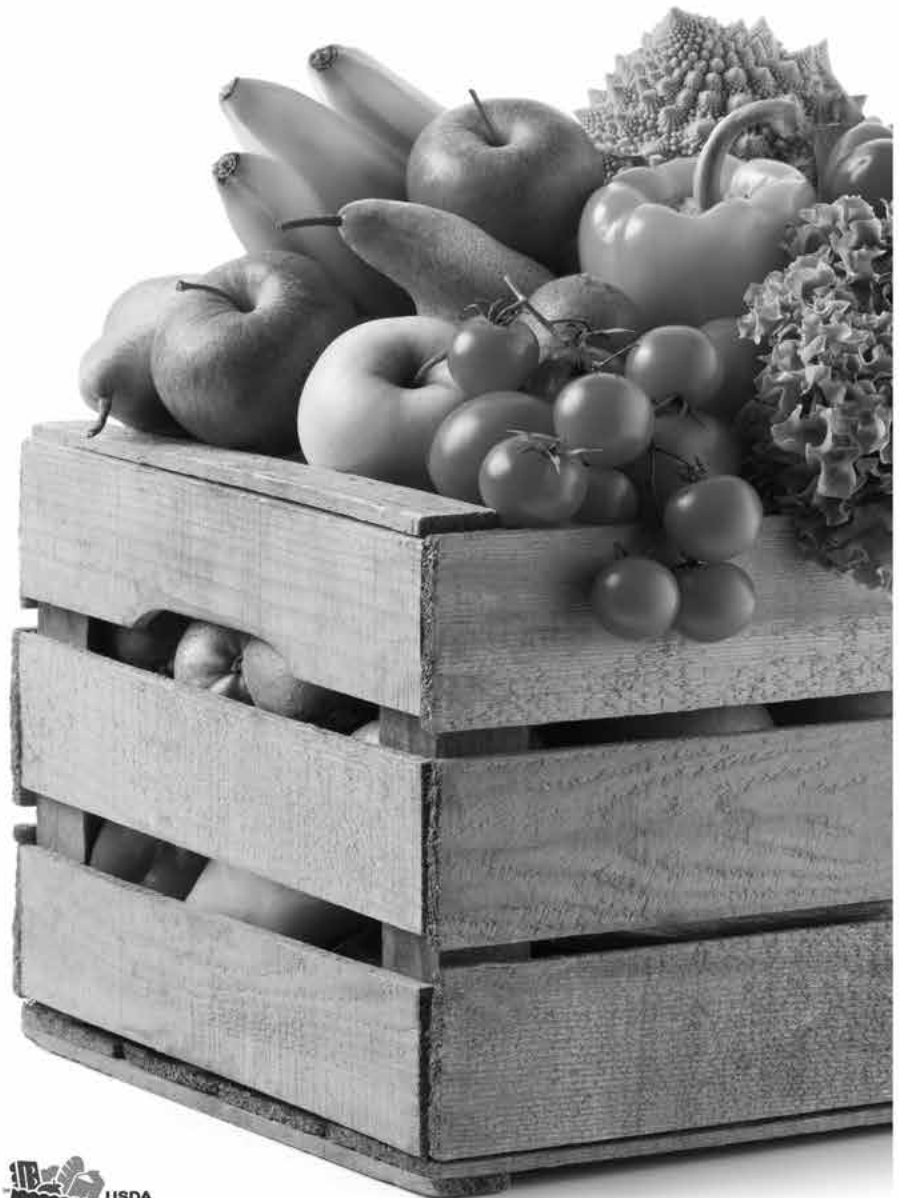
**JUNE 12 & 26**

**JULY 10 & 24**

**AUG 14 & 28**

**SEPT 11 & 25**

**OCT 9 & 23**



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