

## On the Horizon

The Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce will hold a general meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Gale Street Inn, 4914 N. Milwaukee Ave. Free parking is available in the TCF Bank lot, and the meeting is open to the public. It will feature A representative of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to discuss the proper way to dispose of prescription drugs, and Lee Puttrich of L and J Services/Shaklee Distributors will discuss how one can have a healthier life. Free refreshments will be served.

The Gladstone park Chamber of Commerce will host a performance by the Harlem Ambassadors basketball team at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at Resurrection High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave. The world-famous Ambassadors will be showcasing their unique brand of basketball, with high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks and hilarious comedy routines. They will be playing against the Gladstone Park Gladiators, a team of local police officers and firefighters. For ticket information, visit gladstoneparkchamber.com or call 773-775-8871. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door, or four for \$28. Proceeds help benefit the chamber's scholarship program.

The 45th Ward will be hosting a "Free" Influenza and Pneumococcal Walk - In - Clinic Location : Copernicus Foundation 5216 W. Lawrence Date: Tue. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Time: 10am - 1pm

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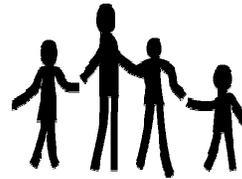
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Thank you to Earl Triplett, who took it upon himself to maintain our triangular garden at Avondale & Ainslie  
He planted roses on behalf of a loved one, and did tremendous job of weeding!



# Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter for

Fall 2010

### Contact Us:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 30072  
Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072  
773.282.3879

[jpna@earthlink.net](mailto:jpna@earthlink.net) [www.jpna.net](http://www.jpna.net)

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## Upcoming Events

### General meetings:

**October 27** – Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program --a rebate program offered by People's Gas for the purchase and installation of energy efficient products (water heaters, furnaces, and boilers), insulation, air sealing.

**November 17** – NOTE due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our meeting will be moved one week up from its normal week. Mari Zurek from the city of Chicago will be returning to answer even more questions and discuss Tax Assistance.

**December 29** – Holiday Toast at Gale Street Inn 7:30pm. Please call or email (see above) so that we can allow for space.

**January 26** – (tentative) Aldermanic Forum. Aldermanic candidates for the 45th, will discuss their ideas for Jefferson Park.

**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

### Other:

CAPS Meetings for beat 1623 Is the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7pm, at Jefferson Park Police Station 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.

*More area events on Page4 under "On The Horizon"*

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

***If you were to run for Alderman,  
what would you do?***

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

**-William Brian Wardman**

From now until the Feb 2011 the citizens of Chicago will be bombarded with campaign messages why the other candidate should not be voted for. The challenges we face as voters is what exactly have the candidates done, what do the candidates they stand for, and how do the candidates plan to enact their platform.

There are many challenges we face over the next four years the following are some thoughts on the "Art of the Possibility."

The solution of the current administration seems to be privatizing Chicago assets to get a quick fix. I am not saying privatization is completely incorrect path but 75 year contract seems very excessive. I am just wondering if any of our current aldermen read the contract before voting. I would enact a measure that will limit long term locked in privatization fiascos like the Parking Meter and Skyway from occurring. I would not privatize any city service that is in excess of 3 years. We can then gauge the benefit and determine if Chicago is getting our money's worth. Why 3 years, it is within one election term and it is commonly used as a business gauge by Chief Financial Officers in the private sector.

We currently have 50 Aldermen; this is 25 more than New York and 30 more than Los Angeles. If we decreased the number of Alderman to 25, then operating expenses would cut city expenses by at least 3 million a year. In order for this to happen we need an executive leader (e.g. Mayor), and aldermen who are willing to vote for such a measure. The voters should insist this be a political issue and have the candidates either commit in favor or against such a measure. Another cost saving measure is eliminate automatic raises of elected politicians and their support staff. Raises need to be voted on by the bosses of the politician – the voters of Chicago.

Let's look into how money can be placed back into the system without raising taxes on individual citizens. Within the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward we have a number of TIFF districts that is preventing money going to our schools, libraries, Police Department, Fire Department, etc. All TIFF money should be placed back into the system and the districts removed. This does not require a vote by the City Council. Individual Aldermen can have the TIFF districts removed from their Ward. This is not a new solution; the JPNA has been in favor removing TIFFS for a number of years.

Developers within the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward have purchased property, evicted the tenants, and demolished the building with the idea of constructing large buildings under increased zoning. The result is property that at one time provided 20-40K per year in tax revenue is now providing only 3 K per year. This happened to some of the buildings over 7 years ago. The fix--allow developers a limited time (2 years) tax break. If the developer cannot execute their plan then they have two choices, start paying the tax amount when they purchased the building or sell the property to another developer to build within zoning. If the developer chooses the later the original tax amount of the property applies.

There are business districts of the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward have many un-used properties. The Alderman (either current or newly elected) needs to become actively involved in solving this issue. This can be accomplished by first attracting the right kind of new business and marketing the area.

I have always said the Price of Corruption is High Taxes. We have very high taxes in Chicago!! Zoning has long been a Practice of Corruption. Control of Zoning without input from residents has been a long accepted practice that needs to stop. There are three simple changes that can start to turn this around. The first is when a zoning change is submitted area residence need to be notified at a greater distance. This should be increased from 500 ft to 2000 ft for building zoning up to 5 floors. Anything over 5 floors the notification should be 5,000 ft. Second, there needs to be a monthly zoning community meeting to propose all zoning changes before they go to the council committee. The third change – This is a big one. Currently, zoning changes that go in front of the zoning committee can be removed the day of the meeting. The zoning change can be placed back on the calendar 24 hours before the meeting without giving full notification. This provides an unfair advantage to the developers and against the people who live in the neighborhood. If a zoning change is removed from the calendar then the (cont. -> )

process has to start from the beginning.

The following are several other changes to boost Chicago's Economy and curb Corruption:

- Relatives of an elected official cannot do business with the City in which they own or partially own
- All contracts with the city would go out to bid
- Politicians convicted on committing a crime that betrayed the public cannot run for Chicago political office—ever
- Disallow taking seniority when moving from one city division to another city division; therefore getting higher pensions. An example is transfers to the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) from a non-CTA city organization that have lower pensions
- Sick leave is sick leave and not vacation. Sick leave is lost when the new year comes  
Limited amount of vacation can be rolled over

This is only a small slice of what can be done to get Chicago moving in the correct direction. We need to speak up and let our elected and would-be elected politicians they need to make sweeping changes and treat the office they hold as a privilege and not an entitlement. But in the end, it is up to us to be involved to make sure whoever is in office executes the duties for the people that voted them in.

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

**Garden Update**

Your garden has been growing well. We have been harvesting weekly since May now. It's been a good year. The local men in blue quietly took care of some theft that was occurring.

A few different groups have volunteered some time, not all from the neighborhood. We are getting some coffee chaff and grounds along with help from a master gardener and the Boy Scouts this week end to try and do better next year. No more wild flowers along the outside of the fence next year. We'll be looking for marigold donations.

Thanks for all of your support.  
Andy 773-502-4651

**From: David R. McNaughton District Commander 16th Dist.**

[W]e are proud of recent data that was published by the Department's Research and Development Division. The report [excerpted below] reveals that the 16th District experienced the largest decrease in Index Crime through the first 8 months of the year. The city as a whole has seen a 4% decrease and our District has seen a decrease of 13.5%. We hope this trend continues, and we thank your organization for keeping our citizens informed. Thanks

|                      |                       |                    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>VIOLENT INDEX</b> | <b>PROPERTY INDEX</b> | <b>TOTAL INDEX</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|

| Rank | Dist | % Chng | Actual Chng | Rank | Dist | % Chng | Actual Chng | Rank | Dist | % Chng | Actual Chng |
|------|------|--------|-------------|------|------|--------|-------------|------|------|--------|-------------|
| 1    | 12   | -29.8  | -135        | 1    | 16   | -12.8  | -388        | 1    | 16   | -13.5  | -453        |
| 2    | 06   | -20.5  | -390        | 2    | 05   | -11.0  | -343        | 2    | 02   | -10.6  | -266        |
| 3    | 16   | -19.5  | -65         | 3    | 20   | -9.7   | -147        | 3    | 05   | -10.9  | -454        |