

SOUTHPORT

NEIGHBOR

APRIL 2008 VOL. 15, NO. 5

Southport Neighbors Association Community Meeting - Tuesday, April 22, 2008

AGENDA:

The State of Wrigleyville

Alderman Tunney will discuss the status of the much talked about sale of the Cubs and Wrigley Field, and report on the Addison/Clark Development and other developments affecting our community.

Cubs Update

Mike Lufrano, Cubs VP for Community Relations, will also be on hand to give a report on the Cubs.

Meet Commander Kenny

Meet our new 19th District Police Commander, John Kenny, who will be introduced to the Community and present important proactive safety tips for all of us.

Elections

SNA will host its annual election of four members to its Board of Directors. Members in good standing for at least 90 days may vote. STATE ISSUED PHOTO ID must be presented. SNA is accepting nominations for the Board which must be submitted not later than April 7th. See the kiosk for further details. Mail nominee info to: SNA, 3501 N. Southport #201, 60657 or email to info@southportneighbors.com.



Alderman Tom Tunney, SNA Vice President Sally McPherrin, Mayor Daley, and SNA President Jill Peters at the 44th Ward breakfast, January 2008.

A Letter From the President

Dear Neighbors:

As you may have heard, Sam Zell announced his plan to sell off the Cubs and the naming rights to Wrigley Field. Fans and residents have voiced distress over the potential loss of the Wrigley name.

If the idea of living in "Comcastville" or "Dependsville" isn't bad enough, Mr. Zell also wants to add *more* night games and *more* concerts to make his investment *more* profitable for him.

Additionally, Mr. Zell wants to fight the landmark status of the Field and change the community approved planned development for a parking lot on the Cubs' triangle property on Clark.

Years of community input, discussion, negotiation and consensus on each of these neighborhood protections and quality of life issues would be tossed aside if these agreements and ordinances were to be renegotiated.

The Alderman has said that the Cubs have floated informal proposals for additional night games and more concerts at Wrigley Field. **Both Alderman Tunney and the Mayor need to hear that our community will not agree to renegotiate our neighborhood protections.**

**We need to respond with a clear message.
Call and email TODAY:**

Alderman Tunney
773/549-4000
Ttunney@cityofchicago.org

AND Mayor Daley
312/744-3300
Office of the Mayor
121 N. LaSalle,
City Hall Room 800
Chicago 60602

Tell them to protect the interests of our community, and ensure that the night game ordinance, landmark protections, planned development, and the Wrigley concert terms are NOT renegotiated and copy me if possible, president@southportneighbors.com.

Make sure your voice is heard. It's critical to the process and the only way our interests can be protected.

Jill Peters, President SNA

Proposed "Planned Development" at Clark/Addison

In late January 2008, a well-attended community meeting was held to discuss the recently proposed "Planned Development" across the street from Wrigley Field. Current zoning allows only 50' in height on two thirds of the property and 65' on one third. The proposal included the construction of two 9-story buildings 105' in height (10' above Wrigley Field's roofline), with a 150, 9 story apartment building for studios and one bedroom apartments; and a 9 story Hyatt Hotel with 137 rooms.



Additionally, the project included 100,000 square feet of retail space for a Best Buy, a Dominick's grocery, a CVS, and 50,000 square feet for the Export health club. The existing businesses, Starbucks, the Improv, Bar Louie, and

Salt & Pepper, would also remain as retail tenants of the building. The development included 500 total parking spaces for residential, hotel and retail use only; none would be used for Cubs traffic. Truck traffic would ingress and egress from Sheffield. Residential/retail parking would ingress and egress from Addison. Hotel pick up and drop off would be on Addison.

After this initial meeting, the Lake View Citizens Council conducted a neighborhood survey of nearly 1,000 respondents, with a majority stating that the plan was too big. The survey results are available at www.lakeviewcitizens.org.

Although the plan has not been approved as proposed, Alderman Tunney stated that this proposal will be an "ongoing process" among the surrounding neighborhood organizations, the real estate developers, and the various City of Chicago departments. The SNA Board and a significant number of our members have voiced concern about the height, density, traffic, and overall precedent this project will create for our community.

It's not too late to get involved.

Contact your Alderman and Mayor Daley to voice your opinion.

Southport Green Market

The second year of the Southport Green Market is about to begin! This year more vendors and every Saturday from June 14th through October 11th! The market is from 8AM- noon at Blaine School.

CSAs !? CSA's will also be a part of the 2008 season...what's a CSA?? CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture...or in basic terms a pre-paid subscription to buy a product from a farmer.



The first of many that we would like to introduce is Scotch Hill Farms...new to our market this year. Scotch Hill farmers Dela and Tony Ends raise more than 100 varieties of vegetables and herbs. They deliver 8 to 10 varieties weekly to subscribers, for 20 weeks each season. The cost is a \$28 per week for the season, which starts the second week of June and runs through October. This is the 6th year the southern Wisconsin farm couple will deliver produce to Chicago. Members pay by credit card, pre-payment in full, or deposit and post-dated checks.

Scotch Hill began last year making official, the organic practices it has followed all along. It's in the 2nd of a 3-year process under a new federal program to transition 27 acres into organic certification. The vegetable, dairy goat, sheep and poultry farm has never used synthetic pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizer. It does not use treated or genetically modified seed, and it has long purchased only certified organic feeds for its livestock. All livestock and birds are on pasture or free range...for even more information check out their website: www.scotchhillfarm.com.

To be part of the CSA contact Tony and Dela Ends at 608-897-4288 and let them know you would like to be part of the Southport Green Market drop off.

Volunteer!! If you are interested in volunteering any amount of time that you can, please email us at info@southportneighbors.com—whether you can man a booth at the market, entertain, or help hang posters...we can use your help.

Chicago Goes Smoke-Free Inside and Out

The new Smoke Free Illinois Act took effect on January 1st of this year. The Act bans smoking in almost all public places and in any private place of employment. This includes but is not limited to: restaurants, bars, taverns, indoor theaters, concert halls, educational facilities, private clubs, bowling alleys, pool halls and skating rinks. Does that mean that smokers are allowed to smoke in front of these establishments? No, unless the smoker is at least 15 feet away from any entrance, exit, window that opens or ventilation intake. That means no smoking in front of the door or even in a sidewalk café that is less than 15 feet from the door. There must be "No smoking" signs at every entrance of each business. Businesses in our area have been asked to prevent large crowds from forming on the public way and to keep the areas outside of the business free of litter. If you are a smoker, please help them comply. 311 may be called to report smoking within 15 feet of an entrance. Of course, alcohol may not be consumed on the public way, except in sidewalk cafes.

What Have We Done Lately?

2008 Annual Report

Hard to believe another year has passed. The SNA Board has been working very hard this year and in case you are wondering what we have been up to, here's what we have accomplished:

1. SNA has taken a very firm position against allowing Sam Zell or any new owner of the Cubs to renegotiate the night game ordinance, the 2007 concert ordinance, or the landmarking of Wrigley Field and we oppose reopening discussions to increase the size of the planned development on the Cubs triangle property previously approved by the community as a parking lot. SNA encourages our neighbors to contact Alderman Tunney and Mayor Daley and tell them not to allow years of community input, discussion, negotiation and consensus on each of these neighborhood protections and quality of life issues to be reopened and renegotiated
2. We hosted a very successful *Summer on Southport* festival in 2007. Our festival has again been one of the best children's festivals in the City. We had exceptional children's musicians and activities, and a great turn out all day and night with terrific local bands, artisans, vendors, and fabulous sponsors. We are excited to announce that this year's festival will be held on July 19th and 20th. Mark your calendars and watch for details. Visit our website for artisan or vendor applications or other details, www.southportneighbors.com.
3. Because of the success of our festival, we were able to donate \$5,000.00 to Blaine School in 2007 which totals \$21,000 over the past three years. Our donation will support Blaine's planned renovation of the west side playlot at Janssen and Grace which will benefit both the school and the community.
4. We continue to serve on the Alderman's Community Directed Development Council which meets monthly to review area development issues and large scale projects in the 44th Ward. SNA is also a representative on the Wrigley area development subcommittee which was formed to review the current zoning and large scale projects in the Wrigley area. Our community also participated in the open meeting on the Addison/Clark development and has weighed in on that development which was not approved as proposed. A majority of those who took the LVCC Survey and who wrote letters to the Alderman felt the project was much too big. For minutes of CDDC meetings go to www.44thward.com.
5. SNA has two wonderful representatives on the Lakeview Citizens Council ("LVCC") who advocate for our community on a variety of issues affecting all of Lakeview.
6. Our Southport Green Market was such a hit last summer we are bringing it to the community on a weekly basis from June through October 2008 on Saturday mornings from 8am-noon at the Blaine School parking lot. We will have many more farmers and other vendors and a unique opportunity to order your produce in advance. Please review the Southport Green Market article for more details or go to www.southportneighbors.com.
7. In 2008, a Southport Retail Committee was formed by the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, we are grateful for the opportunity to participate with a representative on this committee to lend our support and input on issues affecting our business community.
8. As always, our Planning and Development Committee and Board continue to monitor new development in the neighborhood. Aside from the Addison/Clark development mentioned above, we have been working to save the historic orange rated building at 1418 W. Addison St. Current zoning on this property is RT3.5 which allows residential use. The lot size is 125 x 65 is big enough to allow for the construction of a 6 unit building by right. But a developer has purchased the property and has filed a request to tear down the property and increase the zoning to B2-2 to build six larger residential condominiums than current zoning allows. He will present his plans at the Community Meeting on April 22, 2008 at 7pm at the Mercury Theater.
9. The Cubs have expressed an interest in hosting a concert again this year. We are waiting to hear the details, but SNA will be involved in all stages of the negotiations to ensure that any concert held in 2008 has at least the same neighborhood protections we negotiated in 2007. Last year, we worked with Mike Lufano from the Cubs and Alderman Tunney who supported our input into the concert management and neighborhood protections. As a result of our cooperative efforts, the 2007 concerts were well-managed and had minimal adverse impact on our neighborhood. To ensure that we have the same support in future years SNA has not approved a 5 year plan for concerts at Wrigley.

10. We continue to address bar and restaurant expansion requests. In 2007 Bernie's Tavern was granted a license to expand to the second floor. In an effort to give back to the community, they bricked the north side of their building which makes for a significant improvement. We welcome Buleria (pronounced Bull-eh-dia), a Tapas Bar and Spanish Restaurant coming soon to the former Neybors space. Our community voted to support this liquor license expansion request with a plan of operation.
11. Sadly last summer we were once again hit with a rash of violent crimes in our area. As a result of our lobbying efforts over the past few years, Alderman Tunney approved new street lighting on 8 of our blocks. We have worked hard to inform our residents about crime and safety through our emails, and flyers in our kiosk. If you are not yet a member of SNA, if for no other reason, join today to get our Neighborhood Watch email alerts. For a member form go to www.southportneighbors.com.
12. We continue to provide New Resident Welcome Packets. These are being distributed to new neighbors and are filled with business cards, menus and information about our neighborhood. If you know of a new neighbor, email us so we can provide them with this valuable packet.
13. We have held quarterly community meetings on topics of importance to our community and produced newsletters for area wide distribution to members and non-members alike.
14. Lastly but not least, we have a new and improved website that is full of important and helpful information and links, check us out at www.southportneighbors.com. We also continue to expand our use of email communications to regularly inform our members about issues and events that are of immediate concern and interest.

Once again we have been **really busy!** If you have any concerns we are missing or have some positive suggestions for our neighborhood, please send them along to info@southportneighbors.com. As always, we are very grateful to our GREAT volunteers for their time and for making this another terrific year for our neighborhood!

BUSINESS UPDATE

Southport businesses welcomed everyone back to Southport with the reopening of the El on March 30th and many of them are offering extra discounts when you present your CTA card through April 30th. Please stop in to visit all your favorite places!

We welcome the following new businesses to our neighborhood:

Bull-eh-dia's Tapas Bar

3651 N. Southport Ave. • 773-404-BULL

Stop in and choose from a wide selection of cold and hot tapas dishes. From Plato De Jamon y Queso (traditional Serrano Ham with Machecho Cheese) to Torta de Cangrejo (Crab Cakes Served with Red Pepper) - sit back and enjoy the savory choices!

Hours: Sun., Mon., Tues. 11 am - 12 midnight
Wed., Thurs., 11am - 1 am
Fri. Sat., 11 am - 2 am

Rosemary Sutton

For the Well-Dressed Home & Garden
3337 N. Southport Ave. • 773-370-9867

A place of Special Things for You, Your Home, Your Table and Your Garden. Always changing, but usually includes candles, French tea towels, vintage linens, lamps, mirrors, clocks, select furniture, jewelry, handbags, baby items, special books, photos, artwork and beautiful flowers arranged in vintage vases. Special services include Catering and Gardening projects specific to your needs.

Candyality

3425 N. Southport Ave. • 773-472-7800

A new refreshing destination and shopping event, Candyality features over 150 bins of bulk candy to mix and match. Also on the menu are Gourmet and Vegan Belgium Chocolates, Novelty Candy and a Retro Candy selection that will take you back to your favorite childhood memories.

Edible Arrangements

3722 N. Southport Ave. • 773-549-9300
EdibleArrangements.com

Thank you. Happy Birthday. Congrats. It doesn't matter what you're celebrating, a fresh fruit bouquet from Edible Arrangements allows you to say it bigger, brighter and more deliciously than ever. Let us help you create the perfect bouquet for your occasion. Simply order online or visit us in person! Save \$4 on your order when you mention this ad. Offer valid on select products and expires 7/4/08.

See the next page for more new businesses!

* JEWEL CONSTRUCTION PLANS:

The rebuilding of the new Jewel store on Southport has now been postponed to spring of 2009.

Southport Neighbors Association

Officers

President
Jill Peters

Vice President
Sally McPherrin

Secretary
Kelly Lawrence

Treasurer
Lisa Iverson

Board Members

Kristie Booker
Michael Cameron
Lance Lawson
Chris Peckham
Lisa Santos
Kate Surmeier
Graham Warning
Dennis Yanez

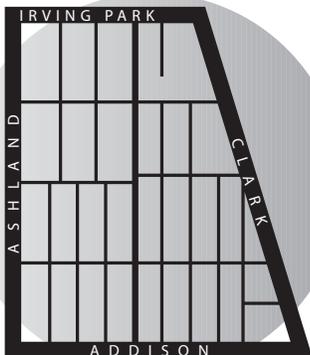


Newsletter Design & Layout
Just Write! Inc.
JustWriteInc@gmail.com



SOUTHPORT NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

3501 N. Southport Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60657
312.458.0SNA (0762)
www.southportneighbors.com



Founded August 8, 1988

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Individual • \$10 Family • \$15 Business • \$15 Senior • \$2
- Please send me the Southport Neighbor via email
- Also enclosed is my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to support the work of the Southport Neighbors Association.

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Mail check payable to:
Southport Neighbors Association (SNA)
3501 North Southport Avenue • #201 • Chicago, Illinois 60657

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

- Summer On Southport Beautification
- Block Representative Public Relations & Marketing
- Southport Green Market Retail Programs
- Planning & Development



BUSINESS UPDATE, continued from page 5

Dog-a-holics

3608 N. Southport Ave. • 773-857-7600

Pampered pets come in all shapes and sizes. Dog-a-holics stocks everything from glitzy collars to tasty treats. We are sure to satisfy your dog addiction. We offer dog couture, dog costumes, custom dog beds, carriers, bike wagons, gourmet bakery treats, professional grooming, self-wash tubs, all natural foods, unique collars and leashes, fun and quirky gift items and much more to help you and your dog celebrate your special bond. Free customer parking available behind the building.

Suvarna

3428 N. Southport • 773-348-2800

The ambiance at Suvarna Chiropractic Spa is ultra trendy and chique. We are dedicated to helping you achieve your wellness objectives—combining skill and expertise that spans the entire chiropractic spectrum. We will design a personalized treatment plan to address your needs, utilizing modern chiropractic equipment and technology.

Summer on Southport is an important community building event and fundraiser designed to support the SNA community. The event takes place on Southport from Byron to Waveland from 10-10 on Sat & 10-9 on Sun. By day our Children's Festival is the best in the City and offers great children's musicians and activities including an obstacle course, climbing wall, camel rides, and much more. In the afternoon and evening we have a fantastic lineup of adult bands. Volunteers are a huge part of our success, so email Julieyanez@sbcglobal.net if you can help!

