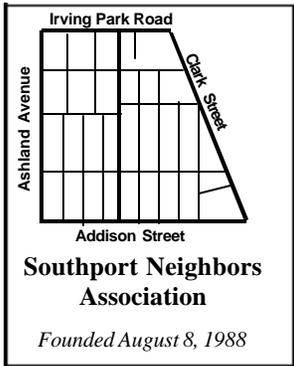


SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR

A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

July, 2002

Volume 12, Number 4



Community Meeting

July 15th, 7:30 PM

(CAPS Meeting at 7:00pm)

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on July 15th 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. (Arrive at 7:00 to participate in the local CAPS meeting.)

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"Sparrow" To Entertain at July Community Meeting

We are thrilled to have Sparrow of Sparrow Sound Design opening our July community meeting. During his music career he has written songs about our neighborhood, and he will be sharing one or two of those songs with us at our meeting. Don't miss it! The performance will be followed by the informational part of our meeting, with updates on Chicago's new zoning code, our upcoming Garden Walk, and more.

Agenda:	Performance by Sparrow	7:30—7:45
(times are approximate)	Introduction to Chicago's New Zoning Code	7:45—8:00
	SNA's Garden Walk	8:00—8:10
	News Flashes	8:10—8:20
	Neighborhood Forum	8:20—9:00

? Questions about Southport Neighbors Association?
E-mail us at snachicago@aol.com

The SNA Garden Walk and Historical Walking Tour Have Been Scheduled!
< see page 4 >

Live Entertainment Scheduled for July Meeting...

Sparrow to Perform Locally Inspired Music



Did you know that the building at 3501 N. Southport houses a music design and production studio? It is owned and operated by a nationally renowned musician who has been in the business for nearly 25 years. Sparrow has 2 record labels, Southport Records and Northport Records, and has written songs inspired by and about our great neighborhood. He has graciously offered to entertain us at our July community meeting by playing one or two of his songs that are particularly meaningful to area residents. See you there!





Gardening and History Lessons Enjoyed by Neighbors

SNA's May meeting was informative and very well received. Phil Cleland, landscape architect, opened the meeting with a presentation on what we should be doing in our gardens in May. He offered advice on pruning, planting, creating containers, and more. Neighbors were allowed to ask questions, and found the presentation to be very useful.

Next on the agenda was a neighborhood history lesson given by SNA board member Kent Bartram. He took us on a tour of the Southport Neighborhood as it existed in 1880, 1920 and 1990. Armed with pictures and maps, Kent transported us through 3 building booms in this community, from the days of open farmland and large parks to the days of condos. Long time residents added entertaining stories of the past, and everyone seemed to have a great time.

SNA board member Amy Berka then introduced our newest addition to the neighborhood—an information kiosk to be installed on Waveland Avenue, just west of Southport. The kiosk is scheduled to be installed in July.

The Southport Children's Fest was announced. It was held on June 8 and was a huge success.

During our neighborhood forum, most conversation centered on the progress (or lack thereof!) on the Cubs expansion front. Connie Jurczyk briefed neighbors on the official "proposal" received from the Cubs, and the response sent back from SNA with specific comments and requirements. Andy MacPhail, President of the Cubs, acknowledged SNA's input via a letter, and we are still waiting to see if our requirements will be addressed in the next round of proposals. Also discussed during the neighborhood forum were the dimensions of sidewalk cafes, how to handle difficulties with mail deliverers, and issues surrounding Cubs "parking lots" that spring up in a variety of locations.

The meeting was adjourned at around 9pm.



Southport Children's Festival: "Fun in the Sun" for Neighborhood Families

Families! Sunshine! Singing! Dancing! Games! The Southport Children's Festival was a grand success! Held on June 8th at the Blaine School parking lot on Southport, over 1,000 people attended the event which featured three stage acts. Award-winning children's folk singer, Susan Salidor, had everyone singing along. The world-champion Trinity Irish Dancers were a great crowd pleaser for old and young alike. And Steve the Magician captivated the children with his surprises and fun. A balloon artist named Mary Macaroni drew long lines for her creations. Carnival games, a Moonwalk/Jumping Jack, face painting, arts and crafts, and a police dog demonstration also entertained the children.

Because of the great success of this event, SNA was able to donate \$875 of the proceeds from this event to the Blaine School Library and Media Center, a wonderful place to take your children. Did you know that neighborhood families may visit the library even if they do not have students at Blaine? Books may even be borrowed to take home. We wish to thank Ms. Gladys Vaccarraza, Blaine's principal, for her support and guidance in planning this event. Thank you also to Mr. Sal Walsh, Blaine's engineer, for being available to assist with technical aspects of the event.

Many people won fabulous raffle prizes donated by our many business sponsors. D'Agostino's, Hi Ricky and Sweetie's served up delicious food for the crowd. Cullen's graciously donated the use of the parking lot that they lease for valet service.

This was the first year that Southport Neighbor's Association has attempted to bring an outdoor festival to the neighborhood. We'd like to thank those who have given suggestions on how to make next year's festival even bigger and better. We are already starting to plan the 2nd annual, and we welcome any suggestions or offers to help with next year's festival.

A very big thank you to all of our wonderful neighbor volunteers. The event committee worked countless hours to make the festival happen. And, we could not have had the event if not for our volunteers working the day of the festival. See you next year!!!



Planning and Development Update: Highlights of City's New Zoning Ordinance

The City of Chicago is in the process of rewriting Chicago's Zoning Ordinance. The Mayor has created a zoning reform commission that has produced an interim report of recommendations. This report is being presented through a series of public citywide meetings. Following are a few of the recommendations the commission is suggesting:

- Replace the bulk control formulas (FAR) used in some residential districts with building height, setback and coverage limits.
- Eliminate front yard interruptions- such as driveways, blank walls and patio pits-while ensuring that residential buildings have consistent setbacks in both front and rear yards.
- Create two new residential zoning districts, R3 ½ and R4 ½, to fill the gap between current R3, R4 and R5 districts, thus protecting neighborhood character while providing options for property owners.
- Create a new commercial zoning district that allows a mix of residential and retail uses in order to activate underutilized streets.
- Create criteria for "transitional" commercial streets, which provide for a mix of both pedestrian and auto-oriented uses.
- Increase the current 1:1 parking requirements for new single-family, townhouses, and 3+ bedroom apartments and condominium units.
- Maintain the current parking exemption for small business uses (less than 4,000 square feet), but require on-site parking for larger uses.
- Reduce parking requirements for affordable housing and developments near transit nodes.
- Institute new standards for bicycle parking.

The Commission has tentatively set early 2003 as a time to meet with community leaders and organizations to firm up each neighborhood's rezoning. Southport Neighbors will continue to monitor and make suggestions to the commission, as this will be an important framework to help ensure positive future growth of our city.

If you would like a copy of the progress report please contact:

The Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1004
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-2050
www.cityofchicago.org/mayor/zoning



SNA Planning & Development's *Did you know?*

Have you noticed that there is a lot of construction, both new and rehab, happening in our neighborhood without posted building permits? Did you know that it is *unlawful* to do construction work without a permit, or work that is contrary to plans approved by the Department of Buildings? Did you know that it is *unlawful* to violate, remove or destroy a posted stop work notice? Offenders are subject to a fine that could amount to \$500 per day, when caught. Those who choose to perform work without obtaining a permit not only put themselves and future occupants at risk, but they also endanger you, your family, your neighbors, your friends.

Building permits ensure that a proposed project adheres to the Chicago Building Code, whose principal concern is life safety; and adheres to the Chicago Zoning Ordinance, which enforces our special overlay district requirements.

Do our neighborhood a favor and report illegal rehabs, new construction or demolition. Take a few minutes and please call 311. The City only needs your information, not your name, so your call may remain anonymous.

An update of our last segment:

On May 31st, Building Commissioner John A. Roberson announced that the implementation of the Chicago Energy Conservation Code would be postponed until September 3, 2002. The new Code was to have taken effect June 3rd. "The tightening of the city's budget and subsequent hiring freeze has limited the resources available to effectively implement and enforce the new requirements of this code," said Commissioner Roberson. "This additional time is an also opportunity for the Building Department to train even more architects and engineers on the Energy Code, ensuring that design professionals will be familiar with specific aspects of the code and can prepare drawings using energy efficiency standards."



A Beautiful New Look for Juniper Park!

Have you visited Juniper Playlot recently? If not, come see the beautiful additions to our neighborhood! Summer crabapple trees, lilacs, hydrangeas and daylilies sit amongst winter evergreen yews and holly bushes, all creating a soothing border around our beloved, well-used children's park. A devoted neighborhood committee spear-headed the fundraising for the project. They hosted a cocktail party at Alhambra Garden, Home and Patio on a beautiful May evening. Local restaurants and merchants were very supportive and the neighbors had a great time! (Especially Josh and Chase Ferrer, who were the lucky raffle prize winners!) The City matched our fundraising efforts dollar for dollar, and the park district's new horticulture department sunk their shovels into one of their first projects. Periwinkle, Inc. created the child-friendly but aesthetically pleasing design.

Thanks go out to everyone who supported this project. Special thanks to John Fritchey, Bernie Hansen, Tom Bracy from the Chicago Park District, Joe Carlucci, and Sean and Katie from Alhambra Garden, Home and Patio.

FOR ALL YOU DOG OWNERS, DON'T FORGET: WE LOVE DOGS, BUT NOT AT THE PLAYGROUND!!



SNA Announces Garden Walk / Historical Walking Tour



Make sure you mark your calendars and palm pilots for the Second Annual Southport Garden Walk which will take place on Sunday, August 11th from Noon to 4pm. The Garden Walk is a perfect way to explore and enjoy some of the area's most unique outdoor settings. Everyone is welcome—for more information on attending or participating, call Alhambra Garden Home and Patio at 773-435-0202.

Besides your chance to discover some of the area's finest gardens, this year's walk will also be the perfect time to brush up on your neighborhood history. We are very excited to have local historian Kent Bartram offering fun and informative architectural tours of the Southport neighborhood. The one-hour tours will point out the history of some of the more interesting homes and businesses in the area and will show how the community developed. The various architectural styles will be highlighted along with how the homes have evolved and been altered over the last 100 year history of this community.

Kent's local history presentations are quickly becoming the most entertaining and informative of their kind, so don't miss this opportunity to join Kent and other neighborhood experts in his first walking tour. Kent's tours will be offered at 1pm and 3pm leaving from Alhambra Garden Home and Patio located at 3753 N. Southport.

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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