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.)

APRIL 2020

FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...

NEW MEMBERS - JOIN NOW

- 1) on the website at www.slneighbors.org
- 2) by mail to 1505 W. Oakdale
- 3) at the monthly membership meeting.

Handy membership form is on the back page of the newsletter

Hi South Lakeview Neighbors,

Needless to say, our April membership meeting is cancelled. The Coronavirus pandemic has led to a statewide "stay at home" order. Governor Pritzker and Mayor Lightfoot have ordered all citizens to stay at home, except for essential trips for food, medicine, cleaning supplies, etc. Most businesses are closed. Restaurants are only open for delivery or carry-out. Schools, parks and libraries are closed. At the present time, the Illinois "stay at home" order goes through the end of April. Realistically, it may go longer, further impacting our lives. Please remember, staying home and avoiding contact with others is the most effective way to lessen the effects of the pandemic. Follow the guidelines of health professionals: Wash your hands frequently (20 seconds). Don't touch your face. Use hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available. Disinfect surfaces that are touched by you and others. Regularly wipe down phones, TV controls, door handles, etc. If you must go out, keep a 6-foot distance from others. Wearing a face mask is not a preventative, but it can reduce the chances of disseminating or catching the virus. Again, only go out if it is absolutely necessary. Remember, the Coronavirus is highly contagious extremely dangerous. While isolated physically, it is important to maintain contact with friends and family. An unexpected phone call or

MEETING AT A GLANCE TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

ATHENAEUM THEATRE 2936 N. SOUTHPORT

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19
MEETING RESTRICTION RULES

Next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday May 12. We will keep you posted

text can be invaluable. Use the technology you possess to communicate with others.

At the March membership meeting, we heard from Dillon Goodson, the executive director of the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce. Amongst other topics, he addressed the need to support our local businesses. At this time, it is vitally important to support those restaurants in South Lakeview that are still open. Whether it's a nice breakfast from S&G, a pizza from The Art of Pizza, empanadas from Que Rico, some pasta from Sal's, or a burger from Will's, try to get some carryout or delivery when you can to support those restaurants in this challenging economic period.

In these times, continue to wave or say "hi" when out, while keeping your 6-foot distance. If you have an elderly neighbor, check to see if they need any help. I noticed some houses lifting our spirits by putting out their Xmas lights or flying the "W" flag.

By all means when encountering police, firefighters, city workers, grocery workers, and of course, medical staff, say "Thank you for being here!" Realize, these individuals are risking their lives to serve all of us.

Finally, our lives have changed. How long we "stay at home" is unknown. One hopes we adhere to these guidelines, while the health system obtains the tests, protective materials and medical equipment it needs, as the researchers find a cure. But remember, we are the United States of America. Historically, we have faced extremely tough situations (wars, natural disasters, epidemics, economic depressions), but we always come together to help one another and come back stronger and more resilient than ever. Hang in there! Stay healthy!

Winston Churchill: "You can always count on America to do the right thing...after they have tried everything else."

Bob Blitstein President South Lakeview Neighbors

South Lakeview Neighbors 1505 West Oakdale Avenue

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

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2020-2021 SLN OFFICERS and DIRECTORS WANTED

Depending on the COVID-19 meeting restrictions, the Nominating Committee will be meeting to come up with a slate for next year. It is time for a newer group of SLN residents to rise to the occasion to move SLN forward. SLN has outstanding working relationships with our local politicians and organizations. SLN is an official not-for-profit organization that files tax returns with the IRS and the Illinois Attorney General. If you are interested or want some more information, contact us at email= info@slneighbors.org or be ready to accept the challenge when contacted by Nominating Committee. NOTE - you must be a SLN member for at least one year to qualify for a board position.

Signed – Bill Haderlein, SLN member since 1987, on the Board for most of those years and former president 2000-2003.

At the MARCH 2020 MEETING

Lakeview Chamber of Commerce – 2020 Plans

Dillon Goodson made the Chamber's presentation to the SLN membership. Dillon has been with the Chamber for several years and was recently named Executive Director. Here are some highlights from his presentation.

- The Chambers area encompasses Racine to Ravenswood and Diversey to Irving Park.
- The Chamber serves as the sole service provider of Special Service Area (SSA) 27. SSA 27 is a local taxing district that generates revenue from property taxes charged to local businesses that are then used to support additional programs and services to supplement city services, including neighborhood promotion and public space enhancements.
- The Chamber also partners with the non-profit organization Friends of Lakeview on community events and capital improvement projects that advance the areas common goals.
- Dillon wanted the membership to know that the goal for the Chamber is tighter communications and connections between the Area Businesses and the Neighborhood Groups.
- -How is the area business climate doing? Commercial and retail vacancy in Chicago is at about 15%. The Chamber area has been running 5%-10%.

The Southport Corridor from Belmont to Irving Park has been featured on various national morning news shows and was voted as a top 10 destination for tourists to visit while in Chicago by the USA Today newspaper.

Lincoln Ave. is doing OK as a Home Goods destination area with stores like Wrightwood Furniture and various long-time carpet and rug businesses.

The Chamber recently conducted a survey of the area residents with over 400 respondents. The results called for 1) a more dynamic variety of retail stores featuring clothing, accessory and men's clothing stores, 2) full-service restaurants as well as counter-type sit down or pick up restaurants and 3) live entertainment. The survey ranked the neighborhood a 4.5 on a scale of 5.

How is the Chamber working on the retail mix? First, by retaining the current businesses. That is being done by the Chamber's business education seminars and various networking events. To attract new businesses, the Chamber will assist in obtaining business licenses, signs or other barriers that new businesses encounter. The Chamber is creating a "snap shot" report that will summarize data of the neighborhood and why a business should come and make an investment in the Lakeview area. The Chamber realizes that walking traffic is a top attraction to this retail area. With that in mind, the Chamber has ramped up its' commitment to the area landscaping. Since 2017 the Chamber has planted over 100 trees, installed seven public seating areas, planted flowers in 119 planters, installed holiday decorations and removed 92 graffiti tags.

Lakeview Low-Line Project – is designed to connect the Southport and Paulina L stops by landscaping the area under the L tracks between the two stations and connect them with a variety of public art and retail events. The Paulina L stop has been remodeled with signage designating the Low Line. The Low Line Farmers Market takes place from June to October at the Southport L stop. You can learn more and support the Project at www.lakeviewlowline.com.

Lincoln Ave. vacancy – a question from the membership brought up the increasing vacancy on Lincoln Ave. near the Belmont intersection. Dillon addressed an existing real estate tax reduction incentive where a property owner can get a reduction in their real estate taxes if they can prove

they cannot rent-out the ground level retail space. This was also addressed by Cook County Assessor-Fritz Kaegi at the November 2019 SLN meeting. The Chamber is working with the Commercial Vacancy Coalition that is developing local action plans and coordinating the City government powers to address chronic vacancies.

Dillon closed by noting that the brick and mortar retail business is facing tough times. Though the area has shown a 3% increase in population in recent years, rental units and area population are way down since the year 2000. The neighborhood average age is getting older and more family oriented and therefore less likely to able to go out and spend money on eating and entertainment. He feels that the Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD's) that have been built at the Paulina L stop and currently being built at the Southport L stop will be a shot in the arm for the retail environment.

Porchfest, a very popular event started last Summer, is scheduled for Sunday, June 7. Neighbors wishing to donate the use of their front porch for the event can contact the Chamber at 773-472-7171 or www.lakeviewchamber.com. Let's hope that this event can be put on considering the current Covad-19 virus situation. Two months from the publication of this newsletter.

Follow up note:

The Chamber held its' 2020 Annual Meeting & Awards Reception on March 11, the day after SLN's March meeting, at the Athenaeum Theatre featuring A Taste of Lakeview with food tastings from local restaurants presented by 4 Star Restaurant Group. This Editor was in attendance and it was a great event. Jeff DeLong, former Director of Marketing at The Athenaeum and friend of SLN was an award recipient the Reception.

1340 W. Wolfram – Zoning upgrade, demolition and construction of new Single-Family House

This property is currently zoned RS-3 for smaller single family or 2-unit buildings. The Builder, the Potential Owners and their Attorney made their presentation to the Membership. The Builder intends to demolish the current building and construct a single-family house for his specific client, the Potential Owners. The Potential Owner's Attorney did the bulk of the presentation. The Builder is seeking a zoning upgrade to RT-3.5 to allow for a taller building with higher total livable

square footage and a smaller back yard. The Attorney informed the group that six of nine property lots on that side of the street of 1300 Wolfram were already zoned RT-4 and he distributed a list to the membership of nearby lots zoned RT-3.5. Though it is noted that most of the lots on that list were from west of Southport Ave. which is all zoned RT-3.5. The Attorney said they had obtained signatures from nine neighbors in support of the Project stating that they welcomed replacing a dilapidated 2-unit building with a new single-family house. The plans call for a standard RT-3.5 construction for floors 1 and 2. The 3rd floor that is allowed under the RT-3.5 zoning will consist only of a 10'x18' in-home office and access to the roof deck. The Attorney stated that the house will be built to the specifications presented at the meeting and that the Owner is willing to downzone the property back to RS-3 after construction is completed. The only negative comment from the Membership related that the new houses with small back yards, which are often paved over, create flooding issue for the immediate neighbors when it rains. The Builder noted that the yard would have a permeable paver brick design.

Sam Samatas presented the opinion of the NDRC. Sam stated that the NDRC's policy is to support zoning upgrades when it benefits the neighborhood and not just for more livable space to a homeowner. He noted that it is not beneficial for SLN to set a precedent of supporting zoning upgrades as then every Builder will then request one. The NDRC did not support the Project.

A secret paper ballot vote was taken.

Do you support the Development as presented: YES – 13, NO- 7.

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

1301 W. Wellington – Zoning upgrade for expansion/remodel of the current Single-Family House

The Owners of this house at the corner of Wellington and Lakewood have lived there for 15 years. They are requesting a zoning upgrade from RS-3 to RT-3.5 in order to expand the back of the house. The expansion will consist of removing the sunroom on the back of the house and replacing it with a one-story addition including a basement and a roof deck. A mud room will be attached to the back addition that will give the family secured

access to the garage. The Owner noted that the sunroom is not really usable as the temperatures reach over 120 degrees in the Summer sun. Also, an alley wall will be constructed as the Owner stated that a small open area off the alley is frequently used for urinating by Uber, Lyft, delivery drivers or area bar patrons. The end result will be that the east side of the house will be a secured wall from the front to the back of the house. The Owner had pictures of several other corner houses in the neighborhood that had similar security designs. In addition to the expansion, the Owner described an extensive renovation planned for the existing house which was built in the early 1990's. The renovation includes water-proofing and sealing the cut-face block construction, replacing all the windows, a tear-off and replacement of the roof and removing and replacing all dryvit material from the front bay windows and front steps. The Owner stated that their neighbor to the east supported the expansion and renovation. The Owner also said that after the renovation was complete, they would be willing to down zone the property back to RS-3.

Once again, Sam Samatas took the stage to present the opinion the NDRC. Sam applauded the Owner's plan for the overall renovation design of the existing house. Sam noted that the NDRC does not want to propagate the use of the continuous security wall for corner buildings. Again, he restated the NDRC's policy of not supporting a zoning upgrade just for more livable space to a house that he described as a house that was built to the maximum allowable space under the current zoning. The NDRC did not support the Project.

A secret paper ballot vote was taken. Do you support the Development as presented: YES – 12, NO- 7.

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

New Business - Elevate Physical Therapy @ 1347 W. Belmont

Elevate Physical Therapy was conceptualized as a place for clients to experience 1:1 physical therapy care, in an environment that strives to cultivate and nurture healing. The Owners, Dr. Shivani Patel, PT DPT and Manisha Patel, PT MS have over 30 years working as physical therapists in the Chicagoland area. Their office conducts physical therapy treatment for post-surgical joint

replacement, wellness and education analysis and mechanical diagnosis treatment (the McKenzie Method). They have been operational on Belmont Ave for about six months. For more information, go to their website at:

<u>www.elevatephysicaltherapychicago.com</u> or call at 773-360-1740.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE NEIGHBORHOOD DURING THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER

SUPPORT YOUR SLN ADVERTISERS and LOCAL BUSINESSES

SLN restaurant advertisers are keeping open for pick-up and delivery
The Art of Pizza
Will's Northwoods Inn
S&G Restaurant
Golden Apple Grill & Breakfast House
Breakfast House – will be open for pick-up and delivery on April 1.

Purchase a Gift Card from a business that you know you will visit in the future to give the business cash flow now. Or shop on-line.

SUPPORT OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Hayley Clause and Jason Morelli of 1400 George St. are organizing a plan to support our healthcare workers and local restaurants. The reality of the doctors, nurses, staff and admin workers is that after working tirelessly on the front lines to battle COVID-19, they are often not able to return home to their spouses, significant other or children for fear of spreading the virus. Clause and Morelli plan to reach out to a local restaurant each week to prepare meals to be delivered to Northwestern Hospital. The meals will be paid from donations from individuals in the neighborhood. They plan to start with Sal's Trattoria scheduled for a delivery of Wednesday 4/8. You can donate by Venmo at @Hayley-Clause or contact them to make other arrangements or for more information. Contact at email= hayleyclause@gmail.com or cell 740-632-5170.

SUPPORT OUR FOOD BANKS

Donations to area Food Banks will be greatly appreciated as their resources will be tested during this period of high unemployment.

Lakeview Pantry
www.lakeviewpantry.org
773-525-1777
Greater Chicago Food Depository
www.chicagofoodbank.org
773-247-3663

SWEEP THE STREETS

As many people are home with their kids or working out of the house or both, and cars parked on the street are not leaving the area during the day, the Alderman has revised the Spring Street Cleaning.

The Ward is only doing spot sweeping (where spaces on the street are open). The Ward will not be sign posting or ticketing cars.

Now is your chance to turn back the hands of time and get out in that street and sweep up decayed leaves just like the property owners from a generation ago used to do. Remember that it snowed on Halloween and in early November and the Ward's late Fall street sweeping was canceled. That's why there is so much crud in the streets and in intersections.

The SLN area east of Ashland is scheduled for April 23 and 24. The area west of Ashland is scheduled for April 21 and 22. So move your cars if you can remember.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS/INFORMATION

COMMUNITY RELATIONS STRATEGY MEETING (previously called CAPS)

ALL CAPS MEETINGS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

OTHER SLN INFORMATION Support Our 2019-2020 Advertisers!!!

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SLN Block Captains – wanted for the 2020-2021 season

Dear members. We have had some Block Captains move out of the neighborhood. How dare them. So some prime Block Captain blocks are available.

The volunteer duties are as follows: A Block Captain will receive a PDF flver 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. Seems archaic? But that is how most of the new people coming to the meetings find SLN out. There are seven meetings per year (Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar, April & May). Of course, if you are out of town or busy or the weather is really bad and cannot get it done. That is AOK. Just do the best you can and vour assistance will be appreciated. Contact Bill Haderlein SLN email info at the @slneighbors.com. to volunteer.

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

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/

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.

Attention Advertisers – Ad Space for 2020-2021 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. Individuals are welcome to take an ad space announcing their support of SLN.

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

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

www.lakeviewchamber.com 773-472-7171

FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Alderman Waguespack 32nd Ward News Office located 2657 N. Clybourn, 773-248-1330 www.ward32.org, email = info@ward32.org

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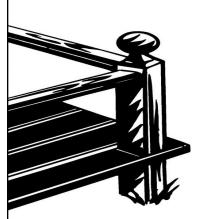
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SCOTT WAGUESPACK

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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.

We look forward to working with you!

32ND WARD SERVICE OFFICE

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