

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

March, 2002

Volume 12, Number 2



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Join us at SNA's
Neighborhood Social
and
Community Meeting
March 18th, 7:00 PM

? Questions about
Southport Neighbors
Association?

E-mail us at
snachicago@aol.com

Enjoy complimentary refreshments!
Socialize with your neighbors!
Learn more about the property tax fight!

This month's community meeting will feature a new twist. Strega Nona will be hosting us from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a neighborhood social. They have generously offered to provide appetizers and wine to neighbors who live within SNA's boundaries (see map, above & left).

At 7:30, we will be moving next door to the beautiful Mercury Theater for a CAPS (Community Policing) meeting and a community meeting. Featured at the community meeting will be an update from TRAC, the Tax Reform Action Coalition. They will tell us about the ongoing battle to reform our property tax system, and how some of our political candidates stand on the issue. (See the article below for more information.) We will also be bringing back our "neighborhood forum", where you are encouraged to voice your opinions on any issues in the neighborhoodthings you would like to see addressed, or things you think are GREAT!

AGENDA

MEET at STREGA NONA for Social	7:00—7:30
MOVE to MERCURY THEATER	7:30—7:40
CAPS meeting	7:40—8:00
TRAC update	8:00—8:20
Neighborhood Forum	8:20—9:00

Property Tax Reform - Where does it stand?

According to a recent Chicago Tribune poll, Illinois's property tax burden is the number one issue among voters. So you'd think that it would be all over the media, candidates speeches and public debate, right? Wrong.

Hear representatives from TRAC, the Tax Reform Action Coalition (formed out of an SNA meeting 2 years ago), discuss the current state of tax reform in Illinois. They will tell you which candidates are working towards true reform, which candidates are working against it, and which candidates used to support it but are now too busy pleasing their father's ambitions to even mention it anymore. You won't want to miss this informative segment of our March 18th meeting!!

Inside:

Summary of Jan. Meeting	2
Family Fun Fair	2
Development Update	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Restaurant Review	4
Contact Info	4
Membership Form	4

Notes From Our January Community Meeting



Neighbors Vote "NO" on Waveland Avenue Issue

SNA's regular January meeting was held on February 4, due to scheduling challenges related to Presidents Day in late January. The meeting convened at 7:35 with over 75 people present. The main topic on the agenda was the proposal to convert Waveland Avenue to a one-way west between Southport and Ashland Avenues. Also on the agenda was an introduction to this year's children's concert, for which planning is now under way.

The public was notified of the Waveland proposal via the newsletter, found in various businesses along the main thoroughfares in our neighborhood, and via door-to-door delivery of flyers. Proof of residence within SNA's boundaries was required in order to vote on the issue. Sally McPherrin and Jill Peters, residents of the neighborhood, researched the proposal and presented it to the community. Central to the issue was safety around the Juniper Park Playlot, which Sally and Jill felt could be addressed with the change in traffic flow.

The proposal to convert Waveland to a one-way street was defeated by a margin of 55-19. Comments FOR the proposal centered mostly around the desire to keep kids safe around the park, and to perform a traffic study to determine if a one-way would accomplish this. Comments AGAINST the proposal ranged from concerns that a one-way street could speed up traffic, posing further danger to kids, to general concerns about the difficulty in navigating the neighborhood if restricted to traveling west on Waveland. The manager of Jewel Foods was present, and noted that the one-way conversion would force about 15 semi-trucks per week to travel west on Waveland, past Juniper Park. These trucks currently exit the alley behind Jewel onto Waveland, traveling east to Southport, a more appropriate route.

While some at the meeting did not think there was a safety issue at Juniper Park, many others raised alternative safety ideas during the lively discussion. Traffic calmers (speed humps) at the intersection, better signage, parking restrictions near the park, and increased police presence to ticket those running the stop sign, were all mentioned. Alderman Hansen has suggested we investigate the statistics on ticketing at this intersection, in order to gauge the safety issue. The SNA board is considering these ideas. Our children can never be too safe!

Jacki Davidoff introduced the 2nd annual Children's Concert to the community. Planning is underway for the spring event. Last year's event was a huge success, and a great time was had by all. The money raised last year and this year will benefit the landscaping of the newly redeveloped Juniper Park Playlot. Jacki is asking for volunteers to help make this event a success. If you are interested, please send an email to snachicago@aol.com. If you don't have email, drop us a line at 3540 N. Southport, #1000, Chicago, 60657.

Kids Just Wanna Have Fun

SNA's Second Annual Children's Event This Spring/Summer

SNA's 1st Annual Children's Concert last May was a wild, fun, festive event that brought families in our neighborhood together to listen to great music, eat yummy food and socialize at The Mercury Theatre. We're currently in the planning stages for an exciting event this spring or early summer.

Last year's event featured a sold-out concert with folk singer Susan Salidor who had many kids and grown-ups dancing in their seats. Plus face painters, a delightful clown and other kid entertainment. Local businesses up and down Southport and around the neighborhood shared generously as sponsors of the event, which raised money for the Lakeview Food Pantry and landscaping for Juniper Park.

This year volunteers on the planning committee are looking at a range of possibilities, from a street carnival to a family fun day. We're interested in volunteers who want to help plan and put the event together – if you're interested email Jacki Davidoff at gelbillustration@yahoo.com.



SNA Planning & Development's *Did you know?*

If your neighbor is constructing an addition or new house, and the excavation for the new structure is within 5 feet of your house, the City of Chicago requires your neighbor to protect the structure of your house "to prevent sagging, settling, cracking or collapse of its foundation and walls."

Your neighbor is responsible for the cost of the reinforcement or bracing, and is required to provide you notice, in writing, 30 days prior to the start of excavation. This notice should include the anticipated starting date as well as the three dimensional measurement of the planned excavation work.

The Excavation Ordinance clearly states:

"The owner of the property where excavation takes place and the person performing the work shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage, death or injury caused by sagging, settling, cracking or collapse of the public way or of the foundation or walls of a structure located within five feet of the excavation, due to absent or insufficient reinforcement or bracing."

"Any person who performs or authorizes excavation work in violation of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 for each offense. Each day of a continuing violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense."

Want to learn more about the Excavation Ordinance? Check out the City of Chicago Building Department website at www.ci.chi.il.us/Buildings/BuildingCode.

SNA Board Wants You!

Looking for a way to get involved in your neighborhood and make connections with fun, caring folks? Southport Neighbors is looking to fill out our board and if you're interested, consider this:

We view our role as being stewards of the neighborhood who give a little time each month to help it be a welcoming, safe, growing place to live. We have big hearts and involve ourselves in different aspects of what it means to live in a community. We welcome you to contact Jacki Davidoff by email at gelbillustration@yahoo.com or call her at 773-327-6118. SNA Board meetings are held one evening every other month, and we help set the agenda for the community meetings as well as get involved in development, safety, beautification, special events and other neighbor happenings.

Join us!



Restaurant Review

Otro Mas

3651 N. Southport Ave.

Otro Mas is an upscale Latin restaurant with a wide variety of creative dishes on the menu. Dimly lit and conversation friendly, it's a great place for a date, or for a nice evening out with friends. Occupying two floors of what apparently used to be an old house, there is a bar and some dining tables on the main floor, with more tables and a lounge area on the upper floor.

The service was friendly and quick, though on a previous visit when most of the tables were full, our waiter did seem to disappear for long periods of time. When dining on the upper floor as we were, the wait staff has to trudge up and down the stairs for bar drinks, which seemed to take some time.

This diner chose the Cabrales for starters, which consisted of mesclun greens, apples, Spanish cabrales cheese (much like bleu cheese) and almonds, with a sherry vinaigrette. The greens were crispy and the salad was very tasty. My dining companion (a.k.a. husband) chose the Tamale, with shrimp, pico de gallo and salsa roja. He really enjoyed it, calling it a "nice twist" on a traditional tamale.

For our main courses, we chose the Lombo and the Carne. The Lombo is a chili cured pork tenderloin served with white beans and a "truffle scented jus." It was a nicely seasoned, good cut of lean meat, firm yet tender, and the white beans were a nice complement. The Carne, a New York strip steak, was served with cabrales mash (potatoes with cabrales cheese), chipotle-confit butter and tobacco onions (much like lightly-breaded onion rings) ...NOT for the calorie conscious, but oh-so delicious! The steak was done to perfection, and the chipotle flavor that infused the potatoes and onions added just the right amount of heat. It made you sit up and take notice, but didn't leave you gasping for cold water.

The crême brulee we shared for dessert was smooth and delicious, made with dark chocolate custard and espresso with a buttery crust. Overall we had a great dining experience with interesting, delicious food. Salad and appetizer prices range from \$5 to \$9 and entrée prices range from \$16 to \$25. Reservations are accepted, but not necessary.

FYI...

...here are some phone numbers and addresses that you may need:

Alderman Bernie Hansen, 1057 W. Belmont, 773-549-4000

Alderman Gene Schuller, 4237 N. Lincoln, 773-348-8400

Southport Neighbors Association, 3540 N. Southport, Box 1000

snachicago@aol.com

Remember, call 311 for non-emergencies and to request city services.

Dial 911 for emergencies!

cut here

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 Southport Neighbor, please mail it! 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: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

I'd like to volunteer with Southport Neighbors in the following area(s):

Beautification

Education

Membership

Newsletter Production

Property Tax Reform

Business Liaison

Fundraising

Newsletter Distribution

Planning & Development

Safety

Social