



# IWCA<sub>news</sub>

*The official news source of the Indian Woods Community Association*

**A Quarterly Newsletter**

**Spring 2012**

### **Welcome the new Board of Directors**

*A new board of directors was elected in the fall of 2011. With energy and dedication we are motivated to keep our organization moving forward.*

**Pages 2, 5.**

### **Get Outdoors**

*the forest preserve is just steps away - go enjoy it*

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### **Community History**

*our community has a long, rich history. Did you know we were meant to be city farms?*

**learn more below. send us your stories...**

### **Community Connection**

*The Saigon Grill is our business highlight for our Spring 2012 newsletter.*

*Featuring Chinese and Vietnamese delights, this new restaurant on Elston Ave is a treat.*

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### **Hello from the Alderman**

*The Alderman's office has been providing good service to our community and we encourage you to keep in touch with them.*

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### **Community Meeting**

**May 8th, 7pm**

**Saigon Grill 5736 N Elston Ave**

**Snacks provided. BYOB**

**parking at Republic Bank**

## bits of history

*our neighborhood association was formed (officially) in 1962, but there was a community even before that...*

The Indian Woods community was first developed as small plots for farms close to the city. At the time, around 1918, the land was called 'Indian Reservation' paying homage to the place the native americans called home. Slowly it has developed to what we see today.

### **did you know?**

90 years ago when land in this area was first being purchased, where Central Ave goes into its curve north of Ardmore, Central Ave was known as Lillard Ave.

54 years ago, Rosedale Ave was not a paved street and at City Hall it was labeled as Rosedale Alley. This was hard

### **early days of Indian Woods**

to believe since that meant that the homes on Rosedale were actually facing an alley. It was only through constant petitioning that the alley was finally paved and was then identified as an avenue.

36 years ago the forest preserve wanted to erect a large pavilion in front of the homes just East of Linder Ave and about 10 feet beyond the forest road. A huge area was cleared of all vegetation and the area was ready for concrete to be poured. Fortunately, two members of the Indian Woods organization made a trip downtown to Cook County Commissioner's office to see Mr. George Dunne and told him we strongly objected to the planned pavilion. He called the

forest preserve superintendent and all work was halted. At that time the forest preserve road extended all the way down to Indian and Ardmore. The construction of the deep tunnel project changed everything.

**See more on our website with copies of the original sales brochure for plots of land.**

### **Have a story to share?**

These great stories are courtesy of long time Indian Woods resident Ralph Kawal. In fact, Ralph happens to live in a house occupying one of the very first plots of land sold in our neighborhood, way back in 1918.

Please send us your stories of the history of our community for incorporation into future newsletters and our history project.

[info@indianwoods.org](mailto:info@indianwoods.org)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Hello everyone.*

*I am happy to report that the new Board of Directors for the Indian Woods Community Association brings together an excellent and motivated group of people. I trust that this group can continue in the tradition of the previous board with proactive representation for our residents.*

*We owe a big thank your to our previous board for the numerous accomplishments made during the last two years. Many things have changed and thanks to the leadership of Don Walsh, great things were started such as the Halloween party, bad things were ended such as the unlicensed night club in the Central Ave retail strip, and new relationships were formed - one with our new Alderman. This work has laid the foundations for a strong community association. Thanks all!*

*The new board is full of excitement and motivation, looking forward to leading our community.*

*Jonathan*

Jonathan Sladek  
IWCA President

## 45th Ward Remap

The Indian Woods community will be transferring into the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward in 2015. This is the result of a Ward remapping due to the 2010 census data. What does it mean for us? We will have our current Alderman John Arena, for his full term of office. Then, we will transfer to the 39<sup>th</sup> Ward after the next election in 2015. The current 39<sup>th</sup> Ward alderman is Margaret Laurino. While we will continue to be serviced by Arena's office, the IWCA board will reach out to Alderman Laurino as in introduction.

## Safety for all of our residents

The IWCA Board of Directors has sent a letter to Alderman Arena's office requesting consideration to traffic safety ideas along Central Ave. Many residents have voiced concern about the Indian Road & Central intersection. We are proposing ideas such as a traffic light, stop signs, and left turn lanes as alternatives to a safer intersection. If you feel strongly about this, please call the Alderman's office and speak up. They need to hear from you about this safety issue.

## Indian Woods Garden Walk

Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year, the Ardmore Avenue garden walk was a pleasant event for neighbors to converse and take a stroll through the neighborhood enjoying some truly spectacular gardens. We are happy to announce, that back by popular demand, the Garden Walk is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. This is in the early planning stages right now. If you'd like to have your garden on the tour, please contact IWCA director Mary Smythe at 5337 W Ardmore, phone 773-763-3490 or by

email: [m Smythe5337@att.net](mailto:m Smythe5337@att.net), before the first of June. Put this on your calendar!

## River Day

May 12<sup>th</sup> – The Friends of the Chicago River proudly announces the 20<sup>th</sup> year of their Chicago River Day. Come join the cleanup and restoration efforts at the Indian Road Woods site. We'll be down by the pavilion. If we get enough neighborhood volunteers sign up at their website, we will bring out the BBQ grills and have a picnic to celebrate our hard work. Taft High School has been sending lots of students out every year, and we owe them a big thank you for keeping our preserves clean! Please think about joining us this year.

[http://www.chicagoriver.org/events/chicago\\_river\\_day/](http://www.chicagoriver.org/events/chicago_river_day/)

## Bike Trail Update

The bike trail extension project should begin this year which will extend the forest preserve bike trail from Devon/Caldwell through Indian Woods over to Forest Glen. This will give our community a very pleasant way to walk or bike to Edgebrook – avoiding the business of Central Ave.

## Adopt a road/forest preserve program

The IWCA Board is in discussions with the Forest Preserve district about ways in which our two organizations could work together to beautify and take care of the edge of the forest preserve along Indian Road. If you have any ideas of things you'd like to see, please email your IWCA president. Also, if you'd like to be involved in upcoming beautification projects, let us know.

## 2012-13 IWCA BOARD

## Officers

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msmythe5337@att.net

## Neighborhood Garage Sale - June 2, 3

Start the Spring Cleaning! Gather your belongings for the community wide garage sale weekend. Each residence must obtain a permit from the Alderman's office. The office is located at 4962 N Milwaukee Ave.

Phone: 773-286-4545.

## Forest Preserve Work

Restoration work in the Forest Preserve. Many of our residents enjoy daily walks in the forest preserves. Any why not, it's a great way to enjoy the day. You've no doubt noticed the 'work' being done in our preserves. This is ecological restoration work being done by the Forest Preserve District and one of it's volunteer programs, the North Branch Restoration Project. Our preserve is lucky enough to be one of the sites along the Chicago River's North branch where volunteers are spending many hours restoring the ecosystem to ensure the health of the forests and prairies. Work days of the winter have removed much European buckthorn (an invasive species), and upcoming projects include spreading native wildflower seed and installing a nature trail. If you'd like to get involved, please email [IRWfriends@gmail.com](mailto:IRWfriends@gmail.com). More information on the restoration efforts can be found at [www.northbranchrestoration.org](http://www.northbranchrestoration.org).

## Email List

Newsletter has been emailed to all members who have provided an email address. Keep up to date with all IWCA news. Get on the list, email [info@indianwoods.org](mailto:info@indianwoods.org) today.

## Community Connection

One of the IWCA Board's new goals is to reach out to our neighbors, be it residents, politicians, or businesses. We have some excellent local businesses who can benefit from our support, and we can certainly benefit with having these businesses as friends and supporters. This newsletter will highlight our first 'community connection'. Your suggestions for future connections is requested. Please note that our community meeting will be held at our community connection's restaurant.

Stay tuned for future community connections. Republic Bank has expressed interest in community outreach and is currently developing some programs for seniors.

## IWCA Commerce and Community Development Committee (CCDC)

The IWCA Board has created a committee to track and stay in tune with development issues surrounding our community. Chairman Don Walsh and our Association Attorney Patrick McCann head this committee. Their current report can be found on the IWCA website. Here is a summary: The Chicago Taxi Medallion Management Company has plans to purchase the Pyramid Company building at 5353 W Armstrong to relocate their 450 taxi car leasing business. The CCDC has researched this company and it's history to determine how this may impact our community. The report suggests that this company does not have a good record of being a law abiding business. The report has been forwarded to the Alderman's office for reference. We will continue to work on this issue. -->



# IWCA Community Connection

*The Saigon Grill pleases the palate and the community*

Owners Sonny and April have a business model that is sure to sustain - personal service with great food!

They started as business owners in Edgebrook with Demetre's Cleaners and Tailors at 5504 W Devon. For the last 10 years, April and Sonny have been happily greeting their customers (by name!) as they come into the cleaners. After hosting a Chinese New Year's celebration for their customers year after year - many of their customers finally persuaded them to open up a restaurant, where they can get their delicious food more often!

Saigon grill opened last year and provides a combination of Chinese and Vietnamese offerings. To ensure the best



**Delicious, healthy meals are on the menu.**

**Stop in today and try one.**

tasting meals, only high quality, natural ingredients are used. No MSG is added to the dishes - and it's not needed or missed. A few favorites include egg rolls, Banh Xeo, and Egg Foo Young. check out more menu options here:

<http://chicago.menupages.com/restaurants/saigon-grill/menu>

Be sure to ask about their new addition to the menu - Walnut Shrimp.

This restaurant has received high reviews on all the internet forum sites, such as yelp.com

Dine in, Delivery, Take out, BYOB. Open Monday - Saturday 11am-9pm

**Saigon Grill**

**5736 N Elston Ave**

**773-628-7156**

**IWCA member SPECIAL!! Bring in this flier for a free appetizer.**

*Join us for the May 8th Community meeting at the Saigon Grill. Sonny will be serving up some special treats for us. Place an order for the meeting or take something to go. BYOB*

## MEET THE BOARD

*Mary Smythe joins the board as a long time resident and community socialite. We are lucky to have her knowledge of our history, dedication and determination on our board.*

*Rick Erbacci joins the board as a recently retired CPD veteran. While we will miss him on the force, we welcome that he'll be around our community keeping an eye on things. If you don't know Rick, look for the guy smiling and having a good time.*

*John Ernst joins the board with an excitement for keeping our community strong. As a new dad, we wish him well and hope to see baby Anthony on the sidewalks this summer.*

*Denise Viverito (treasurer) brings her accounting background for our benefit. Keeping busy as CFD EMT and a mother of three daughters she has a genuine motivation to keep our community family oriented.*

*Michelle Johnson joins the board to fulfill the secretary position. She calls Indian Woods home for over 20 years and as a mother of 2 is very interested in making our community even better.*

*Patrick McCann steps into the Vice President role this term. As a father of two young daughters, he has a strong determination to preserve the family style of our community.*

*Don Walsh (past president) is also leading our economic development community. After his dedication to being the IWCA president we appreciate his continued dedication.*

*And me, I really enjoy our community. Driving home, either turning onto Ardmore or Indian there is a sense of relaxation. As our 2 year old daughter likes to say from the backseat, "home".*

*Let's keep our community safe and family friendly. -Jonathan*

**from page 3: Colletti's:** The IWCA/CCDC attended the City of Chicago Zoning Public Hearing on Colletti's application for a zoning change. The Board and membership voted to support Colletti's zone change for the construct an outside dining area on the property. Colletti's has been a strong partner and supporter of the IWCA.

The IWCA/CCDC is always looking for new members to serve on the committee. If you would like to be a committee member, please contact Committee Chairman Don Walsh at (773)-594-1422, or email to (drdonwalsh@aol.com).

## Chicago Backyards

*From the Alderman's office:* When we talk about acting globally yet thinking locally, you don't get much closer to home than your back yard. To entice you to stop by your neighborhood garden center, the Chicago Sustainable Backyards Program is once again offering residents up to 50% back on local purchases of trees (up to \$100 rebate), native plants (up to \$60 rebate), rain barrels (up to \$40 rebate) and compost bins (up to \$50 rebate). See [their site](#) for downloadable rebate forms and a list of participating garden centers, along with educational workshops and other resources. If you have further questions about this effort, please call 312-743-9283 or e-mail [rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org).

## Alderman's Office

please contact the Alderman's office as needed for City Services:

Alderman John Arena

45th Ward

4754 N Milwaukee Ave

Chicago IL

773-286-4545

[www.ward45.org](http://www.ward45.org)

Ward night is every Tuesday night from 5pm to 7pm

## Dues Collection

Thank you to all of our members who paid their dues in 2011. Our recent collection outreach resulted in over 30 people submitting their dues payment. Some people even submitted dues for 2012 already, so THANK YOU!

This brought the total dues paying households to approximately 45%. Less than previous years, and far less than would be needed to initiate more costly programs such as snow plowing.

Please remember that your dues are going towards running the organization in an effort to provide you with an invaluable information resource, and a collective community voice. Your dues will also be used to help fund community events such as the Halloween party, meetings, and neighborhood fliers.

We will be officially collecting dues for 2012 soon. The 2012 dues amount will remain the same as last year; \$20.

## Our Veterans

Indian Woods is honored to have among it's residents many US military veterans, including a few from World War II. If you'd like to help honor our veteran's please contact us at [info@indianwoods.org](mailto:info@indianwoods.org) or 847-858-2242. We look forward to sharing some of their stories with you in the future.

# IWCA Calendar of Events

*please join us - volunteers always appreciated*

**May 8th - Community Meeting, 7pm, Saigon Grill**  
5736 N Elston Ave

**May 12 - River Day, 9am - Noon, Forest Preserve Pavilion**

**June 2, 3 - Indian Woods Garage Sale**

**July 18 - Indian Woods Garden Walk**

**Ardmore Block Party - Date to be Determined (August?)**

**October 28 - IWCA Halloween Party**

## Contact us:

Feel free to contact any of the board members. For official business:

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c/o Jonathan Sladek  
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[info@indianwoods.org](mailto:info@indianwoods.org)

[www.indianwoods.org](http://www.indianwoods.org)