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 September 1 through May 31
Meetings held at Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport on the second Tuesday of every
Month (except January, June, July and August) at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

#### **NOVEMBER 2018**

#### FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW Get the message?

#### Renew your membership:

- 1) on the website at www.slnneighbors
- 2) by mail to 1505 W. Oakdale
- 3) at the monthly membership meetings.

But please do it so SLN does not have to incur postage and mailing costs and time tracking down membership dues.

YOU MUST BE A PAID MEMBER TO VOTE ON NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES.

\_\_\_\_\_

Late night musings from Barry Ave

There are two important dates to be aware of this month – Tue Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Election Day and Sunday Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans' Day. To me the latter is much more important than the former.

The most relevant race on Election day is for Illinois Governor. Democrat JB Pritzker has tax and spend "solutions" that may help some folks but will not improve the dire financial status of this state. Republican Bruce Rauner has a deep cut "reform" agenda that seems on the surface sensible but harsh and he will not be able to implement it through the general assembly. Probably what is needed is "best practices" drawn from both platforms with a non-partisan state legislature. Since this is not the case I wish everyone good luck in making their choice.

More importantly to me is Veterans' Day. If you have been a past reader of this column or heard me talk at our meetings you know I hold vets in

#### MEETING AT A GLANCE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

ATHENAEUM THEATRE
2936 N. SOUTHPORT
6:30pm - Member socializing
7:00pm - Meeting begins

#### Agenda:

- 1) South Lakeview Playlot (Blue Park) Renovation Plans
- 2) Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland traffic changes Survey of SLN members
- 3) Tutto Fresca restaurant presentation

high regard. If not for their service in past wars life as we know it would not exist. Our freedoms, country, lifestyle and most things we have would not be possible without those veterans who heard the call to duty and in many cases made the ultimate sacrifice. Next time you see a vet, shake their hand and thank them for their service. If you see a serviceman or woman in uniform buy them a drink, coffee or pick up their lunch tab. They will greatly appreciate it and I know you will feel good about it.

Now for a little cheer! Everyone mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Party Tue Dec 11, 6:30 - 8:30pm, at Will's Northwoods Inn @ Racine/Nelson. The party is 'weatherproof' since we will be in their large private decorated heated tent. Bar drinks and great Wisconsin food are free to SLN members and accompanied friends and

family who live within our boundaries – Belmont to Diversey & Racine to Ravenswood. If needed, you can pay your past due \$10 dues at the door. Bring a little extra money to participate in our many raffles for prizes from our advertisers and businesses and "split the pot" cash.

Last month we had a very lively and interesting meeting with many new members. You can read more about the details elsewhere in this newsletter. Briefly:

- El Tequilas Bar & Grill @ 2826 N Lincoln introduced themselves and were seeking approval for 'Public Place of Amusement" license for possible music/trivia games etc. After serving some delicious chicken wings they won over whelming voting approval.
- A zoning change for a small lot @ 2930 Lakewood to construct a moderately sized single family home was intensely reviewed and debated. In the end, with positive input from immediate neighbors the advisory vote was for approval.
- A 311 system initial revamp presentation was made to receive consumer input and highlight proposed changes for faster and better user interface. This is just beginning and more info will be presented in the spring. I hope it is more than just a faster and efficient way to request "poor response and service".

### **South Lakeview Neighbors** 1505 West Oakdale Avenue

www.slneighbors.org email = info@slneighbors.org

Officers:

President: Sam Samatas
1st Vice President: Bob Blitstein
2nd Vice President: Fionn McManigal
Recording Secretary: Bill Haderlein
Treasurer: Ann Sychowski
Corresponding Secretary: Steve Stern

**Directors:** 

Susan Radzinowicz Robert Taugner David Duggan Harvey Levin Caty Norman-Burke Ed Silverstein

Newsletter Articles:Bill HaderleinNewsletter Editor:Jeanne HaderleinWeb-Site Design:Steve SternAdvertising Set-up:Ed Silverstein

This month's meeting agenda includes presentation regarding the renovation of one of our neighborhood "jewels" and SLN success story our playlot at Wolfram and Lakewood, known as the "Blue Park" [for surface coating] or "Muskie's Park" [behind the old hamburger shack now Left Coast]. A new \$1,000,000+ improvement plan is seriously being put in place. Come and hear and make comments. Have you noticed some traffic changes at the Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland intersection. SLN will survey the members on the various changes. Also Italian restaurant Tutto Fresco @ Ashland & Oakdale will be introducing themselves. I think we will be sampling some food?

Take care and hope to see all on the 13<sup>th</sup>. As always, feel free to tell me what you think. Use president@SLneighbors.com Thx Sam

Take care, Sam

## Member Socializing - 6:30 to 7:00 in the Athenaeum Lobby.

The Athenaeum opens its bar for members to purchase some beer, wine or pop before the start of the monthly meeting. Come a little earlier to the meeting for some member socializing. Your purchase helps support the operations of The Athenaeum Theatre

#### Holiday Party - mark your calendars

The SLN Holiday Party will be held on Tuesday, December 11 from 6:30-8:30 at Will's Northwoods Inn.

#### **NOVEMBER 2018 MEETING - PREVIEW**

## South Lakeview Playlot (Blue Park) - Renovation Plans

The South Lakeview Playlot Advisory Council will present the design plans for the Playlot. In addition, the Council will outline the fund raising requirements for the renovation, which includes a combination of private and business donations, funds from the Alderman and the Park District.

If you are on the Facebook - go to "blue park chicago" to view the plans. The plans are also posted at the Playlot.

## Lincoln/Belmont/Ashland - Survey of SLN Members on New Traffic Changes

As previously reported in the SLN September 2018 newsletter and in Alderman Waguespack's email newsletter, certain changes to this intersection designed and proposed by CDOT over the last two years or so and reviewed by an Aldermanic and Neighborhood Task Force (of which I, Bill Haderlein and other SLN members were on) are being implemented prior to full funding of the Total Reconstruction Project. According to the Alderman's newsletter these improvements will allow CDOT to gather additional community input that will help guide the "FINAL" Reconstruction Project.

While sitting in these meetings, CDOT's overall philosophy was to make the LBA intersection safer for drivers and pedestrians. However, the majority of comments opposed to the design plans were that the changes would force traffic to the side streets making it more dangerous to drive and walk on neighborhood streets.

Here is an inventory of the current implemented changes with some personal comments. At the SLN meeting, we will discuss the changes and vote on each issue.

#### 1) No left turn from Lincoln Ave.

Comment: This will force traffic coming from the South to make a left on Barry and proceed either to Ashland (which is always backed-up) or continue on Barry through the neighborhood past Burley School. From the North, traffic will be forced onto Greenview School St. and past Luke's Academy. The signage is so poor at this time and does not give drivers any warning before you arrive at the intersection that you will have to jigger through the neighborhood on side streets to achieve your East or West trip on Belmont. This is the widest intersection in the area and allows for tons of room for cars to go around other cars turning left.

Reconstruction Note: the ultimate goal of the Reconstruction Plan is by a combination of curb bump-outs and walkway narrowings, to somewhat "straighten out" Lincoln Ave. Now that the bike

lanes are painted through the intersection, you can really see that the cars navigate through this intersection by sight only. Maybe a bright and wide yellow dotted line needs to put down to guide drivers more safely on Lincoln Ave.

2) No right hairpin turn from Ashland back onto Lincoln.

Comment: Only the smallest of cars can make this turn without causing traffic issues on Lincoln. The current signage - standard no right turn arrow should be customized with a hairpin arrow.

- 3) Narrowing of the intersections to reduce the distance for pedestrians and cause a "traffic calming effect cars driving slower." (currently marked with white lines, not totally implemented). Comment: good for the pedestrians crossing streets but bad as you wait to cross the street as you are physically closer to cars going through the intersection that might go slightly out of control and crash into pedestrians.
- 4) Delayed left turn arrow on Ashland (already in existence for several months)

Comment: More cars seem to get through on the left turn arrow being delayed after the red light, but there is no signage noting this option. Cars are always honking for cars to get moving on the green arrow, as drivers do not know it exists.

5) Bike lanes on Lincoln - dotted lines through the intersection for bike lanes.

Comment: Do bikers really need lines to tell them where to go. Does it alert cars that bikes are in the intersection? Yes. But bikers will generally go as far right away from cars for safety reasons. These lines are only relevant if the No Left Turn off Lincoln remains.

#### Other issues:

Bollards(like at Lincoln/Southport/Wellington) being used on white line curb changes prior to funding of actual concrete curbs being built

Comments: They do not provide any safety for pedestrians, can be confusing to drivers, cause snow plowing issues and look cheap and tacky.

#### While we are at it:

The Lincoln Hub (Lincoln/Southport/Wellington) - CDOT's Reconstruction Plan also included changes to this intersection basically dismantling it and adding a dedicated left turn lane heading east on Wellington to get more cars through that intersection.

Comment: if the changes are being made to LBA, why not make this one at the same time?

There will be a discussion of these issues and a vote on the individual items. The information will be forwarded to CDOT and the Alderman's office.

#### **Tutto Fresco - restaurant presentation**

The Owners will give a presentation discussing the menu and operations of this restaurant.

#### AT THE OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

#### 2930 N. Lakewood - Upzoning request

This is a long-time vacant lot on a short block of Lakewood between Wellington and where Lincoln Ave. cuts in at Lakewood and George .

OWNER PRESENTATION: Presenting were the Owner/Developer, his Architect and his Real Estate Attorney. The Owner informed the Membership that he lives in the condo building on Lincoln Ave. overlooking this vacant lot and has lived in the neighborhood for about 10 years. He recently purchased the vacant lot which in the title search revealed it has been vacant since 1948 and he surmised it has probably been vacant for 100 years. The Attorney addressed the Membership and informed us that the lot is classified as "substandard" as it is significantly shorter than a standard 125ft Chicago lot, as it backs-up to the angle alley created by Lincoln Ave. He indicated the lot has 38% less square footage than standard. The Attorney said the Owner/Developer requesting a zoning upgrade from RS-3 to RS-3.5 in order to build a single family house which will allow for approximately 280 sq. ft. of additional living space. The Architect described how the zoning upgrade would allow for the 2nd floor to be extended farther to the back and allow for 3 bedrooms to be built on the 2nd floor. So the total make-up of the house would be 2 stories, 4 bedrooms (one in basement) 3.5 baths and a 2-car garage, a garage and roof deck. Due to the reduced size of the lot, there is no yard and the garage deck is applied to the open space requirement. The Development group indicated that the 3 bedrooms on the 2nd floor design makes the single family house more saleable to a family moving into the neighborhood. Under the current RS-3 zoning, the house could only have 3 total

bedrooms and only 2 on the 2nd floor. The Owner indicated that under the current zoning, he would be more inclined to build a 2-story rental property. The Attorney said that in order to protect the neighbor from a different building going into this lot, they would down zone the lot back to RS-3 after it is built and that under the zoning change request, it must be built according to plans presented to the Membership.

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS: There were many questions from the membership clarifying the design of house, if the garage was below grade (No) and how the house is entered from the rear (stairs from the garage down to the basement and up to the 1st floor). There was some resistance to a zoning upgrade noting that the buyer knew the zoning when he bought it.

David Duggan gave the findings of the SLN Neighborhood Development and Review Committee (NDRC). The NDRC approved the plans contingent on the Owner getting written consent that the immediate neighbors were OK with the upzoning. Mr. Duggan noted that though the Owner submitted 12 letters in favor of the building, there was not one from the immediate neighbors. From the floor, an attendee who identified herself as the neighbor to the north was in favor of the Project despite that her master bedroom window will be facing the new house. In addition to her, another neighbor a few houses to the south and townhome resident across the street verbally supported the Project.

A secret paper ballot vote was taken. In favor YES = 36 Against NO = 7

The results of the issue and the vote were forwarded to Alderman Waguespack for his final decision.

## El Tequilas Bar & Grill @ 2826 N. Lincoln - application for Public Place of Amusement (PPA) license

The Owners of Tequilas Bar & Grill appeared before the Membership regarding their application for a PPA license. The Owners brought a tray of chicken wings for the Members and gave an overview of the restaurant menu. El Tequilas is a family owned business featuring their Grandmother's recipes based on a Mexico City

urban cuisine. All entrees are made from scratch on-site by relatives of the Owners.

The Owners stated they were applying for the PPA license on the advice of their business consultant. Other then the Trivia on Tuesday nights, they have no concrete plans at this time. They did note that they have been approached by a jazz group about playing at their restaurant.

Several people from the floor spoke in favor of the license application.

A secret paper ballot vote was taken. In favor YES = 44 Against NO = 2

The results of the issue and the vote were forwarded to Alderman Waguespack for his final decision.

#### 311 Call Center - Modernization Initiative

The City of Chicago is revamping the 311 Call Center and Web-site slated to be effective by the end of 2018. David Schwab of the William Everett Group has partnered with the City on a community outreach campaign for the Revamp. Mr. Schwab's group is out meeting with neighborhood groups and individuals to spearhead awareness of the improvements to come and get info improvements. Mr. Schwab noted that 311 was introduced in 1999 as a Non-Emergency Call Center. The modernization is designed to provide quicker and more efficient service. The new 311 will allow a person to still request services by phone or the website, but new will be the ability to download an App to your Smartphone. The new 311 will allow you to track your service request and will give you an estimated time of completion. A survey was given to the attendees. The information requested was how you intend to access 311, your age and your zip code. Pretty simple questions. The floor was opened for questions which as you could imagine, was a total B.I. session of how the current system does not work. Mr. Schwab used the following example of how the new will be more efficient. He said under the current system, if two people called in for a street light out a block from each other, two services requests would be generated - request #1 and #2. The City would send a crew to replace street light #1. The crew would come back to the office (maybe for a snack or a nap). They would get request #2. Then they would go out and fix street light #2. Mr. Schwab commented that the new system would coordinate that into one service call. I think a smiley face emoji would be appropriate here.

If you want to start experiencing the New 311 Call Center go to:

www.whatsthe311.org and start living the Dream.

#### Athenaeum Theatre Lease Negotiations - Update from Jeff DeLong, Director of Marketing & Development

Athenaeum Theatre Productions (ATP) have been in negotiations with the Archdiocese of Chicago to create a new lease. They have been asking for this lease for the past 7 years. Until recently, ATP has operated under the lease of the preceding management company (SCT). That expired last year and the Athenaeum has been operating month to month ever since. A long-term lease is in their best interest in terms of serious fundraising and the ability to continue bringing in great acts.

ATP was asked, at the request of the parish, to revitalize the foundering Athenaeum in 2011. Over a million dollars has been spent by ATP into updating, repairing and restoring the building. Until now, what ATP has spent on the building was taken into consideration in lieu of rent.

Under the new lease agreement, ATP would need to pay a steep rent and be responsible for the upkeep of the building with zero financial support for the repair/maintenance of the structure. In short, under these lease terms, the Athenaeum would barely be able to operate as they havefor the past seven years. In addition, this new lease agreement would seriously hinder the Athenaeum's ability to continue to rent spaces at below market rate to the not-for-profit performing arts community.

We have provided the archdiocese with a list of counter terms that would give the Athenaeum the flexibility to continue our growth and provide a revenue stream to the parish while not endangering our current economic model. Jeff is collecting letters of endorsement from residents and local businesses to convince the archdiocese of our value to the community. South Lakeview Neighbors would like to encourage its members to write letters of support. Letters of support can be sent to Jeff DeLong but addressed to Cardinal Blaise Cupich. The letters are being compiled by the Athenaeum's lawyer who will bring a very thick report the attorney at the Archdiocese.

Please write your support letters ASAP. They be mailed to The Athenaeum at 2936 N. Southport, Chicago 60657 or email to Jeff at: jeff@athenaeumtheatre.org.

#### FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS & CAPS

## Community Relations Strategy (previously called CAPS)

Beat 1933 - east of Lincoln Ave and west of Racine, Belmont to Diversey

Next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13th at 6:30 pm at Illinois Masonic Hospital, 836 W. Wellington, 7<sup>th</sup> floor auditorium at 6:30pm.

Beat 1932 - east of Ashland and west of Lincoln, from Belmont to Fullerton

Next meeting is Monday, Nov. 12th at 7:00 pm at the New Life Church, 1110 W. Lill at 7:00pm.

Beat 1931 - west of Ashland, between Belmont and Fullerton, to the Chicago River.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 21st at 7:00 pm at the 2452 W. Belmont Police Auditorium.

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

Twitter = ChicagoCAPS19

Email = caps019district@chicagopolice.org

Contact information:

Community Policing Office

Sgt Mary Hein

Email: mary.hein@chicagopolice.org

SLN is looking for members to attend CAPS meetings and report to the membership either through the newsletter or at the membership meetings. Contact Bill Haderlein, editor at email=chicagolanddeck@rcn.com if you think you will be a regular CAPS meeting attendee

#### **Major Public Safety Enhancements**

A Strategic Decision Support Center has been placed in the 19th District (covering the area north of Fullerton) plus the deployment of new security cameras. Ultimately there will be at least 150 high-def POD crime cameras in the 19th District. The new cameras, which can be accessed in real time by the Support Center, will allow police to watch and "follow" criminals virtually, allowing for much

quicker apprehension and deterrence. In addition, CPD is also expanding the License Plate Reader (LPR) technology to 200 more patrol vehicles to quickly identify stolen cars, reduce carjackings and recover stolen vehicles. Beat officers will also have real-time cell-phone and in-patrol car access to information. SDSCs, coupled with new cameras, have a proven record of reducing crime.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS/INFORMATION**

**Lakeview Chamber of Commerce (SSA 27)** 1409 W. Addison

www.lakeviewchamber.com 773-472-7171

1) Southport Holiday Stroll & Cocktail Crawl Southport from Belmont to Irvina December 7, 2018 from 5:00pm - 9:00pm Local businesses are breaking out the holly and staying open late for this annual tradition. The Southport Holiday Stroll is free to attend and features festive entertainment, holiday specials, photos with Santa and more! The ticketed Cocktail Crawl portion of the event will include over 15 different holiday-themed cocktails to taste at participating businesses along the Holiday Stroll. Produced by the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce with support from SSA 27.

## 2) Donate Today to Help Build the Lakeview Low-Line!

The Lakeview Low-Line re-envisions the half-mile space beneath the CTA elevated tracks between the Southport and Paulina stations as an exciting Chicago art destination and a fun and dynamic path connecting Lakeview. Phase 1 has been completed, including plazas at Southport and Paulina, new public art and seating, as well as expanded space for the Low-Line Farmers Market. Now planning is underway to start on Phase 2: a pathway connecting Paulina to Ashland, including more art, creative lighting, and a new park on the west side of Marshfield that will immerse Low-Line visitors in an urban forest!

To move forward, the non-profit Friends of Lakeview needs to raise \$50,000 by November 21, 2018. Learn more and donate today at http://www.LakeviewLowLine.com.

#### OTHER SLN INFORMATION

#### **Membership Renewal Now**

Members: please renew your membership using the enclosed MEMBERSHIP FORM or go to SLN's website at www.slneighbors.org and renew and renew on-line. You must be a PAID MEMBER in ORDER to VOTE on the NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

#### Attention Advertisers – Ad Space for 2018-2019

Contact SLN at email =info@slneighbors.org or call Ann Sychowski at 773-477-8840 for advertising opportunities. Over 750 monthly copies to SLN members, email recipients, Facebookers 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, 1/2 page \$310.

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#### SLN on Facebook - Get on It!

If you are on Facebook, consider joining our Facebook group. The URL to access the group is https://www.facebook.com/groups/southlakeviewneighbors/

## Block Captain Program - members needed for the 2017-18 season. Volunteer now.

Still looking for block captains to flyer their blocks for the monthly membership meetings. Seven membership meetings per year (Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb. Mar, April & May).

We currently have 14 block captains covering about 50% of the SLN territory.

Contact Bill Haderlein at the SLN email address = info@slneighbors.org if you are interested in becoming a block captain

#### Switch to the Email Version of Newsletter

Please help reduce costs of hard copy newsletter production and assembly time. 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 www.slneighbors.org to sign up for the email version.

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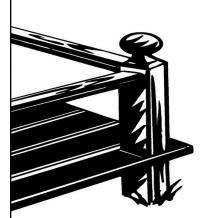
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## **SCOTT WAGUESPACK**

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Thanks to the **South Lakeview Neighbors** for your strong commitment to the neighborhood throughout the year.

Visit **ward32.org** to find out more about available services. While you're there, sign up for the 32nd Ward email newsletter to receive up-to-date information about news and events in the Ward and City.

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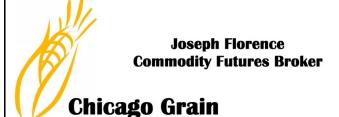
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