

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOR

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Questions about
Southport Neighbors?

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

Community Meeting January 27th, 7:30 PM

(No CAES meeting beforehand)

The next quarterly community meeting will be held on April 21st 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.

SNA to Host 44th Ward Aldermanic Candidate Forum

The Aldermanic candidates in the hotly contested race for 44th Ward Alderman will have the spotlight at our January 27th meeting. Here is your chance to hear the candidates' ideas. You will be able to ask them questions. Be an educated voter! Election day is February 25th, so this may be your last opportunity! All six candidates are scheduled to be present...

In addition, you will have an opportunity to vote on the slate of candidates for the SNA Board of Directors for 2003 (see article p. 4).

Agenda:	Welcome	7:30—7:35
	Aldermanic Candidate Forum	7:35—9:00

Welcome Additions to the Neighborhood!

HAIRCUTTERY	3711 N. Southport Ave.
ISM	3730 N. Southport Ave.
SOUTHPORT LEATHER & FURNITURE CO.	3817 N. Southport Ave.
PERSONA	3823 N. Southport Ave.

A sad goodbye after 19 years to Imperial Travel. They can still be found at their other location, 3006 N. Cicero Ave.

SNA Launches New, Expanded Website January 15th

With just one click, Southport neighbors will be able to tune into the latest area news and events, see what's on their neighbors' minds and get access to all sorts of issues and concerns. The new, improved www.southportneighbors.com is coming January 15th. Stop by and see what all the excitement is about.

The web site's goal is to become a community meeting in itself. It will offer tons of news content: an announcement page for hot items, a community calendar, the current newsletter, and even past newsletters going back to 1988. There will also be info on Southport Neighbors, including how to join, past accomplishments, current goals and programs, and important contact and meeting info. Need to know where to turn to for more information? The web site will offer committee contacts, aldermanic and governmental contacts, street cleaning and work schedules, merchants and business groups, zoning laws, and other neighboring grassroots citizens' groups.

And the neighborhood itself: our history; a virtual tour of Southport and a virtual Town Hall Meeting. Starting on January 15th, we will launch a community bulletin board allowing you to check out the hot topics on everyone's mind. Lurk to see what's going on, post a concern or question of your own, or respond to someone else's posting. There'll be something for everyone.



Property Tax Update from TRAC

Bart Head, president of TRAC (Tax Reform Action Coalition) reported to SNA that in a recent survey conducted in the 44th Ward, property taxes were among the top 3 issues that concern residents. If you have been receiving email updates* from SNA, you know that some legislators are finally taking notice and appear ready to work on this important issue. The momentum must be kept going! TRAC will be calling a meeting very soon for neighborhood groups and community leaders to strategize. They are hoping that Senator Miguel del Valle will attend this meeting to talk about a bill he is introducing which will LOWER property taxes and reconfigure the way the state pays for public education. (It has been reported that Illinois may be violating its own constitution in the way it pays for education.)

TRAC is going to launch a new effort called "Adopt a Legislator" to ensure each elected official is receiving targeted information about the hardship being caused by our out-of-control property tax system. An example would be a small business that was forced to leave the area, or a long time resident with safety issues in their home that they can't afford to fix due to high property taxes.

If you want to learn more about TRAC's efforts, log onto their website at www.trac-il.org.

*If you are not receiving SNA's email updates and you would like to, send us an email at snachicago@aol.com.

Southport Children's Festival Planning Committee - Join Us!

Join us in planning the 2nd Annual Southport Children's Festival! We would love to have you, whether you have 1 hour to give or 100 hours! This year's festival promises to be even bigger and better than last year, after having solicited feedback on how we can make the event even more enjoyable for everyone.

The Southport Children's Festival brings our neighborhood's families together for a day of live entertainment and games. Last year's festival attracted over 1,000 participants. The Festival Stage featured a children's folk singer, the Trinity Irish Dancers, and a Magician. In addition, a balloon artist, carnival games, face painting, arts & crafts, and a moonjump entertained the children.

If interested in joining us, please call co-chairs Colleen Gibbs (312.330.1631) or Michelle Krage (312.282.4555). The 2003 Children's Festival will be held on June 14th in the Blaine School parking lot—SAVE THE DATE!

Be a Block Representative! Meet your Neighbors!

Do you want to meet more of your neighbors? Or have a better pulse on what's happening in our neighborhood? Do you have a little time, but not too much? Maybe you would like to be a BLOCK REP!

In an effort to communicate better with our neighborhood, SNA wants to organize a group of Block Representatives. The plan is for each block to have one or two individuals to both give and get information for SNA. For example: SNA is having a great neighborhood party at the new wine store and everyone's invited..... or there has been a robbery and we want you to be careful..... It will work the other way, too. Your neighbor just had twins, and you want it to be in the next edition of this paper. It's all an effort to make this a friendly, safe neighborhood, and to help SNA know better what concerns our neighbors may have. If you're interested, please call or e-mail us. We're anxious to hear from you!

Juniper Park- A Beautiful and Safer Place to Play

Did you notice the new plants at Juniper Playlot this summer? Or the garland and wreaths decorating the fence? Or the speed bumps along Waveland and Greenview Avenue? A small, but committed group of neighbors has been busy making the playlot more beautiful and safe!

This summer, we planted trees, bushes and perennials. Despite the dry summer, most of the new additions are busy sinking their roots into the ground, and are anxious to show themselves this Spring. In addition, the same group of green thumbs spent a very cold November morning planting a colorful display of tulips (from Alhambra, of course!) Future projects will include more plants, and trying to address the sand and water issues. We welcome your positive comments and 'constructive' criticism.

Speed bumps were installed in November near Juniper Park. They were put in because many neighbors were concerned about the safety of their children coming to and from the park. Hopefully, the bumps will slow down the many cars who use Waveland and Greenview, and are not aware of the rapidly growing number of children crossing the streets. (In case you're wondering, signs alerting drivers to the bumps, and stripes painted on the bumps are on the way.) A big Thank you to Alderman Hansen for making this happen! If anyone has any other traffic concerns please e-mail or call the SNA Hotline. We are in the process of developing a committee to evaluate neighborhood concerns, and would love to have your input! Also, if you would like to volunteer to help with this committee, please let us know.



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

Community meetings held in late 2000 throughout the city highlighted the need for zoning reform to help protect, preserve and strengthen the character and livability of our unique neighborhoods.

At a second round of meetings at the Cultural Center in 2001, specific recommendations were catalogued from hundreds of community representatives. A third round of meetings was held in the neighborhoods among residents, business and community leaders in 2002.

Comments and recommendations accumulated by the Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission have been incorporated into *Principles for Chicago's New Zoning Ordinance*, excerpts of which are available for viewing at www.ci.chi.il.us/mayorzoning and in the SNA kiosk at Southport & Waveland.

The Zoning Reform Commission recommends that the new zoning ordinance maintain the physical character of Chicago's neighborhoods, which in many cases is based on the cultural diversity of our city. The new zoning ordinance should provide a shield against out-of-scale buildings, and protect important quality of life features, such as public open spaces and private yards. But the Commission also recognizes that the zoning ordinance must balance protection of neighborhood character with the need for continued growth and economic development - the new zoning ordinance cannot be a barrier to jobs and industry.

Two recommendations that may affect our neighborhood include:

- Create a new residential zoning district [R3½] to transition between current R3 and R4 districts, thus protecting neighborhood character, while providing options for property owners. R3 zoning provides for single-family residential development. A new R3½ district would encourage new 2-Flats and townhouses, but not at the densities of the current R4 zoning.
- Create a new residential zoning district [R4½] to transition between current R4 and R5 districts, again to create more housing opportunities while protecting existing neighborhood character. The current transition between R4 and R5 is too steep - the allowable density increases by more than 100% as you move from R4 to R5. A "bridge" district [R4 ½] is recommended to smooth the transition between R4 and R5, offering a viable zoning option for neighborhoods that have an existing character that falls somewhere between R4 and R5.

More "key recommendations" from *Principles for Chicago's New Zoning Ordinance* are posted in the kiosk at the corner of Waveland and Southport. Stop by, check them out, and send SNA your feedback.

The success of an updated zoning ordinance relies on the vision behind it. At the outset of this initiative, Mayor Daley put forth his goals to improve neighborhood quality of life:

- 1 insure the stability of residential property values
- 2 maintain the affordability of housing for all
- 2 provide welcoming and vital retail areas
- 3 promote more transportation choices
- 4 ensure parks and open spaces across the city

Whether you live, work or play in Chicago, Mayor Daley is asking you to participate in planning positive growth for Chicago's future. Please send Mayor Daley your zoning concerns or suggestions via e-mail through the city's new zoning ordinance campaign website at: www.cityofchicago.org/mayorzoning

Please forward your remarks to SNA too! The Planning & Development committee will document our neighborhood concerns and communicate them to the appropriate entities.

Care to Share your PR Skills?

Working 9-5 in Public Relations? Live within the boundaries of Ashland, Addison, Clark and Irving? Been telling yourself it's time to get involved in your neighborhood group? Great! Because Southport Neighbors needs your help.

We are looking for someone to volunteer some time to help us with specific projects. The time commitment can be flexible, and it's a great way to meet people and get involved. Please call (312)458-0SNA or email us at anachicago@aol.com.

At our January 27th meeting, the SNA Board of Directors for 2003 will be elected. Following is the 2003 slate:

Connie Jurczyk, resident of Southport neighborhood for 15 years, board member for 7 years. Currently serving as President, and have served in the past as newsletter editor and Treasurer. Interested in maintaining the character of our neighborhood by preserving green space and limiting over development. In an effort to strengthen our sense of community, am working toward a better system for keeping neighbors informed as events happen that affect our neighborhood. Serving on the Blue Ribbon Committee evaluating the Cubs' proposed expansion. Currently a full time mom with 2 children.

Colleen Gibbs, resident of neighborhood for 8 years, board member for 2 years. Currently serving as Vice-president, newsletter editor and Co-Chair of Southport Children's Festival. Interested in continuing to develop a thriving and more cohesive neighborhood by providing opportunities for residents to interact, discuss neighborhood issues, and have fun. Full-time mom with 2 children.

Amy Berka, have lived in a vintage condo in our neighborhood 5 years now - and love it. I am an architect, am involved with the SNA Planning & Development Committee, and write the *Did you know?* column in *Southport Neighbor*. With the help of many friends, neighbors and SNA members. I assisted in the Juniper Park renovation, and I worked on the acquisition and installation of our neighborhood kiosk. I am seeking election to a third term on the SNA Board.

Kent Bartram, owner Mail Boxes Etc. - Southport, resident since 1989 (where DID the time go?). Got involved in the community after a 1992 gang shooting in my parkway and have been on the SNA board since 1993 when I was Recycling chairman. I have literally served in every position at one time or another and am currently the Webmaster (we WILL have a great website) and am organizing our archives for donation to the UIC Library.

David Crosby, have lived in Lakeview for 4 years. This past year was my first year on the SNA board heading the Planning & Development Committee and working with developers active in our neighborhood.

Nan Bolker, have lived in neighborhood since 1995, served on board four years, as Secretary for one. Joined SNA to feel a greater sense of community and to meet some new wonderful people. I have worked on children's concert and am currently serving as SNA's Business Liaison.

Sally McPherrin, "interim board member" since last May. Have lived on Greenvlew for 3 and ½ years. Mother of 2 children. Main focus has been Juniper Playlot. Was on the construction committee, and organized the fundraising effort to landscape the park. Currently looking for neighbors' input on the park. Also interested in traffic control and limiting over-development.

Michelle Krage, resident for 2 years. This will be Michelle's first year on the board. Co-Chaired the Southport Children's Festival. Currently a full time mom wanting to keep the community thriving.

What's Going On With My SNA Membership?

Several neighbors have asked us if their membership is in good standing, stating that they have not received a renewal notice. SNA is transitioning our membership database to a new system, and it has taken us a few months longer than we expected. Rest assured that all memberships remain in good standing during this transition. Your membership will not be canceled! If you joined recently and have not received acknowledgement, we do have your information, and will include it on the new system. We are very sorry for the confusion, and we hope to be back online soon with an even better system.

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	(312) 458-0SNA
	email: snachicago@aol.com	

Remember, call 311 for non-emergencies and to request city services.
Dial 911 for emergencies!