

# INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY

# VOICE



COMMUNITY

## GIPNA 2022 Membership Drive

*Kevin Haight*

September is membership month and during this month, we encourage our neighbors and local businesses to act now and join or renew membership with GIPNA.

It's been an amazing year here in Independence Park. Your membership fees help us pay for this newsletter, the farmers market, web services, graphic design,

marketing materials, advertising, printing, signs, banners, community parkway landscape and lawn care services, and much more. All of this helps us support this community we love so much.

If you are not a member and would like to become one, please go to our website [gipna.org](http://gipna.org) and become a member today. Current members—or maybe it's been a couple years—it's time to renew. If you haven't yet renewed this year, either online or at the farmers market, please renew today.

And if you are in a position to do so, please consider a lifetime

membership. Thanks to last year's membership drive we now have over 150 individual lifetime members. For those of you who are already proud lifetime members and are still looking for additional ways to support us, we encourage you to give more using this same QR code or at [gipna.org](http://gipna.org).

This year, I would also like to remind everyone that your contribution today allows us to support and promote not only GIPNA sponsored events I'm so proud of, but also the amazing events from our sister



organizations like IPAC who bring you the concerts and Movies in the Park and the 4th of July festivities. And AFAC with favorites like the Fall Festival, Movies in the Park at Athletic Field and the Community Garage Sale.

We have some great things in store for the remainder of the year. I look forward to seeing you all at one of our events soon!

COMMUNITY

## The Annual 4th of July Independence Park Parade

*Bobbie Bolociuch*

It never gets old seeing the kids having such a good time, riding their sparkly decorated bikes, babies in strollers and parents parading behind the fire truck at the annual 4th of July Indy Park parade. IPAC (Independence Park Advisory Council) has been the driving force behind this institution for years. Of course,

there were the requisite games in the infield: egg toss, burlap sack races, and politicians handing out cool drinks and snow-cones.

There are so many wonderful aspects of the parade that we jokingly refer to as an "all participant parade" given that everyone is welcome to march in it and the spectators, while welcome, are few. The parade represents so much of what is great in our community. All are welcome to participate, mingle and enjoy each other. Let's continue to spread the spirit of the 4th every day in our community!



The September meeting is Tues., Sept. 6, 7 p.m. The October meeting is Tues., Oct 4, 7 p.m. Join us online via Zoom. Meeting I.D.: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

**SUN., SEPT. 4**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**MON., SEPT. 5**—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**TUES., SEPT. 6**—Independence Park Cleanup, 6-7 p.m.

**TUES., SEPT. 6**—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

**FRI., SEPT. 9**—Independence Park Movie, *Spider Man, No Way Home*, dusk.

**SUN., SEPT. 11**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**WED., SEPT. 14**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**FRI., SEPT. 16**—Carlson Community Services Golf Outing. See the article on page 5.

**SAT., SEPT. 17**—GIPNA Second Annual Kickball Tournament, 12-4 p.m., Independence Park Ball Fields. See the article on page 5.

**SAT., SEPT. 17**—Independence Park Concert, Devon DeLux, 5 p.m.

**SUN., SEPT. 18**—Portage Park Farmers Market, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**TUES., SEPT. 20**—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**SAT., SEPT. 24**—Indie Park Fest, 1- 9 p.m. See facebook/ipacchicago.com or www.independenceparkchicago.com for more information.

**SUN., SEPT. 25**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friends of Murphy host the Children's Craft Tent from 10 a.m.-noon.

**WED., SEPT. 28**—FOM Meeting, 7-8 p.m. See friendsofmurphy.org/events for info.

## OCTOBER

**SAT., OCT. 1**—Athletic Field Park Fall Fest, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., playground and courts.

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

**MON., OCT. 3**—AFAC Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**TUES., OCT. 4**—GIPNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m., online Zoom Meeting ID: 819 2958 6855, Password: GIPNA.

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

**WED., OCT. 12**—CAPS Beat 1732 Meeting, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**FRI., OCT. 14**—Second Annual Murphy Block Party, 3:30-5 p.m.

**WED., OCT. 19**—IPAC Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**SAT., OCT. 22**—Carlson Community Services Trivia Night. See the article on page 5.

**SUN., OCT. 23**—Independence Park Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friends of Murphy host the Children's Craft Tent from 10 a.m.-noon.

**WED., OCT. 26**—FOM Meeting, 7-8 p.m. See friendsofmurphy.org/events for info.

**MON., OCT. 31**—Trick or Treat Stations around Independence Park, 5-6 p.m.

## SEPTIEMBRE

**DOM. SEPT. 4**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**LUNES, SEPT. 5**—Reunión AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Parque Athletic Field.

**MARTES, SEPT. 6**—Limpieza de Parque Independencia (Independence Park), 6-7 p.m.

**MARTES, SEPT. 6**—Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

**VIERNES, SEPT. 9**—Independence Park, Película, *Spider Man, No Way Home*, al atardecer.

**DOM., SEPT. 11**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m.

**MIÉRCOLES, SEPT. 14**—CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**VIERNES, SEPT. 16**—Excursión de Golf de los Servicios Comunitarios de Carlson. Ver el artículo en la página 6.

**SÁB., SEPT. 17**—Segundo Torneo Anual de Kickball de GIPNA, 12-4 p.m., Independence Park Ball Fields. Ver el artículo en la página 6.

**SÁB., SEPT. 17**—Concierto de Independence Park, Devon DeLux, 5 p.m.

**DOM., SEPT. 18**—Mercado de agricultores de Portage Park, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., 4100 N. Long Ave.

**MARTES, SEPT. 20**—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**SÁB., SEPT. 24**—Indie Park Fest, 1-9 p.m. Ver facebook/ipacchicago.com o www.independenceparkchicago.com para obtener más información.

**DOM., SEPT. 25**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. Friends of Murphy organiza la carpa de manualidades para niños de 10 a.m. al mediodía.

**MIÉRCOLES, SEPT. 28**—Reunión FOM, 7-8 p.m. Visite friendsofmurphy.org/events para obtener información.

## OCTUBRE

**SÁB., OCT. 1**—Festival de otoño de Athletic Field Park, de 10 a.m. a 3 p.m., patio de recreo y canchas.

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

**LUNES, OCT. 3**—Reunión AFAC, 6:30 p.m., Parque Athletic Field.

**MAR., OCT. 4**—Reunión de la Junta de GIPNA, 7 p.m., ID de reunión de Zoom en línea: 819 2958 6855, Contraseña: GIPNA.

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

**MIÉRCOLES, OCT. 12**—CAPS Beat 1732 Reunión, 6:45 p.m., Athletic Field Park.

**VIERNES, OCT. 14**—Segunda fiesta anual de Murphy Block, 3:30-5 p.m.

**MIÉRCOLES, OCT. 19**—Reunión mensual de IPAC, 7 p.m., Independence Park Fieldhouse.

**SÁB., OCT. 22**—Noche de Trivia de los Servicios Comunitarios de Carlson. Ver el artículo en la página 6.

**DOM., OCT. 23**—Mercado de agricultores de Independence Park, de 9 a.m. a 1 p.m. Friends of Murphy organiza la carpa de manualidades para niños de 10 a.m. al mediodía.

**MIÉRCOLES, OCT. 26**—Reunión FOM, 7-8 p.m. Visite friendsofmurphy.org/events para obtener información.

**LUNES, OCT. 31**—Estaciones Trick or Treat alrededor de Independence Park, 5-6 p.m.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Monticello Community Garden and Gosia

Pat Clark

We all know how much work a garden takes: weeding, watering, trimming, planting, hauling mulch and cleaning up. I would like to publicly acknowledge the yeoman amount of work that my friend Gosia Bach has put into the Monticello Community Garden at Monticello and Park View for years. The garden looks great because of her dedication and absolute grunt work and she always does it with such a cheerful spirit and joy. She is not only the major helper in taking care of our community garden, but also volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden! And her own yard on Lawndale is a wonder to behold! Thank you, Gosia!



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

**Join** as a new member  
**Renew** your membership  
**Donate** to GIPNA

## 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: Jackie Bravo and Robin Hochstatter  
Staff Writers: Pat Clark, Patti Kimbel, Rebecca Otalvora, Ellen Ryan, Sue Ryan, Gretchen Siffing

Special Contributors: Lorraine Antieau, Erica Dreisbach, Liz Drew, Kevin Haight, Kim Laurel and her dog Andy Jack, Amy Mastroianni, Liz Mills, Bobbie O'Connor, Craig Shutt, Roberta Wilk

Calendar Translation: Jackie Bravo

Copy Editors: Suzanne Edwards, Sharon Gilbert, Logan Jaffe, Adam Weiner

**For submissions for November/December 2022 Issue:**

Editorial Deadline:  
October 10, 2022

Advertising Deadline:  
October 10, 2022

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

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

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

**WEBSITE:** WWW.GIPNA.ORG

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

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

## Join GIPNA on Facebook

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

### GIPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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3900 Monticello - Cindy Schuch  
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3800 Ridgeway - Karen Fontanetta  
3900 Ridgeway - John & Sang Kuczura  
3800 Springfield - Roseann Seablom

### COMMUNICATION

## E-Blasts to GIPNA Members

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

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

### RESOURCES

## Important Phone Numbers

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

### Mental Health

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

Envision Unlimited- 773-769-2139

Kedzie Center- 773-754-0577

Rincon Family Services- 773-564-9070

### Housing Assistance

Bickerdike Redevelopment Corp.- 773-227-6332

Hispanic Housing Development Corp.- 312-291-5421

Northwest Side Housing Center- 773-283-3888

### Social Services

Albany Park Community Center- 773-509-5657

HANA Center- 773-583-5501

Logan Square Neighborhood Assoc.- 773-384-4370

North River Commission- 773-478-0202

### Health Care

ASI Home Services- 773-278-5130

Community First Medical Center- 773-282-7000

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

Erie Helping Hands Health Center- 312-666-3494

Oak Street Health Portage Park- 773-644-5989

### Food Assistance

Chicago Hope, Inc.- 773-499-9763

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

Polish American Assoc. Pantry- 773-282-8206

Irving Park Community Food Pantry- 773-283-6296

### Government Resources

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

Find a Child Care Provider- 312-823-1100

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

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

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

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

### COMMUNITY

## Have an Idea for the Newsletter?

If you want to see something in the neighborhood highlighted or just want to provide feedback, reach out to us at [newsletter@gipna.org](mailto:newsletter@gipna.org).

## Tree-Watching in Our Neighborhood

*Lorraine Antieau,  
GIPNA Tree Steward*

On a gloomy, drippy day in September 2020, amidst the Covid pandemic lockdowns, panics, and controversies, our neighborhood received a wonderful gift through an Openlands Tree Planters Grant: 21 parkway trees were planted in our neighborhood! Almost two years later, I revisited some of those trees and their recipients to check on the growth and experiences of these partnerships between people and trees.

I was one of those lucky recipients, and when I compare the photo from that day to the one here from early August 2022, I am thrilled that my care has facilitated the growth of this sapling from a kind of scraggly bare little stick into a lush and vigorous young tree. Although watering during the growing season takes commitment, the work involved is small compared to the value of knowing I am contributing to the beauty of our neighborhood, increasing the value of my property, and providing a home to a living being whose life is as intricate as my own.

Other tree hosts are similarly positive about the experience of hosting a young tree in their parkway.

Ellen Ryan and Hasnain Jetha previously had a mature maple in their parkway. Ellen says, "I just love my new tree. When the City removed the old tree, I was so bummed, and now every time I walk out my front door, it's like a

miracle is happening. It makes me smile just to see it, watching it get taller and the branches filling out with leaves."

Scott Dewey and Patti Kimbel received two trees on their corner property, and while they acknowledge the labor involved in watering the young trees can reach 15 gallons every week, Scott remarked that there is much pleasure in watching the trees grow tall and healthy. While the future is uncertain and they may not be around to see the mature trees, he feels they are investing, not just in their own property, but in our community for generations to come.

Bobbie O'Connor echoed Scott's sentiments, saying theirs is a legacy tree to beautify the neighborhood for years into the future. She and her husband Jim were sad to lose the large tree in their parkway, and now they enjoy sitting on their porch and admiring the new tree. Even though Bobbie says she doesn't have that much of a green thumb, caring for the tree has not been a burden, and she feels if the tree can survive her, it can survive anything.

Our neighborhood received another Openlands Tree Planters Grant during the Spring 2022 planting season, so we will have further updates on our new trees in future editions.

We plan to apply for another Tree Planters Grant in the next year or two, so please let me know if you are interested in receiving a free parkway tree for whatever reason: in hopes of future shade, to beautify your yard, to teach your children or grandchildren to care for the environment, or to leave a legacy for our neighborhood.

Please note, our email address has changed to: [gipnatrees@gipna.org](mailto:gipnatrees@gipna.org). Don't hesitate to email with your tree questions. If I don't know the answer, I'll do my best to find out!



## YMCA Aftercare, School Days Out, and Summer Camps- Making it Work for Working Parents

*Liz Drew*

As our daughter starts 1st Grade at Murphy this fall, she is almost as excited to be back in YMCA aftercare as she is to be in her new classroom. Murphy families are lucky to have YMCA providing affordable aftercare onsite from 3-6:30 p.m. daily. We are confident Irene will be in great hands once again with caring and engaged staff. Kids are grouped by age and get to bond with students outside their classrooms, enjoying arts and crafts, activities, homework help, and lots of playground time. We also had a fantastic experience with YMCA summer camp on Irving Park this year, with many familiar faces among the wonderful counselors.

Families should call the YMCA on Irving Park with any questions about aftercare and to register: 773-777-7500. Another tip from our first year as CPS parents: follow YMCA on Instagram or Facebook to get notified when the School Days Out programs are open for registration, offering full day care at the Irving Park location on the (many) days throughout the school year CPS is not in session. Finally, for families that need to be starting earlier than 8 a.m., parents should reach out to Murphy directly to learn about early drop-off options.

# News from Carlson Community Services

Liz Mills

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

## Carlson Community Services Golf Outing 9/16

Join us for Carlson's 2022 Golf Outing at the lovely and conveniently located Edgebrook Golf Course. The annual event raises funds for Carlson's after-school program, community garden and free concert series. The outing is slated for Friday, September 16th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Edgebrook Golf Course, 6100 N. Central Ave. in Chicago. Golfers will enjoy



the picturesque setting of the golf course, set among the Forest Preserve's mature trees and the meandering Chicago River.

Tee times begin at 11:30 a.m. The day wraps up with a light dinner and drinks in the beautiful picnic grove and pavilion on the grounds. Entry is \$125 which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, dinner, drinks, prizes and a raffle. Carlson's Golf Outing is a great way to support neighborhood programs while having a blast with your friends!

And Save the Date for Carlson's Trivia Night Saturday, October 22nd. This popular event will be in-person for the first time since 2019 at the Irving Park Lutheran Church Gym! For more information about the Golf Outing and Trivia Night, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org/event](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org/event).

## Three Brothers Garden News

Our Garden Coordinator, Claire Lyons, wrapped up her work in mid-August to return to college. As of mid-August, we've harvested beets, lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, green beans, squash and radishes for the Irving Park

Food Pantry. We'll be harvesting in the garden every Tuesday through October from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at 4107 N. Pulaski, next to the IPLC parking lot. Please join us! If you'd like to be added to our email notices, send your contact info to [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).

Have vegetables to spare from your home garden? Simply bring your surplus to Three Brothers Garden on Tuesdays before 6 p.m. Donations can be placed on the table under the pergola. Vegetables will be brought to the Food Pantry Wednesday morning for immediate distribution to Food Pantry clients.

Carlson Community Services connects the Irving Park community with programs that enrich lives through education, culture and service. For more information, visit [carlsoncommunityservices.org](http://carlsoncommunityservices.org) or contact Liz Mills at 773-398-6766 or [lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org](mailto:lizmills@carlsoncommunityservices.org).



## NEIGHBORHOOD FUN(DRAISER)

# Kickball Tournament: Registration is now open!

Amy Mastroianni

**When:** Saturday, September 17th, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Independence Park - main field

**Who:** Adults (18+), all skill levels

The kickball tournament fundraiser is a great way to spend the afternoon with neighbors, like you, who enjoy a little competitive fun. Adults of all ages (18+) and skills are welcome. Round up your neighbors and form a



kickball team or sign-up as an individual or small group to be placed on a team. When registering, enter your street name, team or team members names and you are ready to roll!

Your \$30 registration fee will include a 2022 Neighborhood Kickball t-shirt (pick-up on game day). There is limited space for teams/players, so do not delay. Register today at [GIPNA.org](http://GIPNA.org) <https://gipna.org/new-products/sing-person-registration> or scan the QR code.



## Logan Pause: The Beautiful Game of Soccer

*Ellen Ryan*

For kids entertaining a career as a professional athlete read on about a “pro” in our own hood, and what it takes to make it in the big leagues.

Logan and Vaneesha Pause live with their three daughters Isla, Noa and Haven on the 3700 block of Lawndale. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, Logan fell in love with soccer when he was only four. At age 10, he was a ball boy for the University of North Carolina’s soccer team. By then, his love for the game had grown to such a deep level that he wanted nothing more than to play for the Tar Heels. As a high school player, Logan was approached by Duke, Stanford, Brown and Wake Forest, but he chose North Carolina. After playing for two and half years, Logan turned pro when he was drafted by the Chicago Fire. Thankfully for Chicago, Logan spent his entire 12-year soccer career with the Fire.

No one rises to that level without tremendous talent, dogged

determination, and utmost sacrifice. Incredibly modest, Logan never mentioned that he was inducted into North Carolina’s Soccer Hall of Fame! Oh, in 2010, he was the Fire’s MVP. And somehow, he neglected to add that he was selected to play on the U.S. National Teams in 2009 and 2010. (Thanks, Google). In 2014, Logan left the field and worked in the Fire’s front office. He went on to become the team’s head coach. He also coached Orange County SC.

When asked whether someone should consider a career as a professional athlete, Logan has sage advice:

1. Do you really love the game?
2. Are you willing to sacrifice and put in the hard work?
3. Do you have the discipline to prioritize practice over all aspects of your life?
4. Will you do everything it takes to be the best player you can be?

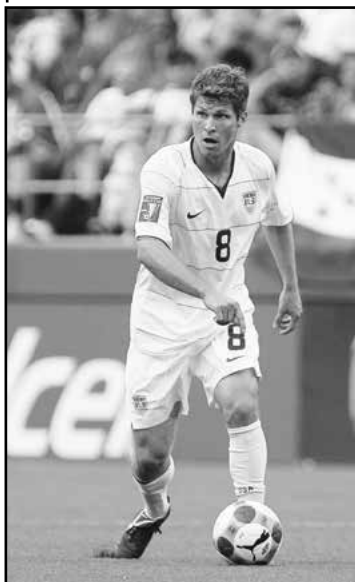
Logan acknowledges intangibles such as luck, good fortune, privilege and being in the right place at the right time. Case in point, Logan’s college roommate was equally as talented as he was. They both played the same

position, and he was recruited by more colleges than Logan. In the end, Logan played professionally, while his friend did not. The scenario could have been reversed if not for the person who recognized Logan’s talent.

Soccer has been a huge gift to Logan. He loves the game’s creativity and free-flowing nature. He thrived on the competitive aspect of the game and winning. But the friendships he fostered with his teammates, some of whom remain his closest friends, were the highlights. Because of the sport’s global appeal, Logan’s team resembled the United Nations of soccer. He met people from all over the world. His good

friend is now the head coach of Leeds United, an English Premier League team. The sport afforded him travel throughout Europe and Latin America and it exposed him to various cultures, different languages and cuisines from all over the world.

Any downsides? The game is transient, and teammates turned best friends are routinely traded. Injuries are a given with soccer and, like any sport, you’re loved when you’re on top, but not so much when your game is off. However, on balance, the countless benefits of “the beautiful game” far outweigh the downsides. Logan is forever grateful that the sport was such a big part of his life.



NEIGHBORHOOD

## John Jemilo Bench Dedication --Take Two

*Roberta Wilk*

In November of 2021, a most curious and despicable thing happened. The John Jemilo memorial bench that the community installed in May, 2020, just six months after John’s death, was stolen! Yes, stolen in the middle of the night by a couple of idiotic scoundrels who extracted the inscribed

bench. But the community, not to be licked, put wheels into motion for another bench—a duplicate of the original. This bench, however, was secured with additional optimal efforts by community members. And on any given day, we see John Jemilo sitting on that bench, with a twinkle in his eye, saying to his Candace, Leahruth, Stephanie, and neighbors, “You gave ‘em that knuckle sandwich, and I’m proud of you all for that!”

## Block Party Celebrates Henry Reichert's 60 Years in the Neighborhood

*Sue Ryan*

The 3700 block of Lawndale held its annual block party in July. As the street was cleared of cars, kids took advantage of owning it with their two-wheeled vehicles. Peter Sloan once again served up amazing pizzas from his portable pizza oven. Tables filled up with a variety of potluck style snacks, salads, chicken and desserts.

Grace Snider served as the emcee for the festivities and organized young and old for the Cakewalk. In this treasured game, neighbors vie for delectable cakes

by walking in a big circle marked off by numbered squares. Cue the music, start walking until the music stops, and Grace calls out a random number. Squeals of delight erupt when a lucky person is standing on the winning square. The prize is a homemade treat baked by neighbors. This year there were nine winners.

Other games crowned new victors. The biggest draw for the kids was the water slide. Casey Watkins estimates he slid down the slide 200 times. The block has had some turnover, so new neighbors were introduced and new friendships formed.

The highlight of this year's party was celebrating Henry Reichert who has lived in his two-flat for sixty years. Dickie Nichols presented Henry with a cake and a framed photograph of Henry standing in front of his home. Henry was all smiles because we all know how much he loves cake.

## How to Boost Your Curb Appeal

*Rebecca Otalvora*

Whenever I meet with sellers for the first time, one of the first questions they ask regarding their home value is how to increase it with minimal spending. The answer is different for every circumstance and property type, but there are some common improvements that can be made that will increase appeal and value on most properties across the board.

Whether you own a single-family home or a condo, the front exterior of your home is most likely going to be the first impression for either potential buyers or even just your guests. A simple way to put your best foot forward is to make sure the area is clean and tidy. Clean all windows, both inside and out, and glass doors so that they aren't full of dirt, dust, or handprints. Make them sparkle! Wipe down your front door, don't neglect the frame, to remove dirt and dust. If you have a porch, make sure it's swept and that the banisters are free from dirt and unsightly bird droppings, which can be a big turnoff at first glance. Be sure to shake off your greeting mat, as well, or invest in a new one. If your front door is off a hallway, keep the area swept or

vacuumed and a light diffuser to keep the smell pleasant is always a nice touch.

If you have the space, create a welcoming and cozy sitting area with a few chairs, table, and throw pillows. Hanging or standing plants add warmth to any space, and an indoor/outdoor rug can really give the area a polished and finished look with a minimal investment.

Front doors are often overlooked but can make a real statement to someone pulling up to your home for the first time. So, whether your style is a bright and bold color, or you prefer something more subdued and understated, a fresh coat of paint will really compliment all of the cleaning and sprucing up that you've done to the area.

If you have a bit more of a budget to work with, some other upgrades to consider are investing in a professional pressure wash of your home's exterior for a deeper clean, replacing dated light fixtures or adding lighting if you don't currently have any. Replace any old gutters and upgrade your walkway to an elevated stone or brick for an impressive and elegant look that is sure to make a dramatic difference. Most importantly, have fun with any changes and improvements that you make, and work within your means, because a little really can go a long way!



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Shannon Happ  
Janet Harrison  
Abbey Henning  
Travis Hixon  
Ivi Ivanov  
*continued on page 9*

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
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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.)

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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Irving Park Community Food Pantry Updates

*Craig Shutt*

The Irving Park Food Pantry needs help to continue to supply its clients with basic toiletries since we added that area to our mission. We try to remain stocked in toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, razors and shaving cream. But the items are very popular and we often run out. Other popular items include diapers (especially #4, 5 and 6), baby wipes (given to those requesting diapers), dish-washing liquid, hair conditioner, floss, and sunscreen.

If you would like to donate to the program, you can use our online Amazon registry to have products sent directly to us or shop locally. Donations can be taken to Big Helpers, 4184 N. Elston Ave., Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., or the front porch at 3912 N. Kenneth Ave. any



time.

Monetary donations can be made via PayPal at [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or by check to Irving Park Food Pantry, 4256 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago IL 60618. Both can be marked as donations to be used to purchase items for the toiletry program.

We also are in need of cat food (we get large amounts of dog food) and have an online registry for those items as well. Local purchases can be dropped off at the locations above. Thank you to Pet Supplies Plus on Elston and manager Heather for requesting cat food and litter from customers on our behalf! We appreciate their efforts and hope you can donate to them or us.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our school-supply drive in August. Special thanks to the Ridgeway Parents group,



Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and Elim Christian Services, who donated large amounts to keep us going.

The Pantry will have volunteers working a booth at GIPNA's annual Farmers Market at Independence Park on September 11th and 25th and October 9th and 23rd. Stop by to say hi, make donations of toiletries, food, money and ask questions. Thank you to Greg Shea, market manager, for inviting us to participate and helping us with our setup. Thanks also to J.T.'s Genuine Sandwiches, which is donating a portion of its booth proceeds this season.

We appreciate everyone's support in helping us meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"



*continued from page 8*

Ivonna Jeduluk  
Barb Johnson  
Amy Johnson  
Joan Kane  
Matt Kanewski  
Mary Ann Karwowski  
Kathryn Kiernan  
Charles Kiser  
Adam Kitzmann  
Debbie Kocolo  
Pawel Kowalczyk  
Daniel Lee  
William Liddell  
Bethany Lilja  
Nina Longhini  
Bridget Looney  
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Adrianna Schneider  
Matthew Schneider  
Luc Schutz

Spooner Sheelagh  
Donald Slomski, Jr.  
Vero Smith  
Sara Splittler  
Shirley Steiner  
Kat Stuehrk  
Josh Talo  
Keith Timmel  
Meghan Timmel  
Kyle Tomaska  
Angelys Torres McBride  
Harold Turrentine  
Lorrie Turrentine  
Keith Vrieze  
Lillian Vrieze  
Alex Weinstein  
Steve Wideman  
Jeff Yerro

# Banners Are Flying High

*Sue Ryan*

Have you seen the newly-designed banners on Irving and Elston? They pop with color and bring a 'wow' factor to our neighborhood. There are still spots available and we challenge block captains to gather neighbors together to purchase a banner. The money raised supports the maintenance of the community gardens, the farmers market, this newsletter and our local schools. Use the QR code or visit <https://gipna.org/street-banners> to order your banner today.



SCHOOLS

## Getting Ready for a New School Year at Murphy Elementary

*Gretchen Siffring*

On July 1, 2022, Dr. Rebeca Shick became the ninth principal of John B. Murphy Elementary School. Dr. Shick began her teaching career at Murphy School in 2006 as a classroom teacher and assumed the role of assistant principal in 2016.

She is elated to be the principal of Murphy and to continue to serve the community through a learning environment that honors and uplifts the lived experiences of the students and families. Through complex, meaningful, and responsive instruction and learning, students will be prepared to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and agents of change in their community. Dr. Shick believes strongly in the power of a neighborhood school to serve the community and to be an integral part of the

neighborhood. She is honored to partner with GIPNA and other community organizations to continue the work of Murphy in being a vital part of the neighborhood. You can reach Dr. Shick with any questions or thoughts via email at [lrleverenz@cps.edu](mailto:lrleverenz@cps.edu) or by phone at 773-534-9892.

Murphy School also welcomes Mr. Jonathan Burton as the new assistant principal. Mr. Burton began his teaching career in 2012 as an instructional assistant at the LEARN South Chicago Campus, while obtaining his Master of Elementary Education from DePaul. In 2013 he took on a 3rd grade teaching role at Mozart

Elementary School. There he was able to effect measurable change in the classroom through personal growth and professional learning communities. He further developed his leadership capacity as a teacher leader at the Walt Disney Magnet School, and as a New Leader's Resident Principal through the Chicago Leadership Collaborative. As Murphy's new assistant principal, he's eager and excited to be a supportive resource for our caring community! He looks forward to learning, growing, and celebrating with you. Please feel free to reach him by email at: [jjburton5@cps.edu](mailto:jjburton5@cps.edu) or by phone 773-534-5238.

NEIGHBORS

## Tom Looney - A Neighbor Loved by Many

*Sue Ryan*

On July 13, our neighborhood mourned the death of a cherished resident. Tom Looney died of Covid-related complications after contracting the virus in April. He and his wife ran the Abbey Pub for 30 years, bringing a variety of musical genres to our neighborhood including Wilco, Kris Kristofferson, Alro Guthrie and Florence + The Machine. In addition to the Abbey, Tom served as president of the Irish American Heritage Center and was instrumental in the purchasing and renovating its current site, which

had been an elementary school. Although he was a successful businessman, Tom will forever be remembered as a kind, generous, witty family man, friend, and neighbor. He is survived by his wife Bridget, his children Deirdre, Patrick, Siobhan, and Thomas, and eight grandchildren.

Roberta and Ken Wilk offered this remembrance: "Our community has lost a charter member in the passing of Tom Looney. Tom Looney, an Irish immigrant, who arrived in the U.S. just in time to be drafted for Vietnam, was a scholar, a brilliant storyteller, and a clever diplomat. The definition of Irish diplomacy is the ability to tell someone to go to hell so that they will look forward to the trip. This is the Tom Looney we knew, loved, and will never ever forget."

COMMUNITY

## Wine & Cheese Fundraiser 2022

*Patti Kimbel*

GIPNA's annual Wine & Cheese Fundraiser will return as an indoor event this year. Mark your calendars for November 12. Last year we pivoted to an outdoor event and many seemed to enjoy the lively lawn party experience. However, given Chicago weather we might not get so lucky a second time around.

Insert drum roll here. The most exciting announcement is our venue. We are delighted to partner with our new local hotspot, the Color Club, which is both an artists' studio and a community event space at 4146 North Elston. Thankfully, it's just a short walk or possible stumble home for some of us. The fundraiser will be in their newly remodeled ballroom on the second floor.

The owners have graciously offered to waive their rental fees for the space to support our worthy cause. For those of you who

may have yet to visit the newly remodeled space, this will be a treat! For those loyal newsletter readers, you may recall a prior article all about the Color Club detailing their wonderful renovations and neighborhood mission. Checking out their website, it's exciting to see all of the new and increasing events being hosted including comedians, artists' receptions, and unique events like a songwriting roundtable. They also provide space for weekly dance and movement classes.

Be sure to save the date and your dollars for our auction items! The party will be held from 4-8 p.m. What could be better than an early evening soiree sampling delicious wines, socializing with your friends and neighbors, and outbidding your fiercest competitor in the auction all while supporting our great neighborhood? Oh, yeah, maybe the return of our infamous cork game will top it off. Watch for more details to be posted on the webpage and via email for tickets.



# Lead-Safe Chicago Program: Lead Service Line Replacement

Pat Clark

If you meet certain criteria regarding income and home ownership, you may be eligible to get the lead pipes in your house replaced by the City at no charge to you. Below is a synopsis of what is involved.

## What does it take to replace a lead service line?

Replacing a lead service line with a new copper service means running the new line from the water main in the street all the way into the house. There are two ways that can be done. With open trench replacements, a trench is dug from the home through the parkway to install the new service and access the water main. Trenchless construction runs the new service to the main underground, causing less disturbance to the surrounding area. The type of procedure performed will depend on several factors specific to each replacement.

## Equity Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLR)

Under this program, you may be

eligible for a free lead service line replacement all the way from the water main into your home, plus installation of a free water meter to save money on your water bills if you have a household income below 80% of the area median income (\$83,350 for a family of four) and live in a home that you own. Priority replacement will be given to residents who also have kids 18 and under in their home or have had elevated lead in their water as determined by free testing done by the Department of Water Management.

## Homeowner-Initiated Program

If a residential homeowner wants to hire a contractor and remove the existing lead service line, the City of Chicago is launching a program to waive the permit fees for the project. This could amount to a savings of up to \$3,100. Additionally, the City will attach the new service line to the water main and provide a free water meter for the contractor to install, if there isn't already one in place. To qualify, the request for the fee waiver must be a stand-alone and not made in conjunction with a home renovation or expansion.

Commercial and mixed use residential/commercial locations are not eligible at this time.

For complete info, see: <https://www.lead-safe-chicago.org//lead-service-line-replacement>

# Rats! Everywhere!

Pat Clark

Rats! It just gives me the creeps to even say that word! Neighbors have reported seeing more rats in their backyards than ever. Barbecues interrupted by unwanted rodents. Vegetable gardens contaminated by the skinny tailed beasts. Backyards so overrun that residents can't sit out in them. Gross!

What to do? Call 311 or make an online request at [cityofchicago.org](http://cityofchicago.org) and ask to have your yard baited with poison. Be sure and keep a close eye on your pets after this has been done so that they don't get into it. It's also a good idea to not have piles of logs or lumber or other stuff around as those make nice

Rodentia homes. Keep the garbage and blue recycling cart lids closed. Don't pile garbage bags on the ground as that makes for easy pickings. And cleanup after your dog.

I learned from Wikipedia that "rats have the ability to swim up sewer pipes into toilets! Rats will infest any area that provides shelter and easy access to food and water, including under sinks, near garbage, and inside walls or cabinets. Orkin in 2020 declared Chicago as the 'rattiest city' in the U.S., for the sixth consecutive time. To help combat the problem, a Chicago animal shelter has placed more than 1000 feral cats (sterilized and vaccinated) outside of homes and businesses since 2012, where they hunt and catch rats while also providing a deterrent simply by their presence."

# Independence Parka

by erica dreisbach

i pick up a lot of litter in the neighborhood.

The vast majority of it is drink containers and food wrappers.



i wonder if it feels lordly and royal to throw garbage on the ground. Or like being a big beloved baby ...



... but probably most people don't feel anything about their litter at all.



It's ok. i have PLENTY of feelings about litter to spare!

indyparka

# ... On the Dog Side

Kim Laurel and her dog Andy Jack

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

Andy's Haiku for Autumn



Pumpkin season fun  
Dressing cats for Halloween  
But they just might run



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**GIPNA**

# Add a Little Color to Your Front Lawn!

Our new lawn flags have just arrived! Show your support for your neighborhood and add some cheer to your lawn by displaying our new lawn flag. The cost for the 12" x 18" flag is only \$20 and includes the flag stand. You can purchase and pick up your flag at the Independence Park Farmers Market. You can also order online by using the QR code below or go to: <https://gipna.org/historic-independence-park-lawn-flags> Flags purchased by each Friday will be delivered to your front lawn the following weekend.



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Love, Diane

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- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- ALLEY CLEANUPS
- GOURMET PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- THE INDEPENDENCE PARK COMMUNITY VOICE NEWSLETTER
- E-BLASTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ALERTS
- A VOICE WITH THE 45TH WARD
- SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS DON'T JUST HAPPEN—A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD COMES FROM A GREAT DEAL OF WORK AND COMMITMENT. THE EVENT AND SERVICES THAT MAKE INDEPENDENCE PARK THE HIDDEN JEWEL OF THE NORTHWEST SIDE REQUIRES TIME AND MONEY. DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, GIPNA HAS HAD TO CANCEL FUNDRAISING EVENTS, SO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE THE PRIMARY MEANS TO RAISE MONEY. OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR TIME, AND GIPNA MEMBERSHIP HELPS PROVIDE THE MONEY. PLEASE JOIN GIPNA TO MAKE 2021 THE BEST YEAR YET. IF YOU'RE ALREADY A MEMBER, THANK YOU.



# GIPNA

THE GREATER INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



# St. Edward Parish Harvest Bash OCTOBER 1, 2022



**FAMILY ACTIVITIES**  
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm  
Games  
Bounce House  
Face Painting  
**OUTDOOR MASS**  
4:30 pm  
**KONA ICE TRUCK**  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm



**DINNER**  
5:30 pm  
BBQ Roast Pork  
or Hot Dog  
or Vietnamese  
Vegetarian  
with Choice of Sides  
TICKETS  
include Dinner and  
one drink  
for Adults & Kids



**CASH BAR**  
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7:00 to 10:30 pm  
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ADULT GAMES  
PRIZES  
LIVE MUSIC  
DANCING

**TICKETS: Adult - \$25 AT THE DOOR; \$20 IN ADVANCE  
KIDS - 12 AND YOUNGER: \$10**

Advance tickets available online at [www.stedparish.org](http://www.stedparish.org)  
or by scanning the QR code.



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Movie will start at dusk and will be in the gym if it rains

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## September is GIPNA Membership Month

### What do your dollars go toward?

- The Voice GIPNA newsletter delivered to your door
- Independence Park Farmers Markets
- Community garden maintenance
- Email, social media and website communications
- Fundraising events to support our local schools and charities
- Connecting neighbors for a stronger community



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