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

### MAY. 2011

but in these quarters the only community gardening

# **TUESDAY - May 10, 2011**

1505 West Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

### A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

### **EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

SLN is investigating email newsletters for those interested versus our current method of mailing. See the Article later in the newsletter

Dear Neighbors,

I believe that warmer days are around the corner. Through this interminable winter and sodden spring, I have tried to keep optimistic about the weather. As a global warming skeptic, I'm more concerned about my gas bills than whether the ice caps are melting or polar bears are mating with grizzlies. Yet that skepticism should not be confused with disdain for our surroundings or the environment generally. Though not an avid gardener, I love to see the things that I put in the ground flourish and am sad when they don't. Several years ago, SLN had an active gardening group (one of our past presidents won a Mayor's award for his garden, but he sold his home and decamped for warmer climes: can you blame him?) Perhaps that can be reconstituted. Nearby community groups take responsibility for planting the pie-shaped sidewalk corners at intersections,

### Meeting a Glance ... May 10,2011

Location: Basement of St. Alphonsus Church 1429 W. Wellington

Agenda:7:00 pm: Beer, wine, pop & mini-burgers 7:30 pm:

- 1) S&G Restaurant street cafe
- 2) Lakeview Computer Specialists
- 3) Bottles & Bottega new business presentation
- 4) Officers and Directors election

effort that I know of is at the cul-de-sac at Lakewood and Barry. The railroad tie planters at the Lakewood-George cul-de-sac near the playlot show the signs of age: so far as I can tell they haven't been tended to since the playlot was revamped 11 years ago and are a rodent magnet. If you can't wait for a gardening group to blossom (pun intended), the South Lakeview Park Advisory Council will be conducting a community clean-up on Sunday, May 15th, starting at 10:00 am. This group (a separate corporation) has graciously taken over working with the Park District over the plans for and programs hosted in the Wolfram-George playlot, and the least we can do is show our support by pitching in for an hour or two.

A year ago, the SLPAC scarcely existed, but in that time it coordinated 2010's summer and Halloween events and has raised funds for this year's festivities. I am personally grateful for this, since my offspring is a bit beyond the age of innocence. SLPAC's monthly meetings are a tribute to what deTocqueville and other visitors to



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these shores have noticed about Americans: they have a preternatural desire to come together to accomplish mutually beneficial ends. Jennifer Roche, SLPAC's president, and the rest of its board are to be commended for having revived this valuable asset and adjunct to our common life here in South Lakeview.

I spend a fair amount of my time these days going to meetings of affiliated organizations: Lake View Citizen's Council, the playlot committee, and others and am amazed at how SLN stacks up in terms of members, vibrancy and activities. Still, our membership seems to trend toward one end of the demographic bell curve, and I for one would like to see that changed. Because social networking appears to be the rage, we're in the process of integrating SN with SLN as a way of building membership, and thereby promote the "common" of our community. The board is considering various proposals with win-win outcomes. Details will follow.

At the May meeting, we'll have our annual election of officers and directors and I have agreed to serve another year if asked. But I always welcome alternative views and would encourage anyone who has a different vision to throw their hat into the ring. In the year since I took over SLN's presidency, I have been encouraged by the many expressions of support for what we do, not only at our monthly meetings, but during the year. As in past years, we'll have our summer party at Will's on July 12 (it's

### South Lakeview Neighbors 1505 West Oakdale Avenue (312) 409- SLN6

www.slneighbors.org

### Officers:

President:

1st Vice President:
2nd Vice President:
Recording Secretary:
Treasurer:
Corresponding Secretary:
Web Master:

David Duggan
Sam Samatas
Ernie Toth
Bill Haderlein
Ann Sychowski
Marge Fahrenbach
Steven Stern

Directors:

Greg Brown Susan Radzinowicz

Perry Castrovillari

Daniel Clifford Joseph Semerling
Jim Volkober Maureen Short
James Frendreis Robert Taugner

Joan Gatz

Newsletter Articles: Bill Haderlein

Newsletter Editor:

Jeanne Haderlein

For membership call Ann Sy at 773-477-8840

the All-Star game night). And we'll take that opportunity to recognize another of our neighbors with the Len and Ann Sychowski Good Citizenship Award. Until then,

Sincerely,

David G. Duggan

#### **MAY 2011 MEETING PREVIEW**

### **May Meeting Social Time**

An SLN tradition, Chicagoland Deck is donating beer and pop, Messr. Toth is supplying some wine from his cellar and S&G Restaurant is supplying some mini-burgers, chicken fingers and tater-tots, which are making a huge comeback according to Johnny B (first-come, first-serve). So come at 7PM or a little earlier is OK, meet us at the St. Alphonsus basement bar, have a drink, a little conversation, attend the meeting, vote on a few issues and then back to the bar to finish off the remainder. See you early and later.

#### S&G Restaurant – Street Cafe

S&G located at the corner of Lincoln and Wellington has submitted a plan to place 6 tables seating 4-6 people and 4 tables of romantic seating for 2 at the curb on the Wellington side of the building, facing St. Alphonsus Church. Hours of operation would be about 7AM for breakfast in the morning, lunch and dinner wrapping up at 8PM. This is a voting issue and the immediate area will be flyered.

### **Lakeview Computer Specialist**

Everyone has important data on their computers: digital music, photos, email, spreadsheets, etc. What would you do if you lost some or all of that data? Are you prepared in case of accidental damage to your computer? What if you were the victim of a burglary or your child spilled juice on your new laptop?

Ed Silverstein, owner, SLN advertiser and member, will speak on how and why to backup the important data on your computers. Some backup systems are free. Others can do a great job and

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still cost less than \$100. After presenting ideas about data backup, Ed will answer questions from the membership about data backup, computers and networking.

Ed is a computer engineer who has been working with computers since the age of 18. Ed started Lakeview Computer Specialists, LLC, a local business about two years ago. 773-935-9408 or www.LakeviewComputerSpecialists.com.

# Bottles & Bottega – New business 2900 N. Lincoln Ave

Have an "Art Party." The owners will give a short presentation on how to combine painting and partying. They provide all supplies, you supply the wine. Hello party.

### **OFFICERS and DIRECTORS - Election**

The Nominating Committee met April 21 with a Chicago Bulls playoff tip-time of 8PM as incentive to get the slate set. Our current President has served only one year, and was informed that he is expected to serve another year. After the initial shock to him wore off, he agreed to follow the 2-year (with 3<sup>rd</sup> option, yes) program. With the President set, the Nominating Committee focused on the Directors. Let the record note that Sam Samatas showed up late but brought a very nice nut tray. Here is the slate for 2011-2012. At press time the newsletter, we were still tracking down some nominees for Director positions:

President – David Duggan

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sam Samatas

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Perry Castrovillari (NEW)

Recording Secretary – Bill Haderlein

Treasurer – Ann Sychowski (42 straight years)

Corresponding Secretary – Ernie Toth (NEW)

Board of Directors – NEW: Mark Anderson and

Lisa Voight, RETURNING: Marge Farhrenbach

(officer last year), Joseph Semerling, Robert

Taugner, Joni Gatz, James Volkober, Greg Brown,

James Frendreis, Susan Radzinowicz.

Nominations for any position can be taken from the floor at election time.

### AT THE APRIL MEETING -

# 1325-41 W. BELMONT – MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING – Update

Paul Kopecky of MedProperties updated the membership on this Project. To summarize what is

happening, in October and November 2010, the Developers presented two 4-story versions of the Project as a Planned Development (PD). They were both voted down by the membership and the Alderman supported the vote. In December 2010, the Developers presented a 3<sup>rd</sup> version at a special meeting at St. Lukes that was only 3 stories high and was within the "right to build" under the current zoning except for the number of parking spots. The Developer intended to proceed with that plan and ask the Chicago Zoning Board for a parking variance. There was no opposition from the meeting attendees, most of who were from the immediate area of the Project. The Alderman supported that plan. The Developer submitted the plans. The Zoning Board rejected the Plan and required the property to be rezoned to a dash-5, in order to accommodate the parking issue. The Alderman supported this change and required the Developer to report this change to the neighborhood.

At the April meeting, after Mr. Kopecky's update, the concern from the membership was how to be guaranteed that the Project will be built as presented at the December meeting and whether a "covenant" should be entered into. Mr. Kopecky explained that under PD Zoning laws, only the plans submitted to the Zoning Board can be built and no other project can ever be built under the PD zoning. He described this as the ultimate covenant.

Mr. Kopecky described the timing of the Project as follows: if the zoning change is approved, demolition of the current buildings to occur June or July, construction of the outside shell of the Project to take one year and then the interior offices to be built-out after that. Go to the Alderman's Website at <a href="www.ward32.org">www.ward32.org</a> for additional information on the Project.

### 2954-56 N. RACINE – ZONING CHANGE

The new owners JAB represented by owners Frank Campise and Jim Jann and attorney Jessica Schramm presented the proposal for the rehabbing of this rental property. JAB has been rehabbing and managing their rental portfolio, mainly on the Northside for 23 years. This three-story property has 10 apartments: 2 ground level storefronts and 4 front and back apartments on both floors #2 and #3. Two brick garages with 4 parking spots are provided. The rehabbing would

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consist of new kitchens and bathrooms. No change in the foot-print of the building would occur. JAB is keeping the property as a rental and has no plans to convert to Condos. Landscaping and new sidewalks would be put in on the Wellington side of the property. The building is zoned R-4 (which is really under-zoned) which allows for 6 Units and the storefront apartments are not legal. Current zoning would require 1 for 1 parking. In order for JAB to get a building permit to rehab the apartments, the Zoning Board has required JAB to upzone the property to R5.5. The storefront apartments would be recognized and become legal. The SLN-NDRC required a restrictive covenant rezoning the property back to R-4 after rehabbing is completed to prevent a large building from being built if this property was ever demolished. JAB agreed to this covenant.

Some members and neighbors to the project questioned why the owners would not convert the building to 6 large units and demolish the garages to provide for more parking pad spots. JAB believes that the size of the current apartments generally appeal to a single or couples. They may not have cars, as they are near to public transportation to downtown. JAB contended that larger units would attract more "frat-type" tenants, which may have more cars and would not reduce the total number of tenants. JAB and other members noted that the current 10-unit configuration has been in existence for almost 25 years and people are finding parking. Others encouraged the rehab of a vintage rental building instead of the on-going demolition and building of "cookie-cutter" condos.

In the voting: Do you support the zoning change to allow the rehabbing of the building as presented and then the downzoning back to R-4.

YES – 24, NO –7. The information was forwarded to the Alderman.

### **CUBS CARE**

Jennifer Dedes Nowak, Manager of Community Outreach, Grants and Donations (yes that is one job) gave the membership a much needed pep talk for the upcoming season. Ms. Dedes gave the traditional, we have a good team, with timely hitting and pitching, it could be the year. Or do you mean century. Nevertheless at print date, the Cubs are in it as the Division looks pretty weak this year.

Ms. Dedes touched several non-team issues. There will be street festivals on Sheffield that the Cubs plan to have on weekends before weekend games against White Sox, Yankees (1<sup>st</sup> appearance in Wrigley) and some Cardinal series. The Cubs are working on a major concert but have not signed an act that can fill the 40,000 seats. Ticket sales are available to neighborhood people on a daily basis. Go to the Web-site. The triangle building at Waveland and Clark has been on hold for 6 years, but is currently being reconsidered.

Chicago Cubs Charities teamed up with the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and announced more than \$1 million in donations to 47 non-profits which helps to support local organizations and people in communities throughout the Chicago area. In the immediate Lakeview area donations are being made to Deborah's Place, Lakeview Pantry, Lake View YMCA, National Runaway Switchboard and Night Ministry. CubsCare donations in prior years were used for the Legends Fields at Hamlin Park to rebuild the fields and install an excellent lighting system. Recently, the playground area at Blaine School had a turface playing field installed.

Many thanks for Ms. Dedes-Nowak for her attendance and patience waiting to take the stage.

Go to www.Cubs.com for additional information.

### FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS & CAPS

Alderman Waguespack 32<sup>nd</sup> Ward News
Office located 2657 N. Clybourn, 773-248-1330
www.ward32.org, email = info@ward32.org
Wellington Tap – please contact the Alderman's office for the next meeting that was changed to mid-May.

Dog Parks – go to the Alderman's website to download dog friendly parks. Dog owners are not allowed to let their dog run off the leash in non-designated areas. Dogs must be on the leash at all times. Pick up after your dog. This simple task helps suppress the rat population and prevent an increase in health related problems. Owners who fail to pick up after your dogs are subject to a fine up to \$500.

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### **U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley**

Mr. Quigley' office announced that his office has returned over \$1million to 5<sup>th</sup> Distrcit taxpayers who were owed Social Security checks, veteran's benefits, tax refunds or other federal payments by helping constituents cut through the federal red tape. If constituent have questions or need assistance with a U.S. federal agency, call Mr. Quigley's office at 773-267-5926 or visit his office at 1057 W. Belmont.

### **CAPS MEETINGS**

CAPS Meetings are now being held quarterly. 2011 meeting dates are:

- Beat 1931: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays on 6/2, 9/1 and 12/1 at 7:00 pm, Hamlin Park, 3035 N. Hoyne.
- Beat 1932: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays on 6/9, 9/8 and 12/8 @ 7:00 pm, Illinois Masonic Hospital-Clarke Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington.

### **CAPS Officers** -

email = CAPS019District@chicagopolice.org.

Sign up for Community email alerts with Lt. John Willner email=john.willner@chicagopolice.org.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS / INFORMATION**

# SOUTH LAKEVIEW PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL – a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization

Neighborhood Park Clean-up Day at South Lakeview Park. Sunday May 15 10AM to NOON. Bring your family, rakes, work gloves and spirit. Light snacks, a kids activity and an introduction to the Council are included.

You are welcome to join the Advisory Council for the 2011 season. The next meeting is Monday, June 27 @ 7PM at the Golden Apple. The Council is planning the popular Tuesdays in the Park, but is in need of more volunteers to help ensure these events. The council is looking for an individual to chair the Halloween Party in October.

Corporate or Individual Sponsors - The Advisory Council is looking for financial sponsors for its 2011 Summer and Halloween events.

Contact Jennifer Roche at jenniferroche@yahoo.com or Carolyn Withey at witheycarolyn@yahoo.com for additional information.

# **BURLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Friends of Burley**

See www.friendsofburley.org for info.

# ST. ALPHONSUS BOY AND CUB SCOUTS – Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Support our neighborhood scouting programs by attending their annual fundraising dinner :

Sunday, May 15 from 3PM to 7PM. Alphonsus Academy School Basement. \$7 includes spaghetti and salad bar. Prizes and games for kids. Tickets may be purchased from any scout or the St. Alphonsus Rectory. Call Cindy Toler 773-267-7731 or Bonnie Budde 773-885-7560 with any questions.

# LAKEVIEW CITIZENS COUNCIL - LVCC www.lakeviewcitizens.org.

Annual Meeting of Membership – Tuesday, May 17 at Lake View High School. Voting 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Meeting 7PM-8PM.

Neighborhood Bike Lake View: Sunday, May 8 10AM. FREE. Meet at Seminary and Waveland (NW corner of Wrigley Field). Post-ride Social time around 11AM at Schubas. Must have a helmet and lock if socializing after. Contact Lee Crandell at email= crandell@gmail.com

Sausagefest: June 4-5 (Sat & Sun), Noon-10PM. Addison and Sheffield. Bands, beer and sausage. A killer combination.

### **LAKEVIEW CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

Art Walk – from June 30 to July 31, the Chamber is sponsoring art exhibits and sculptures on Southport between Addison and Belmont. Spaces are still available. So if you are an artist or know one, contact the Chamber.





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### Lakeview Area Master Plan LAMP:

Go to www.thisislakeview.com for the full report as presented in March and reported in last month's newsletter.

Contact information: 773-471-7171, <a href="https://www.lakeviewchamber.com">www.lakeviewchamber.com</a>, email = info@lakeviewchamber.com

# URBAN PARKING – what do you think ? (submitted by Ernie Toth)

SLN meeting lament: "I can't park in front of my house." Chicago's zoning code has a minimum parking requirement. New residences businesses must allocate at least a certain amount of parking spaces based on the size of the building. However, many cities are changing their tune and mandating a "maximum" amount of parking instead. An increasing number of urban planners believe that minimum parking policies make it too convenient for people to own extra cars and, or drive unnecessarily. Otherwise, they may walk, bike or take the bus or L. To discourage unnecessary driving, Chicagoans may be better served if the amount of parking that developers are required to provide is reduced.

The Alderman can permit parking variances. What do you think? Send your opinions to email: info@slneighbors.org.

### **EMAIL SLN NEWSLETTER – save SLN money**

If you wish to receive the newsletter by EMAIL, go to the SLN website at www.slneighbors.org. Click on the link on the right side of the page under "Subscribe to our newsletter." And follow the prompts. SLN's biggest expense is the production of the monthly newsletter. Switching to the email version will reduce our future costs. Currently, 26 SLN members are having the newsletter emailed. Monthly saving of postage and copying = \$39.00

(about \$1.50 per) plus the time of assembly.SLN has over 300 people on the current mailing list.

#### SLN VOICEMAIL - Rest in Peace

SLN has discontinued the Voicemail number. Actually AT&T disconnected us, due to lack of activity. So SLN will save money and you will not leave a message that will not be answered. You can contact SLN as follows: by email to the general email address = <a href="mailto:info@slneighbors.org">info@slneighbors.org</a> or directly to the President at = <a href="mailto:president@slnneighbors.org">president@slnneighbors.org</a>. Or you can mail information to South Lakeview Neighbors 1505 W. Oakdale. We move into the 20th century. Not a typo.

#### ARTICLES AND ACCOUNCEMENTS

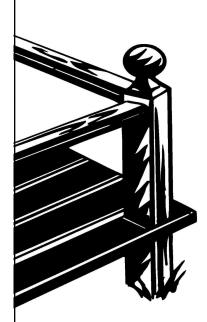
Individuals, Community Groups, Schools, Churches or Business can submit announcements or informative information for the newsletter to Bill Haderlein at email = chicagolanddeck@rcn.com.

### RESTAURANT REVIEW – by Joni G. La Gondola, 2914 N. Ashland, 773-248-4433

This reviewer knows of the new La Gondola restaurant on Belmont, so thought we should see if the original version (once "re"moved) is still as good. Historically, La Gondola was on the 2500 block of Ashland and at that time a huge restaurant with banquet rooms to rent. When the family did not all want to stay in the business, they sold and some opened the small 6 table top restaurant (maximum occupancy 22) in Jewel's strip mall.

Hands down they are still doing a booming business at "little" La Gondola. The place is always packed so you must make reservations at least a few days in advance. Service is very friendly and top notch. I had turned down the first bottle of Chianti they opened and without hesitation they presented us with a new better bottle. The lighting seemed darker than I remember in the past, however could have been the quiet corner table where we sat.

Our very relaxing meal began with the grilled octopus special appetizer. Delicious and ample for 3 or 4 to share, it was served with roasted red peppers and whole roasted garlic cloves. My dining partner ordered the Tilapia Puttanesca, which could have been spiced up a bit more. My dish, Rigatoni Boscaiola, which translates into



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"YUM x three stars", was the hit of the dinner as well as two lunches later. Seriously this is the freshest pasta I have had in a long time, which was served with chunks of Italian Sausage, sage and mushrooms. So good! Yes the portions are still humungous. So what if it is a little on the pricey side for a strip mall restaurant. You will probably get at least two meals out of every dish. The freshly made warm baguette of bread and olive oil sang of Italy, along with some good Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin tunes playing subtly overhead.

So my next review may well be comparing my favorite dish at "little" La Gondola to the kitchen of the new La Gondola on Belmont. While you wait, go, enjoy and mangia.

### SLN SUMMER PARTY – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

Mark your calendars.
July 12, Tuesday from 6:30PM to 8:30PM.
Wills Northwoods outside patio.