

# PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community  
News & Views

February 2011

## Meetings and Announcements

### Next PPNA Public Meeting

February 14th, 2011

4839 W Irving Park Rd

7:30 PM

### Guest Speaker

No speaker this month

Happy Valentines Day!

## C. A. P. S.

### Beat 1624

February 23, 2011

Portage Park

4100 N Long

7:00 PM

### Beat 1633

February 24, 2011

St. Bartholomew

3601 N Lavergne

7:00 PM

### Beat 1634

February 24, 2011

St. Bartholomew

3601 N Lavergne

7:00 PM

### 16th District CAPS Office Information

312-742-4521

## Aldermanic Election

### February 22nd



## Don't forget to vote

Where do I vote?

<http://www.chicagoelections.com/voterinfo.php>

As voters we have an unprecedented situation in two of the Wards we encompass in the PPNA. Both Aldermanic seats are open. Come February 23<sup>rd</sup> and barring any run-off elections, we will have a new alderman in both the 38<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Wards. If past experience holds true, the new Alderman will be with us for a very long time. This makes the job of every registered voter extremely important. If you did not make it to one of the forums we sponsored, it is time to do your homework. Check out the websites of each candidate. Read the campaign mail you will get. Try and meet with the candidates if they knock on your door. Make a choice and get out and vote.

Below is the current contact information for all the candidates.

### 38th Ward Candidates (Ballot Order)

Timothy M. Cullerton

<http://www.cullerton38.com>

Tom Caravette

<http://caravette38.com/>

Carmen Hernandez

<http://www.carmenhernandez38thward.com>

John R. Videckis

<http://www.videckisforchicago.com>

Edmund "Ed" J. Quartullo

<http://www.facebook.com/edforchicago>

Mahmoud Bambouyani

<http://38ward.com/>

Bart Goldberg

<http://bart38.com/>

Sheryl M. Morabito

<http://www.sherylforthe38thward.com>

### 45th Ward Candidates (Ballot Order)

Don Blair

<http://www.blair2011.com>

John Garrido

<http://johngarrido.com/>

John Arena

<http://arenafor45.com/>

Anna Klocek

<http://voteanna.com/>

Maria Yolanda Faz-Huppert

<http://marinafor45thward.org>

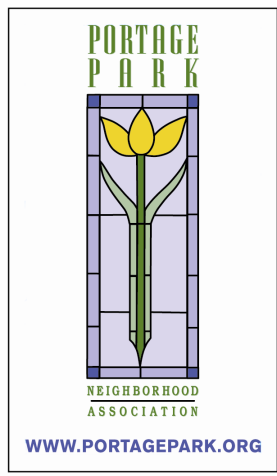
Bruno Bellissimo

<http://revive45.org/>

Michael Fitzgerald Ward

<http://www.wardforthe45th.com/>

# Presidents Comments



January was a special time for the PPNA. Our organization was a part of two well received aldermanic forums. This in itself may not seem like much, but when you look at it deeper it becomes more clear.

The special part of the forums had to do with the partnerships. The 38<sup>th</sup> Ward forum had the PPNA partnered with the Old Irving Association (OIPA) and the Friends of Portage Park (FOPP). The 45<sup>th</sup> Ward had us partnered with not only OIPA and FOPP but The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association and The Mayfair Civic Organization. This was a definite show of solidarity and strength.

You have to look at it this way. Partnering with other local organizations increases our strength in getting the word out. It shows our elected officials just how strong we can be. The information network that opens up to us in partnerships like this is great. If an issue arises in the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward, just by Email alone, we can reach hundreds if not over a thousand people. If a police alert goes out in the neighborhood, the network increases by encompassing not only the 45<sup>th</sup> Ward but the 38<sup>th</sup> Ward and more. The speed of this information is only limited by how fast we forward it and how long it takes you to read the message.

As time goes on, I am confident these partnerships will increase. More community organizations will come on line. We will all become stronger because of these partnerships. (See our website for more photos)



PPNA information table at the 45th Ward Forum

## In this Issue

Get out and vote February 22nd

Palates year in review

Seanachai Theatre

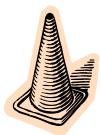
Chicago Weaving School

P.P. Garden Club Update

Updates on Six Corners

Have You Noticed

# Six Corner's Construction Update



With the New Year upon us, the streetscape construction at Six Corner's has come (almost) to an end. The 2010 construction season ended with crews able to complete all the curbside planters, install soil & trees, hang the community identifiers and install the gateways and historic markers. In the spring, final details will be completed and the planters will

be filled with colorful plants to bring the whole shopping district to life. The Six Corner's Association Design Committee hopes to work with local businesses, community organizations and volunteers to maintain these planters throughout the year. If you are interested in assisting, contact the Six Corner's Association. This work was 10 years in the making with community organizations, public officials and

neighbors working toward a rejuvenation of the Six Corner's shopping district and we are fortunate to see the fruits of their labor. Now it's up the community to do their part and introduce other businesses to the Six Corner's shopping district and most importantly, shop local with the stores we are fortunate to have. Thank you to all that have put efforts to this huge and successful undertaking.

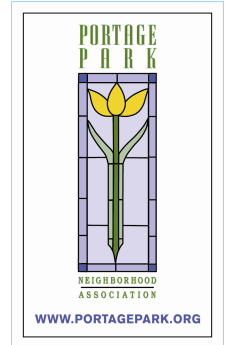
# Street Festival coming to Six Corner's



**“Food vendors and activities will center on a barbecue theme”**

The Six Corner's Association Promotional Committee is making plans for our community's inaugural Street Festival in June to celebrate the completion of our new streetscape. Food vendors and activities will center on a barbecue theme along with fam-

ily and children's activities. Volunteers from the community can help make this an annual event by getting involved and making it a huge success. Anyone who is interested in volunteering and has ideas to contribute should contact Ed Bannon @ the Six Corner's Association, 773-685-9300 or [ed@sixcornerschicago.com](mailto:ed@sixcornerschicago.com).



The community has asked for it and we are getting it!

# Portage Park Playlot Renovation Update



A representative from the Chicago Park District recently presented two playlot concepts for a new, safer and more accessible playlot at Portage Park. Both concepts represented an improvement to previous designs thanks in part to community input and an additional \$200,000 in funds pro-

vided by the Park District. Based on feedback at the community meeting, one of the plans will be further developed toward efforts to commence construction in 2011. Contact Friends of Portage Park for additional information. [http://](http://www.friendsofportagepark.org/)

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



**“Based on feedback at the community meeting, one of the plans will be further developed...”**

# Six Corner's Holiday Decorations

Have you noticed the lighted Holiday Banners on the new pedestrian poles at Six Corner's? Portage Park neighbors Jill Arena and Bob Brobson assisted the Six Corner's Association in designing lighted Holiday Banners in a winter shopping theme in the spirit of the Six

Corner's Logo. Additional area identifiers and slogans can be found on new trashcans at Six Corner's. Soon to follow will be seasonal banners installed opposite the permanent Six Corner's identifiers on the light poles. If you have not shopped the area recently, take a stroll with your family and take in

the community spirit the Six Corner's Association and businesses have created and look to improve upon.



**New light pole and Six Corner identifying sign on Milwaukee.**

## Seanachai Theatre Presents *That Was Then*

### February 26-April 3



Seanachai Theatre Company is proud to present the Midwest premiere of *That Was Then* by Gerard Stembridge, February 26<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox. Ensemble member Carolyn Klein directs fellow members Anne Sunseri and Sarah Wellington, with Ira Amyx, Molly Glynn and Joseph Wycoff rounding out the cast. Ensemble member Erin Diener is stage manager.

Returning to Seanachai after the highly successful production of *The Weir* are

designers Julian Pike (Lighting) Robert Groth and Jennifer J. Thusing (Set) Joe Court (Sound). Costume design is by Beth Laske-Miller, Properties design by Emily Duffin and Dialect Coaching by Eva Breneman.

Familiar tensions between the Irish and the Brits surface in Gerard Stembridge's dark comedy about Dublinites Noel and May who host a dinner party for an English couple in hope of securing a substantial loan. Five years later, the invitation is reciprocated but the tables have turned. Booze, football, and Jamie Oliver

(culinary celebrity famous for trying to revolutionize the unhealthy way we eat) make for a heady and explosive cocktail in this dual-time period piece.

Gerard Stembridge, born in Limerick in 1958, works as a writer and director in theatre, film, and television. He came to prominence in the early 1990's with a radio comedy series *Scrap Saturday* which satirized political and cultural figures of the day. He directed the world premiere of *That Was Then* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin in 2002.

**Familiar tensions between the Irish and the Brits surface in Gerard Stembridge's dark comedy about Dublinites Noel and May who host a dinner party for an English couple in hope of securing a substantial loan**



*That Was Then* by Gerard Stembridge

February 26<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011

THURSDAYS-SATURDAYS @ 7.30pm, SUNDAYS @ 3pm

\$10 Previews February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm

Press Opening February 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm

VIP Opening Performance February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm

NO Performance March 12<sup>th</sup>

ADDED Performance March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7.30pm

Tickets \$22-26 – [www.seanachai.org](http://www.seanachai.org) or call (866) 811-4111

*Performed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Theatre  
The Irish American Heritage Center*

4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL 60630

FREE Parking

El: Blue Line to Montrose

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

# Portage Park Garden Club



February doesn't really give a gardener much to do but take care of houseplants, move snow

around to benefit the garden or start planning this year's garden.

**Houseplants** are semi-dormant this time of year and require less water and fertilizer. The biggest danger to houseplants in the winter is over-watering or light conditions. Houseplants can be moved to match the plant to their tolerated light level. Plants that thrive in low light are peace lilies, philodendron and snake plants. Plants thriving in medium light are asparagus fern, pothos, schefflera and spider plant. Plants thriving in bright light are aloe and jade.

If it's snowed and you want to do a little outdoor work, spread snow on perennials. It provides excellent insulation. Heavy snow should be removed from evergreens by gently sweeping with a broom and lifting underneath. Prune tree branches damaged by snow and ice. And prune fruit trees.

An armchair activity could be starting to plan this year's garden. Make plans by reviewing all those catalogues arriving in the mail. To find unique ideas to help you create your garden order the free 32 page Gardener's Idea Book from Proven Winners. [www.provenwinners.com/bloom](http://www.provenwinners.com/bloom) or call at 1-877-865-5818.

**Home Depot** has a free online garden club with articles, offers and coupons.

[www.homedepotgardenclub.com](http://www.homedepotgardenclub.com).

Or **Chicagoland Gardening** has a great bi-monthly magazine as well as an online publication geared for the Chicago area.

[www.chicagolandgardening.com](http://www.chicagolandgardening.com)

For ideas, visit the **Spring Flower Shows at the Lincoln Park and**

**the Garfield Park Conservatories or the Chicagoland Flower and Garden Show.**

**Lincoln Park Conservatory**, 2391 N. Stockton Drive show runs daily through May 8. The hours are 9a.m. - 5p.m. Admission is free. There is a fee for parking in the Lincoln Park Zoo parking lot.

**Garfield Park Conservatory**, 300 N. Central Park Ave. show runs daily through May 18. The hours

**The Portage Park Garden**

**Club begins its 12th year**

**Saturday, February 26 at**

**9:30am...in the Community**

**room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the**

**Austin-Irving Library.**

are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays until 8 p.m. Free parking is available next to the Conservatory. Admission to the exhibit is free. Classes and special exhibits are also ongoing at Garfield Park.

**The Chicago Flower & Garden Show** is being held at Navy Pier March 5-13, 2011. This year, the theme of the show is "The Spirit of Gardening" designed to "Inspire, Educate and Motivate" The hours are: Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 pm and Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 pm.

Another option is **The Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse**, located at 3501 N. Kilbourn, Chicago, IL 60641 (773-685-3359 blog at [kpgog.typepad.com](http://kpgog.typepad.com)). There are things going on there all the time, classes for all ages as well as special events. Jumpstart your spring at the Organic Greenhouse's first **Gardening Exchange Event**. Bring your friends and connect with your neighbors at this community event and fundraiser Saturday, March 5 from 1-4 pm. You will

have the opportunity to take basic organic gardening classes, purchase compost and seeds, and find gardening and cooking tools at bargain prices. All proceeds will support Kilbourn Park Organic Greenhouse's family and children's programs that connect kids to nature and healthy foods. Please contact the greenhouse for more event information.

If you're motivated, try one of the garden clubs in the area. Garden clubs were once thought to be for women wearing large hats and fancy gloves, drinking tea in the afternoon with gardeners to plant whatever appealed to them. No more! Men and women alike are joining garden clubs. Most wear bandanas, baseball caps or straw hats and gardening gloves. Although some meetings might be held in the afternoon and serve tea, in our area most meetings are held in the evening or on Saturday mornings. Some members might have help from a landscaper, but most of the work is done by the members whenever they have the time. Each club might have a different interest in gardening, so it's important to find one that appeals to you.

**The Irving Park Garden Club** meets once a month from March thru October. Their first meeting is Saturday March 19th at 10:00 AM. They meet in the basement of St. John's Church 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Contact Maureen Taylor, President Irving Park Garden Club (773-255-2789) for more information.

2011 promises to be an outstanding year for the club. They will be doing the traditional things like having informative guest speakers and hands on demonstrations. They also have 2 field trips planned, one in early spring to Sunrise Garden Center and a "Behind the Scenes" trip to the Lincoln Park Conservatory planned for later in the summer. Their meetings are always open to all but you have to be a paid up member to receive the newsletter, participate in the Plant Exchange and the "Members only"

garden walk and luncheon held in July. Their membership dues are \$15.00 a year.

**The WILD ONES** are a group of people who enjoy natural areas and native plant gardens. They meet once a month to attend a lecture or tour a natural area or garden. Their meetings are held at the North Park Village Nature Center 5801 N. Pulaski. Guests are welcome to join them anytime. Call Bob for more information at (312) 744-5472

**The Portage Park Garden Club** begins its 12th year Saturday, February 26 at 9:30am. The meetings are held once a month at 9:30 on Saturday mornings in the Community room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (there is an elevator) of the Austin-Irving Library, 6100 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-744-6222. The members live on city size lots, so their interests are not for palatial estates. Members exchange gardening information at the monthly meeting as well as during the month. Meetings have guest speakers, a plant exchange, a field trip, a garden walk and gardening activities. Membership is \$10 a year entitling members to a monthly newsletter and the Members Only garden walk. Guests are always welcome. For more information call the Portage Park Garden Club at 773-794-1984 or e-mail the PPGC at [ageparkgc@comcast.net](mailto:ageparkgc@comcast.net)

## Community

## Announcements



St Viator will hold its annual school fundraiser on March 5th. This year it will be a silent auction with a Mardi Gras theme. The evening will also have music and dancing. They are accepting donations. For more information please call Marge at 773-318-1695. or [stviatorchicago.org](http://stviatorchicago.org)

# Portage Park Palates by Jan and Jill

“We only got to five restaurants in 2010. Hopefully we will be on track for our usual ten this year.”



We were only able to get together at five restaurants in 2010. Hopefully, we will be on track for our usual ten this year. Below is a list of the restaurants and the month we visited. You can see the entire review on our website under Dining / Portage Park Palates.

You can find that in February the gang went to Ay Ay Picante. This is a BYOB Peruvian Restaurant on

Elston. In March we all lined up and had a second helping at Veranda on Irving Park. Also on Irving was a fun April visit to The Burgundy. One of our local favorites was mentioned again in May, Pizza by Alex delivered that one. And finally, one of our newest hangouts Craves Café on Milwaukee took us into June. What a time we had.

Now that the new PPNA website and newsletter are up and running, we hope to

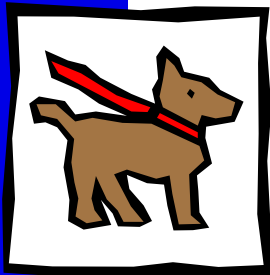
finish a missing review of The Portage and start exploring the neighborhood again. Here is to 2011!



*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 2011 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).*

# Keep a Leash On Your Dog

This was sent to the PPNA via a community information email from the CPD, CAPS and the Park District.



The Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Park District would like to remind all animal owners it is their responsibility to keep their animal under restraint. Violations

of this ordinance will be strictly enforced.

7-12-030 Animals Shall Be Restrained.

Each owner shall keep and maintain his animal under restraint; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to any dog being used for rescue or law enforcement work. It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow his or her animal to cross outside the property line of its owner to any extent, including reaching through, over or under a fence,

or to keep or allow his or her animal to be outdoors on an unfenced portion of the owner's property, unless the animal is leashed and under the control of its owner or another responsible person; provided that any animal not secured by a leash or lead and that is outdoors on a fenced portion of the owner's property or outdoors on the premises of another person with consent of that person shall not be considered under restraint unless the fence is of sufficient height appropriate to the size of the animal to prevent the animal from jumping or reaching over the fence. In addition, it shall be an unlawful failure to restrain for an animal to attack, bite, threaten, or jump on any person without that person's consent, outside the property of the animal's owner. The provisions of this section shall be a positive duty of the owner and the offenses described herein shall be strict liability offenses.

Any owner who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of \$300.00, if the violation does not result in severe injury or death to any person or damage to another person's property. If the violation results in severe injury or death to any person, the owner shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$10,000.00. In addition to a fine, the owner may be required to submit full restitution to the victim or may be incarcerated for a period not to exceed six months, or may be required to perform up to 100 hours of community service, or any combination thereof. If the violation results in damage to another person's property, the owner shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$300.00 and not more than \$1,000.00. In addition to a fine, the owner may be required to submit full restitution to the victim.

## Would You Like to Learn to Weave?

by Marlena Ascher and Natalie Boyett



Natalie Boyett at The Chicago Weaving School.

Natalie Boyett opened The Chicago Weaving School in 2004 to expose people to the ancient craft of hand weaving. It is her mission to provide an inclusive and encouraging environment for every student.

Novices find a welcoming sanctuary as they move step-by-step through an awakening experience of color and pattern. Classes are taught in an atmosphere open to creative inquiry.

In addition to floor looms, table looms, inkle looms and frame looms, The Chicago Weaving School has sewing machines, paints and dyes, modeling clays, plaster, and woodworking tools –because you never know where a project might take you!

Originally on Montrose Avenue, The Chicago Weaving School moved to the Old Irving Park neighborhood in September of 2008. Located at 4268 W. Irving

Park, Natalie looks forward to being a part of this wonderful neighborhood for years to come.

Natalie Boyett has a Master of Fine Arts in Fiber from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

**Q: Natalie, what is the WeaveSpa concept that you are introducing starting February 2?**

I haven't reached out to community too much because I am at capacity. This is a destination business. People who want to weave, seek me out and come to me. That will change with WeaveSpa because I have been trying to figure out how to give others an opportunity to try out weaving without having to commit to a dedicated study of it.

People who enroll in our new WeaveSpa can be absolute beginners, walk in on, work on one of several small floor looms, and take home their own weaving that night. I am calling the concept WeaveSpa because it is less about the actual product people make than about giving people the space to connect with a quieter part of themselves -- their own voice -- their power to create. People will come here in the same way they would go to a yoga class in that they will

do something that takes their minds away from daily worries and, at the same time, rejuvenates, inspires, energizes because it is exquisite to make things, to have contact with materials, to respond to what the materials are doing, to shape what is seen in front of you, in a safe, supportive environment.

These WeaveSpa nights offer all of us a uniquely human and necessary experience.

**Q: What should we know about registering for WeaveSpa evenings?**

If this sounds like fun, I hope people will not hesitate to sign up. They will be very surprised at what they can actually do. I am very comfortable and good at guiding "newbees" through this process.

WeaveSpa will begin February 2, and continue every Monday and Wednesday evening, from 6:30- to 8:30 p.m. All materials will be included in the cost of \$30, and we will have punch cards for those who want more than a two-hour experience.

**"People who enroll in our new WeaveSpa can be absolute beginners..."**

The Chicago Weaving School  
 4268 W Irving Park Rd.  
 Chicago, IL 60641  
 773-490-0602

[natalie@chicagoweavingschool.com](mailto:natalie@chicagoweavingschool.com)



# HAVE YOU NOTICED ??

By Gerard Staniszewski

“Have You Noticed” contains opinions that may not be the opinion of the PPNA Board, or it’s Members.

This is a reprint of a piece I did in April

Have you noticed that the majority of the pieces on the HYN page are from just a couple of people? Like, myself or John? Well come on, we cannot be the only people with some ax to grind or a big hand to give a pat on the back.

We try and reach out to the community the best we can. At this point, we have two ways for you to express yourself. One is the Portage Park Palates. We try and get a group of neighbors together to try food in the neighborhood and have some good conversation. The other is, “Have you Noticed.” We get more people out to a restaurant then we get submitting to this space. I can’t figure it out, the restaurant costs money, this is free. Maybe I

should start charging for the submissions? Hopefully as you all step up we will have a backlog of HYN pieces like we have a backlog of restaurants to go to.

Do you have a problem with the PPNA? How about something in one of the parks? How about a vacant building or an issue that you think should be brought to someone’s attention? Have you made multiple calls to a government official with no response? Does your child have a great coach or teacher that you feel should get recognition? Did you like my parking piece from last month? Disagree? Let me know. Did you call the alderman five times to get something fixed and they haven’t done it yet? Did you see something happen that was good? Bad? What is on your mind? Put something down and send it.

I will print almost any topic. I am looking for good insightful neighborhood stuff. I will not print personal attacks,

this is not the place. I will not print anonymous submissions, we all live in this community and should show we are getting involved. I will not print unfounded ranting, we can do better. I will not print obviously self promoting pieces, if you are a business, take out an advertisement.

I will print real issues that are in the community, good or bad. Just make sure your facts are correct, do not make stuff up, we have a lot of intelligent people in this community that will find you out. Do your best on spelling and punctuation (we do not proof read). Send it to;

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

*Have you noticed anything that needs more noticing? Do you have an opinion? Send it to us, we will print it! Send it to us at: [ppnaboard@portagepark.org](mailto:ppnaboard@portagepark.org).*



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

- |                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Gerard Staniszewski—PPNA President | Philip Schwarts—Secretary    |
| Bob Brobson—Director               | Jill Staniszewski—Membership |
| Chris Ericksen—Director            | Maria Pollock—Director       |
| Scott Larson—Director              | Nick Voss—Director           |

For more information on the PPNA and / or the PPNA News, contact us online at [www.portagepark.org](http://www.portagepark.org).

The PPNA is a 501c4 Social Welfare Organization  
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**B e c o m e  
A  
M e m b e r  
T o d a y**  
[www.portagepark.squarespace.com/membership/](http://www.portagepark.squarespace.com/membership/)

## PPNA Mission Statement

The Portage Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) is a 501 (c)4 non-profit community organization comprised of local residents and business owners. Our mission is to promote the welfare and spirit of the Portage Park community.

We seek to fulfill this mission through five primary purposes:

1. Work with public officials, private citizens and block clubs to eliminate unwholesome and blighted features; ensure the quality and availability of public and private community services; and maintain the safety and mobility of the people who live and work in Portage Park;
2. Promote Portage Park as a place to conduct business and facilitate the development of a vital and prosperous business community;
3. Collect and distribute information about topics of interest to the community and provide a forum for residents, block clubs, and business owners to express their opinions;
4. Gain consensus on such topics and speak as a uniform voice for the community;
5. Promote a spirit of cooperation, goodwill and neighborliness, and encourage people to openly communicate and participate in the exchange of ideas about how to improve the community and preserve those features that make this community unique.