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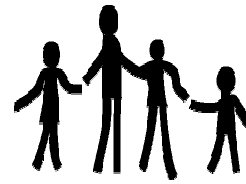
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# Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter for Spring 2012

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**Mongoose Towing**  
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<p><b>Contact Us:</b> Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association  P.O. Box 30072 Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072 773.282.3879  <a href="mailto:jpna@earthlink.net">jpna@earthlink.net</a> <a href="http://www.jpna.net">www.jpna.net</a></p>	<p><b>Inside:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Area Restaurants <i>page 2</i></li> <li>• Foundation <i>page 3</i></li> <li>• On the Horizon <i>page 3</i></li> <li>• Member discounts <i>page 3</i></li> <li>• Ads—support our advertisers! <i>page 4</i></li> </ul>
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**Upcoming Events**

**General meetings:**

**May 30** – (tent) Overview of Healthcare Portability with AARP representative Carmenza Millen.

**June 27** – Chicago Center for Green Technology

**July 25** - Historic Chicago Bungalow Association -- Mary Ellen Guest will do a general historical bungalow presentation and then talk about restoring wood windows, which applies to many old homes, not just bungalows.

**August 29** - General Forum- Drop in speakers. Catching up with things going on in the area.

**September 26** – TBD possible candidate forum

**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

**Education Task Group** – if interested contact Lotty at: [BCarlotty@yahoo.com](mailto:BCarlotty@yahoo.com) or 773-736-1702

**TIF Zoning Task Group** – if interested send us a note at [JPNA@earthlink.net](mailto:JPNA@earthlink.net)

**Farmers Market Task Group** – to volunteer for next year's market, send us a note at [JPNA@earthlink.net](mailto:JPNA@earthlink.net) or call 847.902.2961

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

**Board Members:** Robert Bank \* Mike Bezanson \* Judy Skotzko  
Eva Skowronski \* Monica Prus Sykora

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

In the last newsletter, JPNA published a letter that reviewed several restaurants along Milwaukee Avenue. While that is the first place we think of for food in Jefferson Park, do not let yourself forget that along several East/West avenues there are hidden gems.

Turn east at the corner of Montrose and you will find Pizza by Alex which has one of the best brick oven pizzas on the entire Northwest side. Add the salads and pasta for the vegetarian or dieter in the group for a winning combination. In the other direction at Central is Scoops which offers a wide range of fast, American fare from sandwiches to full meals.

Moving up to Lawrence Avenue, head west for Dough to Go (by the Pink Poodle) which is a coffee shop that has specialty baked goods. Just west of Central Ave. is Smakosz which has classic Polish foods along with homemade soups "to die for". Right on the corner of Central, the former Super Cup has taken a giant step forward in quality while maintaining cost effective pricing that allows frequent visits without breaking the budget. The Central Kitchen and Tap has slow cooked ribs, mix and match sides, salads and pastas that well serve the vegetarian diet and the hungry. And for the meat lover, both the roasted pork and the pot roast taste like home cooking – only a little better.

As spring turns into summer, it is great to have a varied list of local destinations for food that we can walk to for dinner or a leisurely lunch. Only by supporting our local merchants will we keep these choices available.

*Mike Bezanson*

### Foundations...

It too often seems that when new people come in to meetings they come because they have a problem that they think we can solve. That is great! Often we can help them. My concern comes in when people assume we (the board) will do all of the work for them.

One of the key elements here is that we are a community. Community means that we work together. We may have the knowledge base and/or connections to help things along, yes. But we do not have full time staff to address problems for people. Just like everyone else, we've got jobs, families and other commitments. There is no brick & mortar JPNA (not yet, anyway). I've only heard of one neighborhood organization that does, and if we're around 100 years or more, maybe we will one day too. Honestly, I hope the need isn't ever that great.

In the meantime, we've got to make good use of the resources we do have. One of my growing concerns is the risk of burning out the people we do have. Ironically, this comes at a time when I find I need to pull back a little, too. My need to pull back is largely to do with making sure that information is distributed so that I'm not the only one with all the info.

This was highlighted for me recently when I found out that the Jeff Fest dates had moved to July 27-29. Reactions from the (continued->)

planning committee that I wouldn't be in town due to previous commitments clearly indicated an overreliance on their part on me—or at least a perceived one. While I've clocked in an awful lot of hours there in the last couple of years, I'm hardly the only one. At least 10 others did so as well. (Thank you all!!!). I'm just the most recognizable face to many of the Jeff Fest planners.

But this carries over to other areas, too. We as an organization need a foundation of people, beyond just the board, to be able to keep things moving, to have the go to information, and be ready if there is a crisis of any kind. Recently we've been part of the "Save the Portage Theater" endeavor. We've had our own crisis' closer to home in the past—and likely will again in the future. We need the human infrastructure in place to get the word out. So don't be afraid to volunteer. We can find a spot for you, and you can help make sure that we keep moving and growing as an organization.

*Merril Miller*

### On the Horizon

**St. Robert Bellarmine Summer Program Registration** Registration for the 2012 Summer Program is now open. The 10-week program will begin on Monday, June 11 and will run through Friday, August 17. The program is open to current and incoming St. Robert Bellarmine students. Details and registration forms are available on the "Summer Program" page of the school website, srb-chicago.org, or from the school office, 773-725-5133.

**Save the date: Comedy Night will be May 19** The St. Robert Bellarmine School Sports Association will present its 3rd Annual Comedy Night on Saturday, May 19th with comedians by The Mikey O Comedy Show. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss this fun event. Tickets will go on sale in late April, and more details will be available online soon at srb-chicago.org.

#### Jefferson Park, Park District, Special Events:

- Toddlers, Tunes and Turtles - Thursday June 7th @ 5:30pm
- City-Wide Symphony Orchestra Concert - Sunday June 10th @ 3:00pm
- Movies in the Park – Goonies – Friday June 15th @ dusk

**Roberts Square Playground Clean up day** is May 5th starting at 10am  
Jefferson Park Chamber, Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association and Copernicus Foundation are looking for produce and garden vendors for Sunday Markets at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence. We also are seeking families for the market's community garage sale on Sunday, July 8 -- \$25 fee. Great opportunity to rid your home of that gently used stuff (some call it junk). Please call the Jefferson Park Chamber at 773-736-6697 for more info.

The Jefferson Park Chamber also is seeking corporate sponsors for JEFF FEST, which will be held the end of July.

**Nadig Newspapers** is hiring neighborhood children to deliver the Press. Ages 9-15. Please call 773-286-6100.

#### Remember member discounts at these area businesses:

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