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.)

NOVEMBER, 2011



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you did not receive the newsletter by email this month, please go to the website at www.slneighbors.org to enter your information. Our goal is to email as many newsletters as possible to eliminate copying and postage costs and assembly time. Some email addresses we tested bounced back to us due to transcription errors. So help us by using the web-site to submit (correct) your email information.

Dear Neighbors,

By the time you read this, I will have paid my 2nd half 2010 property taxes. Now that I have retired, and with the exception of my son's graduate school tuition (hopefully ending soon), my two property tax payments are the largest checks I write every year. With a 14% increase over last year's tax bill (what happened to Emanuel's nonew-taxes pledge?), I

MEETING AT A GLANCE November 8, 2011

Location: Basement – St.Alphonsus Church

1429 W. Wellington

Agenda: 7:00PM: Coffee & Cookies

7:30PM: Meeting

1) U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley

2) Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey

3) Friends of Burley - Playground surface

4) Zip Car Parking – Lakewood & Wellington

wonder what I get for the money. The stated wisdom is that 52% of my property tax bill goes toward public education, but as I read my bill, it's closer to 58%, counting the Chicago City Colleges and something called the Chicago School Building and Improvement Fund (do they think that they can educate children without buildings?). In the 20+ years that I have been a property-tax payer for three dwelling units, there has been exactly one year's demand for a public school education-that which eats up majority of our tax dollars. For those who send their kids to private or parochial schools, the return is even worse. What gives?

This may not be the time or place to debate property tax reform, but with the top three officers of the State of Illinois (our dear Governor, the president of the State Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly) having made (and continuing to make) their bones in the Cook County property tax game, there is a vested interest in keeping the system as broken as it is. Reassessments, equalizers, exemptions, all



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require lawyers and accountants to finagle (did I say that all three of these officers are lawyers, the two in the legislature with active practices?), and if there's anything that breeds lawyers it is other lawyers in the legislature passing laws that make the simple complex. Sadly, there's no Herman Cain touting a simplified 9-9-9 property tax system (no more than 9% of annual rental value-or rents if the property is leased to others; no more than a 9% increase in any year-including reassessments; no more than 9% of income from all sources-to provide for seniors or others on a fixed income) to replace the Rube Goldberg gimmicks we have now.

While the schools devour the majority of our tax dollars, the jobs of assessment, apportionment and collection lie at the county level. Our Cook County Commissioner, John Fritchey, will be at our November meeting; perhaps he will address some of these issues. Fritchey is our former state representative and evidently after tiring of the Springfield commute (can you blame him?), he ran for the commissioner's vacancy created when our Congressman Mike Quigley won Rahm Emanuel's seat in an early 2009 special election. Perhaps other members would like to ask Fritchey what he is doing to overhaul the "corruption tax" that Cook County residents pay so that the Todd Strogers of the world can employ their relatives in lucrative positions and give cronies no-bid contracts. would do so, except that may open me up to charges of being "too political".

South Lakeview Neighbors 1515 West Oakdale Avenue

www.slneighbors.org

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For membership call Ann Sy at 773-477-8840

Clark Kerr, the former chancellor of the University of California, said that running the university had been reduced to worrying about "sex for the students, football for the alumni, and parking for I share his concern that parking the faculty". problems magnify beyond all bounds: since the Belmont Medical Building of last year, no issue has generated more heat than the single ZipCar parking space at Lakewood and Wellington. Even in the genteel quarters of a board meeting held in St. Al's rectory, tempers flared. While it appears that this one space has been set aside pursuant to city ordinance, members will have the chance to vote to ask the Alderman to rescind the ordinance. and separately on whether other spaces in our neighborhood should be set aside for "car-sharing" programs like ZipCar.

One other presentation for November will be from Burley School where a group is planning a re-do of the rear playground. I use the term playground advisedly: it is simply an asphalt pavement with faint lines on one end demarking only a basketball court (without nets, of course). Having grown up on asphalt playgrounds and bearing the scars of doing so, I hope that the future generations of Burley students will enjoy a playground that is not a hazard.

This is my last communication with the members before Thanksgiving. With our economy still on its back three years into a recession, some may think that there is little to be thankful for. But I am grateful that South Lakeview neighbors still exists to support the community and that the community exists to support its members.

Sincerely,

David G. Duggan

NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING PREVIEW

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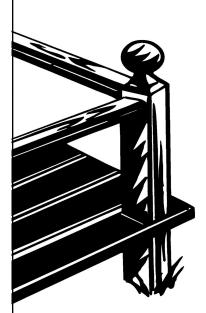
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Mr. Quigley will give us a full-blown report from Washington D.C. on the war, political gridlock, budget deficits, job creation and unemployment among other topics.

COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER - JOHN FRITCHEY

Frequent visitor to SLN meetings, Mr. Fritchey will unveil his call for a New Marijuana Policy of ticketing for possession making practical and economic sense among other Cook County issues. As many of the SLN members were teenagers during the late 60's and early 70's, this should be a topic of interest.

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

Friends of Burley (Burley School) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization focused on raising funds for various projects for the Burley School. The Friends will present plans to convert the old paved play space at Burley to a new community park and playground including an artificial turf athletic and play field, a soft running track, new basketball court, landscaping and more.

ZIP CAR STREET PARKING - Lakewood & Wellington

There will be a discussion and a vote on the issue of private businesses being allocated public parking spaces to conduct for-profit business. This issue has arisen as a result of a parking spot on Lakewood being allocated to the ZipCar venture without neighborhood input. The SLN Board has been communicating with the Alderman's office on this issue. The immediate area will be flyered and there will be a VOTE.

AT THE OCTOBER 2011 MEETING

STATE REP. ANN WILLIAMS

This was Ms. Williams' first visit before the SLN brethren since her election. She encourages residents to sign up for her newsletter and email her with issues that are important.

She admitted that she is still in the breaking in process of Springfield politics. Though the State is

in dire financial straits, she tried to accentuate the positives that are happening in the State.

Ms. Williams has been involved in working on various legislation including 1) workers compensation legislation that will make Illinois a more competitive work environment, 2) education reform to lengthen the school day and set teacher standards, 3) keeping smoking bans in all public places despite lobbying from the casino industry, 4) medical marijuana issues, 5) reproductive rights opposing limitations to restrict abortion, 6) concealed gun laws opposition.

Ms. Williams personally worked on issues involving 1) new cancer treatments that are not being covered by health insurance companies, 2) environmental issues with legislation for small systems energy including solar, windmill and turbines and 3) the smart grid bill for ComEd upgrading of the current electrical system, vetoed by Governor Quinn but recently overridden by the legislature.

Budget - the "good news" was that the current budget was passed with a bi-partisan effort as opposed to the normal back-room dealing. Different than in previous budgets, each program had to be fit into the predetermined budget number, not the opposite as in prior years. The "bad news" is that pension payments have been skipped, revenues are down as we are in a recession and there are millions upon millions in bills owed to vendors that have provided services to the State. The projection for revenues is not growing. The current system of sales taxes based on the sale of goods is antiquated as the economy is predominately a service industry. Most states have taxes on services. The flat state income tax may be changed to a progressive rate like the federal tax. None of this can be good for us in the future.

Ms. Williams opened the floor for questions. She touched on increasing real estate taxes and the methods the State is attempting to keep them down and find alternative sources of revenue. She noted that with all the bad press Illinois has been getting, Blagovich, tax increases, etc., it has been hard to attract business to Illinois. She noted the State is working on business development and planning. Funding for libraries, like all services is being cut. Hours and services will be reduced. She

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did not know the results of Governor Quinn's recent trip to China.

SLN thanks Ms. Williams on her first visit and it was tough painting a positive picture.

EVERYBLOCK.COM

Becca Martin, community manager from Everyblock.com gave a presentation about the website. Ms. Martin was initially impressed with the screen we produced for her presentation, but the lead-lined walls that keep the evil spirits out of the Church basement also disabled her laptop and she had to resort to a slide show. Another victory for caveman over technology.

EveryBlock.com is a property of msnbc.com that collects 21 types of news in Chicago including articles, real estate listings, meet-ups and conversations neighbors are having and organizes it by location. Ms. Martin's presentation focused on how information is retrieved. So the editor did a little poking around.

1500 Wellington comes up as about a two block area: Crime in last 4 days with October 20 being the most recent date so there is a time lag. 1 strong-arm robbery no weapon, 1 car theft, 2 thefts from residence or street, 1 theft from grocery store (Jewel?), 1 harassment by telephone (old girl friend ?) and 1 place of prostitution (3100 block of Lincoln-I better not see you guys roaming around here). Going back in time there are a lot of thefts from residences, garages and yards. Property transfers - I see my neighbor Todd finally sold his house for \$1.215.000 and one across the street went for \$1,300,000. Ouch! Media mentions -Halloween party for kids by ABC News Channel 7. Athenaueum Theatre party by Chicago Public Radio, Photos from St. Al's Octoberfest by Roscoe View Journal. Meet-ups - groups that are meeting

Conscious Professionals Circle, Chicago Indie Rock Fans, 20s and 30s Going Out Group and Chicago Veg*n Nerds. Whatever happened to the SLN Bar Review Committee? It has been a decade since our last meeting. Neighbor messages: A man who hangs in front of transient hotel yelling very loudly scared my son on his way to swimming

lessons, my tandem bike was stolen and dog found at LSD and Melrose.

Editor's suggestion. X-large coffee, radio on and sign on. You will not get anything done that day and you will be afraid to go out that night. It is actually very interesting and addicting.

ZIP CAR Parking at Lakewood and Wellington

An issue from the membership was raised that ZipCar has occupied a parking spot on the street of Lakewood at Wellington. The member questions as to how a business is allowed to take a parking spot without neighborhood input. President Duggan noted that the issue will be addressed at the next Board meeting. This issue will be discussed at the November 2011 meeting.

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 <u>www.ward32.org</u>, email = info@ward32.org

Real Estate Tax Appeals – The Lakeview Township is open for appeals through November 16th. You can appeal online at www.cookcountyboardof review.com or call the Board of Review at 312-603-5560 or the Alderman's office if you have questions.

The 2012 City budget is available for you to read at the Alderman's website. Highlights include cuts to graffiti removal, libraries, mental health facilities,





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| l | Wednesday | |
|---|-------------|--|
| Г | Beef & | |
| | Sausage | |
| l | Combo | |
| l | Sandwich | |
| l | \$3.99 | |
| ľ | Chicken | |
| l | Parmigiana | |
| l | w/Spaghetti | |
| | \$8.00 | |

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| Bar-B-Que |
| Rib Dinner |
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| Shrimp Dinner \$8.25 |
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| Baked Mostaccioli Dinner \$5.25 |
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| | Saturday |
|---|--------------------|
| Г | Ribeye Steak |
| | Sandwich |
| F | \$5.50 Homemade |
| | Manicotti |
| | Dinner \$5.75 |

| ı | Sunday |
|---|------------|
| | Full Slab |
| l | Bar-B-Que |
| l | Rib Dinner |
| | \$9.95 |
| | Spaghetti |
| l | & Meatball |
| l | Dinner |
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the consolidation of the 19th District Police Station into the 23rd at Halsted and Addison and increases in vehicle stickers, water and sewer rates.

Leaves – DO NOT RAKE leaves into the street. The street sweepers are not equipped to handle piles of leaves and your area will be passed over. The leaves stop the street sweepers and 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.

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

See article earlier in newsletter.

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

To appear at the November Membership Meeting.

Not waiting for D.C. to create jobs, Mr. Quigley recently hosted a job fair, a small business fair and foreclosure fair. Additionally, he teamed-up with Commissioner Fritchey to help people with their property taxes.

Mr. Quigley hosted the 3rd Annual Senior Fair at Copernicus Foundation with over 100 seniors attending. He also teamed-up with the County Commissioners office to organize a Foreclosure Assistance Fair at Northside Prep.

Go to Mr.Quigley's website to participate in his US Government Spending Survey and review his 60 recommendations to reduce the federal deficit and also take his Small Business Survey. While on the website, review Mr. Quigley's position on various topics.

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

To appear at the November membership meeting.

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.

From Lt. John Willner – 19th District Police Station at Belmont and Western. At this time the reorganization will take time to plan and accomplish, but the main item is that the 19th District will be consolidated with the new 23rd District Town Hall building at Addison west of Halsted. All questions relating to manpower, response times and beat meetings are pending.

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

The Advisory Council would like to thank South Lakeview Neighbors for their primary sponsorship of this years Halloween Party in the park. We greatly appreciate your generous sponsorship and support. We also appreciate the generous support and contributions of Ana Miyares Photography, Bottle Bottega & Art Studio, OntheGoChicago.com, Lakeview Computer Specialists and the Chicago Park District. Special thanks to Congressman Mike Quigley for stopping by and expressing his support as well. Thank you all for helping our park and our community to thrive.

Jennifer Roche, President – South Lakeview Park Advisory Council founded 1893

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More information at www.southlakeviewpark.org

LAKEVIEW CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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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.

LAKEVIEW PANTRY WEST 1414 W. Oakdale, 773-404-6333 www.lakeviewpantry.com

The Lakeview Pantry suffered a severe loss due to flooding in their basement location. They need our neighbors help to restock for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season.

The Lakeview Pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food, clothing, household items and office supplies. They also accept monetary donations. Go to the web-site for information on items to be donated and the Most Needed Items. Drop off hours are Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:00PM and Saturday 10AM-1PM.

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.

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RESTAURANT REVIEW – by Joni G.

Joni G. is resting her stomach and will return next month.

SLN – HOLIDAY PARTY (December 13)

Save the date. December 13 probably starting at 6:30PM graciously hosted by Will's Northwoods Inn at 3030 N. Racine.

SLN will be collecting food items for the Lakeveiw Pantry at the Holiday Party.



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



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Be sure to try Will's Northwoods Inn new and improved Wisconsin Friday Night Fish Fry. A Wisconsin tradition in Lakeview. Eh.

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

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