1505 West Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

Web Site: www.slneighbors.org General email: info@slneighbors.org President email: president@slneighbors.org

BOUNDARIES: DIVERSEY TO BELMONT - RAVENSWOOD TO RACINE

Membership Dues (per person) \$10.00 - Seniors (those over 60) \$5.00 September 1 through May 31 Meetings held at St. Alphonsus Church Basement, 1429 West Wellington on the second Tuesday of every Month (except January, June, July and August) at 7:30 p.m. (Coffee at 7:00 p.m.)

OCTOBER. 2012



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

Dear Neighbors,

By the time you read this, two signal events in the life of our neighborhood and Chicago will have happened: the St. Alphonsus Oktoberfest, and golf's Ryder Cup. What is the unifying theme, you ask? Rock and roll. I don't think I'm going out on a limb here when I say that the rock bands will outdraw the oompa ensembles over September's last weekend in St. Al's parking lot, its basement, and along Oakdale. And regardless of whether the United States regains or loses the Ryder Cup (which we've done four out of the last five times), there have been and will be plenty of aging rock stars cheering on the two teams. I know: I was at the Wednesday night gala introducing the players against a backdrop of Chicago's greatest contribution to the world of rock and roll: the group that bears this city's name, Chicago.

Started in the late 1960s by a handful of DePaul students, joined by a Roosevelt University keyboardist, Chicago melded the brass sound familiar to Chicago Symphony Orchestra fans with

MEETING AT A GLANCE October 9, 2012

Location: Basement - St. Alphonsus Church, 1429 W. Wellington Agenda: 7:00PM - Doors open 7:30 - Meeting begins

- 1) Candidate Forum local officials up for November election
- 2) Lathrop Homes developer presentation and community input

the rhythm and guitar licks that the Stones had heard in New Orleans and Chicago jazz houses. Their first album was cut under the name of the Chicago Transit Authority, but they became known simply as Chicago when Boss Daley's CTA threatened legal action, after they had moved to Los Angeles. This was when the Bears were threatening to move to a new stadium in the suburbs and King Richard I famously said: "They can call themselves the Arlington Heights Bears or the Schaumburg Bears. But they'll never be the Chicago Bears"). In the 40+ years since the group was founded, it has never disbanded, re-united or even stopped touring. Four members have been on stage since their first release. Longevity and rock and roll: united in the name of our city.

Another Chicago tradition that may not be as noble is one-sided elections. The Republicans have vacated the field in the local races for Congress, State Senator and State Representative. Hence the



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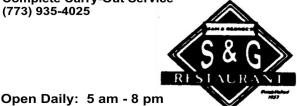
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incumbents may have little incentive to show for a candidates' night at our October meeting (they've been invited). The Green Party candidate for Congress (Nancy Wade) and the Republican candidate for State's Attorney (Lori Yokoyama) have accepted invitations and in the absence of their opponents, I'll let them address the group for a few minutes each. Some sort of a debate would be nice, but you can't clap with one hand.

And while we're on the subject of Chicago traditions, I couldn't help but notice that the CTA voted to eliminate the No. 11 bus from Fullerton to Western, despite widespread opposition. Pretty much the same thing is happening at the Lathrop Homes public housing development a mile west of us (at Damen, Diversey and Clybourn). During open meetings to tell the broader community what was going to happen, the mantra was: "we'll be what the community wants". doina conventional wisdom had it that the developers would build between 800 and 1,200 units (there were 925) divided about evenly among market rate, affordable and public housing. Respect would be paid to the low-rise style of buildings there, which have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now we have been informed that the developers intend to build from 1,322 to 1,610 units, with buildings up to 28 stories, and no preservation of the existing structures, not to mention 70,000 square feet of retail space, curb cuts on Damen

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south of Diversey and no commitment to the equal thirds apportionment of housing. Not to worry, however, as none of the "market rate" housing will be for sale, so those who own homes won't have to see a new flood of housing competing for buyers. (No similar sop to landlords, however). Access to public transportation is apparently not a concern, as the proposals show 1,200 parking spaces. We'll be voting on whether to support this railroad job at our October meeting. See you on the 9th.

Sincerely,

David G. Duggan

OCTOBER 2012 MEETING PREVIEW

Candidates Forum -

My fellow Americans, there is more than a Presidential election occurring in November. As has been SLN's effort to educate and inform our membership and neighborhood on local election issues, SLN has reach-out to many local candidates to appear in October before the November election. This is the chance to meet your candidates up close and personal.

Expected to appear : Candidates for State Representative Candidates for States Attorney

Lathrop Homes – developer presentation

Plans for the redevelopment of this large tract of land, located at Diversey and Clybourn, are now being presented throughout the community. Three plans are currently being floated with up to over 1,600 units, high rise towers between 12 and 28 stories, some or no preservation of the historic structures and up to 70,000 sq.ft. of retail space. Current plans do not really address the percentage of units devoted to low-income, affordable and/or market-rate housing.

Alderman Waguespak feels the need for community involvement and opinion is now.

Kerry Dickson, senior VP with Related Midwest, a member of the Lathrop's redevelopment consortium, will appear to present the current plans to SLN.

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AT THE SEPTEMBER 2012 MEETING

Alderman Waguespak - State of the Ward

A very large crowd filled the seats for the annual Aldermanic visit. Many new faces who have been members, but have not been able to attend meetings. Thank you for your support and for ABC scheduling the premier of Dancing with the Stars as to not to conflict with our first meeting of the year.

Lincoln Ave bus elimination: The Alderman reiterated the classic Chicago scenario. Announce proposed bus route eliminations. Do not allow the City Council any time to review. Schedule a community meeting for input with little notice... Then do what they want anyway. The Alderman said a CTA internal documentation email was discovered noting that the bus service from Lawrence Ave. to Fullerton was not redundant. Despite over 200 phone calls and emails to the CTA, the service will be eliminated. Savings to the City - \$1,000,000.

People Spot on the 2900 block of Lincoln: The Alderman felt this program was a success with predominately positive feedback. The City is looking to install addition seasonal spots, possibly on Southport. Sit there while you can. It should be removed by November 1 for street cleaning and snow plowing issues.

Street closures for pedestrian shopping: In addition to the many street festivals during the summer, the City has experimented with closing some main thoroughfares for a day to create a pedestrian mall. Most recently, the experiment occurred on Milwaukee Ave. north of Division and Ashland. The residents enjoyed strolling down the streets; however, business owners have reported a huge decrease in sales. The idea is being reconsidered.

New Garbage Grid: Right now garbage pick up is on Monday. Speaking for myself, I do not save up the garbage in my house and wait until pick up day though the empty Art of Pizza box sits on my back porch for days. Talk to my facilities manager (wife). The Alderman related a classic taxpayer boondoggle where a consulting firm was brought in to plan the new grid. However, facts such as narrow alleys, dead ends, T-intersections where the trucks have to back in and no alleys in some city areas (even in our fine neighborhood) were not considered. Thank you sir, may I have another.

The new grid is going to being coordinated with the recycling pick-up in the near future. Note that there will be less bulk pick-ups for things like apartment move-outs. Call the Alderman's office and 311 for bulk issues and he will deal with them. The garbage service headquarters has been relocated to a central site for 80 workers with one bathroom and one sink. Beware of grumpy garbagemen.

Developer escapades: Most recently, a rehabber on the 3100 block of Southport was engaging in renovations far beyond the legal permits. In addition, some activities like the piling of dirt from the basement on the parkway endangered pedestrians. Neighbors that questioned or complained to the site workers were dealt with in a threatening manner. The Alderman's office eventually intervened and that developer will be in court and may have their license suspended. If you are suspicious about any renovation work being done in your neighborhood call 911, let the cops deal with the threats. Call 311. Call the Alderman's office. If you wait, often what happens is developer is too far along with their illegal activities and the city lets them slide. You live here, protect your turf.

Lathrop Homes at Diversey and Clybourn: This project lays 90% in the 1st Ward and by a mapping glitch, 10% in the 32 Ward. There have been many community meetings for neighborhood input on the future of the site. SLN officers have attended these meetings. Well, low and behold, the plans released by the developers completely ignored most suggestions. The three plans submitted by the developers are very high in density and include a high rise tower ranging from 12 to 28 stories high depending on the version. Tons of retail, that could make this intersection one of the most crowded on the North Side. The Alderman and the community is furious and now raising support to object to these plans, before you know what happens.

Taggers, vandalism and punishment: the Alderman is working to get convicted taggers to be assigned to the Alderman's office to clean-up and paint street light poles. 250 gallons of rustoleum paint was donated to the Alderman's office. What about people who do not pick up after their dogs?

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS:

Crime: Still low in our neighborhood, but there has been a spike over by Hamlin Park with the infiltration of the Insane Deuces. Prosecutors are pursuing maximum penalties for some recent shootings in the 32nd Ward. The City still seems to

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be pursuing a "do more with less" mentality when it comes to policing such as one policeman per car and larger beat areas for the police to cover.

Parking Spaces: Meters were installed on the east side of the 3000 block of Ashland to replace meters that were lost in other parts of the neighborhood (see People Spot). Did we learn a lesson? Yes. Can we do anything about it? Not really. The Parking Lease Agreement expires in 20xx.

New Teacher Contract: how are we going to pay? The Alderman could not answer that question, but he warned the City needs to stop doing things (lengthen the school day) without first thinking about where the funds to pay for it will come from. There is no money in rainy day fund anymore.

Elected School Board: The Alderman is in favor of an elected versus the current appointed board. The November election allowed Aldermen to put a referendum on the ballot concerning this issue: however, an election board technicality disallowed this issue to be on the November ballot.

Diag Bar and Grill (formerly Jack's Bar and Grill) – same owners rebranding their bar. Live and recorded music in the beer garden is a no-no. The Alderman has notified the manager and will start fining the establishment if they do not relent. Call 911 and Alderman's office. Do not stand for illegal activities that affect your living space.

Rat Problem: The City has slashed the budget and the mild weather has produced a bumper crop of rats. The Alderman is attempting a block-by-block approach with the limited funds. See Rat Trapping article later in the newsletter.

7-11 Store at Ashland and Wolfram: Delivery trucks are arriving between midnight and 4AM and parking on Wolfram with their engines running, disturbing the sleeping patterns of the residents. The Alderman will investigate.

Chicago Pizza on Lincoln – for those who know, delivery until 5AM. Residents report delivery men are speeding up and down Barry, the alleys and parking in front of fire hydrants.

Father Michael O' Connell, new Pastor at St. Alphonsus

The Rev. O'Connell was greeted by the SLN membership. Father O'Connell insured the community that was concerned about a priest of Irish descent running a traditional German parish, that his great grandmother was of German descent and qualified him for the position. Father O'Connell thanked the neighborhood for its warm welcome. He has been a priest for 30 years. He has spent 21 of those years assigned to parishes in the south suburbs and 5 years in Rome getting his PhD in Theology. Father O'Connell grew up on the Northwest Side at Addison and Austin and is glad to be back on the great Northside.

People Spot on 2900 Lincoln

The SLN Board has had some discussions on this issue. One of the items that was somewhat irksome, was that the People Spot was put in with no neighborhood input. Lakeview Chamber of Commerce Executive Director spoke to the membership from the floor relating how this People Spot was part of the LAMP initiative creating open spaces in unusual places. These spots have been well received in NYC, L.A., Boston Minneapolis. The SSA #27, a tax imposed on businesses and some residents that live in commercial areas, paid for the spot. The Chamber is planning another spot in 2013 on Southport. An informal hand vote was taken to find out if the membership supported the People Spot. In favor, YES=34, opposed, NO=9.

FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS & CAPS

Alderman Waguespack 32nd Ward News Office located 2657 N. Clybourn, 773-248-1330 www.ward32.org, email = info@ward32.org

Voter Registration – Deadline to vote in the upcoming Presidential Election is October 9th. You can register to vote:

- At our office at 2657 N. Clybourn by bringing in two forms of identification; one form MUST show your current address
- At the Board of Election office located at 69 W. Washington, Suite 600 from 9am-5pm
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Document and Paper Shredding Event – On Saturday, October 13th, Alderman Tunney and Midway Movers will host a shredding day at St. Joseph's Hospital. Please bring your paper documents to the hospital's surface parking lot (located at Surf St & Sheridan) between 9am-12pm. Any questions, please call Deanna Degrazia at 773-525-6034.

Ward Night - still the first Monday of the month (except on Holidays) from 5P to 8PM. Get in line to discuss your issues with the Alderman or his staff. Feel fee to email or call the Ward office with any requests. You do not need to wait until Ward night to meet. The Ward office is open for you to stop in and make a request.

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CAPS MEETINGS

East of Lincoln is Beat 1933

A new commander for district 19. Elias Voulgaris, has been brought in to lower crime (88 incidents last month). First action was to redirect Burglary team – under tactical supervision now and realigned their duty tours/staff to mirror largest amount of incidents. Also an "entertainment team"

is being established to deal with problems associated with bars and late night clubs – duty hours are 8pm to 5am. Feel free to file complaints.

Police now have a new tool, they have the formal power to "disburse" a group or crowd if known gang hand signs, colors or members are evident rather than waiting for something to happen.

I-phone thefts increasing. Technique used by perp is to target potential victim sitting with phone on table. They engage in conversation and place magazine/newspaper on top of phone, then they leave with the paper and phone. Recommendation is to be cognizant of your surroundings and persons. Don't be afraid to look at others in your immediate vicinity. Their biggest fear is later identification.

District wide trend regarding burglaries (up 50%). More than 50% of reported incidents involve no force. Windows left open, apartment doors left unlocked or open when occupant leaves for short time and garage doors left open while owner goes into house.

Meetings back to once a month. Next meeting is October 11 (2nd Thursday).

Illinois Masonic Hospital, 836 W. Wellington, 7th floor auditorium at 7PM.

Between Lincoln and Ashland is Beat 1932 Meeting dates are 9/10, 10/1, 11/5 and 12/10. New Life Church, 1110 W. Lill at 7PM

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Children's Garage Sale – The Ninth Annual St. Alphonsus Children's Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 13th from 8am until noon in the Lower Church. Half off everything from 11am until noon.

AACA Rocket Run – On Thursday, Oct. 18th, Alphonsus Academy students will participate in the 18th Annual Rocket Run. Our goal is to raise \$45,000 to help close the gap between the cost of tuition and the true cost to educate an AACA student. If you would like to make a contribution to support our students, please give online at www.alphonsusacademy.org/rocketrun or return a check made payable to AACA to the school's main office at 1439 W. Wellington (please include: "Rocket Run" in the memo).

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please use form in this newsletter or go to the website for a form to renew your membership for 2012-2013. We appreciate you taking the initiative to renew in advance to reduce the number of follow-up letters to be sent by our Treasurer

RESTAURANT REVIEW – by Joni G Joni will return next month.

RAT PATROL

The City has cut its budget for rat baiting. In addition, the City will not come on to your property. Baiting is done in alleys only. But the rats are in your yard. It is time to start taking care of the problem by ourselves. The Haderlein household purchased \$2 traps at Menards. The traps were baited with peanut butter. 1 rat each of the first 3 nights. We increased the number of traps. 3 traps equaled 3 rats. At first, we were throwing out the whole trap, but with a pair of disposable gloves, we started reusing the traps. 12 rats total were killed. No sign of rats at the rat hole for a few days, but a wise sage told us the rats get smart to the traps, so you have to hold off for awhile until they think the coast is clear. Set the traps only at night time or you might kill some birds.

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Rats will have 8-10 babies per litter and produce 150 offspring per year. Believe me, the rats are in your yard, front and back. Let's do something about it.

20 Things a burglar won't tell you

The sources for the following tips come from convicted burglars; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri who interviewed 105 burglars for his book Burglars on the Job.

- 1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
- 2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
- 3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing.
- 4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
- 5. I like looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home and for flat screen tvs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
- 6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
- 7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
- 8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

- 9. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
- 10. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return easier.
- 11. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste, and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
- 12. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
- 13. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
- 14. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
- 15. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the window on the 2nd floor, which often access the master bedroom and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
- 16. I always knock first, if you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters.
- 17. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table and medicine cabinet
- 18. Helpful hint: I almost never go into the kid's rooms.
- 19. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe but if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- 20. A loud tv or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your tv on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulated the glow of a real television.

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