

Join JPNA to get your newsletter mailed to you – Watch future editions of the newsletter for information on member discounts- including \$5/sp off our ads!

**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

I saw this ad at: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:jpna@earthlink.net) 847-902-2961 \$15/iss.for 1"x2" dist 1500

**Portage Park Handyman Service**  
**Rich Escallier**  
 773.282.5857  
[portageparkhandyman.com](http://portageparkhandyman.com)



**VALBONA'S BEAUTY SALON**  
 Men, Women & children Haircare  
 Tue-Fri 9-8 \* Sat 9-6 \* Sun 10-5  
 4939 W. Foster at Elson  
 Chicago, IL, 60630 773-545-0206

**Portage Park Theater**

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Anniversary!**

**Thank you to Owners Dennis & Linda!**

[www.portagetheater.org](http://www.portagetheater.org) 773-736-4050

**ENGLISH COTTAGE**  
 4624 N. Milwaukee Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60641  
 Julie Fernstrom  
 312-593-6415



**Courtyard Sale!**  
 May 8,9,10  
 Thurs Fri Sat

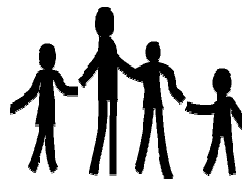


**Papanicholas Cafe**  
 4431 N Milwaukee ave  
 Chicago, IL 60630

**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!*

Welcome to the Neighborhood!  
 cafeYA, 4801 N. Milwaukee, 773-205-7300  
 coffee, soups, pierogi, drinks & more  
 Ron's Grill Etc, 4849A N. Milwaukee Ave  
 773-427-8200  
 I-Coffee 4945 N Milwaukee Ave  
 773- 777-7311 coffee sandwiches



**Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association** Newsletter for **May & June 2008**

<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>• A Letter from... on page 2</li> <li>• More from our Email list on page 2</li> <li>• From the JPNA president on page 3</li> <li>• On the Horizon on page 3</li> </ul>
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**Upcoming Events**

**General meetings:**  
**May 28th** Open Forum with brief presentation/discussions on zoning issues, including development recommendations.

**June 25th** Commander Anthony Riccio of the 16th District, Chicago Police Departments will be speaking on area policing programs.

**July 30th** Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Representative Sarah Moskowitz will speak on Telephone, Natural Gas & electric utility Issues. Bring your phone bills for review.

**August 27th** Open Forum: T.I.F. letter writing campaign & ice cream social. Come out at write your local rep to restructure the Tax Increment Financing program with us, while you spend a little time to get to know your neighbors over some ice cream.

**September 24** A representative will be out to talk about the Guaranteed Home Equity Assurance Program and answer any questions. This Chicago program helps stabilize neighborhoods by ensuring that participating homeowners get back the original investment in their home.

**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** are the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, at the Jefferson Park Police Station, 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave. upcoming: 5/21/06, 6/18/08, 7/16/07

<b>Current Officers:</b> Merrill Miller, <i>President</i>	<b>Board Members:</b>
Ed Irsch, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ron Ernst
Lotty Blumenthal <i>Secretary</i>	Eva Skowronski

## A Letter to JPNA

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

### Jefferson Park or...

Did you see the 4-6-08 Sun-Times article "Boom or Bust", detailing single family home and condo values for Chicago's 77 neighborhoods? The article includes a table featuring the 2007 number of units sold, median price, 1-year % price change, and the 5-year price change for both categories, per neighborhood. While the condo market in Jeff Park has seen decent returns with 87 units sold a median price of \$250,000, with 1 and 5-year price increases of 2.04% and 51.52% respectively, the single-family home values more accurately reflect the appalling condition one experiences driving through our business (or lack thereof) district. With 151 units sold in 2007, the median price was a meager \$272,000, a 1-year price reduction of - 24.44% and a 5-year loss of -2.54%, THE SECOND WORST IN ALL CHICAGO. Only 3 communities out of 77 had a negative 5year % change. Austin was the worst with a -10.46% showing.

Note that 5 years is just one year shy of 2 property tax reassessments for our community, and we've all seen property tax increases during this time. Yet there continues to be more foreclosures, more section 8 (low-income) housing, increased gang and thug activity, more graffiti, and more unsold homes courtesy of pathetic, incompetent leadership. Wasn't the TIF, now 10 years old, supposed to fix the "blight" along Milwaukee and Lawrence? Or was it 'the Chicago way' to funnel taxpayer dollars into the pockets of "Jimmy" Kozonis at the behest of his good friend and travel companion Alderman Patrick J. Levar. Don't worry though, there are plans in the works to erect a high rise-parking garage where Cowhey used to be across from Veterans Square with a bridge connecting the two. Won't that look, nice???

Greg S

### More from our Email list....

*These are in response to the April 9<sup>th</sup> Nadig Press article on the planning presentation by Owings, Skidmore and Merrill ILLP presenting their recommendations for our area, as well as specific plans for commuter parking at what was the Cowhey site at Lipps and Avondale:*

"Talk about streets not being able to handle all the traffic..."

"I am frustrated by the vacant lots, which have given the area it's 'blighted' reputation"

I know that some of the areas residents have opposed Delkos's development because they thought it would create congestion. Well there is still plenty of congestion and now we have the added cost of a blighted neighborhood."

"Some of the stores such as Curious Jane, Mama's Coffee Shop, Inner Light Studio or True Value Hardware would not have left if the [Lawrence Ave.] strip was revitalized..."

"Why do we have to have these enormous structures..."

"As a resident who has worked and lived in the neighborhood for 17 years, I am appalled at the resistance to development residents and the neighborhood association has demonstrated over the years. When I see the progress of other neighborhoods in the area such as Mayfair, and Portage Park, I am ashamed of Jefferson Park. It seems to be the association's goal to obstruct and resist any attempt to bring this neighborhood into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." (cont ->)

"Commuter parking is a bad idea because it brings more vehicle traffic to our neighborhood. I would like to be able to walk to the Jefferson Park Terminal without fear of being run over on Lipps by someone driving in a hurry to catch a train"

"No more big Ugly Buildings"

"Providing parking is a must. If we can supply parking, that's certainly an attraction."

"I have read a few of the responses and just the passion for the community is cause for celebration."

### From the JPNA President

The JPNA has sought to keep residential areas in particular at their current zoning, or in some cases, where for whatever reason the zoning is inconsistent with the immediate area, down zoning, to preserve the community's neighborhood feel. On the Lawrence Avenue strip, we've sought to keep the zoning at B1-2, as it backs up on residential space. This allows for mixed use, up to 50 feet of structure—potentially 4-5 floors depending on specific construction. That is the current zoning at that site. We've also recommended the same zoning at the Cowhey site—which is currently a M1-1, to allow for more flexible development of that site rather than just the manufacturing designation of the current zoning.

As JPNA president, I've tried to represent these ideals of maintained or down zoning where appropriate to our alderman and more recently to Mr. Kozonus. But as some of the quotes presented here indicate, perhaps these ideals are not truly what our residents want. Are these anomalies, or just the tip of the iceberg. Please tell us via the contact information on the cover, which includes 3 options, or come to our May meeting for the roundtable discussion. We need to know how you truly feel, in order to represent our neighborhood appropriately. We have the ear of our alderman, let's tell him what YOU want.

Merril

### On the Horizon

- An opening reception of Studios Revealed will take place on Friday, May 2, from 6:00 to 8:30pm, 3955 W. Irving Park Road
- May 17 & 18 Bingo, sponsored by the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce. Held at Copernicus Center. Doors open at 1pm.
- Save these dates: Jeff Fest 2008 will be June 6-8
- St. Robert Bellarmine Parents' Association will be hosting its fourth Annual Golf Outing to benefit the school's preschool. Friday, June 13, 2008 at the Fox Run Golf Links in Elk Grove Village. Golf package \$130pp. Includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and drinks. Shotgun start at 1pm For info Trina Eifert 773-286-6240 or visit srb-chicago.org

### 16<sup>th</sup> District Graffiti Alert

The 16<sup>th</sup> Police District is developing a Graffiti Database

If you see anyone performing graffiti:  
**Call 911**

If you observe graffiti:

1. take a picture
2. note the address, date & time
3. Email above info & photos to graffiti16@yahoo.com or drop off at 16<sup>th</sup> District, 5151 N. Milwaukee
4. Call 311 to remove graffiti

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