

INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

VOICE



COMMUNITY

It's Pat

Sue Ryan

She's here, she's there, she is seemingly everywhere. Pat Clark is a familiar figure in our neighborhood. As the unofficial mayor of Independence Park, Pat puts in more hours and gets more done than many mayors on the public payroll. She's a major force in keeping our community vital and livable.

Pat was honored at GIPNA's annual volunteer party in May. However, this was no ordinary thank-you—it was more of a Lifetime Achievement Award. State Representative Jaimie Andrade (40th) sponsored a resolution in the General Assembly declaring November 6, 2021 (her birthday), as Pat Clark Community Service Day in the state of Illinois.

The resolution notes Pat's many contributions and asks all Illinois citizens to "emulate Pat Clark's acts of kindness by caring for their respective neighborhoods, including picking up trash, checking on neighbors, volunteering for a neighborhood program, and performing other acts that would benefit their communities." (The full resolution can be found at gipna.org.)

Let me offer a recap of a few

of Pat's contributions to our community.

1. Pat was the linchpin in getting the Farmers Market up and running. It was a huge effort. Vendors, permits, applications, volunteers, and special events, dealing with the park district, and securing payment services are just a few of the tasks she managed. When she relinquished her duties, it took a committee of several committed volunteers to replicate her work.

2. Pat has handled the production side of the *Voice*, the GIPNA newsletter, for fifteen years. (And she writes articles and interviews neighbors, including many of you!) You are reading this because Pat continues to oversee the production, printing, distribution, community calendar, and advertising. She also edits stories and sometimes writes the Green Knowledge column, giving practical tips about helping to sustain our planet.

3. The community gardens in our neighborhood bring joy and contribute to public safety. Annette Held, with the help of other Murphy moms, created the garden at Monticello and Waveland. However, for the past 15 years, as volunteers have rotated in and out to plant, weed, and water, Pat has been the constant presence that ensures this garden



flourishes.

4. Pat founded the Fine Craft Fair, which is generally held the weekend before Mother's Day at Independence Park. Local artisans sell their creative and unique wares, saving many of us from showing up without a thoughtful gift on Mother's Day.

5. Pat promotes GIPNA events with dignity and decorum, including a strict attention to proper dress including a sandwich board to promote events. She's also a go-to decorator and sign-maker for every GIPNA function.

On October 9th, the GIPNA community came out in full force to

honor Pat with the unveiling of a bench installed in the community garden. State Rep. Jaime Andrade was on hand as was State Senator Christina Pacione-Zayas, who read the resolution. Roberta Wilk offered a heartwarming toast recounting how lucky we are to have Pat in our lives. It was a splendid fall day and seeing Pat actually sitting (on the bench for a photo op) was a rare occurrence indeed.

Modest to a fault, Pat typically waves off compliments. Still, if you see her out for her daily walk (don't be surprised if she's picking up litter), offer a thank-you for making a great neighborhood even better.

The regular GIPNA board meeting is Tues., Nov. 2, 7:00 p.m.
Join us online via Zoom. Meeting I.D.: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NOVEMBER

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

MON., NOV. 8—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., (athleticfieldpark.com for location).

TUES., NOV. 9—FOM Meeting, 7 p.m., (friendsofmurphy.org for location/link).

WED., NOV. 10—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.

TUES., NOV. 16—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

DECEMBER

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

WED., DEC. 8—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org to make reservation.



Individual \$10
Family \$25
Business \$15
Lifetime \$150

Join as a new member
Renew your membership
Donate to GIPNA

NOVIEMBRE

MARTES, NOV. 2—Reunión de la Junta Directiva de GIPNA, 7 p.m., en línea ID de la reunión de Zoom: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

LUN., NOV. 8—Reunión de AFAC, 6:30 p.m., (athleticfieldpark.com para conocer la ubicación).

MARTES, NOV. 9—Reunión de la FOM, 7 p.m., (friendsofmurphy.org para ubicación / enlace).

MIÉ., NOV. 10—Reunión CAPS Beat 1732, 7 p.m. a través de Zoom. Póngase en contacto con CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para hacer una reserva.

MARTES, NOV. 16—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park.

DICIEMBRE

SMARTES, DIC. 7—Reunión de la Junta Directiva de GIPNA, 7 p.m., en línea ID de la reunión de Zoom: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

MIÉ, DIC. 8—Reunión de CAPS Beat 1732, 7 p.m. a través de Zoom. Póngase en contacto con CAPS.017district@chicagopolice.org para hacer una reserva.



COMMUNITY

Barack and Ben Together at Last

Sue Ryan

While there are few silver linings to be had when your teenager is diagnosed with a rare cancer, the Make a Wish Foundation (MAK) shines a bright light for children battling life threatening diseases.

Our son, Ben, had just finished his sophomore year of high school when bone scans revealed lesions in his knee, hip and arm. By December, they had spread throughout his skeleton—literally from head to toe. It wasn't until the National Institute of Health - Undiagnosed Diseases Network took on his case that we were finally able to get a diagnosis (Lymphoma of the bone, Stage 4) seven months later.

As Ben was undergoing his grueling 24/7 chemo infusions and week-long hospital stays in the winter and spring of 2017, he learned he was eligible to have a wish granted by MAK. We met with a Wish Architect who helped Ben craft his wish and encouraged him to dream big. We all contributed possible wish scenarios. I advocated for a cruise around the fjords of Norways, but was reminded that this was Ben's wish. Ben

chimed in that it would be spectacular to take a few friends on a private jet to the Super Bowl or some far flung music festival. Yet, when it came to submitting his top wish, Ben asked his architect if he could play basketball and hang out with President Barack Obama. And Amy, his wish architect, said, "Let's see if we can make this happen."

Ben's wish was a celebrity wish which takes longer to grant. Tack on a pandemic and four years had passed since he made his wish. The wish was narrowed in scope. No basketball playing and, sadly, no in person meeting.

Finally, the day arrived and on September 1st, Ben and Barack had their 30-minute one-on-one via Zoom. For Ben, it was a thrill of a lifetime. My husband and I Facetimed him afterwards and his huge grin was priceless. It was better than he could have ever imagined. In case you are wondering, President Obama is as kind, thoughtful, funny, insightful and personable as Ben hoped he would be.

The Make a Wish Foundation truly makes wishes come true. Ben has been in remission for four years and his oncologist is optimistic that his cancer will not return. For us, that is the grandest wish of all.

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
Photographers: Robin Hochstatter and Cindy Schuch
Staff Writers: Pat Clark, Liz Drew, Robin Hochstatter, Patti Kimbel, Rebecca Otaivora, Ellen Ryan, Sue Ryan, Gretchen Siffing
Special Contributors: Sara Clatanoff, Scott Dewey, Erica Dreisbach, Jenny Dreyer, Robyn Hurtig, Maggie Miller, Liz Mills, Murphy School writing class, John Psiharis, Pete Rogers, Anne Watkins
Calendar Translation: Jackie Bravo
Design/Production: Cindy Schuch

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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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3900 Hamlin - Linda Lehman
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3800 Irving Park Road - Linda Lehman
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3900 Lawndale - Cy Clausen
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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. We'll sign you up so that you don't miss any more neighborhood announcements.

THE ARTS

Home

P.A., Murphy School Student

Home is the salmon-colored house at the end of the block with the white gate

Home is the dirty stones, bright green plants and long tall trees in my front yard

Home is big gardens, posters, flags, train tracks

All through my block

Home is the family photos in the dining room

The Virgen de Guadalupe painting

The pet toys on the floor that my mom begs me to pick up

Home is my sisters and I laughing on the couch

My parents watching tv on a Sunday night

Home is the dares my cousin Emily and I have pulled

Home is my ama y apa calling from Mexico

Home is my abuelita y abuelito watching over me

Home is my mom saying "es por tu bien" because I don't want to take medicine

Home is my Eita reminding me "I am the sun"

Home is my cousin Jr. & I drinking ponche on Christmas Eve

It's my tias, tios, parents, older cousins sitting at the "adult table" eating pozole

While my cousins, sisters, nieces and nephews sit at the "kids table" eating tinga

Home is the binder on the family shelf that is full of my childhood

Home is my Polaroid pictures that captured moments I will carry everywhere

Home is my phone that has heard my friends & I laugh

That has seen me cry & heard me yell

Home is all these details in my life.

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.

Diversity Invitation

Scott Dewey

The last year has been difficult and challenging. We have faced COVID, economic struggles, and a long-overdue reckoning on racism. But as we look to address these challenges as a community, we can recognize this truism—we are stronger together.

Part of that strength is the diversity of our neighborhood. And the only way to harness that strength is to ensure all the voices and experiences in our community are heard—and most importantly, understood.

We are lucky to live in a diverse neighborhood, and our neighborhood association should be informed and guided by the perspectives of our neighbors from all races, all backgrounds, and all walks of life. To that end, we are inviting you to add your voice to GIPNA.

You know GIPNA, the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association, from this newsletter in your mailbox or the emails you receive. You may have shopped at the Farmers Market we organize in the summer or attended the fundraising activities we hold, such as the annual Gourmet Pancake Breakfast on Father's Day or the Save Our Ash Trees campaign to keep our streets beautiful and shady. We do this work to enhance and improve the quality of life in our neighborhood, but we can do it best only when all parts of our community are represented and all voices are heard.

Maybe you are new to the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood or haven't been sure how to get involved. Maybe you didn't know whether your perspective

would be welcomed. Maybe you haven't felt like you have the time. Maybe you didn't know anything about GIPNA at all. Regardless of the reason, now is a great time to join us and become part of the change. Your voice is important and needed. We can best represent the whole neighborhood when the whole neighborhood takes part in the process.

Please come join us at our regular Board meetings, which are held the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m., (except July and January), currently via Zoom, but normally held in the Independence Park Bungalow, at the corner of Grace and Hamlin Ave. The link to join our meetings virtually is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81929586855?pwd=R3ZoT1pLR2JRbytZMmh1VkIHT2tiQT09> This and lots of other information is on our website, gipna.org.

Your level of involvement is entirely up to you:

- Attend a meeting and just listen
- Speak your mind if you feel so inclined, in a safe space
- Bring an idea to improve the neighborhood
- Submit an article for the newsletter
- Volunteer to help with an activity

Our neighborhood is made up of a wide variety of people, and it's important that all perspectives are heard and considered. We welcome:

- All races
- All religions
- All countries of origin
- All sexual orientations
- All genders
- All abilities



COMMUNITY

Irving Park Community Food Pantry Seeks Holiday Donations

John Psiharis

As is tradition, the Irving Park Community Food Pantry will provide special holiday meal provisions to its clients during November (for Thanksgiving) and December (for the winter holidays). Due to the pandemic and a lack of accessibility, we are asking for only monetary contributions so we can purchase the specific items needed in bulk while reducing interactions.

Donations can be made via PayPal at www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org or mailed to the Pantry at 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. You can mark them for Holiday Programs if you want to ensure your donation is used for those items specifically. Questions can be sent to info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

Our traditional Holiday Gift program for clients' children up to 12 years old also will be done as it was last year, with specific gift donations requested. These will be packed into stockings and given out by age group. Please watch the Pantry's Facebook and Instagram pages for details of what we need for each age. Typically, we provide gifts to about 300 children.

The Pantry will be closed on November 24th and December 22nd and 29th so our volunteers can celebrate the holidays with their families.

Coat Drive Continues

The Pantry continues to provide coats to its clients each Wednesday through November 17th (and the evening of Tuesday, November 9th). We still are accepting new or gently used winter coats along with winter hats, scarves and gloves. Please don't donate sweaters, sweatshirts, shoes or other types of light clothing. Dropoff locations are spread throughout the community, including the front porch at 3822 N. Tripp Ave. (drop-off any time), both Disney II schools, and the Big Helper store at 4184 N. Elston Ave. (dropoff from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday).

Pandemic Hero

We are pleased to say the Greater Chicago Food Depository has named the Irving Park Food Pantry and its staff and volunteers a Pandemic Hero for remaining open every week to serve our clients during the tumultuous past 18 months. The challenges included evolving pandemic safety protocols, delayed or cancelled deliveries, electrical outages, blizzards, lightning-storm damage and the ongoing search for suppliers who can provide scarce food items.

We are proud of our volunteers' commitment and are proud to continue to meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."



COMMUNITY

GIPNA Kids Give Back

Ellen Ryan

Mahatma Gandhi said, “the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Several parents in our hood have imparted that wisdom onto their kids. See what these kids are doing.

GIPNA kids Tyesin (age 13) and Xayvour (age 12) Youngberg have been delivering the GIPNA *Voice* newsletters to the 3800 and 3900 blocks of Central Park since spring. Their mom heard those streets had no block captain to deliver the newsletters and asked them if they wanted to do it. Though they live on the 3900 block of Dakin, they said sure. Several appreciative residents on these blocks try to give the boys money. Xayvour and Tyesin politely decline and say they are just being neighborly. But if a person insists, they take the money and try to pay it forward somehow. They will continue to deliver the newsletters to these blocks for the foreseeable future. It makes them feel happy helping people out.

Isla (age 9) Pause creates cute earrings and bracelets. Sisters Haven (age 7) and Noa (age 4) sometimes help out. Isla sold them at the Lawndale block party this summer and made \$100. She could have bought books, candy or clothes. Instead, she donated the money to alexlemonadestand.org, a foundation created by the parents of Alexandra Scott who died of childhood cancer at age eight. The organization funds research, supports families, and provides resources to help cure childhood



cancer. Isla has been creating jewelry for a long time. She and her sisters really have fun doing so and they like helping people out. If you are so inclined, you can either buy some jewelry from Isla (email this author – ellenryanellen@gmail.com - for her contact information) or contribute at alexlemonadestand.org .

Last but not least, you may see two younger boys picking up trash in the parkways, sidewalks or streets in the neighborhood with their garbage picker sticks. It’s most likely Johnny (age 7) and Tyler (age 5) Cunningham. They occasionally pick up garbage with their dad, Chris Cunningham, owner of JT’s Genuine Sandwich Shop. Johnny likes to use his garbage picker stick because it’s fun to do and makes him feel happy.

Hats off to these wonderful kids who make this world a better place.



COMMUNITY

First Kickball Tournament

Pat Clark

On a wonderfully warm and breezy October 2 Saturday, kickball players assembled on an Independence Park baseball field for the first ever GIPNA Kickball Tournament. GIPNA board member Amy Mastroianni came up with this idea and literally ran with it and turned it into an instant success. Players paid a fee that included a custom T-shirt. There were enough players to make up two teams: the Monticello Ave. team in green T-shirts and the Lawndale/Ridgeway players wearing purple shirts.

Kickball is basically played like a baseball game, except rather than throwing a ball and the batter swinging at it, the pitcher rolls a soccer-sized ball at the player who kicks that ball with all their might. Some balls really were lofted up to

the sky. One hitter hammered that ball so hard that it made for the trees. The tall outfielder backed up to catch the ball, leaped over a park bench like he was in a steeplechase race and almost caught that ball! It was rather surprising that for people who possibly had never met before (interlopers from Oak Park), a strong team spirit was instantly forged. And there were tremendous smiles all around even after the Monticello Ave. team was beaten.

GIPNA would especially like to thank Chris Cunningham, JT’s Genuine Sandwich Shop, for being a major sponsor and his gift certificates for the winners. Also thank you to Golden Leaf Liquors and Big League Burgers Chicago for kicking in on sponsorships too.

Amy is considering organizing another kickball tournament next spring, but needs to recover from this one first. If this happens, I highly recommend watching the game; it was so darned much fun.



Putting an End to Idling

There seems to be an increase in people who are sitting (and often scrolling) in their idling cars. This behavior has been prevalent throughout the neighborhood and around the city, as well as in parking lots and parking garages. As inconsequential as it may seem...

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a short paper on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and addressed the downsides of letting your car idle. Check this out! According to DOE, idling reduces your vehicle's fuel economy, costs you money, and creates pollution. Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and produces more emissions that contribute to smog



and climate change than stopping and restarting your engine does.

Good news! If you drive a car that was made after 1980, you don't need to warm it up, even in the winter! It's actually bad for your car's engine to idle. According to Firestone Complete Autocare, manufacturers maintain that cars with modern fuel injection systems can be driven immediately on start-up, no need to warm them

up first.

And according to the DOE, in today's vehicles, driving the vehicle helps the engine reach its ideal operating temperature faster than idling it. The catalytic converter, which reduces emissions, operates much sooner if the car is driven. Even on the coldest days, most manufacturers recommend avoiding idling and driving off gently after running the vehicle for about 30 seconds. Not only will the engine warm up faster by being at work, but the car's interior will warm up more quickly as well.

Every two minutes of idling is equal to one mile of driving, according to lturnitoff.com. That adds up in miles per gallon. Perhaps you've noticed more and more cars with the stop-start system that automatically shuts off the engine when the vehicle is at rest, or at a stop light or stuck in traffic. The purpose

of this system is to cut both fuel use and eliminate idle emissions.

I'm breathing easier already. Oh, wait about that. . . guess what? DOE also cited that poor air quality can contribute to asthma and other ailments, and children's lungs are more susceptible to damage than adults' lungs are. Therefore, it's especially important for caregivers waiting to pick up schoolchildren to minimize idling, because vehicle emissions are more concentrated near the ground, where children breathe.

The City of Chicago has an ordinance in place that prohibits diesel vehicles over 8,000 lbs. from idling for more than 3 minutes. Emergency vehicles are exempt. The ordinance does not cover non-diesel vehicles under 8,000 lbs. So even though it's not illegal for you to sit in your idling car, for so many reasons it just makes sense not to.



TALENTED NEIGHBOR

Snow King

Pete Rogers

Dedicated powder hound and intrepid adventurer, GIPNA President Kevin Haight has been an avid skier since the age of three. He grew up in snowy Western Michigan in Spring Lake. Throughout his early years, Kevin was out on the slopes of his hometown ski area and the mountains of Northern Michigan. In high school, he skied competitively in slalom and giant slalom events. During college he jumped at the opportunity to spend a semester in

Breckenridge, CO, as a ski instructor in their adaptive skiing programs for disabled persons and worked with aspiring skiers with physical challenges and those with special needs.

Once he tasted the fresh mountain air and played in the deep powder of the Rockies, there was no turning back. Kevin began pursuing more challenging terrain and higher peaks. As an accomplished expert level skier, he has traveled the globe in search of fresh deep powder and steep slopes. He has skied the famed Chamonix Valley of France and challenged Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain in the French Alps. The Vallee Blanche is a famous descent that requires ice climbing

equipment at the start and skiing down glaciers. A single run of the Vallee Blanche takes an entire day.

Even the pandemic didn't slow Kevin down. He loaded up his gear and his trusty beagle Brody and headed to the adventure skiing mecca of Silverton, CO, an old mining town in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, population 534. At 9,318 feet above sea level, the air is thin and crisp. The mountains are famous for deep untracked powder, very steep terrain and helicopters! Skiers don full avalanche gear, climb aboard a helicopter and are whisked away to a remote mountain top. There's only one way to get back. As Kevin describes it, "You carefully study

the terrain, discuss the risks and possible problem areas with your fellow adventurers, then you take a few deep breaths, pick your line and jump in to experience the rush that comes from the challenge."

Skiing at this level requires not only a knowledge of mountaineering, avalanche dangers and weather, but also requires athletic conditioning throughout the year. Kevin keeps "mountain ready" with a mix of biking, swimming, tennis and his other favorite pastime, basketball. Did you know that Kevin is a competitive basketball player and was a silver medalist at the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany. Way to go, Kevin!



About the Art Exhibit on the Second Floor of Independence Library

*Maggie Miller,
Teen Librarian - YOUmedia, Independence Branch | Chicago Public Library*

"Hello everyone, for my Girl Scout Silver Award, I have set up an art exhibit around youth feelings during COVID. I felt teen and children's voices weren't really taken into account in the last year, so I've asked some amazing artists to create something about how they felt dealing with a pandemic. If you would like to add an art piece or draw something, feel free to bring a piece in or draw/write something in a sketchbook that is set up near the exhibit itself. If you bring in a piece of art, please tell a librarian, so that they can label your piece and contact you when the exhibition is over! Thank you to everyone who comes and sees the exhibition. I hope you enjoy it!" Piper Huizenga

Q & A: Maggie Miller with local teen artist, Piper Huizenga

Q: What inspired you to start this project?

A: When I started working on this, I was a Girl Scout Cadette and wanted to earn my Silver Award. Earning a Silver Award means identifying an issue you care about, and during the pandemic, I never seemed to see youth perspective on anything, and I wanted that to change.

Q: How has the pandemic been for you? What have been the struggles for youth?

A: It has been hard. As an unschooler, I lost much of the contact I had with friends when I could go to classes, I had more free time

than I knew what to do with, and I was lonely. Most of the things that affected adults affected children and teens in similar ways. I could feel the stress when something happened. I went to a BLM march, I watched the votes count up during the election, I did all these things and every teen I met had and was doing the same. This exhibition is trying to show the emotions everyone felt and is feeling.

Q: How are your peers during the pandemic?

A: My friends and I discuss feelings a lot but I never see that in the media so the more I spoke with them about how they

felt and what they were learning the more I wanted to share that, because we can help! We can change the world and people need to know. Children can and will do amazing things if you allow them.

Q: Why are YOUmedia spaces and virtual programs important for youth? How have virtual Teen Programs at CPL impacted you during the pandemic?

A: I love YOUmedia, I took a lot of the online classes they offered during COVID and I'm hoping to take more now. YOUmedia is important because it can really draw people together, and there are so many things to do, and so many options!

Quietly Amazing

Sarah Clatanoff

For the last 10 years Todd Kibbey has quietly been picking up trash along the parkway on Parkview Terrace from Dakin to Pulaski. Yes, I said 10 years! Nearly every Sunday Todd grabs a few trash bags and a homemade long handled stick with a sharp end for poking trash. The homemade poker was made by neighbor Bob Seablom to make it easier for him. When asked why he started the tradition he states, "because no one else did!" So, if you see him around the neighborhood, be sure to thank him!



News from Carlson Community Services

Liz Mills

Golf Outing Fundraiser

Thanks to the golfers, hole sponsors, raffle prize donors and helpers who made Carlson's 2021 Golf Outing a success! Thirty-five golfers enjoyed a beautiful early October day at Edgebrook Golf Course, had loads of fun and helped raise \$4,000 for Carlson programs.

Thanks to our generous hole sponsors: The Fish Guy, Swedish Hospital, Wintrust Bank Mayfair, Free Range Insurance, CrossFit Chisel, Community Accounting, and Carlson board members Pastor Erin Bouman and Marcy Sherrill.

Congratulations to Rick Reschke, Bill Sherlock, Daryl VanEssen and another Bill Sherlock on their tournament win. Thanks to the many volunteers who contributed raffle



prizes and helped with the event, especially fundraising committee member Mike Jordan, Linda Lehman and Marcy Sherrill.

Magic After-School Place (MAP)

MAP is back to in-person programming! Now in its 15th year, MAP serves up to 40 students from Belding and Murphy schools. Our tiered tuition structure and tuition assistance make the program affordable for children from every economic background. Fundraisers like our Golf Outing and Trivia Nights, grants and donations provide the funding to keep our tuition structure

affordable.

Currently, more than half of our students come from low-income households.

In addition to providing a safe place for kids to go after school, we provide structured homework help, group games, clubs, enrichment programs and more, all while following COVID-19 guidance.

Three Brothers Garden News

Three Brothers Garden had a great season! In addition to providing neighbors served by the Irving Park Food Pantry with fresh vegetables, the garden served as a COVID-safe outdoor space for neighbors to gather weekly for a common purpose. We welcomed several new volunteers as well as students looking for service hours, all under the guidance of our Garden Intern, Hannah Negray. Thanks to all who volunteered throughout the season.

Through early October, we've donated over 450 lbs. of vegetables to the Food Pantry. Thanks to generous neighbors, our donations


were bolstered by home garden surplus, which we gladly took to the Food Pantry Wednesday mornings.

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. Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our newsletters at carlsoncommunityservices.org if you'd like to stay informed about all that is happening!



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

(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 \$25

Business \$15

Lifetime \$150 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.)

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SCHOOLS

Murphy Happenings

Gretchen Siffing

The school year at Murphy Elementary is off to a good start. The children are in school learning, getting to know one another again, and adjusting to a new normal. In October, students and families gathered to celebrate the new school year at the Fall Block Party. Families shared gently used clothing with one another to help everyone get ready for the fall and winter season. The abundance from the school gardens were donated to the Irving Park Food Pantry. And the children have enjoyed coming together through the monthly Community Sing program.

As we head into the holiday season, Murphy has a few fundraisers that you can be a part of. Here are a few ways YOU can show your support for the students and faculty at Murphy Elementary!

Christmas Tree Sale to support Murphy Elementary School and Athletic Field Park. Order your tree, wreath, or garland at athleticfieldpark.com and pick up at JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop between 2-4 p.m. on Friday (11/26) or Saturday (11/27) or schedule a delivery straight to your home. Hurry, there is a limited supply of trees. Get yours before they are gone!

Murphy Match is back again! We have generous donors who have offered to match your donations to Friends of Murphy between December 15 - January 31. Go to friendsofmurphy.org to get all of the details about how you can make your donation and how your donation makes a difference!

We ♥ Murphy Lawn Signs! Have you seen these amazing lawn signs supporting Murphy School? Do you want one in your yard? For only \$5, you can take one home. Contact friendsofmurphyschool@gmail.com to arrange purchase and pick up.

FUNDRAISING

Outdoor Wine & Cheese Fundraiser Event

Sue Ryan

Thanks to all our sponsors and volunteers who pitched in to make this years event a successful one. More details to come in the next issue.



Alessandro Volta Elementary School - Dual Language Program

Rebecca Otalvora

Alessandro Volta Elementary School is tucked away within the Albany Park neighborhood, about a 10-minute drive and/or bike ride away from Independence Park. Located at 4950 N. Avers, it offers a variety of programs to their students, one of which is the dual language program. I interviewed two teachers of a Pre-K classroom, one in English and the other in Spanish, to share their knowledge of the benefits, triumphs, and challenges that young children face when learning in a dual language environment. In this issue, I present my interview with Ms. Carrillo.

Q: How many students are typically in the dual-language Pre-K program?

A: Typically 20-30 students.

Q: In your experience, what is the biggest benefit of a dual language education for children?

A: Dual language education is very beneficial for children because at their developmental stage it is easy for them to learn from scratch. Children retain what they learn at an early age better than something they learn later in life. Since they are so new to the world, the knowledge they are taking in is very impacting and captivating to them.

Q: What are some of the challenges that children face when becoming accustomed to a new language outside of their native one?

A: I would have to say that some



of the challenges children may face when becoming accustomed to a new language would have to be their frustration with understanding and executing a concept. Of course, this gets corrected, and they learn over time the right way to say something or understand. I noticed that since their emotions are not as easy to manage as an adult's, that gets the best of them and they give up when something isn't going their way. We try our best to encourage them to keep trying until they get it right and we try to incorporate hands-on strategies to make the concept easier for them and to navigate through.

Q: We all know that working with young children can be exhausting and certainly not without its challenges. So, tell me your favorite part about working with this age group?

A: Personally, I absolutely love working with young children. They have such great energy because they are always so positive and just want to have fun. It is also so sweet seeing them learn the little things in life and discovering the world. When I see them repeat something I taught or showed them it just makes my day and makes me feel like my mission as an educator has been accomplished.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like to share with the community and parents considering different schools to enroll their children in elementary school or regarding Volta in general?

A: I believe that everyone should do what's best for them and their children, but Volta has some of the most caring people I have ever met. Everyone here supports each other and wants the best for you, the students, and their families. Volta is very rich in culture and diversity which makes it easier for students to feel a sense of belonging and relate to one another. Being exposed to such a diverse group of people can teach the students about cultural differences, customs, social classes and about life in general. Volta makes sure to provide a curriculum where a student can be learning math, science, literature, art, culture and so much more in just the timespan of a quarter of the school year. Therefore, Volta is a cultivating environment for a child to learn.

SCHOOLS

St. Edward School News

Jenny Dreyer

October was a busy month at St. Edward School! We held a virtual book fair, raised money for the school in our annual fall Walk-a-Thon, enjoyed a spooktacular Halloween Fun Fair, and participated in the Mission project to raise funds for the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. We are thankful for our generous and supportive school community and look forward to celebrating the Christmas season ahead with various activities and fundraisers!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Community Events that benefit St. Ed's and give you a night off from cooking! Thank you for your support!

Lou Malnati's

Wednesday, November 10,

4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
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Mention St. Edward School when ordering for carryout/delivery within the zone or provide the flyer (retrieve on the St. Edward School website under Community Days) or order online and enter the promo code: FUNDES21

Chipotle Mexican Grill

Wednesday, December 1,
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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All Day

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Leaving Your Leaves

Robyn Hurtig

Did you know that eight million tons of leaves go into landfills every year? Why is that a big deal? It's a problem because without enough oxygen to decompose, all those leaves emit damaging greenhouse gases.

Plus, disposing of your leaves into a landfill misses a golden opportunity. Think of leaves as naturally occurring vitamins in your yard or free turf builders falling from the trees. Take advantage of this free gift from Mother Nature and create a lush, healthy lawn and garden by using your leaves as mulch.

Benefits of Using Leaves as Mulch

Mulching with leaves is both beautiful and functional. It increases the aesthetic value of your property, prevents weeds from taking over, stabilizes and insulates the soil, and adds important nutrients back to your garden, promoting healthier, more beautiful flowers in the spring. And, leaves are home to critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals, and invertebrates that rely on leaf litter for food, shelter, and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in the spring.

How to Turn Your Leaves into Mulch

When you decide to keep your leaves for mulch, moderation is key. You need to break up the leaves and make sure the sun can reach the grass. You never want thick piles of leaves, which will prevent the sunlight from

getting through and will retain moisture that will kill the grass underneath. Besides smothering the grass, leaving a thick layer of dead leaves can cause fungal issues over the winter, such as snow mold.

The best way to break up the leaves is to mow over them, shredding them and distributing the leaves evenly over the grass. Just make sure you can see the grass with only about 10-20% leaf coverage.

For the rest of your leaves, you can rake them around your trees and bushes in three- to six-inch piles to help nourish them. Think about it. Trees in the forest get up to 80% of their nutrients from leaves. You don't see anyone raking leaves in the forest. "On top of that, leaves protect the levels of moisture that reach the trees and also regulate the soil temperature. So, they're like gold for trees," said Melissa Hopkins of the National Audubon Society.

You can also throw the mulched leaves in your garden. According to Sam Bauer, a turf grass researcher at the University of Minnesota, it doesn't matter how many leaves you unload on the garden, as long as you let them decompose over the winter before tilling them under in the spring.

Ask your lawn care provider if they have a sustainable approach to fall clean ups that shreds and mulches your leaves to return them to your garden beds.

Beware of Mulching Leaves with Diseases

If plants and trees have fungal diseases such as rust or apple scab, do not compost infected leaves or stems.

Continued on pg. 12

Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach



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Leaving Your Leaves Continued from pg. 11

Thoroughly clean up your garden areas in the fall to reduce overwintering sites for the fungal spores. If you're not sure if your plants have fungal disease, ask a certified arborist or horticulturalist to come out to inspect your property.

Want to learn more about the benefits of mulch or organic lawn care? Email Robyn at robyn@iamgreenwise.com.



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