



PARK PEOPLE

**Athletic Field Supervisor Hits the Ground Running**

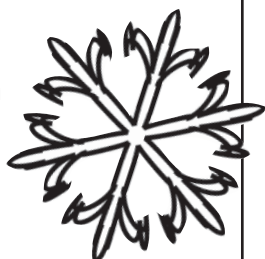
Let's offer a late but warm welcome to Katie Fearon-Peon, the new Park Supervisor at Athletic Field Park. Fearon-Peon, who took charge at Athletic Field in May, most recently was Park Instructor at Jefferson Park.

Fearon-Peon's vibrancy and enthusiasm are evident not only when she speaks about Athletic Field, but in the revived facility itself. Athletic Field was almost completely dormant until recently, and Fearon-Peon's emphasis can be summed up in two words: "starting new."

Before Fearon-Peon arrived, Athletic Field had dwindled to only two programs. Today the pre-school program has been reinstated and the enrollment has doubled. Living up to its name, Athletic Field posted championships by the young girl's hockey team and the 16-to-17-year-old boys flag football team. What's more, the park offered its first soccer league this fall.

"The park has changed," Fearon-Peon says. "It's a safe, fun, and dynamic place to be."

One of her top priorities is to make Athletic Field Park, in her own words, into "a neighborhood park." Her goal is to start traditions we can return to each year, which began with the Halloween Maze and Fest and this month's Holiday Fest. She also has added a myriad of classes, too.



To get involved at Athletic Field, check on-line, look for postings at neighborhood schools and libraries, view the new signage posted at the corner of Central Park and Grace, or stop by the field house.

—Kara Niemotka

T H E B U Z Z

THE CASTLE CONTROVERSY

See ZONING, this page

ATHLETIC FIELD PUMPED UP

See PARK PEOPLE, this page

MOVEMENT ON MONTICELLO

See ZONING, this page

CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY

See LIBRARY NEWS, back page

MAKING THE GRADE

See EDUCATION REPORT, this page

EDUCATION REPORT

**Murphy School Is Really Cooking**

For the second time in three years, due to continued improvements in test scores and other quality measures, John B. Murphy School (3539 West Grace) has earned the designation as a "School of Distinction" by the Chicago Public Schools Office of Accountability. This is the highest designation a school can receive.

In other news, Murphy School continues to enhance its status as a Fine Arts Magnet Cluster School. To that end, the school received money from the Oppenheimer Foundation to purchase a kiln. The kiln will be used to enhance the visual arts program at Murphy and the Reggio Emelio informed early childhood programs. Teachers are receiving instruction on operating the kiln and incorporating ceramics projects into the curriculum. Murphy School hopes not only to have children using ceramics as a form of self-expression, but to invite the community to work on projects as the staff becomes more skilled in using the kiln.

Additionally, Murphy's advanced band had the honor of performing with the Lane Tech High School band for their Holiday Concert. In the future, Murphy's band and chorus will be performing at Navy Pier. —Annette Held

**Park View Lutheran Stays Active**

Park View Lutheran School, on Monticello south of Irving Park, has had a busy fall. The school hosted a presentation of "Tom Sawyer" by the Windy City Players in October. And after weeks of preparation, the entire school performed a Christmas program at a Sunday morning church service, then traveled to St. Paul's House on California Avenue and performed it there, as well.

Each month the younger children visit St. Paul's Retirement Home, where they talk with the residents (and enjoy ice cream and cookies!). The older children serve lunch at the Salvation Army soup kitchen to as many as 350 people. And once a month, the children sing a song to the congregation during Sunday services.

Beginning January 22, the school will host a Sunday open house for new families. Also in January, Park View Lutheran will put on a Science Fair, in which for one week the entire school studies one topic, such as Africa or geology.



ZONING

**"Castle" Under Construction**

Despite resistance from neighbors, rap record label owner Rudy Acosta has begun to build his castle in Independence Park. Foundations have been dug for the controversial house on the vacant site at Lawndale and Parkview Terrace.

In 2002 Acosta had the property rezoned to R4 by former 30th Ward Alderman Mike Wojick. Protest rose sharply in the past year, however, when plans made public revealed that Acosta planned an enormous home modeled after a castle—complete with crenelated roofline and a crest with the emblem of his record label, Legion—that would dwarf the surrounding houses. Neighbors felt the scale of the plans was completely incompatible with the rest of the block.

GIPNA worked with 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino to bring Acosta and Lawndale residents together, but these meeting and subsequent appearances before the city Zoning Board of Appeals failed to stop the construction. Lawndale residents, led by Sharon Sears, who lives next door to the new house, continue to seek legal solutions to the situation.

In addition, Sears may face legal action from State Representative John Fritchey, who was Acosta's lawyer when the property was rezoned. Sears has questioned whether Fritchey properly notified neighbors of the proposed change.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 3

GIPNA Board of Directors meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 4

Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC) meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7–8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11

CAPS meeting, Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, 7 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

Open House, Park View Lutheran School, 3919 North Monticello, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Sunday, January 29

Open House, St. Viator Elementary School, 4140 West Addison, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 7

GIPNA Board of Directors meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8

Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC) meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7–8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8

CAPS meeting, Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, 7–8 p.m.

Saturday, February 18

Independence Park Talent Show, Thurgood Marshall Middle School Main Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

MARCH

Saturday, March 4

17th Annual IPAC Spaghetti Dinner, Independence Park Field House, 4–8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7

GIPNA Board of Directors meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

Independence Park Advisory Council (IPAC) meeting, Independence Park Field House, Second Floor, 7–8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8

CAPS meeting, Athletic Field Park, 3546 W. Addison, 7–8 p.m.

ZONING

**More Downzoning on Monticello**

On December 14, 35th Ward Alderman Rey Colón introduced in City Council a bill to downzone the east side of the 3600 and 3700 blocks of North Monticello. The amendment would change the zoning of the blocks from RS3 to RS2, which allows only single-family occupancy buildings in any new construction.

Homeowners on those two blocks should receive notice from Chicago's Zoning Committee regarding a public hearing about the requested change. In keeping with his promise for transparency in government, Alderman Colón will offer residents a chance to discuss the proposal. The meeting will be held at Athletic Field Park, 3546 West Addison, on January 9 at 6 p.m.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Mail your comments, photos, and ideas to:  
**Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association**  
(GIPNA) P. O. Box 18251 Chicago, IL 60618  
or send e-mails to: [gipna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gipna@sbcglobal.net)



LIBRARY NEWS

**Independence Branch to Host Art Show**



Later this spring, the Independence Branch Library at Irving Park and Central Park will join with the outreach staff of the Art Institute of Chicago to present three family programs for young artists in the city.

Their work will be on display at the Independence Branch Library, and a special field trip to the Art Institute in June will be the concluding activity for this rewarding program. More information will appear in a future newsletter.

BOARD DECISION

**2005 Holiday Donation**



For the second year in a row, GIPNA's Board of Directors approved a holiday donation to a local charity. By unanimous decision, GIPNA will donate \$250 to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry—an interdenominational family of churches, schools, civic groups, Scout groups, area aldermen and politicians, and concerned individuals—was established in the early 1970s. The Pantry is open for food distribution every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Its service area includes all of zip code 60641, that portion of 60618 west of Kedzie Avenue, and that part of 60630 east of Central Avenue and south of Foster Avenue.

GREATER INDEPENDENCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**Treasurer's Report**

As of 12/31/2005

**General Activity**

Beginning Treasury Balance - 12/1/05	\$11,928.80
Cash receipts - Various see below	
Expenses - Various see below	(15.25)
Ending Treasury Balance - 12/31/05	\$11,913.55

GENERAL

Income Received - Donations	94.10
Income Received - Garage Sale (Bradley)	50.00
<b>Total Community Donations Received</b>	<b>144.10</b>

Income Received - Membership	1,180.00
Income Received - 2004	4,779.84
Income Received - Pancake Breakfast 2005	1,130.47
Income Received - Banners	4,579.00
Income Received - Talent Show	117.93
Income Received - Farmer's Market 07/05	(56.60)
<b>Community Donations</b>	<b>(910.00)</b>
<b>Expenses (Bank Fees, Supplies)</b>	<b>(742.20)</b>
Ending Balance	10,222.54

COMMITTEES

Income Received	200.00
Expenses:	
Zoning	(201.93)
Beautification	(188.63)
Newsletter/Communications	(614.70)
Ending Balance	(805.26)

GIPNA MUGS

Income Received - Mug Sales	743.00
Expenses (Mugs)	(786.85)
Ending Balance	(43.85)

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIERS

Income Received - Marx Grant	5,000.00
Expenses (Urns & Limestone)	(1,924.65)
Ending Balance	3,075.35

RIDGEWAY BLOCK PARTY

Income Received - Ticket Sales 2005	1,050.00
Expenses - 2005	(1,585.23)
Ending Balance	(535.23)

**Total Ending Balance \$11,913.55**



**COMING SOON!**

**Saturday, February 18th**

**Independence Park  
TALENT  
SHOW  
2006**

**Saturday, February 18, 2006**

**6-9 PM** Doors open 5 PM

**Auditorium at**

**Thurgood Marshall Middle School**

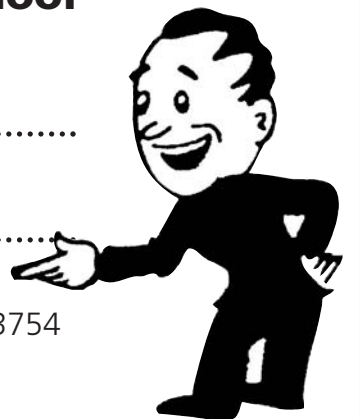
3901 North Ridgeway at Byron

*Support your community group and attend another fun event sponsored by GIPNA!*

**For information or to volunteer:**

Call Pat: Home: 773-539-8440, Work: 312-263-3754

or **e-mail: GIPNA@sbcglobal.net**



**Are you a GIPNA member?**

Join today. For more information, e-mail to: [gipna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gipna@sbcglobal.net) or mail to: Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA) P. O. Box 18251 Chicago, IL 60618



**Parkview Lutheran School**

*THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART!*

Offers a full day Kindergarten through 8th grade. With a year round 3 & 4 year old program, 7am to 6pm.

**Parkview Lutheran School**  
3919 North Monticello  
Chicago, IL 60618  
773-267-0072

**HANNOUN**  
RUGS FROM MOROCCO

*one-of-a-kind handmade tribal rugs*

4425 W. IRVING PARK RD.  
CHICAGO, IL 60641  
773.286.3342

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMERGENCY 911**

**Non-emergency 311**  
(Request a tracking number)

**Police, 17th District**  
312.742.4410

**Community Policing Office:**  
312.742.4588

**Graffiti Hotline**  
312.744.1234

**Aldermen:**  
**33rd Ward,**  
Richard Mell  
773.478.8040

**35th Ward,**  
Rey Colón  
773.365.3535

**39th Ward,**  
Margaret Laurino  
773.736.5594

**Streets & Sanitation:**  
**33rd Ward Office**  
312.744.1451

**35th Ward Office**  
312.744.0227

**39th Ward Office**  
312.744.8163

**Independence Park Field House**  
773.478.3538

**Independence Branch Library**  
312.744.0900

**INDEPENDENCE PARK  
COMMUNITY  
VOICE**

Published by the Greater Independence Park Neighborhood Association (GIPNA).

**Editorial:**  
Jim O'Connor & John Aitken

**Art & Design:**  
David Dumo

MAIL YOUR COMMENTS, PHOTOS, AND IDEAS TO:

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