

Slingshots
Helping teens hit their target

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Printing provided by
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JEFFERSON PARK
Neighborhood Association
Newsletter for fall 2015



Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 30072
Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072
773-282-3879
jpna@jpna.net
www.jpna.net




Upcoming Events

General meetings:
October 28 – Bob Anderson of Slingshots teen center
November 18 – NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY! Speaker: Vaughn High School principal
December 23 – Holiday party

All general meetings are free and open to the public and are held at the **Jefferson Park Congregational Church, 5320 W. Giddings**, in the basement auditorium at **7 pm on the last Wednesday of each month**. Refreshments are provided.

Volunteers needed!

Sunday Market Task Group – if interested, contact Merrill at jeffersonparksundaymarket@zoho.com

Education Task Group – if interested contact Lotty at BCarlotty@yahoo.com or 773-736-1702

TIF Zoning Task Group – if interested send us a note at JPNA@jpna.net

Current Officers: Judy Skotzko , *President* Ed Irsch, *Treasurer*
Brian Wardman, *Vice-President* Mike Bezanson, *Secretary*

Board Members: Lotty Blumenthal, Dennis Davis, Ron Ernst, Merrill Miller, Colleen Murphy, Eva Skowronski

Happy autumn, everyone!

By the time you read this, a new administration will be established in the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association. I thought I'd take this opportunity to recap some of the things the JPNA has done over the years. The following items are not in any particular order.

Along with the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, JPNA helped launch the Jefferson Park Sunday Market which, thanks largely to the efforts of past JPNA President Merrill Miller, is thriving from June to October every year.

Olive's Garden for the Hungry, at the corner of Ainslie & Laramie, was launched in 2008 with the help of the JPNA. JPNA assisted with finances and fundraising for many years and continues to assist with volunteer support.

The Northwest Chicago Historical Society was originally a committee of the JPNA; I was at the meeting where we voted to give them funds to help start their own organization.

The aldermanic debates in 2011 and 2015 took place under the sponsorship of the JPNA, not just the main debates but also the runoff debates for both elections.

In 2005, the JPNA spearheaded a petition drive to protest the building of a seven story building on Lawrence Avenue. Regardless of how you feel about multi-story development, the fact that we collected well over 500 signatures and presented them to Alderman Levar in a civilized meeting speaks to the efforts of the organization.

I know there are other endeavors that I can't remember right now, but I'd like to take this opportunity to give a shout out to the members of the current JPNA Board. Eva, I'm in awe of your tireless energy and dedication to the community. Merrill, kudos to you for being JPNA president for six years – it speaks to your commitment to the community as well. Lotty and Ron, I truly admire your passion and zeal regarding neighborhood issues. Colleen and Dennis, I haven't worked with or known you as long as the others but thank you for stepping up to the plate and volunteering to be on the board.

And to my fellow officers, Brian, Ed (who also was previously president), and Mike, heartfelt gratitude for doing your jobs so diligently. Knowing I could always count on you has made my job so much easier.

Changes are in store for both the neighborhood and our organization. Whatever they may bring, I hope they come about as a result of open dialogue with input from all members of the community. And I hope that dialogue is civil and courteous.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as JPNA president. May we all live long, prosper, and continue to make Jefferson Park the best neighborhood ever.
- Judy Skotzko

We may not have collected a million dollars, but our group helped WTTW - Channel 11 with another pledge fundraiser Sunday, August 16. Our shift started with the famous hot dogs from Superdawg. After enjoying those with all the trimmings plus beverage, we continued into the 'working room studio' where desks, chairs, computers and telephones awaited us. A training supervisor gave us the run-through on what to expect from our future callers and how to handle it. After one hour of the necessary details, we were given the "Studio on" light as we were now "live". Although I had to ask some of my JPNA comrades to please speak more softly so as not to disturb me, "Yes, you two, Brian and Mike", we were all able to do our job well enough. The callers were very polite and didn't seem to mind us asking to repeat something. The program of the evening was "The Roosevelts." WTTW is always very appreciative of our group coming in. We hope some of you caught a glimpse of us in our apple green T-shirts; also our logo on the screen giving our neighborhood association a big 'Thank you'. This brings me to also thank this group of JPNA members who made this possible: Mary Bezanson, Mike Bezanson, William Bucher, Dennis Davis, Mary Jans, Richard Kroth, Dave Meyer and William Wardman. We would love to have you join us the next time. NOW, DON'T ALL RUSH AT ONCE!

- Eva M. Skowronski

Join JPNA today!

Please type or print:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership dues: 1 year: \$15 per person; seniors (age 55+) \$10 per person
2 years: \$25 per person; seniors (age 55+) \$15 per person

Make check payable to: **Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association**
P.O. Box 30072
Chicago IL 60630-0072

ON THE HORIZON

Volunteers still needed for the Jefferson Park Sunday Market!

Email jeffersonparksundaymarket@zoho.com for more information. The market continues through *Sunday, October 25, 2015*. And we need people to help plan for next year!