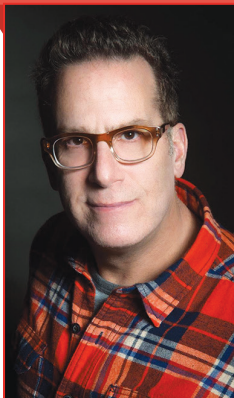




MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



So far, we've had a great start to 2016. Our new Board is in place and running very smoothly. Vi Daley, Lynn Smith and the Art Fair and First Sight Fundraiser Committees have plans well under control. The Art Fair Committee is trying something new by scheduling First Sight on May 15th, earlier than in past years. Buy your tickets now for this amazing party and fundraiser.

Karl Hjerpe, chair of our HD/PZ committee, has created a wonderful addition to our website.

Visit www.oldtowntriangle.com, click on

About OTTA then click **Historic Picture Gallery**. Here you can view historic pictures of some of our homes. If you have historic images of your home, our neighborhood or background history of your home and are willing to share them, please email the pictures and history to historicphotos@oldtowntriangle.com. Photos will be scanned and returned. I believe part of our obligation, as the current generation maintaining our historic homes in the Triangle, is to document their history for future generations.

We are launching a new Youth Committee for OTTA. Details can be found in Committee News. Diane Gonzalez's Grants Committee is now accepting grant applications. Last year we awarded \$44,250 in grants to

15 recipients, including neighborhood schools and organizations that serve our community. We should be very proud of that. The Neighborhood Improvements Committee (NIC) is valiantly trying to maintain and improve the infrastructure and parks within the entire Triangle. This is a huge task, and we need to exercise extreme patience while the work is in progress. Because some trees need more attention than others, the process is triaged by need. And, the Events Committee has several fun events planned, including a play on May 1st and two food contests in September and October. Details to come.

I recently had the privilege of attending our Boy Scout Troop's Special Court of Honor. Scout Ryan Varallo received the "Medal of Merit" from Boy Scouts of America for saving a person's life from choking. Being very involved in scouting and an Eagle Scout myself, I presented Ryan with some personal mementos from my days in scouting. We are very proud of Ryan.

I'm very excited about our new Board! Everyone is willing and eager to work together. It's already been an amazing year.

Best regards,

Steve Weiss, President



COMMITTEE NEWS | Compiled by Michael Warnick (Triangle resident since 1984)

Old Town Art Fair Committee News | Co-Chairs Vi Daley (Triangle resident since 1967) and Lynn Smith (Triangle resident since 2001)

The 67th Original Old Town Art Fair & Garden Walk is just around the corner. Thanks to all Art Fair Committee members who have been hard at work to make it happen!

67th Old Town Art Fair & Garden Walk DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, May 15	6:00pm	First Sight Gala at Perennial Virant
Tuesday, May 17	6:30pm	Gate Training at The Second City
Saturday & Sunday June 11 & 12	10am-6pm	Old Town Art Fair & Garden Walk
Friday, June 17	6:00pm	Volunteer Thank You Party at the Triangle

Fair Gates | Co-Chairs Shannon Waterfield (Triangle resident since 1999) & Karen Pfendler (Triangle resident since 1950)

GATE TRAINING – The Second City Workshop

Join us for an evening of food and great fun on **Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30pm at The Second City!** Our generous neighbors at The Second City will host a special Training Workshop for Gate Volunteers. They'll coach

us using their unique, groundbreaking techniques and provide useful tips on how to deal with common issues that occur when requesting donations for our worthy cause. All Gate Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend this interactive, fun-filled event. Email Karen Pfendler to sign up as a Gate Volunteer or Gate Captain and let her know if you can join us at Second City by April 17th kpffendler@aol.com.

Music Entertainment | John Knoche, Chairperson (Triangle resident from 1982-1986 and since 2004)

The 2016 entertainment line-up is taking shape. This year we posted the OTAF on the website **Sonicbids** to solicit musicians interested in providing entertainment for our 2016 Fair. We were inundated with over 100 requests to participate!

We have returning talent such as Radium Swing Band, The Harris Family Band, Donna Herula, Juli Wood, Jack Cassidy & SYMBIA, Brad Cole & Check with Lucy, and Alan Zreczny. We are adding talent including Zydeco Voodoo, folk musician Chaz Hearne, acoustic singer Laura Joy, singer-songwriter Matthew Morgan, and red-hot Mercedes Martinez of

(Continued on page 2)

COMMITTEE NEWS | (Continued from page 1)

Son Monarcas. Mercedes is a free-lance musician and jazz singer, visual artist and scenic/sound designer for theatre.

Finally, we are pleased to have the 18-piece Pritzker College Prep Jazz Band performing. These high-flying students consistently rank near or at the top of the Berklee College of Music's national jazz festival in Boston, have opened for the Pete Ellman Big Band at Fitzgerald's in Berwyn, and have performed with Grammy winner, Frank Catalano. Check the website in coming weeks for performance times.

Exhibitors Committee | Joan Goldstein, Exhibitors Committee Chairperson (Triangle resident from 1985-1993 & OTTA member since 1985)

The Exhibitors Committee has invited more than 80 new artists to participate in the 2016 show, based on the artists' scores from our jury in January. In addition, 34 artists who were juried out after the 2015

show, reapplied, scored well with the new 2016 jurors and have been invited to exhibit. Another 85 artists are on the waiting list hoping for a place, should someone have to drop-out between now and June. The show is really shaping up to be another great exhibition (and sale, of course) of exciting artwork by 250 outstanding artists from across the country – and even a few from Canada! The new artists will be in the page of the **Artist Gallery** on the Triangle's website by June 1st.

Call for Volunteers!

The Art Fair needs you! Contact the office if you would like to help with: Artists Breakfast – Booth Sitting – Children's Corner – First Sight Gala – Gates & Gate Captains – Merchandise and Information Booth – Photography – Poster and Flyer Distribution – Volunteer Thank You Party.

Calling All Gardeners!

It's time to start planning your garden for the 2016 Garden Walk. 🐦

FIRST SIGHT ALERT! CALL TO ACTION! | By Nancy Jordan (OTTA Member since 2015)



Silent Auction items from 2015, featuring Peter Vale's ceramic mask. Peter has donated another mask to this year's fundraising event.

The Old Town Art Fair's First Sight Gala is Sunday, May 15th at Perennial Virant, 1800 North Lincoln Avenue from 6 to 10pm.

Tickets are on sale **NOW!** In fact, if you buy them before April 30th, they are \$100. Plus

you get a large Old Town Art Fair Poster with your purchase. Beginning May 1st, the tickets will be \$115.

It's a night you won't want to miss! Silent and Live Auctions featuring vacations, winery tours, art from 2016 Old Town Art Fair artists and much more. Raffle prizes include dinners, massages, boutiques and surprise packages you won't be able to resist.

And we haven't even talked about the food, yet! Perennial's Chefs will be offering a selection of canapes and seasonal delights along with something sweet and coffee, and, of course, our Old Town Art Fair Signature Cocktail, Ninety+Cellar wines, beer and soft drinks.

So what are you waiting for? Get your tickets now! Space is limited. Purchase tickets online at www.oldtowntriangle.com/ol-town-art-fair/first-sight or at the Triangle office at 1763 N. North Park. 🐦



Capital Improvements | Christopher Huff, Chairman (Triangle Resident since 2011)

Recently, the focus of the Capital Improvements Committee has been to assess and conduct repairs to our building in need of attention. While we still have a few projects on our list, the Committee is starting to think beyond the "needs" and

more towards the "wants." If you have ideas about how the Association might improve this valuable and unique community asset, please bring them forward to the Board! Send in your suggestions to info@oldtowntriangle.com. 🐦

CALENDAR | APRIL - JUNE

APRIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2 – 5 P.M.

GALLERY RECEPTION

Sandy Bredine

EXHIBITION: April 2nd – May 4th

TUESDAY, APRIL 12TH, 7 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13TH, 6:30 P.M.

(Also April 20th, April 27th, May 4th) | GRANTS COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 18TH, 7 P.M.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH, 7 P.M.

HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 25TH,

6:30 P.M.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MAY

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST 2 P.M.

SPECIAL EVENT | OLD TOWN TRIANGLE GOES TO THE THEATRE

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH,

7 A.M. – 1 P.M.

GREEN CITY OUTDOOR MARKET

OPENING DAY | greencitymarket.org



THURSDAY, MAY 7TH,

1:30 – 5:30 P.M.

EXHIBITORS COMMITTEE

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

MOTHER'S DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 10TH, 7 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH, 6:30 P.M.

CAPS

COMMITTEE NEWS | Compiled by Michael Warnick (Triangle resident since 1984)

NEW! Youth Committee | Steve Weiss (Triangle resident since 1999)

I am excited to announce the formation of a new Youth Committee. It is being created primarily to allow children to meet and interact with other neighborhood children. Many of the young people in the Old Town Triangle rarely have a chance to meet and interact with one another primarily because they attend so many different schools. This new committee allows this situation to change.

Since this is a new committee, we are recruiting new members. Parents – We hope you will ask your kids to join! Kids from ages 3 to 18 are eligible, and we have plenty of activities planned. First, teens will elect an Old Town Triangle Junior Board, and the president of the Junior Board will sit

in on regular OTTA Board Meetings, which are scheduled every month.


Other activities on the drawing board include a tie-in with the Menomonee Club for after-school playtime, staging fund raising events, movie nights, painting and other art and craft projects culminating with a Triangle Gallery Show.

Don't miss this great opportunity for your kids to mingle and interact with other children from around the neighborhood. Plus it is a great opportunity to earn community service credits! More information will follow. If you have children who are interested, send in your names and contact information to info@oldtowntriangle.com. 

Neighborhood Improvements Committee | Karen Pfendler, Committee Member (Triangle Resident since 1950)

The NIC Committee hopes everyone survived the winter smoothly. NIC has not been dormant these past months. We use the winter months to discuss plans for the coming spring and summer projects. We will be asking for your help to keep a watchful eye on the new trees we planted last year. The brick sidewalk on the north end of the Triangle building will be repaired this year and will provide greater safety for the pedestrians who walk it on a daily basis. Very shortly we will be doing our usual spring walk-through of all the parks we oversee. Fortunately we had a fairly mild

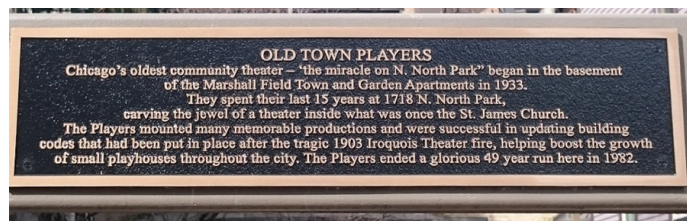
winter so we don't anticipate much damage to the plants in our parks. We foresee the possibility of being able to plant some new trees where the City has taken down ash trees this past winter.

If you would be interested in joining the NIC, please contact Shannon Waterfield, our committee chairperson, through the Triangle office to get information regarding our committee projects. Our NIC members look forward to seeing many of you in the neighborhood as we tend to our neighborhood infrastructure needs. 

Events Committee | Co-Chairs Steve Weiss (Triangle resident since 1999) & Shirley Baugher (Triangle resident since 1978)


The Events Committee has a full agenda for 2016. Starting off with "The Old Town Triangle Goes to the Theatre" on May 1st, we will have something for everyone. On the stage will be performers from around the neighborhood who will do a reader's presentation of the courtroom scene from *Inherit the Wind*, the famous Scopes Trial—or the "Monkey Trial" as it was popularly known. You won't want to miss watching your Old Town neighbors bring this vivid scene to life, and you won't be able to avoid the striking comparisons with what is going on in the world today. Returning to the Triangle will be The Old Town Players who performed from the mid-1960s to the early 1980s on N. North Park, also doing reader's presentations of scenes from several plays the Players did in Old Town.

Also from the Events Committee: There is nothing like food and entertainment to bring the neighborhood together, so starting in the Fall, the Committee is planning a "BBQ Picnic Challenge" in September followed by "The Great Mac 'n Cheese and Cupcake Shootout" in October. We will also be hosting a Christmas & Holiday Party, and a



The Old Town Players' plaque at 1718 N. North Park

progressive dinner followed by the Annual Meeting in January 2017.

Put these on your radar screen and look for the dates in upcoming newsletters and email alerts! 

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

- May 1st: Neighborhood Play
- September: 1st Annual "BBQ Picnic Challenge".
- October: "The Great Mac n'Cheese & Cupcake Shootout".
- December: Christmas Party and kids gift-making event
- January 2017: Art Reception and Exhibition for Neighborhood Youth
- January: Progressive Dinner and Annual Dinner & Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, 2 – 5 P.M.

GALLERY RECEPTION

Peter Axelsen

EXHIBITION: May 23rd – May 26th

SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, 6 -9 P.M.

FIRST SIGHT GALA

PERENNIAL VIRANT

MONDAY, MAY 16TH, 7 P.M.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 17TH, 7 P.M.

HISTORIC DISTRICT, PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MAY 23RD, 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 6:30 P.M.

EXHIBITORS COMMITTEE



SUNDAY, MAY 31ST, 2 – 5 P.M.

GALLERY RECEPTION

STUDENT/FACULTY ART SHOW

EXHIBITION: May 22nd – July 2nd

SUNDAY, MAY 29TH, 5:30 – 10 A.M.

BIKE THE DRIVE

bikethedrive.org

MONDAY, MAY 30TH

MEMORIAL DAY



JUNE

SATURDAY, SUNDAY JUNE 11TH & 12TH | 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.

OLD TOWN ART FAIR

FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH, 6 – 10 P.M.

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU DINNER & GRANTS AWARDS PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST

FATHER'S DAY



Spring “fever” kickoffs off with the Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier, Earth Day on April 22nd and the daily changes in nature as we step outside and note what’s growing around us. **Did you ever consider the indigenous plants in our neighborhood might be edible?** You might be surprised to know that ramps, spring dandelion greens, Burdock root, junberries and other native vegetation have been harvested for generations by Native Americans and hobby foragers along the banks of the Chicago River, the shores of Lake Michigan and the forest preserves of Cook County. **Native wild edibles** continue to thrive because they are best suited for the soil and grow in abundance without the care and tending required of farmed plants. Because the plants grow close to home, the carbon footprint is almost zero. Finding them is the trick!

“Foraging” is about harvesting native wild plants and fungi and eating what the land provides. For fans of locally grown foods, **ramps** (also called *wild onions* or *wild leeks*) are among the first green, wild, local Spring produce to appear as early as mid-April at farmer’s markets and in Chicago restaurants. A member of the allium family and native to North America, ramps have a Chicago history. The City’s name is derived from the Native American word “**chicagoua**” which refers to the wild “stinky” garlic-onion-like plant believed to be ramps. Most recently, as ramps and other wild plants’ popularity have gained momentum, overzealous foragers are harvesting this pungent onion-like bulb with a maroon colored stem and bright green flat leaves and selling them at markets and to restaurants. But beware! Foraging of any kind is off limits in the forest preserves and you can get arrested! Get permission before you harvest. Make sure you can correctly identify the edibles before you pick. It’s important to observe the surrounding growing conditions, like water drainage flow, to insure plants are healthy and safe to eat.

Not looking to forage yourself? “**Green Acres** at Green City Market sells several foraged edibles that grow on their property”, says owner Beth Eccles. “Ramps along with stinging nettles and a wild fern variety in the fiddlehead family, delicate with an earthy/nutty flavor profile, are very popular in the beginning of market season. In early or mid-June, lamb’s quarter, purslane, and wild watercress usually start popping up. These items are big sellers especially with the chefs and are usually available throughout the summer and into early fall. Morels are sparse on our farm, but we do find two types of fall mushrooms, Hen of the Woods (aka, maitake) and the Lobster mushroom.”

Another option for tasting foraged edibles is at two wonderful neighborhood restaurants, **The Blanchard** at 1935 N Lincoln Park W., theblanchardchicago.com and **Perennial Virant**, 1800 North Lincoln Avenue, perennialchicago.com. Both will be featuring foraged wild native plants on their Spring menus.

Interested in a **Foraging Tour**? Contact David Odd, who supplies Chicago restaurants with wild foraged edibles at oddproduce@hotmail.com. On the Foraging Walking Tour, he shows you edible and medicinal plants that grow in our Lincoln Park neighborhood – over 40 varieties!

A good resource for learning more about foraging is [Midwest Foraging: 115 Wild and Flavorful Edibles from Burdock to Wild Peach](#) by Lisa M. Rose. And “ramp it up” with an easy Spaghetti with Ramps you can make in minutes. Recipe is on our website: www.oldtowntriangle.com. 🐦



Spaghetti with Ramps, Adapted from Mario Batali

PHOTO GALLERY | By Roving Photographers Lynn Smith & Michael Warnick



(Left) February 9th OTTA Board Meeting, first meeting of the new Board, under Steve Weiss’ leadership (seated, center). (Middle) January 28th Annual OTTA Dinner & Meeting – members enjoyed a Taste of Old Town at a special event organized by Anne Giffels. (Right) Lynn Smith, co-chair of the 2016 OTAF, unveils the poster art for the 67th Art Fair.

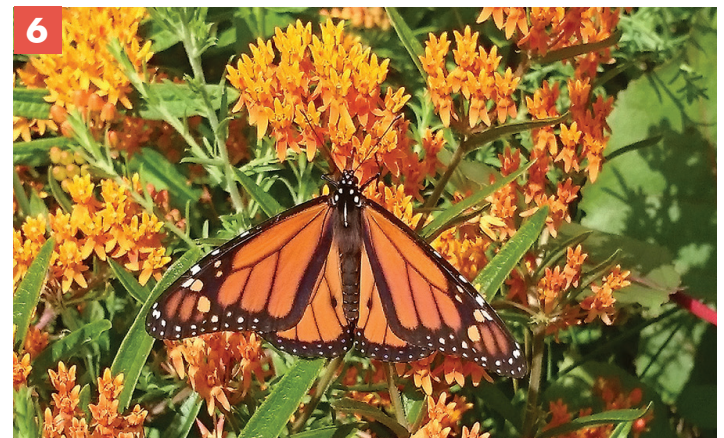


NEWS YOU CAN USE: Take A Walk On The Wild Side | By Michael Warnick (Triangle resident since 1984)

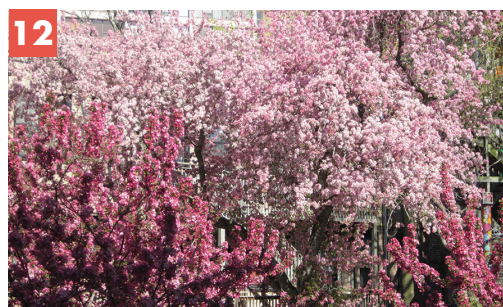
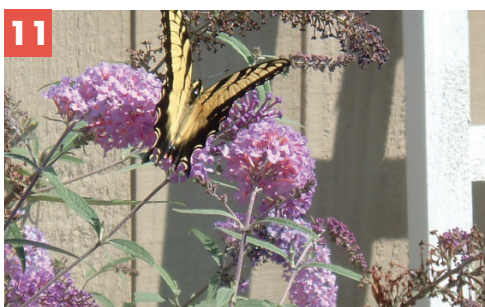
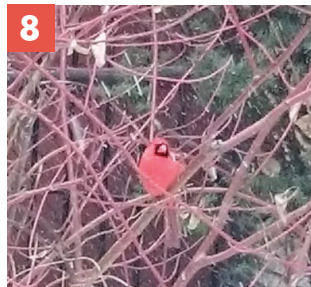
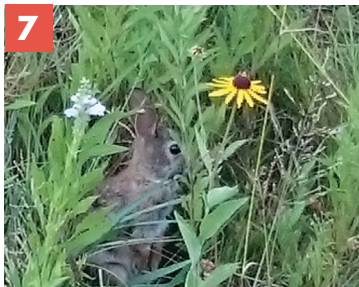
With warm weather approaching, why not take the time to explore an urban oasis right in our own front yard? The Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo offers a wealth of plant and animal life rarely seen in the city. Here is just a sampling of what you may see. (1) Eastern redbuds are one of the first flowering trees to appear in the spring. This fine example is at the south end of the lagoon blooms in early April. Be sure to stroll through the Shakespeare garden, sit on a bench and enjoy the many perennials found there. (2) Ducklings are abundant in early summer. These were rescued right here in the Triangle from the roof at Crilly and Willow in 2015, then led to the lagoon by volunteers and helpful by-passers. Read Vince Daley's story about them on page 6.



(3) Birds such as this young black-crowned night heron are a common in mid-summer. There are over 100 species of birds living around the lagoon including red-winged blackbirds, numerous swallows, sparrows; even a Cooper's hawk was sighted in early 2016. (4+5) Snapping and painted turtles are thriving in the lagoon. Watch for them sunning on a log or rock in early spring. (6) The Monarch butterfly is abundant in September. They feed and lay their eggs on butterfly weed (shown here) as well as swamp milkweed.



(7) Rabbits make their home around the lagoon, best seen early morning or early evening. The wildlife in the Old Town Triangle may not be as exotic as that found in and around the Park, but we do have our share of urban dwellers. (8) Seeing a cardinal will always brighten your day. (9) A friend to many, a foe to some, you must admit the squirrels in Old Town are quite resourceful. (10) The Old Town Triangle has its fair share of rare birds to keep an eye out for. Here is a yellow finch feeding on potted zinnias. (11) Any urban gardener is delighted to see a butterfly in their garden. This is an Eastern tiger swallowtail feeding on what else, but a butterfly bush! (12) Make sure you stroll through the Triangle when the crabapple trees are in bloom, usually around May 1st.



So take a walk in the morning, afternoon, or early evening – you will see something different every day and at every time of day! Enjoy SPRING!



GRANT AWARDS SPOTLIGHT | *Lincoln Park Zoo: Going Wild at "Storytime"*

By Nancy Jordan (OTTA Member since 2015)



Not everyone can say that they have a zoo right in their backyard. But, lucky us!

We have lions and tigers and gorillas and a unique breed of entertainment called "Storytime".

Check it out next Wednesday or Friday and you'll see families and their pre-school age kids

going wild, singing and dancing and, yes, learning. They gather at the Main Barn in Lincoln Park Zoo's Farm-in-the-Zoo to participate in fun educational activities like learning the alphabet, letters, numbers, colors, animals and wildlife conservation.

According to Rebecca Garrett, Strategic Partnerships Coordinator at Lincoln Park Zoo, it has been an ideal collaboration with the Old Town Triangle Association because it so strongly advances both of the organization's commitment to the cultural and education enrichment of children. And it provides a safe space for creative interaction and fun, year after year.

This popular program, which has been in existence for more than a decade, is one of the few free neighbor offerings for young children, parents and caregivers. The generous support of community partners like The Old Town Triangle Association allows the Lincoln Park Zoo to continue offering "Storytime" to area residents.

Since many of the attendees are "regulars", they build familiarity and camaraderie "with each other and many stay after the program ends to enjoy the farm or the rest of the zoo with their little ones."

Neil Firstenleit, the program's central performer and veteran musician from the Old Town School of Folk Music, is able to reach children with his tremendous personality and talent. He has cultivated a loyal following of pint-sized fans, many who arrive each week dressed in overalls, just like he does.

As one attendee put it, "Storytime provides the perfect opportunity for my small children to connect with others through music and dance at the Zoo. The tremendous joy provided by Neil is apparent in the hundreds of little faces who experience 'Storytime' each week".

As spring is the season of renewal, Rebecca adds, it is a fitting time to mention that Neil recently changed his stage name from Mr. Singer to "Neeleleo." To better reflect the program's format, which has become increasingly musical with Neil's involvement over the past few years, Lincoln Park Zoo took this change as an opportunity to rename the "Storytime" program to "Sing Along with Neeleleo".

Attendance for this new, improved show continues to grow. It regularly attracts over 70 participants per performance. In fact, Lincoln Park Zoo recently moved the program from the Farmhouse building into the Main Barn to accommodate the larger groups. With the generous support of the Old Town Triangle Association, hundreds of children have been entertained and delighted.

Who wouldn't want to have fun-eeo with Neeleleo for free-eeo? "Sing Along With Neeleleo" show times are Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:15 and 10:00 AM in the Main Barn at Lincoln Park Farm-in-the-Zoo. 🐦

IN THE FIRST PERSON | *Make Way for Ducklings: Thirteen Births on Orleans*

By Vince Daley (Triangle resident since 1967)

It all started in April last year when Mr. & Mrs. Mallard Duck were house hunting. Mr. Mallard, sporting his proud iridescent green and blue coloring, stood on a neighboring roof top surveying and quacking demands at the Mrs., who was trying to visualize a safe quiet place to bear her young. She was looking high and low, under, between, accessible and secluded from the "unfriendly".

A week or so later she made her choice – a 6 foot long – 3 ½ foot high x 3 ½ foot wide planter box with 2 small evergreens and a perennia bush, situated on a deck over a garage at 1807 N. Orleans. She pushed around the dirt, lining the depression with feathers, which we could see from our home. We had a bird's eye view!

Initially she would come and go, not spending late afternoons and evenings in her new home. Every morning, we served her a bowl of fresh toasted shredded wheat, ground up with fresh frozen peas and a bowl of fresh filtered water. As time passed, we noticed she seemed intent on staying home. The only time she got up was to eat and occasionally snap at us.

Little did we realize on the morning of May 12th sometime after 9:30 a.m. and prior to noon, 13 ducklings were born. Mother Duck had somehow encouraged the ducklings to leave the nest, which was 3 ½ feet off the deck floor, a feat in itself for these "hours old" newborns. Around noon, Mother Duck was scurrying around the deck, probably looking for a way to take her new family to Lincoln Park South Pond. We called a bird sanctuary in the suburbs, who did not understand city living; decks over garages, height off the ground and the Lincoln Park Zoo in walking distance.

While contacting the experts, "duck life" was going on. A larger bowl of finely ground shredded wheat and 2 large bowls, shallow in depth, filled with fresh filtered water were now set out. After Mother Duck tested the food, she issued quacking instructions to her brood and they immediately ate the prepared food, tasted the water and then jumped in it! To think just hours prior, they were encapsulated in a shell. Now they were fluffy little ducklings who listened to their mother, plus walked, talked and ate all on their own!

(Continued on page 7)

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | *Chicago's Finest – Maja & Mario Ramirez*

By Sarah Hebard (Triangle resident since 2016)

What could make you feel safer than having a Chicago Police Officer for a neighbor? Having two Chicago Police Officers as neighbors!

Maja Ramirez has been working in the Chicago Police Department for thirty-four years; her husband Mario retired from the CPD after thirty-two years. There are about 8,000 Law Enforcement Officers in the City, and Maja is currently ranked number nine in seniority. They have both worked on the squad roll, tactical teams, and have been acting desk sergeants. Work brought these two lifelong Chicagoans together when they met thirty years ago, but what brought them to law enforcement was a deep desire to help those around them.

Mario, who is one of thirteen children, immigrated from Mexico at the age of four, and grew up on the West Side of Chicago. In his fifties, he earned two Bachelor Degrees in Criminal Justice and Political Science, as well as a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, all from Lewis University. Not surprisingly, but still amazingly, his educational achievement has inspired a few of his siblings to do the same.

Maja's community involvement is extensive and includes working with several Chicago Girl Scout Troops and keeping our City healthy and green as a Tree Keeper with the Openlands Program. She has been a Master Gardener for fifteen years, and has helped plant and prune trees throughout the City.

Their house is the same one Maja grew up in, and has been in the family since 1957. Living in Old Town for so many years has given Maja & Mario the opportunity to watch the community grow and change for the better. Many of the notable transformations that they spoke of included the renovations to the playground at LaSalle Elementary School where Maja attended in the mid-seventies. It had almost been closed down during that time due to lack of enrollment. My favorite story about changes in the mid-1970s involved a gender rule that once said only boys could be



Maja & Mario Ramirez at Delightful Pastries, one of their favorite coffee spots on North Wells (February, 2016)

flag bearers at assemblies. That job is now occupied by their daughter, Morgan, who is about to finish her eighth and final year there.

Maja & Mario believe that the Old Town Triangle is special because the neighbors watch out for each other. Whether that means getting a call from a concerned neighbor with police-type questions, or being locked out of the house and having to call someone for a spare key, everyone works together to keep it safe. Other things they love about The Triangle are being able to walk to the Farmer's Market on Saturdays, get a coffee at Delightful Pastries, and going to the Ginza Holiday Festival at the Midwest Buddhist Temple every August. 🐦

IN THE FIRST PERSON | (Continued from page 6)

The bird curator at the Lincoln Park Zoo returned our call and arrived soon thereafter with two cardboard boxes and what appeared to be a large butterfly net. He proceeded to explain his 4-step safe re-location plan for Mother Duck and her 13 little ones. First, he captured Mother Duck and placed her in a box, which he accomplished despite the displeasure of the mother. The box was tenderly closed with "duck" tape. Second, he rounded up the scattered ducklings. Several onlookers helped in the effort and counted to assure all 13 ducklings were in the box. Third, the curator carried the boxes and led a small parade of enraptured neighbors down Menomonee through the park to the shores of South Pond. Fourth, after removing the tape, the boxes were slowly turned upside down. All 13 ducklings scurried out of their box. Mother Duck was released and looked sternly at the 13 while issuing commands. They all fell in line and followed her to the pond. Without hesitation, all the ducklings waded into the water following mother duck and swam off in a perfect "V".



All of this happened in less than 8 hours after the ducklings were born – from the egg, to walking, talking, swimming and eating all on their own. Truly amazing! Maybe we'll have more newborns in the Triangle again this year! 🐦

IBOT SPOTLIGHT | The Wild & Entertaining Zanies Comedy Club | by Nancy Jordan (OTTA Member since 2015)

Joan Rivers once said, “You never know what is going to happen at a live show.” And that’s true seven nights a week at “Zanies Comedy Club”, an institution in Old Town, and the fourth oldest standup comedy club in the entire country.

Bert Haas, the Club’s Executive Vice President, thinks many people today are listening to podcasts or enjoying standup comedy on television, which is great. But he would also like them to see a live show because there is nothing like the intimacy of a small club to bring out the best in a comedian.

Zanies has had the best. Name a famous comic and they’ve played at Zanies – Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Eddie Murphy, Sarah Silverman, Dave Chappelle, and Bill Maher. Zanies has the intimacy. It holds about 90 people, the stage is small and the audience is about a foot away. When people laugh, the whole place shakes. That’s what makes it Zanies!

Haas started at Zanies in February 1980. He was originally hired as a waiter until his boss realized he was the world’s worst waiter and moved him to host. From there, he worked his way up to running all four Zanies Clubs – in Old Town, St. Charles, Rosemont and Nashville.

“I have the greatest job in the world because I spend every night with some of the funniest people in America and I love the thrill of watching my guests laugh at a comedian I have booked.”

Zanies was founded in Old Town in 1978 by the late Rick Uchwat, but It not only helped fuel



the comedy boom of the 1980’s, but it also defined standup comedy at a time when few knew what standup comedy was.

“Hello, this is Zanies,” said Uchwat, answering the phone one night.

“Yes, what sort of comedy do you have?”

“It’s standup comedy”.

A pause.

“You mean you don’t have chairs?”

But, seriously, Zanies is more than just a comedy club. They also offer classes for individuals who are aspiring comedians or would simply like to learn how humor can be applied in everyday situations.

And lucky for us, for almost 30 years, Zanies has been offering Old Town residents **free admission** (with a minimum two drink or food purchase) on **Tuesday nights**. You simply need to call and make a reservation and then show some proof of residency on arrival.

For more information about comedians and show times, call 312-337-4027 or go to www.zanies.com. Zanies is located at 1548 North Wells Street in Old Town.

iBOT (I Buy Old Town) is a discount loyalty program for OTTA members offering services, merchandise and products at special rates by Old Town merchants. See <http://www.oldtowntriangle.com/shopping/>.

PHOTO GALLERY | By Roving Photographers Lynn Smith & Michael Warnick



The Sunday, March 20th OTTA Triangle Easter Party was a fun-fest for neighbors’ egg-decorating, munching on Easter goodies and listening to easy-tunes.

OLD TOWN TRIANGLE HISTORY | *The Yellow Cottage at 1756 N. North Park: Past and Present*

by Diane Gonzalez (Triangle resident since 1974)

Across from the Triangle Center sits a charming, yellow cottage – a survivor with an intriguing past that contributes to the neighborhood's history. Its age is unknown, but it was likely built by 1874 because after that date, frame construction was outlawed in Chicago. Part of it could be a reconfigured, raised fire cottage.

Since an 1886 fire insurance atlas revealed that there were no addresses on the west side of North Park Avenue (then Franklin Street) between Willow and Menomonee, the cottage was almost certainly moved to the site after 1886. Where it came from is unknown, but one guess is from a Menomonee site just to the north. The cottage today sits on what would have been the back 23 feet of two Menomonee lots at North Park. In 1894 when a permit was pulled to construct today's 1758 N. North Park, the cottage may have been moved from that Menomonee lot which showed a frame dwelling in the 1886 atlas. A 1910 atlas depicted the 1756 and 1758 N. North Park buildings side by side where they remain today.

Seven owners of the cottage have been identified thus far. In 1910, the U.S. Census related German immigrant and widower Henry Keck resided in the cottage. Keck was a bakery driver so he may have been employed at Deppé's or Piper's, two nearby bakeries. In the 1920 U.S. Census, Harry Myers made his home in the cottage. His son Albert, age 14, was

a pin-setter at a bowling alley. He may have worked across the street at what is today's Menomonee Club.

The Fred Mollet family occupied the house from 1950 through 1966. Fred's daughter, Edith, related that when her Dad purchased the cottage, it had been condemned. Fred, who as a boy had worked in a coal mine where he cared for the company mules, was very handy. The cottage had but one fuse and cold running water. Edith said that the cottage was immediately converted to a one bedroom home with a bath. The lower level was a garage, which Edith's Dad enclosed. Edith, her sister, her parents, and her grandmother installed knotty pine walls throughout their home. Edith, who loved to draw, remembered her mother hanging Edith's art in their backyard during an early Art Fair. The Mollets sold in 1966 to the Midwest Buddhist Temple.

The house's current occupant, who has owned the cottage since 1993, revealed that when she first walked in, it seemed like home. She has worked for 23 years to create the magical space it is today, which includes renovations in 1993 and 2013. The owner said that she is never happier than when her house is full, and many Old Towners have been attendees at her amazing parties. The cottage has been packed with every sort over the years, and may it continue to shelter people who in turn cherish it and its past. 🐦



(Left) 1756 N North Park circa 1950 when windows were added and garage door removed (photo credit Edith Beman) (Middle) 1756 N. North Park with vertical siding in the 1970's-1980's (photo credit unknown) (Right) 1756 N North Park today (photo credit Tom Leibig).

PHOTO GALLERY | By Roving Photographers Lynn Smith & Michael Warnick



The Old Town Art Center Gallery has already had some very special exhibits this year, with Artists' Receptions on February 7th for the group show SKETCHBOOKING: EXPLORING OPTIONS – KATHLEEN NEWMAN & STUDENTS and on March 13th for Norman Baugher's exhibit SAINTS & LEGENDS.

Old Town Triangle Association THE TIMES 9 www.oldtowntriangle.com

NEW YOU CAN USE | Recycling Revisited – Tips from “Recycle Michael”

by Michael Warnick (Triangle resident since 1984)

If you think you are doing your best to recycle, you may want to think about your efforts again. New rules that went into effect on January 14 require that all items that are put into the **blue bins** be placed in loose, not bagged. This applies to glass, cans (aluminum, steel, tin), plastics, and paper. To be blunt, if you are placing your recyclables in plastic or paper bags and then tossing them into the blue bin, they will not be recycled; they will be thrown into the trash. Plastic bags (which are not recyclable in Chicago's system) jam the rotating shafts and conveyor belts that separate recyclable items, and there is not sufficient manpower to open every plastic or paper bag that contains recyclable material.



So, what is recyclable and what is not? Not only the common items mentioned above, but other common household items such as clean aluminum foil or foil pans, cartons (milk, juice, lemonade), plastic jugs or tubs (milk, margarine, carryout food containers), phone books, gift wrap (except foil wrap), clean cardboard boxes, cardboard egg cartons, and packaged food cartons (no plastic liners) are all recyclable. Plastic bottles which have a cap (soda bottles) can be placed into the bin with

(Left) This is a good example of “bad recycling.” Most of this will end up in a landfill.

the cap on, and the same applies to spray bottles (cleaning solutions) as long as the sprayer or cap is all plastic. Recyclables should be as clean as possible in order not to contaminate the system. They do not have to be spotless; usually a quick rinse or a wipe with a napkin (which is not recyclable!) will do the job.

Items that are not recyclable may surprise many people. Your favorite red plastic cup or your cup & lid from your favorite coffee store are not recyclable (even though they may have the recyclable symbol on them). Plastic items that are recyclable have a number stamped into the item; all numbers are recyclable EXCEPT a number 6 plastic which is polystyrene, commonly known as styrofoam. And styrofoam comes in many forms including packing inserts, foam peanuts, takeout containers, coolers, disposable plates and drinking containers (think of that red cups — it is not a recyclable plastic, it is polystyrene.) Other common non-recyclable items include many types of glass (dishes, light bulbs and mirrors), bubble wrap, plastic film, drink pouches, napkins, paper towel (the cardboard sleeve is recyclable), electronics, clothing, hangers (wood or lumber), cookie tins, pots and pans, toys, twisty ties, garden hoses, and greasy pizza boxes.

The City has started distributing informative flyers which you may find attached to your blue bin. **Pitch In & Use the Right Bin!** To print your own recycling guide, go to <http://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago/guide>. 

Chicago Blue Cart Recycling Guide

Recyclables need to be empty and dry. **Go bagless**, place items loose in the blue cart without a bag.

GLASS	METAL	PAPER	PLASTIC
	 aluminum cans	 paper (free of glitter & metallic ink)	 bottles (caps on)
 bottles	 tin/steel cans	 paperboard (discard plastic bags & wrap)	 tubs (lids on)
 jars (recycle lids separately)	 clean aluminum foil	 cardboard (flatten to save room), cartons	 jugs (caps on)
 glass other than bottles and jars	 electronics, cords, pots & pans	 coffee cups, greasy cardboard, napkins	 plastic bags, polystyrene/foam #6, cups

 For more info including drop-off locations for the hazardous stuff, visit [recyclebycity.com/chicago](http://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago)

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To print your own recycling guide, go to <http://www.recyclebycity.com/chicago/guide>

RECYCLE
#CITY

ARTIST NEIGHBORS Darlene Crampton-Fahrenkrog, Hjordis Garner and Danielle Klinenberg are featured among 53 artists at The Arts Club of Chicago's 87th Exhibition of Professional Members. The show is open to the public and runs until April 16th. The Club is located at 201 E Ontario Street. Visit <http://artsclub.com/> for more details.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 79 For the second time within 9 years, a Troop 79 Scout is receiving a prestigious BSA award for saving a life. Ryan Varallo was recently awarded the Medal of Merit for his actions. The details are worth reading and can be found in this story <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20160226/old-town/boy-scout-who-saved-mans-life-with-heimlich-maneuver-honored>.

LINCOLN PARK VILLAGE <http://lincolnparkvillage.org/> is at the forefront of "the village movement" in the US. Join them as they launch **Life 3.0: Adventures in Self-Discovery**, a series of inspiring events for those on journeys of self-discovery & change and a new initiative designed to support those who are making a transition, often from long-time careers, into new opportunities and territories. For this inaugural event, Lincoln Park Village has teamed with Newberry Library to present John Huston, professional polar explorer and author of the award-winning book, Forward – The First American Unsupported Expedition to the North Pole who will talk about lessons learned from the North Pole. Whether it's navigating through a junkyard maze of sea ice or the camaraderie that comes from safely pitching a tent in a howling blizzard, John's captivating expedition stories illustrate ways to achieve goals and succeed when facing challenges. **Tuesday, May 24** at Ruggles Hall, Newberry Library (60 W. Walton Street). Reception: 5:30 PM. Program: 6-7 PM. Admission: Free. For more information on the Village or to register for this program, call the Village office 773.248.8700.

43rd WARD Alderman Michele Smith and her team email us an informative YOUR VOICE newsletter with updates on Ward issues – including the summary of a recent 18th District CAPS Meeting. The focus of that March 10th Meeting was to hear residents' concerns and empower the community to aid police in keeping our neighborhoods safe. Officer Christopher Schenk told attendees, "You all have valid, reliable information that goes a long way to decreasing crime and increasing the quality of life. Your regular routines make you our experts at various times of day, to judge what is and is not normal around your homes." Commander George Deveraux explained, "The stakeholders of a community are connected to each other and to nearby neighborhoods. The best deterrent is a nosy neighbor." When asked what to do if there is no immediate response from a 911 call, the Commander replied, "Keep calling and request to speak to a supervisor." These **security tips** were emphasized:

- Display 'No Trespass' and 'We Call Police' signs (available free at the ward office)
- Keep porch and security lights on to help neighbors walking at night
- When calling 911, tell dispatchers a crime is in progress or a victim is in danger, or that you believe suspicious persons are on your

street or alley

- Remain at the scene to sign a criminal complaint
- Attend CAPS meetings.

Visit the 43rd Ward's website at <http://ward43.org/> for comprehensive news, events, and updates. It's an easy-to-navigate site chock full of information you can use immediately!



LINCOLN PARK HIGH SCHOOL www.lincolnparkhs.org – LPHS students are not only getting an incredible education, but are letting their voices be heard in the Chicagoland area: 1) Many of our juniors and seniors participated in the **Walk to Rock the Vote** initiative. Organized by the LPHS Key Club and World Language teacher Carolin Colon, students eligible to vote in the upcoming presidential election descended enmasse on the Lincoln Park branch of the Chicago Public Library for early voting. 2) Hundreds of Lincoln Park High School students walked out of class on a recent Friday morning to protest the proposed **budget cuts by Chicago Public Schools**. For more general information about the school and how to get involved, visit the Friends of Lincoln Park High School website (<https://flphs.ejoinme.org/folphs>) or email folphs@gmail.com.



ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN www.st-mikes.org presents fun and engaging community events, including WingOut, a chicken wings-fest extraordinaire on June 4th & 5th AND The International Chamber of Artists' Brass Celebration on Sunday, June 11th at 7:30pm. Visit <http://www.icamusic.org> for details about the show or to contact Toni Dunning at 312-642-2498 or tdunning@st-mikes.org for registration details.

THE CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM <http://www.chicagohistory.org/> is honored to be named among the 30 finalists in the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Now in its 22nd year, the award is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to public service and are making a difference for individuals, families and communities. For more information, call Emily Osborne 312-799-2161. 🐦



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SAVE THE DATE

The 67th Annual Original Old Town Art Fair
& Garden Walk **June 11 & 12, 2016.**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION IS A COMMUNITY-BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN AN AREA OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO BOUNDED BY NORTH AVENUE, CLARK STREET AND THE GHOST OF OGDEN AVENUE ("THE TRIANGLE").

OLD TOWN ART CENTER GALLERY: APRIL – MAY



"If Walls Could Talk" Photographs by Sandford Bredine

Bredine captures visual narratives from around the world,
pulled from the walls of peoples' lives.

Reception for the Artist: Sunday, April 10 2-5pm

Exhibition: April 2 - May 4 2016



Peter Axelsen - Oil Paintings on Canvas

Axelsen paints from his own photos, revisiting memories and
overlaying landscape images woven together to create a
new perspective.

Reception for the Artist: Sunday, May 22, 2-5pm

Exhibition: May 7-May 26



The Old Town Triangle Association is a community organization that hosts neighborhood events like the Old Town Art Fair, manages the Old Town Art Center Gallery, offers art classes and yoga classes. The OTTA works to maintain the historic, landmark buildings that make Old Town Triangle a unique and wonderful community. Visit our gallery and view a new exhibit every month.

The Old Town Art Center offers specialized art classes seasonally. The Winter Session Classes began on January 5, 2016. Check the website for courses/teachers.