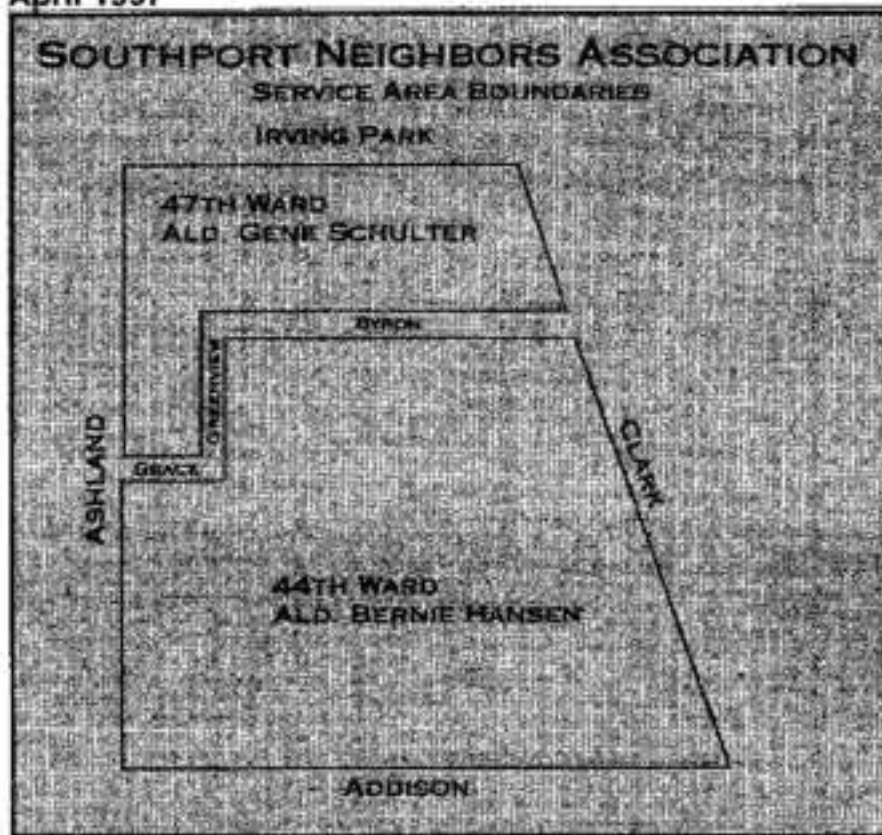


SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



April 1997

Volume 7 Number 3



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Next Meeting:

Tues., April 29, 1997
7:30 p.m.

Blaine School Auditorium

- Town Hall meeting with Alderman Schulter and Alderman Hansen
- Sidewalk Cafes
- Planning and Development

See Meeting, Page 2

Loss of NLV Library Hits Hard

The Southport Neighbors Association (SNA) and The Lake View Citizens Council (LVCC) continue to fight the closing of the North Lake View Library branch, which was closed by the Chicago Public Library board in late February, 1996.

The community has been outraged and maddened by the loss of our local library. The NLV branch on Southport just south of Grace closed in late February after the Chicago Public Library

Board of Directors decided to close our library and the Hamlin Park library, with vague plans to build a new regional library in the next few years. The result is that our community is not now, and will not be for the next several years, served by any library whatsoever.

In an unprecedented move, the boards of Hamlin Park, Roscoe Village, and the Friends of the Hamlin Park Library wrote a joint letter to the Chicago Pub-

lic Library Board of Directors giving their support to the closing of the Hamlin Park branch, and its replacement with a larger facility

See Library, Page 3

Southport Neighbors Association is your local voice. Yearly dues are only \$5 for individuals, \$8 for families, \$10 for businesses and \$2 for seniors. Membership Application on back. Join or renew today!



an affiliated branch of the Lake View Citizens' Council

Zone 383 pass covers night game parking

Despite confusing instructions on the night game passes recently mailed out by the City, Zone 383 residential zone parking stickers will allow parking during the special Chicago Cubs night game parking restrictions.

According to a March 25 letter from the City Bureau of Parking to the Police Department which outlined Night Baseball Game parking procedures, the following permits are valid during night baseball games: (1) Zone 383 residential permit parking decals; (2) one-day residential zone guest permits (all colors - purple, yellow, blue and orange); (3) the following placards: (a) LV-2 southport business guest permits, (b) 383/LV-2 Night Baseball Permits, (c) 383 Night Baseball Access; and (d) LV/LV-2 Baseball decals from last year.

Citations should *not* be issued to vehicles displaying any one of the above permits. This information has been given to the appropriate police officials.

A schedule of Cubs night games appears on page three of this newsletter

For additional information on this or any other public safety issue, please contact Al Cutler, SNA public safety chair at (312) 814-4583 during normal business hours, or by electronic mail at "AJC1540@aol.com."

April 29 Town Hall meeting at Blaine

Our neighborhood is experiencing enormous growth and change; this is both exhilarating and alarming at the same time. Sleepy Southport is now a media darling and a destination for diners and caffeine addicts. The housing mix and density is changing rapidly. Property values and rents are on the rise, which means property taxes will not be far behind.

So many new residents have moved into the community, and so many old friends have gotten involved once again as the library issue emerged, that SNA felt that it was time to get the community together and have an old-fashioned Town Hall Meeting.

The heart of our community, Blaine School, has graciously opened its doors to us. Our Town Hall meeting will be held on Tues-

day, April 29, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. in Blaine School's auditorium. Our two aldermen, Bernie Hansen and Gene Schuller, have generously agreed to give us their valuable time and will be on hand to answer questions and hear your concerns. We've also asked North Lakeview Neighbors President Dick Rush and the 19th Police District Community Relations Sergeant to join us for this important community meeting.

If you've never been inside Blaine school, you're in for a treat. It is a Victorian marvel of elaborate woodwork and iron railings. A \$2,000,000 rehab is scheduled for this summer to bring it back to its former glory.

Prior to the Town Hall meeting, SNA will address some regular business: sidewalk cafes and development issues.

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9 CONVENIENT CHICAGOLAND LOCATIONS

SNA Supports Efforts to Bring Library Back to Neighborhood

Continued from Page 1

near Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland. While proclaiming that this should have no effect on the situation regarding the NLV branch, this capitulation dealt a strong blow against attempts to secure two smaller, but improved, branch libraries in the neighborhoods served by the NLV and the Hamlin Park branches.

This letter outraged members of the LVCC library committee, which was presenting a united front to the Library board. The letter signed by two of LVCC's branch organizations undercuts (perhaps intentionally) the LVCC's power.

Relying upon this apparent division in community opinion, the Chicago Public Library Board unanimously approved the permanent closing of the NLV library branch at its March meeting. The Board also endorsed Library Commissioner Mary Dempsey's actions to date. The Board is looking for a permanent location near the intersection of Lincoln-Ashland-Belmont, and Commissioner Dempsey is having private "reach-out" meetings with South Lakeview, West Lakeview, Hamlin Park and Roscoe Village. West Lakeview and South Lakeview have been publically neutral and support the LVCC's initiatives.

South Lakeview President David DiCorpo, hav-

ing been asked by Alderman Terry Gabinski to come up with a site proposal for the new library, graciously invited LVCC Library Chair Teresa Gallo, SNA Acting President Kent Bartram, and Hamlin Park Acting President Rose Laskowski to address his group in a public forum. The consensus of the group was to support two branch libraries: one near the Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland area, and one near the old NLV branch's location. Commissioner Dempsey rejected this suggestion as inconsistent with the Board desires. Concurrent attempts to secure a temporary library in our community have not been seriously pursued by the Library Board.

Given this dire set of circumstances, it is the position of the Southport Neighbors Association to continue to support the LVCC's initiatives. SNA continues to seek a return of the NLV branch to its former location or immediately nearby, to serve our community. SNA will continue to support efforts designed to achieve this goal, and we will continue to encourage our elected officials to work towards a return of the NLV branch.

Any late developments in this matter will be discussed at the April 29, 1997 Spring Meeting.



JOE GUARRACI
Agent



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1997 Cubs Home Night Game Schedule

The Chicago Cubs will be playing home night games on the following dates in 1997. All night games begin at 7:05 p.m., and special parking restrictions are in effect.

Thu April 24	Mon July 14
Mon April 28	Thu July 31
Tue May 13	Sun August 3
Sat May 17	Tue August 5
Tue May 20	Mon August 25
Thu May 29	Tue August 26
Mon May 2	Tue September 2
Tue June 10	Mon September 15
Thu June 26	Tue September 16

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New Construction in Area Continues Unabated

By Gary Bonikowski, Planning & Development Committee Chair

The demolition of wood frame houses and their replacement by larger buildings appears not to have been slowed down by the passage of overlay zoning. Four new projects are under way, while four more are in the preliminary design stage. The eight projects would result in the demolition of thirteen frame buildings.

Two projects are now under construction, at 3842 N. Lakewood and 3827 N. Wayne. According to Alderman Hansen's office, each will be three stories high, with two units per building. Because these projects met all current zoning requirements, SNA was not consulted and did not have an opportunity for review or comment.

A three and one-half story, three unit building has been announced for 1421 W. Byron. A single family house will be replaced by what the advertisement calls "three massive homes." The broker has said that the project will meet all zoning requirements. As a result, SNA was again not consulted and had no op-

portunity for review or comment.

Two new eight-flats will be built at 3918-3924 N. Southport. Although this project also meets all zoning requirements, Ald. Schuller graciously sent us the drawings as a courtesy. The project should be a positive addition to the neighborhood. The Southport façade recalls the appearance of traditional Chicago apartment buildings with open porches and liberal use of limestone and face brick. One troubling aspect is a total lack of green space in the back yard, which is becoming all too common in new projects.

The remaining four projects have not been publicly announced. Two have promise of being compatible additions to the neighborhood, while the other two are in danger of continuing the pattern of overdevelopment.

The Planning & Development Committee of the Southport Neighbors Association will be reviewing the overlay regulations to see if any changes are desirable and feasible.

Sidewalk Cafes, Loading Zone, Zoning Change Requested

Southport Neighbors has received applications for three new sidewalk cafes: Mamacita's, 3755 N. Southport, 20 seats with enclosure next to curb; Tango Sur, 3763 N. Southport, 16 seats with enclosure next to building; and Ginger's Ale House, 3801 N. Ashland, adjacent to curb on Grace. Additionally, the Raw Bar, 3720 N. Clark, has

requested a loading zone for valet parking. The owner of the building at 3939 N. Ashland has requested a zoning change from B2-2 to B4-2 to allow an auto parts store. The Planning & Development committee will report on these issues at the 4/29 meeting. At that time, applicants will have the chance to present and answer community questions.

Southport Business Association to Work More Closely with Neighborhoods

The board of the Southport Business Association recently approved a modification of the organization's structure to allow it to better work with the communities in which it operates.

Specifically, there are now committees to help guide new business development, monitor sidewalk cafes, help beautify the public areas and work with the various community groups in the area (including the SNA). The goal is to help encourage a healthy business environment that will not detract from the surrounding community's quality of life.

General meetings will be held the second Thursday of July, October, January and April at Sheil Park. The next meeting is July 10 at 9:30 a.m. Area residents are welcome to attend. The business owners have also committed to become more involved in community organizations such as SNA.

Pre-School Screening for Blaine

By Eileen M. Day

Blaine School, your neighborhood school, is offering screening for September pre-school placements now. Interested parents should contact Ms. Day at (773) 534-5760 for complete program details.

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----- (cut here) -----

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*all memberships expire on one year anniversary date

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Development |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |

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