

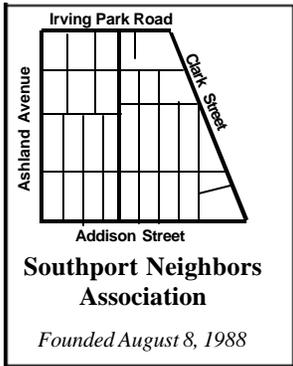
# SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

May, 2002

Volume 12, Number 3



## Community Meeting

### May 20th, 7:30 PM

(CAPS Meeting at 7:00pm)

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on May 20th at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is scheduled to end by 9:00 p.m. (Arrive at 7:00 to participate in the local CAPS meeting.)

## Get Gardening Tips from an Expert, Learn Some Neighborhood History

Our May meeting will bring the experts to you! Phil Cleland of Chicago Specialty Gardens will be sharing his secrets to help you get your garden in great shape this spring. He will give us some tips on what to do with trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, containers and much more. In addition, Kent Bartram, SNA Board Member and resident historian, will tell us some little-known facts about the neighborhood, and how to research the history of your own home. We'll also hear about our new kiosk (see article, page 2) and the upcoming Southport Children's Festival, slated for June 8 (see article below.) The meeting will wrap up with our traditional Neighborhood Forum, where you may bring up any issues regarding the neighborhood. We hope to see you there!

<b>Agenda:</b> (times are approximate)	Gardening Tips Neighborhood History Introducing: A New Kiosk! Southport Children's Festival Neighborhood Forum	7:30—8:00 8:00—8:30 8:30—8:35 8:35—8:40 8:40—9:00
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Questions about Southport Neighbors Association?

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

## Save the Date—June 8—Summer Children's Festival!

Building off last year's successful, sold-out children's concert at the Mercury Theater, this year's event is moving outdoors to accommodate more performers, activities, food and FUN! The "Southport Children's Festival" will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 2 pm in the Blaine School parking lot on Southport (at the corner of Grace Street). Plan to come, rain or shine!

Three performers will be taking the stage, with award-winning children's singer, Susan Salidor, opening the show. Our neighborhood Trinity Irish Dancers will also perform, as well as a magician. Additional entertainment includes carnival games, a clown, Jumping Jack, balloons, a fire truck, face painting and an arts & crafts table. Food and drink will be available.

Tickets are \$6. Children under 2 will be admitted free. Proceeds will benefit the Blaine School library and media center which is open to the public, Southport Neighbors' beautification fund, and a neighborhood kiosk.

So mark your calendar and plan on a fun-filled day for the whole family! Anyone interested in volunteering to help for an hour or two at the event, please call (773)929-7307.

## Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed *The Sequel*

Join board member Kent Bartram as he takes you on a tour of the Southport Neighborhood in 1880, 1920 and 1990: the beginning of the 3 building booms in this community. What shops were on Southport? Who were the neighbors? What did the homes look like? How did residents react to the changes the booms brought about? Through old postcards, maps, census and other records, Kent will give you an interesting snapshot of this community's past. Be sure to attend. And if you've lived here long enough to have seen a change or two, bring by an interesting photo that illustrates that change to share!



## Notes From Our March Community Meeting TRAC Works to Educate Residents

SNA's March meeting was different than most. Prior to the meeting, Strega Nona played host to residents, providing complimentary wine and appetizers. It gave people a chance to socialize, see old friends and meet new ones. THANK YOU Strega Nona! You are a shining example of what it means to be a good neighbor!

When the meeting moved to the Mercury Theater (also great neighbors!), first on the agenda was our local CAPS meeting, where police discussed crime statistics for the neighborhood and gave tips on how to prevent common crimes. They also answered questions from the crowd regarding specific crimes that have occurred in the recent past.

Next on the agenda was a presentation from TRAC representatives Barb Head and Kathy Krumsee. With the election primary very close, they updated us on where various candidates stand on the important issue of property tax reform. An organization that was born out of an SNA neighborhood meeting, TRAC (Tax Reform Action Coalition) is working hard to ensure that candidates are taking this issue seriously and addressing it in their campaigns. Many people are being forced out of our neighborhood by property taxes-the young and not-so-young, renters and owners alike. If you want to support TRAC's efforts, let us know and we'll put you in touch. And as our presenters stated at the meeting, if you go to any Illinois candidate speech or forum, ask a question about property tax reform. Let's see who is really on our side before the general election.

The meeting closed with a neighborhood forum, where Sean Buino of Alhambra announced a fundraiser to be held at his store on Southport on May 4, to help landscape Juniper Park. Also, questions were asked and answered about the status of the Cubs expansion plans (still unresolved!) The meeting was adjourned at around 9pm.

## Southport Neighbors Association Welcomes Our Newest Neighbor

Southport Neighbors Association is pleased to announce our latest community addition: an information kiosk to be installed in the heart of our community at Southport and Waveland in late Spring.

The kiosk will act as a beacon of our community, welcoming new neighbors, visitors and providing information for our long time residents. Already we have many plans for the kiosk including SNA announcements, upcoming neighborhood meetings and events, Aldermanic information, CAPS updates, neighborhood history and highlights, business advertisements, and the ideas keep growing!

SNA has worked hard over the last year making the kiosk become a reality, and we could not have accomplished our goal without dedicated Board members and neighbors. We are especially grateful to Alderman Hansen and his staff for their continued enthusiasm and support, and to our neighbor, Matt Wilbur of Macon Construction, who is generously donating his time and staff to install our kiosk. Thanks everybody!

Business owners interested in advertising in the kiosk or neighbors interested in being kiosk caretakers can contact Amy Berka at 773/386-0737.



This is a photo of the kiosk that will be installed at Southport and Waveland. It will have glass doors to protect the notices being displayed.



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

Mayor Daley introduced new energy efficiency standards intended to lower utility costs and improve the quality of life for Chicago residents. The Chicago Energy Conservation Code, which establishes minimum regulations for the design of energy-efficient buildings, applies to new construction AND building renovations with a change of occupancy -- such as the conversion of industrial space into residential units.

Using the International Energy Conservation Code as a model, the Chicago Energy Conservation Code (CECC) was developed by a committee of local professionals in the building, design and construction industries. Committee members volunteered their services to the Department of Buildings and the Department of Environment.

CECC requirements improve energy efficiency through the insulation of floors, roofs and walls as well as the installation of energy efficient windows and mechanical systems. To reduce the urban heat island effect, the Code implements standards requiring reflective roofs to limit the amount of solar energy absorbed by building roofs and transmitted to the environment. In addition, reducing energy use will reduce pollution from power plants and greenhouse gas emissions, and the annual production of carbon dioxide could be reduced by 20,000 to 30,000 tons simply by using more energy efficient practices.

The Code became effective in December 2001. However, implementation of the permit certification program by Registered Energy Professionals was postponed to allow a greater number of professionals to become acquainted with the Code, receive training and registration and to incorporate these requirements into their designs.

Beginning June 3, 2002, building permit applications will be required to include a statement of compliance from an architect or engineer who has attended one or more workshops and who is listed with the Department of Buildings as a Registered Energy Professional. Permit applications not accompanied by a statement of compliance will be reviewed at the applicant's expense by a third party consultant selected by the Department of Buildings.

The Chicago Energy Conservation Code is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

Want to learn more about the Chicago Energy Conservation Code? Check out the City of Chicago Building Department website at "<http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Buildings/BuildingCode>"

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## **Plans in Place to Beautify Juniper Park!**

Juniper Park is being enjoyed by more and more children, due in part to the recent renovation of the play equipment and surfacing. SNA, along with many individuals that live in the neighborhood, would like to enhance the beauty of the park, while maintaining the current play space. Currently, there are planting beds around the perimeter of the park, but not much is growing there.

A committee has been formed to work on landscaping the park, and they are working hard to finalize plans in order to plant in May. The landscaper on this project is using a "double planting" scheme which will intersperse evergreens among deciduous plants so there is winter and summer interest. For summer, the plan is to have ornamental pear trees, hydrangea, lilac, and viburnum. For winter, the plan includes holly bushes, yews and grasses. All of the plantings go into existing beds, so they will not infringe on play space, and most of the current plants will be used. The plan uses only very hearty plants, because of the children and the lack of regular watering during the summer. (The landscaper will be watering generously for the first 4 weeks.)

On May 4, a fundraising event will be held to help fund our beautification efforts. Alhambra Garden, Home & Patio on Southport will be hosting a cocktail party with a silent auction. For a \$25 donation, guests will be treated to appetizers and wine. Items to be auctioned include a one week stay at a cottage in Ireland, a Chicago Bears Brian Erlacher jersey, 2 Blackhawks pucks (signed!), 2 Cubs balls, 2 sets of Cub tickets and concert tickets provided by radio station 101.9.

There is also a raffle, which will be held on Monday, May 13 at Alhambra. We will be giving away a Burmese teak garden bench valued at \$1000. Stop by Alhambra to check it out and buy a raffle ticket or two!

We would like to thank the local vendors who were so generous and supportive in donating the refreshments and raffle items for our fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without these good neighbors! (See page 4 for a complete list.) A special "thank you" goes out to Alderman Hansen, State Representative John Fritchey, and the Chicago Park District for their support and guidance.



# Restaurant Review

Magnolia Café, 1224 W. Wilson

We heard many raves about the Magnolia Café, so when we needed a new spot to entertain friends, we thought we'd give it a try. The Café is charming, with a quiet, romantic décor. The night we were there was not crowded but a steady flow of diners came and went.

The food is exceptionally good. I had Wild Mushroom and Bleu Cheese Ravioli in a brown butter vinaigrette. It was very tasty and the bleu cheese was not overbearing. My partner had the seafood special: Halibut. I am not always fond of halibut, but I will order it the next time I go—it was that good. Our friend had the meat special: Beef Tenderloin which was "to die for"; cooked to perfection. It melted in my mouth.

Two of us started the meal with the Slow Roasted Tomato and Arugula Salad and I would go back just for that! The dessert menu had about six choices; we ended up with a fancy banana split. The three of us couldn't finish it and we are not shy eaters!

I recommend the Magnolia Café for a quiet evening and great food. I warn you, however, that it is quite pricey. In another neighborhood it would be expensive; at Wilson and Magnolia it is close to being outrageous.

## Thank You! Neighborhood Businesses Support SNA's Activities

As a not-for-profit group that tries to better our neighborhood and build a sense of community, Southport Neighbors Association relies on support from local businesses in order to accomplish our goals. We wanted to mention those that have given us their support in recent months. We hope that you appreciate their contributions as much as we do. As we near the time of our Children's Festival and Juniper Park Beautification fundraiser, this list will grow much longer! But for now, a big THANK YOU to these good neighbors:

- The Mercury Theater**, for always providing a place for our community meetings, complete with refreshments
- Mail Boxes Etc.**, for helping with the creation and distribution of our newsletters and other correspondence
- Strega Nona**, for graciously hosting our March 18 neighborhood social, complete with food and drink
- Toons**, for hosting our previous social, and providing food and drinks
- Alderman Hansen**, for generously supporting our efforts to install a neighborhood kiosk and beautify Juniper Park
- Macon Construction**, who is generously donating their time and staff to install our kiosk

*The following businesses donated to our May 4 fundraiser for Juniper Park:* Accentric, Aestetica, Alhambra, Café Avanti, Chicago Cubs, Cullen's Bar and Grill, Deleece, Hi Ricky, Hye Bar, Jewel-Osco, Klein True Value, Mercury Theater, Music Box Theatre, Persona, P.O.S.H., Que Syrah, SoHo Studio, Southport Art & Frames, Southport Blooms, Strega Nona, Tango Sur, Toons, Wear Me Out, Whole Foods

*Of course we also want to thank our **Volunteers**, who kindly give their time to assist us in so many ways!*

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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 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):

- |   |                                      |  |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification   | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership              | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Production  | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety              |
|   |                                      |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social              |