

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



STRANGE NEW WORLD

Distant, But Still a Community

This is not a typical spring in Independence Park. Instead of emerging from our winter-enforced hibernation to greet the warm weather and say hello to friends and neighbors, we're all distancing ourselves from one another in response to the spread of the coronavirus.

However, our community spirit remains strong. We still talk to friends on the street—handshakes and hugs are off the table for now, but waves and shouted greetings keep our connection alive.

Sheltering in place mandates a physical distance, but we're still part of a strong community. GIPNA's Facebook page features "Acts of Kindness," stories of IP residents finding ways to cope with the distancing and help out their neighbors. Please take a look and add your own experiences.

The majority of neighbors wear masks when they're out, which is wonderful to see. Wearing a mask demonstrates the respect and concern we have for one another. Remember, masks help prevent a

person who doesn't know they're carrying the virus from infecting others.

Our local businesses are suffering, unfortunately. We encourage Independence Park residents to support them as much as possible. Please consider ordering from one of the restaurants providing delivery or pickup service—this situation will end at some point, and we hope our local businesses are with us as we resume normal activities.

Our Annual Meeting was canceled, for obvious reasons, but we'll manage a Zoom gathering and will be set for another year. The Alley Cleanup also fell by the wayside, but we encouraged each household to clean the alley behind their own home. We're still planning to salvage some of the Farmers Market later in the summer, but at this point it's difficult to know exactly how that will work.

In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe, and keep looking out for your neighbors. This is a watershed moment in all our lives, one of the before-and-after events we'll remember as long as we live. The actions we take now and the concern we show for one another will be more proof that Independence Park is a great community.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Restaurants Offering Service Options

These area restaurants are offering delivery or curbside service during this period of sheltering at home.

- Alps Pancake House & Restaurant, 3637 W. Irving Park Road, originalalps.com
- Backlot Coffee: 3982 N. Avondale, backlotcoffee.com
- Bia's Cafe Mariano: 4323 W. Addison
- Bryn Mawr Breakfast Club: 3348 W Bryn Mawr, brynmaurbreakfastclub.net
- Chew on This: 7544 W. Addison
- Chicago Taco Authority: 4219 W. Irving Park Road, tacoauthority.com
- City News Café: 4018 N. Cicero Ave
- Community Tavern: 4038 N Milwaukee Ave., trycaviar.com
- Easy Street Pizza: 3750 N. Central Ave., EasyStreetChicago.com
- EL Asadero Colombiano: 4800 N. Central Ave., GrubHub
- El Tezcal: 4305 N. Kedzie Avenue, ordereltezcalmexicanrestaurant.com
- ERIS Brewery and Cider House: 4240 W. Irving Park Road, erischicago.com
- Fannie's: 4042 N. Milwaukee Ave., fanniescafe.com
- Finom Coffee: 4200 W. Irving Park Road, finomcoffee.com
- Golden Nugget: 4229 W. Irving Park Road, places.singleplatform.com
- Hands On Thai and Sushi: 5056 W. Irving Park Road, handson.us

- Hearth And Crust: 3608 W. Irving Park Road, hearthandcrust.com
- Hot Woks Cool Sushi: 3930 N. Pulaski Road, HotWoksCoolSushi.com
- Jeffs Red Hots: 3901 N. Cicero Ave., allmenus.com/il/chicago/271943-jeffs-red-hots/menu
- La Villa, lavillabanquets.com/online-ordering
- Lake Effect Brewing Company 4727 W. Montrose, lakeeffectbrewing.com
- LaNonna: 3400 N. Lawndale Ave., facebook.com/lanonnail
- Legno Chicago: 4250 N. Central Ave., legnochicago.com/menu/dinner-menu
- Luna Empanadas: 6011 W. Irving Park Road, lunaempanadas.com
- Mirabella Italian Cuisine: 3454 W. Addison, yelp.to/qTKq/TIGStEiyU4
- Old Irving Brewery: 4419 W. Montrose Ave., oldirvingbrewing.com
- Patino's Grill: 6032 W. Irving Park Road, perkolatorcoffee.com
- Pitchfork: 2922 W. Irving Park Road, PitchforkChicago.com
- Reclaimed: 3655 N. Western Ave., reclaimedbarandrestaurant.com/food/dinner-menu
- TacoMax: 4009 N. Elston Ave., on food delivery apps
- Tamales Express/Vegetarian Express: 4747 N. Damen Ave.
- The Churro Waffle: 2845 W. Irving Park Road, thechurrowaffle.com
- Twisted Hippo: 2925 W. Montrose Ave., twistedhippo.com/order
- Zacatecas Restaurant: 5037 W. Diversey Ave.

GIPNA Board public meetings suspended until further notice.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Due to the on-going coronavirus pandemic, all future events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please contact GIPNA (info@gipna.org), IPAC (ipac.chicago@gmail.com), AFAC (athleticfieldpark.com), Friends of Murphy (friendsofmurphy.org), and CAPS (CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org) for updated event information.



INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE

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

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

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

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Advertising Deadline:

June 10, 2020

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.

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COMMUNICATION

E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

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

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



IRVING PARK COMMUNITY

Food Pantry

CHARITABLE EFFORTS

An Indy Park Jammer Supports the Food Pantry

Thank you to Robert Huston of the Indy Park Bluegrass Jam Band! Bob stopped by the Irving Park Community Food Pantry in December to drop off a donation of \$700! The money represented the tips the group garnered

playing GIPNA's Farmers Market last summer at Independence Park. Food Pantry executive director John Psiharis and board member Sara Yost (center and left) accepted the donation. (Photo by Lynn Anderson.)

When the world isn't on lockdown, the Indy Jammers also play the first Sunday of every month at City News Cafe at Six Corners. Stop by to see them sometime!



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.

Are you a
GIPNA member?
Join today!



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

PLEASE PRINT: DATE

NAME #1

NAME #2

ADDRESS

Check here if new member, new to the neighborhood.

PHONE #1

PHONE #2

E-MAIL #1

E-MAIL #2

GIPNA
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

- Check amount enclosed:
- Single \$10 Family \$20
- Business \$15
- Lifetime \$100 per person
- Check here if a new member

Annual Dues enclosed: \$

Tax Deductible Donation for GIPNA: \$

Total of enclosed check: \$

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

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
**GIPNA Volunteers
Recognized for
Their Service**

In March, GIPNA honored the people who make everything we do possible: the volunteers who do the work to make GIPNA work. Volunteers, board members, new neighbors, and local officials gathered at the Alps Pancake House and Restaurant. As they have in years past, Alps owners Bob and Demi Theo provided savory snacks.

GIPNA president Dickie Nichols thanked the many volunteers who

help at events throughout the year. GIPNA works to support the community in many ways, but we couldn't do anything without our neighbors' support. State Representative Jaime Andrade also was on hand to thank the volunteers for their efforts and their contributions to the Independence Park community.

Sharon Sears was honored as GIPNA's Volunteer of the Year. Sharon serves as GIPNA's secretary, and she also never fails to step up when we organize an event. Whether she's running a raffle at the Pancake Breakfast, decorating for the Wine & Cheese Party, or simply lending a hand where it's needed, she's always there. Thanks, Sharon!





FUNDRAISING

Wine & Cheese Winners Enjoying a Banner Year

Longtime Independence Park residents Robin Hochstatter and Jan Berger won the bidding battle for a GIPNA banner at last fall's Wine & Cheese Party silent auction. They creatively combined their last names on the banner, which reads "Robin and Jan Hochberger."

Robin is a director on the GIPNA board (and an ace photographer). Both she and Jan are always ready to volunteer at the various GIPNA-sponsored events. It's nice to see their amalgamated name up on Irving Park Road by Indy Park! Congrats!



BUSINESS

Eat Local and Win

Athletic Field Park Advisory Council and Friends of Murphy have partnered to buy gift cards from local restaurants, and they're giving them away to community members who continue to support our local establishments during this challenging time. In a post announcing the program, AFAC noted that "our community has received so much support from our restaurants now it's time to give back."

To enter, visit IHeartIrvingPark.com.

com to see a list of participating restaurants. Order take-out or delivery from one of them, and enjoy a good meal safe at home. Take a photo of your receipt and submit it through the [IHeartIrvingPark](http://IHeartIrvingPark.com) website.

Drawings take place every Tuesday and Sunday. You can see a list of recent winners, and other ways to help the community (or get help yourself) on the site. Don't forget to take a photo of your food and share it on social media. Use the hashtag [#iheartirvingpark](https://twitter.com/iheartirvingpark) and tag @FOMurphy and @Athleticfield on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook.

CHARITABLE SUPPORT

AFAC Starts Campaign for Irving Park Food Pantry

Recognizing a need, the Athletic Field Advisory Council has initiated a campaign to support the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. AFAC has started a website for accepting contributions, and every contribution will be matched dollar for dollar.

Like many charitable organizations, the Pantry has seen funds dry up during our current economic upheaval. "Since most of our community programs at AFAC have been postponed or cancelled, the Athletic Field Park Advisory Council decided to channel its work and fulfilling its mission in another direction," says AFAC president Dennis Puhr.

AFAC wants to generate \$10,000 to support the Pantry.



Donating is simple: visit iheartirvingpark.com and follow the instructions to make your contribution. IMPORTANT: Only contributions made through the website will be matched.

All funds that go through the website will be handled by the AFAC treasurer. Beyond the financial support, AFAC hopes this effort will raise awareness of the Pantry throughout the larger Northwest Side community.

Other community groups are lending a hand. GIPNA, Friends of Murphy, Independence Park Advisory Council, Old Irving Park Association, the Parent-Teacher Association of Murphy School, and West Walker Civic Association have all stepped forward to support AFAC's fine work.

If you're in need, the Pantry can be reached directly at irvingparkfoodpantry.com.

Vinegar + Baking Soda = Cheap Cleaner

You can do a lot of cleaning without resorting to harsh industrial chemicals. For example, who knew that white vinegar is such a good cleaning product?

A 1-to-1 solution of distilled white vinegar and water, mixed and put in a spray bottle, will let you clean your kitchen cabinets in no time. Want a sparkly washing machine? To sanitize the drum, pour in a quart of white vinegar with a cup of baking soda, and scrub with a nylon brush, then run a heavy-duty cycle at the hottest setting. Use a toothbrush and vinegar to scrub detergent compartments, or put them in the dishwasher if they're removable. Use hot, soapy water to deslime the door gasket.

Your dryer also may need a bit of work. Clean the lint trap with a crevice vacuum attachment and then wipe down the drum with that 1-to-1 solution of diluted white vinegar and water. Check the exhaust for lint buildup. Unplug



the machine and remove the duct at the back of the dryer, then use a rotary brush to pull out the lint and debris, and vacuum up any remaining fibers. Be sure to also clean the exterior vent, too.

Other simple and inexpensive products are cleaning powerhouses, too.

Bathrooms are never fun to clean, right? No problem. Use a squeeze of lemon juice to dissolve mineral deposits on faucets.

- Shower doors looking cloudy? Spray on undiluted white vinegar and follow with a sponge dampened with water and a few drops of dish soap.
- Is the shower head not working as well as it used to? Fill a plastic bag with white vinegar and secure it to the showerhead with a rubber band so the head is submerged

overnight. Remove and flush with hot water. It might need a bit of work with a toothpick or old toothbrush to remove those last bits of scale.

- You know that black slime that lives and builds up in the sink drain? Sprinkle in four tablespoons of baking soda and follow with two cups of white vinegar. Once the bubbling stops, flush with boiling water.
- Use full-strength vinegar to brighten up dingy grout. Pour the vinegar directly on the grout lines and use a stiff grout brush to scrub with a mix of baking soda, water, and a few drops of dish detergent. Let it sit for five minutes and then brush again. Wipe up with a damp sponge and rinse. Follow up with a good grout sealer.

Have to have a clean refrigerator, right? Wipe down the inside, door, and gasket with hot, soapy water mixed with a tablespoon of baking soda. To keep the baskets from sticking and ripping prematurely, coat them lightly with petroleum jelly. Dust the coils with a special long, flexible brush or use the vacuum cleaner brush attachment designed for the job.

You might smell like a pickle when you're done, but you'll know that everything is really clean.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Post Your Favorite Story on GIPNA's Facebook Page

Need a smile? During this period of social distancing and sheltering in place, Independence Park neighbors are still finding community. Whether it's a stuffed animal in the window as part of a risk-free scavenger hunt or a safe-distance Happy Birthday serenade, we're still finding ways to connect.

We're asking you and all our neighbors to visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/GIPNA/) and share acts of kindness that brightened your day. Take a moment to recognize those in our community doing wonderful things for one another—big or small. Here are just a few that have been shared so far:

- Whoever dressed as the Easter Bunny and walked around the neighborhood over the weekend.
- The Murphy School teachers who paraded through the neighborhood on Friday in the Murphy Comfort Caravan.
- The volunteers coordinating the IHeartIrvingPark local restaurant initiative.

☐☐☐ GIPNA ☐☐☐

Join today!

Use PayPal at www.gipna.org
or mail in a check.

For information, send an e-mail to:
newsletter@gipna.org

George C. Clark

After earning a BFA degree from the School of the Art Institute I began a long career in commercial art in the *Mad Men* days of the 1960s. It was interrupted by 13 months in combat at a 130-man heavy artillery base up near the Cambodian border in Vietnam.

Once back in the real world I continued my career. I did graphics and TV storyboards for national advertising accounts, designed and illustrated child-oriented hobby-craft kits for a major manufacturer, illustrated textbooks for education publishers, and for 12 years mostly in the 1990s created cartoon puzzles, mazes, and paper sculpture projects that ran on the "Spots" page of the *Chicago Tribune* Sunday color comics.

I also began a parallel career in fine arts. My first one-person gallery show was held in 1978. Since then my figure paintings, landscapes, and graphics have been exhibited at many museums—the Art Institute of Chicago and the Art Museums of Milwaukee, Rockford, and Fort Wayne, among others—and commercial and institutional galleries. My work has been acquired by the collections of the Illinois State Museums, the United States Air Force, the National Veterans Art Museum, the Kinsey Institute, McDonald's Corporation, the Quaker Oats Company, Sandoz/Novartis AG, the Ritz Carlton Hotel of Cleveland, and many other corporate and private collections. Most of these are in the Midwest, but my work is also in collections in California, Texas, New York, Israel, Japan, and England.

I retired from doing commercial art years ago and now I just create the art I love to make. Drawing and painting from life has always been at the core of my art, whether working with models in the studio or doing on-site drawings or watercolors of interesting places and things I have encountered on my travels.

My series called "Traveler's Sketchbook" includes subjects that range from my own backyard to the back roads of Europe, and can be seen online at travelerssketchbook.blogspot.com. The highest-profile recent exhibition of my figure work was at the Chicago Cultural Center downtown in the winter of 2017. More than fifty paintings and drawings were shown in a show titled "Portraits Real and Imaginary." PBS TV Channel 11 featured that exhibition on the *Chicago Tonight* program and you can see my interview at <https://news.wttw.com/2017/01/03/longtime-chicago-portrait-artist-focuses-face>

My wife Pat and I moved into our Independence Park house in August 1986, and we love this neighborhood. The prior owners had converted it into a two-flat, which was perfect for us as I could use the upstairs as my cluttered art studio, leaving the first floor as our main living space and satisfying Pat's desire for tidy surroundings.

[Editor's Note: George could have been featured in our Talented Neighbors series years ago, but we held off because he happened to be married to a key member of the Voice team. We're very glad the community finally has a chance to discover his work!]





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Jaime Andrade, State Representative,
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Caring Before and After Childcare

Our campus may be closed, but classes are still very much in session at St. Viator. Thanks to the Internet, learning and student-teacher interactions are still a regular part of every "school day". We are proud that our eLearning started the very first day of schools being closed.

While we currently can't have Open Houses or give personal tours we are open to helping you as you decide on where your child will go for the 2020-2021 school year.

Reach out to our Admissions director Marge Tiritilli at mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org, she will be happy to help you.

Most important is that you all stay safe and healthy during this time of isolation.

2020-2021

Application for Admissions

forms are available online and can be submitted to mtiritilli@stviatorchicago.org

Please feel free to contact Marge Tiritilli with any questions or to schedule a personal tour.

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Let's Garden Together while we
are #AloneTogether!

For the third year, Stephanie will be distributing Sunflower seeds to homes and businesses all around Old Irving Park in an effort to grow and display a community-wide garden of large sunflowers.

Visit www.stephaniecutter.com/sunflowers to sign up for a packet of FREE sunflower seeds, and Stephanie will "non-contact" deliver your seeds right to you to plant and nurture!

Share photos of your sunflowers' progress with us on social media and you can be entered into drawings for free prizes! Tag your photos with #IrvingSunflowers!



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Please apply!

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- Hot Water Heaters
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Garbage Disposals
- Clogged Drains
- Ejector/Sump Pumps
- Battery Backup Systems
- Low Water Pressure Problems
- Water Booster Pumps
- Gas Line Installation & Leak Repairs
- Rehab & Custom Shower Systems
- Sewer Power Rodding
- Sewer camera

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FRUIT 🍷 VEGGIES 🍷 PASTRIES 🍷 MEATS
COFFEE 🍷 PLANTS 🍷 JAMS 🍷 CHEESES

2020 INDEPENDENCE PARK FARMERS MARKET

🍷 ON HOLD FOR NOW 🍷

The social distancing restrictions we're currently observing have put the Independence Park Farmers Market in limbo for the time being. We have commitments from some of our vendors, but no one knows when public gatherings will be allowed again.

We're exploring the possibility of a virtual market and/or a delivery service, but many questions remain to be answered. We'll also need approval from the Chicago Park District before we can move forward. Please watch for email blasts for announcements as the situation changes.