

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR



A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

September, 2001

Volume 11, Number 12



DATE CHANGE!

Community Meeting

Monday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.
(‘CAPS’ Meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on Monday, September 24 at the Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is scheduled to end by 9:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY COME AT 7:00 p.m. TO ATTEND A ‘CAPS’ MEETING WITH OUR AREA POLICE.**

Agenda To Include Board Elections, TRAC Report, State Senate Update

Our community meeting will open with an update on the Cubs expansions issues (for additional information on this topic, see article below. A neighbor will then be discussing a serious prostitution problem, and presenting an action plan (for more information, see article, page 3.)

State Senator Lisa Madigan will present a review of the recent legislative session in Springfield. This will be followed by a short presentation from Barb Head, president of the Tax Reform Action Coalition, who will provide an update of TRAC's progress with elected officials and other grassroots organizations, and membership recruitment. She will provide a plan for this autumn's mobilization efforts that will coincide with the receipt of our revolting tax bills!

In addition, SNA board elections will be held (see article on page 3) and a report on the recently held Garden Walk will be given.

Agenda:	Cubs Expansion Update	7:30—7:45
(times are approximate)	Crime Concerns: Greenvew/Irving Park	7:45—8:00
	State Senator Lisa Madigan	8:00—8:15
	TRAC Report	8:15—8:25
	Board Election	8:25—8:35
	Garden Walk Report	8:35—8:40

In this issue:

Meeting Notice	1
Cubs Blue Ribbon Committee	1
Summary of July Meeting	2
Nick's Barbershop	2
Prostitution Problem	3
SNA Board Elections	3
Restaurant Review	4
Sidewalk Sales	4
Membership Form	4

? Questions about Southport Neighbors Association?

E-mail us at snachicago@aol.com
or phone
President Jacki Gelb Davidoff
at 773-327-8118

“Blue Ribbon Committee” Formed to Study Cubs’ Expansion

Neighbors of Wrigley Field will have a vehicle to provide their input on issues dealing with the Cubs’ proposed expansion. On August 21, the first meeting of the Cubs Blue Ribbon Committee was held at the Stadium Club in Wrigley Field. The meeting was attended by Aldermen Hansen, Schiller and Schuller, representatives of all surrounding neighborhood organizations, the City and the Cubs. SNA will be represented at all meetings over the next few months, and will be seeking your input. Please attend the September 24 meeting for more information about getting involved, or email us at snachicago@aol.com to ask to be placed on our distribution list.



Notes From Our July Community Meeting

In our July Southport Neighbors Community Meeting at the Mercury Theater, three major pieces of neighborhood business were addressed: 1) permit parking; 2) Cubs expansion plans; 3) development and zoning — specifically, educating neighbors on how to assess new development and compliance with permits/zoning regulations.

On the first issue, SNA brought forward the results from our recent survey in which many residents reported dissatisfaction with the current permit parking system and/or lack of enforcement. After much discussion in which President Jacki Davidoff offered the possibility of repealing permit parking, residents expressed the view that they liked the system in place, but were extremely dissatisfied with the lack of enforcement. Some neighbors spoke about 10 -20 cars in their alleys during Cubs games (particularly those close to the ball park) and others about lack of police action on calls to 3-1-1. Consensus was to be more vocal with the police and the Alderman about the system being "broken". It was agreed that both parties need to hear from us about how enforcement must be stepped up. One way to do this is to attend the CAPS meetings (Community Policing) which are now held directly before SNA community meetings at the Mercury Theater, 7-7:30 pm. Another way to vocalize your feelings is to contact Alderman Hansen. The phone number for his office is 549-4000.

A discussion of the Cubs expansion issue followed, and concerns were aired about proposed additional night games. A small group of neighbors agreed to convene at a later date to create a proposal for the Cubs on how to be a better neighbor. This did occur, and the proposal was presented at a LVCC/Cubs meeting later in July. *The Cubs planning is far from complete—if you are interested in continuing to provide input, please attend the September meeting, or at the very least, contact SNA about being placed on our email list!*

Finally, Amy Berka and Peter Manis, Planning & Development committee members, discussed how everyone can be a watchdog for new building zoning violations. They distributed the current zoning allowances, and suggested a call to 311 for any violations seen occurring.

People in the News—

Nick's Barber & Beauty Shop:

52 Years Old!



Barber Nick Pollman trims Wisteria owner Jeffrey Koontz's hair. Serving the community since 1949, Nick's is the oldest business on Southport run by its original owner. Together representing 59 combined years on Southport, Nick was instrumental in the success of the old Southport Businessmen's Association, while Jeffrey served 2 terms as President of the SBA when it was reorganized in the 90's.

A Call for Action:

Let's Put an End to Prostitution in our Neighborhood!

Are you aware that prostitution is a major problem in the Southport neighborhood? Do you know that prostitutes hang out by Lakeview High School where many of our children attend?

Prostitution in Lakeview affects all of us. It attracts a seedy, criminal element to our neighborhood. Prostitution affects the safety of our families. Prostitution negatively impacts our property values. "Customers" drive in from other neighborhoods and circle our blocks looking for prostitutes. Vandalism of cars and property around the taverns that cater to these miscreants is a common problem. The alleys next to our houses play host to illegal activity.

We need your support to put an end to this problem. At our upcoming community meeting on Monday, September 24, we will have a petition you can sign to let our local politicians and police force know that this is an issue of great concern to many. Additional actions will be discussed at the meeting to put an end to this growing problem.

SNA Board Elections

At our upcoming September meeting, the SNA Board of Directors for 2001—2002 will be elected. Following is the 2001-2002 slate.

Kent Bartram, 12-year resident of Grace St. in 2 houses, 40, business owner, SNA board member for 7 years, former Recycling chair, Newsletter editor, Secretary, Treasurer, VP and acting President. Currently serving as SNA's webmaster. Headed up the select committee for the first overlay district in 1994. Was threatened by Mary Dempsey repeatedly during Library debacle. ☹

Amy Berka, resident for 3 1/2 years. This will be her second term on the Board. Was involved with Juniper Playlot construction. Interested in and involved with Planning and Development.

Nan Bolker, resident for 8 years, board member for 1 year. Recently worked on SNA Children's Concert. Currently a full time mom, previously worked in a high school and served as board member of a nursery school.

Ann Collins-Dole, resident for 20 years, founding member of SNA, past President of SNA, past board member of LVCC, past member of Executive Committee, LVCC, attorney.

Alice Cooperman, resident for 26 years, employed with Illinois Department of Human Services. Has 4 cats and feeds the strays!

David Crosby, resident for 2 1/2 years. This will be David's first term on the board, and he will be involved with Planning and Development. Interests include photography and architecture.

Jacki Davidoff, outgoing SNA President for past three years, five years on board, has lived on Greenview for last 8 years. Especially interested in preserving green space and working with Aldermen Hansen and Shulter around policies to limit over-development.

Colleen Gibbs, married to Mark, have a 1 1/2 year old daughter and 2 month old son, have lived in Lakeview for 7 years, have served on the board for one year. Interested in making and keeping our neighborhood a safe, friendly and thriving community.

Connie Jurczyk, resident of Southport neighborhood for 14 years, board member for 6 years. Initially involved in Planning & Development, and have served as newsletter editor and Treasurer for the past 2 years. Worked on a team to get the most recent zoning overlay enacted, and also worked on the recent SNA Children's Concert. Currently a full time mom with 2 children.



Restaurant Review

Bistro Marbuzet

7600 W. Madison, Forest Park

Far away and probably not for the kids, but quite suitable for a romantic evening, I highly recommend Bistro Marbuzet in Forest Park. If you ever went to *Daniel J's*, once on Ashland near Grace, or more recently to *Jack's* or *Atlantique*, and enjoyed your meal there, you will certainly like this new incarnation. It reminds us a lot of *Daniel J's*, with a very similar, upscale, eclectic menu. And, one of the best things about the Bistro is the size: a large, spacious room with a great "art-deco" decor. We never felt crowded or rushed even though every table was taken.

The menu varies from week to week. When we were there I ordered the grilled ahi tuna with wasabi mashed potatoes. The tuna was outstanding, done very rare (at my request). I love wasabi, but I think there was a little too much in the potatoes, though I did succeed in eating them all. I started my meal with the grilled pear, Belgian endive and blue cheese salad. It was excellent. I ended my meal with gelato, which comes in several flavors and was a good finish to my meal: sweet, but not toooo.

My friends had beef and pork, proclaiming them to be excellent. The pork was served with dried fruit compote and was very flavorful. Also on the menu are pasta, chicken and another fish (depending on the market).

I say it's worth the trip to. Phone for reservations (708-368-9090) as it seems to have filled a niche in the western suburbs.



Big Lill's

1507 W. Balmoral, Chicago

Closer to home and far more casual, is Big Lill's, 1507 W. Balmoral (between Clark and Ashland). In fact, Big Lill's is mostly carry out, except in summer when you can sit outdoors and enjoy the passing crowd (if you sit near Clark St.). It's sorta upscale food in a plastic basket. There is a wide variety of sandwiches and salads, all made as you hang around the cash register, but that means everything is fresh and doesn't get cold while your waiter takes care of someone else. If you're a vegetarian, Boca burgers are available and kettle chips are served with all sandwiches. No need to make a reservation or find a sitter for the kids. Pick it up or bring the kids and sit outside; they can't wreck anything!

GO SIDEWALK SHOPPING!



SEPTEMBER 21—23 ON SOUTHPORT AVENUE

Southport Sidewalk Showcase is scheduled for Sept 21-23. Stores will be placing merchandise on the sidewalks Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It's a chance to experience your street's flavor without having to step inside (although if it's raining, please do step inside as the show will go on!). Special street-wide events will happen all day Saturday from strolling minstrels to painting faces, from trunk shows to bamboo readers, from guitar sing-alongs to Irish dancers. It's a neighborhood event you don't want to miss. See the blue posters in stores on Southport for complete schedules.

cut here
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