

A Letter to JPNA

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

Pictures

Does anyone have any pictures of our area of only 25 years ago, before Mr. Kozonis (Mega Properties) started buying property and turning our area into a blighted area? I have lived here since 1961 and I think it was a beautiful area, shops and businesses and of course a place you want to be in, now walk around the area. UGLY! UGLY! Why are we being held hostage to this bad person (Mr. Kozonis) his greed sickens me and he must know someone. No one else could have done this to us. When he owned the land that the old Walgreens was on he would not take care of the parking lot, big pot holes, no working lights for people to park their cars, and of course, the grocery store shared the same parking lot. Look at Ace, they came and Mega Property (Mr. Kozonis) couldn't even pave him a lot nor put lights in it, for the shoppers, The land on Lawrence is owned by Mr. Kozonis, he's owned it since the 80's. It would be interesting to find out which properties are owned by Mr. Kozonis and/or Mega Properties and Delco. I think eminent domain should be used on them. I also wonder how much these empty store fronts owned by them are asking for rent, and if they are a reasonable amount so these storefronts can be filled. Could a list be published stating who owns the storefronts and when they were purchased?

Kathy

What's Your Beef?

By Merrill Miller

Quite often we have people coming out to meetings in hopes of finding solutions. Sometime we have some answers, but, more often than not, the answers need to be found. While we have a wealth of knowledge amongst our membership, we can't wave a magic wand and make things change or get news. It has to be worked at. And, unfortunately, that work takes people—something we're in short supply of.

My friends question why I even bother to be involved. They know how much work I do for this and other groups to which I belong. But I know that what I do is important, and that keeps me motivated. I know that having a strong infrastructure to this (or any other) organization is what will help us when it's time to get people out to that last minute community meeting, get signatures on a petition, or otherwise make our voice heard to our local politicians.

Unfortunately people too often come to meetings expecting the few of us there who are active, to work for them. That's not going to happen. It can't. We simply don't have that kind of manpower, or enough hours in the day.

As my friend Eva is fond of saying, we need to invite our friends to meetings. And we should. It can easily turn into a social event—we hope it does, because it's thru those connections that we formed, say at our Christmas party as we sang together, we can form a strong alliance, find out who's good at what, and what others like to do to be able to flesh out teams for projects. There's (cont ->)

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always a project. Maybe all you want to do is plant a garden. There's a team. Maybe you want to enjoy some fresh air, and pass out newsletters. Another team. Maybe you like meeting people—membership could use a hand. And so on. My point is that we are a community together and together, for it will take all of us, build a stronger community.

Merril

Who's fooling who m-m-m-m-m)?

by Ed Irsh

It always amazes me how elected legislators (Senators, Representatives, City Council) and administrators (President, Governor, Mayor) when accused of wrongdoing claim they have not broken any laws and imply they cannot be punished. But then I remember: they are responsible to make and administer the laws. It stands to reason that laws can be written in a way that there is no need to break them to accomplish self-serving aims. But "cannot be punished" is different from "cannot be held accountable."

One exception to "you can fool all of the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time" is if you have fooled yourself. The one who fools himself into believing "not punishable" means "not accountable" has made himself the biggest fool of all.

It's easy to assume the obvious targets of legal self-serving conditions, but what about those non-voters who have fooled themselves into believing they are not responsible for the election or re-election of self-servers. No law has been broken if a person does not vote; but the accountability for not voting remains.

Now hold on a minute! If time is spent trying to pinpoint the scapegoat and no effort is made to correct legal self-serving conditions, it is an exercise in futility. It might be difficult to reverse legal self-serving conditions or legislation outside of the election process, but that is one of the reasons for freedom of assembly and for our courts. It might be difficult, but never impossible: It's better to be accountable for failure than for not trying.

Ed Irsh

On the Horizon

- This spring watch out for another round of street-scaping on Milwaukee Ave.. Once it begins it should last 2 years. While unwelcome in many respects, it will hopefully provide us with some much needed improvements not only to Milwaukee Avenue itself, but, also, the sidewalks
- Watch for news on area construction projects. We anticipate community meetings with our alderman as plans become available.
- Save these dates: Jeff Fest 2008 will be June 6-8
- New area businesses include: Ron's Food in Veteran's Plaza, American Family Insurance, Dr. Lau—Eye Doctor on Milwaukee at I-90, and Furniture Sales on Milwaukee at Lawrence
- 05/01/08 Career Fair '08 at Northwestern Business College, 4829 Lipps Avenue
For more info call: (773) 725-2731