

PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

News

JUNE 2008

Meetings and Announcements

Portage Park Neighborhood Association
The next meeting will be on June 9, 7:30 p.m., 4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

ON THE AGENDA:
Guest Speaker: TBD

C.A.P.S. Meetings

All meetings at 7 p.m.

Beat 1624 - June 25
at Biagio's Banquets,
4242 N. Central Ave.

Beat 1633 - June 17
at Wright College (Theater)
4300 N. Naragansett

Beat 1634 - June 26
at Portage-Cragin Library,
5108 N. 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.

PORTAGE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
& CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

INDEPENDENCE DAY
KIDS PARADE & PICNIC

SUNDAY ~ JUNE 29 ~ 8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Free Food, Entertainment, Kids Games & Raffle

Bike Registration begins at Dickinson Park at 8 a.m.

Parade to Portage Park at 9 a.m.

Special thank you to:

*Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department,
45th Ward Ald. Pat Levar, 38th Ward Ald. Tom Allen*

City Newsstand celebrates 30 years at Six Corners

By Joe Angelastri, Owner of City Newsstand

On May 16th, City Newsstand will celebrate 30 years at Six Corners. Thank you, Portage Park!

At City Newsstand, we have many fond memories of the many years we have been in business, from the old Chicago Daily News to the policeman on the three-wheel motorcycle to our old corner newsstand, which we kept until 2000. Many of our long-time customers remind us of the old Woolworth's store, which was right next to us on Cicero and closed 15 years ago. It had two entrances – one on Cicero and one on Milwaukee – which provided a convenient shortcut between the two streets.

After Woolworth's closed, people talked about how they missed the shortcut, so we were very excited when the Klee Plaza plans reintroduced this old convenience in the original proposal, and that was one of the reasons why the city and the community chose their plan.

We were discouraged to learn, however, that in a recent proposal the developer is trying to replace the pedestrian shortcut with a driveway. When we asked who the retailer was that wanted the driveway, the developer said he could not tell us for legal reasons.

Now that the Pearle Vision is open and many residents are living in the Klee building, we encourage everyone to try out the restored shortcut. As you walk along, visualize the outdoor seating that could occupy the space. When I saw the seating in the original plans, it was exciting, but the driveway would change all that forever. I still believe the developer can find the right retailers to occupy the space as they originally intended.

I look forward to the day when all of us can sit in the outdoor cafe and enjoy a nice meal or a cup of coffee in a restored Six Corners.

Portage Park/Community Events & News:

Submitted by Friends of Portage Park

Summer Day Camp at Portage Park is full. Call Wilson 685-6454 or Dunham Park 685-3257 for day camp space.

Football registration dates: 5/31 6/14, 6/28 (Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Chicago Police Beat 1624 (which includes Portage Park) Meeting, Wednesday, May 28th 7 p.m. Biagio's Banquets 4242 N. Central

Pool Opening Date Due to budget cutbacks, the pool will not be opening until Saturday, June 13. This is a standardized date for all pools and beaches across the city.

Father's Day Bike Ride June 15th 8:45 a.m. For more info and to register call Eli's Cheesecake at 308-7033 by 6/10. Route will go through Portage Park

Community Playground Design Day June 3rd, 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, 4100 N. Long Ave. The community is invited to come out and share your dreams and ideas you would like to see included in the future playground. Ask the child in your life to draw their dream playground and bring to the meeting. Volunteer community architects will help put our ideas together. Please bring a friend or neighbor. Can't make the meeting please email us your thoughts at portageparkplayground@gmail.com.

Family Concert June 8th, 1p.m. Featuring Nelson Gill Rhythms of the Caribbean, SE corner near Long & Irving Pk. Sponsored by Friends of the Parks and Portage Park. Seeking raffle donations, business sponsors and family friendly vendors. Please contact us for more info.

New at Six Corners (sort of)



Pearle Vision has opened in its new space in the Klee Building. While not a new tenant for Six Corners, the fresh look of the updated retail space is an improvement that is highly visible. Pearle Vision is located at 4011 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The Importance Of Breath In Yoga Practice

The discipline of yoga reduces stress, helps one relax and slows down the hectic pace of our lives. To gain the most of what yoga has to offer, it is important that your yoga class teaches and reinforces proper breathing exercises.

Oxygen is the most vital nutrient for our bodies. It is essential for the vitality of the brain, nerves, glands and internal organs. The brain requires more oxygen than any other organ to function properly. If it doesn't get enough, the result is mental sluggishness, negative thoughts and depression. Thus, oxygen is very critical to our well-being, and any effort to increase the supply of oxygen to our body and especially to the brain will pay rich dividends.

As we mature, we lose our natural ability to breathe properly and utilize oxygen in the most efficient manner. Lack of activity and muscular tension, along with social, emotional and psychological stress all contribute to inhibiting our body's natural breathing mechanisms.

Many Asian health and fitness disciplines have known for centuries that focusing on the breath has amazing recuperative properties. By slowing and controlling the breath (pranayama), you can also influence your nervous system and state of mind.

Simple breathing exercises can also be employed at anytime during your day. It is a way to take what you are learning in yoga class and incorporate it into your lifestyle.

Here is an easy example of this you can try at your leisure. To truly experience an effect, do this exercise for a minimum of 5 minutes:

Sit in a chair with an erect and solid back and seat. Sit up straight, making sure your shoulders are not slumped. Your feet should be shoulder-width apart and flat on the floor. Your head should be pulled up to the ceiling and the chin tucked in slightly.

Bring your mind into your body and note how you feel. Are your muscles tense, are your emotions stirred, are you tired? Make a mental note of this and then put it aside. Set an alarm to go off in 5 minutes and begin.

Keeping your posture straight, inhale deeply until you feel as if you are pulling your air 2 inches below your navel into your lower abdomen. Keep your mind focused on the path of the breath. As you exhale, keep your mind focused on the path of the exhalation.

As you get more comfortable with the exercise, extend the length of your inhalation to match the length of your exhalation. Keep your mind focused on the path of the breath the whole time. Work slowly, naturally and with intention for a full 5 minutes. Don't let your mind stray or your attention waiver until the alarm goes off.

After 5 minutes, bring your mind into your body and once again note how you feel.

Paula Lazarz in an ACE-certified personal trainer and owner of Energy Fitness Active Arts Center. Yoga is offered once a week at the Active Arts Center. You are welcome to come in for a free trial class.

9th Annual Independence Day Parade and Picnic Sunday

Come join your neighbors at an event designed to provide fun for all ages. The excitement begins at 9a.m. on Sunday, June 29 at Dickenson Park with a 16th district police vehicle leading the parade participants as they ride their bicycles west along Berbeau Avenue until they reach Portage Park.

The festivities at Portage Park will include food, carnival games, a raffle, and kid's entertainment. Entertainment includes face painting, live music, and inflatable games. A prize will be given to the best bicycle decorated with an Independence Day theme. The raffle will feature items donated by local businesses and includes 4 tickets to a White Sox game and 4 tickets to a Cubs game. All activities (except for raffle) are free to the neighborhood. The picnic will be at Portage Park from 9:30a.m. until 1p.m.

Please contact Chris Ericksen at 773-685-3873 if you would like to volunteer for the event or make a donation to the raffle.



Past participants Jenny, Fiona, and Joey.

Healthy Streets Kicks Off Drive With Care Campaign

Driving in the city can be challenging. Distractions are everywhere and many people are using the road: delivery trucks, bicyclists, buses, persons with disabilities, children, senior citizens and more. By following the rules of the road and using common sense, however, we can reduce car crashes and make our neighborhood a safer place for all people to live. While others might not drive safely, here are steps you can take to reduce car crashes in the neighborhood:

1. Hang up the phone. Driving while talking on a phone is dangerous. Did you know that 80 percent of crashes involve driver inattentiveness in the three seconds before the crash? Motorists who use cell phones (including hands-free) while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. That risk is equivalent to driving drunk.

2. Drive the speed limit. Speeding triples the odds of crashing. Did you know the speed limit in Chicago is 30 mph unless posted otherwise? Small changes in speed make a big difference in your ability to avoid crashes and the level of damage and injury that occur if you do crash.

3. Stop at stop signs and red lights. Yellow means "slow down to stop" — not "hurry to make the light." Did you know that motorists are more likely to be injured in urban crashes that involve running a red light than in any other type of crash? Always stop behind the thick white stripe. Rolling through stop signs endangers pedestrians.

4. Yield to pedestrians. Did you know that when a pedestrian enters a crosswalk, all motorists must stop, even if there is no stop sign? At stoplights, turning drivers must allow walkers to finish crossing, even if the "don't walk" sign is flashing. Yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk makes them more likely to use the crosswalk instead of jaywalking. Keep in mind that elderly and people with disabilities may need more time to cross.

Drive With Care aims to reduce crashes of all types by 50 percent in the area bordered by Kedzie, Austin, Fullerton and Montrose, by using social marketing, street design and targeted enforcement to reduce crashes. Make a commitment to drive with care, sign the pledge online at www.driverspledge.com

If you would like to volunteer in your neighborhood to help spread the word about Drive With Care, call (312) 427-3325 ext. 289.



Drive With Care has created yard signs that address inattention, speeding, yielding to pedestrians, and stop lights/signs. They are available for \$3 each.

Portage Park Palates with Jan & Jill

In April, the Portage Park Palates plus four had dinner at a new restaurant in the neighborhood, Playa Escondida at 3938 N. Cicero. The restaurant is small, warm and comfortable. Metered parking is available on Cicero Avenue.

As soon as we sat down our waitress, Elvia, brought us homemade tortilla chips and two different dips. One was pico de gallo, a fresh tomato, onion, jalapeno dip, and the other was very good and obviously homemade blended roasted tomato salsa.

Settling in we ordered appetizers. Cheese Quesadillas (\$8.99) three large tortillas folded over three different cheeses — we divided the order in sixths and wanted more. Our other appetizer was a generous serving of homemade guacamole (\$6.99) — which was excellent and more than enough for the six of us.

All the dinners came with Mexican rice, beans and salad and for the table, a basket of homemade tortillas. All the portions of our choices were large and delicious and the presentation of each was very nice, but the Fajitas Pollo (\$9.99) won the prize! It was a dramatic and beautiful serving of sizzling chicken fajitas served with green and red pepper, onions, tomatoes and guacamole. Other choices were two Carne a la Tampiquena (\$10.99) a grilled skirt steak, guacamole and a cheese enchilada covered with mole sauce. One order of Barbacoa de Chivo (\$10.99) steamed goat with guacamole, jalapenos and frijoles de la olia. We all sampled some and were surprised by the taste. There also was an order of Pork Tacos (\$6.99 for three). The wonderful pork meat was in a sauce, with onions and tomatoes on top and last but not least, one order of Enchiladas de Mole (\$6.99). There is a choice of four enchiladas; cheese, chicken or a combo. The choice was a combo of two enchiladas with chicken and two with cheese and covered with mole sauce.

We finished up with the perfect way to end the evening - a couple of orders of flan to share. The flan was very good, creamy and smooth. We're not sure what they cost, but they were worth every penny.

This little restaurant is well worth checking out. It has a comfortable atmosphere, the staff is friendly and the food is good. They serve breakfast and have a full menu of Mexican appetizers, soups, specialties such as Burritos and Flautas as well as Chicken, Beef and Seafood dishes. Playa Escondida (427-0048) is open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m..

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 May 28, 2008

GENERAL

ASSETS

Previous Ending Balance \$5,563.23
Current Ending Balance \$5,804.69

REVENUE

Membership \$458.00
Newsletter Advertising \$925.00
Parade Donation \$50.00
Total Revenue \$1433.00

EXPENSES

Communications Committee \$41.00
Community Development \$600.00
Community Fair \$80.00
Economic Dev. Committee \$14.54
Newsletter Printing \$456.00
Total Expenses \$611.54

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

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 21, 8a.m. to 3p.m.
Lots of Kid's Items & More!
5317 West Cullom Ave.(Please enter from Alley)

YARD SALE

5023 W. Grace Street
Sat., July 12 (12 p.m. - 4 p.m.)
Sun., July 13 (12 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

Membership Leaders!

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

PPNA has 170 paid members for 2008. If you're not one of them join or renew your membership today at www.portagepark.org/joinonline.html

Public Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 9, 2008

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. Parade Preview

V. Old/New Business

VI. Meeting Adjourned



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Housewalk Will Showcase Old Irving Park Neighborhood

The Irving Park Historical Society will host its 19th Housewalk and Garden Tour on Saturday, September 20, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will include tours of a variety of home styles found in Chicago's Old Irving Park community. Several beautiful gardens also will be included as part of the walk.

Attendees will receive a program book that includes a map of the tour, the history of each featured home, and a guide to other points of interest. Four hours should be set aside to enjoy the walk at a comfortable pace.

At the starting point—Mount Olive Church, 3850 N. Tripp Ave.—a slide presentation on the history of the Irving Park neighborhood will be shown throughout the day. Refreshments, including homemade baked goods, lights snacks, and beverages, will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Pert Cleaners, 4213 W. Irving Park Rd. To order by mail, send a check or money order with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Irving Park Historical Society, c/o Carol Szalacha, 4216 N. Kildare Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. For more information, contact the housewalk chairperson, Kate Meints at 773-777-2750.

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 Worship

Holy Communion

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

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Dickinson Playlot Park Update

Friends of Dickinson Park held an Earth Day Event on April 19 in concert with over 60 other community park events throughout the city. Approximately 75 neighbors and friends of all ages expressed their community spirit by cleaning the park grounds, spreading mulch, turning over soil for plant beds and enjoying entertainment that included a magician, stilt walker and balloon artists along side performers from the Silent Theatre Company (www.silenttheatre.com).

T-shirts, CFL bulbs and saplings were handed out to early-bird volunteers. Refreshments were donated by Maisa Café and Dunkin Donuts with additional event donations from the PPNA, Six Corner's Association and the Brobson family.

The renovation of Dickinson Playlot Park is scheduled for completion in 2009. Friends of Dickinson Playlot Park has been organized to collect the community's input in shaping our new park and share the community's interest to Park District Officials at an early stage in their design process. We are planning fundraising events over the summer and seek volunteers to assist with our efforts to raise money in making our park a wonderful community asset to each of us.

Persons interested in getting involved can email dickinsonpark@gmail.com. We are looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, grounds maintenance and beautification and social activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

39th Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday June 14th, 9a.m. to 4p.m.

One day only! Rain or shine. Refreshments and addresses of sale area available at FAITH CHURCH 5051 W. Belle Plaine

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
Maria 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.

Vaughn Occupational High School Students Prepared for the Workplace

You may be thinking that summer is coming and school is almost out, but we are already planning for next year's school program. Next year some of the students at Vaughn will be involved in our cooperative work-training program. The program gives our students occupational experience within the school building as well as participation in internships with community businesses that is complemented by our focus in the classroom on improving students' employment skills. The program allows students to apply what they are learning in the classroom to the workplace. The classroom reinforces what the student is learning on the job, while helping instill the attitude that makes a great employee. The program helps students gain confidence and develop responsibility, independence and maturity while you gain a dependable, motivated, and competent employee. The classroom reinforces the needs of the workplace, such as learning the vocabulary of the job and strengthening specific skills.



Besides classroom training there are other benefits. Information is being collected on our former students and we have found out that our students are staying at their jobs and can be counted on and available when workers call off. Managers report wanting more students like the ones they've hired.

Our students can take on jobs or tasks that are not challenging to other employees. This will free employees for work where their time will be better spent. Our students have worked in offices, pre-schools, restaurants, retail stores and factories. They have painted and preformed landscaping tasks, such as weeding, planting and mowing lawns. Many enjoy and are good at cleaning and dishwashing.

In addition, businesses may receive tax benefits for employing students from our school. You can check with you tax specialist to find out more about that.

To find out more about the cooperative education program and how it can benefit you, contact Marlene Winn at mbwinn@cps.edu or 773 534-3600 ext. 28886

News for Residents of the 38th Ward

Street sweeping has begun. The signs posted on your block are enforced until November 30th, weather permitting. The signs are now color coded as follows:

Monday - blue, Tuesday - Red, Wednesday - yellow, Thursday - green, and Friday - orange. To avoid parking tickets, the street scheduled to be swept should remain clear of vehicles between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.. A link to the street sweeping schedule and map are available on the home page of the 38th Ward web site, www.ward38.com.

City Stickers will be on sale at the 38th Ward Service Office on June 16th from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.. The office is located at 5817 W. Irving Park Road.

The City of Chicago is offering compact fluorescent bulbs, free of charge, to city residents. A limited supply is available at the 38th Ward Service Office. Compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs use up to 55% less energy than regular incandescent bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, and can save an average of \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Please stop by our service office if you haven't had the opportunity to try these cost saving bulbs.

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



Garden Club Update

by Jan Kupka

There are plenty of things for gardeners to do after the May 15th last freeze.

Add annual plants to your garden either as an addition to perennials or on their own. Keep in mind when shopping for annual flowers, herbs, or vegetables saving a quarter here or a dollar there can really add up when shopping for your landscape. Prices for bedding plants can vary widely, but be sure to check whether cell packs have three or four plants per pack. More may cost less. Check prices for larger amounts, sometimes, buying a flat of annuals (either all of the same plant or a mix of plants) costs less than buying them separately.

Avoid purchasing annuals in small cell packs that have plants with leggy, floppy growth or are already in flower. Don't buy undersized plants, those with yellow spotted foliage or plants with roots that fill up the cell pack. Excessive roots can be pinched off. Keep new plantings well-watered. Ten days after planting fertilize with a 10-10-10 mix.

Through out the season, pinch off dead flowers to encourage vigorous growth and to keep the colors coming. If the flowering plant blooms and then fades, you can always try to revitalize it by shearing off the faded blooms and one-third of the top growth then applying fertilizer. This trick restores the performance and blooming of "past their prime" plants.

Consider some additional support as plants mature and grow tall. Offer forked twigs or other props before plants endure the rainstorms of life. Sunflowers and dahlias may need to be tied to stakes.

Avoid using insecticides by planting marigolds, basil, mint, chives, onions, and chrysanthemums near or in your garden. Secretions from these and many other plants act as a natural insect repellent

If you are planning on buying shrubs, check the label for the mature size. There are some beautiful shrubs out there that will fit perfectly in that open spot.

Continue to plant container-grown trees, shrubs, perennial herbs, and perennial flowers. You can give planting bare-root plants a try this month, but it's getting awfully late and they aren't as likely to thrive at this point as the more established container plants.

Some gardeners feed every two weeks until August with a liquid fertilizer. However, a lower-maintenance approach is to work a slow-release fertilizer (or compost) in around the shrub according to package directions, usually every 6 weeks or so.

Prune evergreens any time from now until late summer. (Don't prune later than that or you'll prompt new, tender growth that will get zapped by winter's cold.) Finish up any pruning this month with the exception of spring-blooming trees and shrubs. You can prune them immediately after they're done flowering.

The May Garden Club meeting will be held at a member's home Saturday, May 17 at 9:30 a.m.. This will be our 5th annual plant exchange. Bring a plant from your home, garden or the nearest garden shop. 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 John Arena*

It has to be hard to be a condo developer in this tough market. Thousands of units on the market and the economic slowdown doesn't help. But it does make it easier for a developer like Chicago Klee, LLC. to cry poverty and gain sympathy from whoever will listen. Then make requests for changes to a planned development such as the Klee Building.

They signed a redevelopment agreement in 2005 that is subsidized with TIF (Tax Increment Financing) monies. TIF funds are property taxes from within a defined area set aside to give incentives to developers to take on projects in 'blighted' areas. Then as the property value of the area increases the city gets a return on the investment.

The inset shows a page taken directly from the redevelopment agreement they signed. It clearly lists the ways this money is used to pay for straight forward things like 'Construction Costs' and 'Land Acquisition.' Costs the developer would have to pay for were the project not TIF subsidized.

Exhibit E TIF-Funded Improvements	
Land Acquisition	\$ 500,000
Construction Costs	\$5,302,295
Public Improvements	\$ 50,000
Green Roof	\$ 146,850
Contingency	\$ 265,115
Arch & Engineers	\$ 125,000
Environmental	\$ 100,000
Total	\$6,489,260

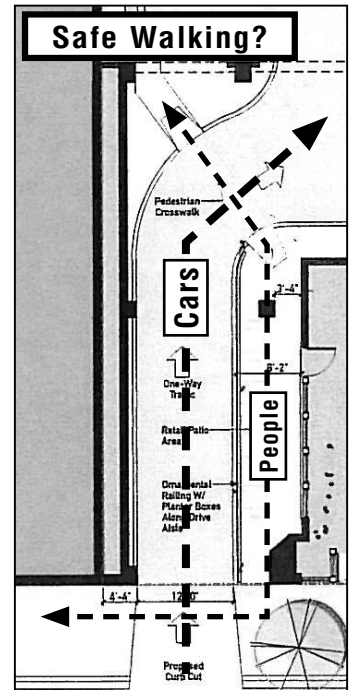
But for some reason the developer, Joe Oshinski, stated "I have not received any public money." at the May 14 PPNA meeting. In a response to a follow up email where I pointed out this page of the document to refute his claim he states, "any person with an IQ above an idiot can read the document and know for certain that Mr. Arena...is intentionally lying and misleading people by changing the facts to suit his case" So here you have it direct from the redevelopment agreement. You decide who is "intentionally lying and misleading people".

All of this comes as Chicago Klee, LLC seeks "administrative relief" to get a prohibited curb cut drive way in the Six Corners pedestrian zone. Claiming no tenants are interested in the Klee because access to the 23 space parking lot is *only* from the three alleys on Belle Plaine and Cicero.

But there is another possible reason they don't mention. The Klee Developers' are asking \$28 sq. ft. for the retail spaces. This is comparable to what space goes for in the Loop, South Loop, Lincoln Square or near north neighborhoods.

Is it not possible that pricing themselves at twice the average market rate at Six Corners is the reason that tenants aren't lining up to sign leases?

'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



The yet to be completed pedestrian walkway and the proposed driveway.

The Portage Park Neighborhood Association News is a publication of the PPNA. PPNA Board Members are:

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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

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