

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



a publication of the Southport Neighbors Association

January 1997

Volume 7 Number 2

Tattoo Parlour Proposed for Irving Park Rd.

The Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) will consider a proposal to open a tattoo parlour at its meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Philippine-American Ecumenical Church (southwest corner of Greenview and Byron).

The Zoning Board of Appeals will be reviewing a request for a special use variance for a tattoo parlour at at 1459 W. Irving Park. Ben Johnson, the business owner, will be on hand at the meeting to discuss his plans and garner community support for the proposed business.

At the SNA meeting, community members will be given the opportunity to voice their concerns and to ask Mr. Johnson questions. A vote will be taken as to whether the SNA should support the request for a variance. A representative of Alderman Schuller's 46th Ward organization will be present at

See Tattoo
(continued on Page 2)



The First Southport Neighbors Block Party was held on September 21, 1996, on Greenview Avenue. Emma Raser rides Chicago Police Mounted Unit horse "Sammy" with the help of Chris Carroll.

Southport Neighbors saddened by loss of Pres. Gary Osborne

by Matt Gallagher

The Southport Neighbors Association and the entire community is mourning the loss of SNA President Gary Osborne, who died in December after a sudden illness.

Osborne's tireless efforts as the head of the Planning and Development Committee in 1995-96, and as President from June 1996 until his untimely death, will be missed by all. The community greatly benefited from his efforts.

See Osborne
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Inside This Issue:

- Ashland Ave. development
- Community support for North Lake View Library
- SNA Resolution on North Lake View Library
- New Area Code

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 21
7:00 p.m.
Philippine-American
Ecumenical Church

Agenda:

- Sidewalk Cafes
- Tattoo Parlour
- 10-unit development at 3835 N. Ashland

Residents Testify in Opposition to Cubby Bear Beer Garden

Twenty-three neighborhood residents testified in opposition to the Cubby Bear's application for a liquor license at the October 1, 1996 License Appeal Commission hearing.

The Commission decided to uphold the License Commissions denial of the Cubby Bear's application on the grounds that the issuance of the license would not be in the best interests of the community.

an affiliated branch of the Lake View Citizens' Council



10-unit Condo Development Planned for Ashland Avenue Near Byron

Southport Neighbors Planning and Development Committee has been reviewing plans for a 10-unit condominium building at 3835 N. Ashland Avenue.

The project will be developed by George Menning, a longterm resident of our community. The 50-foot wide lot currently contains both front and rear wood-frame buildings on the north half and a rear-facing garage on the south half. The initial design, prepared by architects Morgante-Wilson, was for a 55-foot tall building. The current zoning ordinance allows that height, as Ashland is not included in the Special Conserva-

tion District.

The Planning and Development committee felt that the proposed height was excessive and would set a precedent for all future construction on Ashland. The developer and architect revised the design to a 46-foot high, 4 1/2 story building, comparable to the building under construction at 3845 N. Ashland. The latter building's design was approved by the community at the March 1996 meeting of SNA. It is the Planning and Development Committee's hope that these projects will set the standard for future development on Ashland Avenue.

Area Code Changed to 773

By Matt Gallagher

Homes and businesses in the Southport Neighbors area changed their area code to 773 beginning October 12, 1996. The temporary grace period ended January 16, 1997. As of now, all phone numbers in Chicago except the downtown area have changed to 773. The area bounded by North Avenue, Western Avenue, 35th Street and the Lake will be retaining 312.

The change will have no effect on phone rates, and 911 can still be dialed as normal. Call Ameritech at 1-800-988-5888 if you have any questions.

Tattoo

(continued from Page 1)

community's concerns and to note the result of the vote.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on the tattoo parlour will be held February 21, according to Mr. Johnson. Aldermanic support of the zoning variance request will be decided largely in part by the community's vote at the January 21, 1997 SNA meeting.

Also to be considered at the Jan. 21 meeting are the proposals for 1997 sidewalk cafes. At the September meeting, neighborhood restaurants submitted their plans for 1997 sidewalk cafes. Since that meeting, restaurants have worked with the SNA to revise their plans to meet the community's concerns.

Osborne

(continued from Page 1)

Osborne was an attorney for a prominent Chicago law firm and an avid gardener.

A memorial fund has been set up to benefit Gary's 4-month old son, Matthew. You may contribute by writing to the Matthew Osborne Fund, 1030 Dundeed Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

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Community Rallies in Support of Library

The Southport Neighbors Association and the Lakeview Citizens' Council have rallied in support of keeping the North Lake View Library open.

In late November 1996, the community was stunned by the surprise announcement that the North Lake View Library at Southport and Grace would soon be closed. Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey told a delegation of neighborhood residents that she plans to combine the North Lake View and Hamlin Park branches and move them to the Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland vicinity.

The Lake View Citizens' Council (LVCC) has formed a library committee, chaired by local resident Teresa Gallo. Gallo was one of the original founders of the Southport Neighbors Association, which is now an affiliated branch of the LVCC. The library committee has been collecting letters in support of retaining and expanding both the North Lake View and the Hamlin Park branches of the library. These letters are to be presented to the Chicago Public Library Facilities Committee. For further information, please call Teresa Gallo at 773-871-4084.



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SNA Resolution in support of library

At its December 16, 1996 board meeting, the SNA Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of the North Lake View Library Branch. The resolution reads:

"The Southport Neighbors Association, an affiliated branch of the Lake View Citizens' Council, represents the neighborhood bounded by N. Clark Street on the east, W. Addison Street on the south, N. Ashland Avenue on the west, and W. Irving Park Road on the north.

"The Southport Community contains a vibrant mix of residential, business, educational, cultural and religious uses. It has undergone extraordinary growth in population and in economic activity in recent years.

"The Southport Community worked hard in the early 1970s to obtain a branch library. The result was the North Lake View Library, opened in 1974. The community has been steadfast in support of the library, as demonstrated by its high usage; by civic support, such as Friends of North Lake View Library; and by promoting its expansion, as last shown at the Chicago Public Library Facilities Committee meeting here in October 1995 and attempted at their meeting this past November.

"The Southport community now understands that the Chicago Public Library intends to close this facility in the very near future and build a new facility in another community at an undetermined date.

The Southport Neighbors Association hereby resolves that the Chicago Public Library Board hold open, evening, public meetings within the community in order to ascertain the needs and desires of this community which has loyally supported the North Lake View Library for over twenty years; that the Chicago Public Library Board secure a lease for the present library space so that it may remain open until a new library is opened; that the Chicago Public Library Board build a second branch, to serve the rapidly growing West Lake View community, that would replace the Hamlin Park Library, after consultation with that Community."

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(cut here)

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3540 N. Southport Ave.
Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60657-1436

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January 21 Meeting to Address Tattoo Parlour Proposal

The Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) will consider a proposal to open a tattoo parlour at its meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Phillippine-American Ecumenical Church (southwest corner of Greenview and Byron).

The Zoning Board of Appeals will be reviewing a request for a special use variance for a tattoo parlour at 1459 W. Irving Park. Ben Johnson, the business owner, will be on hand at the meeting to discuss his plans and garner community support for the proposed business.

At the SNA meeting, community members will be given the opportunity to voice their concerns and to ask Mr. Johnson questions. A vote will be taken as to whether the SNA should support the request for a variance. A representative of Alderman Schuler's 46th Ward organization will be present at the meeting to help answer the community's concerns and to note the result of the vote.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on the tattoo parlour will be held February 21, according to Mr. Johnson. Aldermanic support of the zoning variance request will be decided largely in part by the community's vote at this meeting, so be sure to attend and make your voice heard.

Gary Osborne, Community Leader

The Southport Neighbors community was deeply saddened by the sudden illness and passing of Southport Neighbors Association President Gary Osborne. His tireless efforts on behalf of his community will be truly missed. A memorial fund has been set up for his four-month old son, Matthew. You may honor Gary's memory by a contribution. Write to The Matthew Osborne Fund, 1030 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.

Winter General Meeting Tuesday, January 21 7 p.m. Phillippine-American Ecumenical Church

- 10-unit development at 3835 N. Ashland
- Tattoo parlour at 1459 W. Irving Park
- Sidewalk Cafes

The Southport Neighbors Association Winter General Meeting, to be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, will consider plans for a ten-unit condominium building at 3835 N. Ashland Avenue. The developer, local resident George Menning, has worked with the SNA's Planning and Development Committee to revise initial plans. The plans for the project will be presented by the developer and architect at the January 21 meeting.

In addition to the 3835 N. Ashland project and the tattoo parlour (see story, left), the neighborhood will consider and vote on sidewalk cafe licenses for Strega Mena, Dish, Cafe Avanti, Uncommon Ground, Cullen's Bar and Grill, Tuscany on Clark, and Hi Ricky's.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Articles in January, 1997 newsletter (available at the Jan. 21 meeting):

- Gary Osborne Tribute: SNA President and Community Leader
- Sidewalk Cafe Licenses: details on individual restaurants' plans
- North Lake View Library: community rallies in support
- Cubby Bear Liquor License hearing: resident opposition hears
- and more: details on Tattoo Parlour and Ashland Development

Southport Neighbors Association is your local voice. Yearly dues are only \$5 for individuals, \$8 for families, \$10 for businesses and \$2 for seniors. Join at the next meeting!

