



SOUTHPORT

NEIGHBOR

JULY 2004

VOL. 13, NO. 3

Cubs Expansion Plans & Identity Theft

discussion planned at community meeting

Southport Neighbors will be hosting a community meeting on **Monday, July 26th at 7:30pm** at the Mercury

Theater, 3745 N. Southport Avenue. All residents and business owners are encouraged to attend. We are present-

ing a wide variety of topics, all of which affect our neighborhood. For a complete rundown, *see page five.*



summer on Southport

featuring The Children's Festival
Saturday & Sunday • July 24th & 25th
 3700 - 3900 N. Southport @ Waveland
 More Event Info at southportneighbors.com or StarEvents.com

FAMILY STAGES 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday, July 24

North Stage at Byron

Kids Working Show	11:00
EMTS Robot Show	11:00
Madison South Show	11:00
Robot a World of	11:00
The Madrigal Show	11:00

South Stage at Waveland

David McDonald	11:00
David Thomas	11:00
John Frazier	11:00
Anthony The Adams	11:00

MAIN STAGES 4 pm to 10 pm

Saturday, July 24

North Stage at Byron

4:00	Orville Howard & Smoking Monkey
5:15	Kevin Taylor
6:30	Paragon
7:45	Mr. Tim's Band of America
9:00	Shaping in Lead

South Stage at Waveland

4:00	Madison
5:15	Kevin Taylor
6:30	Paragon
7:45	Mr. Tim's Band of America
9:00	Shaping in Lead



The Children's Festival

FAMILY STAGES

Sunday, July 25

North Stage at Byron

John Howard-Robin	11:00
Shaping in Lead	11:00
Madison South Show	11:00
Wendy Mad Show	11:00
EMT Junction	11:00

South Stage at Waveland

Wendy Mad Show	11:00
John Howard-Robin	11:00
Madison South Show	11:00
Wendy Mad Show	11:00
The Madrigal Show	11:00
Madison South Show	11:00
John Howard-Robin	11:00

MAIN STAGES

Sunday, July 25

North Stage at Byron

4:00	Madison
5:15	Kevin Taylor
6:30	Paragon
7:45	Mr. Tim's Band of America
9:00	Shaping in Lead

South Stage at Waveland

4:00	Madison
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9:00	Shaping in Lead

Special Thanks to our Stage Sponsors



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Chicago Cubs Update Your Neighborhood Protection Plan

After years of negotiations, the Cubs and the City have formalized the Neighborhood Protection Plan, designed to lessen the impact of the

What You Need to Know

traffic and crowds that go with every Cubs home game.

The Plan is currently being implemented during home games. The ordinance is quite detailed and too lengthy to include here, but we did want to outline some of the more important points:

CPD/CUBS HOTLINE

Call **773.525.8666**. The Cubs and the Chicago Police Department offer a hotline for residents to reach the police during Cubs' home games. Please call this number to report any day-of-game issues such as illegal parking or inappropriate fan behavior. The hotline is available during all games up until two hours after. After that time, you may call 311.

TRAFFIC AIDES

You may have noticed new traffic aides stationed around Wrigley Field

during Cubs games in fluorescent yellow jackets. Effective June 1, new traffic aides took to the streets as part of the Traffic Management Authority designed to supplement police during Cubs games and free up police officers to devote more time to safety and security for our community.

The Cubs are paying for these traffic aides as part of the Neighborhood Protection Plan.

BIKE CHECK SERVICE

The Chicago Cubs offer a free bike check service, begun last summer and continuing this year. Patrons can ride their bikes to the southeast corner of Clark and Waveland at the Cubs Car Wash and leave their bike securely with one of the Cubs' attendants. This is part of an overall effort to eliminate cars from the neighborhood. The bike check service opens two hours prior to each game and closes one hour after the game ends.

REMOTE PARKING

Also in an attempt to reduce the number of cars in the neighborhood, the Cubs operate a shuttle and parking service at the De Vry University cam-



pus located off Addison St. and Western Avenue for all weekend and night games. For \$6.00, patrons can park their vehicle and all occupants ride the shuttle free to and from the ballpark. The secure lot features "easy in and out" parking. The first shuttle leaves 2½ hours prior to the game. The shuttle runs for one hour after all Night Games and for two hours after all Weekend Day Games.

The Cubs are currently exploring their options for developing the "triangle property", where the car wash and the former Yum Yum Donuts are located. They would like to develop the property into a "campus" which includes a 5-story parking garage for 400 cars, a sports museum and a restaurant. The Cubs will present their plan at our July 26th community meeting (see page 5). Do attend and ask questions! To view the proposed plans, visit www.cubs.com, click "News", then click "Official Releases" in the left margin. The press release is entitled "Cubs file Planned Development for Wrigley campus". You can see pictures of the proposal.

2004 GardenWalk

Avid gardeners, here's your opportunity to showcase your handiwork. We're reinstating the Southport Neighbors GardenWalk. Tentatively, the GardenWalk is scheduled for **Sunday, August 8th** from **noon to 4 PM**. Enroll your garden in this soon-to-be annual event. Choose to showcase your entire garden or parkway.

Volunteers needed and welcome to help organize this event. Interested? Call **773.477.3583** or email info@southportneighbors.com.

Previous SNA gardenwalks have been well attended, enjoyable and instructive. Help us make the 2004 GardenWalk the best ever!

Property Tax Reform Awaits Governor's Signature

Submitted by TRAC, Tax Reform Action Coalition

It took Ghandi 30 years to free India...it took TRAC only 4 years to start the property tax reform movement. We are grateful to so many but especially Assessor James Houlihan. He listened and took action. The House and Senate passed our bill. While we wait for the Governor to sign SB2112 – the 7% assessment cap – we are mindful that this is only the first step. Because of the changes that



the "leadership" made in Springfield TRAC recognizes the need for more extensive work on the reform side. TRAC will be working over the summer months to clarify our positions and policy. We have just begun!

TRAC would like to send a special thank you to Southport Neighbors for your involvement and commitment. We got the attention of the elected officials because you made your voices heard!

TRAC looks forward to the continued support from Southport Neighbors. Please send us your email address at www.trac-il.org and we will keep you posted on our continuing efforts to really reform the property tax system.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Music Box Theatre

On August 22, 1929, the Music Box Theatre opened in its permanent home on Southport as an elaborate little brother to the giant downtown film/presentation houses and as a symbol of the recent change in technology towards sound films. A risky venture, the Music Box was built as a single-use film house, unlike most of its multi-use counterparts of the period. In fact, the only back-up plan was to have the theatre designed to include an orchestra pit and organ chambers in the event that sound films failed and silent film accompaniment was once again needed. 75 years later, this gem stands as a landmark for the Southport Neighborhood while providing wonderful entertainment with specialty films. Everyone's invited to join in the birthday celebration planned for early September.

BEST OF MUSIC BOX/AUDIENCE CHOICE Tuesday, Sept. 7th

A film will be selected from 20 of the best and most popular films to have premiered at the Music Box over the past 20 years. You can vote on your favorite—check the website www.musicboxtheatre.com for details!

'WIZARD OF OZ' SING-A-LONG Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 5 & 8pm

All ages welcome to watch and sing along to some of history's best known and loved songs in a theatre filled with audience members dressed as their favorite characters—Dorothy, Lion, Scarecrow, Tin Man, etc.

Music Box Theatre Trivia

How much did the theatre cost to build, in 1929?

\$110,000.00

Who was Louis A. Simon?

The Music Box Theatre's architect a local, supposedly eccentric architect who was better known for his depression era W.P.A. Post Offices and plaster palaces.

What is the architectural style of the building called?

"Atmospheric" — the dark blue, cove lit ceiling with "twinkling stars" and moving cloud formations suggests a night sky. The overall effect is to make the patron feel that, no matter what the real weather outside, they are watching a film in an open air Palazzo where the evening is always a balmy 72°.

What film opened the Music Box?

"Mother's Boy" with Morton Downey (Sr.), in 1929.

What was the last "Hollywood" film to play at The Music Box?

"The Exorcist" in the fall of 1977.

In what year was the Music Box Theatre Corporation formed?

In 1983, after a major 4 month restoration the theatre opened with revival and repertory films in double features. Within the next 8 years, cult films, independent films and documentaries were added for a one-week playtime intermingled with double feature repertory. First run foreign films were added in 1986. By 1993,

The Music Box had matured into it's current film presentation format of specialty films showing first-run features weekly, repertory and independent features every Saturday and Sunday matinee and Midnight cult films on Friday and Saturday nights.

Why did The Music Box open a second screen in 1991?

Presentation of the more avant garde independent films, documentaries and classic or repertory films which drew smaller audiences was no longer cost effective for the 750 seat auditorium. The 100 seats in Theater II has allowed the Music Box to show better and more varied films.


Who's "Whitey"?

The Music Box Theatre's ghost who was the manager of the Music Box from opening night in 1929 to 1977. His wife was the cashier and they raised their family two blocks away from the theater. He's sometimes felt to be pacing aisle 4!

What recently happened to the Music Box Theatre Corporation?

In April 2004, after 21 years, The Music Box Theatre Corporation (Bob Chaney and Chris Carlo), ceded operation. The theatre's operations are continuing under the building's owner William Schopf and the new Southport Music Box Theatre Corporation. The staff, employed by Chaney and Carlo remain on as the on-site operations managers.

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773.525.2225

Too Big for My Block

Editorial by Peter Uliasz,
SNA Board Member & Resident

There is a little loophole in the current zoning ordinance that is creating a big problem on our blocks.

WHAT IS THE ZONING ORDINANCE?

The Chicago Zoning Ordinance is an extraordinary set of rules that establish building guidelines for the City of Chicago. Not how to build, that is the Chicago Building Code, but what to build. Initially, it looks daunting and confusing, but it is broken into some very simple areas:

- Use
(*type of occupancy*)
- Size
(*how big, how tall and how small*)
- Location
(*setbacks and yards*)
- Provisions
(*parking spaces & loading*)

HOW BIG OR HOW SMALL

Let's talk about size—specifically

the how big/how small, the section that pertains to lot area. Let's look at how small. Initially this will look like it's written backward. This section dictates the maximum number of dwelling units you can build on given site (lot area). That is, given a lot at X square feet, how many dwelling units can you build? And it was written specifically for that reason. But if you turn it around, it will tell you the minimum size lot that you can build X number of units. Therefore if you are a developer and you want to build a six-unit condo you know the minimum lot size you need. It is written this way, so developers can buy a large parcel of land and sub-divide it to smaller parcels, without lots being too small.

HERE'S THE LOOPHOLE

Let's look at how big. What if you want to build a 6-unit condo and the lot is too small? The answer—buy the next door lot and make it one, new,

big lot. This is easy and common. So what's the problem? If you live on a block that is made up of 30 foot lots with rows of two and three flat gray stones or single family houses, a developer could combine two adjacent lots and create a 60 foot wide lot. On that new lot, a developer could build a 6-unit condo. Although they can do it and there is nothing anyone can do because it meets the current zoning ordinance, it will look out of place. It breaks up the rhythm of the street. It doesn't fit in, like a football player at ballet practice.

WHY DO THIS?

Well for one it's cheaper to construct one building with six units rather than two building with three each, so the developer makes more money. So, what can be done about developers destroying the fabric of the neighborhood? Absolutely nothing until our residents demand a change.

STAND UP AGAINST TEAR DOWNS

Save the Graystones

After months of reviewing and analyzing our housing stock and the new zoning code, every neighborhood and business organization of the Community Directed Development Council (CDDC) was asked to present its' recommendations to Ald. Tunney. The SNA/CDDC representatives have made 3 important recommendations:

- 1 The Alderman save our Graystones from demolition
- 2 Preserve our wide lots with beautiful historic homes from demolition and overdevelopment
- 3 Continue Southport development as a pedestrian street with residential on the upper floors and retail on the ground level, limiting height and bulk to avoid destruction of the Victorian era character and charm of the street.

In response to our efforts to save the graystones, the Alderman has

launched the Graystone Initiative, much like the Bungalow Initiative, to use tax incentives as well as zoning and preservation tools to accomplish a City wide effort to encourage rehab and preservation of these historic buildings. SNA is proud to be the lead sponsor of this program along with Preservation Chicago and Ald. Tunney.

The SNA/CDDC representatives also testified last month before the Zoning Committee of the City Council to ask that the new code be amended to protect our deeper lots on the 3800-3900 blocks of Greenview and Janssen, as well as Byron, that were previously part of our Special District. Chairman Banks acknowledged the omission and assured SNA that this was an oversight, and that our Special District requirements would be maintained under the new code.



At the June meeting of the CDDC, each member organization was assign-ed to serve on a planning committee to further develop a strategic plan for the Ward. The SNA/CDDC representatives are assigned to serve on the business and residential committees. Our representatives have raised the issue of creating more diversity of businesses on Southport as we are seeing greater duplication than ever before. Indeed, we have received word that 3 ice cream shops will be leasing space within 3 doors of one another at the North end. SNA will be working with the Alderman, the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, Sheil Park Neighbors and West Lakeview Neighbors (who represent the South end of Southport), business owners, and retail leasing companies/owners to develop a survey to determine demand for various businesses in our area, and to imple-

continued on page 5

Responsible Developers

SNA has worked very hard with Ald. Tunney to protect the historic homes in our neighborhood. We couldn't do this without the help of the many developers who build in our community. A huge thank you to those of you who have helped us accomplish this goal in the last few months!

3643 N. JANSSEN ▶

Graystone slated to be demolished to



build a 3-flat. Saved by SNA, Ald. Tunney and Mike Burke of Burke Development. **Thank you Mike!** This graystone will be renovated as a single family home. For more information, call Mike at **773.704.9721**.

3622 N. GREENVIEW ▶

Slated to be demolished to build a 3 flat. Saved by SNA, Ald. Tunney and Chris Byrne Construction. Thank you Chris!



We'd also like to thank our friend Rich Kasper for his help on these 2 projects. Rich is a responsible realtor with great vision for our neighborhood. He can be contacted at **773.919.4333**.

If you have a development concern, please contact your block representative, or call **312.458.0762**.

You can also email us

at info@southportneighbors.com. We need your input!

ment *Greystones* • continued from page 4 the Chamber's marketing plan to effectively attract those businesses to Southport.

CDDC meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30p.m.

Meeting Announcement • continued from page 1

The Chicago Cubs VP of Community Affairs will open the meeting with a discussion of the Cubs' expansion plans, which include a new parking garage, restaurant and sports museum in addition to about 2000 additional bleacher seats. It is SNA's understanding that this plan will not be approved by Alderman Tunney or the City until it meets with majority approval of the surrounding neighborhood associations. Please bring your questions and comments – SNA will be document-

ing your input for future reference. For more information on the specifics of the Cubs' plans, see their website, www.cubs.com, click "News", then click "Official Releases" on left side of the screen.

Next on the agenda will be the important topic of identity theft. Washington Mutual, located at the corner of Southport and Addison, will be discussing this increasingly common crime and how you can avoid being a victim. Don't miss this chance to learn how to protect your identity!

City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/mayor.zoning

The CDDC always welcomes your comments or questions. Email them at info@Southportneighbors.com or call us at **312.458.0762**.

SNA's Planning and Development Committee will then discuss the new "Greystone Initiative" program recently announced by Ald. Tunney. SNA is a proud co-sponsor with Ald. Tunney on this initiative designed to protect our historic neighborhood greystones from being torn down.

We will close the meeting with a Community Forum, where audience members may initiate a discussion on other topics of interest in the neighborhood. See you there!

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

TunneyTalk

June 30, 2004

According to the calendar, summer officially started June 21st, but it hasn't felt much like summer so far. Summer in Seattle perhaps, but not summer in Chicago. The mild weather is nice, but I could do without all the rain and clouds. I'm sure the 90° days are soon to come and I'll be wishing the rain would return.

Rain is no friend to summer festivals, so I hope it moves on in time for all these great summer events coming up in Lakeview:

SUMMER ON SOUTHPORT

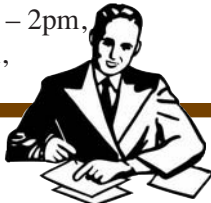
July 24th, 10am – 10pm,
July 25th, 10am – 9pm, on Southport between Waveland to Byron

NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS

August 7 & 8, 10am – 10pm
on Halsted between Belmont and Addison

NETTELHORST FRENCH MARKET

Every Saturday, 8am – 2pm,
at Nettelhorst School,
3252 N. Broadway



An open letter from Commissioner Mike Quigley

Dear Neighbors,

The 68,000 acres of the Cook County Forest Preserve District (F.P.D.) clean the air, filter our water, and reduce the frequency and extent of flooding. In addition to their positive environmental impact, the preserves offer crucial open space and recreational opportunities to residents of Cook County. 40 million people visit these reserves, yearly. On an annual basis, more people visit the Busse Woods Preserve than Yellowstone National Park.

Currently, 20% of our lands are developed by picnic groves, golf courses, parking lots, bike trails and education centers and 80% are in their natural state. However, even our land

Get out and enjoy your neighborhood, but remember to be safe!

City Stickers and Residential Permit Parking stickers expire on June 30, 2004. New stickers are on sale now at the City Clerk's office in City Hall and at 5401 N. Elston. You can also purchase City Stickers at Currency Exchanges for a small fee.

Don't forget to also use your yellow Cubs game permits on the nights that the Cubs are playing in town, if you live in an LV-2 zone—west of Broadway and north of Belmont. Parking restrictions in effect, 5-10pm.

For those of you with dogs, you know how frustrating it is to be caught on a dog walk without a doggie bag. And for those of you without a dog, you probably curse those people who don't pick up after their dogs. Well, you should both be pleased to know that our office has installed 10 doggie dispensers around the ward as a pilot program. There are 2 on Southport. Please pick up after your dogs. It is not only good manners, it's the law.

Don't own a car, but wish you could just borrow one once in awhile

that is in its natural state is endangered. Researchers revealed through a 2003 ecological assessment of the F.P.D. land that 76% of our natural lands are degraded.

The quality of our forest preserves should be a major concern to all of the residents of Cook County because they are among the most ecologically diverse areas of the country with its mixture of prairie, oak, savanna, and wetland. Because of the important environmental functions that open land provides, I introduced a land use policy which says that the F.P.D. cannot transfer the authority to control or manage these lands in a manner inconsistent with the mission of the District. In addition, the policy creates a formal application process for the use or transfer of title to our land.

Historically, the Cook County F.P.D. rejected the use or sale of our

for a nominal fee? Well now you can in Lakeview with the I-GO car-sharing program. Two cars will now be available at the Ann Sather on Belmont for use in this program. Call **773.278.4446 x227** for information.

The 44th Ward Community Directed Development Council (CDDC) has been working hard all year to prepare zoning recommendations for the Ward as the new Zoning Code gets rolled out this fall. The Zoning Code has been updated and was approved by City Council on May 26th. It will go into effect in November. The City also needs to update all the zoning maps to reflect these changes. This process will proceed through next year. The 44th Ward Master Plan for Development is being prepared now by the CDDC and will be presented to the community for input later this year. For more information, go to www.44thward.org to read minutes from the CDDC monthly meetings.

As always, feel free to call us at **773.525.6034**, if you have any questions or concerns.

Tom Tunney, 44th Ward Alderman

land for purposes inconsistent with the core mission of the District. A half century ago, the Cook County F.P.D. rejected requests from schools, sports clubs, universities, veteran's organizations, and even the federal government. Yet, in spite of that history, in 1999, we sold the Village of Rosemont two acres of land for their convention center. Clearly, there has been a shift in attitudes towards the lands of the F.P.D. My proposed ordinances and policies would provide a greater protection of our land to prevent these types of land use, land transfers and land sales. If you would like to learn more about this proposal please call my office at **312.603.4210**. Learn more by visiting their website at www.fpdcc.com.

Mike Quigley
Cook County Commissioner, 10th Dist.

*Business Owners: Please note that advertising opportunities are available to you.
Please contact Chase Ferrer at **312.961.8652**, or Kelly Lawrence at **773.612.3321** for more information.*

New Businesses in our Neighborhood!

The Southport neighborhood and SNA would like to extend an early summer welcome to the new businesses. Don't miss the new offerings on our blocks!

A Note to New Businesses:

If your new business has opened in the last 3 months and has not appeared in the newsletter, please pardon the oversight! Let us know who you are and we will spread the word and add you to the list in our next newsletter. Welcome, one and all!

Shane

3657 North Southport
773.549.0179

Clothing boutique for men and women with cutting edge style.

Australian Homemade

3425 North Southport
773.281.3830

Owned by three gentlemen who have franchised this worldwide Australian success. Freshly made daily, in-store ice cream, fruit sorbets (75% fruit), milkshakes, coffees, teas, and hand-made chocolates imported from their factory in Amsterdam.

Soapstone

3442 North Southport
773.529.2424

Owner: Shellan Hazelwood
Luxurious bath products and fragrances for body and home.
Wide assortment of Diptyque candles, baby and men's products.

Hot Pink

3714 North Southport
773.296.0157

Owner: Clai Green
Women's clothing boutique that carries both casual and festive separates and outfits.

Vacation Home Finders

3712 North Southport
773.281.6767

www.vacationhomefinders.com
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e-mail: wrigleyvillegnc@yahoo.com

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Expires 10/10/04

Considering buying or selling a home?

I live in the neighborhood and would love to help you with your real estate needs.

Please call for a free market analysis of your home.

Koenig & GMAAC
Strey



Elizabeth Bennan
Realtor Associate
Direct: 312-893-8131
ebennan@ksgmac.com

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*Planning & Development
CDDC/Beautification*
Sally McPherrin

Planning & Development/CDDC
Jill Peters

Newsletter Design & Layout
Larry Roth • Larry's World of Design

Sign me up! I gotta join Southport Neighbors Association (SNA)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

Email _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP :

Individual • \$7 Family • \$10 Business • \$10 Senior • \$2

Please send me the *Southport Neighbor* via email (*our preferred method!*)

Please send me the *Southport Neighbor* via US mail (*no charge*)

Also enclosed is my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to support the work of the Southport Neighbors Association.

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Send check payable to:

Southport Neighbors Association

3540 N. Southport Avenue • #1000 • Chicago, Illinois 60657

I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER WITH SOUTHPORT NEIGHBORS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Beautification

Education

Newsletter

Block Representative

Fundraising

Traffic & Safety

Property Tax Reform

Social

Business Liaison

Planning/Development

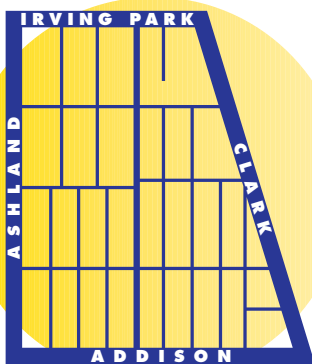
GardenWalk

Membership



SOUTHPORT NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

3540 N. Southport Ave. #1000
Chicago, Illinois 60657
312.458.0SNA (0762)
www.southportneighbors.com



Founded August 8, 1988



2004 GardenWalk Mark your calendars for this year's SNA GardenWalk, to be held on **Sunday, August 8th** from **noon to 4 PM**. Enter your yards or parkways. *See page 2 for all the details.*

Upcoming Events for 2004:

July 24-25 Summer on Southport

July 26 SNA Community Meeting