



Annual SNA Community Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm

Mercury Theater
3745 N. Southport

STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY: The economic downturn is affecting small businesses everywhere. Heather Way, Executive Director of the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce, discusses strategies to strengthen our local business community and attract new compatible businesses to the area.

ALDERMAN TUNNEY AND MIKE LUFRANO Q&A: Alderman Tom Tunney and Mike Lufrano from the Cubs will present:

- 1) The decision to host three concerts this year at Wrigley Field and what we can anticipate next year, (this scheduling led SNA to cancel Summer on Southport for this year).
- 2) The plan to open a new Harry Caray's Club at the south entrance of the ballpark. This 7,000 sq. ft. structure will serve alcohol and possibly feature live entertainment—all in an outdoor tented venue.
- 3) A report on the status of the Night Game Ordinance and Neighborhood Protections.

ELECTIONS: SNA will host its annual election of four members to its Board of Directors. Members in good standing for at least 90 days who live within our boundaries may vote. STATE ISSUED PHOTO ID must be presented.

SNA is accepting nominations for the Board which must be submitted not later than April 5th. Nominees must also be a member in good standing for at least 90 days, live within our boundaries, and have a demonstrated history of service to SNA.

Mail nominee info to: SNA, 3501 N. Southport #201, 60657 or email to info@southportneighbors.com.

See you at the meeting on April 20th!

Third Concert at Wrigley Field Violates Night Game Ordinance

As you should have heard by now, this summer the Cubs have planned to host three concerts in July 2009; two Elton John/Billy Joel concerts on Thursday, July 16th and Tuesday, July 21st, and one concert with the country band Rascal Flatts on Saturday night, July 18th. Their decision to abandon agreements of the past and to host a third concert instead of two as in past years not only violates the spirit and goodwill of the agreements SNA previously negotiated with them, but also violates the Night Game Ordinance which prohibits night games on Saturday nights and limits nighttime events at Wrigley to 30 in a year. Unlike past years, the concerts this year are not on a holiday and the Cubs will not give up an additional night game or make additional donations over and above the \$150,000 they donated in the past to the various schools and charities for two concerts. Despite SNA's efforts to cancel the Saturday night event, Alderman Tunney supported the Ordinance authorizing the three concerts.

SNA objected to the Cubs hosting more than two concerts in any year and particularly opposes a concert on a Saturday night. Clark Street is already very busy on a Saturday night, so adding 40,000 concert-goers will significantly add to traffic, noise, and late-night partying. Because concerts present additional challenges to our community with loud sound checks, helicopters flying overhead at all hours, and street closures during setup and take-down, the disruptions will extend over 7 days on top of the 16 home Cubs games in July.



Our community deserves assurances from the Cubs that the night game ordinance will not be violated again and that the Cubs will give back to the community as they have in the past by giving up two night games in 2010 and by donating more than in past years to the affected community schools and charities.

Saturday Night Concert at Wrigley Forces Cancellation of Summer on Southport this Year!

SNA's Summer on Southport ("SOS") festival featuring the best Children's Festival in the city and great adult musical events, was forced to cancel this summer, due to the Cubs' decision to host a concert on the same night. Summer on Southport is a community-building and fundraising event for our neighbors. This year, like the past 7 years, Summer on Southport had been scheduled for the one weekend in July when the Cubs will be out of town, Saturday and Sunday, July 18th and 19th. Now with the addition of a concert at Wrigley scheduled for the same Saturday night, SNA had to cancel our popular Summer on Southport Festival this year.

SNA was formed to represent the community to address quality-of-life concerns. In the interest of reducing the stress on our residents and businesses on Southport, our Board made the decision that we need to be true to that mission and cancel our festival this year. After exhausting every option to change the date or reduce the scale of our event, and considering the significant economic risks for a small not-for-profit organization, we were left with no viable alternative but to cancel this year with plans to return in July 2010.

While SNA had hoped to donate to our local charities again this year, Blaine School, Sheil Park Playground Renovation, and the Lakeview Pantry, we have been told by Alderman Tunney that he will insist the Cubs make these donations and contribute to the support of our Southport businesses to ensure they succeed in this economy.



CAPS Report



In attendance at the most recent BEAT 1923 meeting on March 10th were only seven neighbors—the lowest attendance in the area for these meetings. The police requested that we try to spread the word to increase attendance at these important meetings. The next CAPS meeting is Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 pm at Lakeview High School, 4015 N. Ashland.

There was a special presentation by the Illinois State Police on how to implement a safe move with the most important point being to ensure you are using a licensed mover. If you are in the process of planning a move and would like more information please contact the Community Policing Office at 312-744-5574.

The Top crimes for Beat 1923 for the period of January 10, 2009 to March 10, 2009 were the following:

- 1) Theft
- 2) Simple Battery
- 3) Theft from Building
- 4) Burglary - forcible entry
- 5) Criminal Damage to vehicle
- 6) Battery - domestic simple
- 7) Burglary - unlawful entry

For more information on these or any other policing questions, please check out the informative website of chicagopolice.org or call your Community Policing Office at 312-744-5574. To get regular neighborhood watch and community alerts, join SNA today.

Community Notices

LEND A HAND TO BEAUTIFY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Streets and Sanitation reported at the Cubs Community Meeting on March 24th that their budget has cut cleaning services which previously picked up trash in the area of the ballpark by hand. While sweeps on every street will continue to do as much as they can, the City is depending on its residents and businesses to clean up our sidewalks and parkways. Please lend a hand to beautify your street and please don't litter.



NO DOGS PLEASE IN JUNIPER PARK!

As Spring approaches and our children fill Juniper Playlot, we thought we should remind our dog owners of the park ordinance prohibiting dogs from playgrounds. Please observe this rule for the safety of our children. The closest dog-friendly area to our neighborhood is "Wiggly Field" at 2645 N. Sheffield. Signs will be arriving next month to remind our pet owners of this ordinance. They will be posted at each entrance. For those interested, the ordinance is listed below:

Chicago Park District Code

CHAPTER VII. - USE OF PARKS

10. Bringing Animals in Park a. Animals Permitted.

No person owning or being custodian or having control of any animal shall cause or permit such animal to enter or remain on Park District property, except:

(1) Except in areas designated by the General Superintendent as "Dog Friendly Areas", a domestic animal may be brought into a park so long as such animal is continuously restrained by a leash not exceeding six feet in length. Animals may not enter or remain in any building, zoo, playground, harbor, lagoon, swimming pool, spray pool, garden, athletic field, animal or bird refuge, or other areas that may be designated by signs as prohibited areas.



Cubs Expand Sidewalk Cafe into Outdoor Club

As reported at the February and March CDDC meetings, and by the Tribune, the Cubs have announced their plans to expand a small sidewalk café at the South entrance of the park, to build a large tented Harry Caray's bar and restaurant to be open year-round—not just on game days—which will operate like a “club” with the possibility of adding live music and other entertainment in the future. The 7,000 square feet of outdoor tented area will take up a significant amount of sidewalk area at the south entrance, which also raises serious concerns about pedestrian safety during game days as well as more noise and congestion on Addison, Clark and Sheffield year-round.

Having only announced their plans at the end of February, the Cubs intend to open the club in time for opening day, April 6th. However, it has not been presented to the affected community groups for approval. SNA has voiced our concerns because Wrigley Field is a planned development and the project should have been vetted through the affected communities with more than 45 days notice before its opening. But the City building code allows construction permits to be issued before the expanded liquor license is approved and notices have only been sent to those residents and businesses within 250' of the project. The club will be housed in three separate tent structures with canvas over steel frames built along the South entrance to the park. The club will leave just 14 feet of sidewalk. It will be open for lunch and dinner until 11pm (Sun-Thurs) and 12am (Fri-Sat). Occupancy is expected to be 300 on non-game days, and 500 on game days. As of this writing, the Bureau of Licensing had not finalized their liquor license expansion.

New Businesses

☼ Subway

3706 N. Southport Ave. • 773-295-8118

☼ environs

Est. 1994

3732 N. Southport Ave. • 773-525-8587

Looking for an exhilarating and inspiring shopping experience? Come on in...and pamper yourself...

environs is Southport's newest destination when searching for the perfect gift: with an exquisite selection of olive oils from around the world, and other edible goodies...why not one for yourself too? **environs** is also the place for fine French soaps, heavenly-scented candles, and stylish accessories for you and your home. So tonight, prepare something delicious, pour yourself a glass of wine, light a candle...surround yourself with beauty.

When you are out walking this spring, please don't forget about some great new spots on Irving Park - they are definitely worth checking out.

☼ Urban Café

1467 W. Irving Park Road • 773-327-9427

www.urbancafechicago.com

Start your day in an amazing way at Urban Café. Stop by for a coffee/pastry/egg sandwich in the morning and come back at noon for a delicious lunch! On Saturday and Sunday there is a great selection of items on their brunch menu. Very kid-friendly too!

Urban Café also offers catering, including boxed lunches. Although they are not open for dinner, they do offer private parties in the evening—great for intimate small gatherings, meetings, parties, book clubs, and more.

☼ Asado Coffee Company Roasters

1432 W. Irving Park Road • 773-661-6530

www.AsadoCoffee.com

On your way to the bus stop, El stop or just when you are out walking the dog, be sure to experience one of the freshest cups of coffee around at Asado Roasters. They source the finest coffee beans in the world and roast them to perfection in small batches every day. Dedicated to helping others in need, they buy from family-run farms—currently their offering is from a small family farm in Honduras. A portion of the proceeds from whole bean sales goes to various charitable organizations like Feed the Hungry and Anti-Cruelty Society.



Economy Challenges Local Business Climate— Shop Local to Keep Our Businesses Strong!

As reported in the news all day, every day, the current economic crisis has caused millions to lose their jobs and has forced numerous small businesses to close. Our local business community is no exception. With significant vacancies on Southport, even the most successful businesses have felt challenged through the long, hard winter. But with the arrival of Spring comes renewed hope that our prized business community will remain strong and that new complementary businesses will be added soon. To make that happen, our current businesses need us to shop and dine locally. Not only is it a greener way of life, but our property values and public schools depend on it, and best of all it's fun and it feels good!



WRITE US

It's been a busy year and as always we welcome your questions and comments on any topic of concern in our area. Please write us at info@southportneighbors.com.

JOIN SNA

Join SNA today to get up-to-the-minute reports on neighborhood news! Please see the sign-up form on the back page of this newsletter.

Clark and Addison Development Update

A large 10-story development with a hotel, residences, and significant retail space at Clark and Addison has been presented to Alderman Tunney's Community Directed Development Council (the "CDDC") for initial screenings. Because this is a planned development (a "PD"), any plan that is seriously considered for a zoning increase must be presented to the Lakeview community groups for approval. This is purely an informational update.



As reported at the January SNA Community Meeting, the various plans that have been proposed thus far have been rejected by the CDDC. A Wrigley Planning Subcommittee was formed which made specific recommendations to the developers to reduce the scale of the project to reflect the current zoning (B3-2 on two thirds of the site and B3-3 on the remaining third of the site). Because the Alderman requested that the subcommittee allow an increase in the zoning to B3-3 and FAR (floor area ratio) to 3.0, the Committee agreed to allow the overall zoning to increase to B3-3 with an FAR of 3.0 and a 71.5' height limit (about 5-6 stories). The Committee also recommended that the property be developed as a hotel, not as a rental apartment building. They also recommended that the height above three stories be set back from the street so as not to tower over other properties in the area, and they strongly discouraged big box retailers such as Best Buy.

Based on the subcommittee's recommendations, the CDDC unanimously adopted the recommendations as a cap or ceiling on what can be built rather than a floor from which further height and bulk can be negotiated. The CDDC unanimously agreed not to make any additional concessions on height, FAR, or zoning allowances. Subsequently, two plans were proposed in December that failed to meet these standards and were again rejected due to height and density issues. While the developer has sent letters to every residence in Lakeview to seek support for the project, no new plans have been proposed since December.

Southport Neighbors Association

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Vice President
Sally McPherrin

Secretary
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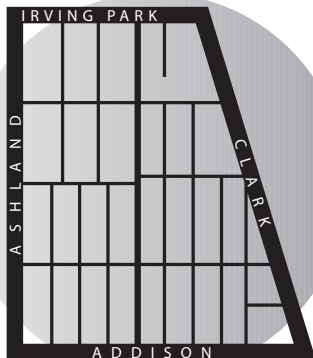
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Founded August 8, 1988

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual • \$10 Family • \$15 Business • \$15 Senior • \$2

Please send me the Southport Neighbor via email

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

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Mail check payable to:

Southport Neighbors Association (SNA)

3501 North Southport Avenue • #201 • Chicago, Illinois 60657

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

Summer On Southport

Beautification

Block Representative

Public Relations & Marketing

Southport Green Market

Retail Programs

Planning & Development



The Return of the Southport Green Market



8:00 am - noon
Saturday, June 13

This year is the third year of the Southport Green Market...every Saturday from June 13th through October 10th! The market is open from 8:00 AM to noon at Blaine School. The produce, fruit,

flowers, and bakery vendors will showcase a great cross-section of what a market has to offer, and will provide an opportunity to buy directly from the people who grow and produce the food!

If you are interested in volunteering any amount of time that you can, please email us at info@southportneighbors.com—whether you can man a booth at the market, entertain, or help hang posters...we can use your help!