

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



a publication of the Southport Neighbors Association

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Next Meeting on Neighborhood Bars Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:30 PM Holy Trinity Church 1218 West Addison (side entrance)

In order to open a dialogue between residents and neighborhood bar owners, SNA will hold an open forum to discuss issues related to bars and other establishments serving liquor in the neighborhood at its next general meeting on April 3rd. To discuss our concerns, representatives of local bars have been invited, as well as representatives for the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Police Department, and the aldermen's offices for the 44th and 46th Wards.

Parking Revisions Anger Residents

At our last SNA meeting, city representatives presented a proposal for changes in the program designed to protect us from problems associated with night and weekend baseball at Wrigley Field. The first change, which would tighten controls on the distribution and use of guest parking permits, met with mild acceptance. The other changes, however, received sharp opposition. The city plans to eliminate the remote parking program for weekend day games, alleging that the program was not cost effective. Residents responded with accusations that the program had never been adequately supported or advertised by the city or the Cubs.

The city also proposed creating two restricted parking zones. Zone 1, adjacent to Wrigley Field would have restricted parking from 4 to 11 pm. Zone 2, from Southport west, Roscoe south, and Halsted east would have restricted parking only between 5 and 8 pm. The city advised us that it

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The Battle for Challenger Park

The East Graceland Organization (EGO) is continuing its eight year struggle for Challenger Park, three acres of City-owned land just east of Graceland Cemetery running from Irving Park to Montrose. The park's challengers, according to EGO, are Helen Shiller, alderman of the 46th Ward, and the Tribune, owner of the Chicago Cubs. Ald. Shiller claimed community support for a tree-studded parking lot at the site, basing her claim on a survey which asked residents to choose between nothing and a Tribune compromise which would create parking between Irving and Buena and leave the land from Buena to Montrose undeveloped. In a cover letter to the survey, Shiller warned that it would be "many years before money becomes available, if at all," for a park.

Joe Cain, president of EGO, cried "foul" at the recent meeting ... SNA where he sought our support. In fact, he claimed, the survey showed only 200 residents supported the Tribune proposal, while earlier 1300 residents signed a EGO petition favoring a park and opposing a parking lot under any circumstances. "The battle for Challenger Park is part of the larger war between the community and the Chicago Cubs," he declared. While the issue of Challenger Park is of greatest concern to the neighborhood east of Graceland, he pointed out that increased parking close to the ball park will encourage more fans to bypass remote parking, adding to the congestion of the whole area.

A representative of Ald. Shiller present at the meeting argued that "there simply isn't any money for a park" and that the Tribune's offer was the best option now available. But EGO is not giving in. Another spokesperson for EGO noted that "once the bulldozers roll and two acres of asphalt cover our backyards, all hope for that area ever being green again will be gone. After all, who ever heard of a parking lot being torn down to build a park?"

Southport Neighbor is published by the Southport Neighbors Association. Writers for this issue were Teresa Gallo and Tom Heaney. Editor is Tom Heaney. A.Z. Graphics contributed the printing. Material for *Southport Neighbor* can be sent to 1446 West Grace, Chicago, IL 60613.

Parking continued...

was necessary to erode neighborhood parking protections in order to aid businesses in the affected areas.

City representatives met six days later to finalize their planned revisions. They approved revisions in procedures for distributing guest passes. Despite SNA opposition they also approved the elimination of weekend remote parking program. We won a partial concession, however, on the issue of two parking zones. There will be only one zone with restricted parking from 5 to 10 pm. SNA considers this a questionable victory, because it fails to address the needs of the entire community. As in 1988, neighborhood businesses are being largely ignored. While refusing to provide vigorous enforcement of parking restrictions with ticketing and towing, the city uses the old strategy of divide and conquer. They continue to pit residents against businesses for scarce parking. They have abandoned a community planning process for a series of stop gap measures. It is time the city stopped taking a patchwork approach to protecting our community and accepted responsibility for a problem they, not the community, created.



Join Us...



Join the Southport Neighbors Association. Dues are \$5/year per person, senior citizens \$1. Complete this application and send it to 1446 West Grace, Chicago, Illinois 60613. For information call 477-3583

Name

Address

Home phone

Work phone

New Parking Permits Mailed to Residents

Southport area residents should have received new resident permit stickers by now. If you have a current City vehicle sticker and did not yet receive your parking permit by mail, contact the Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Operations, 320 North Clark Street, Room 402, Chicago, Illinois 60610, (744-4694) on weekdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. To obtain a permit, you must show the receipt which accompanied your city vehicle sticker. If you apply for the permit by mail, send a photocopy of both sides of the receipt.

Dates to Remember

Night Games	Weekend Day Games
Mon-Apr 9	Sat-Apr 7
Sat-Apr 21	Sun-Apr 8
Mon-May 7	Sun-Apr 22
Mon-May 21	Sat-May 5
Tue-May 29	Sun-May 6
Thu-Jun 7	Sat-May 26
Mon-Jun 11	Sun-May 27
Mon-Jun 25	Sat-Jun 9
Tue-Jul 10	Sun-Jun 10
Thu-Jul 12	Sat-Jun 23
Mon-Jul 16	Sun-Jun 24
...-Jul 31	Sat-Jul 14
Sat-Aug 4	Sun-Jul 15
Tue-Aug 7	Sat-Jul 21
Mon-Aug 13	Sun-Aug 5
Thu-Aug 30	Sat-Aug 18
Sun-Sep 9	Sun-Aug 19
Mon-Sep 10	Sat-Sep 1
Tue-Sep 18	Sun-Sep 2
	Sat-Sep 8
	Sat-Sep 22
	Sun-Sep 23

A.Z. Graphics

PRINTING SERVICES

3402 N. SOUTHPORT AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

TEL: (312) 975-7728

FAX: (312) 975-9108