

PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

News

APRIL 2008

Meetings and Announcements

Portage Park Neighborhood Association
The next meeting will be on April 14 at 7:30 p.m., 4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

ON THE AGENDA:

Guest Speaker:
Healthy Streets Campaign and Community Fair presenters.

C.A.P.S. Meetings

All meetings at 7 p.m.

Beat 1624 - April 23
at Biagio's Banquets, 4242 N. Central Ave.

Beat 1633 - April 15
at Wright College (Theater) 4300 N. Naragansett

Beat 1634 - April 24
at Portage-Cragin Library, 5108 W. Belmont Ave.

16th District CAPS Office,
312-742-4521

PPNA On-Line

Get the most current info from the PPNA on our web site:
www.portagepark.org

Contacting the PPNA board:
board@portagepark.org

General questions or info:
membership@portagepark.org
communications@portagepark.org
seniors@portagepark.org
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>

Pay with your credit card or your PayPal account.

Association seeks members for Independence Day Kids Parade Committee

With spring just breaking, it seems summer is too far off to even think about. But before we know it, it will be time for one of the biggest events of the summer. Portage Park kids parading down the street on their way to food, entertainment and lots of fun.

The PPNA needs members to round out the planning committee for the The Ninth Annual Independence Day Kids Parade. From fundraising to planning events and entertainment for the hundreds of kids who will attend.

Students seeking credit for social service credits are welcome. Parents are encouraged to get groups together to focus on their area of interest.

The tentative date for the event is Sunday, June 29th. The sooner we start planning the bigger and better the event will be. Make this the year you get involved in this worthwhile event.

Anyone interested in assisting or coordinating this event should contact **Chris Ericksen** at board@portagepark.org.

PPNA Community Fair set for April 14th

Are you looking for a summer program, a day care place, a neighborhood church, and a fitness program near you? Come see it all in one place. Talk with the staff first-hand. Get contact information or enroll at the event.

Participants include the YMCA, Chicago Park District, St. Bartholomew School, Our Lady of Victory school, St. John's Lutheran School, Athletico, LifeSource, Six Corner's Association, and Friends of Portage Park.. It takes place on Monday, April 14, 7:30 pm at the PPNA Public Meeting, 4839 W. Irving Park Road.

Each organization is invited to give a small presentation and is available for information, enrollment and questions. If you have questions or represent an organization that offers a service to the Portage Park neighborhood and would like to participate, please contact Maria Pollock at 773 286 6368 or mariapollock@yahoo.com



Klee Building Gets Finishing Touch, First Tenant
(Below) The Pearl Vision currently located at 4012 N Milwaukee Ave. will be making its move into its new location in the recently redeveloped Klee Building. Store manager Tom Barker expects the move to be completed by April 28th.

(Left) The main residential entrance has had a final finishing touch installed. The building name is featured against a faux-brass detail panel.



Friends of Portage Park

Earth Day Celebration & Kids' Resale

Friends of the Portage Park invites you to our first community event: Earth Day at Portage Park. Join us for the first annual Earth Day Celebration & Kids' toys, clothing and equipment resale.

Join Friends of Portage Park and other community volunteers to clean and green our neighborhood park from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. Explore planned stations such as nature exploration, fitness, environmentalism and mulching, or bring your children to the kids' activity table. Our site will have extra work gloves, but you may want to bring your own to insure you have a pair.

The first fifty teens and adults that volunteer for Earth Day clean up will receive a free t-shirt (while supplies last). In order to ensure enough supplies and gauge participation, please visit www.fotp.org/events/earthday.asp to register

for the clean and green.

The Playground Committee will host its first annual kids clothing, toy and equipment resale. Sellers are needed! Clean out the clothes, toys and equipment your children have outgrown, help to keep them out of landfills and make some money. Tables are \$25 and can be purchased by downloading a form at www.portagepark.org, sending an email to portageparkplayground@gmail.com or calling 773-415-0918. Shoppers - Shop for spring/summer clothing, toys or equipment at reasonable prices. \$1 suggested donation at the door. All proceeds will go towards the playground renovation project.

WANT TO HELP? Help us spread the word. Download a copy of the flyer from www.portagepark.org and post around the neighborhood (schools, churches, restaurants, libraries, cafes, banks, businesses). Volunteers are

needed for Earth Day event. Sign up to volunteer for our Earth Day (info table, resale table, set up/clean up) event by attending our "Friends" monthly meeting, Tuesday, April 1st, 7:30 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center, 4100 N. Long (next to pool). Call 773-415-0918 or send an email to portageparkplayground@gmail.com to volunteer. High School Students: contact us to serve as a volunteer throughout the day to complete service learning hours.

Your opinion matters! Download a copy of Portage Park survey at www.portagepark.org.

Community playground input day: Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m., Portage Park Senior Center.

Save the Date! Sunday, June 8, 1:00 p.m. - Free Children's "Celebrate Summer" Concert in the Park featuring the Caribbean Rhythms of Nelson Gill.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY @ DICKINSON PARK

Saturday April 19 from 9:00 am – 12:00pm, come celebrate Earth Day with your neighbors and friends @ Dickinson Park, 4101 N. Laverne Ave.

Help us clean and green the park curb to curb, tree to tree and the playlots to!

Various activities and entertainment will be scheduled on site along with early concept illustrations of planned improvements for the park for community input. Come with your whole family and bring a garden tool of your own to help us beautify the grounds for the soon to arrive Spring Season!

Volunteers are needed – so plan to attend and help maintain our very own front yard jewel!

Everyone is welcome!



New at Six Corners

X-clusive Resale Shop is open at 4057 N Milwaukee Ave. Hours are 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Mi Boutique is now open at 4048 N. Milwaukee Ave. Offering an eclectic mix of clothing and accessories, as well as eye brow threading, manicures, pedicures and waxing.



Using lamps to brighten up your interiors

By Laura Heitz,

April is National Home Decorating Month and a great time to look around and see what's missing in your living spaces. Lighting is one of the most important and often overlooked choices in decorating our homes.

Lamps are used for light, beauty and even a sculptural effect, depending on the type of shade. A standard size living room of 12x20 feet can handle 4-5 lamps.

When purchasing a lamp sit on a sofa next to it. Then, make sure that the bottom of the shade is no higher than eye level. You don't want to have the glare of the light bulb hitting you in the face.

Two lamps can look quite lovely when flanking a sofa. They don't have to match, but they should have a similar size, color, or material. For example, you want to avoid a silver pewter finish with a gold tone finish. Make sure that the lamps are in proportion with the size of the furnishings. A tiny accent lamp next to an oversized sofa will look odd. And, the shade should never extend beyond the table. If it does, it's too large for that table. Try it in another location.

Purchasing a new shade will quickly update a lamp. Avoid multi pleated shades as they are dust catchers and out of fashion. For reading, try a three-way bulb so that you can select the brightness level that works for your eyes.

Portage Park resident Laura Heitz is a Decorator and Organizer who specializes in working with what you own. Call her at laura@rightnowredesign.com, 773-282-7702, or visit her website www.rightnowredesign.com.

What's New at Our Lady of Victory Spring Open House

Come and view the school and see what OLV has to offer for children in Pre-K 3 through eighth grade.

Wednesday, April 16 from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

One-Rate Tuition Plan In previous years, Our Lady of Victory School has had a separate, higher tuition rate for non-parish school families when compared with parish families. This higher rate has been eliminated, and one tuition plan is now offered beginning in 2008-09 for all school families. The full schedule of tuition rates for 2008-09 is available on the school website, www.olvchicago.org/school.

Lengthened School Day The 2008-09 school day will be lengthened by forty-five minutes in order to enhance educational opportunities as well as incorporate extra-curricular activities, clubs and special interest classes into the regular school day for all students. The new school hours will be 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A before- and after-school program is also offered from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Half-Day Kindergarten Option By popular demand, next year OLV will offer both half-day and full-day Kindergarten. They will continue to offer the present half-day and full-day pre-Kindergarten choices. See the school website tuition page for pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten tuition rates.

Picnic and Prayer in Portage Park On Thursday, April 17, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Our Lady of Victory students will be joining students from the ten Council 7-A Catholic Schools for prayer, a picnic and fellowship at Portage Park. All are welcome to participate in this community prayer event.

HERE I AM LORD Conference The weekend of October 10 to 12, the HERE I AM LORD Vocations Conference will take place at Our Lady of Victory, the Archdiocese of Chicago's first Vocations Parish. The HERE I AM LORD conferences are vocation and discipleship events for teens and young adults.

New Parish and School Website Our Lady of Victory has launched a newly designed website for the parish and school. Check out our new look at www.olvchicago.org.

Open Registration Registration is open for the 2008-09 school year. 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 School, 4434 N. Laramie, 773-283-2229, www.olvchicago.org/school.

Demographics of 60641 from <http://zipskinny.com/>

Hispanic/Latino:	38.8%
White*:	53.1%
Black*:	1.1%
Native American*:	0%
Asian*:	3.8%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*: ..	0%
Other*:	0.2%
Multiracial*:	2.8%

**Does not include individuals in this racial group who identify as Hispanic/Latino.*

Occupation (among employed persons over 16)

Mgt./Professional.....	23.3%
Service.....	18.6%
Sales/Office.....	25.3%
Farm/Fishing/Forestry.....	0.1%
Construction/Maint.	11.2%
Production/Transportation	21.5%

Household Income

<\$10,000	7.7%
\$10,000-\$14,999	5.3%
\$15,000-\$24,999	12.1%
\$25,000-\$34,999	14.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	18.9%
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.7%
\$75,000-\$99,999	9.9%
\$100,000-\$149,999	7.4%
\$150,000-\$199,999	1.3%
\$200,000+	1.1%

Median Household Income:

\$42,182

Unemployment/Poverty

Unemployed.....	4%
Below Poverty Line	9.8%

Portage Park Palates with Jan & Jill

In March, Portage Park Palates plus 3 decided to return to an old favorite. Pizza by Alex on Montrose is my go-to pizza location, but the establishment has something extra to offer that puts it ahead of the game. A few years ago, the owner purchased Caponie's when this location was offered for sale. Then, when the two storefronts next to the takeout business became available, he turned them into a sit down restaurant.

The addition of a large brick pizza oven is an impressive beauty. The room is cheerful, with cloth tablecloths, candles, and large windows at the front. During a recent visit, we all settled into a table near the front of the restaurant. Tasio, our waitress, brought us a loaf of warm bread, glasses and an opener for the three wines we brought to enjoy with our pizza and other Italian favorites. Which brings me to the reason we ventured to Pizza by Alex again: BYO and no corkage fee. This makes dining out in Portage Park very affordable and enjoyable.

We started by ordering an antipasto salad, which is one of our favorites. The salad comes with Italian meats and cheeses, along with lettuce, tomatoes and black olives for \$4.95. There are several really good starter salads like the Caprese salad or pasta salad (both \$4.95). The menu also offers bruchetta and Buffalo wings and mozzarella sticks, to name a few.

We pondered our pizza choices, but decided to try a couple of specialty choices to see what Alex recommended. We tried the Pizza by Alex Pizza, which is a thin crust with thin slices of Italian beef and grilled onions and mushrooms. And the La Ranchera pizza, which is a spicy mix of chipotle sauce, beans mushrooms, onion, and chorezo. We ordered two 14-inch pizzas for \$12.95 each, which was plenty for the three of us with leftovers to spare. The Pizza by Alex was very good, and we could see why he put his name on it.

I've been a customer a long time, and never tried either of these specials, so it was nice to venture into unexplored territory. Another of our party had the chicken parmigiana for \$12.95 and found it hard for him to order anything else. And the fifth dining partner had Chicken a la Putanesca for \$12.95, and thoroughly enjoyed his dinner.

The evening flew by as we talked and drank wine and enjoyed the very good Italian food. This is a great spot to go for dinner or lunch. There are hot and cold sandwiches on the menu, such as the "meat lover" sub or the meatball sandwich for \$3.50 to \$6.00. And there are pasta entrees, chicken and steak entrees and seafood specials, plus create your own thin crust pizza and deep dish and stuffed pizza. Put your imagination and forks to work and bring the wine and beer. This is a recipe for a really great evening. Go for it.

Pizza by Alex is at 5040-77 W. Montrose Ave. It's open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Their phone number is 773-427-8900.

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. or communications@portagepark.org.

Portage Park Neighborhood Association Financial Report

Balance sheet as of March 30, 2008

GENERAL

ASSETS

Previous Ending Balance \$6,595.43
Current Ending Balance \$5,563.23

REVENUE

Membership \$280.00
Newsletter Advertising \$520.00
Total Revenue \$800.00

EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing \$1,395.00
Membership Committee \$22.00
Communications Committee \$82.00
Community Fair Supplies \$8.20
Insurance \$325.00
Total Expenses \$1,832.20

Advertise your business in the PPNA News

The PPNA News 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. Past issues are available for download from our web site, www.portagepark.org. Quarterly and yearly ads will be posted on our web site sponsor page with a link to your web site.

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

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.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The PPNA is in need of a Membership coordinator. Responsibilities include maintaining the membership list, sending out new member cards and renewal letters. Contact Chris Ericksen at board@portagepark.org for more information.

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Coordinate mailing and delivery of newsletters to members and local businesses. Contact John Arena at communications@portagepark.org for more information.

WEB SITE ADMINISTRATOR

Update and maintain the association web site. Contact Maria Pollack at web@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 for more information.

CLASSIFIEDS

Members who have something to announce, sell, rent, or need a service can post your note for free! Call 283-9887 or send it to us at communications@portagepark.org

HOUSE FOR SALE

Beautiful house for sale in portage park
5145 W. Byron Street.
Beautifully renovated 4 bedroom, 2 bath
Asking \$338,900. Call Rob 773-283-3534

PPNA Members

Post your ad for FREE!
Send it to communications@portagepark.org

Membership Leaders!

Top blocks as of 4/1/08:

- 9 - 4100 LeClaire
- 8 - 4100 Leamington
- 7 - 5300 Cullom, 4100 Lawler
- 6 - 4100 Lavergne, 5100 Hutchinson, 4000 Milwaukee.
- 5 - 5300 Berenice

PPNA has 154 paid members for 2008. If your not one of them join or renew your membership today at www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html

Public Meeting Agenda Monday, April 14, 2008 7:30 p.m.

4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

I. Call to Order: Gerard Staniszewski

II. President's Opening Statement:
Gerard Staniszewski

III. Healthy Street Campaign representative will talk about the groups efforts to make Chicago streets safe for bikers and pedestrians.

IV. Community Fair presentations.

V. Old/New Business

VI. Meeting Adjourned

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SUNDAY, MAY 4
12:30-4:30 P.M.

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Volunteers needed for Hands To Help Ministries in fighting homelessness

We've all seen the homeless sleeping in the doorways and panhandlers standing in traffic for change. The poverty problem is nationwide, even worldwide, but you can help attack it locally. Please take the time to attend an information session for people who want to help the local homeless and those at risk of losing their homes being held by Hands To Help Ministries at 7:30 p.m., April 15, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner Ave.

A new advocacy approach to ending homelessness that does not require a burdensome time or financial commitment will be discussed. The new approach helps guide the homeless and those at-risk through applying for assistance and job training in order to gain self-sufficiency.

Hands To Help Ministries is an interfaith service group comprised of several local churches and organizations. Knowledge in personal finance, the law and employment would be particularly helpful, but the most important requirement is the desire to help those in need.

The homeless in the area stay here usually because they have family or social ties to the area. In other words, the people you see in the doorways and begging for change are your neighbors, too. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to learn how to help them.

For more information, call Hands To Help President Kara Wagner Sherer at (773) 725-9026.

PPNA 2008 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 in 2008:

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.

Please 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: Chris Ericksen
5135 W. Montrose Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641

Celebrate Earth Day! Green Recycling Fundraiser

Recycle your old personal and or business computer equipment - monitors, keyboards, modems, mice, CPU's, laptops, printers, scanners, storage devices, old cell phones and more!

The money raised will go to the Illinois Girls Down Under Track Team's expenses to participate in the Down Under Sports tournament this summer in Australia. www.run-girlsruntoaussie.com

Drop off at Lane Tech High School parking lot, Saturday, April 19th, 8 am - 4 pm. Contact Jeanne Cuff 847-812-9520 for more information.

Taste Of St. Bart's

After a day of looking after the your corner of the Earth enjoy a some food and fun. Saturday, April 19th, 6:00pm-8:00pm, St. Bartholomew School - Krueger Hall, 4941 W. Patterson Ave

Adults: \$6.00 (includes 10 tickets), Children under 12: \$3.00 (includes 6 tickets), Additional tickets: 50¢

Purchase your Raffle tickets for a chance to win a cash prize! Raffle tickets are available for \$10 at the "Taste". Winners announced at the event (winners need not be present). For more information call the St. Bart's Rectory at 773-286-7871 or <http://www.stbartsschool.net/Taste.html>.



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15% off spa pedicure

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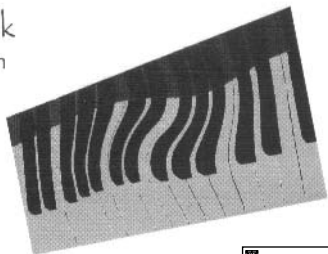

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April Portage Park Events

- April 16** National Start! Walking Day 3:30 p.m.
April 19 Earth Day Celebration & Kids' Resale 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
April 21 Summer Camp on-line registration 9:00 a.m.
April 26 CPD Summer Camp in-person registration
May 6 Friends of Portage Park Meeting 7:30 p.m. Senior Center

Visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com to sign up for current spring session classes. Portage Park phone number 773-685-7235

Rats Invade Independence Park!

No, not real ones. The animated kind. IPAC (Independence Park Advisory Council) will be showing Ratatouille at Independence Park, 3945 N. Springfield, Chicago, on Saturday, April 12, at 2:30 pm. It's free. Please bring your own snacks and drinks. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No drop-offs allowed. Please come and enjoy the movie.

Irving Park Community Food Pantry Fund Raiser

Community members are invited to indulge their senses with an evening of fine wine and savory appetizers in a unique setting, filled with music and friends. Over 20 wines will be poured. The event is being generously sponsored by local restaurants and wine shops. All proceeds support the Irving Park Community Food Pantry.

With the support of local churches, schools, scouts, and civic organizations, the food pantry provides services to over 1200 individuals each month. The goal of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry is to provide caring, consistent service by distributing available resources to those in need.

Tickets are \$40 and space is limited so reserve today. Deadline April 16. Contact Jennifer 773/844-9900.

PPNA Membership Card 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
D'Absolute Cafe & Bar	10% off entire check, every day
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
Eclips Unisex Hair Design:	20% off haircuts Tue, Wed, & Thurs
NEW! 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
Meisa Cafe	10% off entire check, every day
María Pollock-Piano Tuning	\$10 off (773 286-6368)
Miss Kitty's Pet Service	10% discount for vacation care
New Six Corners Flowers	15% discount
Portage Park Center for the Arts	10% off your first class
Portage Park Handyman	10% off with proof of membership
Portage Theater	\$2 off ticket price. (except silent films)
NEW! 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. 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, 2007.

Fashion, food and fun at Girlfriends Night Out at Six Corners

Learn how to maintain healthy skin, select the right hair style and dance a few salsa steps while laughing with your girlfriends at Girlfriends Night Out at 6:30 p.m., April 24 at Las Tablas, 4920 W. Irving Park Road.

Six Corners businesses will offer their expertise on a number of topics at this informative and fun event. Appetizers will be served. A \$1 donation will be requested for the Irving Park Food Pantry.

Women can wander from presentation to presentation to learn about fashion, jewelry, home décor and personal finance. The presentations will be followed by salsa dance lessons and each attendee will leave with a gift bag full of samples and offers.

Food will be served by Las Tablas, along with Meisa Café, 4920 W. Irving Park Road, and Family Bistro, 4929 W. Irving Park Road.

The presentations will include:

- How to raise healthy houseplants by New Six Corners Flowers, 4851 W. Irving Park Road
- Maintaining healthy skin by Today's Avon, 4042 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- Spring colors: Cleaning colored gems by Gato & Sons Jewelry, 4849 W. Irving Park Road
- Getting to the roots of hair care by Villa Roma Hair Designers, 3936 N. Cicero Ave.
- Hair for you: Selecting the right style by Sears Hair Salon, 4730 W. Irving Park Road.
- Beyond "O": The best magazines for a better you by City Newsstand, 4018 N. Cicero Ave.
- Tax busters: Things women should know about taxes by H&R Block, 4931 W. Irving Park Road
- Teen Safe Driver Program by American Family Insurance, 3948 N. Cicero Ave.,

RSVPs required. Call the Six Corners Association at (773) 685-9300.

News for Residents of the 38th Ward

The Senior Free Ride Program will begin on March 17, 2008.

While planning your spring or summer remodeling project, don't forget to obtain a building permit. A building permit gives you, your insurance company, your neighbors and the City assurance that specific minimum standards are met when constructing, altering, or repairing your home by complying with the Chicago Building Code.

The Neighborhood Residential Permit Center can assist you with all of your building permit needs. The Neighborhood Permit Center is located at 2550 W. Addison Street. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Repair permits are on a walk-in basis. For more information and to verify hours of operation, call 312-744-3449.

If you should have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact my office at 773-545-3838 or via email at ward38@cityofchicago.org

Thomas R. Allen, Alderman, 38th Ward

News for Residents of the 45th Ward

Sign up for 2008 Summer Day Camp & Summer Park Programs. Online April 21 at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or in person April 26.

City Stickers go on sale Monday, June 16th, 5205 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Alderman Levar is happy to announce the allocation of \$100,000 in discretionary funds for improvements at the Dickinson Playlot. The money is in the process of being transferred to the Chicago Park District. The project will be sent to engineering and a community meeting will be held regarding the conceptual design.

Open Office Hours: Monday nights, 6pm to 8pm (this can vary depending on demand and previous commitments, so we suggest people phone before they plan to come). Any concerns: Call our 45th Ward Public Service Office Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm (773 545-2545).

Pat Levar, Alderman, 38th Ward



Garden Club Update

by Jan Kupka

Before long, the spring flowering bulbs will be in bloom. Once they're finished blooming, deadhead the spent flower heads to direct their energy back to their roots so they can build vigor for next year. Also dead-head fading flowers on other plants.

When the leaves are still green and the flowers start to decline, sprinkle a handful of fertilizer around the bulbs and water well.

Remove the foliage when it turns yellow and withers. Once the foliage has yellowed you can safely cut it off at ground level. The leaves help the bulbs build strength for next year's blooms, so the longer the foliage lasts the better the bulbs will grow the following year.

After three or four years some hardy bulbs start to crowd each other and don't bloom well. After the foliage dies, carefully dig up the bulbs, shake off the loose soil and discard small and diseased bulbs. Bulbs can be stored until the fall or replanted in a flower bed with plenty of organic matter and room to grow.

Here are some of the most popular spring bulbs:

One of the first to bloom is the Crocus a lovely spring blooming bulb for the shade. Another popular bulb for the shade is the lovely Grape Hyacinth.

Narcissus is very easy to grow from bulbs. In mid- to late-spring, each stem of the Narcissus bears one fragrant flower featuring a small central cup of a variety of colors, depending on the type and surrounded by white petals. Deer and squirrels avoid the plants because of the poisonous nature of the bulbs.

Daffodils are in the same family as the Narcissus and are dependable perennial bulbs, blooming in early-, mid-, or late-spring, depending on the type. The center of the flower is a trumpet, while the length varies among types, surrounded by a collar of petals that can be a different color. Colors include yellow, orange, white, red, and peach. Some are fragrant. The narrow leaves emerge before the flowers do and are a little shorter than the flower stalk. It may be hard to believe, but this pretty flower is also poisonous. Deer and squirrels know enough to leave them alone, but small children may not be aware of the danger.

Stella D' Oro Daylily are happiest in sun to part-shade conditions. The Stella D' Oro has a long blooming period—from late spring to fall. It will produce a profuse display of bright yellow flowers all summer long with no maintenance. Try planting daylilies among spring bulbs. Their growing foliage will disguise the fading leaves of tulips, daffodils and other early bloomers.

The Tulip Days along North Michigan Avenue begins April 16 through May 31. Sponsored by the Greater North Michigan Ave Association, 312-642-3570, www.gnmaa.com

The April Garden Club meeting will be held Saturday, April 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the community room on the 2nd floor (there is an elevator) of the Austin Irving Library, 6100 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-744-6222. Refreshments will be served. The garden club will host a pruner sharpening workshop. For more information call the Portage Park Garden Club at 773-794-1984 or e-mail the PPGC at portageparkgc@comcast.net.

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Have You Noticed??

By Gerard M. Staniszewski

I am not naive enough to believe that the PPNA's once a month meetings will always be full, so, it was a pleasure when we packed the house for the March meeting. It is good to see that people are willing to come out and debate issues that are important to the neighborhood. Thank you to all who came.

During the discussion on the proposed Nick's Pizza & Pub, one recurring theme was voiced by more than a few people. The theme was the empty restaurants or the lack of restaurants in our neighborhood. We even have people who travel outside the neighborhood to go all the way to Lakeview or other far-go locations to fulfill restaurant needs. Personally, I think we have some kind of identity crises. Do we think our neighborhood is not as good as others? Is it a second class neighborhood, if that? While I know Nick's will be a welcome addition the neighborhood, it will be only one of many.

Do you realize we have well over twenty local restaurants? I have been to most of them and they are all pretty good. Our own Portage Park Palates invites people out every month to try a new restaurant and encourages reviews. Why not get on board and join them?

The neighborhood has a wide range of styles within walking distance for many or a very short drive. Anything from a Channel 11 Check Please favorites, La Peña and Las Tablas, to the first Papa Nicholas Café. We have fast food in Romas and Jeff's. Do not forget a good Italian restaurant that also has good take out and BYOB is Pizza by Alex. Speaking of BYOB, one of the best (my opinion) Thai restaurants in the city is Thai Arie House on Milwaukee south of Addison. I could go on. Again, I am going to repeat, in the Six Corners area, within just a few blocks over twenty restaurants.

As President of the PPNA I have voiced my opinion that you should buy everything you can local first. Now with gas prices at an all time high and no relief in sight, why not take a walk, save the gas money and spend it at a good local restaurant.

'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

THIS IS ME HOLDS 6TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION: "EMPOWER A GIRL, ENRICH OUR WORLD"

ON Friday, MAY 2nd, begin your Cinco De Mayo celebration early at the Wicker Park Adobo Grill (2005 W Division, Chicago) and support an amazing Chicago nonprofit girls organization! Join us for This Is ME's 6th annual Silent Auction. This Is ME provides a unique opportunity for adolescent girls to participate in dynamic and empowering programs. By offering everything from Improv theatre workshops to homework help sessions, This Is ME participants discover their interests and meet new friends, all while receiving encouragement from positive role models to explore the world of opportunity before them.

Not only will your ticket purchase help support this outstanding program, it also provides you with 2 drinks, delicious food, desserts, and great company! A wide variety of auction items will be available for bidding. Items include jewelry from local designers, sporting event tickets, travel packages, artwork, and much, much, more! That's not all... test your luck by entering our raffle. Only 100 tickets will be sold for a chance to win a grand prize of \$1,000 and 2nd prize of \$500. We hope you can stop by for this worth while night of fun. If you're not able to make the event but would like to make a contribution, donations are accepted online through paypal at www.thisismeinc.org.

This Is ME provides adolescent and teen girls with enriching, esteem-based programs. The overarching goal of our organization is that adolescent girls will learn about themselves, grow in confidence, express themselves more clearly, increase their decision-making abilities and take on more leadership roles as a result of their participation in This Is ME programming. Since January 2000, This Is ME has served over 450 girls in Chicago, aged 10-17.

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For more information about the PPNA and/or the PPNA News, e-mail us at:
board@portagepark.org or On-line at www.portagepark.org

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

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