

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



September 1997

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Greenview Project hits a snag

By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair

Construction on a 4-unit residential project at 3726 N. Greenview has come to a halt. The perseverance of the neighbors and of the Planning & Development Committee resulted in City Zoning Administrator Paul Woznicki doing a new review of the building permit, which had been previously approved.

This new review revealed three violations of the overlay "Special Conservation District" zoning requirements. The developer, Walsh

Development, was told to reach an "amicable solution" with the SNA or the permit could be revoked.

The Planning & Development Committee of SNA met with the developer and reached a consensus. Due to the level of concern that had been expressed by neighbors near the affected property, a special meeting of the SNA was held on September 3, 1997 to determine their level of support. This meeting was lightly attended. The developer will make a presentation to the whole SNA at the Sept. 15 meeting.

Next Meeting:

Sept. 15, 1997

7:30 p.m.

Blaine School

On the agenda:

- Sidewalk cafes
- Planning & Development

1997-98 General Meeting Schedule and Board Member Information

The SNA will hold general meetings in the Blaine School Auditorium, at the corner of Southport and Grace, on the following dates in 1997-98:

- Monday, September 15, 1997 at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 17, 1997 at 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, February, 16, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.
 - Monday, April 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.
 - Monday, June 15, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.

Meetings of the board of directors will be held on the third Mondays of October, January, March and May at Access Realty on Southport. The 1997-98 Board of Directors is comprised of: Bill Platt, (President, 325-2406), Bill Lachman, (Vice President, 549-6981), Alice Cooperman (Secretary, 549-5372), Terrie Latino, (Treasurer, 883-9072), Kent Bartram (327-1446), Jim Bohn (525-7448), Gary Bonikowski (871-1331), Ginnie Fenley (327-9047), Matt Gallagher (883-0410), Jacki Gelb (327-6118), and John O'Hare (929-1870).



Sept. 15 Meeting To Focus on Sidewalk Cafes

By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair

Summer is coming to an end and that means that it is time for Southport Neighbors Association to hold its annual review of sidewalk cafes. This will be the main topic of

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an affiliated branch of the Lake View Citizens' Council

Cafes

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the September 15, 1997 meeting, to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Blaine School Auditorium, at the corner of Southport and Grace

The number of sidewalk cafes has mushroomed – from seven last year to twelve this year. Has the neighborhood reached the saturation point, or are more to come? Do we want any more? How well are current cafes being run?

The cafe operators have been invited to the meeting to describe their plans for the 1998 season. Residents will have a chance to ask questions, note their concerns, or express their support. Due to the large number of cafes, we have al-

lotted five minutes per cafe, so everyone must be brief.

The sidewalk cafe season ends November 1. Thus, operators will have seven weeks to address or correct any concerns raised by residents. At its December meeting, the SNA board of directors will vote on whether each cafe license should be issued for 1998, based on community input from the September meeting and any subsequent improvements made by the operators. These recommendations will then be sent on to Alderman Schuller and Alderman Hansen, who are unlikely to approve any license without SNA support.

Highlights of Sidewalk Cafe Regulations

Sidewalk cafes in our neighborhood are governed by City ordinance and regulations. Some pertinent requirements include:

- **Season:** April 1 to November 1
- **Hours:** No earlier than 8 a.m.; no later than 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- **Clear Sidewalk:** Six feet minimum for pedestrian movement.
- **Enclosure:** If provided, must be stable, at least 24 inches in height,

but not more than 36 inches in height.

- **Food Sales:** Must be a minimum of 50% of the gross annual receipts.
- **Cleaning:** Must remove all wrappings, litter, debris and food. Must do thorough and sanitary cleaning each day after closing.

Source: City of Chicago Sidewalk Cafe Program

These are minimums established by the City. SNA may recommend more stringent requirements to the Aldermen if appropriate.

Library Update: Old building gone; Ashland Ave. Site still in works

By Matt Gallagher
SNA Board Member

As neighborhood residents have undoubtedly noticed, the building which formerly housed the North Lakeview Branch of the Chicago

Public Library was recently demolished. According to the Alderman's office, plans for the site include a six-unit residential building with ground-floor retail, although details are still unclear.

Planning and Development Update

By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair

3835 N. Ashland: Number of units has been decreased from 10 to 9 in this project approved by SNA last January. Construction is expected to start in October.

3653 N. Bosworth: The existing single-family home is being extensively rehabbed and gaining an addition.

3939-41 N. Greenview: Plans for an 8-flat were approved at an August Special Meeting of SNA.

3923-33 N. Wayne: Construction has started on the 12 townhouses approved by SNA in June.

3834 N. Wayne: A new single family house has been topped out.

3726 N. Greenview: See pg. 1

In addition to these, the committee has received preliminary notification of **nine** new projects - 2 on Byron, 2 on Janssen, 2 on Clark and 3 on Southport. More information will be provided on these projects when it becomes available. Any concerns regarding development should be directed to the Planning & Development Committee.

The owner of the Ashland Ave. site proposed for a temporary library is still attempting to obtain necessary governmental approvals before that branch can open. Further details will be available at the Sept. 15 meeting

Through The Blinds

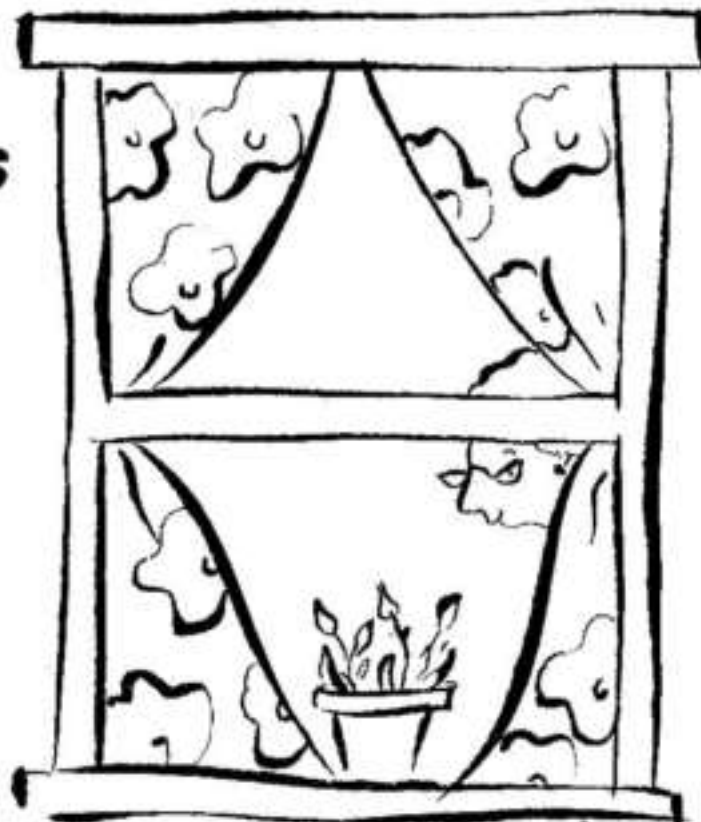
By Gladys Kravitz

Editors Note: This new feature column appears here for the first time in the Southport Neighbor. Ms. Kravitz asked us to let our readers know that she welcomes contributions to future columns, by writing to Gladys Kravitz, 3540 N. Southport, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60657 or emailing to "SNACHicago@aol.com." Ms. Kravitz is always looking for help in writing her column, to make sure that she has the latest scoop on what's happening in our neighborhood. We're hoping that our readership takes this column in the spirit it is intended by Ms. Kravitz.

I'm so glad I moved into this neighborhood! It's very friendly here. My old neighborhood was too crowded, had absolutely NO parking, and my neighbor was a real witch. Oh, well, at least a few things will be different here. And with all of these new "garden apartments" with attached patio pits springing up all over the neighborhood, I don't have to crane my neck to look in and see how nicely the white plastic lawn furniture goes with the chained-up mountain bike and Jennifer Convertibles sofabed.

My husband Abner doesn't want a thing to do with all this neighborhood-activism business. He says it won't make a difference, anyway. And if we really need something done, he says, we should just pick up the phone and call our Alderman in Arizona.

It was very warm and inviting of the Southport Neighbors to give me this Column. I think it will be the perfect place to discuss all my neighbors. You know them - they put back porches on the front of their house, or ask me to get softer parkway bushes so little Fido



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doesn't chafe in his more private moments, or help me be more productive at 3 a.m. on a Saturday by renting their three flat to 38 colleges boys, or complain when I tear down an annoying single family home and put up "Southport Towers" (See four states from our roofdeck!). I bet you have a few things you'd like to praise your neighbors for, too. Maybe contributing your personal suggestion for the shortest route through the Southport Cafe Obstacle course? Drop me a line and maybe it will appear in my next column.

And, please keep an eye out on your neighbor. If strange things start hapening, write me or email me. Don't even bother telling Abner. He's so unobservant. He didn't even notice when I became someone else after the first season! Now, where are my binoculars?

City-wide Cleanup Day Set for Saturday, September 27

The 44th and 47th Wards are both sponsoring their annual Fall Clean-up on Saturday, September 27, 1997, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Ward efforts are part of a City-wide campaign to make the City and our neighborhoods a better place to live. If you are interested in painting light poles, cleaning up the parkways, eradicating graffiti, or just helping clean up your ward, please contact your ward office. 44th Ward residents should contact Ann at 525-6034; 47th Ward residents



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should call Sonja at 271-4423. If you are not sure which ward you are in, call either Ward office and they will be happy to assist you. Help clean up our City!

Membership in SNA: Changes underway!

It's time to renew your membership

By Kent Bartram
SNA Board Member

Let's not beat around the bush. Southport Neighbors Association didn't do a very good job keeping some blocks in the neighborhood informed about what was going on, when meetings were held, or when your membership dues expired. No excuses. But things *are* changing.

First and foremost, the calendar of meetings and locations have been set. General meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of September, November, February, April and June at 7:30 p.m. at the Blaine School Auditorium. Mark your calendars now!

Newsletter Distribution Chairman Bill Lachman has been working on updating the distribution routes and finding reliable people to help distribute the newsletter.

Newsletters are being distributed by volunteers - your neighbors. If you aren't getting the newsletter in a timely fashion, it's probably because there aren't enough volunteers to help distribute it - so talk to Bill at the next meeting and volunteer to distribute on your block. We will attempt to get newsletters out to the volunteer distributors two weekends (9 days) before the meetings. You can always pick up an extra copy at Blaine School, Access Realty, or Mail Boxes Etc.

Our membership database is now updated. Your checks are being deposited in a timely manner (bless you, Terrie Latino) and your address label will tell you when your membership will expire. Most memberships have already expired, but we are giving everyone an ex-

tension due to the chaos that was last year's SNA.

Why join? Because the bylaws state that voting at meetings is by paid members only. This hasn't been enforced in the spirit of democracy and freedom (who just muttered "permit parking"?). And it seems that people are getting tired of having 'ringers' show up at the meetings, claim to be residents, and vote for their friends, so change on voting procedures may be imminent.

SNA is your voice. It is run by volunteers who are your neighbors and is the community's voice to developers, businesses, other neighborhoods, and our two Aldermen. So join, already!

(cut here)

Join Southport Neighbors Today!

Yes! I'm interested in joining/renewing as a Southport Neighbor.
Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for the following membership:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Chicago, IL 60613 - _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

- individual (\$5)
- family (\$8)
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- senior (\$2)

*all memberships expire on one year anniversary date

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
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Make your check out to "Southport Neighbors Assoc". Mail the check, along with this form, to:

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

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Chicago, Illinois 60613
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The Southport Neighbor

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