

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

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Community Meeting March 19, 7:30 p.m.

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on Monday, March 19th at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is scheduled to end by 8:30 p.m.

The meeting will open with the distribution of "Quality of Life Survey 2001", a short survey designed to help SNA learn what is important to our neighbors. A short explanation of the survey will be given, and attendees may take a few minutes to complete and submit it. Following this, we will announce plans for a spring social event that will feature a children's concert.

Mike Quigley will give an update of recent activities and cost saving measures in the County. This will be followed by a discussion of metered parking on Southport Avenue. A vote will be held to consider metering an additional block of Southport.

There will be a brief report from a recently held CAPS meeting, where concerns were raised about recent crimes committed in our neighborhood. The meeting will end with a zoning update and a report about a new development being proposed for Clark Street.

Agenda:	Quality of Life Survey	7:30—7:35
	Children's Concert	7:35—7:45
	Update from Mike Quigley	7:45—7:55
	Metered Parking Proposal	7:55—8:05
	CAPS Report: Neighborhood Crime	8:05—8:15
	Development Update	8:15—8:20

Mark Your Calendars For a Fun Filled Family Event! Saturday, May 5th at the Mercury Theater

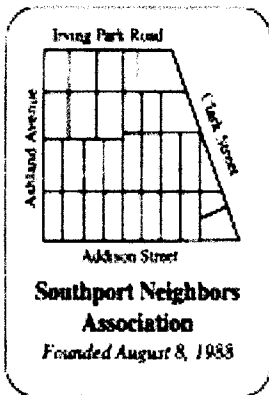
Come Join Southport Neighbors at the Southport Family Social, Featuring a Children's Concert with Susan Salidor



SNA is excited to announce a fun-filled get-together for children and their families. Bring your kids, get to know your neighbors and enjoy the entertainment. Join us Saturday, May 5 for the Southport Family Social at the Mercury Theater.

The concert is geared toward children, ages 2 through 8. We're delighted that Susan Salidor, an accomplished folk singer, will be joining us. Susan is a Chicago based singer and songwriter of music for children and their families. She was recently awarded the 1999 Parent's Choice Gold Award for her recording "Color Me Singing". (To find out more about Susan and her music, check out her website at www.susansalidor.com.) Susan will be selling her CD's at the concert and has been kind enough to donate a portion of the proceeds to SNA and its causes. In addition to the concert, SNA plans to arrange additional entertainment for the kids.

And speaking of kids, this event will benefit all kids in our area! Ticket proceeds and donations accepted the day of the event will go toward the completion of Juniper Park. Recently, the park, located at Greenview & Waveland, received a facelift courtesy of state funds, and assistance from the Chicago Park District as well as your own neighbors. (cont. on pg. 2)



In this issue:

Meeting Notice	1
Southport Social	1
CAPS Update	2
SNA Survey: Mission	2
Zoning/Development Update	3
Opportunity to Serve	3
Restaurant Review	4
Volunteers Needed	4
Get Connected: SNA Website	4
SNA Membership Form	4

? Questions about Southport Neighbors Association?

E-mail us at snachicago@aol.com

or phone
President Jacki Gelb Davidoff
at 773-327-6118

Southport Family Social (cont. from pg. 1)

With your support, funds from the Southport Family Social will enable us to landscape the park. In addition, donations will be accepted for the Lakeview Pantry. The Lakeview Pantry serves over 1000 people in our area per month, including children. According to 1990 census information, 10% of the pantry's service area is below poverty level.

SNA is also reaching out to local businesses to make this event a success! We are asking for business donations to help offset expenses, resulting in more proceeds for Juniper Park and Lakeview Pantry. SNA is accepting both monetary and item donations, in return for an acknowledgement in our event program. *If you are interested in sponsorship, please contact Juli Zaklan at 248-7994, to find out what you may be able to contribute.* SNA offers a sincere "Thank you" to Michael Cullen for once again providing us the use of the Mercury Theater.

So mark your calendars for May 5th! Bring in spring with a song and a smile! Ticket cost will be kept to a minimum, and children under 2 will be admitted free. Attend our community meeting on March 19 for more information. And keep your eyes open when frequenting businesses on Southport, where you will find more information soon.



Be On the Lookout for Crime—and Call 911

The 19th District CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13th at the Lake Shore Baptist Church, 4100 N. Greenview, at 7:00 p.m.

The main topic of the evening was the increase in the occurrence of thefts from inside automobiles in the area (cell phones, radios, gym bags, etc.) and the outbreak of fires in the alleys and parking areas. The officers think that homeless people may be the perpetrators of a lot of the fires and they are trying to track the break-ins to see if they are gang related. They do know that the same ring of people are involved in the thefts all over the area.

The CAPS members could not stress enough the importance of everyone living in the community reporting anything they see that could help stop some of the criminal activity. They said to call 911 if you see suspicious people just hanging out, either in the alleys or on the streets. Be sure to mention if this is the area where a lot of activity has been occurring, so that they will be sure to pass it along to the proper patrol officers. The more we identify what these people look like, the easier it will be for police to find potential criminals.

Also, there have been complaints recently about prostitution in the vicinity of Irving Park and Greenview. El Gato Negro Bar has been investigated in the past for prostitution. If you see prostitutes in the area, please report it to 911 right away and tell the police that we do not want this activity in our area. That is the only way to get this problem addressed by the police.

The CAPS officers said that you would be surprised at how many things go on that we see, but do not realize. So keep your eyes open, make an effort to call 911, and give them a description of that person hanging out, or the activity going on. For example, if you see a strange box sitting in the alley that someone has dropped off for another person to pick up, call 911. That box could contain drugs or guns. The more calls we make, the better. "Don't try to take care of a situation yourself", the officers repeated, "CALL 911!"

The CAPS officers also have available free numbers to hang on the back of your garage to display your street number, so that it makes it easier for emergency vehicles to find your house.

The next area CAPS meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at Lakeshore Baptist Church. The meetings are held monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month. It's a great way to get to know your beat officers and learn about what's going on in your neighborhood. Everyone is welcome.

Share Your Vision...

...2001 Quality-of-Life Survey Seeks Your Input

Southport Neighbors Association needs your input. Periodically, we conduct surveys to determine what is important to the neighbors we serve. What do you want to see happen here? Now's your chance to express your views. This short survey will only take a few moments to complete. When you're done you can return it in one of our easy and convenient ways. The survey form, also available at Hit The Road, Mail Boxes Etc., Merry Go Round, Café Avanti and www.southportneighbors.com, can be returned to any of the stores or neighbors listed on the form. Or you can fax it to 773-244-0240 or 773-784-0850. Or you can e-mail your answers to snachicago@aol.com. Take your pick, but please take the time to answer the survey by April 1st and help shape your neighborhood's future.

Additional surveys will also be available at the March 19th meeting.



Neighborhood Zoning Update

In our January newsletter, we described the proposed amendment to the Chicago Municipal Code regarding maximum building heights for new construction in business and commercial areas proposed by Alderman Gene Schulter (47th Ward), among others. Under the originally proposed ordinance, the maximum height limitation for those business and commercial properties lying within Southport Neighbors Association's jurisdiction both B4-2 and C1-2 properties would be 45 feet, subject to the ability of the Zoning Administrator to authorize exceptions of up to an additional 10%, or an additional 4-1/2 feet, effectively providing for a total permitted height of 49-1/2 feet. The originally proposed ordinance also gave the Zoning Board of Appeals the ability to authorize variations for new buildings where the height of the new building or addition "was required to be architecturally compatible with the height of adjacent buildings," without any height limitation whatsoever. Since both the Zoning Administrator and Zoning Board of Appeals generally give considerable weight to the wishes of the alderman of the affected property, these exceptions in effect grant the alderman the right to authorize these exceptions in most cases.

After public hearings and subcommittee meetings, a revised ordinance will be reported to the Zoning Committee of the Chicago City Council during the week of February 26. The revised ordinance maintains the basic maximum height of 45 feet for properties located in B4-2 areas. However, the revised ordinance provides that developments which include ground floor retail space having a minimum ceiling height of 14 feet may build up to a maximum height of 47 feet for properties having a width of 25 feet or less, and 50 feet for properties having a width of more than 25 feet. The revised ordinance specifies that the 47 feet and 50 feet maximum heights are not available for all-residential new-construction, i.e., properties in B4-2 areas where the developer is requesting a special use permitting ground floor residential use. However, the revised ordinance also requires that ground floor retail must contain not less than 800 square feet or 25% of the lot area, whichever is greater. The rules for B4-2 properties would apply to both sides of Southport Avenue, the west side of Clark Street and the south side of Irving Park Road.

For areas zoned C1-2 (i.e., most of the east side of Ashland Avenue), the revised ordinance provides maximum heights of 47 feet for properties having a width of 25 feet or less, and 50 feet for properties having a width of more than 25 feet. The revised ordinance retains the ability of the Zoning Administrator to authorize exceptions of up to an additional 10%, but has deleted the ability of the Zoning Board of Appeals to authorize variations for "architectural compatibility." However, in place of the "architectural compatibility" exception, the revised ordinance grants to the Zoning Board of Appeals the right to authorize variances of up to 15% (i.e., up to an additional 6.75 feet to 7.5 feet, depending on the project).

Finally, Southport Neighbors Association has been approached by a developer seeking our support for a nine-unit, all-residential project to replace the surface parking lot located at 3818 North Clark. We are currently waiting to receive a site plan and drawings to review. As further developments occur, we will keep you informed.

Opportunity To Serve In Your Neighborhood

Southport Neighbors Association has a couple of openings on our neighborhood board and we invite you to join us! If you'd like to get involved in the stewardship of your neighborhood, work together, think through issues like development, how to build a sense of community, neighborhood aesthetics, etc., then contact SNA President Jacki Davidoff at 773-327-6118. Meetings are held the third Monday evening of every other month on at neighbors' homes. I look forward to hearing from you.



Restaurant Review

New Saigon

Some time ago I gave up on Chinese food because I discovered Thai food. Then I moved up to Vietnamese food. Argyle Street is so close and there are so many choices that it can be overwhelming but fortunately friends introduced us to a great place called New Saigon (on the northwest corner of Argyle and Broadway).

We had a variety of food, all of which was excellent. We started out with appetizers of spring rolls filled with shrimp and bamboo shoot pancakes fried to a golden glow. The shrimp soup with lemongrass was piping hot and a medium size order was more than enough for four hungry folks.

Our entrees consisted of chicken with pea pods, beef with greens and cat fish in a clay pot. The beef and chicken dishes are fairly common in most oriental restaurants but the freshness and flavor at New Saigon made them seem unique. The cat fish in a clay pot is typically served in Vietnamese restaurants but at New Saigon the flavors blend to make the fish buttery sweet and truly delectable. I recommend it even for non-fish eaters.

The ambiance at New Saigon is essentially non-existent, but if you just want good food and friendly service by the owner himself, give New Saigon a try.

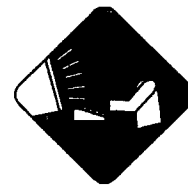
Volunteers Needed: Would You Like to Help?

SNA is currently looking for people to help with newsletter distribution. With nicer weather on the way, it's a great excuse to get out and enjoy a stroll through the neighborhood! Duties would include picking up newsletters at Mail Boxes Etc., 3540 N. Southport, folding them, and taking them to several businesses in the neighborhood. Newsletters are distributed bimonthly.

While our membership form (below) is always a great way to notify us of your interest in helping in various activities, we wanted to specifically call attention to this current need for volunteers.

In addition, as spring approaches, we will be needing folks to assist with landscaping at our new and improved Juniper Park. If you have a green thumb, or just enjoy the great outdoors, let us know!

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering in either of these capacities. See our contact information on the front page of this newsletter, in the bottom left corner.



Get Connected... ...Southportneighbors.com Is a Great Source for Neighborhood News

After many months, the new Southport Neighbors Association website is up and running. Go to <http://www.southportneighbors.com> for interesting news items, contact information, concern reporting, meeting schedules, past newsletters, neighborhood history and interesting links.

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Please accept my application for membership in the Southport Neighbors Association:

Individual (\$5) Family (\$8) Business (\$10) Senior (\$2)

To ensure I don't miss an issue of the Southport Neighbor, please mail it! Enclosed is an additional \$3 to cover postage.

Please accept my additional contribution of \$_____ to support the work of the Southport Neighbors Association.

I have also enclosed additional dues of \$4 per person to join the Lake View Citizens' Council.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____ Send check payable to: Southport Neighbors Association
3540 N. Southport Avenue, PMB 1000
Chicago, IL 60657-1475

Name: _____ Business: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

I'd like to volunteer with Southport Neighbors in the following area(s):

Beautification Education Membership Newsletter Production Property Tax Reform
 Business Liaison Fundraising Newsletter Distribution Planning & Development Safety
 Social