



# PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community  
News & Views

APRIL 2009

## Meetings and Announcements

### Portage Park Neighborhood Association:

#### Next meeting -

April 13, 7:30 p.m.,  
4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

#### Guest Speakers:

**Sue Calcagno**

St. Robert Bellermine School

**Dr. Bill Smith**

Taylor Rehabilitation  
and Wellness Center

## C.A.P.S. Meetings

All meetings at 7 p.m.

**Beat 1624 - April 22**  
at Biagio's Banquets,  
4242 N. Central Ave.

**Beat 1633 - Mar. 21**  
at Wright College (Theater)  
4300 N. Naragansett

**Beat 1634 - April 23**  
at Portage-Cragin Library,  
5108 W. Belmont Ave.

**16th District CAPS Office,**  
312-742-4521 for more  
information.

## PPNA On-Line

Get the most current info  
from the PPNA on our  
website: [www.portagepark.org](http://www.portagepark.org)

Contacting the PPNA board:  
[board@portagepark.org](mailto:board@portagepark.org)

General questions or info:  
[membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org)  
[communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org)  
[seniors@portagepark.org](mailto:seniors@portagepark.org)  
[web@portagepark.org](mailto:web@portagepark.org)

## NEW! Renew or Join OnLine!

You can join or renew your PPNA  
membership online. You can get  
directly to the form via:

[http://www.portagepark.org/  
joinonline.html](http://www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html)

Pay with your credit card or  
your PayPal account.

## Silent Film Society of Chicago to Host April 26<sup>th</sup> Benefit for Portage Theater Organ Installation *By Abigail Dean*

The Portage Park community is very fortunate to boast one of Chicago's last surviving theaters of the silent film era—one that even bears its name. Designed by architect Henry Newhouse and opened in 1920, the Portage Theatre at 4050 North Milwaukee Avenue features a megaphone-shaped auditorium with Beaux-arts styling, reminiscent of an opera house. The historic theater, which re-opened in 2006, is now home to the Silent Film Society of Chicago (SFSC) and its highly acclaimed Silent Summer Film Festival.

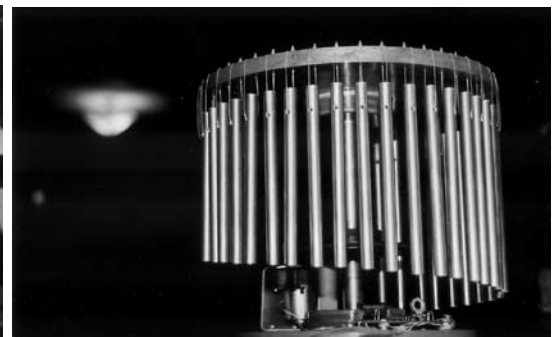
2009's July festival promises to be a landmark event, with the partial unveiling of a newly-acquired pipe organ (whose Kimball console is now on display in the theater's lobby). The full installation, a three stage project, will begin with a four-post elevator lift to showcase the new console.

A bit of a "beautiful Frankenstein," the fully-restored organ will consist of various components: the Kimball console, Wurlitzer pipes (circa 1927, purchased from an old church on Chicago's south side), vintage electrical and air-triggered percussion, as well as digitally-sampled tones. The re-engineered organ's "voice" will be much richer and orchestral—a more authentic accompaniment for the silent films shown at Portage Theater.

Dennis Wolkowicz, Managing Director of the theater (whose alter-ego is Jay Warren, a long-time featured performer for SFSC), believes that the new organ will play a central role in fostering a genuine silent film experience. In turn, the SFSC is hosting a special benefit for the organ's installation this month, to ensure that the voice of silent film is properly heard at the Portage for generations to come.

The April 26th fundraiser will feature a rare 35mm print of 1927's *Chicago* from UCLA archives (see ad on following page). This quintessential "roaring twenties" silent film stars Phyllis Haver as the witty and sexy Roxie Hart (more recently portrayed by Renee Zellweger in the 2002 musical). In addition, archival footage of the 1,241 pipes in the original organ chambers will be shown; and its percussions and effects will be on display in the theater lobby.

Benefit tickets can be purchased for \$20 at the door. For additional details, visit [www.silentfilmchicago.com](http://www.silentfilmchicago.com) or [www.portagetheater.org](http://www.portagetheater.org).



ROBERT HICKS

The historic Kimball organ console and various percussion elements will be on display at the April 26<sup>th</sup> fundraiser.

## Show your neighborhood pride!

### Member block counts! Renew for 2009 Today!

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3 members - 5300 Cullom  
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3 members - 4100 Leamington  
3 members - 5100 Hutchinson  
3 members - 5300 Berenice  
3 members - 5000 Berteau  
3 members - 5400 Dakin

*Don't see your block listed above?*  
Join or renew your membership today at:  
[www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html](http://www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html)



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**Mayor Daley's  
Clean & Green  
Citywide Volunteer Clean-Up**  
Saturday, April 25, 2009

**Portage Park - 10 a.m. To 1 p.m.**

## THE SILENT FILM SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

*Welcomes back an old friend  
with a special fundraiser show  
to aid in the reinstallation  
of the recently rescued*

**3 MANUAL  
GRANDE THEATER PIPE ORGAN**  
*"The Voice of the Silent Cinema"*



**HELP SUPPORT THIS PROJECT!  
SPECIAL FUNDRAISING SCREENING!**

**PHYLLIS HAVER AS "ROXIE" HART IN THE 1927 SILENT CLASSIC**

# Chicago



**SPECIAL SHOWING at Portage Theater—4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
TICKETS \$20 AT DOOR**

**RESTORED 35MM PRINT FROM UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVE  
LIVE THEATER ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT BY JAY WARREN**

**ONE SHOW ONLY! SUNDAY APRIL 26 3:00 PM**

## Friends of Portage Park Earth Day and Kids' Resale

On Saturday, April 25, 2009 10am-1pm, Friends of Portage Park invites you to our annual community event: Earth Day at Portage Park. In order to come together as a community this spring, FOPP hosts Earth Day & Kids' toys, clothing and equipment resale.

Join FOPP and other community volunteers to clean and green our neighborhood park from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Explore planned stations such as nature exploration, environmentalism, mulching and bring your children to the kids' activity table. Our site will have some extra work gloves, but you may want to bring your own to insure you have a pair.

The Playlot Committee will hosts its annual kids clothing, toy and equipment resale. **SELLERS** are needed! Clean out the clothes, toys and equipment your children have outgrown, help keep it out of landfills and make some money. Tables are \$25 and can be purchased by sending an email to [portageparkplayground@gmail.com](mailto:portageparkplayground@gmail.com) or call 427-8545.

**SHOPPERS** – Shop for spring/summer clothing, toys or equipment at reasonable prices. \$1 suggested donation at the door. All proceeds will go towards the playlot renovation project.

**WANT TO HELP?** Download a copy of the flyer from [www.friendsof-portagepark.org](http://www.friendsof-portagepark.org) and post around the neighborhood (school, church, restaurant, library, etc). Sign up to volunteer for our Earth Day event by calling 427-8545 or sending an email to [portageparkplayground@gmail.com](mailto:portageparkplayground@gmail.com).

## News for residents of the 38th Ward

**Alderman Allen will be hosting two Cook County Board of Review Community Outreach meetings to assist homeowners with filing their property tax appeals.** Jefferson Township is open for appeals from March 24, 2009 through May 6, 2009.

The first meeting will be held at the Portage Park Senior Center on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. A second meeting will take place at Merrimac Park on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm -8:30pm.

**The annual “Clean and Green” citywide volunteer clean-up is Saturday, April 25, 2009.** You can beautify the community by cleaning up and recycling accumulated litter and trash. To register or for more information, you may call our office or 311.

Finally, the new street sweeping schedule is available on our website at [www.ward38.com](http://www.ward38.com).

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact the 38<sup>th</sup> Ward Service Office at 773-545-3838 or via email [ward38@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward38@cityofchicago.org).

## Three Educational Lectures/Events Sponsored by Austin-Irving Library

**Best Practices for Family-Safe Internet Use:** Detective Alan Krok, Special Investigations Unit of the Chicago Police Department, will share his expertise and provide tips to maintain a safe environment for your child when they utilize the internet. Issues that will be addressed include cyber-bullying, sexual predators, securing personal information and social networking sites.

> *Thursday, May 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m.*

**Back to Basics—Ten Money Rules to Live By:** Karen Chan, CFP and Consumer & Family Economics Educator with the University of Illinois Extension, will share her Ten Money Rules to Live By. By following these ten basic rules, you can protect yourself from major financial mistakes, prepare for your future, and keep things simple in the process. Come and get your own financial rule-book. No registration is required

> *Thursday, April 23 at 7:00pm*

**Merit Brass Choir and Ravinia Jazz Scholars Concert:** Please join us for this free concert co-sponsored by the Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Young Musician Initiative. The Chicago Young Musician Initiative is a new collaboration between the Institute for Learning, Access and Training at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago's leading organizations in music education. The Initiative seeks to extend and deepen the engagement of youth in music in Chicago and foster critical mass and visibility among Chicago's youth music providers.

> *Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7 pm*

### Austin-Irving Branch

6100 West Irving Park Road  
Chicago, IL 60634 ph. 312-744-6222

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 9-9  
Friday & Saturday: 9-5; Sunday: Closed

## Free Classical Music Concert: Sunday, April 26, 2009

The Irving Park Fine Arts Committee is proud to announce the fourth and final concert of its 2008-2009 season. The Apollo Trio will perform on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Irving Park Lutheran Church, 4100 N. Harding. The Apollo Trio features Scott Metlika, flute, Karl Rzasa, bassoon, and Matthew Coley, marimba and percussion. Admission to the concert is free of charge, though a free-will offering may be made. An informal reception with the performers follows the concert.

The Apollo Trio is one of the Chicago metropolitan area's premiere chamber music ensembles. It was founded in 1995 as a woodwind ensemble, and over the years has incorporated harp, piano, strings and percussion. Members perform regularly with the Elgin Symphony, Grant Park Symphony, Chicago Opera Theater, Illinois Philharmonic, Metropolis Symphony, and Light Opera Works of Evanston.

In addition, The Virginia McBroom Sekenske Scholarship will be awarded at the April 26<sup>th</sup> concert. The scholarship is named for a patroness of the Fine Arts concert series and honors a deserving Schurz High School music student.

The Irving Park Fine Arts Series, now in its 15th season, was begun by Roger L. Bingaman, Director of Music at Irving Park Lutheran Church. The intent of the series is to bring high quality, professional musical and theatrical events to the Irving Park neighborhood. For more information, contact Roger Bingaman at 773.267.1666, or [www.irvingparkfinearts.org](http://www.irvingparkfinearts.org).



### DAILY FOOD SPECIALS

MON	\$2 Burgers
TUE	\$5 Pizzas
WED	\$7 Unlimited Pasta
THUR	\$5 Nacho Platters
FRI	Chef's Special
SAT	Kids Eat Free!
SUN	25¢ Wings

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**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR...  
VOLUNTEER!**

**DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR**

Coordinate mailing and delivery of newsletters to members and local businesses. Contact John Arena at [communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org) for more information.

**CAPS REPORTER**

Attend and provide report back to board and communication committee on issues raised at monthly caps meetings. Contact Maria Pollack at [web@portagepark.org](mailto:web@portagepark.org) for more information.

**SECRETARY**

Secretary is an officer level position on the board of directors. Responsibilities include attending board and public meetings, keeping and distributing minutes. Contact [board@portagepark.org](mailto:board@portagepark.org) for more info.

**PPNA Financial Report**

*Balance sheet as of March 22, 2009*

**GENERAL ASSETS**

Previous Ending Balance ..... \$6,386.14  
 Current Ending Balance ..... \$6,028.74

**REVENUE**

Newsletter Advertising ..... \$550.00  
 Membership ..... \$495.00

**Total Revenue ..... \$1,045.00**

**EXPENSES**

Newsletter Printing ..... \$988.00  
 Membership Committee ..... \$42.00  
 Webstite ..... \$47.40  
 Insurance ..... \$325.00

**Total Expenses ..... \$1,402.40**

**FOR SALE**

**Beautiful twin bed frame in perfect condition,  
 head and foot board, solid wood, white,  
 from Room and Board, originally \$600,  
 Will sell for \$300 Call 286-0380  
 e-photo available upon request**



**MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT—show your card and receive discounts from these PPNA business partners**



Membership cards can be used to receive discounts at participating area businesses. Participating businesses and their discounts:

BUSINESS	DISCOUNT OFFERED
City Newsstand	10% off everything on Tuesdays
Drehobl Art Glass	10% discount
Dutch Cleaners	10% off dry cleaning
Easy Copy	4¢ b/w, 75¢ color copies everyday \$75 for 100 Business Cards
Energy Fitness	10% discount on all programs offered
Hands Over Stress	\$10 off 1 hour wellness massage \$5 off any 30 minute massage
La Peña Restaurant	10% off entire check, every day
Liberty Tax Service	50% off individual or business tax return
Meisa Cafe	10% off entire check, every day
Maria Pollock-Piano Tuning	\$10 off (773 286-6368)
New Six Corners Flowers	15% discount
Portage Park Handyman	10% off with proof of membership
Portage Theater	\$2 off ticket price. (except silent films)
Right Now Redesign	\$50 off a Room Redesign
Rudy's Cycles	10% off non-sale parts & access.
Veranda Lighting	10% discount on non-sale merchandise
Wong's Chinese	10% off entire check, every day

*As businesses are added, they will be listed in this newsletter and on our web site. If you are an area business and would like to participate, please contact the PPNA at [membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org). If you have not yet joined or renewed your PPNA membership, please do so to take advantage of this benefit. Cards will be mailed to each paid member, and will be valid through Dec. 31, 2008.*

**PPNA Public Meeting Agenda  
 Monday, April 13, 2009  
 7:30 p.m., 4839 W. Irving Park Rd.**

- I. Call to Order:  
Gerard Staniszewski
- II. President's Opening Statement:  
Gerard Staniszewski
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. GUEST SPEAKERS  
*Sue Calcagno* St. Robert  
Bellermine School  
*Dr. Bill Smith* - Taylor  
Rehabilitation & Wellness Center
- V. Old/New Business
- VI. Meeting Adjourned



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Refresh, reclaim, redo

## Advertise your business in the PPNA newsletter

PPNA News & Views is distributed to 4,500 homes and businesses within the boundaries of the Portage Park Neighborhood Association (Montrose Avenue to the north, Grace Street to the south, Cicero Avenue to the east and Central Avenue to the west) on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).

In addition, we also publish 6 Member issues in the months of February, May, August, October, November. In these months, the newsletters will be mailed directly to paid members. 1200 additional copies are available to the general public only at business locations that are current advertisers or business members.

Electronic issues will be emailed to those members who request it and to certain individuals and institutions outside of the Association boundaries at the discretion of the PPNA Communications Committee.

The newsletter is delivered on or about the first weekend of the month. Ad deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

### RATES (per 3.5" x 2" ad)

10 issues—\$350.00 (4 quarterly, 6 Member Issues)

4 quarterly issues—\$180.00

Individual month—\$50.00

To reserve your ad space contact John Arena at 773-283-9887  
or e-mail newsletters@portagepark.org

## CURFEW COMPLIANCE: Message from the Chicago Police Department

Due to the upcoming spring break session, we would like to emphasize the importance of curfew compliance. In an effort to reduce curfew violations and provide a safe environment for our youth and community, the 16th District will be introducing a strict compliance curfew initiative. We would like to request the support of the Portage Park neighborhood.

The Municipal Code of Chicago reads as follows: Curfew hours are 10:00 P.M. on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until 6:00 A.M. the following day and 11:00 P.M. on any Friday, or Saturday until 6:00 A.M. the following day.

## Disney II Magnet School News

**Disney II PTA Presents the ABCs: A is for Auction, B is for Benefit, C is for Community** Support your local magnet school by attending our spring auction and community night, May 30th, at Garden Terrace, 6330 Irving Park Road. An opportunity to mingle with Disney II staff and families, student art showcase, open bar, and appetizers are included in the \$45 price of admission (now through April 30th, \$50 starting May 1). Please contact Stacey Nyman, [scstnyman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scstnyman@sbcglobal.net), to purchase tickets. Volunteers and auction items are always needed. If you'd like to donate, please contact Brenda Deane, [Brenda.deane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Brenda.deane@sbcglobal.net), or Margaret McIntyre, [m.mcintyre99@yahoo.com](mailto:m.mcintyre99@yahoo.com)

**Calling all bibliophiles!** Disney II PTA is still collecting gently used books, DVDs, VHS and CDs to sell at a community sale at the school on Saturday, May 16th. Clean out those shelves and ask your friends and neighbors to do the same – our goal for this project is 2,000 items. You can drop your items in the box at the north entrance of the school, or contact Ami Martin at [amizimka@yahoo.com](mailto:amizimka@yahoo.com) to arrange alternate drop-off/pick-up.

**The Art Department** at Disney II Magnet is a busy place. The children have been working on self-portraits as part of this quarter's academic theme, "We The People." One of the highlights of their study will be a visit to the Chicago Institute of Art to experience first-hand some very famous portraiture. The students will also take time to view mosaics and murals as examples of art in public spaces. Some of the student's portraits will be available for purchase at the upcoming Disney II ABC Auction on May 30th.

**The Music Department** continues its campaign to raise money for the purchase of musical instruments designed especially for teaching young children. Thank you for your contributions! Child-friendly xylophones and metallophones allow children to understand music theory, the chromatic scale and begin to compose on their own music. Disney II friends and families are encouraged to donate to this wonderful educational program that supports the school's focus on Arts and Technology. Please contact the Disney II PTA at [disneyiimagnet.com](http://disneyiimagnet.com). Donations also can be sent to Disney II PTA at 3815 N. Kedvale, Chicago, IL 60641.

**The next Disney II General PTA meeting** will be Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Community members are encouraged to attend.

## PPNA 2009 Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  New Membership  Renewal

Would you like to receive email updates on PPNA news and events? Yes / No

Membership Type:  Household  Business

Dues: \$15 per Household, \$8 per Senior Household, \$25 per Business

Please check any and all areas for which you would be willing to volunteer/participate:

<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development/Zoning*	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising (Parade, Holiday Party)	<input type="checkbox"/> History
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior's Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (Distribution, Writing, Layout)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities (Members Only Events, Portage Park Palates)
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety/CAPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Website Development	

\* Restaurants/Entertainment/Cultural Venues, Residential/Retail Development, and TIF Advisory Committee

Please list any issues and/or topics that you feel the PPNA should address this year:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special skills you have which may be helpful to the PPNA:  
(Public Relations, Legal, Accounting, Musical/Artistic, Bilingual, etc. )

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership renewals are due January 1 and expire December 31.

Bring completed membership form with payment to the next public meeting, held the second Monday of each month at 7:30PM.  
Peoples Gas & Coke Building  
4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

Or, mail completed membership form with payment to:  
Portage Park Neighborhood Association  
Attn: Jill Staniszewski  
5159 W. Montrose Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60641

# GREEN CORNER

For Our Community, Our Planet



## Register Now for May 9<sup>th</sup> Climate Cycle Ride

On May 9, 2008, Climate Cycle's inaugural benefit ride will raise funds to help provide four Chicago and two suburban public schools with solar energy systems. Learn more and register online at [www.climatecycle.org](http://www.climatecycle.org).

### GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: Use a Rain Barrel to Water Your Lawn

### How can you help?

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop (via your home's disconnected downspout) for later use on your lawn or garden, or other outdoor uses.

Water conservation measures, such as rain barrels, are important for conserving Lake Michigan so that it remains available to sustain the natural world and support our economic, recreation and drinking water needs.

Lawn and garden watering can make up 40 percent of your household water use during the hot summer months. You can significantly reduce the amount of water you consume by using rainwater instead of tap water. The water collected in your barrel can be used in a variety of ways: to water your garden and lawn, wash your car or bike, clean work boots and tools, water potted plants—be creative! Think of other non-potable (non-drinkable) uses.

Plus, many gardeners find that their plants like rainwater better than tap water.

Rain barrels are primarily used as a water conservation tool but can also be helpful in managing stormwater. Used in conjunction with other stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout your neighborhood, they can improve water quality in our rivers.

A rain barrel may be a good idea for your house if:

1. you will use the rainwater collected in the barrel often after rains (i.e. weekly);
2. you can place your barrel underneath a disconnected downspout;
3. the land surrounding the rain barrel slopes away from your house and surrounding homes; and
4. the area surrounding the rain barrel has enough pervious (water-absorbing) surface to soak up overflow without causing flooding.

Additional information, including details on free rain barrel distribution, is available on the city's website or by emailing [rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org) or calling (312) 743-WATER (743-9283).

## Saving Mother Earth One School at a Time...

Are you helping to save Mother Earth? Young adults across the state of Illinois are by joining the Zero Waste Grant.

This program, according to Patricia Bonness of Vaughn Occupational High School in Chicago, Illinois, believes that the main goal for students is for them to, "help the Planet survive by NOT adding any more garbage to existing landfills... They learn to reduce, reuse and recycle what they have."

The Zero Waste Grant was awarded to Vaughn Occupational High School in fall of 2008. Currently students at Vaughn feed the food waste from their culinary arts classes to the worm bins in their Science classes; and students throughout the school act to save and recycle paper by using both sides for photocopying, reusing paper to make recycled paper letters, and actively recycling.

The program was created to teach students how they can help Mother Earth thrive... then it became about the simple act of reducing waste and recycling what it recyclable. This program will help us all by teaching us about ways in which we must conserve and recycle what we consume and to use our goods rather than simply throwing goods away without conscious thought to its affect on our Planet's health and well-being.

The Zero Waste Grant is now being implemented in 21 schools across Illinois and out of these; three are in the Chicago Public School district. Vaughn Occupational High School has instilled the program's philosophy and practices into the daily lives of its students and it has become a part of every classroom's culture.

Mother Earth needs our help! As a result, the Zero Waste Grant was formed... for it is our responsibility to make the world a place that can sustainably nurture future generations.

Friends of



Dickinson Playlot Park

## Earth Day Park Clean Up

Dickinson Playlot Park  
4101 N. Lavergne Ave

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 - 12:00

Bring the whole family to help clean up the park, meet fellow neighbors and learn about the proposed park renovation plan.

Refreshments and Kid's Entertainment is planned.

# Portage Park Palates

by Jan and Jill

Portage Park Palates decided to go out to breakfast on a sunny Saturday morning. The Lucky Grill is in a strip mall near my house, and you've probably driven by the place. It's one of my favorite go to places in the area. It has great breakfasts, and it's popular with the locals. The strip mall has its own parking lot, and it's usually crowded on Saturday and Sunday morning, with family's and couples finding their way to a bright, clean, nice sized restaurant with good coffee and breakfast served anytime.

As you walk in the door, you'll notice there are lots of booths and tables. You'll be surprised by the size of the place. On the morning we dined, the place was getting busy. There's a list of specials near the door, and the bus-boy gave us each a large menu and water, and asked if we wanted coffee. In short order, our waitress, Christina, stopped by. The staff is attentive and friendly. It's hard to make a choice with all the options. There are quite a few breakfast specials on the menu itself, and all kinds of pancakes, waffles, omelets and skilletts.

One of us ordered an egg white omelet with swiss cheese, which comes with hash browns and toast for \$5.95. I ordered the Lucky Grill skillet, which has hash browns mixed with loads of ham, sausage and bacon and tomatoes, peppers and onions with cheese and two eggs on top, prepared any way you like for \$8.50. Another of our group ordered a breakfast special (The #2 Club) from the menu which was juice, two eggs (prepared any way) two bacon, two sausage and two pancakes for \$5.95. Our waitress, Christina, took our order, and in a few minutes, we had our breakfast. We happily started to dig in. The omelet was cooked perfectly, and looked really good next to a big portion of crispy shredded hashed browns and wheat toast on the side. It's a favorite breakfast of my dining companion. The Lucky Grill skillet had eggs over easy on top, with all the loaded hash browns and cheese, and toast on the side. This is one big breakfast, and is comfort food all the way. It's impossible for me to finish, but I make a pretty good attempt. The #2 Club special hit all the right diner notes. The pancakes were golden brown with the eggs done as ordered. The always attentive wait staff would stop by and refill our coffee. We chatted away and enjoyed our breakfasts. Meanwhile, nearby family's were eating and the tables were starting to fill up. The Lucky Grill is a good neighborhood diner, with tasty, reasonably priced food and always good service.

The Lucky Grill at 4454 N. Milwaukee (773-282-2325) is open at 6:00am Monday to Saturday, until 9:00pm. Sunday the hours are 7:00am to 4:00pm. Credit cards are accepted. Breakfast is served anytime, and there are plenty of other options for lunch and dinner. So, come hungry and stop by. Grab an open booth or table and find your own favorites on the menu. And you'll see why so many people keep coming back to the Lucky Grill.

We invite members of the PPNA to join us as well as continuing to ask for suggestions naming your favorite restaurant in the area. In 2008 we hope you will continue to suggest restaurants and join us when we meet. If you would like to join us, our only requirement is that you do not notify the restaurant. We all pay for our own portion of the check, share the dishes and offer opinions for the review. An article about the restaurant will appear in the following PPNA newsletter. Send your emails to [membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org), or [communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org).



## Our Lady of Victory School Hosts Evening Open House

On Thursday, April 23, 2009, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Victory will host an evening open house. The PRE-K 3 through 8th Grade school features:

- Half-day and full-day pre-kindergarten program for children ages 3 and 4.
- Half-day and full-day kindergarten.
- A school day from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Extended Day program for all levels (6:30 to 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.).
- Art, Spanish and Physical Education programs for all levels.
- Intramural & League Sports Programs (with No Student Fees).
- An activity period at the end of the day to incorporate extra-curricular activities, clubs and special interest classes into the regular school day for all students.

The school offers one tuition rate for both parishioners and non-parishioners. The full schedule of tuition rates for 2009-2010 is available on the school website. The school also offers tuition assistance. Please call the school for more information.

Registration is open for the 2009-2010 school year. Please contact the school office if you are interested in a personal school tour, observing the classrooms in action, or having your child shadow a current OLV student.

Our Lady of Victory Elementary School is located at 4434 N. Laramie Ave at the corner of Laramie and Sunnyside. For more information call 773-283-2229 or email: [OLVictory-elem@archchicago.org](mailto:OLVictory-elem@archchicago.org).



## Selling Your Home? Get It Resale Ready™!

By Laura Heitz, Right Now Redesign, Inc.

When prepping your home for sale, you need to pretend that you are moving in. Start by noting all of the repairs that are needed. Here are some other quick tips:

- **Clean the windows.**
- **Welcome buyers.** Make sure the entryway features a new doormat and working mailbox. Are the house numbers visible and is the outside light free of cobwebs?
- **Declutter!** Buyers don't care about your treasures. Too many knick knacks make a house look messy.
- **Depersonalize.** Take down the wall of family photos. You want the buyer to imagine themselves in your home.
- **Remove pet odors.** We love our pets, but they can turn off buyers.
- **Stage the rooms.** When in doubt, remove some furniture and the rooms will appear clean and spacious.
- **Repaint as needed.** Tan, ivory and off-white paint colors are popular with buyers because they feel they can just move right in.

Portage Park resident Laura Heitz owns Right Now Redesign, Inc., an interior decorating and redesign company. She can be reached at 773-282-7702 or [laura@rightnowredesign.com](mailto:laura@rightnowredesign.com).

## St. Robert Bellarmine School Alumni Reunion

St. Robert Bellarmine School will hold an all-class reunion on Saturday, May 16, 2009. Alumni will celebrate 5 P.M. Mass in the church, then the school will be open to alumni and their families from 6 to 9 P.M. Attendees can tour the classrooms and reconnect with classmates old and new, their families, teachers, the Sisters, and past and current Pastors. More information, as well as a downloadable alumni information form for sending in your updated alumni contact information, can be found on the school's website: [www.srb-chicago.org](http://www.srb-chicago.org) or through Sue Calcagno, Alumni Reunion Chairperson, at 847-514-8489 or [scalcagno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scalcagno@sbcglobal.net).

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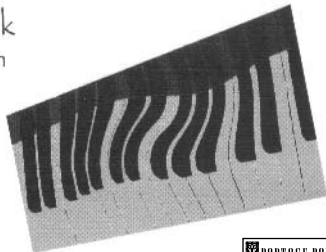


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## Have You Noticed?? *By John Arena*

Portage Park runs on Dunkin Dounuts. Five of these national brand coffee shops within a mile of my home. But not one independent cafe. Even before the arrival of the fifth DD, independent Coffee Shops in this area didn't survive long. With the recent loss of Papa Nicolas Coffee on Milwaukee there is not an indie coffee shop west of Cicero Ave. until you get past Harlem Ave. (J-Bean Coffee).

Now while my taste tends toward the non-standard (Meisa cafe has the best coffee around in my opinion.) DD coffee is fine. But DD's are not a sit down with a paper (or laptop) and hang around kind of place to me. DD wants me in and out. That is the point of difference I am talking about.

We have had four indie coffee shops come and go in the past eight years. Most failed, not because of lack of interest, but because of poor management or reasons outside of their control.

Remember the European Cafe on Milwaukee and Warner? Great coffee and panini sandwiches. It lasted about six months because the owner tended to open at 9 a.m. some days and later most days. Now we all know that the cup of Joe in the morning HAS to be there when we need it. Like at 5 a.m. when we are on our way to work. As a cafe owner, if you don't understand that you don't understand your product or your customer.

Yo Coffee took over the Dunkin Donuts at the Six Corners intersection and made it a year or two. Never could figure out why with so many bus riders but I loved it while it lasted.

Eight months ago Cafe Refresh opened in the old Sun Cafe space on Montrose. Again good coffee and great food but I was doomed from the start. When I first meet the owner, she told me how busy she was with like 3 other ventures. As if the cafe would run itself. Like I said, doomed from the start.

Then we had Papa Nicholas Coffee on Milwaukee Ave. Cynthia and Tim did it right. Great coffee and food. Open early, open late. They put their hart and soul (and money) into the business. At six months they were on track to break even by the end of their first year. Then, with little advance notice, the construction started on Milwaukee Ave. in June 2008. All parking was lost and business dropped by half as commuters had no place to stop and pick up their morning coffee or just avoided the area all together. Their requests to have temporary parking on Anslie was responded to slowly and ineptly by the city. They closed in September 2008.

Now by contrast when I see that when DD needs a two way street access for a drive thru, as in the case with the Milwaukee and Hutchinson location, meetings are set at the ward office and the room is packed with staffers, lawyers, traffic planners, CDOT engineers. Time and energy is put into making sure the business stays in the area. Now we all know money talks but can't the efforts on behalf of the little guy be a more aggressive next time?

**Curb-Cut Redux:** It has been a year since Chicago Klee, LLC. was denied the curb cut on Milwaukee Ave. They can reapply in April. At recent community and SCA meetings the developers, Mark Sussman and Joe Oshinski, have been raising the issue. With 3 new tenants in the commercial spaces opening recently I had hoped they would move on and focus on acquiring tenants by adjusting pricing to match the market rate for the area (they are at \$28/sq. Ft. v. \$17 average) and reach the 50% occupancy threshold required to qualify for the TIF funds set aside for them in the Redevelopment Agreement. Should they be successful in getting the curb-cut when they reapply, count on an Auto Zone (or similar) to take the space on Cicero Ave. So much for the restaurant and foot-friendly tenants promised.

**Speaking of foot-friendly:** The pedestrian walkway is done if you consider the piece-meal plywood wall a unique design element that adds "character". And where is the signage telling people they can get to Cicero Ave or Visa-vera? Something tells me that feature of the building is not very important to the developers.

'Have You Noticed' contains opinions that may not be the opinion of the PPNA board or its members. Have you noticed anything that needs more noticing? Do you have an opinion? Send it to our new address: [haveyounoticed@portagepark.org](mailto:haveyounoticed@portagepark.org)



McMullen

6400 North Harlem Ave.  
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For more information about the PPNA and/or the PPNA News, e-mail us at:

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The PPNA is a Non for Profit 501c4 Social Welfare Organization.

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