

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR

A Publication of The Southport Neighbors Association

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Community Meeting September 16th, 7:30 PM (CAPS Meeting at 7:00pm)

The next bimonthly community meeting will be held on September 16th 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.)

Vote to be Taken on Neighborhood Development Project

Our September meeting will kick off with a presentation by a developer planning the construction of new townhomes in the neighborhood. He is requesting a variance from the zoning restrictions in place, and a vote will be taken on whether or not to approve these variances. ... In addition, SNA board elections will be discussed, along with a change in how SNA hopes to communicate important information in the future (see article p. 3) ... We'll hear an update on neighborhood happenings ... And of course, we will be having our traditional Neighborhood Forum, where you may bring up issues that concern you. We hope to see you there!

Agenda:

(times are approximate)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Welcome | 7:30—7:35 |
| Presentation by Developer and Vote | 7:35—8:00 |
| Information on SNA Board Elections | 8:00—8:10 |
| Neighborhood Update | 8:10—8:20 |
| Neighborhood Forum | 8:20—8:45 |

In this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Meeting Notice | 1 |
| SNA Board Elections | 1 |
| TRAC Meeting Summary | 2 |
| Kiosk Installed | 2 |
| History and Heroes | 2 |
| Development Update | 3 |
| Vote on Development Project | 3 |
| 2003 SNA Meeting Schedule | 3 |
| SNA has new Phone Number | 4 |
| Contact Info | 4 |
| Membership Form | 4 |

? Questions about Southport Neighbors?

Email us at snachicago@aol.com or call (312) 458-0SNA

SNA Board Elections Planned

SNA will be holding Board elections at our January, 2003 meeting. If you are interested in serving your neighborhood as a member of the SNA Board of Directors, please let us know! Send an email to snachicago@aol.com or send a letter to us at 3540 North Southport, Box 1000, Chicago, IL 60657.

Please include your full name and address, and a few sentences describing your areas of interest regarding the neighborhood. For example, are you interested in working on beautification, development, or other areas?

Serving your neighborhood can be a fun and rewarding experience. Your commitment would amount to about one meeting per month, plus any work associated with your area of interest. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and make a difference in your neighborhood.

If you want to get involved, but need a little less commitment, you can also volunteer to join a committee in your area of interest, without becoming a board member. If you have questions, email us, or call our new hotline at 312-458-0762 (0SNA).



TRAC Meeting Calls For Action

Did you know that another property tax triennial reassessment is scheduled for 2003? On August 26th, TRAC (Tax Reform Action Coalition) held an open forum, co-sponsored by SNA, with our elected officials and candidates at the Mercury Theatre. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: (1) to gain commitment from our elected officials and candidates to introduce legislation that will alter the tax funding formula, resulting in a more equitable distribution of the tax burden and curtail the states use of the property tax as its primary source of revenue, and (2) to move forward a petition that would limit reassessment increases for residents who have lived in their homes for a certain number of years.

Invited officials and candidates included Mark Augusti, John Cullerton, John Fritchey, Sara Feigenholtz, Mike Weiler, Larry McKeon, Mike Quigley, Forrest Claypool and Ron Messina. Although some differed as to the most effective way to reduce property taxes, all of the invited guests did pledge their support in this effort.

TRAC is looking for people who are interested in helping work toward a solution to rising property taxes. Volunteers do not need to an in-depth understanding of property tax assessments in order to help, since the areas of need are many. TRAC is also looking for someone with experience drafting bills for state officials to present in Springfield. State officials suggested that it would be helpful for TRAC to present them with a written bill which they could present to their peers in the legislature. Anyone interested in helping should call (312) 458-9202. TRAC's website is www.trac-il.org.

The Kiosk is Finally Here

Southport Neighbors Association is pleased to announce that our information kiosk has been installed at Southport and Waveland. Please stop by and check it out, if you haven't done so already.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter article, the kiosk will act as a beacon for our community, welcoming new neighbors and visitors, and providing information for our long-time residents. Already we have many plans for the kiosk including SNA announcements, upcoming neighborhood meetings and events, Aldermanic information, CAPS updates, neighborhood history and highlights, business advertisements and the ideas keep growing!

SNA encourages local businesses to advertise in our kiosk. To learn more, please call us at 312-458-0SNA for sizes, availability and pricing information.



"One Man Army of Bataan" Grew Up On Janssen

The neighbors who attended the recent House History tours heard many interesting tales, but one was found to be the most intriguing.

An unimposing 1916 brick bungalow at 3631 N. Janssen was the childhood home of Arthur W. Wermuth, Jr. (1915-1981), the son of a local physician. At the outbreak of World War II, Arthur joined the infantry as a Lieutenant and left the Army in 1945 as a much-decorated, and famous, Captain.

During the Battle of Bataan in April 1942 he was wounded, but still able to grab a machine gun and kill over 100 enemy troops. The event was immortalized in comic books of the period, and he was dubbed the "one man army of Bataan". Captured, he spent the war in various prison camps and was witness to one of the darker chapters in Japanese war atrocities.

While being moved with 1600 other P.O.W.'s deeper into Japanese-held territory in January 1945, Capt. Wermuth's ship was torpedoed and the prisoners were left to fend for themselves. Capt. Wermuth, although again wounded, took command of the situation and saved many lives. Of the original 1600, only 300 ultimately survived. Capt. Wermuth was one of them, and when he was liberated in April of that year, he weighed only 103 pounds from his original 190, and was able to describe the atrocities and identify the criminals then brought to justice.

After the war, in April 1951, he gained further notoriety when he became a Wichita, Kansas marshal and captured Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard in a divorce proceeding, a feat that received nationwide coverage in the newspapers. By 1960 he was sheriff of Jefferson County, Colorado, and was instrumental in capturing the murderer of Adolph Coors III.

For more info on our home-grown hero, you can go online to <http://www.xenutv.com/print/la-news-wichita-041551.htm> for the Hubbard story, and <http://www.oryokumar.com/takaohar.htm> and <http://www.oryokumar.com/wermuth.htm> for the war heroics.



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

Your ability to make improvements or repairs to your home has just been simplified. The Chicago Department of Buildings has opened a Neighborhood Residential Permit Center equipped to assist homeowners in obtaining building permits. The North Side office is located at 2550 West Addison, and can be contacted at 312/742-2560.

The Purpose of A Permit

A building permit gives you, your insurance company, your neighbors and the City assurance that specific minimum standards are met in constructing, altering, or repairing your home by complying with the Chicago Building Code. These standards are based on well-established health, safety and environmental considerations intended to protect the integrity of the buildings, safety of inhabitants and the welfare of the public.

When Do You Need A Permit?

A permit is needed to change, replace or remove walls, columns and beams. Changes to required exits or sources of natural light and ventilation (including windows) require a permit. No permit is needed for minor repairs or decorating. However, a permit is needed for new construction, major repairs, renovations, demolitions, garages, additions, porches, decks and for the installation of new boilers, furnaces and plumbing fixtures.

For more information about services available at the Neighborhood Permit Centers or for a complete list of projects requiring building permits, please visit the Department of Buildings website at www.ci.chi.il.us/Buildings

Development Project Vote Slated for September Meeting

The plans for a development located at 3913 N. Ashland Ave. will be presented and voted upon at the next SNA community meeting (Monday, September 16th at 7:30), so we hope you will be able to attend and voice your opinion. The developer, Attila Demeter, will present his proposal and answer questions about the 3 new townhouses he would like to build behind an existing 2 unit building. The proposal requests are the following:

1. A variation to reduce the rear yard.
2. A special use to permit garages on the ground level. (The property is zoned B-2 which requires a business use on the ground floor).

During the meeting, the SNA Planning and Development committee will make a recommendation to the community in favor of, or against, the proposal. As representatives of the community, residents (within SNA boundaries) who are present at the meeting will then vote on the proposal. If you wish to vote, please bring a picture ID to verify your address within SNA boundaries.

New Schedule for 2003 Community Meetings

Community meetings for next year will be held QUARTERLY instead of bimonthly. They will still be held on the 3rd Monday of the month, but the months will be January, April, July and October. (These dates are subject to change if they conflict with a national or religious holiday.)

We plan to continue to keep the community as informed and involved as possible in the issues that impact our neighborhood. We simply would like to use different means of doing this, such as sending email updates, posting notices in our kiosk, and building an informative website. We know your time is valuable, and we would like to minimize the number of times we ask you to attend meetings. Additionally, by reducing the number of meetings, we may be able to plan some social gatherings and have some fun!

Pursuant to our goals of keeping you informed as the issues arise, we are looking to collect email addresses from as many neighbors as we can. You can receive updates as issues arise, and you can send your input back to us. **WE DON'T SHARE YOUR INFORMATION and WE DON'T SEND SPAM!!** If you haven't been receiving updates and newsletters from us via email, please send a note to snachicago@aol.com to get added to our list. Be informed and be heard!



Restaurant Review

What could be better than a restaurant right in your neighborhood that has delicious, fresh food, a cheery atmosphere, and superb service? Rise Restaurant, located at 3401 N. Southport and owned by the same people as Shine Restaurant, is a must-try for anyone who enjoys Japanese fare.

Let's start with the food. Sushi and sashimi lovers won't be disappointed by the very fresh, large pieces. But what makes Rise stand out is their selection of inventive dishes boasting wonderful combinations of flavor and textures in a beautiful presentation.

Always bustling on the weekends, the atmosphere at Rise is fun and lively with a hip, wood decor. Outdoor seating is available for those beautiful evenings when you can't bear to sit inside.

The service at Rise is professional, friendly and timely. The wait staff work hard to make sure customers are enjoying themselves without being overbearing.

Rise is perfect for meeting a few friends out for dinner or looking for a nice evening with your favorite person.

SNA Now Has a Phone Number!

In order to better respond to our neighbors, SNA can now be reached by phone, at (312)458-0SNA. It is an unattended voicemail system, where you can leave your comments, concerns or questions about neighborhood issues. Your issue may involve beautification, neighborhood history, planning and development, traffic, business relations, volunteering opportunities, kiosk advertising - you name it, we'll try to help!

Please remember that for questions about city services and building codes/permits you should call 311 for quicker resolution. Also, please remember that we are volunteers with busy lives! You may not receive an immediate call back, but we will return your call just as soon as we can. Of course, you may also contact us via our email address, snachicago@aol.com.

FYI...

...here are some phone numbers and addresses that you may need:

Alderman Bernie Hansen, 1057 W. Belmont, 773-549-4000

Alderman Gene Schuller, 4237 N. Lincoln, 773-348-8400

Southport Neighbors Association, 3540 N. Southport, Box 1000

snachicago@aol.com

Remember, call 311 for non-emergencies and to request city services.

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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.

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 would 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