

# JPNA

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

## NEWSLETTER



FALL 2016

[www.jpna.net](http://www.jpna.net)

2001 - 2016

*Happy Anniversary*

### Join Us, as We Celebrate our 15 year Anniversary, as Your "Independent Voice in the Community"

by Bob Bank, JPNA President

Join us for cake and coffee as we celebrate 15 years of community service. In that time, JPNA members have launched the Jefferson Park Historical Society (now the NorthWest Chicago Historical Society), and the Sunday Farmer's Market, JPNA held the first 45th Aldermanic Debates, our members assist our local schools, raise funds and help Olive's Garden for the Hungry.

### Don't be Fooled!

There is Only One Independent Neighborhood Organization in Jefferson Park, and that is the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association JPNA!

by Bob Bank, JPNA President

The JPNA plants flowers, JPF plants flowers, but that is where the similarity ends. It takes a special kind of "cold heartedness", to crash someone else's neighborhood meeting, where worried Long and Argyle neighbors were gathered to make a united front against a monstrous 5 floor 48 unit apartment building, planned for the end of the block, adjacent to their single family homes and two-flats. But that is exactly what Jefferson Park Forward (JPF) members did, at the May 16, 2016 meeting at the Eden United Church of Christ. The JPF members applauded and cheered wildly in favor of the project, even though none of them live near, nor will they have their quality of life so negatively impacted. The JPF was founded by Ald. Arena's proxy, Ryan Richter, who along with a few dozen others, joined the JPNA in time for the 2015 JPNA elections, and tried an unsuccessful hostile take-over of our group. When that effort failed, Arena and Richter started the Jefferson Park Forward (JPF) group, or as I like to call it, Jefferson Park Fake.

The JPF members sat together at the meeting for the proposed Long and Argyle 48 unit rental project, and when the JPF members weren't testifying in favor of the project, they clapped their hands and cheered at any positive mention made by the developer's attorney or the alderman. My point is, don't be fooled as to which organization really stands with the residents of Jefferson Park, and which one is the fake. An "A" is better than an "F"; JPNA stands with the residents, JPF stands with the Alderman and his developer friends.

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## More Spot Up-Zoning by Alderman Arena

Alderman Arena continues to anger neighbors with more spot up-zoning, this time at 6221 – 6227 W. Gregory, where currently there is a single family home. The owner of the property wants to rehab the current building, and add two more homes on the same property, which would require a spot up-zoning change. Many neighbors voiced their displeasure at a May meeting. Nearby residents received letters from the developers attorney, dated Aug. 31st, 2016, that the owner will file for the up-zoning change. Ald. Arena has complete control over any zoning change within the Ward.

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## Preserving Jeff Park....

- WANTED:** Concerned Residents of Jefferson Park
- DUTIES:** Coming up with ideas, suggestions to improve daily life in the neighborhood & take an active role.
- QUALIFICATIONS:** Just Caring as to what happens in the community.
- COMPENSATION:** being proud to have participated in any positive changes. Making life more pleasant.
- CONTACT:** Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association.  
P.O. Box 30072  
Chicago, IL 60630-0072  
jpna2003@yahoo.com  
www.jpna.net  
or call Eva (773) 282-3879

JPNA Meets at 7P.M. the last Wednesday of the month at the  
Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 5320 W. Giddings



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SPONSORS: 10th Ward Alderman John Daley, Rotary Club, Chicago Park District, Neighborhood Foundation, Jeff's Street Inn, Jefferson Memorial Park Advisory Council, Jefferson Park Chapter of Coonrocks, Jefferson Park Forward, Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, North West Group, MORE INFO: [www.jeffersonparksundaymarket.com](http://www.jeffersonparksundaymarket.com) • [facebook.com/jeffersonparksundaymarket](http://facebook.com/jeffersonparksundaymarket)



## Sgt. Alvarez SAYS, “LOCK YOUR CAR, HOUSE, GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS ALL THE TIME, EVERY TIME!”

Recently scam artist crooks have been coming to residents of this area posing as utility or city workers or trades companies. They are not, even if dressed in bright colored vests. Do not let any of these people into your home or leave one door unlocked while they talk to you in the yard on the other side of the house. They particularly try to scam older people or people with limited use of English. Warn those living with or near you that the utilities or government can notify you by letter, phone or flyer and do not need to come inside your house. Many times these crooks will occupy you in front or back while another scam member goes into your house or garage on the other side, stealing what they can. Or one may try to get a person to sign something. No one should sign anything without someone else reading it or let anyone in without checking with the government agency or utility first. These scammers often drive vans or pick-up trucks. Notice what kind of vehicle such a person gets into. Do Not Open The Door. Do not go with one of these people outside your house. Real utility companies have real identification and usually notify you by mail first. Call 911 with a description of the person and his or her vehicle. Tell elderly or English limited neighbors.

WHEN ANYTHING IS SUSPICIOUS, CALL 911

To find out more call Sgt. Alvarez, at 312 742 4521

### **Mongoose Towing** **Flatbed Towing**

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## A Snapshot of JPNA accomplishments over the years

We have had several requests to re-print the following article, from our 2015-16 JPNA Winter Newsletter.

In 2001, the JPNA held its first meeting, in the auditorium of the Jefferson Park Fieldhouse, under the watchful eyes of Thomas Jefferson, from his portrait that proudly hangs on the wall there. Here, dozens of residents answered the call that was posted in the Nadig Northwest-Side Press neighborhood newspaper.

Many proposals and ideas were put forth that first day, including starting a Jefferson Park Historical Society. From idea, to reality, The Jefferson Park Historical Committee was so successful, that it became its own independent organization, the Jefferson Park Historical Society. The society soon found itself inundated with interests from neighboring communities and became the all-encompassing Northwest Chicago Historical Society (NWCHS).

The JPNA collaborated with Metra in 2002, on renovations, to make the Metra train station head-house more aesthetically pleasing, and having the overhang extended to better protect commuters from the weather.

In 2003, the JPNA brought us the first 45th Ward Aldermanic Debate, at least the first one anyone could recall, and it has become election-time tradition ever since.

Also in 2003, tragedy struck our local community when 29 year old Dunkin Donuts employee, Sukhdev Dave was shot to death by a disgruntled customer at Dunkin Donuts, 4867 N. Milwaukee. The JPNA raised over \$3000.00 as well as disposable diapers and clothing for his pregnant wife, the funds were merged with another collection started by Alderman Levar's office and Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce business member, Parkway Bank.

The JPNA has also been a big supporter of, The Garden for the Hungry, a garden raising fresh vegetables for area food pantries. The Garden was started as an Eagle project by Boy Scout Troop 840.

In 2009-10, the first JPNA Cook Book was published, it was so popular, that another cookbook was published for 2013-14, many current and former area residents contributed their recipes.

Since the summer of 2011, the JPNA along with the Copernicus Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce brought back a farmer's market to the neighborhood. With fresh fruits, vegetables, jams honey and more, from Midwest farms. Jefferson Park Sunday Market has proven to be a popular event every other Sunday, from late June thru October, and now a Winter Market has been added!

The JPNA Education Committee has held a high school "open house" in the Jefferson Park fieldhouse, judged local school science fairs, and recently adopted Beaubien local school, to help teachers obtain needed classroom supplies.

Our monthly meetings are a place where neighborhood concerns are shared, and there is often an interesting guest speaker.

As ever, the JPNA has been a watchdog on zoning exploitation and unfair taxing schemes, holding developers to build within the zoning code, and shining a light, and grinding to halt the implementation of the unfair SSA extra property tax proposal, that would have unfairly taxes residential property owner to pay for banners, flower planters and luncheons for the business district, all on top of the highest property tax increase in Chicago's history. The JPNA sticks up for you, and by you I mean us; join today!

Sincerely, Robert Bank

*Bob Bank*

JPNA President

**JPNA Meetings are held the last Wed. of the Month, at  
the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park basement,  
5230 W. Giddings, at 7:00pm**