



# PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community  
News & Views

JUNE 2010



## Meetings & Announcements

PORTAGE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:

### Next Meetings:

Monday, June 14th  
7:30 p.m.  
4839 W. Irving Park Rd.

### Meeting Agenda

- **Special speaker from Working Bikes Cooperative.** *Need an inexpensive bike? Have a bike you do not need? Come to the next meeting! For more information on Working Bikes Cooperative, turn to page 7.)*
- President Update
- Treasurer Update
- Secretary Update
- Communications Update
- EDC Update
- Membership Update
- Parents Committee Update
- CAPS Update
- Business Update

### C.A.P.S. MEETINGS:

All meetings at 7 p.m.

#### Beat 1624 — June 23

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

#### Beat 1633 — June 15th

at Merrimac Park,  
6343 W. Irving Park Rd.

#### Beat 1634 — June 24th

St. Bartholomew Church,  
3601 N. Lavergne

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)

### Contact the PPNA:

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

## NOTICE!

Join the PPNA online to continue receiving PPNA Community News & Views (via email): [www.portagepark.org/membership](http://www.portagepark.org/membership)

LAST PRINTED PPNA NEWSLETTER!

PORTAGE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESENTS  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Independence Day**  
**BIKE PARADE**

FOOD  
GAMES  
MUSIC  
RAFFLE

FREE  
EVENT

**Sunday June 27, 2010**

- ★ Parade begins at Dickinson Park 9:00 am ★
- ★ Registration 8:00 am ★
- ★ Picnic in Portage Park 10:00 am – 1:00 pm ★

**PORTAGE PARK**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Don't forget to check out the BRAND NEW official PPNA website: [www.portagepark.org](http://www.portagepark.org)!

# Don't Miss this years Silent Summer Film Festival at Portage Theater!

This year's festival includes highlights such as *orchestral accompaniment* from special guests, as well as a 90th anniversary celebration featuring the same film screened at the Portage Theater's opening night in 1920!

## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE (all archival 35mm):

- ▶ **Friday July, 23 8pm** – “THE FRESHMAN” with *Harold Lloyd, organ accompaniment, Dennis Scott / Pre-show - West End Jazz Band*
- ▶ **Friday July, 30 8pm** – “BEN-HUR” with *Ramon Navarro, Francis X. Bushman, organ accompaniment, Jay Warren*
- ▶ **Friday Aug, 06 8pm** – “THE MARK OF ZORRO” with *Doug Fairbanks and \*special guest accompaniment, The Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra from Colorado!\**
- ▶ **Friday Aug, 13 8pm** – “THE PENALTY” with *Lon Chaney, organ accompaniment, Dennis Scott \*Portage 90th anniversary show — this film was part of the opening weekend for the Portage in 1920!\**
- ▶ **Friday Aug 20 8pm** – “HAROLD TEEN” *organ accompaniment, Jay Warren*
- ▶ **Friday Aug 27 8pm** – “POLLYANNA” *organ accompaniment, Dennis Scott / Pre-show - West End Jazz Band*

## Portage Park Palates By Jan and Jill

I'm thrilled that Crave's Café finally opened at 4431 N. Milwaukee. Actually, thrilled isn't the word I'm looking for...I'm Ecstatic!!!! **Craves Café** opened a few weeks ago after teasing us for a month or two that they were opening. I finally called them to see if they were open, and Tara, one of the owners called me back. They invited us to the soft opening party the next night, and they told us to get the word out. And we said “Are you sure? Because, we know a lot of people.” And they were sure, so we sent the email out to everyone we could. And the soft opening party was well attended by friends of the owners, PPNA members, Friends of the Park, and any lucky Joe that got a hold of the invite. It was all free food, and if you wanted a sweet, you just had to point. They basically came around with samples of their food. There were plenty of empanadas and salsa's and Sangria all around. It does not have a liquor license, but the free opening party had sangria. It was pleasantly crowded when I went. It was standing room only, as all the chairs were taken by lucky patrons. I stayed for an hour and talked to Tara for some of it, but things were hopping. Food was coming out and everyone was having a loud, good time. I want all my parties to have tons of free food and drinks, but that's me.

Craves Café opened in the shuttered Papa Nicholas space. We were saddened by the loss of the coffee place that did not survive the streetscape project. It was disappointing for the entire neighborhood, because a coffee house with sandwiches was sorely needed in our community. And we really liked the place and the owners. Flash forward to 2010. Tara and her mother in law, decided that we needed a sandwich shop/coffee house, and they took it upon themselves to go for it. They live here in the area, and wanted to go to a place like this. So, they went forward with their vision. It's been a lot of work to make this happen, and a lot of sweat equity, and a learning process. First, let me tell you about the menu.

The menu is quite extensive. They open early. 7:00 am on the weekdays and Saturday. And they are open until 9:00 pm. At the moment, they are closed on Sundays. They serve freshly brewed coffee that you can customize with a shot of flavor. They have espresso drinks, frozen coffee drinks, fruit smoothies, hot tea and a cold blend ice tea of the day and hot chocolate. And you can buy a ton of different pastries and desserts to go with your coffee or tea. Or, if you are hungrier, opt for breakfast. We were there for an early breakfast at 9:00 Sunday morning a few weeks ago. We ordered the chorizo scramble empanada's that came with Crave's salsa roja. We ordered two each, and then we ordered another two each. I'm very fond of chorizo, and I frequently state that I have to go through a 12 step program because of the addiction. I usually say it to be funny, but in actuality, I'm totally an addict. And there is a fresh fruit yogurt made with added blueberries and strawberry with a little cup of granola to add. These beautiful little parfaits are to die for. And you can just grab one to go, or buy some for your favorite friends as a treat. I'm telling you, these yogurts will have you fantasizing about getting another one. They are that good.

One of the things that was missing when this place opened was an outdoor patio. Papa Nicholas had one, and I love sitting outside if the weather is nice. Well, it took a little while to get the permit, but the outdoor patio is open on the wide sidewalk next to the restaurant. It's complete with many comfortable chairs and tables, and flower boxes and a metal entrance and fence. It's a beauty. And the best part? There is a parking lot. Midway down the block, south of the restaurant is a parking a lot for a generous amount of cars. There was an open field after a fire leveled a building. Hhhhhmmmm. A parking lot instead of a field. That's a huge improvement. And there

is street parking on Agatite. At the moment, there is street parking on Milwaukee in front of Crave's. The street scape project opened the street up to three lanes in this area-so there is a parking lane. This will be good for business.

Now, for the rest of the food. There are salads and soups. I love tortilla soup, and I haven't had this version yet, but it's on my radar. The Crave's homemade salad is also on my list of things that look great to try. It has a mix of romaine lettuce and baby spinach with tomatoes, cucumbers, chick peas, green olives, finely sliced red onions, chopped egg and feta cheese topped with a homemade vinaigrette for \$5.29. Something good that I feel good about eating? A real rarity. I did try a lot of different things at the party. They brought around steak tacos, chicken tacos, quesadillas, Crave's signature Lavosh and guacamole and all different salsas. They have sandwiches and Panini's, I have the classic cubano on my list. There are empanada's, quesadillas, burritos and taco's. There are many taco sides. I particularly like the confetti rice, a rice dish made with black beans and corn mild chili and feta cheese, but the Spanish rice has appeal as well. There are Crave's combos for the people who want to try two different things at once. Last Saturday, after a manicure and pedicure with my favorite nail technician-Kasia at XOX salon, I went over to Crave's for lunch and sat in the newly opened patio area. I ordered 4 yogurt parfaits and took two home and stopped in at XOX to give my girls a treat. I ordered steak taco plate, and was rewarded with three double corn tortilla tacos with spanish rice and refried beans. This was only \$7.95. It came with a small fountain drink. I loved the steak tacos and sides and sat there all by myself feeling smug and happy. Now, I want to mention that everything is cooked to order. It's not like McDonald's where everything is ready and they pride themselves on getting you in and out quickly. There is a lot of care in the preparation of your food, so don't be surprised if it takes a little longer than typical fast food. There is nothing typical about Crave's Café. And now, you can get an unsweetened iced tea of the day-which I see in my future since I brainstormed the idea with Tara. They are open to suggestions and opinions, if you have any positive or negative experiences, they want to know, so they can fix any issues rapidly. So, don't be shy. Crave's is hiring and training staff and cooks. They are doing trial by fire. But, they love their eatery and they believe in it. I love their spirit. So, go there and try it yourself. The staff is friendly and the menu extensive. The staff may misstep occasionally, and the cook may misstep as well, but these issues will work out as they learn and grow confident. So, cut them some slack while they get their sea legs, and know that eventually, when they click on all cylinders, that you were there in their infancy. And I think it's going to grow into a very successful restaurant. I'm heading there today to get another yogurt and some iced tea of the day. Maybe a pastry. Yum.

**Crave's Café is at 4431 N. Milwaukee, at the corner of Milwaukee and Agatite**, a block north of Milwaukee and Montrose. The inside is beautifully done and WiFi accessible. Their hours are 7am to 9pm weekdays and 7 to 9 on Saturdays. Their number is 773-481-2337. And, they offer Portage Park Neighborhood Association 10% off with membership card everyday. It's a gem.

*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 2010 we hope you will continue to suggest restaurants and join us when we meet. If you would like to join us, our only requirement is that you do not notify the restaurant. We all pay for our own portion of the check, share the dishes and offer opinions for the review. An article about the restaurant will appear in the following PPNA newsletter. Send your emails to [membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org) or [communications@portagepark.org](mailto:communications@portagepark.org).*



## News for residents of the 45th Ward

### Summer Events Announced by Alderman Levar:

**June 9** - Bingo presented by the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce Doors open at 5:30 PM at Sokol Community Center, 4855 N. Elston Ave. Free parking at Parkway Bank at Lawrence Avenue and Elston.

**June 12** - Yard Sale sponsored by the Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce From 9 AM to 12:30 PM 25 community families will offer their "treasures" at Habetler Bowl, 5250 N. Northwest Hwy.

**June 25 - 27** - JEFF FEST Three days of food, music and fun hosted by the Jefferson Park Chamber of the Copernicus Civic and Cultural Center at 5216 W. Lawrence Ave. Main stage headliners include Maggie Speaks, Lounge Puppets and 7th Heaven. Adults are \$5, children under 12 free. 5 PM to 11 PM Friday, Noon to 11 PM Saturday and Noon to 10 PM Sunday

**July 17** - "Trash to Treasure" Flea Market presented by the Jefferson Park Chamber The Flea Market will be from 9 AM to 1:30 PM on the grounds of the Copernicus Foundation, 5216 W. Lawrence. Spaces are available for \$30 which includes parking.

## 2010 Jeff Fest Set for June 25 - 27 at Copernicus Civic & Cultural Center

In its 10th year, JEFF FEST provides a mix of bands, local eateries, artists and children activities in an effort to help promote the Jefferson Park community. The Copernicus Foundation and the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce have joined forces this year to provide a more community-oriented festival along with another great lineup of bands.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the charitable and civic goals of both the foundation and the chamber.

Families are invited to participate in the children's bike parade contest which is set for noon Saturday, June 26, and car enthusiasts won't want to miss the Classic & Muscle Car Show from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 27. Also at 3 p.m. Saturday, Radio Disney will be providing an array of entertainment for children. Kids games, face painting, a children's fashion show, a dance and gymnastic performances are among the other scheduled family activities planned for Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

In addition, the Northwest Chicago Historical Society will have special displays on the area's history, and the Well Slept Film Festival, featuring documentaries and short subject movies, will be playing all day inside the center from Noon to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. Fest-goers also are invited to try their luck on the Money Wheel and to visit the food court, featuring the Gale Street Inn, Craves Mexican Cuisine, Panino's Pizza and Home Baker Polish Cuisine. A beer and wine tent also will be offered.

Headliner bands on the Main Stage include (note that times are subject to change):

- **Maggie Speaks at 8:15 p.m. Friday**
- **Lounge Puppets at 8:15 p.m. Saturday**
- **7th Heaven at 7:45 p.m. Sunday**

In the event of rain, featured bands will be performing inside the 1,900-seat Mitchell Kobelinski Theatre inside the Copernicus Center. Also, don't miss Joey Privia singing Elvis, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra classis at 5 p.m. Sunday on the variety stage. For a full list of bands including those local bands which will be performing on the variety Stage, and a full schedule of other activities, visit [www.jefffest.org](http://www.jefffest.org) or send an e-mail to [Jeff.Fest30@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff.Fest30@gmail.com).

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children age 12 and under. Hours are 5 to 11 p.m. Friday, June 25, Noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, June 26, and Noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 27. VIP parking for \$10 is available on Lawrence. For more information, call the festival hotline at (773) 777-7712.

## News for residents of the 38th Ward

### CITY VEHICLE STICKER SALE

**MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010**  
**38TH WARD SERVICE OFFICE**  
**5817 W. Irving Park - 10:00 am until 5:30 pm**

**Residential Zone Parking Stickers/Daily Passes will also be available for purchase.**

**Additional information:**  
**[www.chicityclerk.com](http://www.chicityclerk.com)**

### FRIENDS OF PORTAGE PARK *Upcoming events*

#### ► MOVIES IN THE PARK

Portage Park will host an outdoor screening of the movie Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs, on Tuesday, June 29, 2010. It will begin at dusk by the open area near the outdoor pool.

#### ► CIRCUS IN THE PARK

We are very happy to announce that Portage Park has been selected as one of the five parks who will be hosting Circus in the Parks On October 9th and 10th 2010 The Midnight Circus will set up camp in the park. We will have two performances per day. This is a great family event and will bring a lot of fun and joy to our community. There will be more details in the following months, but this is an event that you and your family will not want to miss!

#### ► FARMERS MARKET

Our Summer Markets began Sunday, June 6th and run every other Sunday through October 31, 2010, with the exception of July 4 and Sept 5. Market hours are 10am to 2pm. We would like to welcome our new vendors: Flame and Frost, selling salsa's and homemade Italian Ice. Pop This, selling many different varieties of popcorn. We would also like to welcome back vendors from last season: Geneva Lakes Produce, Madsen Farms, Klug Orchards, Tail Waggin Treats, Olives 4 U, Stamper Cheese, SenTeaMental Moods Tea, Blissful Seed and Sharpening by Dave.. so don't forget to bring you dull knives as well as watches that need new batteries.

The next market on June 20th, will be sponsored by: Energy Fitness, Inc, 4222 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 773 879-0063 [www.energyfitnessinc.com](http://www.energyfitnessinc.com).



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

### PARENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Lead efforts to provide services targeting parents and children. Contact the PPNA Board at [board@portagepark.org](mailto:board@portagepark.org) for more information.

### Accounting, Bookkeeping & Payroll

**Michael F. Barrett, CPA, CFP, MBA**

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Chicago, IL 60641  
(773) 286-6900



### Salon Day Package

Pick any 3 services done on the same day & get 15% OFF  
*(Services apply to 1 person only & can't be combined with other offers)*



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CHICAGO, IL 60630  
CALL 773.777.9997  
XOX.SALON.COM



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

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

*As businesses are added, they will be listed in this newsletter and on our web site. If you are an area business and would like to participate, please contact the PPNA at [membership@portagepark.org](mailto:membership@portagepark.org). If you have not yet joined or renewed your PPNA membership, please do so to take advantage of this benefit. Cards will be mailed to each paid member, and will be valid through Dec. 31, 2010.*

## PPNA Financial Report

Balance sheet as of May, 31, 2010

	Parkway Bank Checking
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	
Previous	\$2,437.44
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$2,004.44</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	\$30.00
Parade	\$775.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$805.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Newsletter Printing	\$956.00
Membership Committee	\$50.00
Bank Fee - Bank of America	\$12.00
Community Development	\$150.00
Kids' Parade	\$70.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,238.00</b>

# OLD PORTAGE PARK'S 41ST ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 19th, 9am to 4pm  
FAITH CHURCH 5051 W. Belle Plain

One day only, rain or shine!

Craft fair, refreshments and participating addresses/map of sale area available.

Got questions? Call Susan Kennelly 312-925-6661

## Advertise your business on the NEW PPNA website and NEW electronic newsletter

New web site introductory offer – be on the cutting edge of advertising in Portage Park! Our current addition of *PPNA News and Views* gets distributed via an email link to hundreds of our members at the beginning of every month. We also send it to local community leaders and organizations. You will receive a direct link to your business allowing you to reach people with all your current sales and specials.

The PPNA website with archives will be available to anyone. Let us know which page you would like your link to reside.

10 monthly issues of the newsletter, with a link to your site, is only \$100.00 per year. Main page website advertising with a link to your site is only \$200.00 per year. Archive and information pages only \$50.00 a year.

Questions? Contact Gerard at 773-736-3076 or board@portagepark.org.



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

HISTORIC CHICAGO BUNGALOW INITIATIVE



SPECIAL EVENT

## ReHab, ReUse, RePurpose: A Tour of Chicago's ReBuilding Exchange

Please join the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative, the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association for a tour of the ReBuilding Exchange and see a presentation illustrating how materials from the ReBuilding Exchange have been incorporated into home improvement projects.

The ReBuilding Exchange diverts building materials from the waste stream and makes them accessible to the public for reuse at a low cost, protecting community health, creating jobs, and saving resources. Salvaged through sustainable deconstruction practices, the wide range of materials available at the ReBuilding Exchange can be incorporated directly into rehab projects or repurposed for other uses.

WHEN:

Saturday, June 12 – 10AM-12PM

WHERE:

ReBuilding Exchange (3335 West 47th St.)

TO RSVP:

Please visit [greystone@nhschicago.org](mailto:greystone@nhschicago.org) or call Blanche at 773-522-4637.

## PPNA 2010 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



## North Park Village Nature Center FREE Event: City Wilds Festival of Backyard Biodiversity

On Saturday, June 12, come out for the second annual “BioBlitz” as volunteers head into the preserve to find and identify as many living organisms (plants and animals alike) as possible between 10 am and 10 pm (on that day only). On both Saturday and Sunday, learn about native plants, create nature crafts, hike through the preserve, and enjoy a visit with the Chicago Turtle Club. On Sunday only, “Tales & Scales Traveling Zoo” presents its educational and interactive live animal program. Free and open to all ages. No registration required. June 12th 10 am - 10 pm; June 13th, 10 am - 3 pm.

## Garden Club Update By Jan Kupka

### ► WHAT TO DO IN YOUR GARDEN IN JUNE? LOTS OF THINGS – ESPECIALLY MAINTENANCE!

**You may need to replenish mulches**, especially those that break down quickly, such as straw or grass clippings. The best time to mulch garden beds is after weeding and watering.

**Don't forget the roses!** Always deadhead roses. Fertilize roses with a second application of 20-20-20 fertilizer after the first flowers bloom. Continue fertilizing but in our zone (5) keep the fertilizing to a minimum. Studies have shown that keeping your roses a little “hungry” helps them overwinter better.

**You can continue to plant container-grown trees, shrubs, perennial herbs, and perennial flowers.** But be careful, as the weather gets hotter, they're more likely to suffer heat stress and therefore die out. Keep new plantings well-watered.

**And you can still divide most perennials as long as they're not spring bloomers and as long as the foliage isn't more than 5 or 6 inches high.** Divide them if they are getting crowded (reduced blooms, a dead spot in the middle) or you simply want more plants. Keep those plants well-watered also.

**Keep pinching the last inch or so of the branches of Mums until July to assure bushy, well-flowering plants.** While you're at it, cut back asters and other tall, floppy, late-summer bloomers by about one-third once they're a foot or so high. They'll be sturdier and flower better.

**If you have plants that will grow tall, stake them now while they're just a foot or so high.** Some gardeners believe in staking flowers within an inch of their life, others don't believe in it at all and then there is the majority that fall in the middle. Flowers that grow in clumps are often top heavy. A

good example is double peonies – they're beautiful until a heavy rainstorm comes along and they're lying in the mud. Shasta Daisies suddenly splay out exposing stems in the middle. These plants are best supported with grow through support that are set up in the early spring allowing the plants to grow up through the circular loops.

The best time to stake vegetables is before they get too big, which means when you plant them. Different vegetables need different supports. Beans and peas need something to grow around like a tepee made from bamboo, cucumbers need to be kept off the ground – a cage system would work, squash and gourds are too heavy for a staking system, but the ripening fruit can be supported with a stretchy mesh fabric attached to a trellis (giving support hose a new meaning and purpose), for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant use tomato cages.

**Start seedlings such as broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower for fall harvest.** Also plant pumpkin seeds for a fall harvest.

**Sew seeds from perennials into the garden for next year's bloom.**

### ► THE PORTAGE PARK GARDEN CLUB WILL HOLD ITS 3RD MEMBERS ONLY GARDEN WALK SATURDAY, JUNE 26 AT 9:30AM.

The walk will start with a short meeting in the Community room on the 2nd floor (there is an elevator) of the Austin Irving Library 6100 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-744-6222. This is a rain or shine meeting. The members will be visit 6 gardens with a pot luck lunch at the 6th garden. Each member may bring one guest to the garden walk and luncheon. The charge for the guest will be \$5.00 for both functions. If the guest decides to join the garden club there is no fee. For information regarding the Garden Walk call 773-794-1984 or portageparkgc@comcast.net.

## GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: *How YOU can help...* Reduce Your Summer Energy Consumption Room by Room

Before the summer heat—and summertime utility bill—starts to make you sweat, you might want to consider making a few changes to cut your energy consumption. You can shave dollars off your monthly bills without sacrificing comfort as long as you plan ahead and get creative. Here's a room-by-room guide to saving money this summer—and benefiting the Earth at the same time.

**In the basement/furnaceroom:** cleaning/replacing air conditioning filters every month and getting your system checked by a professional once a year will ensure that it's functioning as efficiently and inexpensively as possible.

**In the living room:** Unplug your electronics or use a Smart Strip, which cuts power when it's not needed.

**In the kitchen:** Baking a cake or casserole in the summer will force your air conditioner to go into overdrive. Plus, eating hot

food will only make you want to turn the thermostat down. But you don't have to survive on cold pasta salads and gazpacho this summer. Instead of using your oven, consider an outdoor grill or toaster oven for small amounts of food.

**In the bathroom:** If you don't want to spend money on a low-flow toilet, you can still make yours more efficient by dropping a soda bottle filled with sand or water into the back. It will use less water each time it flushes.

**In the bedroom:** Shutting the doors and vents of unused rooms can also lighten the load of your air conditioning unit.

**Outside:** A way to reduce cooling costs in the longer run is to plant trees or shrubs so that your house is more shaded, especially on the sunnier side. (For a quicker fix, draw the blinds or shades when you're not home).

## Interview with Co-Founder of Seanachai Theatre Company Michael Grant *By Marlena Ascher*

Seanachai Theatre Company, a fifteen-year old Chicago theatre company, celebrating the stories of the Irish, was both thrilled and grateful to attend April's Portage Park Neighborhood Association meeting. Since moving into the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N. Knox) earlier this year, Seanachai feels it has been welcomed with open arms by the surrounding neighborhoods of the IAHC. "We have been excited to meet so many active and productive members of Portage Park and surrounding neighborhoods," stated Amie Marks, president of Seanachai's board of directors, "Their vision and plans to revitalize these areas certainly make us feel like we could not have moved in at a better time. We'd like to help with that vision."

In May, a neighboring community, Old Irving Park Association, invited speakers

from Seanachai Theatre as well as from three other theatre companies in the neighborhood to discuss how they each would like to be involved in transforming these northwest neighborhoods into a theatre district of sorts, eventually drawing additional culture into the area. Chicago is widely thought of as one of the greatest regional theatre districts in the world, and it is not surprising when you see the way various theatre companies come together to increase awareness and attendance of theatre in this great city. The Chicago theatre scene is one, not of thriving competition, but of thriving talent that nurtures and supports one another.

Seanachai, an award-winning, professional equity theatre company is poised and ready to reach out to the communities it now calls home. After having closed their first successful production at the Irish American Heritage Center, the Jeff Recommended, Dancing at Lughnasa, by Brian Friel, Seanachai is in high gear at the center. With a two-show 2010/2011 season planned in the "black box" theatre, a summer theatre camp for children planned for late June, and participation in this year's IRISHFEST in July, Seanachai hopes to have many opportunities to reach out and grow their patronage. Amie Marks concluded, "We already feel that we have been welcomed with open arms, and we want the communities surrounding the IAHC to know that we are here and ready to do our part in making this area one of the most vibrant and vital areas of Chicago."

To learn more about Seanachai go to [www.seanachai.org](http://www.seanachai.org) <<http://www.seanachai.org>> or call 773-878-3727. Don't miss Seanachai's fall production of The Weir, by Conor McPherson, opening August 28, 2010 and running through October 3, 2010.

## SCHOOL UPDATES:

### Two New Music Programs at St. Robert Bellarmine School

We are happy to introduce two new music programs. **Rock Band Classes**, taking place now, offer students of all grade levels the opportunity to experiment on various instruments while learning to play together as a group. Programs from the **Merit School of Music**, with instruction for many instruments and learning levels, will begin in Fall 2010. For more information, contact the school office at 773-725-5133.

## Working Bikes Cooperative Representative to Speak at June 14th PPNA Meeting

Working Bikes Cooperative is a donation based, volunteer driven, non-profit 501-c 3. Its mission is to donate recycled bicycles to people in developing countries. To support its mission, Working Bikes recycles bicycles.

Diverted from landfill and collected via donation or through a bike drive. Bicycles are repaired and restored to working order by volunteers. Revived bikes are sold locally at affordable prices. Profits from storefront sales fund monthly global shipments of bicycles.

In developing countries, where the bicycles are received, bicycles have two functions: transportation and energy generator. Bikes do not just change lives having them as equipment changes a person or communities lifestyle.

### Benefits of Bicycles:

Mountain bikes make it easy to move through rugged terrain where there are no roads to travel.

Bikes allow women to take produce and other home made goods to market as a way to support their families. Children use bikes to get to and from school. Students in America are benefited by school districts and public transport systems. Students in the developing world often must travel far distances that are not easily traveled on foot to receive an education. Doctors use bicycles to visit patients in rural areas. Bike machines allow people to use pedal power to produce energy. Pedaling can be used to pump wells, grind up grains, or even to power lights in houses.

Over one thousand bicycles are locally donated here in Chicago each year. Local donation bicycles support refugee's and people who rely on bikes as a means of transportation. A local donation benefactor receives: a lock, a helmet & a bicycle.

### Facts & Numbers:

It costs \$5,000 to send 500 bicycles across the world. Places bicycles are shipped to: Guatemala, Ghana, Peru, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Tanzania, Haiti, Angola, Panama, El Salvador and Zambia.

- 4,000 sent to the aid of people of developing countries each year
- 2,000 bicycles sold locally each year
- 500 + bicycles are designated to local donations
- 500 bicycles fit into one 40 foot shipping container

To learn more, please visit [www.workingbikes.org](http://www.workingbikes.org).

## Disney II to Host Fun Fair/ Field Day

On **Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** we will host a year-end funfair/field day. Students will enjoy a day of games, activities, face painting, etc. *Community members who are interested in joining in on the fun are encouraged to stop by and visit.*

# JOHN ARENA

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

## Neighborhood Pride on Display at PPNA's Independence Day Parade

By Jill Staniszewski

A few years ago, on June 24, 2006, we had our annual Children's Parade from Dickinson's Park to Portage Park. It's followed by a picnic in Portage Park complete with hot dogs, games, a band and a raffle. I go every year, not because I'm the first lady, but because I really enjoy it, and I'm very proud of our organization and its accomplishments. I always stake out a place to watch the parade at Berteau and Laramie, right beside the Living Witness Church. My sister and I go together and we wait for the crowd to parade past us, whole families with excited children, and we applaud and wave like lunatics enjoying the spectacle. My husband leads the parade, and I'm very aware of all the hard work which leads to this fun day. However, that year was different, and I'll never forget it. The day started out looking like rain might spoil our plans. My sister showed up and we walked over to our usual place by the church, holding our umbrellas and crossing our fingers hoping for the best. I know my husband and others were wondering if the parade was going to happen. The 9:00am start time came and went, and I continued to wonder if we would have the parade. My husband says that there were only a handful of people at first in the rain, and it looked like the weather was going to spoil the event. At approximately 9:30am, the group started heading down the parade route. And I looked down the street, and saw a large crowd with children and parents heading my way. They had their decorated bikes and rain ponchos and umbrellas. I saw the spirit of the neighborhood coming down the street. Gerard said little by little the crowd assembled the children and the adults ready to brave the weather and participate in the annual event, not dissuaded by the rain. I don't think I've ever felt such pride and admiration. We paraded to the park, where we ate hot dogs and held the raffle for the abbreviated event. I'll never forget the sense of community demonstrated by the people who came out in the rain. This year, I bet it will be warm and sunny, like so many of our parades, but I'll never forget that soggy day in June 2006. What a proud moment for our neighborhood. So, come out and join your neighbors, rain or shine this June 27th. It's a Sunday, and registration starts at 8:00am at Dickinson Park with donuts and coffee. The parade starts at 9:00am. I'll be clapping and waving next to the Living Witness Church with my sister. See you there.

## A Thanks to PPNA Newsletter Contributors over the Years

By Gerard Staniszewski, President

As you know, this is our last *printed* newsletter. I would like to take a moment to thank some of the people who have helped us over the years with this fine publication. First, John Arena (the former Vice President of Communications for PPNA) has produced many wonderful issues for us. And then Abigail Dean, who has been the behind-the-scenes designer/editor for the past two years. Initially Abby assisted John—keeping the Board members in line with deadlines, contributing articles (including the "Green Corner" section)—and then later managed the entire publication start to finish. Most of what you see in the newsletter—other than the basic text—is Abby. Without these contributions, the newsletter would not be the symbol that it has become. Our well-written/designed printed newsletter will be missed!

Second, I would like to express my gratitude for the great relationship we have developed with Vaughn Occupational High School. Every month the students sort the printed issues into distribution groups and also prepare the member envelopes for delivery, including: folding, stuffing, affixing, sealing and mailing. These kids have truly been the elves in the hollow tree of the PPNA for years! The PPNA newsletter has given them, although small, an occupation. But the newsletter you have in your hand is the last one they will touch. I know that these students would like to—and should—do more in our community. In turn, I'm reaching out to PPNA members and those in the neighborhood at large, if you're reading this editorial, please take a moment and ask yourself if you know anyone who might benefit from these services Vaughn provides. I can attest to the great work they've done for the PPNA. Does your church need help with mailings? What about your business or employer? Please ask around. The kids would love to help. For more information, please contact Marleen Winn at 773-534-3600 x120.

On behalf of the PPNA Board, its members and the Portage Park community, thank you John, Abby and the kids at Vaughn.



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

Gerard Staniszewski – *PPNA President*  
Bob Brobson – *Director*  
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For more information about the PPNA and/or the PPNA News, e-mail us at:  
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