November 2014 Newsletter

A few words from our President:

You’re probably reading this on or before Election Day. Make sure you vote! There’s a lot going on for an “off cycle” election – Representative, Senator, Governor and many other state wide offices plus several constitutional amendments and a plethora of judges. Voting matters.

At the last meeting, it was clear that we, as an organization, had not adequately presented the criteria under which South Lakeview Neighbors evaluates requests for zoning changes. The charter for the Neighborhood Development and Review Committee is now on our web site. We’ll soon be following up with the procedure that will be used at meetings when these issues come to the floor for a vote. It is our goal to be transparent and trustworthy.

We’re still getting our footing at the Athenaeum. The meeting on November 11th will use another of the theater spaces. This time we’ll have a podium and a flag and, if necessary, air conditioning. When you arrive, there will be signs to direct you through the building. Bring a neighbor.

Meantime, I’ll see you around the neighborhood. -- Steve Stern

November 11 Meeting Preview

Athenaeum Theater
2936 N. Southport
7:00PM - Doors open
7:30PM - Meeting begins

AGENDA

1. Veteran’s Day acknowledgement
2. Wellington Tap - new owners
3. Lakeview Chamber of Commerce
4. Lakeview Pantry - Holiday Food Needs

Veteran’s Day acknowledgement
SLN will recognize all Veterans in attendance at the November meeting and congratulate them with a free drink from the Athenaeum Bar. To all SLN Veterans that cannot attend, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the service you provided to our Country.

Wellington Tap - new owners
Contract has been signed and inspections are going forward, but no closing date set. The prospective owners requested the opportunity to present their remodeling and rebranding ideas to the SLN membership for feedback purposes.

Please take note of our new and repeat advertisers and try to patronize them.
Tell them you saw their ad in the South Lakeview Neighbors Newsletter.
Lakeview Chamber of Commerce
Will discuss major issues affecting the Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland area including the demolition of the Bank of America building at that intersection and several other rehabs of large rental space on the Lincoln Ave. strip.

Lakeview Pantry
Located next to the St. Alphonsus gym at 1414 W. Oakdale. The Pantry will give a presentation summarizing their operations and projected area food needs as we head into the Holiday Season.

See Article later in the newsletter for the 4th Annual Eliminate Hunger Social to be held November 11.

Notes From the October Meeting

Zoning Change - 1317 W. Wolfram
The owners of this residential house zoned RS-3 and built about 10 years ago are requesting an upzoning to RS-4. The sign-in sheet for the Membership Meeting indicated that the attendees for this month’s meeting consisted of the SLN members that attend regular meetings and neighbors recruited and/or supporters of the owners requesting the zoning upgrade.

The husband presented the plan while his expecting wife, their three children and attorney sat in the first row of the seats. The owner wants the upzoning to square off the back of the house which currently has a peaked roof. This squaring off will allow for two additional bedrooms and a bathroom space for their expanding family.

The husband informed the membership that they have lived in Lakeview for 12 years and in the current house for seven years. The wife was an original member of the South Lakeview Playlot Advisory Board. They want to stay in the neighborhood, are involved in their parish and are just looking for more living space.

Joe Semerling, chairperson of the Neighborhood Development and Review Committee (NDRC) informed the meeting that the NDRC did not support the upzoning because once one is given the zoning change, all developers and owners will want the same upzoning.

The meeting was opened for questions and discussion. Through questioning, the owner told the meeting that the current house has 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a finished basement. Most of the comments were from supporters of the owner and they were in favor of the upzoning. Joe Semerling rebutted those in favor of the upzoning by suggesting that if the owners got their upzoning, then the developer of the lot east of the owners should also get RS-4 zoning if requested. The owners’ attorney stepped in to tell the SLN membership that spot zoning requests should be handled on a case-by-case basis and that a family with four kids is different than a developer. At that point, the owner indicated that he was in the process of buying that lot to the east and was going to convert it into their side yard.

At that point, the crowd started getting very testy. Supporters of the upzoning questioned the transparency of the process. One attendee insisted that a hand vote be taken or he be allowed to oversee the ballot counting. Another suggested that SLN come up with written criteria to address spot-
zoning changes. The final comment addressed the issue that a spot upzoning given in this case would cause an avalanche of residential upzoning requests and SLN would have to act as King Solomon determining who will and who won’t get future zoning changes. The member stated that the current zoning is to protect all equally and not enrich certain owners. He also noted that upzoning on one property decreases the livability of the next door neighbors due to decreased natural light and sightlines.

SLN President relented to the verbal pressure and called for a hand vote.

Do you support the proposed zoning change? YES=12, NO=22. As the vote was not secret, the YES votes consisted primarily of the owners neighbors. After the vote, the YES voters left the theatre and did not stay for the candidate forum portion of the meeting.

2014 Candidate Forum

Contested races:
For Mayor of Chicago
Robert Fioretti
For more information, go to http://bobfioretti.com/

Currently the 2nd Ward Alderman. Mr. Fioretti let the members know that we should be disappointed in the current mayor, the city council and how the city operates. Mr. Fioretti is on several committees including Zoning and Health. He said it is normal that committee members do not show up for meetings and major issues are decided by a non-representative number of Alderman. The Alderman noted this is going to be a tough election. There are quality of life issues with the city, crime rate and education issues, transparency with how the city is being run and huge budget hole caused primarily with the non-funding of pension requirements over the last 10 to 12 years.

Mr. Fioretti then opened the floor for questions.

Initial support for candidacy: Mr. Fioretti has been to every Ward. He attends Ward functions. He founded a Summer program with State funds hiring 35 kids ages 16 to 22 to remove graffiti. In the month of July, they cleaned up 1,100 sites. Someone will pick up the Karen Lewis support.

McCormick/DePaul Arena development: was against it. There are 80,000 vacant lots/houses in Chicago. Why isn't TIF money used to shore up the residential areas.

Roads, schools, crime and funding: Charter schools pull off money from the CPS and there is no evidence they are performing better. Reform the TIF program. Commuter tax for people working in the City. The commuters want good roads, police, etc., but they do not pay a dime in taxes. 600,000 come into the City to work each day. They should pay for those services.

For US Congress
Vince Kolber - Republican
For more info go to: www.VoteVince.com
Born in Buffalo, NY and Chicago resident for 40 years. MBA from the University of Chicago. A businessman, not a career politician. Mr. Kolber’s speech focused on blaming the gerrymandering of political districts for the polarization of inefficiency of Congress to get things done. Mr. Kolber

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intends to work on both sides of the aisle to get things going. Mr. Kolber's main thrust during his talk was to get business going in the U.S. by creating tax reform to encourage business and employment growth.

Also from his Website:
- Obamacare: fix it to make it more patient centered.
- Taxes: Supports lowering taxes overall and having a flat tax.
- Education: give parents total school choice to fit their needs.
- Immigration: secure borders for future and grant all law abiding and working immigrants the clear opportunity to full documented status.
- Term Limits: supports them.

For US Congress
Nancy Wade - Green

For more info go to: www.WadeinCongress.org

Previously owned daycare business. Masters of Teaching Language Arts from Northeastern Illinois and now teaches Spanish to preschool aged children.

Ms. Wade's speech focused on her belief that global warming is the greatest challenge facing the world now. She believes in ending fossil fuel subsidies, retrofitting cities with green technology, and instituting a carbon tax.

Also from her website:
- Military: cut basic military by 25% over next decade and reinvest military money to sustainable jobs.
- Education: does not support programs that pit teacher vs. teacher in standard testing scores. No privatization of schools. It only enriches a few.
- War: end all wars waged to defend fossil fuel interests.
- LGBT and Women's Rights: entitled to all the rights all other people enjoy. LGBT marriage.

For US Congress
Mike Quigley- Democrat

For more information, go to http://www.quigleyforcongress.com/

Informed SLN he could not attend as he had a scheduling conflict.

For Illinois State Senate
Stefanie Linares - Republican

For more info go to: www.stefanielinaras.com

Born in Chicago. Economics degree from University of Illinois and JD from John Marshall Law. Currently practicing law at a local firm defending client's constitutional rights.

Ms. Linares is running because she is concerned about Illinois having the highest unemployment rate in the Midwest, failing public schools and pension deficit funding issues and how Illinois anti-business tax environment is affecting all these issues.

Also from her website:
- Jobs: unemployment and under employment. Illinois has the some of the highest property and corporate taxes and workers compensation costs of doing business. The State needs to enact pro-growth and business-
friendly policies.

• Taxes: Raising the personal tax rate has barely reduced Illinois' unpaid bills still outstanding. Corporate taxes need to be phased down to be competitive with neighboring states that are stealing Illinois businesses and jobs.
• Education: vouchers will save taxpayer dollars while improving academic achievement by increasing education choices.

Non-Contested Races

For State Representative
Ann Williams - Democrat

For more info go to: www.repannwilliams.com

Ms. Williams is running unopposed for her 3rd term. She feels she has been an independent voice in Springfield. This last Summer and early Fall, Ms. Williams spent time in the neighborhood schools to see how they operate and how their needs can be met. She has walked in several charity fund raising activities and she hears directly from voters during these events. She is working on fiscal issues that the State faces, decreasing revenues versus the need for increased services and maintenance of the State capital items such as roads and schools.

She is working on a unique pension issue where City of Chicago residents pay for our teachers’ pensions through our property taxes and then also pay for downstate teachers’ pensions through our income and other taxes. A double whammy. Ms. Williams is the Chair for the Green Caucuses focusing on energy efficiency and sustainable policies.

For Cook County Commissioner
John Fritchey - Democrat

For more info go to: www.fritchey.com

Mr. Fritchey is running unopposed. The current Cook County Board has rolled back the Todd Stroger sales tax increase and reduced the county deficit by $100 million. The 2015 Budget has no new taxes. Mr. Fritchey is spending a lot of time working with the Cook County Jail and Court system. Currently, there are 10,000 inmates. Many of the inmates are non-violent criminals that cannot make bail. However, many gun-related crime criminals are out on bail because they have money.

These non-violent criminals are housed with career criminals increasing the chance they will turn to a life of crime upon release. System needs to change. More house arrest monitoring needs to be used to decrease the inmate population, which costs the taxpayer $43 per criminal per day. Cook County Jail has the largest population of mental health related criminals. These people need treatment more than incarceration. Again the System needs to change.

Pay Your Membership Dues - NOW

Either use the attached membership form or go to the SLN website http://slneighbors.org to pay with your credit card on PayPal. But do it now.
NOTE: Only paid members can vote at monthly meetings. If you are receiving the email version of the newsletter, you still need to renew your membership.

Block Captain Program
SLN is recruiting members to deliver a monthly membership meeting announcement to mail boxes or email addresses on your block. The idea is to get the message out to our non-member neighbors that all meetings are open and all can attend and eventually join SLN. At this time, 16 members have volunteered. Contact Bill Haderlein at the SLN at info@slneighbors.org.

Switch to the Email Version of Newsletter
Please help reduce costs of hard copy newsletter production and assembly time. It currently takes about 5-6 hours of volunteer time to assemble the hard copy mailed version. In addition, if you are on the email list, you can receive e-mail blasts from our Tech Dept. regarding area meetings, community alerts from the police and other timely information. Go to http://slneighbors.org to sign up for the email version.

SLN on Facebook
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.

FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS & CAPS

City of Chicago
Leaf Recycling Program: Nov. 3 to Nov. 21
In an effort to clean up leaves and other debris before winter, there will be a dedicated leaf collection by the Dept. of Streets and Sanitation. From Nov. 3 through Nov. 21, residents can call 311 to request yard waste collection. A truck will collect leaves and other yard waste separately based on the 311 calls and take the yard waste to be composted.

Residents should bag the yard waste separately from garbage in the black carts and recycling in the blue carts. Residents should leave the bagged yard waste in the alley or on the curb, depending on where your garbage is normally picked up. If you use paper type bags, please make sure they are not sitting in water or rain before pickup. As a reminder, yard waste should not be thrown in the blue cart as it contaminates the recycling stream.

CAPS Meeting – as reported by Sam Samatas
The phrase “See something – Say something” should always be on resident’s mind. Two weeks ago a suspicious person (young African-American wearing hoodie, baseball cap and jeans) was slowly walking through the alleys north of Barry and was spotted a couple of times by a homeowner who called 911. Police responded, questioned and conducted stop and frisk. He
lived on far west side, had no valid reason for being in alley and was in possession of drugs. He was arrested and taken off streets. Probably a crime was avoided. As usual, all residents are encouraged to call 911 with a description of ANY suspicious person on your block or alley.

**Beat 1933** - east of Lincoln Ave and west of Racine
No meeting in November due to holiday.
Illinois Masonic Hospital, 836 W. Wellington, 7th floor auditorium

**Beat 1932** - east of Ashland and west of Lincoln
Next meeting is on Monday, November 10th at New Life Church, 1110 W. Lill at 7PM.

**Beat 1931** - east of Ravenswood & west of Ashland
Next meeting is Wednesday, November 19th at the 2452 W. Belmont Police Auditorium at 7:00PM.

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

Police Commander Voulgaris wants all to know that he can be contacted directly on his email and he will return your message. Email elias.voulgaris@chicagopolice.org.

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS / INFORMATION**

Lakeview Chamber of Commerce
1409 W. Addison, 773-471-7171, info@lakeviewchamber.com

Southport Grocery finalist in 2015 Good Food Awards – Sarah Weiner, co-founder and Exec Director of Seedling Projects, the 501(c) 3 behind the Good Food Awards, says “It was not easy to make it onto this list….the 2015 finalists are truly the leaders in their fields, epitomizing taste, authenticity and responsible production”. Southport Grocery made the list for their Bread & Butter Pickles and Red Pepper Jam. Southport Grocery is located at 3552 N. Southport.

Need a business referral? Ask us! Our members represent most industries and would be happy to answer your questions and provide you with the service or product you’re looking for. Contact us at info@lakeviewshamber.com or call us 773-472-7171.

**South Lakeview Park Advisory Council**
The Halloween Party held by the Advisory Council was a smash. Good weather increased attendance estimated as 150 families or 500 or more attendees based on the goody bags given away. Congratulations.

**Lakeview High School Fall 2014 School-at-a-Glance**
Parents react to release of Lakeview High School School At-a-Glance. “This is incredible…I had no idea…”. That’s the response of one Lakeview parent after their reading of the LVHS At-a-Glance document released last week. The document answers the most common parent/student questions and concerns related to LVHS and represents the first step in “correcting the conversation,” according to principal Scott Grens. “Correcting the conversation means that LVHS is no longer content to keep our successes, programs and bragging points inside our walls,” says Grens. “This is Chicago’s premier neighborhood high school, and I’ve made it a priority to make sure that parents and students in the area find out about the secret hidden right in their front yard.” The document spans a number of issues that surveying proved were top...
priorities for parents and students, and will be updated this winter. The At-a-Glance document can be found at http://www.lakeviewhs.com/about/documents/LVHS-School-at-a-Glance-Fall

Lakeview Pantry - 1414 W. Oakdale
www.lakeviewpantry.org ; 773-404-6333
4th Annual Eliminate Hunger Social

Hosted by Lakeview Pantry’s Young Leader’s Board, the 4th Annual Eliminate Hunger Social (EHS) is a fantastic opportunity to support our neighbors in need while enjoying great food, drinks and company in a lively Chicago venue. The event will feature cocktails, draft beer, an appetizer buffet and a raffle, drawn throughout the night.

This year EHS will take place at STATE Restaurant and Café: 935 W. Webster Ave., on Friday, Nov. 7 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Visit our website to order tickets.

Restaurant Review by Joni G
Joni G. and her secret eating partner will return next month for a new local restaurant review.

Athenaeum Theatre - world class within walking distance
http://www.athenaeumtheatre.org or 773-935-6875: Go to the website for a line-up for the Fall Season.

Attention Advertisers - Ad Space
Wishing to advertise - Contact SLN at nfo@slneighbors.org. or call Ann Sychowski at 773-477-8840 for advertising opportunities. Over 400 monthly copies to SLN members, email recipients and businesses right in the neighborhood. 24/7 exposure on the SLN website.

9 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

Rat Elimination Tournament - by Bill Haderlein

I knocked off about 15 rats during the Spring and early Summer, but slacked off. Now in the last few days our yard has a new pile of dirt announcing new rat hole. In the last few days, I have witnessed a rat getting a sip of cool rain water from a puddle in my alley at 7PM on a Sunday evening, a rat scurrying by my feet as I came in from the garage at 11PM on a Monday, a rat ditching in between the space of the lot line to lot line brick garage across the alley from me and a rat making tracks into the bushes in front of the Dunkin Donuts early before sunrise. Enough is enough. The traps are back out and four rats have gone to the big chesse wheel in the sky.

Let's take it upon ourselves to rid the neighborhood of rats. Report your rat killing/trapping strategies, number of rats killed and general rat stories to me, Bill Haderlein at chicagolanddeck@rcn.com. I will publish the results in the newsletter.

Did you know that one female rat can produce well over 100 offspring in a calendar year? Happy Hunting.

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South Lakeview Neighbors
1505 West Oakdale Avenue
www.slneighbors.org

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Newsletter Editor: Jeanne Haderlein
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Contact us:
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DAILY SPECIALS ARE SERVED DAY AND NIGHT
LUNCH AND DINNER MENU

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www.WillsNorthwoodsInn.com

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