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. 2011



1505 West Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew your memberships so you can keep your voting privileges and receive your newsletter.

Dear Neighbors,

A mile west of us straddling Diversey lie some twodozen brick buildings that once housed 925 families. All of those buildings north of Diversey are now vacant, the victim of the Chicago Housing Authority's never-ending ineptitude in providing safe, clean and well-maintained housing for Chicago's poorest citizens. The Julia Lathop a turn-of-the-century Homes (named after reformer) were one of this nation's earliest experiments in providing public housing, but in the nearly 75 years since they were erected, the philosophy of, maybe even the need for such housing has changed remarkably. Back in the 30's, the idea was that these units would give lowincome families a chance to get their lives straightened out free from the pain of eviction and break-up of the family, with children being sent to orphanages or foster care. More recently, public housing has become a crime, drugs and gang magnet, not to mention a long-term warehouse of

MEETING AT A GLANCE October 11, 2011

Location: Basement - St. Alphonsus Church

1429 W. Wellington

Agenda: 7:00PM: Coffee & Cookies

7:30PM: Meeting 1) State Rep. Ann Williams

2) www.everyblock.com

society's less-fortunate. Lathrop Homes and the CHA have been under court supervision for four decades, but this is not the space to debate housing initiatives as social policy. While you might wonder why I devote any space to an issue outside our borders, unlike Vegas, what happens at Lathrop Homes doesn't stay there.

The CHA has just approved a \$1.1 million loan to a private consortium for "eligible pre-development expenses" at Lathrop. What \$1.1 million buys for us is anybody's guess, but I hope that there is provision for park land there. At our latitude from the Lake to the River, we have precious little park land that hasn't been either privatized or "highendified" (I just made that word up). If you don't have a boat or a set of golf clubs or thousands to drop on a tennis club membership, there's not much offered. North of us the River's banks have been preserved for public use, and why we can't have recreation alternatives that keep traffic from congealing east of the River is beyond me.

The current proposals call for some mix of "market", "affordable" and "public" housing at Lathrop. Market is of course code for "high end"



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and with "For Sale' signs as far as the eye can see, why anyone perceives the need for more "market" housing is another mystery. One board member has taken interest, and you can be sure that South Lakeview Neighbors will stay atop this issue.

I am not a streetfest kinda guy, but in the interests of fact finding and fostering community relations, I braved the threatening storms to join the teeming masses of 20-somethings at St. Al's annual Octoberfest. Fueled by a Groupon discount, the crowd jammed cordoned off Oakdale, the parking lot and church basement, listening to the bands and consuming food and beverage that their mothers may have frowned on. All in all, I'd say that the merry revelers were well-behaved, and I saw no after-effects of their revelry on my front lawn a block north of their merriment. It is my understanding that a new "event operator" ran this festival, and I hope that it was financially successful for all concerned.

You may not have noticed the controversy over the hookah lounge proposal stemming from last month's meeting, but RoscoeViewJournal.com, an on-line "micro" newspaper, accused our organization of "ethnic prejudice' in voting against this special use. I wrote a rejoinder to this article which was reprinted in our on-line newsletter at slneighbors.org. I found RoscoeViewJournal's reporting lop-sided, even if the author (whom I know) quoted one less-than-polite participant

South Lakeview Neighbors 1505 West Oakdale Avenue

www.slneighbors.org

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correctly. I guess that's the price of admission for allowing democracy in action. Jefferson wrote that if he had the choice between a government without newspapers, and newspapers without government, he'd take the latter. In Chicago, it's a close call.

Sincerely,

David G. Duggan

OCTOBER 2011 MEETING PREVIEW

STATE REP. ANN WILLIAMS

This will be Ms. Wiliams first visit to SLN since her appearance prior to her election last year. She will bring us the good news from Springfield for one and all to hear. Welcome.

WWW.everyblock.com

This is a website that collects 22 types of news in Chicago including crime, media mentions, neighborhood activities, real estate listings, and others. A representative will make a presentation on the use of this website.

AT THE SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING

ALDERMAN SCOTT WAGUESPACK - STATE of the WARD ADDRESS

Alderman Waguespack gave his 5th talk to the SLN membership. He commented on how he is working on building his relationship with the new Mayor Rahm Emmanuel.

Bankrupt properties – the Alderman worked on an ordinance changing the definition of ownership on foreclosures. 80-100 foreclosured properties are vacant in the 32nd Ward. These properties are sometimes secretly occupied by squatters or homeless people, some just living there, some cooking food on propane stoves or dealing drugs. Vacant lots are often overgrown and are hide-outs for rats. Banks are now required to secure those properties and keep up the vacant lots. The Alderman noted that in some cases, workers from his office have rousted squatters and the 32nd Ward has put their own locks on some buildings to secure them.

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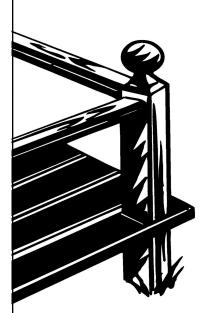
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Graffiti – Though building owners have not been showing up in court to prosecute some taggers, knowing that they are guilty, judges have been sentencing the taggers to community service removing graffiti. In addition, the 32nd Ward organized a voluntary group of High School students during the summer to remove graffiti from various light poles, telephone boxes and other public areas.

Burley School – attendance is at capacity. A new garden/park proposal is for behind the school. Prescott School - to be closed a year ago, was kept open by a parent's movement and attendance is up.

Lakeview High School – has a new principal. The Alderman is working with the school to get STEM (Science, Technology, English & Math) Funding to help the students compete on a statewide level.

Recycling -32^{nd} Ward is now 100% on the blue can program. Pick-ups are every other week.

Police Budget & Crime – the Alderman is working hard to keep police from being transferred from our District to high crime areas. He believes that crimes are under-reported in our Ward and the police need to remain. He is working with the District to get policemen that are on disability to do light office work, while healthy officers are on the street.

Murder @ 1100 W. Wrightwood – a fight occurred outside a house party and a young man was stabbed to death. No arrests have been made.

Mobile Food Ordinance – passed which should create jobs in the food industry. Imposes strict health regulations on these mobile food vans.

Traffic – Western Ave. overpass at Belmont will be demolished now that Riverview Park is closed and the shoot-the-chutes has been dismantled. Elston-Damen-Fullerton: CDOT is in the process of buying the adjoining land to reconfigure this intersection.

Budget - \$650 million in the hole. The reduction of the deficit is being driven by the Mayor's office.

After the Alderman's talk, he opened the floor for questions. Here is a synopsis.

- 1) New buildings that do not provide for garbage can storage cannot push them up against a neighbor's fence.
- He favors the grid system for garbage collection. Other than sending an occasional truck out for a special reason, he is not worried about controlling this process.
- 3) Cronyism many Daley holdovers in Rahm's departments, but Rahm appears more transparent in his dealings.
- 4) Rats vacant property ordinance to be enforced.
- 5) Speed bumps if 85% of registered voters sign a petition, he forwards the request to CDOT.
- 6) LAMP (Lincoln Belmont Ashland Plan) no State or City money so he is assisting the Chamber with a Federal Grant.

SLN thanks the Alderman for his time and continued accessibility to our membership.

CONGRESSMAN MIKE QUIGLEY drop-in:

The Congressman emailed the SLN officers, letting us know that he was in town from D.C. and wanted a short amount of time before the membership.

The Postal Service is bankrupt and is in serious threat of ending its service unless some legislation is passed regarding the funding of pensions, 5 day service, closing offices and massive layoffs. He reiterated that the US Government does not fund the US Postal Service but its budget and operations are approved by the US Government.

Debt Reduction – the main solution. End overseas wars and entitlement programs. Aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, etc. Are they needed anymore? Tax breaks for the oil industry and ethanol production. \$1.2 trillion in various tax breaks total in the Budget. See his website for more information.

Economic Stimulus – the last Stimulus which did not really produce the desired results did find that though only 4% of the stimulus was spent on infrastructure, that 4% created 30% of the jobs.

SLN is working with the Congressman's D.C. schedule for a longer return visit.

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	Sausage	
l	Combo	
l	Sandwich	
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ľ	Chicken	
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Baked Mostaccioli Dinner \$5.25

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Г	Ribeye Steak
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F	\$5.50 Homemade
	Manicotti
	Dinner \$5.75

ı	Sunday
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l	Rib Dinner
	\$9.95
	Spaghetti
l	& Meatball
l	Dinner
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HOOKAH LOUNGE 1351 W. Belmont – Special Use Permit

Hookah – a smoking pipe with a long tube passing through a container of water that cools the smoke as it is drawn through.

Mr. Nihad Avdic and his partner presented their business plans to the membership. The property is a stand alone, one story building just east of Schubas. The hookah is just a part of the business as they intend to also focus on non-alcoholic and flavored drinks and packaged Mediterranean and American snacks and appetizers. No alcohol will be served. The building would have a state of the art ventilation system so smokers will not affect other customers. Hours of operation are expected to be Monday-Friday 4PM-1AM, Saturday 4PM-2AM, Sunday 4PM-3AM. The business will require a Special Use Permit to conduct this type of business at that location.

The floor was opened for questions. Many questions dealt with the clarification of the hookah process. The owners were questioned as to why the establishment needed to have such late hours. One attendee related of an enjoyable hookah experience overseas. One member looked up hookah bar on his smart phone and reported that they are havens for crime. This comment was met with some commotion. Another attendee made a comment connecting the hookah bar with the US involvement in the Iraqi/Afghanistan wars and bringing the war to the South Lakeview neighborhood. There was total uproar after this comment wherein President Duggan had to call the meeting back to order. A final comment urging the a NO vote was made citing that if SLN allows a Special Use Permit to be allowed, that the vote should directly benefit the neighborhood. He noted that the business would be a destination for outsiders to enter the neighborhood late at night and potentially disrupting the people living in houses and condos surrounding the location.

A ballot vote was taken. Results. In favor-YES = 20, Not in favor-NO = 32. The results were forwarded to the Alderman.

SIGNAGE PROPOSAL at Pockets Restaurant – Lincoln/Southport/Wellington intersection.

Mr. Joseph E. Dahir of 24 Seven Outdoor did not appear to present his plans for a 10x10 billboard to

be located on the face of Pockets Restaurant. President Duggan recapped the plans from a meeting of Mr. Dahir and the SLN NDRC. The billboard will be located 30ft at the top between floors #2 and #3. The billboard is static in that there are no moving images or flashing lights. The ad will change about every 6 seconds. Mr. Dahir believed that the billboard conforms to the City of Chicago Sign Ordinance.

The floor was open for comments. They were generally negative noting that the sign would face St. Alphonsus Church and Herdegan Funeral Home and give the somewhat historic intersection a cheesy, cheap Times Square look. Though Mr. Dahir felt he did not need approval, the Alderman has noted that objection to an issue could stop certain signs from being erected.

A paper ballot vote was taken on the issue. In favor, YES = 8, Not in favor, NO=46. The results were forwarded to the Alderman.

Subsequent to the meeting, two NDRC members measured the distance from the sign location to the nearest residentially zoned area. The Alderman's office was contacted that the sign site is close to the 100ft. minimum distance required.

EMAIL SLN NEWSLETTER to be EMAILED

The SLN Officers and Directors voted to commence emailing the newsletter to all members with email addresses. The continued cost of copying and postage is an expense SLN is looking to reduce. Members will receive a notification that the newsletter has been emailed. It can be read on your computer or you can print it off. SLN will be testing out email addresses over the next few months. Those members without email addresses will continue to receive the hard copy. In the meantime, if you want to beat us to the punch, go to the SLN website and subscribe for the email version NOW.

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

Fall Leaves - DO NOT RAKE leaves into the street. The street sweepers are not equipped to handle piles of leaves and your area will be

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passed over. The leaves also clog sewers and lead to flooding of the street. Report landscaping companies blowing leaves into the street to 311 or the Alderman's office. Dispose of leaves by the bag next to your blue cart to be picked with the recycling.

Rain barrel program – The Metropolitan Water Reclamation of Chicago is offering 55 gallon barrels for rain water conservation. Cost is \$51 with a 50% rebate if bought before December 31. Contact the Office of Public Affairs at 312-751-6633.

State Representative Ann M. Williams Office located- 1726 W. Belmont, 773-880-9082 Email – ann@repannwilliams.com

Coffee & Conversations. Informal discussions with State Rep. Williams and other elected officials.

October 4, Tuesday 6PM-8PM with Michael Caronargi of Cook County Board of Review at Riverview Restaurant 1958 W. Roscoe.

November 1, Tuesday 6PM-8PM with Alderman Waguespack at Riverview Restaurant 1958 W. Roscoe.

For more information and to sign up for Rep.Williams newsletter call or email her office.

U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley Office @ 1057 W. Belmont, 773-267-5926. Email=bridget.geraghty@mail.house.gov www.quigley.house.gov

See Notes earlier in Newsletter

Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey 773-871-4000, www.fritchey.com

Property Tax Appeals Workshop – October 20, Thursday 6-8PM, St Bonaventure gymnasium, 1625 W. Diversey. Bring your most recent tax bill. Call Bridget Luehrsen,773-871-4000 for more info.

CAPS MEETINGS

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

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

Municipal code #7-12-100 – When excessive animall noise occurs and exceeds 10 consecutive minutes within 100ft of a residence, the offender can be given a violation. Call 911 if someone is home where the animal noise is coming.

CAPS Officers -

email = CAPS.019District@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 www.southlakeviewpark.org

Annual Halloween Party – Sunday October 23 @ 1-3PM. Games, crafts, moon bounce and games. Free admission. For more information go to Website. This event is generously sponsored by funds raised by South Lakeview Neighbors.

Business or Individual Sponsors - The Advisory Council is looking for financial sponsors for its 2011 Halloween events and 2012 Summer programs.

More information at www.southlakeviewpark.org

BURLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Friends of Burley – www.freindsofburley.org

ST. ALPHONSUS NEWS – 773-525-0709 or www.stalphonsuschgo.org

Speed Dating – October 14,Friday @ 7PM in the Lower Church. It has been documented that 4 couples have met at St. Als Speed Dating and got married. \$45-\$50 registration includes beer and wine (very important), pop and appetizers. Contact email = stalspeeddate@gmail.com for info. Tell your loser brother.

Children's Garage Sale – October 22, Saturday 8AM-Noon in the Lower Church. Also donate your slightly used items to the cause. Collection times for donation items are 8AM-NOON, October15-19.



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For info go to email = tkellysayre@gmail.com

Athenaeum Centennial – October 10, Monday @ 6:30PM. Built by the parish 100 years ago. The Athenaeum is one of the oldest operating theaters in Chicago. Celebrate its birthday with artistic and community leaders at this free event.

Steeple Repairs – the scaffolding is being erected. \$400,000 in repairs are urgent and necessary to last maybe 20 years before more major work will be needed.

LAKEVIEW CHAMBER of COMMERCE

773-471-7171 or www.lakeviewchamber.com, email = info@lakeviewchamber.com
Go to the Chambers website for info on these events.

October 8, Saturday 11AM – Chicago Canine Rescue Block Party & Walk.

October 21, Friday 6PM-9PM - Eliminate Hunger Social sponsored by Lakeview Pantry

October 30, Saturday 1-3PM - Halloween on Southport

The LAMP Plan for the Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland area recently won awards from the International Downtown Association and the American Planning Association.

NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD (NRS)

Become a Crisis Liner – volunteer as crisis liner who provide intervention for youth and families through the NRS hotline. Liners receive 40 hours of instruction, discussion and role play. After completing training, volunteers are asked to commit 2-4 hours per week for at least one year.

Please join NRS in its mission to keep America's runaway, homeless and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. Contact Michelle Vos, Volunteer Coordinator at 773-289-1726 or email = volunteer@1800RUNAWAY.org. Located at 3080 N. Lincoln Ave.

To CONTACT SLN - EMAIL

SLN has discontinued the Voicemail number. You can contact SLN as follows: by email to the general email address = info@slneighbors.org or

directly to the President at president@slneighbors.org. Or you can mail information to South Lakeview Neighbors 1505 W. Oakdale.

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS – pay your dues

We have noticed some email newsletter subscribers are not members. Your payment of dues for membership will allow you to vote on all issues that come before SLN, (Zoning, liquor license, new businesses, etc.) In addition, SLN has normal not-for-profit operating expenses that your dues pay for – newsletter production and postage, insurance, rent for meetings, flyering for voting issues, etc.. Do the right thing and send your membership form in today. Form is attached to the newsletter or go to the website.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS – AD SPACE

Pro-Rated for 7 issues plus 24/7 exposure on the SLN Website: Smallest \$50, next smallest \$75, 1/6 page \$110, 1/3 page \$210, ½ page \$310. Contact Ann Sychowski at 773-477-8840

RESTAURANT REVIEW – by Joni G. Coopers, 1232 Belmont, 773-929-2667

Influenced by recommendations from other SLN members, we were looking to be wowed. There is a wonderful outdoor patio which is open year round with enclosure and heaters, excellent beer menu and ample choice of wine by the glass or bottle. The staff is very attentive and friendly. Coopers was bustling and seemed like the place to be on Belmont. Considering that we have other choices on this strip of Belmont, I really wanted to say I found a gem to recommend to all, until we received our food.

Unfortunately the food menu and consumption of the offerings were only at best okay bar food. The menu consists of only 2 pages, whereas the beer and drink menu was a thick pamphlet. The ribs were highlighted as a special of the house so I ordered what should be a braggart's delight. I was cautioned by our server that the sauce is new and very smoky. Surely the kitchen knows how to make something interesting and delicious other than pizza and not very exciting sandwiches, I thought. After the ample 20 minute wait and prices higher than a neighborhood saloon with a similar food menu, our food was a disappointment.



DR. RALPH GEIDERMAN, O.D. 3136 N. Lincoln - Chicago, IL 60657 (773) 871-8210



John Fritchey Cook County Commissioner, 12th District 32nd Ward Democratic Committeeman



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Do not go with a time restraint. From order to table delivery, it can take some time for only bar food. All in all I give Coopers a 1.5 out of 5 for food and 4.5 for atmosphere. Ambience and conversation level are more than pleasant along with cheerful servers and hosts. Eat elsewhere and go to Coopers for the choice beer offerings and atmosphere. You never know who you will run into or see exiting their cabs and entering the theatres across the street. The right seat on the patio can be a fantastic people watching place.

REST IN PEACE – Maureen "Dolly" Short

After a long battle with illness, long-time SLN officer and director passed away this summer. Dolly prepared the coffee for meetings and wrote many gardening articles for the SLN newsletter. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

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