

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



COMMUNITY

They're Back!! July 4th Parade, Movies, Farmers Market and Concerts in the Park. Hooray!

4th of July Parade and Games at Independence Park. 10 a.m. to noon.

For details, visit the Independence Park Advisory Council Facebook page.

Movies in the Park at Athletic Field and Independence Park.

*All movies are on Fridays and begin at dusk.

Athletic Field Park

July 30: *Sonic the Hedgehog*

August 27: *Beauty and the Beast*

Independence Park

The Independence Park Advisory wants you to choose the movies. Check out its Facebook page to vote.

July 16: *Dazed and Confused* or *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*

August 20: *Rava and The Last Dragon* or *Minions*

Farmer Market at Independence Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Second and fourth Sundays.

Many of your favorite vendors are

back plus new ones to entice your palate. See back page for dates.

Concerts: Lunar Ticks and Ramblin Rose will perform at Independence Park.

See the calendar on page two for dates and times. Read up on Lunar Ticks, an eclectic improvisational/alternative rock band, on page 9.



COMMUNITY

Garden Angels

Pat Clark

Thank you to new Monticello Ave. neighbors Laurey Brown and her husband Aaron Hui, and especially to Laurey's father Joe. Recently when Gosia Bach and I were working in the garden, Aaron came over to see what was going on. We said we were thinking about renting a Rototiller to try and clear out the bishop's weed that has taken over the center area. Aaron volunteered



that his father-in-law Joe, a Decatur, IL farmer, has a Rototiller and he would ask Joe to bring it when they come up for Memorial Day.

Joe and his wife Kathy hauled that Rototiller to Chicago in the back of their big red pickup truck. That same day Joe and Aaron started working on running the Rototiller over and over the ground in the garden. An impossible task to do by hand, the Rototiller made short work of the bishop's weed.

This is why we live and thrive in such a wonderful neighborhood. Not only do we watch out for each other, we help each other. Even when friends live 181.5 miles away!

Rachel and Peter Sloan have worked wonders on the northwest corner of the garden and the bed next to the shed by planting native flowers. April Bayne generously donated a dogwood, three



chokecherry shrubs and 18 prairie plants that are in the Rototilled center mound. Pat Reynolds and Matt Knoop helped move and plant those shrubs and the tree. Other neighbors, including Kristen Holub and GIPNA President Kevin Haight have added blooms and greenery to the raised beds. The garden is looking the best it has in years. It's definitely a community garden.

The regular GIPNA board meeting will not be held in July. The August meeting is Tues., Aug. 3, 7:00 p.m. Join us online via Zoom. Meeting I.D.: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



JULY

SUN., JULY 4—Independence Park Fourth of July Celebration, 10 a.m. to noon. See IPAC's Facebook page for further information.

MON., JULY 5—Pickup for the Parks (park cleanup), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

TUES., JULY 6—The regular GIPNA Board Meeting WILL NOT BE HELD in July.

SUN., JULY 11—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WED., JULY 14—Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

FRI., JULY 16—Movie in the Park, dusk, Independence Park.

SUN., JULY 18—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info.

WED., JULY 21—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet at the corner of Drake and Waveland.

THURS., JULY 22—Movin' to the Music, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Playground.

SUN., JULY 25—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FRI., JULY 30—Movie in the Park: *Sonic the Hedgehog*, dusk, Athletic Field Ball Fields.

AUGUST

SUN., AUG. 1—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info.

MON., AUG. 2—Pickup for the Parks (park cleanup), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

TUES., AUG. 3—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

SAT., AUG. 7—Concert in the Park with the Lunar Ticks, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Two hour long sets with a break in between, Independence Park.

SUN., AUG. 8—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WED., AUG. 11—Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

SAT., AUG. 14—Irving Park Annual Block Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. See flyer on page 7.

SUN., AUG. 15—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info.

WED., AUG. 18—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meet at the corner of Drake and Waveland.

WED., AUG. 18—Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

THURS., AUG. 19—Movin' to the Music, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Playground.

FRI., AUG. 20—Movie in the Park, dusk, Independence Park.

SUN., AUG. 22—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURS., AUG. 26—Concert in the Park with Ramblin Rose, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Independence Park.

FRI., AUG. 27—Movie in the Park: *Beauty and the Beast*, dusk, Athletic Field Ball Fields.

SUN., AUG. 29—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See friendsofportagepark.org/our-team for info.

JULIO

DOM., 4 DE JULIO—Independence Park Celebración del 4 de julio, de 10 a.m. a mediodía. Consulte la página de Facebook de IPAC para obtener más información.

LUNES, 5 DE JULIO—Recogida en los parques (limpieza del parque), 6 p.m. a las 7:30 p.m., Independence Park.

MARTES, 6 DE JULIO—La reunión regular de la Junta Directiva de GIPNA NO SE REALIZARÁ en julio.

DOM., 11 DE JULIO—Mercado de agricultores "Farmer's Market" de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

MIÉRCOLES 14 DE JULIO—Reunión Beat 1732, 7 p.m. a través de Zoom. Póngase en contacto con CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para hacer una reservación.

VIERNES, 16 DE JULIO—Película en el Parque, atardecer, Independence Park.

DOM., 18 DE JULIO—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. Visita la pagina web friendsofportagepark.org/our-team para obtener más información.

MIÉ, 21 DE JULIO—Recogiendo los Parques, 6 p.m. a las 7 p.m. Reúnete en la esquina de Drake and Waveland.

JUEVES, 22 DE JULIO—Moviendote al ritmo de la música, 5:30 p.m. a las 6:30 p.m., Patio recreativo del campo de atletismo. Parque "Athletic field"

DOM., 25 DE JULIO—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

VIERNES 30 DE JULIO—Película en el parque: *Sonic the Hedgehog*, anochecer, Athletic Field Ball Fields.

AGOSTO

DOM., 1 DE AGOSTO—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. Visita la pagina web friendsofportagepark.org/our-team para obtener más información.

LUN, 2 DE AGOSTO—Recogida para los parques (limpieza del parque), 6 p.m. a las 7:30 p.m., Parque Independencia.

MARTES, 3 DE AGOSTO—Reunión de la Junta Directiva de GIPNA, **DOM., 7 DE AGOSTO**—Concierto en el parque con "las

garrapatas lunares" The Lunar Ticks, 4 p.m. a las 7 p.m. Series de dos horas con un descanso en el medio, Independence Park.

DOM., 8 DE AGOSTO—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

MIÉ, 11 DE AGOSTO—Reunión Beat 1732, 7 p.m. a través de Zoom. Póngase en contacto con CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para hacer una reserva.

SAT., 14 DE AGOSTO—Venta de bloques anual de Irving Park, de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. Ve el folleto en la página 7.

DOM., 15 DE AGOSTO—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. Visita friendsofportagepark.org/our-team para obtener más información.

MIÉ, 18 DE AGOSTO—Pickin' Up the Parkways, 6 p.m. a las 7 p.m. Reúnete en la esquina de Drake and Waveland.

MIÉ., 18 DE AGOSTO—Beat 1732 Reunión, 7 p.m. a través de Zoom. Póngase en contacto con CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para hacer una reserva.

JUEVES, 19 DE AGOSTO—Movin' to the Music, 5:30 p.m. a las 6:30 p.m., Pato de recreo del campo de atletismo " Athletic Fields."

VIERNES, DE AGOSTO 20—Película en el parque, anochecer, Independence Park.

DOM., DE AGOSTO 22—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

JUEVES, 26 DE AGOSTO—Concierto en el parque con Ramblin Rose, 6 p.m. a las 7 p.m., Parque Independencia, Independence Park.

VIERNES, 27 DE AGOSTO—Película en el parque: *La Bella y la Bestia*, anochecer, Campo de atletismo Campos de pelota.

DOM., 29 DE AGOSTO—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. Visita friendsofportagepark.org/our-team para obtener más información.

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE

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

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

Editorial: Sue Ryan
 Photography: Robin Hochstatter and Cindy Schuch
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For submissions for September/October 2021 issue:

Editorial Deadline:
 August 10, 2021

Advertising Deadline:
 August 10, 2021

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

E-MAIL: INFO@GIPNA.ORG

MAIL: GIPNA, P.O. BOX 18184
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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.

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COMMUNICATION

E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

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

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

NEIGHBORHOOD

Kudos to Volunteers of the Year

Sue Ryan

When I think of GIPNA volunteers, I am reminded of a Margaret Mead quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." GIPNA volunteers do change our corner of the world and the neighborhood is the better for it. Three volunteers were recently honored for their efforts to improve our neighborhood.

Chris Cunningham – Chris has donated generously of his time and resources to the Wine and Cheese Party and the Virtual Beef and Beer fundraisers. Chris, the owner of JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, turned his restaurant into a staging area for GIPNA's first virtual fundraiser.

Robin Hochstatter – Robin heads up the membership committee, organizes the alley cleanup, serves as our roving photographer and writer for the GIPNA Voice newsletter. Membership dues are an important revenue stream and



her efforts to boost membership allows GIPNA to hold a farmers market, maintain the community gardens, and give back to those in need.

Scott Dewey - Scott is a relative newbie to the neighborhood, but that hasn't stopped him from making an impact. Scott spearheaded the Save the Ash Trees campaign last summer to stave off the emerald ash borer infestation. The campaign raised enough money to treat more than 100 ash trees in the parkways and the remaining money will be used to treat the trees again in two years. Neighbors are especially grateful during the dog days of summer to have a beautiful shady canopy while walking.

And GIPNA ALWAYS welcomes more volunteers. If you are interested send an email to info@gipna.org.

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.

Let's Talk About Race

Rebecca Otalvora

For this edition of Let's Talk About Race, I was inspired by a conversation that I had with a family member. She and I were discussing some recent experiences we had with our peers and I brought up the word microaggression. She looked at me a bit perplexed and asked, "What's aggressive about any of the things we're talking about." This question is coming from a person who I know has experienced microaggressions often. It made me think, if someone who is exposed to these types of exchanges doesn't know, or perhaps recognize, the significance of microaggressions, there must be so many more people than I thought who don't understand the

term, it's implication, the way it eats away at the mental health of those who experience them, and the social conditions that it creates for all of us.

Before I continue, I want to clarify the basic understanding of what a microaggression is. A microaggression is a way to communicate bias. It can be intentional or unintentional, subtle or blatant. Microaggressions may occur in the workplace, at the gym, walking down the street. A microaggression can occur during any interaction. I've experienced many throughout my life. A few examples are: "What are you?" "I love your accent." "You know a lot about sports, for a girl."

These types of comments, regardless of intent, are hurtful. They also make what would typically be positive social interactions, feel negative. I remember shrugging these types of comments off. Literally.

I've shrugged my shoulders and explained to people that I'm a human woman. Feeling obligated to explain to others that I'm a person, is excruciating. One only understands it if they've experienced it. It's not appropriate to ask people what they are. That type of questioning is divisive, unproductive, and implies that one is an outsider.

I shrugged my shoulders when someone complimented my foreign accent. My native and predominant language is English. I wish that my parents taught me Spanish. But the truth is that my grandparents spoke mostly English in their homes. Spanish speakers weren't considered intelligent nor desirable when my parents were growing up. I've learned Spanish like many other Americans: by studying.

I shrugged my shoulders and laughed it off when a man was shocked that I knew what an


8-second violation is, despite the fact that I've been a basketball fan since I was a child. I also played the sport and I understand the game well. I have a better shot than most, or so I like to think. Telling a woman she knows a lot about anything, for a girl, is very offensive.

What I can't quite shrug off anymore is how all of these presumably innocent comments have given me the feeling of being an interloper. And I know that I'm not the only one. I've only recently begun to unpack how all of these experiences have conveyed a sense of otherness to me, despite the fact that I live in the same city that I was born in.

And while it's challenging to fit into a society that doesn't do much to understand my experience, I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to write about these feelings and take on these issues in order to spread awareness and learn.

Are you a GIPNA member? Join today!

Pay at www.gipna.org or mail in the form below with a check. For information, send an e-mail to: membership@gipna.org

 MEMBERSHIP FORM <small>(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</small> <small>Check amount enclosed:</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$100 per person <input type="checkbox"/> <small>Check here if a new member</small>	PLEASE PRINT: DATE NAME #1 NAME #2 ADDRESS Check here if <input type="checkbox"/> new member, <input type="checkbox"/> new to the neighborhood. PHONE #1 PHONE #2 E-MAIL #1 E-MAIL #2						
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<input type="checkbox"/> <small>Check if you would like to volunteer for events. (GIPNA is an all-volunteer association.)</small>							

North Branch Biking Zen

Patti Kimbel

With the wintry snow in our rear-view mirror and warm, sunny days on the horizon, this is a perfect time of year for biking or to consider trying it as a new activity. A few years ago I discovered the North Branch trail along with a pathway to ride there from Independence Park. Previously, living closer to the lake I missed biking along the lakefront trail nearly every weekend in the summer. What I love even more about the North Branch trail is the more intense escape into nature with fewer walkers and cyclists that encumber the path and experience. Being enveloped in the forest preserves and amongst the wildlife with minimal reminders of our usual urban environment is a perfect antidote to the stressors of the day.

Historically, this trail was started after World War II and included several unpaved equestrian and



hiking trails throughout the forested area. In the 1970's, the Cook County Forest Preserve District began work on a paved trail which was eventually completed in the 1980's. In 2007, the entire pathway was broken up and repaved. Additional extensions of the pathway were added in 2016 and 2018. For our enjoyment and benefit the most recent addition included a one-mile extension to Gompers Park. The trail is smooth and well maintained throughout the year.

From the Independence Park neighborhood, the most direct route I have found is Elston Avenue north to Kostner Avenue. Elston has a dedicated bike lane for the majority of that distance, but it should be traveled with caution. After approximately one mile

there is a trail sign to direct you a slight right north up Kostner Avenue. Following Kostner a few more blocks will then dead end at Foster Avenue adjacent to the start of the bike path. For those less inclined to bike in the city, there are parking lots off of Foster Avenue and additional lots further north if driving with your bike would be more preferred. The North Branch Trail starts at the western part of Gompers Park and continues approximately 22 miles north in Cook County. The trail was originally an equestrian path but now the paved path runs parallel to the unpaved horse path. The trail follows the Chicago River north and leads to the Skokie Lagoons. Near the end of the trail, riders will come to the Chicago Botanic Garden which as a bonus is free for cyclists to enter.

The trail takes you along a few bridges and overlooks that add variety along with a bit of a challenge to the ride. There are twists and turns along with small hills with ups and downs to keep you alert and add wonderful variation to a ride. This provides a divergent experience to the more

common bike path and landscape in Chicago that tends to be nothing but flat. Sometimes it is hard to believe you are still in the confines of Chicago and so close to home after traveling for miles through the forest preserve. The bike path can also feel unique every trip too as you never know when or where you may happen upon wildlife. Sightings of deer are easily encountered nearly every ride. Last summer I encountered a huge eight-point buck which was a highlight. Several of us gazed in awe while it grazed indifferently in the high grass. Other animal sightings have included a rooster, chipmunks, and a friendly outdoor cat that is known to have a home near the trail. For those more adventurous souls, there are unpaved paths for an off-road biking experience or for hiking and these paths also run alongside the North Branch trail. But if the woods are not calling out to you, there is a rumor that our Independence Park pool will be opening up soon and that requires no equipment besides your swimsuit.

Murphy Poets

Ms. Laqui's 8th grade writing class

Eighth grade students at Murphy Elementary have been studying poetry in various poems and have recently studied the poetry of Tupac Shakur. After reading and analyzing the poem, "Starry Night," students also analyzed the artwork and learned more about Vincent van Gogh. Throughout their analysis they found parallels in the lives of both van Gogh and Tupac and finally created their own poetry about the famous painting. Below are some samples from the graduating class of 2021.

For may now you will think no one knows you, sees you, or cares about you you shall never stop striving.

Because all your trying will eventually pay off.

But what we never want is for you to leave us but as we could see you left us.

You are Vincent but we never wanted you to "Gogh."

In memory of Vincent van Gogh

~Jaiden C.

Van Gogh spent his whole life making art for the people of his time no matter how hard he tried no matter how far his skills climbed They still would not appreciate how lucky we were to have had him to create such magnificent pieces of art that we all draw close to in our hearts so even though they were not loved then we know they'll never not be loved again

~Stella N.

Starry Night

Windy but peaceful

So many lights yet so dark

A place to look deep into the sky and wonder

So many lights yet so dark

Windy but peaceful

Starry Night

~Sandy B.

Starry night, the stars that lit the night alight. You were eager to satisfy a stubborn world. This world threw its hurts at you. But you didn't let it shake you.

You gave it your all. Yet cruel society made you fall. Starry night that lit the night alight. Starry night, Vincent van Gogh I'll see you, in the stars tonight.

~Asher C.

Cleaning Up the Neighborhood

Robin Hochstatter

Thanks to everyone who came out on May 8th to clear away some of winter's debris in our alleys. The sun was actually shining this year for our annual cleanup and it was great to be outdoors to visit with neighbors you haven't seen in months and to meet new ones that arrived during the pandemic.

Our friends at Streets and Sanitation provided us with brand new tools this year for those who didn't have their own rakes and shovels. State Rep, Jaime Andrade and his team (Eddy and Elvira) supplied us with new work gloves, tons of garbage bags and water. All three pitched in to clear out an alley where we have a few empty homes that really needed some cleaning up. Alderman Jim Gardiner and his team also worked on a few alleys with us. Working next to our elected officials really gives us an opportunity to keep them informed of any issues you might need their help with.

Residents who stopped by the GIPNA table were treated to coffee and donuts after picking up the supplies for their work. And their pups enjoyed the special water

bowl and more human interaction than they've seen in a year.

All of the bags and gloves donated were used and the neighborhood was much cleaner than when we started work on that beautiful May morning. Some residents who couldn't participate did it ahead of time and their work was evident by the bags already accumulated in their alley.

A special thanks to Alison Benjamin, Jan Berger, John Kuczura, Dickie Nichols, and Greg Shea for helping to make this day happen. And thanks to Mother Nature for her early Mother's Day gift.



Murphy Summer Happenings

Gretchen Siffring

Summer is here! School is out! But the halls (and grounds) of Murphy Elementary School will not be quiet. Check out all of the great stuff happening at Murphy this summer!

- Murphy Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is looking for help to keep our garden boxes and school grounds watered and healthy all summer long. The kale growing in the garden boxes will be donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry and the herbs are there for sharing so help yourself. There are water sources and hoses available on both sides of the building.
- If you are interested or able to help, please sign up for a week of watering at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA8A62EABF58-murphy2>.
- Look for some Friends of Murphy at the Kid's Craft tent at the Farmer's Market on the 4th Sunday of each month. Make a fun craft and learn more about Murphy!
- Calling all artists and Murphy supporters - PTO is searching for a new symbol for our beloved owl mascot, Hootie. If you have a knack for graphic design, contact murphyschoolpto@gmail.com.
- Murphy will be very busy this summer hosting a variety of summer programs. Please contact the school if you have any questions or need more information. (773) 534-5223 Summer Office Hours are M-F 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Summer Bridge +, an academic and Social Emotional Summer Program, for students in grades 1-8
- Kick-off to Kindergarten for students going into Kindergarten in the Fall
- Preview to Preschool for students entering PreK for the first time
- Enrichment Camps for Murphy students in grades K-8 including Sports, Art, Music, and Gardening.
- Murphy is a Food Stop open to all families in the neighborhood with children 18 and under. Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. M-F.
- In May, the Murphy Local School Council (LSC) approved updates to the school's strategic plan, the operating budget, and the Principal evaluation. We are excited about inspiring plans for our neighborhood school, investments in curriculum, commitment to equity and social/emotional well-being, and evolution of our Fine Arts Magnet Cluster Program. The LSC will meet in early July to elect new officers and plan the next year's meeting schedule. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome community participation. Please check out www.murphy.cps.edu to learn more.
- Attention Grace, Central Park, Drake, and Waveland Neighbors! Murphy PTO wants to celebrate back-to-school in festive style. If you live on the blocks surrounding Murphy, decorate your front or side lawn the week of August 30 to let everyone know how happy we are that the kids will be BACK TO SCHOOL!

Just a friendly reminder, CPS is back to school on AUGUST 30. Have a fun & safe summer!



A Painted Lady Graces 3844 N. Monticello Ave.

Barbara Shaw

We moved here from Lincoln Park in 1993 drawn by the wider lots, serenity, and access to transportation. Plus one of our best friends lived right next door. We purchased the house from Lora Vann who had not even listed it for sale at that time. Lora and her husband purchased the house from the Kelly family who had bought it in February of 1958, possibly because of the ad placed in the Chicago Tribune from January 19, 1958.

At the time Lora and her husband bought the house, it was a bit run down and encased in aluminum siding. However,



the Vanns had found an old photograph showing the property as it had been originally built with a stone foundation during the time of dirt streets when the neighborhood was new and they vowed to restore it to its original splendor with cedar siding and other details.

Unfortunately, while doing some construction work on the house, Lora's husband fell off his ladder and broke his leg. Then it was discovered he had bone cancer and he passed away before completion.

But Lora was determined to finish the renovation they had planned together to honor his memory. When she sold the house to us, she handed us the photograph that had inspired them both, saying it should stay with the house and confided it was time for her to say goodbye to the neighborhood she loved and move on. We intend to honor her wishes and the photograph now hangs on our entry wall.

An inscription on the back of the photograph states, Lorraine and Bob Isaachsen, grandson of owner, when this picture was taken. A review of Cook County records shows a John G. Isaachsen & Wife moved in on September 5, 1903. Perhaps they were the original owners. Although further research from the Cook County Recorder shows the property was first deeded on April 5, 1899 to

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Hugh L. Mason & Wife. We also found documentation of a building permit issued to Paul O. Stensland on March 19, 1901. Interestingly, the property address at that time had two designations, 3844 N. Monticello and 2333 Monticello. The 2333 might have been the original, or perhaps, colloquial reference to the location.

We still enjoy and appreciate the neighborhood for the same reasons we moved here 28 years ago, the warm feeling we get while walking our dog, Fergie, through the neighborhood, seeing the diversity of architecture, the pride of ownership and the wonderful neighbors we meet and see every day.



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**Aug 14th
8am-4pm**

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HOW TO PARTICIPATE...



- STEP #1 Get a permit!**
- Use your phone to capture QR Code
 - OR Google "Chicago garage sale permit"
 - OR pick up at 3648 N. St. Louis Ave

Register by August 1st to be included on the Map!



- STEP #2 Submit your permit!**
- Email completed permit to your Alderman
 - OR bring permit to YOUR alderman's office (Google "who is your alderman Chicago")
 - OR Call 311 for assistance

FREE! Includes street signage, maps, boosted social media advertising and more!



- STEP #3 Register by Aug 1st!**
- Go to: www.athleticfieldpark.com
 - OR still need assistance? Call 773-919-7221



Omar Fernandez, Sewer Whisperer

Pat Clark



COMMUNITY

Summer Reading— A Note from the Independence Library

Maggie P. Miller

Dear Independence Park Community,

Hello, my name is Maggie, and I am the Teen Librarian at the Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library. In this role, I work with teens and young people to support their learning and creativity. We look forward to ramping back up our programming later this year as soon as it is safe to do so!

In the meantime, are you looking for something to read this summer? I would recommend the following Teen Fiction titles for both Teen and Adult readers:

- *A Phở Lovestory* by Loan Le
Romance Genre. There are two Vietnamese restaurants in the neighborhood, and they compete against each other. A secret romance between Bào and Linh, the children of the feuding restaurant owners, sets a scene similar to *Romeo and Juliet*—although less drastic and with a happier ending.
- *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn
Fantasy Genre/Black Girl Magic. 16-year-old Bree Matthews infiltrates a secret magical society that claims to be descendants of King Arthur and his Knights. Themes include ancestral trauma, self-discovery, grief, and love.
- *Nubia: Real One* by L.L. McKinney

Graphic Novel. Nubia, a descendent of Wonder Woman, is often considered DC's first Black Female Superhero. McKinney's take on Nubia's experience as a young teen girl is must read for DC fans.

- *Spy X Family Manga Series* by Tatsuya Endo

Manga/Graphic Novel. A super fun action adventure tale. Secret agent, Twilight, has to obtain a wife and daughter for a secret mission. Unbeknownst to him, the wife he chooses for his fake family is an assassin, and the child is a mind reader.

- *The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

Mystery Genre. Not to be missed! Set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 18-year-old Daunis, who is part Ojibwe, helps investigate a crime on her reservation and heals her community in the process.

We have a Teen Space called YOUmedia at our Library. YOUmedia is a Maker Space and Gaming Lounge for Teens ages 13-18 (Grades 7-12). This summer, we will be reopening with some safety precautions. Our capacity for the space is 2 teens at a time, so please call ahead at 312-744-0900. Masks required. We have a Teen Summer Challenge for tweens and teens beginning on June 28. Visit chipublib.org/MakeSpace or the library for more information. Also, please follow @YOUmediaChicago on Social Media, subscribe to our YOUmedia Chicago YouTube Channel, or visit www.chipublib.org/teens to learn more about our virtual programs this summer.

Happy Summer!
- Maggie

I've heard horror stories from neighbors about problems they've had with their house sewers. It gave me the idea to interview our local sewer and plumbing master, Omar Fernandez, to get the inside scoop on what a sewer does and what we shouldn't do to our sewer system.

Q: What does a sewer do?

A: The sewer takes all the water out of the house--water from the kitchen, gutters, bath and toilets.

Q: What is a sewer made of?

A: Clay. A sewer pipe is made of clay, which is code for Chicago. It has advantages over PVC, which is allowed in some suburbs, as clay won't melt or burn if there's a fire in the house.

Q: How old are the sewers in our neighborhood?

A: 100+ years old.

Q: Where does the sewer go from our house?

A: Most of the time the sewer goes out to the middle of the street to a bigger sewer. If your house is on a corner, the sewer may go to the front or side street. In rare cases, the sewer goes out to the alley.

Q: How should a sewer be maintained?

A: Rod it out once a year. You can tell if your sewer needs rodding out by lifting the manhole lid and looking in. If the water level is below the clay pipe, it's OK. If the water is even one-half way up the pipe, there's an issue. Or if you have gurgling in your toilet, that's a big hint that you have a problem.

Q: How is a sewer cleaned out?

A: We use a special machine that has a cutting device on it and we run that through the sewer pipe from the house all the way to the street to clean out any clogs or tree roots. Most of our sewers have a 6" diameter. Tree roots get into the sewer pipe at the connection joints between sections. The sections might have not been properly sealed or in rare cases, the pipe might be broken. Of course, we also run a camera through the sewer pipe to make sure everything is OK.

Q: What does it cost to have a sewer rodded out?

A: About \$175 to clean out the main sewer and catch basin. Of course, if there's a problem, it might cost more than that.

Q: What shouldn't be put into the drains and sewers?

A: Read the product labels to see if the item is dissolvable or flushable. If isn't, it can get hung up on the tree roots in the sewer. And then that causes a blockage.

Q: What words of wisdom do you have?

A: Don't wait until there's a problem. Clean out the sewer once a year and don't put baby wipes or feminine products down the toilet.

Q: What are the most interesting things you've found in sewers?

A: Toys, tennis balls and a football.

EDUCATION

St. Edward School Upcoming Events

Jenny Dreyer

Registration is open for in-person full and part-time (three-day) programs for 3- and 4 year-olds and full time Kindergarten. The Early Childhood Learning curriculum incorporates the academic, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual needs of the young child. Our goal is to nurture and teach the whole child and to encourage qualities needed

for life-long learning. Extended before and after school care is also available. You can contact office@stedwardschool.com to schedule an in-person tour or individual Zoom tour with our principal. Our students have been safely learning in-person since August 2020! Come discover what St. Edward School offers your child!

Congratulations to the St. Edward Class of 2021! Our Exemplary High Performing Blue Ribbon school has given the graduates a firm foundation that will lead them to success and confidence as they begin their high

school careers at highly selective private and CPS schools including St. Patrick, Notre Dame, DePaul College Prep, Lane Tech, Walter Payton College Prep, and Loyola Academy.

Congratulations to our principal Sara Lasica on receiving the Civitate Dei Award! This award is given to principals who work to build God's kingdom in their school through establishing a positive culture within the school community, assuring all are welcomed and treated with dignity and respect. Moreover, recipients energetically build bridges to the

parish, neighborhood, and wider community through exceptional communication and collaboration. The St. Edward community is BIG RED PROUD and we thank you for your wonderful work!!

St. Edward School celebrates 111 years of providing a Catholic education to children in grades PK3 – 8th grade. For more information, please visit our website at www.stedwardschool.org or call the office at 773-736-9133 to learn more about our outstanding academic programs and before and after school extended care.

TECHNOLOGY

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Available

What is the EBB?

- The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is a new federal program that provides a \$50 monthly discount on internet service to qualifying low-income households.
- The discount applies to "bundles" that include texting, voicemail, modems, routers, and hotspots, but does not apply to

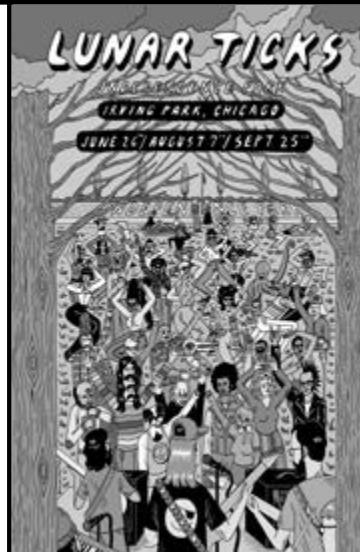
cable TV bundles. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opened enrollment on May 12, 2021.

Who is eligible?

- People who experienced a substantial loss of income after February 29, 2020 and had a total 2020 household income below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.
- People who participated in other federally funded need based programs.

How do I sign up?

For more information or to sign up visit getemergencybroadband.org or call the EBB helpline at (833) 511-0311.



a blend of brand new original material, crowd pleasing covers, and improvisations. All are invited to come bring a picnic blanket, find a spot in the grass, and enjoy the music on a summer afternoon. The band and the Park District ask all to be respectful of other groups' space and to use common sense social distancing protocols.

The band is influenced by the songwriting and studio experimentation of 90's and 2000's innovative alternative/ indie rock bands like Wilco, My Morning Jacket, The Flaming Lips, Ween, Arcade Fire, Pavement, and Dr. Dog, and fuses it with

genre-bending, progressive musicality, and exploratory improvisations in the vein of The Grateful Dead, Phish, and Umphrey's McGee.

Lunar Ticks are equally at home on a bill with a folk singer, punk band, free jazz ensemble, you name it. Each set list is formed from their diverse and expansive song list of originals and covers, debuting new material at almost every show. Extended improvisational passages can turn on a dime or meditate and unfurl in unexpected ways. Lunar Ticks aim to create a unique and memorable experience every time they pick up their instruments.

For a taste of Lunar Ticks, "Another Batch of Country Duds" and "Live at Sleeping Village" are available on all streaming services. For more details on these events and the band, please follow on social media.

<https://www.lunarticksmusic.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/lunarticksmusic>

[lunartickspresents/](https://www.instagram.com/lunartickspresents/)

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NEIGHBORHOOD

Lunar Ticks Is Making Music

Lunar Ticks is an eclectic improvisational/alternative rock band from Chicago, IL, or more specifically, Irving Park. Living in the neighborhood for the last 7 years has formed a bond between the group and community. They know many neighbors and have performed at the Independence Park Beer fest multiple times. The band has rehearsed and

recorded 4 albums from their home studio, including 2020's "Another Batch of Country Duds," where the band takes a step into acoustic Americana, folk, country, and bluegrass music.

This summer the five-piece band of Faraz Chaudry (guitar/vocals), Josh Levine (keyboards/vocals), Ryan Mannix (guitar/vocals), Joel Masinter (bass), and Carter Stirtz (drums) will be bringing 2 more shows to Independence Park: Saturday, August 7th and Saturday, September 25th, beginning at 5 p.m. The group will perform

Picture This: Jackie Bravo - Portrait Artist



My name is Jackie Bravo Vicere and I was lucky enough to meet a lot of you during my Front Porch Project, which started in April of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2020. This project started by being a small photography documentary project of how each family experienced the pandemic lockdown in their own individual way. However, I was featured in several news outlets like NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, NBC Chicago, ABC Chicago, Univision, WGN-News, and many small newspapers in different communities in Illinois which made the project become bigger than I could have ever expected.

The media truly helped the project expand and the amazing support from all you, neighbors, was overwhelming. The project was donation-based, meaning people donated whatever they could at the moment, meaning some people paid me money for their pictures and some people paid me by baking cupcakes. The first \$1,000 I gathered with this project was donated to help local hospitals get PPO and for a homeless shelter to provide meals.

During the project I photographed 615 families around Illinois and drove 25,000 miles in my car. I also had amazing conversations with amazing people, always at a safe distance and never taking my facemask off. I enjoyed this project so much and I continue to keep in touch with a lot of you through my Facebook

page, Just in Time Productions.

My career as a photographer started back in my hometown. As some of you may know, I am a proud born and raised Mexican who embraces diversity and tolerance through photography. I am a part-time photographer and full-time behavioral therapist for kids in the spectrum. I am happily married since 2019 and moved to this neighborhood in April of the same year. We love the neighborhood and how diverse it is.

Ever since the pandemic lockdown, my small company, Just in Time Productions, kick-started and I have been very busy most weekends documenting family portraits, newborns, and weddings. I continue to get more education in photography and I believe in the never ending process of perfecting the amazing craft of photography. I recently completed a newborn photography course specializing in posing and lighting with an acclaimed photographer, Ana Brandt. I will continue to further my education in photography and collaborate with other artists to bring fun projects to our community as well as mentoring young artists looking for a career in photography.

My husband and I are expecting our first child, which is due in October, and I am very excited to be able to document each and every milestone in our family through my lens! I hope

to see more faces around the neighborhood and also to have the opportunity to document your family during the beautiful weather ahead of us. To enquire about photo sessions you can email me at jtprod.chicago@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Three Brothers Garden Helps Feed the Hungry

Liz Mills

Calling All Vegetable Gardeners!

If you're finding yourself with an overabundance of homegrown veggies, Three Brothers Garden has the solution! We're inviting home gardeners to participate in a program called Plant a Row for the Hungry. Simply dedicate a row in your garden to growing crops for donation to the Irving Park Food Pantry. Drop off your donation on Tuesdays before 6 p.m. at Three Brothers Garden, 4107 N. Pulaski, next to the Irving Park Lutheran

Church parking lot. Your donation will be brought to the Food Pantry Wednesday morning for immediate distribution to Food Pantry clients.

The garden is a Carlson Community Services program led by a volunteer committee consisting of co-chairs Ruth Olech and Rebecca Haneberg, Sara Anderson, Jose Garcia, Pat Morin, Melanie Reschke, Judy Sviatko and Dorene Jordan. If you'd like to be notified of garden work days and events, send us a note at carlsoncommunityservices.org/contact/ and you'll be added to our mailing list. All vegetables grown in Three Brothers Garden are donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry.

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

TALENTED NEIGHBOR

Ahoy, We Have a National Champion in Our Hood

Sue Ryan

Congrats to Ema Kuczura, daughter of John and Sang Kuczura, who capped off her collegiate rowing career with a remarkable feat. Ema rows for Duke and its eight-person boat claimed the NCAA National Championship beating out Princeton to claim the 2V8 C Final victory. In case you are wondering, 2V8 means Second Varsity Eight



Person boat. According to head coach Megan Cooke Carcagno, "I'm so proud of this team and the grit they have shown all season. Given this unprecedented year of challenges, we rose up and tied for the best program finish ever." Ema's next challenge is working in Washington, DC for Senate Democrats. Way to go Ema!

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Kind of Blow

Sue Ryan

A GIPNA resident recently raised concerns about the noise and pollution emitted by gas-powered leaf blowers. Many of us live in close proximity to the expressway, so we didn't choose to live here for the peace and quiet, but still the ear-piercing noise is more than just an annoyance.

Consider a few facts from our friends the scientists:

- According to the EPA, gas-powered lawn equipment, in particular leaf blowers, creates high levels of toxic and carcinogenic emissions, including benzene, butadiene, formaldehyde, and fine particulates. Children, the elderly and pets suffer the greatest risks from dust, toxic emissions and extreme noise – which can reach up to 112 dB, enough to cause hearing loss in 2-5 minutes. Even at 800 meters' distance, a conventional, gas-powered blower is still over the 55 dB limit considered safe by the WHO.
- The American Lung Association, American Heart Association and the World Health Organization show exposure to gas-powered lawn equipment increases risk for illnesses including cancer, lung disease, respiratory illnesses, hypertension, hearing loss, and dementia.
- Gas-powered blowers destroy habitat for beneficial insects, deplete topsoil and ultimately cause erosion.
- The California Air Resources Board estimates that operating a gas-powered blower for one hour emits the equivalent pollution as driving a 2016 Toyota Camry 1100 miles.
- Leaf blower exhaust is worse than a truck's in many ways. Much of the fuel/oil mixture gets emitted incompletely or totally unburned. It disperses a host of hydrocarbons, fine particulates, toxins, and carcinogens.

What can you do?

If you maintain your own yard, consider investing in an electric powered leaf blower. Last year, we bought a leaf blower and weed whacker set (Greenworks) from Costco. Both have the power to get the job done. One caveat is that they are not noise free. I thought they would be as quiet as our electric car which emits soft music at slow speeds, so people can hear you backing up. So they are louder than I expected, but still quieter than a gas powered one and they don't emit toxins.

If you have a lawn service, consider asking the crew to switch to electric leaf blowers and weed whackers. In some cases, neighbors use the same service, so getting a few to switch can have a big impact. If you are thinking of getting a lawn service, ask if they will use electric powered leaf blowers.

If you would like more information, check out these sources.

Chicago C.A.L.M. Citizens Advocation Leafblowing Moderation, which regularly shares news about this issue from across the country. Access through Facebook.

<https://www.quietcleanpdx.org/leaf-blowers-facts-myths/>

For ideas about alternatives to gas-powered landscaping practices, there's a helpful list here:

<https://www.quietcleanpdx.org/solutions-alternatives-to-gas-leaf-blowers/>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/blog/2017/08/lifestyle-eco-actions-gas-powered-leaf-blowers>

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Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



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