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.)

### **DECEMBER 2019**

### FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

- 1) on the website at www.slneighbors.org
- 2) by mail to 1505 W. Oakdale
- 3) at the monthly membership meeting.
- A Membership form is on the back page of the newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_

Hi South Lakeview Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, enjoying family, friends and good food. As we enter December and the holiday season is upon us, we should all experience a time of joy and a time for giving. Unfortunately, for many, it is a time of need. Many of our fellow Chicagoans are economically disadvantaged and are the most vulnerable, especially as the winter approaches. There are many charities collecting food, clothing and toys for the needy. Some schools and churches have coat, hat, and glove drives. Call or google to see where you can help. The Lakeview Pantry and the Greater Chicago Food Depository are two worthy organizations where you can direct donations. Give! You'll help someone and you'll feel good about it.

The public school strike is over. Teachers and students are back in class. The new 5-year contract will provide lower class sizes, and a nurse and social worker in every school. The agreement between CPS and the Teachers Union will improve schools and achieve stability. And the Chicago City Council just passed the 2020 budget, closing the \$800 million gap with no property tax increase. Hopefully, help from the State will come through in the new year. We hope to have Alderman

### HOLIDAY PARTY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

WILL'S NORTHWOODS INN (in the Heated White Tent) 3030 N. Racine 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

### **Holiday Agenda:**

- 1) Check in and drinks
- 2) Food by Will's Northwoods
- 3) Liquor & Gift Certificate Raffles with the kids of SLN members
- 4) Split the Pot Raffle benefiting The Lakeview Food Pantry.
- 5) Some more drinking before the 8:30 sharp cut-off. Followed by some general hanging around.

All PAID SLN MEMBERS, family and friends are invited.

NEW MEMBERS wishing to join SLN are welcome.

DUES can be PAID at the DOOR - \$10 RECRUIT your neighbor All ADVERTISERS are welcome. BEST HOLIDAY VALUE - \$10.

Waguespack or someone from the Mayor's office give a budget update at the February meeting.

At the November meeting, we heard from Wazwan, the pop-up restaurant on Lincoln in the former Entente space. They serve food from Kashimir. Try the Tandoori chicken sandwich. Delicious!

We heard from Fritz Kaegi, the Cook County Assessor. He stressed transparency and fairness in the property assessment process. It certainly is a refreshing change from the opaque, confusing system that seemed to favor commercial buildings at the expense of homeowners. We were reminded that the Assessor's office doesn't set tax rates, only property values. Kaegi emphasized his goal of establishing a fair, transparent, public process that results in more predictability, benefitting the real estate market and the City economy as a whole. SB 1379, the Data Modernization Bill, will make property data available to his office and the public. He spoke for over an hour, answering every question asked, revealing his openness and transparency.

Last, developers presented plans for 12 units on the 2900 block of Southport, extending to Lincoln. The membership voted against recommending the project. Too many questions arose concerning size,

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

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

Officers:

President:

1st Vice President:

2nd Vice President:

Recording Secretary:

Treasurer:

Corresponding Secretary:

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Sam Samatas

Fionn McManigal

Bill Haderlein

Ann Sychowski

Steve Stern

**Directors:** 

Susan Radzinowicz Robert Taugner David Duggan Harvey Levin Ed Silverstein

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

parking, alley access, and the negative impact on Papacito's restaurant on Lincoln.

I continue to ask SLVN members to patronize businesses in the neighborhood. My wife and I recently had a wonderful dinner at Que Rico, which has been on Southport for a number of years. Don't forget to come to the Holiday Party at Will's Northwoods Pub on Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 8:30. Free food, drink, raffle prizes and the company of friends and neighbors. Happy Holidays to all!

Bob Blitstein
President South Lakeview Neighbors

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Will's Northwoods Inn - 3030 N. Racine Tuesday, December 12: 6:30PM to 8:30PM All food and drinks will be served in the Big White Tent

Open bar - beer, wine, well drinks and pop.
Food - prepared on site by Will's Northwoods
PAID SLN Members, family and neighborhood
friends are invited.

New Members are welcome.
All Advertisers are welcome
You can pay your dues at the DOOR - \$10.

Holiday donations by SLN: Please note that all the proceeds from the raffles will go to The Lakeview Food Pantry. Prizes are donated and collected by the SLN Board. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **DONATION NOTE to SLN Members:**

Consider a private donation to The Lakeview Pantry for the Holiday Season. Your cash donation to the Pantry can go far to help those in need during the Holiday Season and beyond. Go to their website at www.lakeviewpantry.org.

Athenaeum Theatre Restoration Fund:

The SLN monthly membership meetings are held at The Athenaeum Theatre in what has to be the coolest neighborhood group meeting venue in the City. The Athenaeum Theatre is raising \$260,000 for "immediate" outside building repairs. Currently, \$35,600 has been raised from the modest restoration fee on each ticket sold and individual donors. Go to their website for additional information on donating to the Restoration Fund at www.athenaeumtheatre.org.

### At the NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING

### Cook County Assessor – Fritz Kaegi – will our Property Taxes ever go down?

Pursuant to an SLN invitation, for the first time in SLN history, the Cook County Assessor appeared in front of the SLN membership. Newly elected Assessor Mr. Fritz Kaegi took the podium and stated that he has been on the speaking circuit getting out the message on the changes at the Assessor's office.

Mr. Kaegi started with a little background. He did note though he was born and raised in Hyde Park, he did live in Lakeview at Southport and Cornelia from 2002-2006. Mr. Kaegi spent more than 20 years valuing assets as a financial manager and analyst. In the private sector, Mr. Kaegi helped average families save for retirement also focusing on small companies operating within the global market. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a member of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

Mr. Kaegi started out by stating that he has no relatives working on his staff, unlike his predecessor Joseph Barrios who had many relatives in high level positions, without appropriate credentials. He noted that many Aldermen also had relatives employed in the Berrios office. Mr. Kaegi's Office Values according to the Assessor's website are as follows:

Fairness — to deliver accurate and uniform assessments, with timely and informative notices, in compliance with industry standards and guided by best practices. Transparency — making services more effective and efficient and to earn the public's trust. Ethics — to create an office culture of professionalism, inclusion and public accountability, with engaged employees who take pride in the delivery of high-quality, accessible services.

Mr. Kaegi stated that he is incorporating the Office Values by bringing new qualified people into the Office and reinvesting in training employees. He will I not take any campaign contributions from developers. Appeals are now blind. The law firms or the property Owners are not known in the appeal process. The facts have to stand on their own. There are published rules for all employees. Appraisals are now done by licensed Appraisers. He also brought in an outside Process Auditor to go over the assessment process. Mr. Kaegi is bringing in new technology to get rid of the stacks of boxes

that he inherited in the Assessor's office. The appraisal is available for the public to see and appraisals are posted on a township by township basis.

Mr. Kaegi went into a discussion as to how the appraisal system works. 1/3 of the County is reassessed every year. That reassessment will then be in effect for the following year. Assessments are tax revenue neutral. They are not in the business of raising tax revenue. They are just trying to get the assessment correct. Assessments are all interconnected. The tax rate is determined in the end after the amount of revenue to be raised is determined (the Budget). The new assessments will show the Market Value of your property. Formerly, this was not done. A change in your assessment will not necessarily mean a change or increase in your property taxes.

The north and northwest suburbs were reassessed this year. The Assessor's office observed that:

There was a 20% increase in market value.

The previous assessments were biased negatively against more modest homes.

Commercial assessments are up 34% to 44% of Total Value. The residential assessments are down 10%. His office believes that commercial properties, especially properties like Storage Facilities, were previously grossly under-assessed. Some commercial property owners were purposely keeping their property vacant in order to get a "reduced assessment rate due to vacancy." They knew the value of the real estate was in the land. This reduction is being eliminated to get rid of this abuse.

Senior Exemption – a bill has been introduced to make this exemption automatic, once you apply for it, instead of seniors having to reapply every year.

Fritz Kaegi assessment predictions:

Mr. Kaegi said that preliminary independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party information indicates that the Downtown properties are under-accessed. The Lakeview area is being reassessed in 2021. If the Downtown area is corrected in the next assessment, the result should/may result in a decrease in residential property taxes.

### 2933-35-37 N. Southport and 2956 N. Lincoln – Developer Plan

The Developer and his Architect presented his plan for this oddly shaped group of four non-conforming city lots that he named Southport Key as together the lots somewhat resemble a key. The Developer stated that no zoning change is needed for his proposal but some Zoning adjustments were needed for the Development to be approved. So, the Developer came before the SLN membership seeking input and support from the neighborhood. He does not own the properties at this point. 2933 Southport is formerly The Emerald City Theatre for children. The two other Southport properties are two-flat dilapidated frame rentals. 2956 Lincoln is a three-flat frame south of Papacitos Mexican Grill.

Developer Proposal: The lots are all zoned B3-3. As the Development is located just south of the pointed triangle at Southport and Lincoln, the lots are shorter than the standard city lot of 25x125. The Developer is proposing a contiguous 4-story, 52ft. high building with 12 2-bedroom condo units on floors 2-4 and 3 total commercial spaces on the ground level on both sides. There will be only 11 parking spaces to make space for trash to be stored inside on-site and not in the alley. This will be a lot-line to lot-line Development. The units will be less than 1,000 square ft per unit. They will have modern interior finishes. Car access to the enclosed garage will be off the alley. The exterior design consists of black glass, dark gray and silver aluminum panels on the front and concrete block elsewhere.

As previously stated, no zoning change is needed for this Development. However, the Developer stated in order to achieve this plan, the Developer needs the following zoning relief: 1) rear setback relief (no yards or open space), 2) relief from the 1 unit to 1 parking space requirement (short one space) and 3) "alley access" relief. Alley access relief is required under the current zoning, as no more than 6 cars can access a garage through the alley on a contiguous Development. The Developer commented that without the setback relief the Units would be too small to live in. He stated that no matter how the architect reconfigured the Development, they could not get more than 11 inside parking spaces with the trash inside the Development. The Architect stated that he did really see an issue with 11 cars entering and exiting this particular alley. The Developer claimed that 12 Units are needed for the Development to be financially viable and to obtain financing. He said the buildings are too dilapidated to make rehabbing an option. So, demolition and a new building are the way to go. The price of the Units would be from \$350.000 to \$400.000 or what is now considered affordable. He said in case the Units did not sell, he

could rent them out at \$1,500 per Unit in order to stay afloat.

Papacito's Mexican Grill garbage access issue: The owner of Papacito's was in attendance and questioned how he would exit the back of his business on Lincoln Ave. and dispose of his garbage and access the restaurant grease trap. The Developer described that the Development has provided for a 3-feet wide, 12-feet high passage easement that allows for Papacito's rear access. Papacito's owner commented that this was not adequate. The restaurant owner then commented that the Developer attempted to purchase this property. The Developer denied that and said that the current owner of the four properties may have attempted that.

Sam Samatas, Chairperson of SLN's Neighborhood Development & Review Committee (NDRC) gave its findings. They did not support the proposal of this specific plan and recommended reducing the total number of Units to 8. In addition, the NDRC recommended that the building design fit into the character of the neighborhood better and that a traditional brick and limestone trim would be more acceptable

Comments from the audience mainly dealt with the perception that the NDRC was resistant to certain types of higher density projects and how can a small number of people decide the issue. SLN President Bob Blitstein and Block Captain organizer Bill Haderlein informed the audience that 100 flyers were distributed on 2900 Lincoln, 2900 Southport, 1400 Oakdale and 1300 George regarding this voting issue, in addition to flyering done by the many SLN Block captains (500+ per month), emails and Facebook postings about the monthly meeting.

Finally, former NDRC chairman Joe Semerling noted that the original zoning change for these properties to B3-3 was approved by SLN in 2006 based on a development plan of 9 Units and 17 parking spaces. A copy of an unsigned and unrecorded "Restrictive Covenant" was produced as evidence to this 2006 zoning change.

A secret paper ballot voted was taken. Do you support the Development as presented: YES – 12

NO - 23.

The results of the voting were forwarded to the Alderman's office.

11/15/2019 ZONING BOARD of APPEALS UPDATE - The Developer appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Sam Samatas of the SLN NDRC and the owner of Papacito's were also in attendance. At that meeting, the setback and parking relief is now under consideration by the ZBA. Papacito's made a case of the Development's interference for their legal rear easement and asked for a continuance. Based on Papacito's argument, the case was delayed until 12/20/2019. Sam Samatas met with the current owner of the Property and presented the Restrictive Covenant. It is being considered "new information" and is being considered by the Alderman and the ZBA. The Alderman has indicated that he would not support the parking space relief which would reduce the number of Units 11 at most.

### Wazwan Supper Club Pop-up Restaurant – 3056 N. Lincoln Ave.

The owner of this pop-up restaurant in the former Entente spot gave a rundown of the operations. Wazwan features new wave Kashmir/Indian fine dining. They are open for dinner Wednesday-Sundays. For menu details, visit their website at www.WazwanChicago.com. The Pop-up may only be open at this site for a few months, so go by now.

### ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSING?

Must be a huge decrease in the bar drinking patterns of people in the SLN area.

Just announced closing:

- -The Land of Lincoln on 3100 block of Lincoln. This bar/restaurant operated under many different names (e.g. The Lennox Lounge and others) since the original The Metro Club Austrian Restaurant closed down in the early 2000's when its neighborhood owner, accordion player Pepo passed away. Pepo had a buzzer on the front door of The Metro Club and if he didn't know you or liked the way you looked, he would not buzz you in and just ignore you until you went away
- -The Elbo Room is closing on December 9 after 30 years. Reports are that the building was purchased and the bar "may" have new ownership, but at this time the plan for the venue is unknown.
- -DIAG closed in August 2019 supposedly due to huge increase in the monthly rent.

- -The Twisted Tap, micro-brew bar (JR Burke's) on 2900 Lincoln never really got it going. That empty store front now looks very crappy.
- -Millie's, the tiny neighborhood bar at Wellington & Ravenswood that featured a 3-4 stair climb to the bathrooms overlooking the pool table, was supposedly bought by a neighbor solely so they could shut it down.
- -3 bars on 3200 Lincoln Fizz, Nortown Tap (also The Wooden Nickel) closed within the last year and that British Bar near the corner of Lincoln/Belmont Ashland closed years ago.
- -The bar space at Ashland and Wolfram across from the McDonald's has been shuttered for years.
- -A couple of other bars that I frequented in the 1980's, were The Max Tavern at George and Racine and The Bungalow Inn at Wolfram and Racine. These bars are now store front residential rental spaces.

Of course, many of these bars were fueled by round-the-clock employees working at the Meat Processing Plants located around the intersection of Lincoln/George/Lakewood and the huge Appleton Electric plant on the south side of 1700 Wellington, which relocated to my wife's hometown of Columbus, NE. in 1986 for cheaper non-union labor.

Nevertheless, let's all resolve to have some more bar dates for 2020.

### 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, Jan. 14th 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, Jan. 13th 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, Jan. 15th 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: 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

**How to Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft –**See the CPD flyer in the Advertiser section of the Newsletter.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS/INFORMATION**

Restaurant Review by Ed S.

Chicago Diplomat Cafe, 3134 N. Lincoln Avenue Chicago Diplomat Cafe has been open in the SLN area for about 2 ½ years. They offer a large variety of dining choices from the Republic of Georgia. The restaurant is BYOB, and they have wine glasses at the ready on every table. There are about 18 tables, with seating for about 60.

Two of us dined on a Friday night and were quickly seated at a table of our choice, near the bar. While the names of the menu items were unfamiliar (at least to us), the menu provided detailed descriptions of the food. Nonetheless, we asked our friendly waiter for his favorites in each category and we're glad we did!

We started the meal by splitting a Chashushuli Soko, which was essentially a cheese stuffed pizza-like bread that was big enough for 3 or 4 to share. If you like cheesy, gooey pizza, you will love Chashushuli Soko. We also shared an order of Megruli, which was outstanding -- flavorful mushrooms sautéed in a tasty sauce.

We enjoyed two delicious entrées. The Chmeruli was an oven baked chicken in a garlic cream sauce. The chicken skin was crispy and the meat with the sauce was very flavorful and garlicy. We also ordered the Chakapuli, a lamb stew with herbs and a licorice vibe served in a clay pot. All of the entrees were served family style and are meant to be shared. The portions were generous and we had

enough to take home some of each of the entrées as well as the appetizers.

While we were tempted to try the Honey Cake for dessert, the generous portions left us without the ability to order more.

The atmosphere at Chicago Diplomat Cafe is friendly and comfortable. The sound level is low enough that it is easy to have a nice conversation. The tables are spaced far enough apart so that it feels cozy but not crowded. This restaurant provides a wonderful presentation of eastern European food that may be initially unfamiliar but is extremely tasty! We recommend Chicago Diplomat Cafe and on our return trip we'll remember to save room for dessert.

**Hours**: 3pm-11pm Tuesday-Saturday; 3-9pm Sunday; closed on Monday.

### Burley Local School Council (LSC) as reported by Amy Walsh

Burley's Local School Council is looking for a Community Representative to ioin Council. CPS Local School Councils serve as the policy-making body of the school. LSCs have remained an important vehicle for participatory democracy, allowing not only educators but parents the opportunity to make important decisions about how their children will be educated. To be a community rep, this person must live within the Burley boundaries and cannot be a current parent or staff member. Meetings are about 1.5 hours typically the second Wednesday evening of each month. If you know of anyone interested in this position, please have them reach out to Burley's LSC Soltanzadeh: Chair. Stephen ssoltanzadeh@gmail.com.

### Lakeview Chamber of Commerce (SSA 27)

1409 W. Addison

www.lakeviewchamber.com 773-472-7171

### -Annual Southport Holiday Stroll & Cocktail Crawl – Dec 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-9pm

The Southport Holiday Stroll is a tradition in West Lakeview where businesses on Southport between Belmont and Irving Park stay open late offering special holiday deals, Santa, carolers and festivities! The Southport Holiday Stroll is free to attend.

Cocktail Crawl- attendees can taste over 15 different holiday-themed cocktails at participating businesses while they enjoy the festivities of the Southport Holiday Stroll. The Cocktail Crawl Check-In location is at Sheil Park at 3505 N Southport Ave from 4:30-7:30pm. Tickets for this event are \$30 in advance or \$40 the day of the Event.

### -West Lakeview Menorah Lighting Ceremony

Celebrate the first night of Chanukah with the Chabad in West Lakeview at their second annual Lakeview Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. The menorah lighting will take place outdoors at the corner of Marshfield & Lincoln followed by games, food and music inside Lake View YMCA! KidCreate Art Studio will be hosting an arts and crafts project and Advocate Health will be hosting a Coat & Book Drive during the event, so please bring any used coats or books to donate to those in need! T

### -Lakeview Gift Card

The Lakeview Gift Card is accepted at more than 80 local shops and restaurants. From now through Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, receive a \$20 Bonus Card for every \$100 Lakeview Gift Card you buy. The Cards are good through March 31, 2020. The Gift Card can be purchased either online or at the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce office at 1409 W. Addison.

### OTHER SLN INFORMATION

### SLN - Seeking Director for Board (1, maybe 2)

Due to a Director relocation, SLN is looking for a Director for the 2019-2020 season. According to the SLN by-laws, the duty of the Director is to attend the board meetings to lend advice. A Director also helps plan the monthly membership meetings, makes suggestions for future meetings or head a committee. The Board meetings are normally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM for the months of August-November and January-May. If interested contact SLN at email = info@slneighbors.org.

## SLN Block Captains – wanted for the 2019-2020 season – help SLN get the word out and get in shape at the same time.

The volunteer duties are as follows: A Block Captain will receive a PDF flyer for an upcoming membership meeting. The Block Captain will print off 25-50 flyers and distribute them in mailboxes on

your block alerting people to the upcoming meeting. There are seven meetings per year (Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar, April & May). Contact Bill Haderlein at the SLN email = info @slneighbors.com. to volunteer.

### **Attention Advertisers – Ad Space for 2019-2020** 9 monthly newsletters.

The newsletter is mailed or emailed to over 550 members, businesses and neighbors. The newsletter is available to SLN's 1,100 Facebook participants. From \$50 for a small ad to \$310 for a ½ page. Support your volunteer not-for-profit neighborhood organization.

Contact SLN at email =info@slneighbors.org or call Ann Sychowski at 773-477-8840 for advertising opportunities.

### Support Our 2019-2020 Advertisers!!!

The Art of Pizza-two full page ads Central Savings Thomas Ward Insurance Group Scott Waguespack 32nd Ward Will's Northwoods Inn Chicagoland Deck Cleaning & Sealing Car Care Specialists Lakeview Chamber of Commerce Breakfast House Golden Apple Grill & Breakfast House John Haderlein & Son Real Estate - Real Estate Sales and Management Lakeview Computer Specialists LLC - Ed Silverstein owner Lakeview Chamber of Commerce Joseph Florence - Commodity Futures Broker Joseph Semerling Law Offices Office Depot S&G Restaurant Waxman Candles

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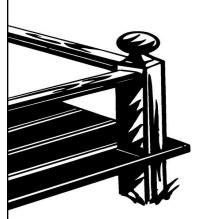
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### SCOTT WAGUESPACK

### 32ND WARD ALDERMAN \* WARD32.ORG

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.

We look forward to working with you!

### 32ND WARD SERVICE OFFICE

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Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

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