

Join JPNA to get your newsletter mailed to you –Watch future editions of the newsletter for information on member discounts!

MEMBERSHIP DUES - Please type or print

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Email address: _____

Membership Dues - \$15.00 per person; seniors (age 55+) \$10 per person

Make check payable to and mail check with this form to:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 30072

Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072

Your ad here: jpna@earthlink.net 847-902-2961 \$15/iss.for 1"x2" dist 1500



Papanicholas Cafe

4431 N Milwaukee ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Cafe's Hours:

Mon - Fri 5:30A to 9:00P
Saturdays 7:00A to 10:00P
Sundays 7:00A to 9:00P

(773) 282-9682

Proudly Served at

JPNA Meetings!

**The Congregational Church
of**

**Jefferson Park United Church Of Christ
5320 West Giddings ● 773-725-0121**

CongregationalChurchOfJeffersonpark.org

Super Cup Restaurant



Under New Management

4800 N. Central Ave.
773-282-1525

Family Dining & Private Parties

Hours:
Mon – Sat 6am to 9pm
Sunday 7am – 9pm

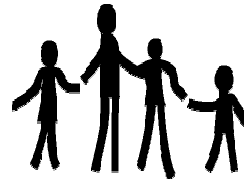
Host:
Steve K.

Free desert with Dinner

Print Copies if this bi-monthly publication may be found at these fine businesses:

- Classic Cut, 4317 N. Central
- Congregation Church o Jefferson Park United Church Of Christ, 5320 West Giddings
- Delightful Pastries, 5927 W. Lawrence
- Dollar Cosmetics & Convenient Store, 4712 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- Elemental Gifts ® Gallery & Gift Shop, 3980 N Milwaukee
- Gale Street Inn, 4914 N Milwaukee Ave.
- Gladstone Chiropractic, 5316 N. Milwaukee Ave
- J's Vitamin's, 5316 N. Milwaukee Ave
- Jefferson Park Library, 5363 W Lawrence Ave
- Lion Video, 5255 N Milwaukee
- Monks Herb's, 4714 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- Murray's Auto, 4720 N. Milwaukee
- Papanicholas Cafe 4431 N Milwaukee Ave
- Super Cup, 4800 N Central Ave
- Today's Hair, 5637 W Lawrence
- TCF Bank 4930 N Milwaukee Ave

Thank you for your support!



**Jefferson Park Neighborhood
Association** Newsletter for **January &
February 2008**

Contact Us:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood
Association

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

jpna@earthlink.net www.jpna.net

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Upcoming Events

General meetings:

- **January 30th Nick Slywczuk** 45th Ward Superintendent will be speaking on recycling in the 45th Ward.
- **February 27th Open Forum:** What is Your Vision for Jefferson Park in 5 years? We will discuss changes that we'd like to see in our community in the coming years.
- **March 26th TBA**

All general meetings 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:

- **Illinois Primary February 5th** – get out and Vote!
- **TIF Committee Meetings** Held at the Jefferson Park Library – contact Ron Ernst for more info 773-725-1755
- **CAPS Meetings for beat 1623** are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, at the Jefferson Park Police Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave. upcoming: 1/16/08, 2/20/08, 3/19/08
- **JPNA is always seeking volunteers.** Current needs include: board, newsletter editor, advertising manager, newsletter distribution, email list manager, fundraising task group. Please contact via above info if interested.

Current Officers: Merrill Miller, *President*
Ed Irsch, *Treasurer*
Lotty Blumenthal *Secretary*

Board Members:
Ron Ernst
Eva Skowronski

A Letter to JPNA

all "Letters to..." topics are just that, letters to JPNA by individuals, who do not speak for it

Dear Members,

It's really important that people come in having a dream for the local area or dwelling. The local area and individual's dwelling are intertwined. If a house degenerates, it can bring down the value of the surrounding area. If crime, water and sewer problems, parking bad schools, churches without members or sold or boarded up stores can be signs that a neighborhood is going downhill, your house will be worth less than you paid for it.

so everyone was a vested interest in both their individual dwelling and immediate area.

It is important that each aspect of growth or loss be monitored.

Overflowing garbage can bring invitations of vermin, rats, mice and possums. Is our current garbage recycling system with blue bags adequate?

What is the new system for recycling? Will it ever come to the Jefferson Park Neighborhood? Come to our January 30th meeting, and ask our guest: 45th Ward Superintendent, Nick Slywczuk.

What is your vision for Jefferson Park in 5 years. Come tell us your hopes at our February round table, February 27th

Lotty

Taxes

by Ed Irsh

In the past, the unheeded citizen cry of "No Taxation Without Representation" was part of the American Revolutionary impetus. Today the growing citizen murmur of "Stop taxation with misrepresentation" remains unheeded in the Illinois and Chicago political scene.

Some time-honored misrepresentations are:

Let's have a lottery in Illinois to help in funding [giving an implied increase] for the schools; BUT the state legislature allowed themselves the option to reduce funding from the General Treasury by a like amount and there was no actual increase in school funding.

NOW school funding is hurting and an additional tax burden needs to be imposed because of a legal misrepresentation.

Let's have a gasoline tax to pay for road repairs, improvements, and expenses; BUT the state legislature allowed themselves to borrow from this fund for General Treasury purposes and the loaned-out funds cannot be repaid.

NOW bridges are in need of repair and an additional (gasoline or other) tax burden needs to be imposed because of a legal misrepresentation.

Let's construct toll roads funded by toll road bonds so that the users' tolls pay off the bonds (construction costs and upkeep) and when the bonds are retired, the tolls will be *cont ->*

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retired; BUT the state legislature allowed the toll road authority to continue to issue new bonds to cover construction of additional toll booths or relocate toll booths or install automated toll booths along with the required lane reconfigurations.

NOW the bonds have not been paid off and bridges need to be made safe and an additional tax burden in the form of higher tolls and gasoline taxes needs to be imposed because of a legal misrepresentation.

A newer misrepresentation is:

Let's have TIF's (Tax Increment Funding) to revitalize blighted areas: Tax Increments will pay for the cost of revitalization (implying no increase in taxes): BUT the legislation allows selectivity in defining blighted, selectivity in the use of the power of eminent domain to force the sale of some parcels, selectivity in offering to purchase selected parcels at negotiated value, selectivity in hiring consultants to determine if properties of an area can be considered blighted, selectivity in determining a qualified developer to revitalize the area defined as blighted, selectivity in determining the subsidy (or zoning accommodation) the developer needs to resell at an affordable, profitable price.

NOW if there are any incremental taxes from changing blighted areas to usable areas, they would be diverted to the TIF's rather than benefit the General Treasury: any incremental costs in schools, parks, libraries, and city services must be funded by additional taxes because of a legal misrepresentation.

BUT the legislature has also allowed the transfer of funds among TIF's.

NOW the timing of transfers can lead to the legal misrepresentation of a need to continue the TIF in certain areas and seemingly justify imposing additional General Treasury taxes or fees in selected areas.

If the growing citizen murmur of "Stop taxation with misrepresentation" remains unheeded, the conclusion might be that we have a government of misrepresentation. The worst misrepresentation would be if we no longer had three independent branches of government. This would allow all of us to become subject to, say, one person's sincere love for the state and city of Chicago and a stated desire to move us forward as an internationally recognized cosmopolitan city and state. Subjects concur without hesitation and things move forward quickly. Impatience is not the virtue when we trust three independent branches of government to accomplish progress. BUT we in America would not start a Revolution over a temporary situation; we want to rely on our elected officials to remember that they are responsible to maintain the balance of three independent branches of government and that misrepresentation, even if legal, is not liberty and justice for all and disenfranchises unalienable rights.

NOW: let the reform - not revolution - begin.

Ed Irsh

On the Horizon

Merril Miller

For those of you who read the Pioneer-Times for Jefferson Park—and if you don't, you should—you'll have noticed a little increased coverage of the JPNA. It is my hope that this will continue, as the JPNA has a greater impact on our area. It's true our membership is currently small, but our hopes are big. Not all of us agree on how to proceed, but we do agree that proceed we must. Personally, I've reached out to our alderman, Patrick Levar, as a first step. I'd like to believe that good will come of that, but I also know that is up to us as residents of Jefferson Park, to express our opinions and be aware. Currently the Pioneer-Times may be acquired at the Jefferson Park terminal sundry shop, or find their link from ours at www.JPNA.net

MLM