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.)

FEBRUARY, 2012



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

MAIL 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. Thank You.

Dear Neighbors,

We dodged a bullet in the recent battle over the revised ward map. The two principal competing maps filed just before Christmas ("Map for a Better Chicago",read "Black Caucus Map" and "Taxpayer Protection Map" read "Hispanic Caucus Map") each had South Lakeview in a new northside ward, complete with a new alderman who was expected, I guess, to carpetbag it up here and represent folks he knew only if they had been at his fundraisers. (That both maps airlifted a south-side alderman, one black and one white, shows the enduring racial politics that has beleaguered Chicago for as long

MEETING AT A GLANCE FEBRUARY 14, 2012

Location: Basement - St. Alphonsus Church

1429 W. Wellington

Agenda: 7:00 PM : Coffee & Cookies

7:30PM: Meeting

1) Ward Redistricting

2) Ward Committeeman Election - Candidates

as I've been alive. I'll let you guess which caucus tried to place which alderman in our midst.) But as

things stand now, we remain in the 32nd ward where we have been for some 20+ years. It may be either curious, or the result of creeping senility that I have no recollection of any brouhaha when we were shunted from the 44th ward to the 32nd after the 1990 census. And while the new ward boundaries are no model of "compactness and contiguity" in the deathless prose of our US Supreme Court, they are much better than what we had before. The whole process, however, stunk as the City Council tried to pull one over on us peons by releasing the new maps over the holidays, then scheduling meetings in January when people are more worried about shoveling snow from their walks to avoid being ticketed than whether Tom, Dick or Mary represents them. Fortunately, the weather foiled the aldermen's plans as warm temperatures greeted the teeming masses at a public hearing held at DePaul. While regret the resulting changes, "democracy in action" shows that sometime the people prevail over their overseers.



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By coincidence, our regular February meeting falls on Valentine's Day this year, a once in seven years occurrence more or less. While most of our members may be a bit beyond the age of romantic love (should I speak for myself?), we must be solicitous of those who play into the hands of the flowers-and-chocolates-industries. So we have scheduled a type of "political speed dating" for the meeting: a forum between the two candidates for 32nd ward Democratic committeeman: Ald. Scott Waguespack (the challenger) and County Com'r John Fritchey (the imcumbent). You get to decide whom you want a second date with. And to show that we are truly equal opportunity, we've asked the unopposed Republican candidate John Curry to add his 2 cents worth. Committeemen are like the old Soviet Politburo: they decide who gets backed for various elective offices, who gets hired for city jobs, and who gets the spoils of our socalled two-party system. So if you're looking for something to do on Valentine's Day, bring your sweetheart to SLN's meeting. I can think of nothing more romantic than "going to the candidate's debate" (a la Simon and Garfunkel), followed by a dinner at one of our fine neighborhood restaurants.

Those who know me best know that I am a total bicycle freak. During the "Giro d'Italia" last May, I spent a lovely afternoon (at least until it rained) atop Mt. Zoncolan in the Italian Alps waiting for Alberto Contador and Michele Scarponi to ascend

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www.slneighbors.org

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the steepest climb in all of bike racing (a 10 kilometer stretch averaging 11% grade, with parts as 22%). We've been well served by On the Route bikes on Lincoln for as long as I've lived here, but we have a new shop just south, Heritage, that features made-in-Chicago Euro-style exotics and coffee, a delectable but deadly combination, at least for my wallet. Not long ago, we had three bike shops nearby, but it went down to a single shop several years ago. Chicago used to be one of the great biking cities in America) remember Schwinn and six-day bicycle races?) so we'll see how this shakes out. Regardless of how you feel about biking in the city and cyclists as an interest group, I am glad that another entrepreneur has elected to open shop in our neighborhood.

See you on the 14th.

Sincerely,

David G. Duggan

FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING PREVIEW

WARD REDISTRICTING

The Alderman or a representative from the Alderman's office will explain the recently passed redistricting as a result of the 2010 Census. See later in the paper for Lisa Voigt's report from a meeting held at DePaul University.

WARD COMMITTEEMAN ELECTION

What does the Ward Committeman do?

Why would two 32 Ward political giants vie for this position?

Well, there is an election coming up for this post. Democratic Ward Committeeman incumbent, Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey and his opponent, Alderman Scott Waguespack will present their platforms. Sparks are already flying in this election. BE THERE.

John Curry, Republican Ward Committeeman, running unopposed, will also appear to dig up some much needed GOP support. As the Republican primary is a big political topic, Mr. Curry will explain why the Committeeman is important.

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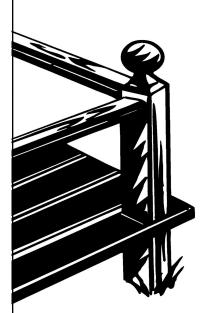
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AT THE DECEMBER 2011 - HOLIDAY PARTY

Finally a new wrinkle to the Holiday Party. Manager Kevin Kruse of Will's Northwoods Inn has been touting the new menu at Will's. So SLN took up his offer to use Will's kitchen to cater the party. The SLN Board allocated a reasonable kitty for appetizers and left it up to Will's. Along with a classic Greek salad donated by S&G Restuarant, the food consisted of a wide variety of hot appetizers. Members were also treated to free beer, wine and pop by Will's Northwoods Inn. Officers and Directors worked the crowd with the liquor basket and gift raffle and the split the pot raffle. The operator of the Christmas tree (can I say Christmas?) lot at Will's got in the spirit, while having a few beers at the bar and donated a 4ft. diameter wreath to the raffle.

The back room was neatly arranged and the area was packed. When the eating and drinking calmed down, President Duggan announced Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey and commenced with the raffles. Several members brought their children which added a sweet feeling to the party and as they acted as raffle ticket pullers. The prizes were spread out equally to the attendees with some multiple winners donating their prizes back to the pot. In a flurry of last second heroics, the final giant wreath prize was won by Jeanne Haderlein and the \$100 spilt the pot was won by her fantastic husband and bar-fly, Bill Haderlein.

Thanks to all who helped and donated to the party: Will's Northwoods Inn for all the time, drinks and space, S&G for the huge Greek salad tray, the officers and directors for donating the bottles for the liquor basket and to Marge Fahrenbach and Joni Gatz for putting them together and to Joni Gatz for chasing down some additional gift certificates.

In addition, Marge Fahrenbach organized the food drive for the Lakeview Pantry. The container in the corner was overflowing with canned goods and several members donated cash and checks. Thank you to all members who participated with this donation. SLN is not just a party-on organization.

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

CPS Local School Council Election 2012 – The next Local School Council elections will be held on Wednesday, April 18th for elementary schools and Thursday, April 19th for high schools. Parents and community members interested in serving on elected LSCs may obtain and file nomination forms in the schools where they seek to serve.

City Tax Preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit Information – Get your income taxes prepared for free by the City of Chicago and its partners and you may be eligible to receive up to \$5,700 back from the IRS. Free income tax preparation assistance for families earning less than \$50,000 and individuals earning less than \$25,000. For more information visit http://www.cityofchicago.org/ctac or call 311 or 312-630-0273.

Chicago Bike Swap – Get geared up at the Chicago Bike Swap with great deals on bikes and bike goodies. Increase your biking know-how with presentations on topics like winter bike commuting and riding with kids. The event is organized by Active Trans, Chicago Bike Winter and The Chainlink. Admission is \$5 for members of Active Trans and \$10 for nonmembers: kids 12 and under are free. It's on March 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm at the Pulaski Park Fieldhouse at 1419 W. Blackhawk St.

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

Check out State Rep Williams's new constituent services website. You can sign up for her enewsletter and also get information on other upcoming community and district events, as well as legislative updates. You can also communicate your concerns on what is going on in Springfield and your perspective on legislation that may come for a vote.

Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey Office @ 2539 N. Southport, 773-871-4000 Email=bridget@fritchey.com www.fritchey.com

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Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey would like to eliminate the office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds through a county-side referendum and merge the functions into the Cook County Clerk's office. Merging the two offices will allow for more efficient service to the public while saving approximately \$1 million dollars each year. The goal is a system that delivers services to taxpayers in the most efficient, cost-effective and transparent way possible.

Fritchey plans to introduce a resolution before the Cook County Board in February. Pursuant to state law, if the resolution receives Board approval the question would then be placed on the November, 2012 General Election Ballot to ask voters whether they support such a merger. If approved by a simple majority, the two offices would be consolidated by the end of 2013, meaning that this November would mark the last time we ever elect a Recorder of Deeds.

CAPS MEETINGS

CAPS Meetings are now being held quarterly. 2012 meeting dates are:

- Beat 1931: 1st Thursdays on 3/1 at 7:00 pm, Hamlin Park, 3035 N. Hoyne.
- Beat 1932: 2nd Thursdays on 3/8 @ 7:00 pm, Illinois Masonic Hospital-Clarke Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington.

Sites will remain the same until further notice.

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

SLPAC is looking for volunteer leaders to take on key positions for the 2012 park season. We need new volunteers to keep Tuesdays in the Park and Halloween party going strong. Please contact SLPAC President Jennifer Roche at JenniferRoche@yahoo.com.

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

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

Friends of Burley are still raising funds for the multi-purpose green space behind the school which will include a playing field, running track, benches and an outdoor classroom and garden.

Donate on-line at: www.friendsofburley.org /burleycommunitypark.html or send donations to: Friends of Burley c/o Burley School 1630 W. Barry , Chicago, IL. 60657

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LAKEVIEW PANTRY DONATION

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LAKEVIEW CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Congratulations to the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce for winning two national awards for the Lakeview Area Master Plan (LAMP). This Plan was presented to the neighborhood last Spring. Visit the Plan at www.ThislsLakeview.com to learn more.

Lakeview Chamber Annual Meeting – Join us as we celebrate 35 years of service to the Lakeview Business Community with a keynote address by special guest Andy Shaw, Executive Director Better Government Association sponsored by Central Federal Savings. There will also be an induction of the 2012-13 Board of Directors. Buy tickets for this event at http://lccis35.eventbrite.com. It is \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. This event will be held





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WARD REDISTRICTING MEETING – DePaul University, January 11, 2012 from notes as reported by Lisa Voigt.

The Ward Map has been approved by the Alderman without a Court battle. Lisa Voigt and Marge Fahrenbach including several other SLN officers and directors attended this public meeting.

The meeting room with a capacity of 482 was totally full. Once capacity was reached, no one was let in unless someone left. Alderman Dick Mell, the chairman for the REMAP and more than 20 Alderman were in attendance. Mell and the other Alderman did not say much. Most of the meeting was spent listening to voters.

Some general notes on the various REMAPS. The goal is to divide the city into the 50 Wards and have the same amount of people (53,912) in each Ward. Each racial and ethnic group is trying to keep or improve their power in the City Council with the REMAP. In the last Chicago census done in 2010, the black population decreased 180,000, the white population decreased 50,000 the Latino population increased 35,000 and the rat population increased by 18,231. There are 3 REMAPS, the Black, the Latino and the Mell (is this an Italian Spaghetti Western). The black caucus map had too few people in their southside wards and way too many in the northside wards. The Latino caucus map was more reasonable. The Mell map divided the city in grids and was known as the "nuclear map." All the maps did crazy things such as divide DePaul University into 2 Wards, spilt the growing South Loop into 4 Wards, splitting sides of streets into 2 Wards (Clark St. and Southport) and putting most of the people that live around Wrigley Field in a different Ward than Wrigley Field itself.

The consistent message from the attendees was that the MAPS only supported the current city council incumbency and that the aldermen do not really care about constituents. The alderman do earn \$115,000 per year. People noted that the MAP should reflect regular neighborhoods and geographic boundaries, not racial divides.

Ms. Voigt noted that the Asian community asked to be recognized as the fastest growing minority group and wished to keep their community intact. The 36th Ward is going to be carved up. The South Loop's population has grown so fast that it will be divided into little chunks.

When the dust settled and the REMAP was approved, SLN remained intact and Waguespack will still present our 32 Ward. The 2015 election will be first aldermanic election under the new MAP.

WHAT'S HAPPENING in the HOOD

- 1) It appears the electronic billboard will go up on the Pockets Restaurant.
- 2) Sapore di Napoli restaurant on Belmont near Southport is closed. Loved by several SLN members.
- 3) Chipotle is open at Wolfram and Ashland. Have you been there? Go with an empty stomach.
- 4) Fuji Buffet in the U.S. Post Office Mall now occupies the previous Chinese buffet. Hibachi, seafood and sushi. Take a chance.
- 5) Jivamukti Yoga 2961 Lincoln. Sign says locations also in New York, London, Sydney and Charleston (seems like a weird location).
- 6) Los Moles restaurant, subject of a positive Joni Gatz review looks closed.
- 7) Heritage Bike Shop, mentioned in the President's letter at 2959 Lincoln is also a cool looking coffee shop. This encourages me to pursue my breakfast/massage parlor combo business.
- 8) Gymboree health club for kids has expanded to 3 store fronts.
- 9) Ashland Addison florist, for a long time at Lincoln and Addison has relocated to the 3100 block of Lincoln. Welcome. Blossons Anytime Florist at 3152 N. Paulina just opened.
- 10) Euroluxechicago located next to Starbucks is a high end bathroom, kitchen remodeler.
- 11) Ala Turka at 3134 Lincoln is now under new ownership as Sofra Turkish Kitchen. BYOB.
- 12) New residential construction. As the values of SLN lots decreased in the great recession, developers felt the margin for profit on speculation was present. Two new side-by-side homes at the corner of Oakdale and Greenview replaced the classic townhomes on that corner. The crappy rundown house on the alley across from The Art of Pizza was demolished and replaced with a very impressive mansion-like home. And it sold!



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2913 N Lincoln Avenue (Lincoln, Lakewood + George) 773.528.7032 wittschicago.com Further north: Southport Athletic Club (SAC) is being newly constructed next to the Southport L. Leo's Coney Island Hot Dogs at Southport and Cornelia closed. Headquartered in Detroit, rejected in Chicago. Not surprised.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Early voting for the Primary Election will begin on Monday, February 27th and run until March 15th. The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election is Feb.21st. You can register to vote at Ald. Waguespack's office at 2657 N. Clybourn'

City of Chicago Summer Internships

The Chicago City Clerk's Office is in search of interns for their summer internship program. This program offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to gain leadership skills as well as work experience. Applicants that meet the desired criteria are entered into a lottery and chosen at random for the internship position. For more information on applying for the internship visit www.cityof Chicago.org/CAREERS.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated #60 to former President Diane Galiej. Diane was born in 1951 in a simplier time when the threat of an A-bomb attack terrified little kids. An SLN member since the 1980's. She is still getting carded at the Jewel when buying booze for her husband.

As an equal opportunity newsletter. Happy BD #55 to former President Bill Haderlein, who weighs the same as when he graduated college and still wears some of the same clothes.

Both Diane and Bill attended St. Andrew Grammar School and are lifetime northsiders.

RESTAURANT REVIEW – by Joni G Banjo Night at The Lincoln Restaurant 4008 N. Lincoln Avenue, 773-248-1820

I have been driving or riding my bike by The Lincoln Restaurant a few times a week for the past

two years since it is on my route to one of my work locations. My constant sighting of the sign in the window, "Mondays-Banjo Night" was haunting me. I love all kinds of music so I promised myself that on Monday I would venture in to this 60 year old restaurant. My only other visit was as a young child for pancakes after a funeral service for a relative held at St. Benedict's Church. That was in the early 60's and I think it looks and smells exactly the same as I remember then. It appears nothing has changed.

In the "back room" were a group of 10 musicians playing a kind of Dixie-like sound that was magnetic and drew us into their spell. The youngest member playing the washboard was probably in his 50s. The average age of the rest of the band, I guess was 75. They were formed in a circle like one you would see at a music class. The band members which can vary from week to week are called the Windy City Jammers and they have been gathering on Mondays at The Lincoln for over 10 years. On this Monday we enjoyed listening to 4 banjos, 1 accordion, 1 trumpet, 1 bugle, 1 electric bass and 1 electric guitar. The oldest member of the group was an 88 year old banjo player.

The room was almost filled with mostly older adults who seem to be regulars on Banjo Night between 7-10 PM according to our very friendly waitress. There were a few young couples dining and drinking who appeared to be on dates. This is a very affordable place to take someone for a first date. You won't spend too much, can listen to the music which is not too loud and not talk if you like, while drinking a comically huge draft Heineken beer for only \$6.00.

Now if you want to order food from the Civil War theme menu, you may get another perspective from this reviewer on the merits of this restaurant. We were given complimentary chicken soup which tasted alright, however way too salty to want more. I ordered a Cobb Salad which was huge with lots of all the fixings, bacon, hard boiled eggs and bleu cheese. My dining and banjo listening companion ordered the Monte Cristo. Ham, turkey and melted cheese served between two thick slices of French toast and topped with powdered sugar. Wow talk about heart stopping. The sandwich was of course accompanied with a very generous portion of



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Ward Night:

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waffled cross-cut seasoned fries, which I did partake in more than a healthy share of.

Besides the great service, 60's decor reminiscent of an old diner aka greasy spoon, The Lincoln has remained a family favorite place in this North Center neighborhood probably because it is a good breakfast spot any time of day or night. Offering Banjo Night on Monday is not breaking any cash register sales. It does however take you back to a slower time when you can sip a very huge plastic glass filled with draft beer, eat a little unhealthy if you choose and enjoy some very talented musicians play their favorite oldies for you. Also the people watching at The Lincoln on Banjo Night, is well worth the inexpensive tab despite a not so great food offering.

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