South Lakeview Neighbors Over Forty Years of Service

1505 West Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657

Web Site: <u>www.slneighbors.org</u> 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.)

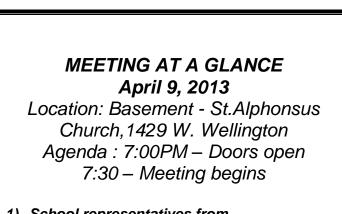


A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

Dear Neighbors,

Our area is served by three K-8 public elementary schools (Prescott, Burley and Agassiz) and one high school (Lakeview), though I suspect that many students at least at the high school level apply for slots at Lincoln Park, Lane Tech, Whitney Young or Northside Prep. Whether because of these schools' performance or Rahm Emanuel's not wanting to "alienate his base", none of these has been mentioned on the chopping block of the 60 or so schools destined to be closed. Still, on the "must be doing something right theory", at our April meeting, SLN will have the principals from our neighborhood public schools tell a little bit about their programs and what parents may expect. At least two of these principals have been appointed in the last few years, after school councils and searches both within the CPS system and without. One of the curious facts that I have noticed is that virtually all young parents whom I know from this neighborhood grew up elsewhere and did not have to endure the CPS meltdown in the last third of the 20th century. Apparently now operating on the

APRIL, 2013

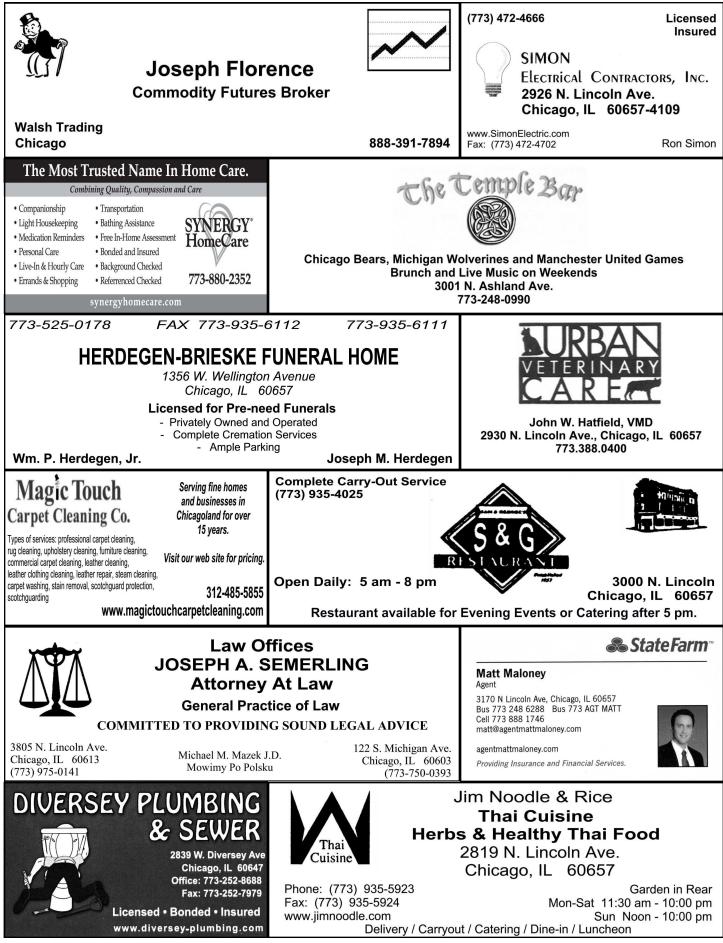


- School representatives from
 A) Burley Elementary
 B) Prescott Elementary
 C) Agassiz Elementary
 - D) Lakeview High School)

2) St. Alphonsus Octoberfest Street Closing Proposal

"educated consumer is our best customer theory", CPS invites comparisons with other districts. Come to hear how your educational tax dollars are being spent a week before filing your federal and state income tax return.

Opening Day at Wrigley is the day before our April meeting, but by then we will probably know whether it will be more "wait 'til next year" or just "wait to be heartbroken in September or October". At the meetings of our "umbrella group", Lake View Citizens' Council, the doings at Wrigley seem to occupy an inordinate amount of time: how many night games, rock concerts, street closings, hotel rooms, parking places, sports bars and the like can the community tolerate. Having attended a few of these LVCC meetings, I am reminded of the film "Groundhog Day" where we are condemned to keep reliving the same events until we get it right, except we never do. Though I have nothing against



the Cubs and rock concerts, at worst Wrigley is an every-other day in six-months annoyance. I wonder whether the time is ripe to have a West Lakeview Citizens Council to address issues more geographically proximate, year-round upsetting, and which transcend our individual neighborhood organizations' boundaries, like the soon-to-be new Target at Lincoln and Belmont, Lathrop Homes, and the execrable state of Lincoln Avenue from Diversey to Addison. Not that the world needs another 501(c)(3) organization or that I am volunteering my free time to form one. I'm just thinking.

I bear responsibility for the aborted Native Species Gardening presentation at last month's meeting. I had met the authors at a legal function several years ago and thought that just about everyone would want to hear what lawyers who had actually done something with their lives could offer to beautify the environment. I guess I didn't account for the theory that one reason that lawyers do other things is because they don't like the uncertainty of legal practice and long for a more structured life. prior presentations from The police the and the St. Al's Oktoberfest commanders promoters went a little longer than I had hoped and my lawyer-turned-gardeners friends ran out of patience. Again, I apologize.

So far I understand that SLN's nominating committee is still soliciting candidates to be officers

South Lakeview Neighbors 1515 West Oakdale Avenue www.slneighbors.org

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and directors (I'm kept out of this so that my lessthan-considerable influence on our organization is not affected by stacking the deck with toadies). Bill Haderlein is still the point person for this effort, and interested persons are asked to speak to him.

Spring cleaning may be wishful thinking given the still frozen ground, but on April 20th, in honor of Earth Day, SLN is organizing cleanups along the sidewalks, parkways and front lawns. (Is it just me or has the Streets and San's transition to the grid system from a ward-to-ward system resulted in less frequent street sweeping?) Board members have volunteered to be "block captains" for this effort, so please join us at 10am that Saturday morning to help beautify our neighborhood (see write-up later in the newsletter).

Until the 9th.

Sincerely, David G. Duggan

APRIL 2013 MEETING PREVIEW

SLN SCHOOL AREA PRESENTATION

South Lakeview Neighbors is excited to welcome representatives from four local public schools to our April meeting. Each will be presenting for about 10 minutes, followed by time for questions. Attending will be:

- Agassiz Elementary School represented by Mira Weber, Principal and Scott Fishman, President of the Friends of Agassiz Board of Directors
- Burley Elementary School represented by Catherine Plocher, Principal
- Prescott Elementary School represented by Jennifer Lister, Local School Council Chair
- Lake View High School represented by Lillith Werner, Principal

The elementary schools will talk about the programs, admissions and community orientation. Lake View High School will talk about their recent adaption of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum and partnerships with Microsoft Corporation and DePaul University.



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Hours: Monday to Friday: 9am to 6pm

Ward Night: Monday: 5pm to 8pm, excluding holidays & special events.

Join our mailing list to receive bi-monthly e-newsletters. Sign up at info@ward32.org.

St. Alphonsus Octoberfest

When the Octoberfest Committee came to the March meeting, SLN was somewhat surprised by the announcement that Southport Ave. is planned to be closed. After discussion at the SLN Board meeting the following week, it was felt that the issue should be re-presented at the April Meeting with the membership and surrounding neighbors being alerted to the facts in advance for discussion purposes. See the write-up for the March meeting for details presented by the St. Alphonsus Octoberfest Committee. This will be a voting issue and the results will be forwarded to the Alderman.

SERVICE PROJECT

SLN SPRING CLEAN-UP PROJECT – volunteers wanted

We are sick of the gosh darn litter in our neighborhood. In conjunction with Chicago's Citywide Clean & Green Volunteer Clean-up, SLN is spearheading the following clean-up project.

Date: April 20, Saturday

Time: 10AM – 5 minutes late start allowance Where: the Block you live on

Goal: To pick up all paper, plastic, cigarette butts Or other man-made litter off our side streets And have our neighborhood start clean for Spring 2013.

Equipment: You, your family, neighbors and friends. Garbage bag and maybe a pair of disposable plastic gloves (purchase at Pittsburgh Paint)

Meet: at east end of your block (east-west streets) or north end (north-south streets).

Please email to South Lakeview Neighbors which block you will take. We will post the names of all the volunteers who cleaned up in the May newsletter. Feel free to email photos or clean-up stories.

SLN email = info@slneighbors.org

Look out dirt, here we come.

AT MARCH MEETING

District 19 Commander Voulgaris

The new commander of the Town Hall District Commander Elias Voulgaris introduced himself to the SLN membership at our last meeting. The Commander has been in charge of the 19th District for about six months. He has been making the rounds introducing himself to the neighborhhood/community groups and citizens attending the CAPS meetings.

The Commander has spent the bulk of his police career on the South Side in the Lawndale and Little Village neighborhoods. He stressed that as Commander, his ability to serve will improve with consistent feedback from the citizens and criticism in areas that we are not pleased with. The Commander has given out his email address which can be found at the end this article for this reason.

The Commander gave a brief synopsis of the crime in the Town Hall District. The main crimes are burglaries and strong-arm robberies. There is not a murder problem in our neighborhood. The gang activity is mainly concentrated in the Uptown area and some areas that the gang members travel through.

The robberies in our area are concentrated in the Belmont/Sheffield and Wrigleyville entertainment districts. The main target is a person carrying a smart phone or Ipod, talking, texting or listening to music and not being aware of their surroundings. The criminal will either physically attack, display and or threaten with a gun or just run up to the victim to get the desired electronic device. The criminals will generally run and board the Red Line or jump in a nearby car and quickly leave the area. The stolen items are resold at \$100 to a variety of fences. The crimes are mainly committed between 11PM and 4AM. Many victims come out of bars and are walking down empty side streets or alleys. The Commander told us to stay alert of your surroundings and do not advertise vour possessions. The Commander has moved tact units to the 11PM-4AM shift. The District has also instituted a policy of zero tolerance towards public fighting, drinking, trespassing and urination (look out Board members) in the District.

Also in attendance was SLN's CAPS Rep. Sgt. Jason Clark. Sgt. Clark, formerly with CAPS at the Belmont District, has been in the field for the last Access to the world's best insurance companies. In your neighborhood.



few years. He has been reappointed as the CAPS director for the 19th District. Sgt. Clark gave SLN a quicky course in burglary prevention. 80% of burglaries are without force through an unlocked door or open window. Garages with bikes, golf clubs, etc with a wide open car door or an easily kicked in weak pedestrian door are frequent hot spots. Sgt. Clark told us to call 911 if you see a suspicious person around your house or alley. If something seems wrong, it probably is. Let the police conduct a field interview of the suspicious person and see if something needs to be done.

The Commander wrapped up by telling the membership that he reviews every case, every morning. To contact the Commander email him at: elias.voulgaris@chicagopolice.org.

SLN welcomes the Commander and wishes him the best.

Sgt. Jason Clark is available for free burglary assessments of your home or property. His email = jason.clark@chicagopolice.org.

St. Alphonsus Octoberfest

Representatives from the Octoberfest Planning Committee gave a preview of the 2013 events to take place the last weekend of September. The highlights of the plan are:

- Oakdale Ave. will only be used from Southport to the east entrance of the parking lot. Less residential homes on Oakdale will be directly affected.
- Southport Ave. will be closed off. The party will also move out to Southport Ave. in front of the Church and the St. Alphonsus parking lot. Southport will be closed from Wellington to the alley north of Oakdale; however, a fire lane will be available for emergency vehicles.
- 3) There will be bands in the school parking lot and on Southport Ave.
- 4) No Groupon discounts. Not looking to expand the event, but a have better use of the St. Alphonsus footprint.
- 5) The Church basement may be closed or used for some type of special Octoberfest event to be determined.

These issues will be discussed and voted on at the April membership meeting.

The Midwest Native Garden

What happens when a successful female native gardener drags her husband (I think) to help her set up her slide presentation and sell her gardening books at a nighttime neighborhood meeting and he does not know they are third on the agenda. He gets mad and refuses to go on. Then he gets in an argument with his wife in front of the membership. We may never know how to incorporate native species into our garden, but if you are still interested in Charlotte Adelman's book, it is called The Midwest Native Garden.

I wonder if any couples have met at an SLN event. Doubtful. Very doubtful. Maybe the parties where we have alcohol.

Attendees of Note

Our meetings have been attended in recent months by representatives of our fine elected officials. At the March meeting, State Rep. Ann William's Chief of Staff Michael Reever and State Senator and Senate President John Cullerton's District Director Molly Chirico were in attendance connecting with the members in attendance.

Ms. Chirico informed the editor in a side bar meeting that Senator's office has moved to:

Senator John J. Cullerton 1726 W. Belmont Chicago, IL. 60657 773-883-0770 www.senatedem.ilga.gov mchirico@senatedem.ilga.gov

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

LATHROP HOMES UPDATE

As reported by Alderman Waguespack' office, The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) was initially supposed to provide a single draft development plan for the Lathrop Homes site at a recent meeting. This meeting was the second in the Section 106 process, a federally mandated process designed to assess and attempt to mitigate any negative effects on the historic resources on the



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& Meatball

Dinner

\$4.95

Chicken

Dinner

\$5.75

Parmigiana

w/Spaghetti

\$8.00

Lasagna

Dinner

\$5.75

side. However, the CHA informed Ald. Waguespack shortly before the meeting that they were not ready to present a draft development plan as had originally been planned. Instead, the CHA's development team made a presentation concerning their views on the historic resource on the site. Subsequently, HUD invited the various historic preservation advocates, elected officials, and other neighborhood representatives who are participating in the Section 106 process to make comments and ask questions.

Ald. Waguespack reiterated his position on the proposed redevelopment about the inappropriate density (1,300 residential units), building heights (up to 28 stories), and amount of new retail (70,000 sq ft). Ald. Waguespack will continue to advocate for a plan that respects both the context and character of the historic site itself, and that of the surrounding neighborhoods. Once the CHA releases its draft development plan for the site I will make it available on my website and include information about a public meeting designed to invite public comment.

State Representative Ann M. Williams Office located- 1726 W. Belmont, 773-880-9082 Email –www.repannwilliams.com Chief of Staff Michael Reever =mike@annwilliams.com

Rep. Williams is currently in the district, meeting with constituents and community organizations over the two-week legislative break. Rep. Williams returns to Springfield on Monday, April 8th where the number one issue continues to be getting Illinois' fiscal house in order in a responsible way, while protecting the most vulnerable, ensuring adequate funding for education and public safety. Similarly, coming to a solution to solve Illinois' \$100 billion unfunded pension liability crisis, while ensuring fairness to those who have paid into the system expecting a modest pension, and often with no social security benefits. Rep. Williams looks forward to voting "yes" on marriage equality when it comes for a vote before the full House.

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

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

www.fritchey.com

Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey has filed a resolution urging Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to amend the County's parental leave policy to allow for paid parental leave for nonunion county employees. Cook County currently does not provide for parental leave, forcing employees to use their accrued sick and vacation leave, take unpaid leave through the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), or take short-term disability through the cook county Pension Fund. The resolution was scheduled to come before the Board of Commissioners at a meeting scheduled for Wed., March 20th.

CAPS MEETINGS – Sam Samatas reporting

Beat 1921, 1922 and 1931 Next meeting is April 17th at the Police Auditorium at 2452 W. Belmont at 7PM.

Future meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Beat 1933 and 1924

Next meeting is April 11th at Illinois Masonic Hospital, 836 W. Wellington, 7th floor auditorium at 7PM.

Future meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Beat 1932 and 1935

Next meeting is April 8th at the New Life Church, 1110 W. Lill at 7PM

Future meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of every month.

Dates/times may change and you can call the office at 312-744-0064 with questions.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS / INFORMATION

SOUTH LAKEVIEW PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL – a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization www.southlakeviewpark.org

Please join us to plan for the summer at South Lakeview Park. Come talk park and stay for the wine. We will be meeting Monday, April 15th at 7:00pm at the 404 Wine Bar located at 2856 N. Southport. For more information contact jenniferroche@yahoo.com.

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BURLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Burley is excited to announce that it is in the process of installing a community garden!! Look for more ways to get involved and contribute at <u>http://www.friendsofburley.org</u>.

The 2013-2014 school year is closer than you think. If you're planning to register, do so as soon as possible by contacting the school directly at (773) 534-5475.

LAKEVIEW CITIZENS COUNCIL - LVCC www.lakeviewcitizens.org.

Please renew your LVCC membership dues for the 2012-2013 membership years. Using PayPal with a major credit card of by mail to: LVCC Office, 3355 N. Clark, Chicago, IL. 60657.

ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH www.stalphonsuschgo.org, 773-525-0709

Boy Scouts' Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Please support the St. Alphonsus scouting programs by attending their annual dinner on Sunday, April 28th. Tickets are \$8 and include allyou-can-eat spaghetti and salad bar. They will be serving in the AACA basement from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Come join them for great food, family fun, games and prizes galore. Don't miss their Famous Canoe Salad Bar! Call Bonnie Budde at 773-885-7560 with any questions. Tickets may be purchased from any scout or in the rectory for your convenience.

At the Athenaeum

The Chicago Improv Festival is the longest running and largest improv festival in the world. Since 1998, the CIF has been showcasing and celebrating the best improv from Chicago, around the country and around the world. This year's festival is our biggest yet, with more than 150 teams in over 90 shows on 20 stages. Various Workshops and Shows from April 3rd thru April 7th. For more information call 773-935-6875 or go to www.athenaeumtheatre.org.

LAKEVIEW PANTRY

www.lakeviewpantry.org; 773-404-6333

Drop-off hours for donations - are Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-8:00PM and Saturday 10-1:00PM at 1414 W. Oakdale. Cash donations are preferred as the Pantry can spend the money on food that is needed at that time and have the expertise to make the donated dollar go farther. Go to their website for more information.

LAKEVIEW CHAMBER of COMMERCE

1409 W.Addison, 773-471-7171 <u>www.lakeviewchamber.com</u>, email = info@lakeviewchamber.com

Meet new people. Connect. Share Ideas. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is hosting "Wired Wednesday" on Wednesday, April 10th, 6:00pm to 8:00pm at 1457 W. Belmont. Join us for food, drinks and fun! Complimentary for members, \$10 for non-members. RSVP online: http://wiredwednesdaycoldwellbanker.eventbrite.co

ENERGY IMPACT ILLINOIS – energy rebates

Energy Impact Illinois, who spoke at our meeting in November, reports that the rebate program is still in effect. You can still take advantage of the program before the funds run out.

Three easy steps:

- 1) Call 1-855-9-IMPACT to get connected with an energy efficiency contractor that meets our high standards.
- Get a home energy assessment from the contractor to identify the most cost-effective improvements, along with a cost estimate for the project.
- The contractor completes the work and applies for the instant rebate, provided by Energy Impact Illinois and your local utility, of up to \$1,750 to your bill.

Who qualifies: owners of single family homes or 2-4 unit buildings. If your service is from Peoples or North Shore Gas or you are a Nicor Gas and ComEd customer you are likely eligible.

Air Seal and Insulate: the most cost efficient way to decrease your energy bills is by sealing and insulating your house. According to Energy Impact, over ½ of your total energy costs comes from heating and cooling your home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. The average costs for this basic energy upgrade is approximately \$2,500. Less the rebate of \$1,750, the cost to the homeowner is \$750. Typical savings in heating and cooling is \$500 per year, so your cost is recouped within two years.



Tell them you saw their ad in the South Lakeview Neighbors Newsletter.

To set up an appointment or learn more, call 1-855-9-IMPACT or see their website at www.EnergyImpactIllinois.org.

This program will probably run until May 2013, so act now.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS – AD SPACE

Wishing to advertise - Contact Ann Sychowski at 773-477-8840 for advertising opportunities. Monthly issues to over 350 members and businesses right in the neighborhood. 24/7 exposure on the SLN website. Spaces are limited and were almost sold out in 2011-2012.

Pro-Rated for 6 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. Support our advertisers

BOOKS FIRST

Curb the clutter, create a library! Books First is collecting children's books to create libraries in those CPS schools without them. For more information contact: <u>booksfirst01@gmail.com</u> or 773-296-0950.

EMAIL me the NEWSLETTER

To individuals and businesses, if you can receive the newsletter by email, please go to the website at <u>www.slneighbors.org</u> to enter your information. Emailing the newsletter will save SLN printing, postage and assembling costs. Your help in reducing costs is appreciated. Thank You.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please use form in this newsletter or go to the website for a form to renew your membership for 2012-2013.

PAYPAL YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

Are you interested in becoming a member of South Lakeview Neighbors, but no longer use checks? You can now pay your annual dues with a credit card via PayPal. Navigate to the South Lakeview Neighbors home page (slneighbors.org), click on Become a Member and follow the prompts.

FACEBOOK YOUR SLN BUDDIES

If you are on Facebook, consider joining our Facebook group. Within Facebook, search for South Lakeview Neighbors – Chicago and ask to join the group to get started participating in the discussions there.

MEETING PREVIEWS

Some Board Members are really kicking butt getting topics ready for future meetings. Here is sneak preview:

May 14, 2013 – Culture in Your Neighborhood -Representatives from neighborhood theater companies will announce their seasons and programs. The Athenaeum Theatre, Theater Witt and Stage 773 will all be present at this fun and informative meeting. Also, sets of theater tickets will be raffled off to all members present.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Why get involved? SLN is a not-for-profit that has been serving the SLN area since the 1960's. SLN is involved with scheduling political candidate forums, zoning changes. liquor licenses and new business issues. SLN was a pioneer in Aldermanic debates. SLN is the direct liaison between the Alderman's office and the neighborhood to gauge residents feelings on certain Aldermanic votes. Seven public monthly meetings are presented. SLN officers frequently meet with local politicians and news services. Finally, being an officer is the fastest way to meet your involved and concerned neighbors.

If you are interested in volunteering to become an Officer or a Director, or knows someone that will work too.

Contact email = <u>info@slneighbors.org</u>



2915 N. Lincoln Ave. • Chicago, IL 60657

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