



PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community
News & Views

DECEMBER 2008

Meetings and Announcements

**Portage Park
Neighborhood Association:**
Next Meeting -
8th Annual Holiday Party

*Dec. 7, Time 2 - 6 p.m.,
Portage Theater
4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.*

*There will be no January
public meeting or newsletter.
Happy holidays!*

C.A.P.S. Meetings

No meetings in December for
these beats. All meetings at 7 p.m.

Beat 1624 - Weds., Jan. 28
at Biagio's Banquets,
4242 N. Central Ave.

Beat 1633 - Tues., Dec. 20
at Merimack Park
6343 W. Irving Park Rd.

Beat 1634 - Thur., Jan 22
at Portage-Cragin Library,
5108 W. Belmont Ave.

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

PPNA On-Line

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

Pay with your credit card or
your PayPal account.



Eighth Annual
HOLIDAY PARTY
2:00 p.m.
December 7th, 2008

Featuring screenings of selected
holiday shorts and "It's a Wonderful Life"

Portage Theater
4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Please bring a canned or dry
food item to support the
IRVING PARK FOOD PANTRY
or an unwrapped toy to support
LYDIA HOME

This FREE* event includes:

Appetizers and desserts from local eateries, coffee and hot
chocolate. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will make a special
appearance. Bring your camera's (and your wish list!)
Mrs. Claus will provide story time, activities for the whole family.
PLUS! Our annual raffle and movies on the big screen!

***Free to all current and renewing members.**
All New and Renewing PPNA Members will be
entered to WIN the MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE!

*\$5 donation per person for non-members
All proceeds go to fund the PPNA, a 501c4
non for-profit*



Z Frank Chevy Moves Closer to Customer Base

Better customer service was the prime motivation for Z Frank Chevrolet's move to Portage Park, according to owner Chuck Frank. Their new location at 5333 W. Irving Park Road, the former Lynch auto facility, "Puts us within a short drive or walk of two-thirds of their customers," he explained.

Z Frank built this strong loyal customer base during their 70 years of operation at their original 6039 N. Western Ave. address. This location will continue as their KIA dealership. But servicing the GM vehicles of their long time customers now becomes more convenient with the Irving Park site.

Chuck Frank emphasizes this "service" aspect of his dealership by putting his own cell phone number on the business cards, noting that customers may personally call him at any time. The dealership also owns a limo used for driving customers to their destination after they drop off their cars for servicing.

Customers are encouraged to make an appointment for service, but drive-ups are not turned away. The department is open Mondays through Saturdays.



The Z Frank limo will get you to and from service visits.

A three-generation business, the "Z" in Z Frank comes from Zollie, Chuck's father, who founded the dealership in 1936. Zollie Frank's success is evidenced by a showroom photo of

him on a yacht with Pres. John F. Kennedy.

Z Frank's new showroom will be renovated to reflect the Chevrolet brand. Some additional amenities will stress a family environment, such as a sandbox and playhouse where children can entertain themselves while parents peruse the showroom models. The updated facility will hopefully be finished in time to feature the new energy-efficient Volt and Chevy Camaro when they become available.

Z Frank offers an experienced financing staff to help new customers find an affordable loan. Hours for the showroom are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays. The Saturday closing time is very flexible, noted Chuck Frank, since the dealership never turns away a customer.

More information about Z Frank can be found at their web site: www.zfrank.com or by calling 773-465-2000

Show your neighborhood pride!

- 9 members - 4100 LeClaire
- 9 members - 4100 Leamington
- 8 members - 4100 Lawler
- 7 members - 4100 Lavergne
- 7 members - 4000 Milwaukee
- 7 members - 5300 Cullom
- 6 members - 5100 Hutchinson
- 5 members - 5300 Berenice
- 5 members - 5300 Pensacola
- 5 members - 5200 Warner

Don't see your block listed above?
Join or renew your membership today at:
www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html

November Meeting Recap

At the Nov. 10 public meeting over 30 members welcomed Comdr. Anthony Riccio, as he gave his assessment of the 16th District. Over his first nine months in the position he has addressed many such community meetings in order to get to know the neighborhoods and the issues on residents minds.

He spoke about some of the challenges of policing a district that is thirty square miles in size. For comparison, if the district was a city it would be the second largest in Illinois. The 16th District is the safest district in the city with 1 incident per 42 residents. Robbery and burglary are the most common crimes and arrests are up for the year.

The district is using data tracking to identify high crime locations and use a "cops on dots" approach to allocate resources. When needed, he can call in Narcotics or Vice units to address problem areas. To ensure landlords maintain their properties and quickly address problem tenants, the police can call in the Strategic Building Inspection Task Force. Non-responsive landlords will risk having a team of electric, plumbing and building inspectors sweep their building for code infractions. This has been effective in motivating the building owner to act since fines can run into the thousands of dollars. Officers are continuing the use of contact cards to create profiles on individuals involved in repeated reports of suspect behavior.

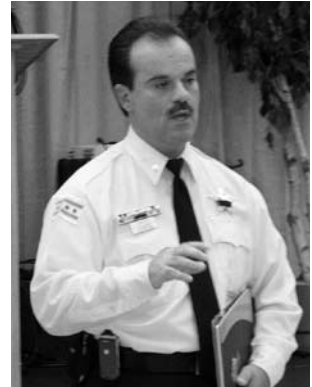
Controlling graffiti was high on the list of issues raised. Comdr. Riccio urged residents to report the graffiti to 311 and take a picture and e-mail it to graffiti016@cityofchicago.org. This will get the symbol in the police database used to identify patterns of tagger or gang activity.

Residents near Dickinson Park raised the issue of the blue light camera overlooking the park. He explained that since it was purchased out of Ald. Levar's budget he has say over its location. The camera has had over 200 missions (times when it is monitored by a live officer) and has not recorded a single incident. The resident that pushed to have the camera installed has since moved and a number of current residents have expressed a desire to remove the camera.

He has discussed the relocation of the camera with Ald. Levar and there is agreement that it can do more good elsewhere. In a follow-up, Ald. Levar indicated the Jefferson Park CTA terminal is being considered, though a specific time frame has not been set.

"There are many common sense, inexpensive ways to protect yourself, your family and property" said Comdr. Riccio.

The district is working on a program of safety seminars and site surveys. These will give residents and business owners proactive steps they can take to deter criminals. Officers can be invited to come to a home or business and make recommendations on improving lighting, locks and securing entry points.



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8 rules for holiday decorating

By Laura Heitz, Right Now Redesign, Inc.

- 1) Declutter first. Put away your everyday accessories; don't add holiday items on top of your usual decorations -- it'll create visual chaos.
- 2) If you have a collection, group it on a side table or mantel - snow globes, Santa's, candles, etc. Pieces that are similar look more important when placed together.
- 3) Move your pieces around each year. It's fun and it makes you feel as if you went shopping.
- 4) Using green, plus one color, can be stunning.
- 5) If you have a theme, it will make the decorating easier; this goes for the exterior also. You don't want to place the nativity scene next to a snow globe filled with dancing elves.
- 6) Think about the style of your home before you purchase new holiday decor. There's a reason that Victorians look good with traditional

décor. A bungalow looks good with a casual, natural look.

7) If you have a small amount of decorations, concentrate on one room - where the family spends the most time.

8) You don't have to spend a fortune. Three large glass vases filled with inexpensive satin ornaments and large bows makes a nice table-cape.

And, when you buy a Room Redesign before December 15, I'll add on the holiday decorating for that room - for FREE!

Portage Park resident Laura Heitz is an Interior Decorator and Redesigner. She can be reached at 282-7702 or laura@rightnowredesign.com.



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Refresh, reclaim, redo

News for residents of the 38th Ward

There will be a Winter Preparedness Fair on December 16th at Prosser Career Academy, 2138 N. Long, from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. It will provide attendees with direct access to a variety of winter-related assistance programs. In addition to receiving a free weatherization kit, attendees can learn valuable tips on how to stay comfortable and safe during the winter months without over-spending on utility bills, can apply for utility bill assistance, and have direct access to a variety of city and local assistance programs.

Don't forget about the overnight parking ban and snow-related parking restrictions that went into effect on December 1st. The winter overnight parking ban (3:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.) is posted on one dozen main priority routes. This lasts until April 1st, regardless of snow. Motorists who ignore this ban face a \$150 tow fee in addition to a \$50 ticket. A separate seasonal parking ban exists when there are at least 2 inches of snow on the street. Cars that violate this ban face a ticket and relocation to a space nearby.

I'd like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season! A list of holiday celebrations throughout Chicago can be found at www.cityofchicago.org under "Events". Christmas tree recycling information also will be posted on this web site under "Streets and Sanitation".

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

- Thomas R. Allen, Alderman, 38th Ward

**Alderman Patrick Levar - 45th Ward &
State Representative Joseph Lyons - 19th District
Invites All Boys and Girls Ages 5 to 12**

A Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Wilson Park - 4630 N. Milwaukee

**Featuring Santa Claus, Magic Show, Bike Raffles, Candy
(Raffle Winners Must Be Present)**

- Chiropractic • Massage Therapy
- Rehabilitation • Acupuncture



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

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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

POSITION FILLED!

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.



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
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. 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.

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

COLD FOR SALE

3'x4' Chest Freezer,

Kenmore 21 Cu. Ft. refrigerator.

Both in good condition. Asking \$45 Ea.

Call John at 773-283-9887

**PPNA Holiday Party Meeting Agenda
Sunday, Dec. 7th, 2008
2:00 - 6 p.m.,
4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.**

- I. Call to Order:
Gerard Staniszewski
- II. President's Opening Statement:
Happy Holidays!
- III. Committee Reports:
Tabled until Feb. 9, 2009
As they say, "All work and no play..."
- IV. **Special Guests - Santa and Mrs. Clause**
- V. Old/New Business: Member and General Raffle Drawing
- VII. Party Adjourned

PPNA Financial Report

Balance sheet as of Nov. 30, 2008

GENERAL ASSETS

Previous Ending Balance \$6,647.73
Current Ending Balance \$7,380.89

REVENUE

Newsletter Advertising \$700.00

Total Revenue \$700

EXPENSES

..... \$0.00

Total Expenses \$0.00

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. 1,200 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

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



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 Sunday School
 9:30 a.m.

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Before you go to the Christmas tree lot to make your purchase, know how large your space is. This means the height, the width and the minimum and maximum diameter of the tree stand. Whittling down the trunk of the tree will kill it; a trunk that is so small the screws are not anchored deep enough will likely topple over.

Make sure the stand you choose has a substantial water reservoir because the tree, at least at the beginning, may easily suck up a gallon or more of water a day. If you have a large tree and there are holes in the stand's base, bolt them to a 2- or 3-foot square of 3/4-inch plywood for extra stability. Use WD40 on the screws.

Look for a tree that is straight and as well-balanced as possible, with a single centered trunk the right size for your stand. Have the lot where you purchased the tree cut off branches that are within 10 inches of the bottom and one inch off the bottom. When you put the tree in the stand make sure it is mounted securely and located away from open flames or heat sources. Fill the reservoir and continue to replenish with water every day.

Check the lights to see that they are working properly and the cords are not frayed. If the strand is questionable – throw it away. Always use outdoor lights and start trimming from the top of the tree. Do not use more than seven strands connected strand to strand. Never leave the lights on if you are not home.

When you're ready to take the tree down and if you're feeling ambitious and eco-friendly, instead of leaving your Christmas tree in the alley, cut off the branches and lay them around the bases of roses or over perennials as winter mulch. Less to put in the landfill!

And when the snow comes (and it will): When shoveling or blowing snow, try to dump it on top of perennials -- as long as it doesn't have any salt in it. Snow is often called "white mulch" and a good blanket of it will protect plants from temperature extremes. Use calcium chloride instead of sodium chloride on your walks. Calcium chloride has many uses one is as an antifreeze agent for ice and snow removal nearly everywhere. This is because the dissolving process is highly exothermic (releases heat) and rapidly produces temperatures of around 60°C. Unlike the more-common rock salt (sodium chloride) the white pellets of the calcium chloride are relatively harmless to plants and soil. It is also more effective at lower temperatures than regular salt. Or, better yet, use sand, which doesn't hurt your plants a bit.

Upcoming Flower Show at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park 312-746-5100, celebrating Holiday Traditions runs November 28 through January 11. The culminating centennial show will use traditional poinsettias (mainly reds) that were popular at the turn of the Century, flowering plant material in reds, oranges, and whites. The exhibit is open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Thursdays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. There is no fee to explore the Conservatory. Admission and parking are free.

The Portage Park Garden Club will resume their monthly meetings at the Austin- Irving Library, 6100 . Irving Park Rd, at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, February 21, 2009. For more information call 773-794-1984.

HOME CENTER

4 Pre-Winter Repairs You Can't Afford To Skip

1. Clean those gutters. Once the leaves fall, remove them and other debris from your home's gutters -- by hand, by scraper or spatula, and finally by a good hose rinse -- so that winter's rain and melting snow can drain. Clogged drains can form ice dams, in which water backs up, freezes and causes water to seep into the house. As you're hosing out your gutters, look for leaks and misaligned pipes. Also, make sure the downspouts are carrying water away from the house's foundation, where it could cause flooding or other water damage. The rule of thumb is that water should end up at least 10 feet away from the house.

2. Block those leaks. One of the best ways to winterize your home is to simply block obvious leaks around your house, both inside and out, experts say. The average American home has leaks that amount to a nine-square-foot hole in the wall, according to EarthWorks Group.

First, find the leaks: On a breezy day, walk around inside holding a lit incense stick to the most common drafty areas: recessed lighting, window and door frames, electrical outlets.

Then, buy door sweeps to close spaces under exterior doors, and caulk or apply tacky rope caulk to those drafty spots. Outlet gaskets can easily be installed in electrical outlets that share a home's outer walls, where cold air often enters.

Outside, seal leaks with weather-resistant caulk. For brick areas, use masonry sealer, which will better stand up to freezing and thawing. Even if it's a small crack, it's worth sealing up. It also discourages any insects from entering your home.

3. Insulate yourself. Another thing that does cost a little money -- but boy, you do get the money back quick -- is adding insulation to the existing insulation in the attic. Regardless of the climate conditions you live in, in the (U.S.) you need a minimum of 12 inches of insulation in your attic. Don't clutter your brain with R-values or measuring tape, though. If you go into the attic and you can see the ceiling joists you know you don't have enough, because a ceiling joist is at most 10 or 11 inches. A related tip: If you're layering insulation atop other insulation, don't use the kind that has "kraft face" finish (i.e., a paper backing). It acts as a vapor barrier, Lipford explains, and therefore can cause moisture problems in the insulation.

4. Check the furnace. First, test your furnace to make sure it's working before the coldest weather descends. You may detect a strong, odd, short-lasting smell which is natural when firing up the furnace in the autumn; simply open windows to dissipate it. But if the smell lasts a long time, shut down the furnace and call a professional.

It's a good idea to have furnaces cleaned and tuned annually. Costs will often run about \$100-\$125. An inspector should do the following, among other things:

- *Make sure that the thermostat and pilot light are working properly.*
- *Make sure that the fuel pipe entering your furnace doesn't have a leak.*
- *Check the heat exchanger for cracks -- a crack can send carbon monoxide into the home.*
- *Change the filter. Throughout the winter you should change the furnace filters regularly (check them monthly). A dirty filter impedes air flow, reduces efficiency and could even cause a fire in an extreme case. Toss out the dirty fiberglass filters; reusable electrostatic or electronic filters can be washed.*

Portage Park Palates by Jan and Jill



I was in the planning stages for another article, when the Garden Club movers and shakers decided to go out to Galvin's Public House, 5901 W. Lawrence Ave, and toast the year end. It was suggested that we write about Galvin's again, but with an angle toward their specials. So this is that article.

Portage Park Palates plus three went over to check out Galvin's Tuesday night \$3.00 burger special. I got to the pub a little early, parking just west of the building in their lot. I really enjoy the vibe of the place and all its neighborhood charms. Lots of locals enjoying the food and the bar. In fact, at one point someone broke into song at the bar, an old ditty in fair Irish baritone. Charming.

The specials are something to sing about to be sure. Offered Monday through Thursday, and run about \$5.00. But the burger night wins hands down for popularity and value. The weekend special's slant is more to the finer offerings like rack of lamb. This is a fine place to dine, any day of the week.

We sat at a big round table far inside the restaurant. It's a large, homey room with a huge bar along one side and a fireplace near the front across from the door. It's decorated for the season but it is an Irish pub all the way, with charming decor and tons of couples and families. The owner told me it was a busy night, and said the burger special really drew people. We all ordered beers, with some of us ordering local domestic beer in the bottle, and a couple of us ordered imported drafts of Smithwicks (Smitty's for the really familiar). Pints of creamy beer were quaffed, and we knew we were all going to order the special burgers.

The burgers are about 6 oz. and are cooked to order on the grill. Garnishes are included but extras, like cheese (cheddar, swiss, mozzarella, etc.), mushrooms, bacon or grilled onions are 50 cents each. The meat was moist and flavorful, and came with fries or homemade chips. The fries are very good, but the chips are addictive. In fact, we would later order a basket of chips for the table, and they made good munching with the beer.

While our table didn't break into song we had a great time, a great meal at a great price. As reviewed before the full menu is very good and the atmosphere cannot be beat. So, go to Galvin's for fun, great food and great company. Who knows, you may just be the next patron to break into song.

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 2009 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.



We are pleased to announce that we have moved out of our location inside Bally Total Fitness and into a brand new, larger facility.

We are located at 4956 W. Irving Park Road, Suite 200. The closest cross street is Lavergne Ave. Our suite is located in the building with Optima Family Dental on the north side of Irving Park Road. There is plenty of street parking right outside our office and is accessible by CTA with a stop at Irving and Lavergne.

Our phone number will remain the same at our new address. Visit us online at www.taylorrehab.com or call 773-725-5835. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Members needed to fill seats on Nominations Committee


The PPNA Board is seeking two members to sit on the Nominations Committee. The PPNA Nominating Committee is set each year by the Association president and tasked with setting the slate of candidates up for membership vote at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Feb 9th, 2009. Per the association by-laws, the committee is comprised of three sitting board members and at least two general members in good standing.

Current board member and Secretary, Maria Pollock, is up for reelection. She will be running for a seat on the board but will not seek a second term as Secretary. Jill Stanizowski will be seeking a first term on the board and has indicated she would like to take up the Membership Committee Chair.

This leaves nine seats open out of sixteen. Adding directors in the coming year is critical for the PPNA to continue to represent the community at the level it has for the past eight years. If you are interested in seeing the PPNA hold more social events, improve neighborhood parks, communicate issues or improve the business district then consider running for a seat on the board of directors. Contact Gerard at 736-3076 for more information. Visit www.portagepark.org for more information on current PPNA activities.



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Have You Noticed?? *By Abigail Dean*

Portage Park residents might be wondering, as I have been, what's going on with the city's recycling program? Over the summer, blue bags were scarcely available at Jewel, and rumors of the Blue Bag program's cancellation circulated—but no one was really sure... A quick call to the 45th Ward Alderman's office answered many of my questions, while raising some new ones.

First and foremost, the Blue Bag recycling program, at least for the Portage Park neighborhood, was cancelled this past summer.

Some of you may have heard about the new-and-improved replacement initiative: the Blue Cart program, where residents are given blue carts to deposit recyclable materials.

While some neighborhoods are currently participating in the Blue Cart pilot program, Portage Park is not one of them—although Alderman Levar has petitioned for our involvement on several occasions. A representative for the 45th ward stated that the program would reach our neighborhood sometime before 2010. On the Department of the Environment website, citywide implementation of the Blue Cart program is slated for 2011.

Part of the delay is that the City of Chicago is assuming the cost of the program. Although a portion of the cost is offset by disposal savings, as the recycled material will not reach a landfill and can be resold. Also, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is providing a four year, \$8 million grant to partially fund the purchase of the carts.

While the timeline of a city organized recycling pick-up for Portage Park residents remains ambiguous, there are some viable options for nearby recycling. The city has established a convenient alternative for those awaiting the Blue Cart program, by installing 16 neighborhood recycling centers citywide. The Portage Park center is located at 4243 N. Neenah, open seven days a week during daytime hours. The center processes the same range of materials as blue bags and carts, and all recyclables can be mixed together. Acceptable materials include: glass jars and bottles, aluminum cans, foil and pie tins, tin or steel cans, cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, cardboard (flatten all boxes), plastic bottles and containers (numbers 1-5 and 7), junk mail, magazines and catalogs, telephone books, paper bags, office paper and file folders, newspaper and inserts, beverage cartons (milk, juice, soy cartons).

However, certain items should NOT be recycled at these centers: yard waste, non-recyclable trash (food scraps, styrofoam or #6 plastic, plastic bags), household hazardous waste and electronics. You can take all household hazardous waste and old computers to the city's new permanent facility, Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling, located at 1150 N. North Branch Street, which is two blocks east of the Kennedy Expressway at Division Street. Computers and related equipment, cell phones, paints, cleaners, solvents and other chemicals are accepted at the Household Products and Electronics Collection and Training Center. All household and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at all Chicago Walgreens (at the photo desk) and at all Chicago Public Libraries.

Other convenient recycling options for Portage Park residents are nearby schools and churches, such as Our Lady of Victory (5212 W Agatite Ave.), St John's Lutheran School (3939 W. Montrose), St. Tarcissus (6020 W. Ardmore), or at commercial recycling facilities like North Park Village Resource Center at 5801 N. Pulaski.

Ultimately, while no curb or alley pick-up program yet exists for our neighborhood, many convenient options are available in the interim. For detailed information, visit the Department of the Environment at www.cityofchicago.org or The Chicago Recycling Coalition at www.chicagorecycling.org.

'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

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