

On the Horizon

St. Robert Bellarmine School

- Book-It Program Will Kick Off on October 1 -Book It is a Reading incentive program connected with Pizza Hut. Students who achieve the goals they set with their teachers, receive a coupon for a free pizza.
- Tiny Tots for 2-Year Olds Registration is Open --a program for two-year-olds and their parent/caregiver, begins on October 1, from 10:00 A.M to 11:00 A.M., for an eight week session. The fee for the 8-week session is \$40. Find more information on-line at srb-chicago.org or call the office at 773-725-5133 for registration information.
- October 3 St. Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing --Parishioners are welcome to bring their pets. The blessing will be held in the back parking lot at 1:00 P.M.

The Northwest Chicago Historical Society (formerly Jefferson Park Historical Society) Please join us for an interesting and exciting tour of Bridgeport, Chicago's political hotbed and home of 5 of its mayors and counting. Departing Jeff.Park Fieldhouse. **DATE:** Sat Oct 3 11am **PRICE :** NWHS Members \$20, Non-members \$25
For more info :email nwchicagohistory@sbcglobal.net or call Dan at (773) 350-9414

Jacqueline Vaughn Occupational High School, 4355 N. Linder 6th Annual Fall Festival, Saturday, October 3 10am - 3 pm. Located in the parking lot across at the NE corner of Montrose and Linder. Includes raffle, vendor, free blood pressure checks, hand car wash & more. For info call 773-534-3600 and press 0

9th Annual Smart Women Smart Money conference October 15, 2009 Hosted by State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias for women in the Chicago area at the UIC Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago. The theme for this year is From Surviving to Thriving, featuring such topics as stretching your dollars, financial planning, education, investments, and going back to school and making career changes. Certified Illinois teachers may earn one (1) CPDU for attending. Check-in 8:00 a.m. running 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free Registration online at www.treasurer.il.gov under the Smart Women Smart Money link.

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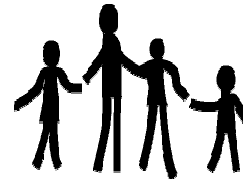
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Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter for

FALL 2009

Contact Us:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

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Upcoming Events

General meetings:

October 29 – Barrett Murphy, Managing Deputy Commissioner, Water Department, will speak on the Meter Save Program, and the Senior Sewer Exemption.

November 18 – NOTE change in schedule due to Thanksgiving holiday. Our topic will be Social Security: benefits, qualifications, and more, including handouts.

December 30 -- NO Meeting due to Christmas Holidays. Join several board members at Gale Street in for a holiday toast 7pm+

January 27 – Community Development: round-table discussion and updates.

All general meetings Open to the public and are held at:

Jefferson Park Congregational Church 5320 W. Giddings
7 pm -- the last Wednesday of each month.
Refreshments will be provided & chance to win a door prize

Please check our web-site www.jpna.net for updates, links and more

Other:

CAPS Meetings for beat 1623 Will be returning to the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7pm, at Jefferson Park Police Station starting on October 21st 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Current Officers: Merrill Miller, President Ed Irsch, Treasurer
Brian Wardman, Vice President Lotty Blumenthal Secretary
Board Members: Ron Ernst Eva Skowronski Mike Bezanson

A Couple of Letters from ...

All Letters presented are letters to JPNA by individuals, who do not speak for it.

I know that we are supposed to have only positive suggestions at the next community meeting (to follow-up the one at Copernicus Center this past September 8th) such as if parking is in the rear of buildings so must the entrances be there. People do not walk around buildings to an entrance. That's why fast food places are successful: entrances must be where the parking is! In fact, our current library doesn't even adhere to Federal Disability laws, because the handicap parking is the back at the opposite side of the building from the entrance. But then it predates the code.

However, two serious problems must be addressed. First, this area floods constantly, and badly enough for Alderman Levar to move to higher ground. 800 more bath tubs, showers, toilets, & sinks will not help alleviate the floods. And some condos may have more than 1 of these.

Secondly, Haller was dead wrong and Ernst correct about the fact that this area has lost population in the last 10 years. In 10 years both Beaubien and Prussing have lost \$40,000 to \$100,000 in Chapter 1 funds because students are no longer bussed to our schools from other areas because of poverty. They are not bussed because we are TOO CROWDED with local residents. In addition, at Prussing, Ten years ago we had about 460 students in a school built for 400. We now have about 650. 10 years ago we had 2 bilingual Polish classes. We still have them and ALSO 3 bilingual Spanish and 3 bilingual Arabic. Our test scores are high, so people keep moving into existing vacant houses. This shows that there are too many people in the 21 to 34 years, child bearing years. There're waiting lists for all pre-school classes. This shows that the planning department was wrong. Either they do not have current info, have not done their homework properly, or do not know how to interpret the data. The last thing we need is more people of that age. We could use buildings that better accommodate those of us who live here now & have paid taxes for years.

EM Blumenthal

Watch our email list for more update on community meetings <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jpna>

THOUGHTS ABOUT LEMONS, LEMONADE, AND SOUR GRAPES

"When life deals you lemons, make lemonade," is an oft repeated maxim. But when a person tells you, "Here is some lemonade" and you are given lemons, what then!

When the people allow an elected official to become a dictator (usually because of the "lemonade" promises given), it is time to wonder if the citizens or the elected official deserve to retain their citizenship. "The citizens should vote that type of elected official out of office," we are told. But the legislators should show they have not aided and abetted the situation and the party officials should not support the re-nomination. Fingers are pointing everywhere.

Let's put the fingers away for the moment. It is a natural thing to want more power once some is given to you. But for an American citizen, power may be entrusted but should not be taken. Taking power to a dictatorship level is, in and of itself, an act which disavows American

citizenship. Of course, if you are responsible to get laws enacted, it could be arranged that even becoming a dictator would not be illegal. ("I haven't broken any laws," we hear as well as "I haven't done anything illegal"; yet the stench of dictatorship is pervasive.)

Taking over a government body by force is punishable; taking over by lemonade is hardly noticeable until we almost drown in it. This should not go unpunished. A lemonade pusher, when first starting, probably realizes the deception of actually giving lemons. Eventually the deception disappears and the lemonade pusher actually believes lemonade, not lemons, is being distributed. This is a dictatorship in full swing. When this happens, it might be interesting to offer a choice of punishments: give up your pension and all hospitalization benefits, return ill-gotten salary, and retain citizenship or give up citizenship and retain all financial benefits.

Rest assured that, if not already on the books, a law to prevent punishment is being prepared.

"Lemons given as lemonade" becomes incremental. When the "lemonade" of "it's only one building that is out of character with the neighborhood" is recognized as a lemon, the cry goes up "Let's make lemonade out of the lemon by building more buildings out of character with the neighborhood; then the lemon won't be seen as a lemon."

At least, that is my opinion of the proposed plan to replace the city council passed plan of several years ago. Just as the city council past plan was changed lot by lot (because of "lack of opposition within 250 feet"), so this plan could be changed. If this sounds like "sour grapes," and "opposition to progress by change," just remember that grapes are smaller than lemons.

-Ed Irsch

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Why?

Recently at a meeting, a local resident and member asked me why we 'wasted' so much time on things like our garden and beautification efforts when there's so much to do concerning zoning and development. At that moment, there wasn't enough time to address this concern appropriately. In short the answer is to provide something positive. Too often, via email replies to various posts, I get negative feedback that accuses the JPNA as 'holding back development'. While I know that this view represents a relative minority,—judging by voices we heard at the September 8th community development meeting, it is indicative of the fact that we're not hearing enough voices. Also, our membership knows well that we support development under current zoning. But no matter how many newsletters I write, ads we print, or emails we send out, too many people don't know we exist.

But even at that, we are large enough that our alderman can not ignore us. The larger we can become, the more fully we can represent our neighborhood.

What has this to do with a garden? An awful lot of people have noticed that garden. It's bigger than a bill-board, and even if it is out of the way, it's a start.

And, in the meantime—that food pantry is pretty appreciative too!

-Merrill Miller
JPNA President