

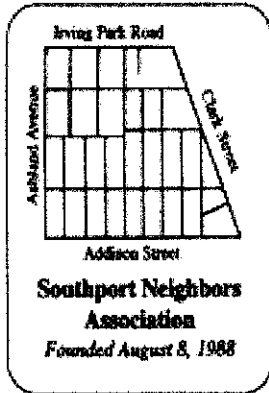
# SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

March, 2000

Volume 11, Number 3



## Community Meeting March 6, 2000, 7:30 p.m.

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on Monday, March 6th at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end promptly at 9:00 p.m.

Our meeting will begin with a 20 minute public forum during which neighbors can bring up issues and ideas for discussion. We will also receive an update on many hot development issues (see page 3 for a summary). In addition, Kent Bartram will give an interesting history lesson about our neighborhood, with tips for looking into the history of YOUR house (see article below). There will be LOTS of information, so PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

### Agenda:

Public Forum	7:30—7:50
Development Updates	7:50—8:30
Researching the History of Your House	8:30—9:00

### In this issue:

Meeting Notice	1
Researching Your House	1
Summary of January Mtg	2
Restaurant Review	2
LVCC Update	2
Development Updates	3
Rules for Dog Owners	4
Mike Quigley Report	4
SNA Website	4
SNA Membership Form	4

### A Final Note on Newsletter Distribution

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are now distributing the newsletter via businesses along Southport Ave. In addition, it will be available at our website (see page 4). You may also have it mailed to you. To ensure everyone is aware of this new process, we are delivering THIS newsletter door to door. This is the last time we will be doing door to door delivery. Please contact us if you have questions about how to receive your newsletter in the future.

? Questions about  
Southport Neighbors  
Association?

E-mail us at  
[snachicago@aol.com](mailto:snachicago@aol.com)

or phone President Jacki  
Gelb at 773-327-6118



Southport Neighbors extends a special *Thank You* to Kent Bartram for his valuable contributions in the publishing of this newsletter. Kent and his employees at Mail Boxes, Etc. are always willing to go the extra mile to ensure this newsletter makes it to our neighbors!



### Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?

Have you ever wished your walls could talk? Did you ever uncover a bizarre wallpaper layer and wonder who would have lived with something like that? Would you like to know when your house was built? If so, then the next Southport Neighbors Association meeting will give you the tools to find out. Learn how to research the history of your house and who lived there.

Kent Bartram will teach you the basic steps in researching your house and will provide an easy-to-use guidebook to take away and begin your quest. He will also provide a brief overview on the history of this neighborhood:

- 1840-1879 farmland
- subdivision in the 1880's when it was part of the Town of Lakeview
- annexation into Chicago in 1889
- the big boom of 1907 when the Ravenswood L came through
- the boom of the 1920's
- the economic and physical decline of the cities in the 1950's
- the current ten-year-boom.

Uncovering your home's past is easy and fun. Don't miss it!



## Notes from the Community Meeting

For those who missed the January Southport Neighbors meeting, we'd like to offer a review of what was discussed.

### Community Questions and Comments:

At our January meeting we began a forum for neighbors to voice concerns, speak up, and seek direction about how to handle individual or neighborhood issues that affect the larger community. Dog poop in the Juniper playlot (at Waveland and Greenview), parking scarcity and lack of parking enforcement topped the agenda. Al Ribskis, owner of a sign making shop, volunteered to create stronger signage for Juniper park with language forbidding dogs running in parks which children frequent (and often put wood chips in their mouths!) Look for the signs soon - - big thanks, Al!

Also, neighbors voiced concerns that permit parking and Cubs night parking were not being enforced. They were encouraged to call the alderman's offices to report problems.

### Other issues covered:

Representatives from Community Policing spoke about crime in our neighborhood, and how to avoid being a victim. They reported that our 19th District is one of two districts with the lowest crime rates. In addition, our 'beat' (like a sub-district) has one of the lowest crime rates in the District. Gang activity is low, and there is a special team assigned to Lakeview HS to disperse students after school, to prevent gangs from loitering. The most common crime in our neighborhood is residential burglary, especially garages, and they pointed out that most crimes spring out of "opportunity". In other words, criminals find unlocked doors and windows, or areas that are not well lit. They suggested ALWAYS locking all doors windows, and closing blinds so that potential criminals cannot see what you own. In addition, they felt motion lights in some areas would help deter crime. Lastly, neighbors were STRONGLY encouraged to attend CAPS meetings, held monthly, where these topics are discussed, and your questions are answered. They are held the second Tuesday of every month, at the Lake Shore Baptist Church at 4100 N. Greenview, at 7pm. THANK YOU to the Police representatives who attended!

Development issues were presented by Gary Bonikowski, head of Planning and Development. He updated us on six new projects, two of which had zoning violations. (See article on page 3.) SNA is working closely with Aldermen Schuller and Hansen to ensure that developers are held to the building standards we fought hard to establish. Your presence at our meetings and your vote in proposed developments is vital in helping preserve our neighborhood!

Finally, SNA thanks Michael Cullen for opening his space at the Mercury Theatre for our community meetings. Join us Monday, March 6 at 7:30 for our next meeting!

## **Kabuki Japanese Restaurant – A New Addition to Southport**

Most people think that if they do not like raw fish they will not like Japanese food. Well don't let that stop you from eating at Kabuki – the latest addition to Southport's restaurant row. Although sushi and sashimi are readily available here, there are plenty of other dishes featuring the cooked varieties. Just a few of these are:

- teriyaki – chicken and beef
- tempura - vegetables and shrimp
- maki - made with tempura shrimp or soft shell crab
- udon noodles

Two people can eat for about \$40. They do serve alcohol and are open for dinner except on Monday's. To end the meal try the green tea or red bean ice cream – they are both so good it is hard to pick just one.

## **Lakeview Citizens Council Corner**

Operation Mitten: Winter's not over yet! Your support is needed for the continued success of Operation Mitten. The program collects winter wear for underprivileged children in the Lakeview area. Hats, mittens, coats, and more are collected by the Lakeview Citizens' Council and then distributed by local police districts to the children. Bring any items you wish to donate to the Southport Neighbors meeting, March 6.

1999 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption: You may be eligible to receive the senior citizen assessment freeze. Senior citizens with a household income up to \$40,000 are now eligible, but you must apply annually in order to receive it. To find out if you qualify, contact the Cook County Assessor's Office, Senior Freeze Dept, at 312-603-6600.

LVCC Annual Spring Auction: Be sure to attend this year's auction scheduled for April 14, 6pm, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Belmont. As the primary annual fundraising event for the Lakeview Citizens' Council, this event continues to grow in popularity. Any businesses or individuals interested in donating to this year's event are encouraged to contact LVCC at 773-472-4050. Donation forms will be also be available at the Southport Neighbors meeting, March 6.



## Planning and Development Updates

### **Zoning Violations Escalate**

Since our last newsletter, in which we reported on one project that had violated our Special District zoning, two more projects that are under construction have violated our zoning while another two projects are under review for suspected violations.

The previously reported project, a three-flat at 3824 N. Greenview, had a mansard roof on the front portion of the building that violated the height limit. This was removed after we reported it to Alderman Schuller. Unfortunately, it was replaced by a different roof structure that was equally high. We again reported the violation and the roof structure was again removed. The building now has its third roof structure in place. We believe this one finally meets the height limit.

The five unit building under construction at 3805 N. Wayne has patio pits, which were inadvertently overlooked by the Zoning Department. Patio pits were banned by last year's revision to our Special District. At Alderman Hansen's request, we have met with the developers and attempted to find a compromise agreement that is fair to both sides. We believe that we are close to achieving that.

The six-flat under construction at 3834 N. Greenview has been the most aggravating of all the cases. The gable roof that was put on the north front wing exceeded the height limit, contrary to what was shown on the permit drawings, which met the limit. We reported this to Alderman Schuller and a "Stop Work Order" was issued by the building department on January 26, 2000. In spite of this, work continued and the gable roof was erected on the south wing. On February 7, this was reported to the police, who enforced the order by shutting down the job. But this job apparently recognizes no authority, as work still continued. So, on February 15, we again reported this to the police, who once again shut the job down. Work continued, and police were called on February 17 to once again shut down the job.

We will provide an update on these projects, and on the two with suspected violations, at our March 6 community meeting. We want to thank Alderman Schuller, Alderman Hansen and Zoning Administrator Paul Woznicki for all their help.

### **Residential Development Proposed For Southport**

A three-flat proposed for 3839 N. Southport is scheduled to be presented to the community at our March 6, 2000 meeting. The developer will be seeking support for several zoning variances, including one for a special use that allows for ground floor residential use in place of the required business use. We have had preliminary discussions with the developer and are awaiting receipt of drawings for the Planning & Development Committee to review. We hope to reach an agreement with the developer so that we may recommend the project to the community for its support.

### **New Development**

At our January meeting, we reported on six new projects. Since then, we have learned of another six new projects. They are:

3636 N. Wayne	New single family house under construction
3901 N. Janssen	Existing single family house being rehabbed
1456 W. Byron	Existing single family house being rehabbed
3834 N. Janssen	Existing 2-flat to be replaced by 3-flat
3841 N. Southport	Existing single family house for sale, 3-flat possible
3938 N. Southport	Demolition permit applied for on single family house, 5 units planned

At our March meeting, we will give you an update on these projects and on any others that come to our attention.



## Doggie 'DOOS' and Don'ts....

One hot topic in the open forum at the January 10 SNA meeting was dogs in the playlots. While most people appreciate that dogs need exercise and benefit from a romp with their doggie friends, the playlots were built for children. Dog waste in any form presents a health risk. City ordinance prohibits dogs in the playlots and school yards and dog owners can be ticketed and fined up to \$200 for violating that ordinance. Residents were advised to call 311 with complaints.

There is a significant dog population in the SNA area, and while the majority of dog owners act responsibly, those few who do not clean up after their pets, let them run free in playlots and school yards and let them trample on landscaped areas give all dog owners a bad name. PLEASE be considerate and help make this neighborhood a great place to live!



## From the Office of Mike Quigley

A win for recycling! Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley has passed an ordinance which requires the purchase of recycled products by the County. This makes Cook County the largest consumer of recycled products among all municipalities in the country, and it's a big step for environmental improvement and job creation.

*Nice job, Mike!*



## The Website Is Coming, The Website Is Coming!

By the time this newsletter goes to press, you will be able to visit our brand new website at:

[www.geocities.com/southportneighbors](http://www.geocities.com/southportneighbors)

Stop in and look around. At first, we will put the current and all the past issues of the newsletter on line. We will also add some useful links for city services, business contacts, neighborhood history, block by block house histories, development issues and important announcements as the website gets up and running.

Would you like to contribute to this effort? If you have any favorite and useful links that you would like to add to the page, please email us at [SNACHicago@aol.com](mailto:SNACHicago@aol.com). Do you have some old photos of the neighborhood, or know someone who does? If you'd be willing to allow us to scan them and put them on the website, please email us at [SNACHicago@aol.com](mailto:SNACHicago@aol.com) and someone will be in contact to discuss how to coordinate. Do you have any interesting stories about what has happened in your home, on your block or in the neighborhood that you'd like to share? Well, you know the drill by now. And if you don't have email and would still like to contribute, please drop a note off at Mail Boxes Etc. or mail to the Webmaster c/o SNA, PMB 1000, 3540 N. Southport Ave, Chicago, IL 60657.

The way information is disseminated has changed rapidly in the last few years. We hope you will embrace this new challenge for Southport Neighbors Association as we redouble our efforts to keep you informed about what's happening in your neighborhood.

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### Please accept my application for membership in the Southport Neighbors Association:

Individual (\$5)       Family (\$8)       Business(\$10)       Senior (\$2)

To ensure I don't miss an issue of the Neighbor, enclosed is an additional \$3 to cover postage.

Please accept my additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of the Southport Neighbors Association.

I have also enclosed additional dues of \$4 per person to join the Lake View Citizens' Council.

Total Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Send check payable to:

Southport Neighbors Association  
3540 N. Southport Avenue, PMB 1000  
Chicago, IL 60657-1475

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

### I'd like to volunteer with Southport Neighbors in the following areas:

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