

On the Horizon

St. Robert Bellarmine School

Open House will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2010 from 1–3 pm. Visitors can tour classrooms; view student projects; learn about programs for 2 year olds, preschool for 3 and 4 year olds, and Kindergarten through 8th grade; and meet the principal, teachers, and other parents. A Family Mass will be held at 12:00 noon in the church beforehand. The school is located at 6036 W. Eastwood in Chicago (at Austin).

Casino Nights - February 5-6 The Parents' Association will host its annual Casino Nights on Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight in the Church Basement at 4646 N. Austin Ave., Chicago. Games include Blackjack, Poker, Texas Hold'em, Money Wheel, Roulette, and more. Gamers can win up to \$250. Charity rules apply. There is a \$3.00 entrance fee and you must be 21. Food and drinks will be available.

Find more information on-line at srb-chicago.org or call the office at 773-725-5133

The Jefferson Park Teen Club is encouraging people to let go of those dusty old pairs of jeans at the bottom of the closet. The Jefferson Park teen club is teaming up with the national nonprofit campaign "**Jeans for Teens**" to support the effort to give jeans to homeless teenagers. The goal of the campaign, which runs until Feb. 14, is to collect gently used jeans from local residents. The collected jeans will then be distributed to homeless teens in Haiti and across the country. Supporting the national campaign, now in its third year, is the clothing store Aeropostale, which is doing its part by delivering the jeans to Haiti and also to homeless shelters across the country.

Jeans can be dropped off in the Jefferson Park lobby at 4822 N. Long, beginning Friday Jan. 22nd and we will continue to collect them until Friday Feb 12th at 8:00pm. The field house is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am to 9pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5 pm.

If you have any questions please contact the park at 1-773-685-3316.

Friends of Portage Park will be hosting an indoor winter's market the 4th Saturday from Jan - April from 10am - 2pm in the gymnasium (corner of Central Ave. and Berteau).

Vendors will be selling a wide array of farm products--beef, pork, poultry, eggs, fresh produce, salsas, sauces, preserves, honey, olives, humus, fruit tarts and pastries, and much, much more. Musical entertainment is also available which is being sponsored by Portage Park Animal Hospital. For more information: www.friendsofportagepark.org. You can also visit us on more information visit on Facebook Portage Market, Twitter @portagemarket or Local Harvest <http://www.localharvest.org/farmers-markets/M24712>

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Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter for

Winter 2010

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Upcoming Events

General meetings:

February 24 – Jill Wonsil, American Association of Retired Persons tax counselor will speak on savings on your taxes.

March 31 – Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc. Education on: homeownership, improvement, refinancing, foreclosure prevention, home loans.

April 28 - Community Development: round-table discussion and updates, and plans for the JPNA Garden for the Hungry with Andy Brecklin.

May 26 – (tentative) Cooking demonstration.

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

Please check our web-site www.jpna.net for updates, links and more
Find the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association on Facebook
Or join the discussion at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jpna/>

Other:

February 2 Get out and vote!

CAPS Meetings for beat 1623 IS the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7pm, at Jefferson Park Police Station 5151 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Current Officers:	Merril Miller, President	Ed Irsch, Treasurer
	Brian Wardman, Vice President	Lotty Blumenthal Secretary
Board Members:	Ron Ernst	Eva Skowronski
		Mike Bezanson

From the President...

Happy New Year!

This is already starting out as a very exciting year for the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association. We had some terrific speakers last year, and are looking forward more this year. Our new business out-reach discount program (see below) is off to a great start, and we're hoping to expand even further. This January 21st, we joined with the Portage Park Neighborhood Association to run a very well received forum for our candidates for State Senate in the 10th district. Attendees very much appreciated being able to meet the participants in this important race. Likewise the candidates were glad for the opportunity.

We're looking forward to getting out to Jeff Fest, which this year looks like it will be on the Copernicus Center grounds, and of course, will be continuing our Garden for the Hungry, which benefits the Northwest Church of Christ food pantry. And, of course, we hope you'll join us!

- *Merril Miller*

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

News for Members

For members with a membership card, the businesses listed below are participating in our new discount program. If you present your current signed, dated JPNA Membership card you will qualify for the discounts listed below. Please note that these discounts make not be combined with other discount offers. If you are a member, but did not receive a membership card, please contact us. (info on front cover).

Delightful Pastries, 5927 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630-3129, (773) 545-7215, 10% Disc. On \$10 or over

Krakus Homemade Sausage, 4772 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago 60630, (773) 736-3524 10% Disc. On \$10 or over

J's Vitamins, 5316 North Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, IL 60630-1266, (773) 763-1917 10% On \$10 or over

Nadig Press, 4937 N Milwaukee Ave Chicago, IL 60630, (773) 286-6100, \$5 off on Any Garage Sale or Used Car ad

Sandy's Pet Care, 5425 W Windsor Ave, Chicago, IL 60630, (773) 282-1977 \$3 off on Dog Grooming

Today's Hair, 5637 West Lawrence Avenue 60630, (773) 545-9160, \$2 off Haircut

Theresa II, 4751 North Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, 60630, (773) 283-0184, 15% Disc. On \$10 or over

Valbona's Beauty Salon, 4939 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630, (773) 545-0206, 10% on service \$10 or over

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What did you miss at the meetings last year?

- Rick Escallier, the Portage Park Handyman, gave a demonstration including wood treatments, proper caulking procedures, removing stripped screws, etc. He teaches 3 classes at Wright Community College if anyone is interested in more detail more ->

- Last October Barret Murphy, speaker from the Water Department. His presentation was on how to save money with the new water meter program which does not cost owners. He explained those volunteering for the new meters at this time will have a cap put on their bills for 7 years so that their costs per month could be less than present, but not higher than present. He also talked about changes in the present written bills such as the change from cubic feet to gallons. There are also other incentives for the new meters such as a choice of items like a rain barrel or new sprinkler system. He answered all questions from the audience & also told about the history of the water system, as well as the additives that make our water safe.
- In November Andrew Solata from Social Security spoke. Social Security effects 51 Million individuals in the U.S. Benefits go to 37% --34 million retirees, and include their spouses & children. We should never assume that Social security will provide for our full needs. Mailings from Social Security before retirement help us calculate where we are. Full retirement age is no longer 65. It's 67 for those born in 1960 & later. This is something to consider as we choose when to retire since if we retire earlier than that, we would get a reduced benefit rate. He also spoke about the Medicare program. As many as 1 out of 5 people becomes disabled before retirement age, and will become eligible for Medicare within 2 years of receiving Social Security benefits. Also worth noting is that this year for the first time in 30+ years there will be no cost of living increase. Medicare does work with Social Security to make sure any increases do not impact what you get from your social security. Details on deductible increases were given, and booklets were made available to attendees. He discussed Medicare savings programs that help with deductibles. New in 2010 Social Security will not be counting Life Insurance cash surrender value as well as help from family & friends against the "Extra Help" program, to help more people qualify. This program is based on income and resources. If you qualify they pay premium and co-payments. This can mean as much as an extra savings of \$4000! Social Security is entirely funded by payroll deductions. Adjustments were done in the 80's: changing child benefit age, retirement age, etc. Funding has always been the same. 24% of what is collected go into funds accounts and T-bills—earnings not at a high rate, but they are safe. Administrative costs are only 1%. Occasionally during recession they do dip into that trust fund due to low collection rates. In about 20 years there is a concern about solvency because an estimated rate of mere 2 workers for every 1 retiree—currently it's 3 to 1. This is the effect of a lessened birth rate, longer life expectancy, and baby boomers leaving the work force. Other types of benefits include spousal benefits. A survivor, even a divorced survivor can switch to whatever the higher benefit is at any time appropriate. The only way a senior can receive benefits from a child's is if that child were supporting the parent, and the child then dies. It is possible to apply for Medicare even if you are not already receiving Social security benefits. There are tools on the Medicare website, including all the new choices available this year.

More information is available at www.socialsecurity.gov and www.medicare.gov

While there is a lot of information here, there was much more at the meetings—come out if you can!