

On the Horizon

Our Lady of Victory at 4434 N. Laramie, Corner of Sunnyside & Laramie
 Will be hosting their Annual Open House and Local Business Fair on January 31st, 2011.
 Open House will be from 10:30 am- 1:30 pm. Insurance, dance lessons, landscaping,
 banking, entertainment, windows, gutters.... Everyone is welcomed! \$5 donation goes
 towards a breakfast buffet set out for all our guest. Money is due on the day of the event.

For information on the AAPD Summer Internships Program, please contact AAPD at
 (800) 840-8844 (V/TTY) or by email to internship@aapd.com.

HEY BUSINESS OWNERS: Participate in our discount program and
 get more business! Find out how at 847-902-2961 or
jpna@earthlink.net

Needed: Concerned Neighbors for....

Petition drives, community projects,
 gardening, outreach research, monthly
 meetings, proofreading, web help etc.

Show how much your care about your
 neighborhood & get involved!
www.jpna.net

Forest Glen Animal Hospital

Dr. Andrew D. Orals DVM

5324 N Elston Avenue, 60630
 (773) 283-2443 ph (773) 283-2444 fax

PERSONAL DATA ENTRY
Get organized in 2011!
 Address books, video lists, book collections, CD
 collections
 entered on your pc.
 Contact Judy Skotzko at
personaldatentry@hotmail.com

If you would like to advertise with us...
jpna@earthlink.net 847-902-2961

\$15/iss.for 1"x2" dist 1500
 For distribution sites, see our webpage:
www.jpna.net

Mongoose Towing

Flatbed Towing

From 7am - 9pm
 773-282-1234



**Portage Park Handyman
 Service**
Rich Escallier
 773.282.5857
portageparkhandyman.com

Handyman

No job too
 small!

Mark Paveglio
 312-829-6159
 Will return call within 24 hours
 \$25 per hour

Merril is now teaching at:
Energy Fitness Inc
 4222 N. Milwaukee, 60641
www.energyfitnessinc.com
 773-879-0063
 Yoga classes 8pm Tuesdays

Cafe Marbella Tapas Bar

5527 N Milwaukee, 773-853-0128
 T-Th 11am-9:30pm *F 11am -10pm
 Sa 5pm -11pm Su 11am -8pm

PETE'S AUTOMOTIVE INC.

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5413 W, Higgins Ave
 Chicago, IL 60630
 Tel. 773-725-3030
 Fax: 773-205-8670



Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter for

Winter 2011

Contact Us:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood
 Association

P.O. Box 30072
 Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072
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jpna@earthlink.net www.jpna.net

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Upcoming Events

General meetings:

February 23 – General Forum with an update on Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program --a rebate program offered by People's Gas. Election updates, JPNA Constitution review etc.

March 30 – Joe O'Hare – funeral arrangement/estate planning. What do you need to know ahead of time. NOTE: Spring JPNA Constitution vote.

April 27 – 311 program – Linda Mercado will talk about how to get the most benefit from this valuable resource.

May 25 – Dobra Belinski cooks! Learn new recipes, or just sample them.

June 29 – Aldermanic Town Hall – come out and meet our new alderman. As of January, all candidates agreed to participate if they are elected. So please mark this special date to be able to meet with the alderman as s/he gets plans in place and is seeking further input.

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

remember:

Get out and vote on February 22nd for the Aldermanic/Mayoral elections! If necessary, there will be a runoff on April 5th. For more information on ballots, voting locations, early voting etc. see: www.chicagoelections.com

Current Officers: Merrill Miller, President
 Ed Irsch, Treasurer
 Brian Wardman, Vice President
 Lotty Blumenthal Secretary

Board Members: Eva Skowronski * Mike Bezanson * Judy Skotzko * Robert Bank

Political Campaign Deficit Tax

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

The economy is currently the hottest topic across the nation. It seems the only solution is to raise taxes with no plan on balancing the budget through cutting expenses. During the last election, we saw large amounts of cash spent by all politicians to gain office; for example, the Illinois Governors' race we saw a record over \$63 million spent in the primary and general election. We first need to have financial records open to the public on the internet. An independent third party would audit the records to ensure they are accurate. If there is a deficit, then maybe levy special tax on politicians' campaign expenditures. The breakdown of the tax can be as follows:

- Incumbents being re-elected 2+ times would be taxed 50% on what they spend
- Incumbents seeking first time re-election would be taxed 30% on what they spend
- Candidates seeking election of non re-elected officials would be taxed 15% on what they spend
- Groups or individuals that spend money directly for campaign adds would be taxed 60% on what they spend
- Politicians not seeking re-election would forfeit existing funds and future funds for a period of 3 years

To protect the public from tax increases (e.g. Income Taxes) for the purpose of balancing the budget, an additional 10% should be added to the tax structure above. This would be in effect during the term of the political office.

The Political Campaign Deficit Tax would be levied if we were running at a deficit during any time since the last election. Perhaps if the reigning politicians feel the pain of the citizens, then they will take more care with how they spend our tax money.

-William Brian Wardman

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

Of note to members:

Changes being considered for the JPNA Constitution will be discussed during our February open forum meeting, and then voted on during our March meeting. They are:

- 2 year memberships discounts
- JPNA Boundaries
- Constitution change schedule

The Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program encourages home owners to apply for natural gas rebates by replacing older model natural gas heating equipment with more energy efficient models, or by installing attic insulation. The program's website, www.ChicagolandRebates.com, simplifies the online application process. Additionally, the site now recognizes top participating contractors who consumers can hire for their energy efficiency projects and highlights news related to the program. Or call Program Call Center 866-964-7345.

Printing provided by: **Z-Print 5257 N. Central 773-685-4878**

Remember member discounts at these area businesses:

Delightful Pastries, (773) 545-7215, 10% Disc. On \$10 or over

Krakus Homemade Sausage, (773) 736-3524 10% Disc. On \$10 or over

J's Vitamins (773) 763-1917 10% On \$10 or over

Nadig Press (773) 286-6100, \$5 off on Any Garage Sale or Used Car ad

Today's Hair (773) 545-9160, \$2 off Haircut

Theresa II (773) 283-0184, 15% Disc. On \$10 or over

Valbona's Beauty Salon (773) 545-0206, 10% on service \$10 or over

Preserve your rights!

As an election judge for a number of years now, I'm always a little disappointed in turnouts. To give credit to my precinct (40th), they are apparently one of the better precincts for turnout at roughly 35%.

Really, 35% is good?!? Watch the statistics on election night, and you'll get a clear idea of the truth here.

So what that means is that 65% can't be bothered to get out and vote. OK, that sounds a bit harsh, and truth be told, because the election board is so careful of protecting voting rights that it takes 2 cycles to get someone off the polls if they die. That means there's always some percentage that won't be voting. (Seriously, despite the old jokes, no dead voting, not on my watch anyway)

And I know people get scared off by all those judges in certain elections. HEY—not this election. It's just city stuff this time. So that's no excuse. For what it's worth you can always skip any office you don't wish to vote for. The vote scanner may alert you that you've skipped certain major races, but it is your prerogative, and the ballot can be put through as you wish. Know also that if you can't decide between to candidates, you can't vote for more than one per race (unless specifically specified, as is often the case in water reclamation district races.)

If you have a hard time deciding, there're plenty of resources for help, newspapers, League of Women voters, etc. Find a group that reflects your interests, as a guide. You should also be aware that how you vote will not impact if your garbage gets picked up. (Yes, I really have heard that concern expressed!) For one thing, no one knows how you vote. This election is non-partisan, so you don't even have to declare a party. But even when you do, your party of choice cannot be held against you.

And time—the ultimate excuse. But with 2 weeks of early voting (starting 1/31), and the absentee voting option, really??? In all that there's got to be some way of voting. Also, think of it this way, by voting, you earn your right to complain about what politicians do in office!

-Merril Miller