



# PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community  
News & Views

NOVEMBER 2009



## Meetings & Announcements

**PORTAGE PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:**

**Next meeting:**

*Monday, November 9th  
7:30 p.m.*

*4839 W. Irving Park Rd.*

**Meeting Highlight:**

*The New 16th District  
Commander David McNaughton  
will attend our November 9th  
meeting to introduce himself  
and answer questions.*

**C.A.P.S. MEETINGS:**

All meetings at 7 p.m.

**Beat 1624 — Nov 25**

*at Biagio's Banquets,  
4242 N. Central Ave.*

**Beat 1633 — Nov 17**

*at Wright College (Theater) 4300  
N. Naragansett*

**Beat 1634 — Nov 26**

*at Portage-Cragin Library,  
5108 W. Belmont Ave.*

**16th District CAPS Office,**

**312-742-4521 for more information**

**PPNA ONLINE:**

**Get current info from our  
website or renew online:**

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

**Contacting the PPNA board:**

[board@portagepark.org](mailto:board@portagepark.org)

**General questions or info:**

[membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org)  
[communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org)  
[seniors@portagepark.org](mailto:seniors@portagepark.org)  
[web@portagepark.org](mailto:web@portagepark.org)

## An Investment in Our Future:

### Milwaukee Streetscaping Begins *By Gerard Staniszewski*

By now, many of you have noticed work beginning on Milwaukee Avenue. This is the start of the long awaited Six Corners Streetscape project. The PPNA along with, the Six Corners Association, local businesses, the city, the Aldermanic offices and other organizations, have been working on this project for years, and it is finally happening. The project will eventually encompass all of Six Corners, (Milwaukee, Irving and Cicero). We all hope that, when the work is finished, Six Corners will again be the shopping hub that we remember from the past.

As I just said, the work on Milwaukee will eventually expand to Irving and Cicero. As in all construction, things will get worse before they get better. Now is the time to get ready for the next couple of years. Expect increased delays in local traffic. Expect increased use of side streets by drivers cutting through the neighborhood. Expect some dust and less parking. As any one of you who tried to get through Jefferson Park over the summer knows, this time will be difficult for both residents and businesses. Prepare yourself and your family, now is not the time to get frustrated. It is not the time to get in your car and shop outside the neighborhood because it may be easier. Now is the time to prepare ourselves as a community to do what we can to help our neighbors and our neighborhood businesses. Now is the time to pull together and support all our local businesses. Now is the time to put your money where your neighborhood is, shop local.

Before you buy anything, stop and think if we have a local business that you can shop at first. Need glasses or contacts? We have Pearl Vision, Sears Optical and Visionworks. Need an appliance ? We have Sears. Need paint or hardware? We have Smolka's True Value and Sherwin Williams on Milwaukee. And, the restaurants... One of our cornerstone neighborhood establishments, La Pena, will be directly in the heart of the construction for the next year. However, do not forget the approximately ten other restaurants between Montrose and Irving. I know we can all get through this and come out stronger as a community when the work is finished.

Many of you, who know me, know I have always preached on shopping local. In last month's "Have you Noticed" in this newsletter, we had quite poignant and well received observation by one of your neighbors on voting with your money. Now we all need to get on the bandwagon. If you go out to eat once a week, make it local. We have jewelry stores, flower shops, cell phones, exercising, dollar stores, bike shops, restaurants, a magazine store, grocery stores, fast food, on and on. If you need any item, look local first. Taking the time to do this is more important than ever now.

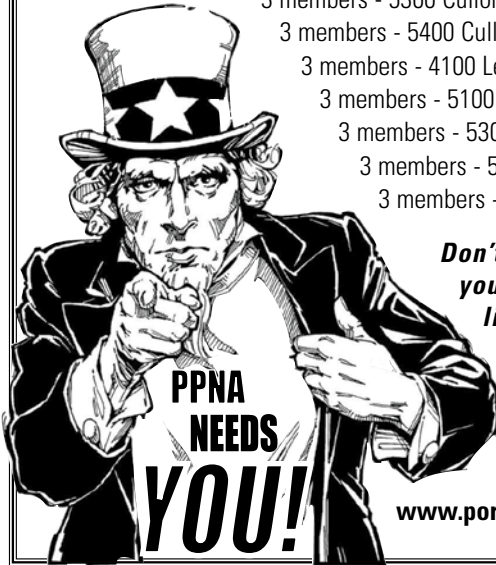
I know many of you do not live near Milwaukee, and many do not live close to Six Corners. You may be thinking, I am glad this is not in my back yard. However, Six Corners is the heart of our community. Our future property values and sense of community depends on the vibrancy of the businesses.

We will keep you posted as best we can over the next year.

## Show your neighborhood pride!

### Member block counts! Renew for 2010 Today!

6 members - 4100 LeClaire  
4 members - 4100 Lawler  
3 members - 5300 Cullom  
3 members - 5400 Cullom  
3 members - 4100 Leamington  
3 members - 5100 Hutchinson  
3 members - 5300 Berenice  
3 members - 5000 Berteau  
3 members - 5400 Dakin



**Don't see  
your block  
listed above?**

Join or  
renew your  
membership  
today at:

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

## PPNA Welcomes New Secretary

The Board of the PPNA is pleased to announce that Philip Schwartz has volunteered to step up to fill the position of Secretary. Philip is a transplant from Michigan. A resident of Chicago since 1994 he and his wife moved into their historic bungalow in the blocks immediately behind the park in July of 2007. They had previously lived in Irving Park. Philip is a real estate broker with Baird & Warner. He and his wife are slowly restoring the bungalow. They love gardening, fishing, and camping. They have been our CAPS beat reporters for Beat #1624 and have been assisting with the Portage Farmer's Market. When they are not hanging out with their three cats; Cosmo, Aggie and Dillon, you can find them rooting on the Bears.

**Thanksgiving**  
**Portage Park**  
**FARMER'S MARKET**

**Sunday November 22nd**

**Don't forget to support your local farmers market by attending our first annual Thanksgiving Farmers Market.**

## Friends of Portage Park Update

Thank you to all of our neighbors and those from other distances for coming to our last regular season market on October 18th. A great time was had by all! We judged a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin contest, and we hosted raffle contests every hour! Many vendors donated items to be raffled off to Portage Park residents. Many thanks to our vendors and our attendees! See our website to find out who won the raffles.

Friends of Portage Park would like to announce our special indoor Thanksgiving market! Please plan to come on Sunday November 22nd, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The market will be held indoors at the Field House, in the gymnasium.

Some of our vendors took your orders for Thanksgiving goods, such as baked goods and meat, at our last regular season market. If you were one of the people who ordered from them, come to the market to pick up your baked goods, turkeys and other dinner table additions!

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Field House for the Thanksgiving market on November 22nd (see add on this page). For an updated list visit [www.friendsofportagepark.org](http://www.friendsofportagepark.org).

## Fall Festival A Success!

WOW! What a great day and great turnout to celebrate the upcoming Fall Season and our new playlot. Over 125 families came to the event to decorate a free pumpkin from our pumpkin patch, hear Dave Hamilton sing fun songs (see photograph below), have their face painted or simply to enjoy the day with fellow neighbors and friends. Thank you to all who came out and offered donations and enjoyed the festive atmosphere!

A huge THANK-YOU goes out to the Irving Park YMCA for our kids face painting station, the Arena and Stowe family for helping decorate pumpkins with the kids, S. Rosen's Bakery for the Hot Dog buns, Mike Niemetz of the Chicago Park District, the Six Corner's Association and Fertile Garden's for the pumpkins, the PPNA, and Alderman Levar for providing us with Hot Dogs and refreshments as well as all the volunteers who assisted with the event!

As many of you know, Alderman Levar is a big advocate of updating children playlots for public parks in his ward and along with the Friends of Dickinson Playlot Park, we are very grateful for his support toward our new playlot and continued support for events such as our Fall Festival at Dickinson Playlot Park.

We should all be taking it upon ourselves to be good stewards of the new park and make it a responsibility to respect the facility for all to use. In the coming months, the FODP will be seeking volunteers for a Landscape committee and an Earth Day/ Event committee to foster community involvement and family activity in our new Park. Feel free to contact us @ [dickinsonpark@gmail.com](mailto:dickinsonpark@gmail.com) to add your name to our email list or offer your time and support.

*The Dickinson Park Advisory Council*





# CAPS REPORT

16th District Community Alert

**We need your help to protect your friends and neighbors!**

► **SENIORS TARGETED FOR THEFT** Recently senior citizens have been the victims of thefts and attempted thefts by individuals posing as tradesmen, city employees or utility workers. These individuals are very convincing and often work in groups of two or more. Common among all these incidents is that one person diverts the victim's attention while others enter the home and steal valuables.

After identifying themselves as a city worker or gas company employee, they state they have to enter the house to conduct a test on the water or gas. They may escort the elderly victim to the kitchen or bathroom leaving the front door open for accomplices to gain entry and commit the theft.

Often victims won't realize that a theft has occurred until they discover items missing or their bedrooms ransacked.

**Preventions tips:**

- Alert your elderly neighbors and relatives of these scams.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash in your residence.
- Remind everyone to keep their doors locked.
- Be suspicious when approached by someone who states they work for a utility, the city, or a construction crew.
- Do not open the door. Announce to these individuals that you are calling 911. The police will check out their credentials.
- Never accompany the stranger to the rear yard or the side of the house.
- Neighbors should keep an eye out for each other. If you see workers arriving at an elderly neighbors residence call 911.
- Try to obtain identifying information on suspicious persons and their vehicle. Many times these offenders travel in work vans, pick-up trucks and SUVs as well as passenger cars.

Criminals seek the path of least resistance and that is why they target the elderly. Let's make their job harder by alerting our elderly neighbors and keeping an eye out for them.

► **BEWARE OF ATM SKIMMING** Suspects attach a skimming device to the ATM card slot, and a small battery operated camera is attached above the machine to capture the PIN number. Withdrawals are then made from the victim's accounts.

**What you can do:**

- Be cognizant of your surroundings.
- Inspect the ATM machine before inserting your bank card.
- Cover the number pad when entering the PIN number.
- Report any suspicious people or activity.

► **SMALL RETAIL STORES BREAKIN ALERT- BEAUTY SHOPS/SALONS AND DRY CLEANERS AT RISK** Incidents occur in the late night early morning hours. In most incidents, the window(s) or glass door(s) of retail stores are broken out and unknown subject(s) enter the store and remove property.

**What you can do**

- Secure doors and windows.
- Report any suspicious people or activity.
- Install or update video surveillance systems.

Visit [www.chicagopolice.org](http://www.chicagopolice.org) for sex offenders information, crime statistics, alerts, city programs, city services, etc.

CELEBRATE  
HOLIDAY 09 WITH  
XOX SALON  
NOVEMBER 14TH  
Visit our website for details

Children's Party  
1pm-3pm  
Evening Party  
6pm-12pm

xox salon + spa  
4458 N MILWAUKEE  
CHICAGO, IL 60630  
CALL 773.777.9997



THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**SUGAR PLUM FAIRY'S**  
*Home Boutique*

With a wave of her wand, our home is magically transformed into a holiday boutique. Come and see many carefully selected, beautifully hand-crafted creations. We serve hot apple cider and provide treats free of charge. Get a jump on the holidays, with our unique collection of holiday gift ideas. For information and show details go to [www.skcrafts.com](http://www.skcrafts.com).

If you have and questions call Susan Kennelly  
312-925-6661

Show Dates - 4119 N. LeClaire -

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> from 6pm to 9pm  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> from 10 am to 6pm  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> from 11 am to 5 pm

• Chiropractic • Massage Therapy  
• Rehabilitation • Acupuncture



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Fax (773) 631-8702  
C21JanRobertson@aol.com



Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated



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

### PARENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lead efforts to provide services targeting parents and children. Contact John Arena at [communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org) for more information.

### SECRETARY

Secretary is an officer of the organization on the board of directors. Responsibilities include attending and and public meetings, collecting and distributing membership dues. Contact [board@portagepark.org](mailto:board@portagepark.org) for more info.

**POSITION FILLED!**

### PPNA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 26, 2009

**President:** By Laws (suggestions); Money distribution Board vote

**Treasurer:** Balance

**Secretary:** Philip Schwartz

**Communications:** Articles for November

#### EDC

**Membership:** Membership update ; Going forward

**Park:** Update on Fall Fest

**Parents Committee**

**CAPS:** Update

**Business:** Six Corners Association meeting ; Camiros Report  
Commander McNaughton

## PPNA Financial Report

Balance sheet as of October 25, 2009

### ENDING BALANCE

Previous Ending Balance . . . . . \$5,104.09  
Current Ending Balance . . . . . \$4,756.09

### REVENUE

Newsletter advertising . . . . . \$350.00  
Membership . . . . . \$30.00  
**Total Revenue . . . . . \$380.00**

### EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing . . . . . \$478.00  
Community Development . . . . . \$250.004  
**Total Expenses . . . . . \$728.00**



## 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

City Newsstand  
Drehobl Art Glass  
Dutch Cleaners  
Easy Copy

Energy Fitness  
Hands Over Stress

La Peña Restaurant  
Liberty Tax Service  
Maria Pollock-Piano Tuning  
New Six Corners Flowers  
Portage Park Handyman  
Portage Theater  
Right Now Redesign  
Rudy's Cycles  
Veranda Lighting  
Wong's Chinese

### DISCOUNT OFFERED

10% off everything on Tuesdays  
10% discount  
10% off dry cleaning  
4¢ b/w, 75¢ color copies everyday  
\$75 for 100 Business Cards  
10% discount on all programs offered  
\$10 off 1 hour wellness massage  
\$5 off any 30 minute massage  
10% off entire check, every day  
50% off individual or business tax return  
\$10 off (773 286-6368)  
15% discount  
10% off with proof of membership  
\$2 off ticket price. (except silent films)  
\$50 off a Room Redesign  
10% off non-sale parts & access.  
10% discount on non-sale merchandise  
10% off entire check, every day



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

## Disney II Magnet School Updates

*In the spirit of Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays, the Disney II Family is grateful each and every day for our students, staff, and community support. We have a number of news items and events to share with you this month and hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season.*

► **Academic Successes:** Disney II Magnet School is one of a few public schools which offer an "extended day." This means that Monday-Thursday, Disney II students are in school for one, extra hour compared to nearly all other Illinois students. Disney II students receive 25 extra days of learning a year! The benefit of this extended day is that Disney II students are able to fully embrace and excel in content areas such as the Literacy "STEP" program and other enrichment classes such as music, physical education, art, technology, and daily recess. More school hours mean greater student achievement.

► **Parent Academy:** The October 17<sup>th</sup> parent academy was well-attended by Disney II families. The main topic being presented and discussed was the "Everyday Math" program. Everyday Math is a method of teaching mathematics to children. The program was created at the University of Chicago and makes math a relevant, approachable, and useful aspect of our children's lives.

► **Attendance Rate:** The September attendance rate was a strong 98%

► **Universal Breakfast:** Breakfast will now be available to all Disney II students beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note that breakfast will be served in the children's classrooms beginning at 8:20am.

► **Assessment:** Third grade students at Disney II will partake in reading and math benchmark assessments in Mid-October.

► **After School Tutoring:** After school tutoring is available to students based on academic need and teacher recommendations. Students enrolled in the program will receive tutoring three days a week from 3:15-4:15. Classes are small (currently no more than 13 students) and the first session of the program will run from now until December 11th. The program will be offered until the end of the school year.

► **Halloween Carnival:** The students enjoyed the Halloween festival on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Games, costumes, and a parade were all part of the activities.

► **Magnet School Applications:** The application period for magnet, selective enrollment and gifted schools and programs began Thursday, October 1, 2009, and ends Friday, December 18, 2009. Applications can be obtained in the "Options for Knowledge" guide books and online at [www.cps.edu](http://www.cps.edu). Further questions can be answered by calling the Office of Academic Enhancement: 773/553-2060.

► **Early Childhood Education Applications:** Preschool-For-All Applications and Tuition Based Preschool Applications are available in the main office. Spots in the Tuition Based program are first come first serve.

## Advertise your business in the PPNA newsletter

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 quarterly issues—\$180.00

Individual month—\$50.00

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

## Portage Park Palates

by Jan and Jill

Portage Park Palates decided to have dinner at an old favorite, **McNamara's** on Irving. The main reason we chose McNamara's, is, it was easy. We have been going there for years and have probably tried most of the menu. I guess that speaks for itself.

We ran out after work on a dark and stormy Friday night. As usual, the bar was crowded and lively. For you who have not been to McNamara's, it is a bar and restaurant. You enter into the bar to get to the restaurant. The crowd is always diverse, young, old, male, female, a good place to meet friends. The restaurant is entered at the back of the bar. As you go into the restaurant area, a chalk board has the days specials listed. The room is rustic, with bare brick walls. The walls have photos of Irish country scenes and renowned Irish figures. Booths are lined around the perimeter with tables scattered around the floor.

When seated you are almost immediately greeted with water and fresh bread with butter. Our server, Lauren, took our drink order (two Smithwick's on tap, thank you). I must take a few lines here to say that McNamara's serves tap beer at the correct temperature. Not the bone chilling teeth hurting temperature you get at most places. It's that perfect temperature, around forty-five to fifty degrees that all tap beer should be at... When the beer came back we ordered an appetizer. Because it was only the two of us we decided to get something we had not had here before, so we ordered the potato skins (\$7.25). The skins are served with sour cream and were good, just what you would want if you liked skins. On other trips, when we would want an appetizer, we usually get the onion rings. Huge rings, batter dipped and fried. Really, a meal in themselves. The chicken wings, nachos and quesadillas are all what you would expect and are prepared very well.

For dinner, I opted for the half roast chicken dinner. On special this night (\$13.95) and ordering from the menu my partner got the salmon dinner with a Bourbon sauce (\$16.95). Both dinners came with soup or salad, choice of potato and mixed veggies. I opted for the salad while my partner tried the soup. Soup choices change daily. Friday was New England clam chowder. The salad was a typical dinner salad with your choice of dressing served on the side. The clam chowder was good. I could do an article on chowder, so I will just stop here and say again, it was good.

Our entrees were both very good, exactly what we have come to expect from McNamara's. Good comfortable food cooked very well. I usually do not order chicken out. I find it is always overcooked. This chicken was done as well as I have had, so thumbs up to the chef that night. My partner enjoyed the salmon. We could not finish our meals so the leftovers came home with us. We have never had dessert at McNamara's, this should tell you something on the generous portions.

When you go to McNamara's, do not overlook the hamburgers, or the good selection of other sandwiches. They always do a good job on them. When it comes to other entrees, I can speak for, the lamb shank, the corned beef and cabbage (two meals in one), the turkey and many other things over the years. In short, I find it difficult to get a bad meal here. The service is very good, although the pace of the meal can be hurried. I think the kitchen is fast. Tell the server that you want a leisurely paced dinner, and that should eliminate the courses from being on top of each other.

Overall McNamara's is a great place to meet friends after work for a drink or dinner. It is not far from the Irving Park metro stops. It is also good for lunch or a nice meal on the weekend. We have never gone wrong here.

McNamara's is at 4328 W Irving Park Road; Phone 773-725-1800. Check out the web site at . Live music on the weekends.

Once a month we will be eating at a restaurant in the Portage Park area and writing an article that will appear in the newsletter about the visit. Our visits are anonymous to the owners – so we do not receive special treatment. We are also paying for our own meals. If you are interested in joining us please contact us at communications@portagepark.org. We will notify you of the location of the restaurant. Our requirements are that you do not notify the restaurant; we will divide the check up evenly, share the dishes and offer opinions for the review. An article about the restaurant will appear in the following PPNA newsletter. If you have a favorite restaurant you would like to suggest, please send your suggestions to communications@portagepark.org.



## PPNA 2009 Membership Form

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

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

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

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

This is a  New Membership  Renewal

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

Membership Type:  Household  Business

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership renewals are due January 1 and expire December 31.

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

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

# GREEN CORNER

For Our Community, Our Planet



# Garden Club Update

By Jan Kupka

Now is the time to clean up the garden, removing dead plants, weeds, leaves, and other debris. Compost any organic material that isn't diseased

If you are planning on having herbs inside during the winter months this is the time to do it. Keep in mind some plants such as basil do not over winter. To grow oregano, tarragon, and mint indoors for continual winter harvesting, divide mature plants and pot them now. Cut back the plants severely, water well, and bring them indoors, where they will continue to grow. To get chives to thrive indoors, give them at least a few weeks of dormancy in a cool area after potting them up.

To continue the greenery, how about concentrating on houseplants? Remember with houseplants the correct light is very important as well as making sure the plant is not over watered. Houseplants growth continues to be slow until March, don't fertilize and keep watering to a minimum. Now is the time to repot root-bound houseplants.

An African violet is among the easiest to grow flowering houseplants. They bloom year-round with little effort. Choose from hundreds of varieties and forms, some with variegated foliage or ruffled or white-edged blooms. African violet likes warm conditions and filtered sunlight 65-75 degrees temperatures and keep soil evenly moist. The sizes of most plants are between 8 inches and 16 inches tall. Avoid getting water on the fuzzy leaves; cold water causes unsightly brown spots. If you have a bright window, this plant will bloom almost constantly. They're also really versatile, blooming in almost every color to match your decor. It's easy to start new plants; simply cut off a leaf and root it in moist potting mix.

► **Aloe Vera** is a drought tolerant plant with a short stem and thick fleshy leaves. It is vulnerable to over-watering and freezing temperatures.

► **Asparagus Fern** is a common name used for several plants in the fern family. Foxtail fern has bottlebrush plumes of medium green needles. 'Sprenger' has arching stems covered with flat needles, giving the plant a frothy appearance. Plumose fern looks more like a true fern, but like the others is an ornamental form of asparagus. The feathery foliage looks good in a variety of settings and decorating styles. Grow in medium to bright light; 60-75 degrees F.; keep soil evenly moist. It can grow up to 2 feet tall and wide. Warning - the red fruits can make children or pets ill if eaten (though the plants rarely fruit indoors).

► **English Ivy** is one of the most popular and easy-to-grow houseplants - English ivy splashes deep green from containers or hanging baskets. Locate in bright indirect light and try to maintain a humid environment around the plant by daily misting.

*The Portage Park Garden Club will have its first meeting of 2010 in February at the Austin/Irving Library. Watch this column for the exact date. For more information contact the Portage Park Garden Club at 773-793-1984 or portageparkgc@comcast.net.*

## GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: Use cloth bags to help the environment AND your wallet

### What can you do?

Americans are recycling more plastic bags than ever, but it's still a fraction of the estimated 90 billion plastic carryout bags produced annually in the U.S.

Target stores recently announced a 5-cent discount for every reusable bag customers bring in for their purchases.

CVS also plans to give participating customers \$1 cash bonuses on their CVS cards every four times they buy something but don't request plastic bags.

These two programs alone could keep billions of plastic bags out of the environment and influence other big retailers to take similar steps, says Allen Herskowitz, senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Plastic bags are the most ubiquitous form of waste on the planet," Herskowitz says. "They are among the most deadly forms of marine debris, lethal to threatened species of marine mammals throughout the world."

The Target program, which will roll out on Nov. 1 at all 1,700 Target stores nationwide, could save billions of plastic bags. The chain posts upwards of 1.5 billion transactions annually — most ending up in more than one bag.

The CVS program, rolling out to 7,000 stores over the next three weeks, requires customers wanting to participate to buy a 99-cent tag to be scanned with their CVS card.

**Portage Park residents should note that for the occasional, unavoidable plastic bag use, remember that Jewel hosts recycling programs in their lobby.**

Another point to keep in mind: a one-time plastic bag use results in a lifetime in a landfill—or worse for our waterways—if not properly recycled. So if you forget to bring a reusable cloth bag, make sure to recycle your plastic!

## Free Great Lakes Lecture at North Park Nature Center

**On Friday November 6, from 7-9 pm**, join photographer Jim Rowan as he takes you on a beautiful slide-show journey to discover the wonders and history of the Great Lakes! **To register, call the North Park Nature Center at 312.744.5472.**



## Perennial Care & Pruning Basics Workshop at Kilbourn Park

Taught by Laury Lewis of Foliage Fantasies, this class will discuss proper pruning techniques for the Fall and Winter that will enhance the appearance of trees and shrubs for the following season. Fall garden clean-up will include: what to do with herbaceous perennials, how to create winter interest in the garden, and as well as how to improve the soil. This will be a hands-on program, so please bring your hand pruners. Details below:

**DATE:** 11/14/09

**START TIME:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**SCHEDULE NOTES:** For ages 18 & over —To register for this class: call the Greenhouse at 773-685-3359 and leave your name, class name, and your phone number or e-mail, for confirmation.

**COST:** \$20

**LOCATION:** Kilbourn Park & Organic Greenhouse

## St. Robert Bellarmine Autumn Gala Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to be held on November 6th

St. Robert Bellarmine will hold its annual Parish Dinner Dance on Friday, November 6, 2009 at Lido Banquets, 5504 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago. The celebration will include dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets are \$45 per person and include a welcome glass of champagne, open bar, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing.

In addition, Grand Raffle tickets are available for \$50 each with cash prizes of \$5,000 for first prize; \$2,500 for second prize; \$1,000 for both third and fourth prizes; and \$500 for fifth place. The drawing will be held on November 6th at Lido Banquets, but the winner need not be present.

Dinner Dance tickets and Raffle tickets can be purchased through the St. Robert's Rectory Office, 4646 N. Austin Avenue, 773-777-2666. Tickets will also be sold in the church vestibule after masses during the month of October.

Businesses or individuals that are interested in donating items of value for the silent auction can contact Kathy Ernst at 773-282-5259 or Trina Eifert 773-286-6240.

## OLV:LIVE Crossroad Festival

Annual fundraiser event to benefit the parish and school

Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 5:00pm - Midnight

Our Lady of Victory at Laramie/Sunnyside

\$4 Games: Basketball, Football throw, Wii Home Run Derby, Putting Contest and More..... WIN- Blackhawk tickets, Bulls tickets, your choice of Cubs or Sox and CHICAGO BEARS tickets with passes to go on the FIELD!!!!!!!

Music from Stone Chisel, complimentary buffet from Stefani's, O'Elvy's Pub with televised sports, Club V Wine bar with alternate entertainment, the Horseshoe Lounge, Boogie St. Dance Hall with Band and DJ, Art Gallery and more.

Purchase a \$25 raffle tickets (chance to win \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$250) and receive two free admissions to the event. \$10 at the door without Raffle Ticket.

Raffle tickets available at the OLV Rectory, 5212 W. Agatite Ave. Call 773-286-2950 or go to [www.olvchicago.org](http://www.olvchicago.org) Please mention that you saw our event in the Portage Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter.

Must be 21 or older to attend!

## News for residents of the 38th Ward

Schurz High School will undergo a full ADA handicapped accessibility project which includes a ramp/sloped walkway at 2-3 of the outside entrances, with modifications to the restrooms, auditorium, pool, gym, science labs, and lockers. This construction follows up a recently completed summer 2009 Accessibility Project that renovated the current auto shop space which included handicapped accessible modifications.

- ▶ Dust off your running shoes for Portage Park's 12th Annual Turkey Trot on November 21st which I am co-sponsoring. The start time is 9:30 a.m. and is a one mile family fun run/walk around Portage Park. Pre-registration is encouraged, beginning October 19th at the Portage Park Field House.
- ▶ I am happy to report that the City of Chicago has decided not to contract with private vendors for snow removal this winter. Instead, it will remain under the control of our neighborhood Streets & Sanitation ward yards.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my neighborhood service office at 773-545-3838 or e-mail us at [ward38@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward38@cityofchicago.org).

Tom Allen  
38<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman

## News for residents of the 45th Ward

- ▶ **H1N1 FLU SHOTS**: The City of Chicago Department of Public Health will be sponsoring walk-in immunization clinics for Chicagoans who are included in the high priority groups defined by the CDC. Location: Wright College (4300 N. Narragansett) Saturdays Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> (9am – 2pm), Tuesdays Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> (3pm – 8pm), Thursday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> (3pm-8pm). For more information please contact Alderman Levar's Public Service Office 773 545-2545.

- ▶ **VOTER REGISTRATION**: Just moved into the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward or have had a change of address? To reregister or register to vote, you can come into the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward Public Service Office (5205 N. Milwaukee). You will need two forms of identification (at least one with your current address), and a Deputy Registrar will be happy to assist you.

- ▶ **NEW CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS**: Effective January 2, 2010 branch libraries will move to a new time. 10am -6pm and 12N – 8pm on alternate days, Monday-Thursday; and 9am – 5pm, Friday and Saturday.

## Court Advocates Send Message to Judge, Gang Members *By John Arena*

On September 24, 2009 Officer Theodorides Pano and his partner from the 25th Area Gang Team, arrested three gang members for gang activity and graffiti at 4957 W. Newport Ave. The offenders included Daniel Schmidt, Jonathon Rivera and Christian Delatorre.

At their Friday October 23 court date, two of the accused, Jonathon Rivera, Christian Delatorre, were called before the judge. They were appointed a public defender and ultimately pleaded guilty to 'Impeding the flow of traffic' and accepted a plea agreement of 6 months court supervision and two days of community service work.

The third defendant, Daniel Schimdt, will face the judge on Nov. 18 at 1:30 p.m. He is accused of committing the tagging and is charged with 'criminal damage to property'.

The 16<sup>th</sup> District CAPS office put out a call for Court Advocates, and over twenty individuals attended the court date on Oct. 23. A Court Advocate represents the community and lets the Judge and the police know that the residents are active and engaged in their neighborhood.

If you would like more information about being a Court Advocate at the Nov 18 court date or are interested in CAPS please contact CAPS Officer Jennene Whalen, 16th District CAPS office, 312-742-4521.

According to officer Whalen, the offenders are members of the 4 Corner Hustlers. This was one of two gangs that tagged the 4800 and 4900 blocks of Belle Plaine Ave. earlier this year.

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# HAVE YOU NOTICED??

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

## Vinyl Records Live On at Raffe's Record Riot

by Robert Hicks

Trends come and go but on occasion there are products or fashions—even after being left for dead—that withstand the test of time and enter a period of resurgence. In a music industry scrambling to recover from slumping cd sales, vinyl album purchases have grown consistently. In 2008, 1.88 million records were bought—more than in any other year since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking LP sales (in 1991). And in the two years prior to 2008, vinyl sales rose 14%.

Many reading this article can no doubt remember buying their favorite albums on vinyl, whether it was the jazz of Stan Kenton or Count Basie, the classic albums of Elvis Presley and the Beatles, or the glam, punk and new wave music of the 70s and 80s. Imagine the surprise of those people when their sons, daughters or grandchildren pull the turntable out of the attic and play a new album they've brought home for the first time.

Audiophiles have long maintained that music sounds best when played in the vinyl format. A comparison between a digital version of a song and the same song played on a turntable will no doubt convert any listener. When in good condition, vinyl emits a warmth and richness that can't be matched by any other format available today.

Vinyl also has a collectability factor that is absent from digital formats. Recently many record labels have begun including coupons for digital downloads with their vinyl releases. This allows their audience to experience the high-fidelity sound of vinyl, as well as the portability of the Mp3—truly the best of both worlds.

Here in Portage Park we are lucky to have a record store that caters to the vinyl resurgence by staying true to the format even when others had abandoned it. Located on Cicero Avenue just south of Montrose, Raffe's Record Riot is the place where every generation can find gems from any era or genre on vinyl. Owner Raffe Simonian moved the store to its current location over a decade ago after a long stint on Northwest Highway.

In the past year the store has undergone an amazing transformation, helped along substantially by employee Terry Nelson. The records are organized by genre and artist and priced by collectability and condition. Prices range from \$1.00 for many albums to more than \$30 for less common releases. The records are inspected and cleaned before being displayed, and every time you visit you can find something new—as Raffe is constantly seeking new albums to replenish his stock.

So now as the gift-buying season approaches, don't be surprised if your children ask for a gift that you thought was outdated long ago. Luckily you have a place right here in the neighborhood to find what you're looking for.

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