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OCTOBER 2005

VOL. 14. NO.

# Meet Your Neighbors 3rd Annual SNA Social Follows October 24th Meeting

New Location! — New Time!

Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) will be holding their regular quarterly community meeting in conjunction with a "Neighborhood Social" for SNA members. Our very good neighbor, Uncommon Ground, has offered to host our meeting and social on October 24th at 6:30pm. (Note the earlier start time!) **Uncommon Ground** is located at 3800 North Clark Street.

We are pleased that Alderman Tom Tunney will be in attendance to address your questions in an open forum. Plan to arrive on time, so that you can fill out a question card. Also, the City's Office of Emergency Management is sending a representative to talk about when to dial 311. when to dial 911, and how to maximize the effectiveness of your call. It's a very informative presentation.

Our meeting will be in the west room and will last approximately one hour, after which we will adjourn to

the larger front area for complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Our community meetings are always open to everyone. Though we have a shortened agenda this time, it promises to be informative and interesting:

Our community socials are open to SNA Members only. We are hoping to get renewals into the mail prior to the meeting, and you may renew or join at the social. It's only \$7 for a one-year membership! (\$10 for families and businesses).

See related article to the right.

We hope to see you on Monday the 24th at Uncommon Ground!

#### Our Agenda

#### 6:30PM

How to Get the Most from your 311 or 911 phone call.

#### 6:50PM

Alderman Tom Tunney answers your questions in an open forum.

#### Where's My Membership Renewal?

If you're an SNA member, you may have notice what has NOT been in your mailbox this year – your SNA membership renewal. Due to computer system problems and a busy group of board members, our spring renewals were not mailed. We are now due for the fall renewal, and our goal is to get BOTH groups in the mail prior to our October 24th meeting and social. That way, you can either mail in your renewal as usual, or bring it to the meeting/ social to renew on the spot. We can also sign up NEW members

at the social.

Membership is still a great deal — \$7 annually for individuals, \$10 for families and businesses. It allows you to vote on SNA issues, participate in our twice-vearly socials, and stay 'in the know' about all the happenings in our neighborhood. Membership dues help us to cover our fixed costs, such as our web hosting costs, insurance and maintenance for our kiosk, and printing our newsletters.

We appreciate your ongoing support!

### **The Buffett Concerts** Please Continue to Provide Your Feedback!

Thank you to those that sent us feedback on the Jimmy Buffett concerts held over Labor Day weekend. As your representatives to the alderman. SNA wants to continue to receive your comments and feedback.

We heard from several people who enjoyed the shows, but there were many people who complained, mostly citing problems with noise and lack of enforcement of open liquor laws.

In an effort to further to study this issue, we will continue to accept your emails with remarks and recommendations on future concerts at Wrigley Field. If you haven't already, please send us any and all comments, and

we will keep track of them for future consideration. Our email address is info@southportneighbors.com.

Also, please note that there is a public community meeting on October 19 at 7pm, to discuss the Neighborhood Protection Plan, which was to be in force during the concerts. The meeting will be held at the John Merlo Branch Library. 644 West Belmont Avenue.

### NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

### A letter from one of our neighbors...

### **Hurricane Katrina Brings Us Two New Neighbors**

Hurricane Katrina, possibly the worst storm in the history of our young country, displaced hundreds of thousands of individuals and their families. While many people were relocated to other areas in the south, there are two young ladies that made the move to Chicago, to start their life anew in our neighborhood. With one of their cars lost in the storm, and their apartments in New Orleans not accessible for over a month, Lauren and Meredith Landry moved to Chicago, each bringing a suitcase of clothes and lots of enthusiasm.

As I helped them find a new apartment, eventually settling on a place at

the corner of Grace and Greenview, it amazed me as to how upbeat they were and how they stayed positive about starting over in Chicago.

I'm hoping to help gather any form of support from the neighborhood to make their first year here as easy as possible. They've never lived outside of Louisiana, and they have never experienced a winter like the ones that we get here in Chicago. With limited winter clothing, and only one of them having a full-time job at this time, any help would certainly make things easier on them.

Ideally, I'd like to find a way to raise funds to help them pay down

their rent for the first year. If you are willing to donate, or you know of a restaurant that could offer dinner to these two young ladies, or you can find any other way to help them feel more at home in their new neighborhood please do not hesitate to contact me. *Ken Anderson* 

3755 N. Greenview Ave. 312.286.6396

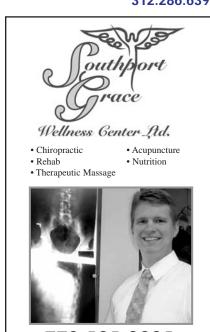
#### **Construction Underway at Wrigley Field**

While the Chicago Cubs 2005 season closes, we say "Wait Til Next Year". Well, the 2006 season is already upon us in the SNA neighborhood as the Wrigley Field expansion plans are under way. Construction of about 1,800 additional bleacher seats will begin immediately. After many years of negotiating with the city and the Lakeview neighborhood the Cubs will expand the bleachers and develop the triangular piece of property on the southeast corner of Clark and Waveland. Currently, one lane of traffic is closed along the ballpark on Waveland and Sheffield Avenues, but 2-way traffic is still allowed.

SNA will provide an update of any relevant traffic disruptions and timing of the expansion project as it become available. In the meantime, as we head into the off-season winter months, the transformation of the "new and improved" 2006 Cubs begins.

#### About our SNA newsletter

We wish to thank Larry Roth (a Lakeview resident) of *Larry's World of Design* for volunteering his design expertrise in creating this periodical. Contact him at 773.880.0182 or liroth@flash.net.



773.525.2225



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### NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

### **Southport Shopping Attracts the Media**

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Southport has become *the* shopping destination in Chicago. Along side our other well-known shopping neighbor, Wicker Park, Chicago's Southport shopping district was featured in *The Wall Street Journal's*, Saturday/ Sunday, October 1-2, 2005, Travel Section. The article was written to help Chicago shoppers rediscover the enjoyment of shopping in neighborhood, boutique retailers that can offer uniqueness not found in nationwide mega stores such as Macy's, which will, by next year, replace a Chicago icon, Marshall Field's.

In the article, Southport was cited as a location within Chicago where one could find unique boutique shops, as 3 of our wonderful shops were highlighted. **Krista K** has a mix of "new designers" and "perennial favorites" and has "staked out a niche in upscale maternity clothes". Being pregnant never looked so good. Another woman's clothing store high-

lighted in the article was Red Head Boutique, which stocks "jewelry and clothes from Chicago designers", but best of all, its owner "has a knack for finding jeans that will fit different body types". This is not a "knack", but a gift, and makes Read Head worth a visit for those of us who have tried on countless jeans with not much luck. Finally, Fly Paper, was featured as a store that has "stationary, greeting cars and photo albums that range from quirky to professional". The common theme among all of these neighborhood retailers is not only their uniqueness, but also that they are an exhibit of each individual proprietor's personality.

The article made specific reference to the neighborhood feel of Southport which is especially gratifying. While seeing Chicago traditions such as Marshal Field's yield to the competition, it's satisfying knowing that our neighborhood retailers can capture a portion of that market. We are proud of all the retailers that are

establishing our neighborhood into a strong and vital part of Chicago.

#### "IN STYLE" MAGAZINE

September's In Style featured our Southport Avenue in its "hot blocks" section. It focuses on both the hip, unique boutique atmosphere on Southport, and the celebrity factor – places where celebrities have been spotted shopping in the neighborhood. Eight retailers are featured in the article, including Krista K, Trousseau, Freesia and Red Head, where Jessica Simpson reportedly shops for the "bohemian jeans and tops." In addition. **Splendor** is described as having "retro flair, even when it comes to modern pieces like patterned iPod cases." Beansprout is touted as having "cool kids clothes" and Shane is reported to have "chic staples."

The article states "Michigan Avenue and Oak Street, step aside. Picturesque little Southport first earned its stripes with great restaurants and bars. High-end boutiques soon followed — and celebrities weren't far behind."

### **Ban on Restaurant Smoking Proposed**

About 60 people attended a forum last month at the Mercury Theater sponsored by the Lake View Citizens Council (LVCC) to discuss the recently proposed ordinance to ban smoking in restaurants and bars in Chicago, following similar bans in New York, California, Minnesota, and the entire countries of Ireland and Italy. Alderman Ed Smith was there to outline his proposal and the reasons behind it. Alderman Tunney stood in for the Illinois Restaurant Association to present a different version of the ordinance, also being considered. Also on hand was a representative from the American Cancer Society, a local doctor, a cancer patient and a local bar owner.

Ed Smith's proposal is a complete smoking ban, similar to the ones in the areas listed above. The second version of the ordinance, endorsed by the Illinois Restaurant Association, was introduced by Aldermen Natarus and Coleman. They propose that restaurants and bars be allowed to get a license to allow smoking, instead of banning it altogether. The American Cancer Society representative support-ed Alderman Smith's complete ban, stating that the alternate proposal would be akin to allowing people to get licenses to use their handheld cell phone devices when driving, after it has been outlawed for Chicagoans as a whole.

Proponents of the ban went beyond patrons of the establishments to the plight of waiters and others forced to be in a smoky environment while working. There was a big focus on the workers inside smoking establishments, and Mary Rondoni was there to talk about her experience as a stage 4 throat cancer victim. She is

currently appearing in television ads as a supporter of the smoking ban. Ms. Ron-doni was told by her doctors that her throat cancer was almost certainly caused by the second-hand smoke that she breathed at work every day at a Chicago restaurant.

Overall, most in attendance seemed to favor the complete smoking ban. They were told that revenue and customer numbers have not fallen in establishments where a ban was already in effect. And they did not seem to favor the licensing idea, since it would defeat the purpose of the ban.

If you support the smoking ban, call your alderman and say so. And if you don't support it, call and say so. It's the only way the alderman will know how his constituents feel. Be sure to be specific though – if you support the complete ban, make sure you say that you are supporting Ed Smith's proposed ordinance.

### A Word From Your Elected Officials

# Tunney Talk Autumn 2005 44th Ward

Another losing Cubs baseball season is over, the chill in the air is back, sidewalk cafés are packing up their chairs and children are in school. Now it's time to start thinking of snow.

As always our office appreciates feedback from constituents on neighborhood events as it assists with planning and logistics for the coming year.

#### **LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2005**

A first time ever music performance took place in Wrigley Field. Jimmy Buffett played to two sold out shows amid a sea of parrotheads and grass skirts. All the regular neighborhood protections were in place along with additional security by the police and the Cubs. Issues of noise and congestion were fairly limited and there were no major arrests. Chicago Cubs Charities made a donation of \$150,000 to our local schools which will be distributed among the schools in the four wards affected by Wrigley.

#### ISSUE OF CRIME

As fall approaches the presence of crime in our neighborhood generally cools down with the weather. However, it's important to continue to stay on top of all activity in your neighborhood. CAPS (Community Alternative Policing Strategy) has created several initiatives that promote awareness, protection, and safety. The CAPS beat meeting schedules can be found on our website at www.44thWard.org. CAPS beat meetings are a great place where residents can learn about issues

critical to their district, meet and talk to their local police officers, and learn how to better protect themselves. All residents are encouraged to attend.

#### **SENIORS**

The 44th Ward Senior Advisory Council hosted the annual Senior Awareness Day and Senior Picnic in August with over 300 seniors participating in both events. The council is currently working on a tutoring program for local schools and on planning events. For more information on senior issues, contact **Christine Brown**, 44th Ward Senior Advocate, in my office on Thursdays & Fridays.

#### PARKING PERMITS

The necessity for LV2 (Cubs Night Game) parking permits is over for 2005, but Residential Permit Parking Stickers are still required in all 383 coded parking areas, and city stickers are required on all cars kept in the city for more than 30 days. Effective January 1, 2006 the City Clerk will no longer have satellite offices at 5401 N. Elston and 9901 S. Cicero, City stickers and residential stickers will be available at City Hall (121 N. LaSalle). City stickers may also be purchased at 2550 W. Addison or at currency exchanges. The Winter Parking Ban begins on December 1st. Please carefully read the signs posted on the main arteries to ensure that you are not in violation of parking restrictions.

#### STREET CLEANING

The schedule through the end of November is posted on our website, www.44thWard.0rg. The streets will continue to be cleaned weather per-

#### Fall/Winter Office Hours

April — October of 2005 Monday–Thursday 8am–7pm Friday 8am–5pm Saturday 8am–noon

mitting throughout 2005. During the month of December, the cleaning schedule will be determined week to week. Contact the Department of Streets&Sanitation at 312.744.5028 for the schedule during December. In addition, they have asked that you *not* put raked leaves in the street. Please place them in blue bags and dispose of them in your garbage carts. Also, make sure that the sewer covers in front of your home are clean and free of debris to ensure proper water flow to avoid possible flooding.

#### RENOVATION OF WRIGLEY FIELD

The Chicago Cubs organization has begun renovation of the bleachers. Sidewalks beside Wrigley Field will be closed to pedestrian traffic for the duration. This affects the west side of Sheffield and the south side of Waveland. In addition, there will be no parking on Sheffield from Addison to Waveland or on Waveland from Sheffield to Seminary. The Cubs will make available free parking for residents of these blocks in the Cubs' Blue Lot (Waveland just west of the Fire Station). Residents choosing to use the Blue Lot must obtain a Blue Lot Sticker from my office. Proof of residence, photo ID, and city sticker receipt are required. In addition, the West curb lane of Sheffield and South curb lane of Waveland will be closed during construction. Traffic on the affected

### Alderman Schulter's 47th Ward Update

There are many fun activities for kids to celebrate a safe Halloween in the 47th Ward. On Saturday, October 29th, I will be hosting a movie and costume contest at the Davis Theater. The event is open to members of Alderman Schulter's Kids Club. If you live in the 47th Ward and are interested in signing your family up

to participate in this event and future activities, please contact my 47th Ward Public Service Office at 773.348.8400 or at ward47@city-ofchicago.org. After the movie, children can trick or treat Lincoln Square businesses from 10am–5pm and Northcenter businesses from 10am–8pm. If you have any city

service requests, please stop by or contact my office located at 4237 North Lincoln Avenue. Register your e-mail address on my website at www.ward47.com to receive updates on news, community alerts, events

#### 47th Ward Office Hours

Monday–Friday 9am–5pm Wednesday Evenings 7pm–9pm Saturday 9am–noon Ald. Tunney · continued from page 4 streets will continue two lanes one in each direction.

#### CTA'S BROWN LINE RECONSTRUCTION

Our Diversey, Wellington, Southport and Paulina 'L' stops will be closed for anywhere up to a year as they are each being worked on. No two adjacent stations will be closed at the same time. The Belmont station will not be closed at any time. The CTA has already acquired most of the properties and most of them have already been demolished. My office continues to meet with the CTA, other elected officials and the community through the Brown Line Task Force to discuss how to best mitigate these upcoming CTA challenges.

#### **ZONING & DEVELOPMENT**

The 44th Ward Community Directed Development Council (CDDC) continues to meet monthly to discuss ongoing zoning and development issues and to continue to develop the 44th Ward Master Plan. For more information on the CDDC, visit www.44thward.org or attend an upcoming CDDC meeting on October 26th or November 16th at 6:30pm at Ann Sather Restaurant on Belmont.

#### STAFF TO SERVE YOU

As always, feel free to give one of the ward staff a call at **773.525.6034**. Alicia Obando—all issues regarding zoning, development, CTA, dogs and legislation.

Bennett Lawson—community issues involving special events, schools, parks, police, businesses and LGBT matters.

**Denise Poelstrel**—infrastructure issues and schedules my appointments.

You can also reach us online at ttunney@cityofchicago.org and www.44thward.org.

# Blaine Fundraiser Scheduled for March 11, 2006 Mark Your Calendars—Friends of Blaine Fourth Annual Fundraiser

Friends of Blaine is a not-for-profit organization with only one mission to raise money to promote education at James G. Blaine School. Last year's fundraiser raised \$35,000 thanks to generous donations and support from Blaine faculty, parents, and community.

In 2005, Blaine was named a Magnet School of Distinction and one of the top 10 Chicago public neighborhood schools. In addition, we were listed as one of Chicago's best-run schools. Because state budget cuts have hit Blaine School hard. our fundraising must be successful to continue our programs. Please support Blaine School by attending our 2006 Faces of Blaine fundraiser to be held at High Risk Gallery at 1113 West Belmont.

We need your help to ensure that this year's auction is a great success. We are asking for donations, advertisements, or company sponsorships early to publicize your company and donated items months before the fundraising event. If you would like to participate, please e-mail or call Ruth Lyons at 773.769.1089 or ruthflyons@aol.com.

The children of Blaine Elementary School are counting on us, and we are counting on you.

TRICK-OR-TREAT SOUTHPORT October 30, noon-3pm

### **Become Active at Blaine**

Did vou know that Blaine Elementary School is one of the top Ten Chicago Public Schools? Over seven hundred students and their families, along with a dedicated faculty, staff, and principal work to make Blaine a great place learn and grow. We are looking for community members to join Blaine PTA. Please

everychild.one voice.

help us to continue to offer the best opportunities for a rich learning environment.

To join, simply send an email to jackdlyons@aol.com and request a registration form. Your information

will be kept confidential. Thank you, Jack D. Lyons Membership vice-Chair







#### PLANNING + DEVELOPMENT

CDDC

The CDDC (Community Directed Development Council) has been meeting monthly with the Alderman to develop a strategic plan for the 44th Ward. The Council has prepared a draft plan which is undergoing edits for final publication by the end of the year following community input.

At the September meeting of the CDDC, the Wrigley Rooftop Owners Association presented their plans to increase the height of at least 5 of the 13 properties having a view of Wrigley Field. With the Cubs expansion plan underway, the roof top owners have requested a height increase of up to 8 feet to raise their viewing area above the new site lines.

However, the plan entails upzoning all of these 13 properties from largely residential zoning (a couple are already zoned for mixed business & residential use) to business zoning with a covenant requiring them to downzone to residential upon completion of their plans. The Association claims the need to upzone in order to add elevators, safety features, and

ADA requirements to their expansion plans. The result of this change will likely raise the heights of these buildings from 61' to 71' (including elevator shafts), cause the buildings to fill most of the lot, and increase the number of patrons viewing from rooftops by several hundred in total.

The plan was challenged by SNA, who asked that the rooftop owners limit their seating to the actual (or published) number of patrons that can currently occupy the viewing areas rather than the posted occupancy rates. SNA's investigation of the capacity issue revealed that the actual viewing number is less than the posted occupancy number. Unless the owners hold to their current published numbers, the expansion plans will allow these building owners to maximize their occupancy rates, which means at least 25-50 more patrons per building. That number adds to the 1800 additional fans the Cubs are allowed. There are 400 additional seats coming in the form of brand new rooftops, and the upzoning will likely provide enough incentive for the billboard buildings to convert to rooftop seating, adding yet another 400 patrons to each game. If you do the math, counting the Cubs' expansion, new rooftops, the potential for more new rooftops, and the increased capacity in current rooftops, our neighborhood could experience a total of over 3000 more fans in the next 1-2 seasons. This, after the neighborhood spent 4 years investing our time in the Blue Ribbon Committee, which pared the Cubs' expansion down by 600 seats.

The Alderman presented a review of all new and ongoing projects in the Ward. A summary of those projects can be found online at cddc.com.

CDDC meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at Ann Sather's Restaurant on Belmont. These meetings are open to the public and the minutes from each meeting are posted on Ald. Tom Tunney's website at www.44thward.org/zoning. For more information on the new code, visit the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org.mayor.zoning. The CDDC also welcomes your input, please contact us at info@Southportneighbors.com with your comments or questions, or call us at 312.458.0762.

# **Greystone Demolished** *Good Bye 3733 North Lakewood*

The greystone at 3733 N. Lakewood

was recently torn down, despite exhaustive efforts by SNA and many residents to save the building. The owner, Mike Joyce, whose business is located in Elmhurst, bought this property as a tear down to maximize the lot area and build an expensive spec home a couple

of feet wider than the existing structure.

SNA worked very hard to preserve

this beautiful building. We received over 300 signatures from area residents on a petition circulated to save the property, which was forwarded to

the Alderman and the builder. We also spoke to the Alderman, the owner, and builder general contractor, Mangan Builders, to determine ways to save this greystone. The Alderman also met with them separately on several occasions.

Additionally, with support from SNA, residents on the affected block met with

Jonathan Fine of Preservation Chicago who advised that the 3700 block with its rows of greystones on

30' wide lots, was unique and could qualify for landmark status. Landmarking is one solution that protects the essential character of the block, but still allows significant additions and modifications to be built. Unfortunately, we did not have enough time to organize this approach, as the developers were ready to maximize their investment by getting this new building started. The compromise that was reached between the alderman and the developers was this: the design of the building will be appropriate for the historic nature of the block. The developers will be working with Brian Goeken from the Landmarks Division of Chicago on the exterior details that will make the building look historically accurate. This was not the neighbors' first



# New Businesses in our Neighborhood

A Note to New Businesses:

If your new business has opened in the last 3 months and has not appeared in the newsletter, please pardon the oversight! Let us know who you are and we will spread the word and add you to the list in our next newsletter. As a new feature, we can now include your logo with your listing. Welcome to our new shops! **Attention Business Owners:** 

Please note that advertising <mark>opportunities are available to you.</mark> Please contact Kelly Lawrence at **773.612.3321** *for more information.* 

continued from page 6 • Demolished Greystone

choice, but hopefully will ensure that the new building does not destroy the beautiful symmetry this block of greystones currently has.

With over 300 signatures in a just

**Bourdage Pearls** 

3530 N. Southport Bourdage www.idopearls.comPEA 773.244.1126

Bourdage Pearls specializes in freshwater pearls, which come in a wider variety of colors and shapes than its more widely known cousin; the saltwater pearl. You'll find an affordable wardrobe full of pearls fit for a queen!

### **Sensational Bites**

3751 N. Southport 773.248.2271

Owner: Gina Sedivy

An eclectic dessert café! There are a variety of drop cookies for 99 cents, slices of delicious cakes and specialty cakes. Coffee, espresso and loose leaf tea also available.

a few days, it is obvious this community wants to see quality greystones and other historic buildings preserved. Hopefully this demolition will not set a precedent for other greystone tear downs. While SNA has been effective

#### Thai Sushi Bar and Thai Cuisine

3819-21 N. Southport 773.883.8683

A great selection of delicious Thai food. Try any of one our 29 different Nigiri dishes (each between \$2.50 and \$4.50). Dine in, carry out or delivery on \$15 or more. BYOB.

#### Café Avanti

moved to 3714 N. Southport

773.880.5959

Stop in and experience the new location which has an expanded food menu including sand-

wiches and salads, free wireless internet and great music!

in the past, and will continue to work hard to preserve homes of this kind in the future, affected neighbors will also need to work together to be proactive and organized to pursue effective solutions.

#### **General Nutrition Center**

Frank Tsiones

3601 North Southport Chicago, Illinois 60613 (corner of Addison & Southport - on Addison) Phone: (773) 665-9425 Fax: (773) 665-9429 e-mail: wrigleyvillegnc@yahoo.com

#### 20% Off Coupon

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#### Considering buying or selling a home?

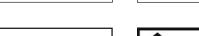
I live in the neighborhood and would love to help you with your real estate needs.

Please call for a free market analysis of your home.





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