

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR

JANUARY 2004

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1

1st Community Meeting of the New Year

Southport Neighbors Association's (SNA) first community meeting of 2004 will be held on Monday, **January 26th, 7:30pm** at **the Mercury Theater**, 3745 N. Southport Ave.

The agenda is still being finalized, and will be posted at the SNA kiosk one week prior to the meeting. The kiosk is located on the southwest corner of Southport and Waveland.

Mark your calendars! We hope to see you there. For a recap of the very informative December meeting, *check out page 2* — "Being Responsible for Your Safety."

Meeting Schedule Set for 2004

SNA's quarterly community meeting schedule has been set for 2004. Beginning in this month, we will meet on the 4th Monday of every 3rd month. Meetings are held at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport beginning at 7:30pm and usually ending by 9:00pm.

The dates are as follows:

January 26 April 26
July 26 October 25

Please mark your calendars!

These dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please check the neighborhood kiosk regularly for new postings about meeting dates and community news and events.

A White January Get Your Shovels Ready!

It's that time of year again. And although we did not get a 'white' holiday season, the snow has now arrived. The Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) wants to give you a friendly reminder to please remove snow from your sidewalks promptly. Snow and ice make sidewalks treacherous for your neighbors — especially our elderly residents, and those trying to push youngsters in



strollers.

We've got so many great shopping and entertainment destinations in our neighborhood — let's keep them accessible for pedestrians!

In addition to being neighborly and responsible, did you know that removing your snow is required by City code? Chapter 10-8-180 of the City's Municipal Code deals with snow and ice removal — check out the exact wording on

continued on page 4

Our Kiosk Your Official SNA Information Stand

The kiosk located on the southwest corner of Southport and Waveland was purchased and installed by SNA in the summer of 2002. It is intended to be a beacon of our community, welcoming new neighbors, visitors and providing information for our long time residents. Those of you who regularly stop to check it out have seen SNA announcements, upcoming neighborhood meetings and events, Aldermanic information, CAPS updates, neighborhood history, and business advertisements. We plan to continue to use the kiosk for any

"official" SNA communication to the neighborhood.

We periodically sell ad space in the kiosk, in order to offset insurance expenses. As a guideline, you can expect official news and notices on the south side of the kiosk, on your right. Ad space is usually sold on the north side, though we do try to accommodate the wishes of the advertiser if they request space on the other side.

Keep an eye on the kiosk to keep in touch with the happenings in your community! If you wish to purchase ad space, or have a suggestion for a posting, contact us at:

info@southportneighbors.com, or
312.458.0SNA.

Being Responsible for Your Safety

Southport Neighbors were fortunate to have safety expert J.J. Bittenbinder at our December 9th community meeting. J.J. presented us with a compelling talk that emphasized our need to be responsible for our own safety. He then proceeded with very useful examples and stories on how we can all protect ourselves. If you missed the meeting, or need a refresher, here are some of the tips offered by J.J. to help you stay safe.

YOUR ATTITUDE

Criminals pick easy targets — so don't look like a victim! Don't look down when confronting strangers — just avert your glance as necessary (look to the right or left of stranger) without showing vulnerability. Carry your purse close to your body so it's not an easy target!

DENY PRIVACY

When possible travel in groups and in daylight. If there is a situation where you can't avoid being alone (e.g. elevator) — use your instincts. If someone gets on the elevator that makes you uneasy - just get off the elevator. Always be aware.

THE SECONDARY LOCATION

If someone is trying to force you to go somewhere — in the car or just

to another private place — DON'T DO IT! NEVER! Chances are much better that you will be unharmed if you don't let them take you to a secondary crime scene.

Drive with car doors locked.

BE PREPARED

Recognize that the attacker has a plan and catches the victim off guard — without a plan. Always be thinking and have some sort of plan filed away (e.g. pepper spray). Try to carry your keys in a pocket instead of in the same bag as your wallet — as J.J. says, “keep the access away from the address.”

MOTIVATE A HELPER

Motivate assistance from anyone around who might hear by yelling “Fire!” Fire will get the best response as people think it could affect them too!

HELP OTHERS

J.J. stressed the importance in any community in watching out for others. If you see someone that looks to be in trouble, loudly yell that you are going to call the police.

TAKE NOTE

SNA has a limited quantity of personal pepper spray left from the

December 9 meeting. We are selling it for \$10 (retail \$14.95). If you are a member of SNA and are interested in purchasing pepper spray, please go to the UPS Store, 3540 N. Southport Ave. They will only accept cash, and there is a limit of one per person. J.J. Bittenbinder stated that pepper spray is a smart alternative to using a handgun, if you take into consideration the possibility of an accidental shooting.

Safety for Children

JUST SAY NO

Empower children to choose how and with whom they want to be affectionate. Teach them to be respectful to adults without forcing them to hug or kiss anyone (family included). Forced affection is not a good thing.

KEY WORD IS “STRANGER”

Teach your children to yell the word “stranger” if ever in trouble. This word is most likely to alert others around that something is not right.

GROUPS

Encourage your children to stay in groups and not to go off by themselves.



Newly Formed
Southport
Young
Professionals
Announce Their
January Calendar

Following the success of their inaugural party at SoPo last month, the Southport Young Professionals (SPYP) have several events planned for January, starting with a night of music and bowling at Diversey Lanes' “Rock n' Bowl” on Friday January 16th.

For those who have never been to “Rock n' Bowl,” it's bowling like you've never seen it, complete with a disco ball.

Later in the month, the group begins their community service work

on Wednesday January 28 at the Chicago Food Depository. SPYP's will be packing food boxes bound for shelters from 6-9 pm and then retire to a local pub for a “pat on the back” cocktail.

Watch out for another Happy Hour, and plans are in the works for a Superbowl party. Joining SPYP is easy and free. To find out more information about the group and to RSVP for these events, contact spyp@att.net.

NEWS FROM TRAC *Working for Property Tax Reform*

You may have heard that the Senate managed to avoid voting on Senate Bill 1498 during the fall session. But this battle to save our homes is not over — and you can help! Many people have been phoning lawmakers and it does make a difference. There will be another Senate session in January.

TRAC (Tax Reform Action Coalition) is working with groups from all over the city in order to build a huge coalition. We will be putting together a yard sign campaign, rallies and vigils to press home the point that this Senate Bill 1498 needs to be passed in January. We are asking all of you to keep the phones ringing at the district offices of your local state lawmakers. In addition we want you to call Speaker Madigan, Sen. Emil Jones and the Governor. These gentlemen are the leadership in Springfield. They need more convincing. So if have already done your “bah humbug” holiday cards to these gentlemen make sure that you call their offices and remind them to pass Senate Bill 1498. We have until January 15, 2004. Make your voices heard! Let them know

that the “majority” that they enjoy in Springfield will be tested by the ability of your state lawmakers to get this bill passed. This is a litmus test as to their effectiveness when it comes to issues that are important to you — the voter. The Primary is in March. Let them know that you will use your vote based on the results for Senate Bill 1498.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO CALL

Speaker Madigan **773.581.8000**

Sen. Jones **773.995.7748**

Gov. Blagojevich **312.814.2121**

Call today!

If you haven't renewed your membership — please do so today. All of these campaigns cost money folks. We could use some help! Make your checks out to: TRAC/LVCC and send them to:

TRAC

867 West Buckingham

Chicago, IL 60657

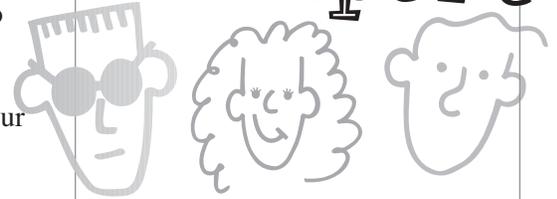
Thank you. If you have an email address, let us know too, at

trac-il.org.

A NOTE FROM SNA

If you need more information about Senate Bill 1498, we encourage you to contact TRAC to learn more. Visit their website at www.trac-il.org The website will also assist you in determining who your local state lawmakers are. If you support this bill, make your voice heard!

Summer On Southport



Festival Planned for 2004

Planning is underway for the 3rd Annual Southport Children's Festival in Summer 2004...with a twist! You may recall that SNA conducted a survey this past Fall to all residents and businesses in the neighborhood asking for feedback on the concept of a summer street festival on Southport to include food and entertainment for adults. We received loads of positive opinions, with 79% of respondents in favor of such an event. Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond!

The result is that neighborhood families can enjoy the excitement of the Southport Children's Festival during the day until 4 pm. In the evening, adults get to enjoy music, food and beverages geared toward an over 21 crowd. Details are still in the works, but planning for this unique festival is well underway.

Anyone wishing to get involved to help out with the festival can call the SNA hotline at **312.458.0762**. Stay tuned to future newsletters and to our SNA kiosk (*see page one*) located at Waveland and Southport for more information as it develops.

info@southportneighbors.com

For your creative needs in the world of advertising & brochures, contact Larry at **773.880.0182** or liroth@flash.net

Larry's
WORLD OF DESIGN

This newsletter's re-design was another creation by Larry's World of Design.

New Businesses in the Neighborhood!

The Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) is happy to welcome a wonderful assortment of new boutiques, shops and restaurants to the Southport neighborhood.

Note: There is an eyeglass-recycling program that is in the works and will be formalized early in 2004. Also, there is an idea for a cell phone-recycling program in the neighborhood as well, but the groundwork has yet to be covered. Information will be forwarded as soon as it is available in early January.

AFC Secretarial Services

3950-2 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
773.935.2900

Complete secretarial services.

Better Resumes

3950-2 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
773.525.0400

Exquisite Yarn

3950-2 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
773.472.7500

Owner: Lynn Sinton

Future website:

www.exquisiteyarn.com

Mail order and walk-in fine yarn knitting kits (ex. cashmere, mohair, alpaca)

Splendor

3717 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60613
773.244.2444

Owner: Elizabeth McNeill

Home accessories and gifts, window treatments, pillows and furniture.

Trousseau

3543 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773.472.BRAS (2727)

Owner: Christy Horton

A full-service boutique offering lingerie, sleepwear, hosiery, bras (sizes 32A-46J) and complimentary bra fittings.

CustomEyes

3539 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773.871.2020

Website: customeyes2020.com

Owners: Michael Scully & Casey Crumbliss

Custom eyewear, including everyday and sun wear, eye exams and cosmetic enhancements (i.e., Botox treatments).

Oreste Jewelers

3539 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773.281.6931

Owner: Oreste Cardillo

A jewelry design and repair boutique. Special orders, customizing, repair and design of fine jewelry are offered.

Homemade Pizza Co.

3430 N. Southport Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
773.529.5900

Fax: 773.529.5903

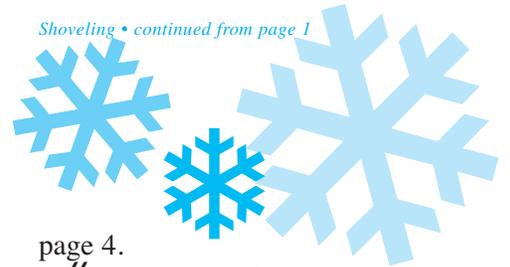
Uncooked, made-to-order or pre-made pizzas, gourmet salads for take-out or delivery (from 5pm).

Business Owners:

Please note that advertising opportunities will be available in our next newsletter due out in April. Please contact the following for more information:

*Chase Ferrer at **312.961.8652**, or Kelly Lawrence at **773.612.3321**.*

Shoveling • continued from page 1



page 4.

“Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant, or other person having charge of any building or lot of ground in the city abutting upon any public way or public place shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of such building or lot of ground.

If the sidewalk is of greater width than five feet, it shall not be necessary for such person to remove snow and ice from the same for a space wider than five feet.

In case the snow and ice on the sidewalk shall be frozen so hard that it cannot be removed without injury to the pavement, the person having charge of any building or lot of ground as aforesaid shall, within the specified, cause the sidewalk abutting on the said premises to be strewn with ashes, sand, sawdust or some similar suitable material, and shall, as soon as thereafter as the weather shall permit, thoroughly clean said sidewalk.

The snow which falls or accumulates during the day (excepting Sundays) before four p.m. shall be removed within three hours after the same has fallen or accumulated. The snow which falls or accumulates on Sunday or after 4 p.m. and during the night on other days shall be removed before 10 a.m.” (Prior code 36-19).

There you have it folks — let’s all work together to keep our sidewalks passable. It’s neighborly, and it’s the law. And here’s an idea — if you have a young son or daughter willing to shovel sidewalks for a few dollars, get the word out on your block. Maybe some of your neighbors will put them to work!

News from Blaine Grammar School

The students at Blaine have \$1800 in new books in their Library Media Center thanks to a generous donation from Southport Neighbors' Children's Festival. **Mrs. Dempsey** purchased new titles from the Chicago Public Library and Chicago Public Schools Library Department published list of "The Best of the Best" books for 2003, including the new Caldecott and Newbery Award winning books.

Chess Club has started on Wednesday's from 1:30 - 2:30. 22 students are participating with parent volunteers, **Mrs. Deborah Rodriguez** and **Mrs. Lee Stein**. They plan to join with the Lincoln Belmont branch of the Chicago Public Library in hosting chess matches on the second Saturday of the month. The meets began November 8th. This is a Chicago Public Library event open to all interested players, children and their parents.

A Family Reading Night was held

on Wednesday, November 19th from 6-8pm. This was Children's Book Week and the week of the Illinois State Family Reading Night.

Joining Blaine teachers and staff was **Gwen Thomas** from the Lincoln Belmont Public Library, dressed as "The Cat in the Hat," and a community member, **Renee Mueller**, dressed as "Mother Goose" who entertained our pre-school and kindergarten students. Reading exhibits, "make and take" art projects with **Ms. Steinberg**, Blaine art teacher, as well as a skit "The Case of the Mixed-Up Books" and reading related songs with **Mrs. Harbaugh**, Blaine music teacher, were also a part of this "Celebration of Reading."

The Illinois Annual Multilingual Conference was recently held in Oak Brook. Two Blaine teachers, **Mrs. Mendoza** and **Ms. Nousaine** were guest speakers. They presented the implementation of the Reggio Emilia

approach to pre-school learning.

The **Joel Hall Dance Company** has been highlighted on the Channel 2 News and in the Defender Newspaper. They work with a group of Blaine and Agassiz students twice a week. This dance training is sponsored by Mike Quigley, Cook County Commissioner and Alderman Tunney. A spring performance is planned. All principals in the 44th ward along with neighborhood business owners were invited to a breakfast in early December hosted by Mr. Quigley and Ald. Tunney.

Three Blaine teachers, **Mrs. Dempsey**, **Mrs. Harbaugh**, and **Ms. Steinberg** were honored on December 11th at a grant reception at the Walter Payton High School. They received an Oppenheimer Grant that will provide the funding for a student production called "Annie Jr." It will be presented in the spring.

FRIENDS OF BLAINE

Friends of Blaine, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was recently created by involved parents who are dedicated to improving the financial health – and, ultimately, educational opportunities — for our children at James G. Blaine Elementary.

Our sole purpose is to work with parents, educators, community businesses, Chicago-based corporations and grant-giving foundations to solicit charitable donations, products and services that will be used to ensure that Blaine continues to grow as one of the premiere elementary schools in the Chicago Public School (CPS) system. Money raised will be given directly to the school to help pay for new teacher salaries, new programs and new resources.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

We have already completed two

fundraising activities — First, Alhambra rented a portion of the Blaine School parking lot to sell Christmas trees. We also sold Halloween photographs at "Trick-or-Treat Southport."

As the year continues, we have outlined four major areas for fundraising:

BLAINE ELECTRONIC SIGN

Parents/guardians, teachers and local businesses will be able to purchase "space" on the Blaine electronic sign, located at the corner of Southport and Grace.

BLAINE "WALK OF FAME"

Blaine families and businesses will be offered the opportunity to purchase engraved bricks that will be permanently set in the front walkway leading into the school.

SPRING AUCTION

The Friends will be organizing an

auction and raffle that will take place in the Spring of 2004. We will be soliciting product donations from area businesses to put up for auction, as well as original artwork from Blaine students.

GRANTS

Friends of Blaine will be approaching Chicago-based corporations and foundations to secure financial donations as part of their corporate giving programs.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friends of Blaine is looking for volunteers from the community. For more information on volunteer opportunities, send your emails to friendsofblaine@hotmail.com, leave a note in the Friends of Blaine mailbox in the school office, or join us at our next meeting — held the third Wednesday of each month at 3948 N. Southport.

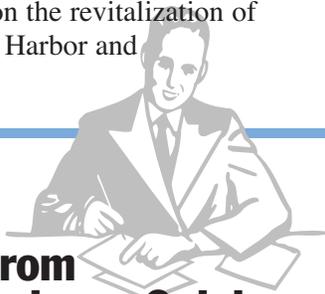
TunneyTalk

Happy Holidays!

2003 has been an exciting year for me. I was appointed Alderman of the 44th Ward on January 16th and then, with your help, was elected to this post on February 25th. I've been working non-stop since then to make the 44th the best ward in the city. I look forward to continuing this momentum in 2004.

Some of this year's highlights:

- Created the 44th Ward Community Directed Development Council. This group serves to advise the alderman on development issues in the ward. They meet monthly and are currently working on a Master Plan that will include issues of zoning, land use and neighborhood character, and will ensure its appropriate implementation.
- Worked on the revitalization of the Belmont Harbor and



Letter from Commissioner Quigley

Dear Neighbors:

I enjoyed speaking with you at your December meeting. In light of our discussion about the Cook County 2004 budget, I'd like to update you on what has happened since that time. As you may know, President Stroger has proposed a budget which relies on an increase in the sales tax and a new county lease tax to balance the budget. I am strongly opposed to these taxes and believe that it is entirely possible to balance the budget by cutting costs, without affecting services, instead of raising taxes.

the Shoreline Protection Program.

- Negotiated a Wrigley Field Neighborhood Protection Plan.
- Proposed Landmark Status for a portion of Newport.
- Worked with the Aids Foundation to increase 2004 city funding for HIV prevention by \$600,000.
- Proposed an amendment to the Ethics Ordinance to include domestic partners.
- Worked to create a campus park at LeMoyné School.
- Downzoned Halsted between Belmont and Addison.
- Erected new lights on Southport, Clark and Belmont.
- Increased funding for the schools by donating aldermanic salary increase and securing donations from the business community.
- Installed Bike Lanes on Southport and working to install them on Halsted.
- Installed new water, sewer, and gas pipes on Clark.
- Increased communication with the

community through attendance at community meetings, development of a website, and creation of a 44th Ward brochure.

Our office stands ready to serve you. Please feel free to give one of my staff a call at **773.525.6034**. Alicia Obando handles issues regarding zoning, buildings, CTA and legislation. Blane Roberts handles community issues involving festivals, parades, schools, parks, seniors, CAPS and LGBT matters. Denise Poelstrel is a wealth of information on city services and also schedules my appointments. During the winter months of December – March, the office hours are:
 Monday — Thursday, 8am - 7pm,
 Friday, 8am - 5pm,
 Saturday, 9am - noon.
 You can also reach us on line at: www.44thward.org and ttunney@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely,
 Tom Tunney, *44th Ward Alderman*

Earlier this month, I released Part II of my sixth report on County government: "Reinventing Cook County." This report details many strategies on how to make Cook County more fiscally responsible, including:

- Increasing employee contributions to health insurance and revamping our salary structure.
- Introducing more truth-in-budgeting strategies, to make our three billion dollar budget more transparent to all taxpayers.
- Reducing consultant costs, by placing a cap on hourly rates consultants are allowed to charge the County.

The budget vote was scheduled for December 9th, however President

Stroger failed to garner support for his proposed taxes. As of December 23rd, I, along with eight other commissioners, have been able to block the new taxes. We are continuing to work towards a more fiscally responsible budget that does not pass our financial difficulties onto the taxpayers. Hopefully, using some of the ideas I've proposed, we will be able to pass a balanced budget without raising taxes.

Please contact my office at **312.603.4210** if you have any questions or would like to know more about this issue or any of my other initiatives.

Sincerely,
 Mike Quigley, *Cook County Commissioner 10th District*

Chicago Building Permits

For those of you who are considering new construction in the New Year, you need to be aware that the City has a new permit process for building permits that may affect you. As you know the “city that works” can keep you from working on that project if you need a building permit for that work. The building permit process can be a confusing challenge if you are not familiar with the options.

The City has four permit programs to assist your permit needs. For large complicated projects there is Developer Services. For average projects there is Standard Plan Review. For small construction projects, there is Self-Certification. And finally, for very small changes to existing conditions there is the Neighborhood Service Centers.

The two processes that most people need to be aware of are the Neighborhood Service Centers and the Self-Certification processes.

For most home improvement projects you will go through the



Did You Know?

Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) for permits. Your contractor or installer will be able to help you with this process. NSC is the way to go for projects such as installing fences over five feet, alterations to your plumbing systems, demolitions or adding a dormer. The nearest NSC for Lakeview is located at 2550 West Addison and their phone number is **312.742.2550**. You may also find them by going to www.cityofchicago.org find the Department of Construction and Permits (DCAP) link. You may also call DCAP at **312.744.8670**.

The other process, Self-Certification, is for new construction and renovations. This process is set up for projects such as new residential construction up to four stories/six units and commercial construction of one story up to 24,000 square feet of

building area. The biggest change with this process is that architects who “self-certify” the project must complete a certification class through the city. No longer will any licensed architect be able to submit and receive a permit through this program. The Self-Cert process should take no longer than five business days. Compare that with the Standard Plan Review that may take as long as five months. To find an architect who has completed the certificate program with the city go to the DCAP web site.

So, before you start any remodeling, alteration or new construction project, contact an architect or the City of Chicago to find out when and how to file for a building permit.

Note about the author:

Peter Uliasz is a partner with OKW Architects, Inc. in Chicago and has been involved in the design, entitlement and construction of projects both in the city and suburbs of Chicago.

CDDC Begins Development of Strategic Plan

As noted in our last newsletter, Alderman Tunney has convened a Community Directed Development Council (CDDC) to develop a strategic zoning and development plan for the 44th Ward. For the past several months, the Council has collected information about the current residential and commercial make-up of each neighborhood, which has resulted in a detailed inventory of housing stock and area maps.

The Zoning Department along with the City Council is in the final stages of adopting a new zoning code that incorporates the existing overlay zoning requirements, which were put

in place to establish height restrictions and to limit the number of new units that can be built in our community. Thus, the City’s plan will leave the current SNA building requirements in place unless changes are proposed.

The Ward’s strategic plan presents the Southport Neighbors community with the opportunity to make changes to the zoning code that reflect our current needs. Our neighborhood has seen a lot of new development in the past 10 years since the adoption of our special district overlay requirements. Our CDDC representatives would like your input into whether

the current zoning requirements are working for our neighborhood or whether you would like to see changes to the zoning requirements on our residential streets and/or business districts.

CDDC meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m. at Ann Sathers Restaurant on Belmont Avenue. The minutes of each meeting are posted on the 44th Ward’s website. Please feel free to contact the SNA with your comments and suggestions by email; our address is

info@southportneighbors.com.

Southport Neighbors Association (SNA)

Officers

President
Connie Jurczyk

Vice President
Colleen Gibbs

Secretary
Kelly Lawrence

Treasurer
Michelle Krage

Board Members

Beautification
Sean Buino

Festival
Lisa Chalem

Business Liaison
Chase Ferrer

Membership
Kelly Leiseca

Planning & Development
Peter Uliasz

Planning &

Development/CDDC/Beautification
Sally McPherrin

Planning & Development/CDDC
Jill Peters

Newsletter Layout & Design
Larry Roth

Sign me up! I gotta join Southport Neighbors Association (SNA)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

Email _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual • \$7 Family • \$10 Business • \$10 Senior • \$2

Please send me the *Southport Neighbor* via email (*our preferred method!*)

Please send me the *Southport Neighbor* via US mail (*no charge*)

Also enclosed is my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to support the work of the Southport Neighbors Association.

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Send check payable to:

Southport Neighbors Association

3540 N. Southport Ave. • P.O. Box 1000 • Chicago, IL 60657

I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHPORT NEIGHBORS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Beautification Education Property Tax Reform

Block Representative Fundraising Traffic & Safety

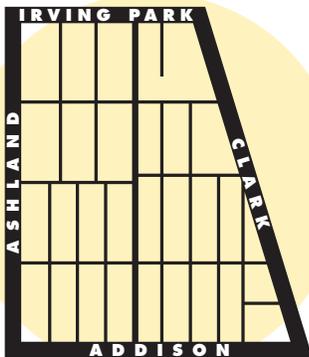
Newsletter Social Business Liaison

Planning/Development Garden Walk Membership



**SOUTHPORT
NEIGHBORS
ASSOCIATION**

3540 N. Southport Ave. #1000
Chicago, Illinois 60657
312.458.0SNA
www.southportneighbors.com



Founded August 8, 1988



Upcoming Events for 2004:

January 26/April 26 SNA Community Meetings | July 24-25 Summer on Southport