



Miller Sign Removed

By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair

On Thursday, December 11, 1997, many residents of the 3700 block of Racine Avenue came home to find a 2 1/2 story-high Miller Beer can lurking outside their living room windows. The beer can was part of a sign painted on the side of a building fronting on Clark Street.

Calls were immediately made to Alderman Schuler and Alderman Hansen. On Tuesday, December 16, 1997, Alderman Schuler notified the Southport Neighbors Association that Miller had agreed to remove the sign. By that Friday, December 19, 1997, the sign was gone.

The Southport Neighbors Association extends a big thank you to the Miller Brewing Company, not only for responding to the community's concerns, but also for the speed with which they responded. The sign was gone one week after being installed. We can



A Miller Beer sign looms over Racine Ave, as seen from a neighbor's window. Prompt action by Alderman Schuler and Alderman Hansen and the Miller Brewing Company led to the sign's removal within one week of its being put up.

only imagine how good it would be if other firms would demonstrate a sense of corporate responsibility similar to the one displayed by the Miller Brewing Company in this case. We also want to thank Alderman Schuler and Alderman Hansen for their speedy help in this matter.

Next Meeting:

Jan. 20, 1998

7:30 p.m.

Blaine School

On the agenda:

- Juniper Park Renovation
- Build Gang Awareness
- Byron 8-Flat
- Blaine School Fine Arts Academy
- New Rizal Center proposal
- 3902 N. Southport Condo Development

Another 8-Flat for Byron?

By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair

A proposal for an 8-flat at 1400 W. Byron will be presented to the community at the January 20, 1998 general meeting. This is the

See Byron, pg. 2

Join or Renew Today!

SNA is your community's voice. A membership application is on pg. 4.



an affiliated branch of the Lakeview Citizens' Council

Rebuttal to Gladys Kravitz Column

by Joseph Frey
3920 N. Greenview Ave.

To the SNA Board of Directors:

I might just be persuaded to believe that the "Through the Blinds" column in the Southport Neighbors Newsletter is written in a benign, jocular spirit. I cannot, however, be persuaded to believe that it is appropriate for the Board to have chosen for the Association's spokesman a paranoid, voyeuristic busybody straight out of Nick at Nite. When deciding to publish such a column, how could the Board members have failed to take into consideration the manner in which aka [sic] Gladys Kravitz's musings would be perceived, regardless of her intentions? To wit:

In the November edition of *The Southport Neighbor*, "Ms. Kravitz" from behind the blinds of anonymity, pronounces that she is an outsider, then accuses her neighbors of being lazy. Who would want to live next door to her? Not me. And if I were contemplating moving into the neighborhood, after reading that issue of *The Southport Neighbor* I would start looking elsewhere for a new home.

Her poison-pen "universal truths" are no less antagonistic, and serve to further alienate three groups that the SNA should be trying to court favor [sic]: dog owners, developers and the library board.

As a responsible dog owner, I am even more impatient with rude owners than Kravitz; their

carelessness reflects upon – and therefore affects – me. But rather than taking snotty cheap shots at them, a better tack might be to ask dog owners for their cooperation, and even to thank them. After all, nobody walks the neighborhood more than dog owners, and at more varied times of the day and night. Their random presence out in the neighborhood creates an ad hoc citizens' watch.

In light of the unprecedented cooperation that the SNA has been receiving lately, the jabs at developers are particularly irksome. As long as the economics of the real estate market make it profitable, developers are going to tear down and build. That's a fact. It is therefore in our best interest to enlist them as partners in the improvement of our neighborhood, not make them our enemies to its detriment.

As for the library board, if Mary Dempsey "wiggled her nose and made our library disappear" from Southport Avenue, then Alderman Schulter made it reappear on Ashland Avenue. (See the Thanksgiving Edition of *Alderman Schulter Reports*). I'm pretty certain, though, that his means to accomplish this were far more prosaic, and that he probably didn't imply that the person whose cooperation he needed most is a witch.

It is apparent that the persona of Gladys Kravitz is not the type of resident that anyone would want representing our neighborhood. A personal column in an

See Kravitz, pg. 4

Byron

continued from pg. 1

fourth new project on that short block and the third new 8-flat. The developers of the newly-proposed 8-flat are Ronan and O'Leary, the same team that developed the two 8-flats on Southport, immediately north of the Byron site.

A special meeting was held in December to present the project to the community. Due to a faulty notice, attendance was very light. The Southport Neighbors Association Board of Directors felt that community sentiment was not properly represented by the small turnout and decided to have the project presented at the January meeting.

LSC Vacancy Announced

A vacancy for a community representative has been created on the Blaine School Local School Council through the resignation of local resident Ned Costello. The election is April 8, 1998.

Anyone who is a local resident, who is not a Board of Education employee, who does not have a conflict of interest, and who has a genuine interest in improving the quality of our local school is eligible. Anyone interested in standing for election to the Blaine LSC should contact LSC Member Elizabeth Gonzales through Blaine at (773) 534-5750.

New Rizal Community Center Proposed

*By Gary Bonikowski
Planning & Development Chair*

The Philipino American Council of Chicago, operators of the Rizal Center at 1332 West Irving Park Road, are planning to build a new community center. They are negotiating to acquire the vacant land that is north of the existing Rizal Center building. If they obtain the property, they will replace the existing building with a new community center which would include a gym, an arts center, a senior citizens' center and a parking facility.

The site lies within the boundaries of the Graceland West organization, but borders on our community. Therefore, Alderman Schuller is kindly offering us a chance to see the proposal and to have residents of our community express their views on the proposed new center. A representative of the Rizal Center will be present at the January 20, 1998 meeting to present plans and answer questions.

New Street Signs Coming

As part of a city-wide effort, our community will soon be getting new street, parking and CTA signs. The city will also change the way people pay for street parking in some locations, going to "pay and display" boxes which accept parking fees for an entire block and help create more parking spaces on crowded City streets.

The new street signs simplifies signage and will save more than \$1 million per year. There will be only 75 basic signs, which can be customized by stickers to show specific information. Chicago's current signage system is complicated (as residents of our neighborhood certainly know!), with more than 650 different types of Chicago street signs, including 475 for parking alone. The signs are designed to look better and to give drivers the information they need.

The Southport Neighbor

Progress on Juniper Park Make-over



By Kelly Chevalier

At the next meeting we hope to establish a new committee and an agenda for revitalizing the Juniper playlot and how to pay for it. We will gather volunteer names and break up into two main committees: the Park Committee and the Fundraising Committee.

The Park Committee will determine the type and placement of park equipment and landscaping. At a follow-up meeting on February 23, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. at Blaine School, we will present the committee's plans to the community and the Park District. The Park District will bring an architect and landscaper to this meeting, who will review the feasibility of the plan.

After approval, the Fundraising committee will develop a strategy to make it happen. Our current goal is to have our new park up and swinging by November 1998. We can do it! Please call me at 773-929-0620 for more information.

Page 3

January 20 Meeting to focus on Blaine, Development Issues

The Southport Neighbors Association will hold a general meeting on January 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. at the Blaine School Auditorium. All neighborhood

residents are invited to attend this meeting, which will focus on development issues and Blaine School. The agenda is on page 1 of this newsletter.

Kravitz

Continued from pg. 3

organ such as *The Southport Neighbor* should foster cooperation, not antagonism. I would request, therefore, that the feature be terminated.

The Southport Neighbor is not a forum for social commentary. If aka Gladys Kravitz feels compelled to pursue a career as a satirist, I would suggest that she submit her musings somewhere more appropriate, such as the editorial offices of *The Battler* or *Spy*. There, she might just be

perceived as funny.

Sincerely,
Joseph Fry

The Southport Neighbor welcomes comments from our readers and letters to the editor. All letters must be typed, signed, and bear the full name and address of the author. We reserve the right to edit all letters for publication. Send your comments and letters to: The Southport Neighbor, 3540 N. Southport Ave, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60657-1436.

1997-98 General Meeting Schedule

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:

Tues, January 20, 1998

Mon, March 15, 1998

Mon, May 17, 1998

Mon, July 19, 1998

Tues, September 22, 1998

Mon, November 16, 1998

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. sharp and end before 9 p.m. At the July 19, 1998 meeting, elections will be held for the new board of directors.

Meetings of the board of directors will be held on the third Mondays of December, February, April, June, August and October.

(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)
- business (\$10)
- senior (\$2)

*all memberships expire on one year anniversary date

I'd like to help! I'm most interested in the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |

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