

PORTAGE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Community
News & Views

June 2011

Meetings and Announcements

Next PPNA Public Meeting

June 13th, 2011

4839 W Irving Park Rd

7:30 PM

Guest Speaker

Come in and find out
information on your
community

C. A. P. S.

Beat 1624 and 1623

June 22, 2011

16th District

Police Station

Portage Park 4100 N

Long

7:00 PM

Beat 1633 and 1634

June 23, 2011

St Bartholomew Church

3601 N Lavergne

7:00 PM

16th District CAPS Office Information

312-742-4521

12TH ANNUAL PPNA

KIDS BIKE PARADE SUNDAY JUNE 19TH!



**COME JOIN IN THE
FUN OF BOTH THE
12TH ANNUAL PPNA
PARADE AND THE
SIX CORNERS BBQ
FEST.**



**THIS IS NOT YOUR OLD PARADE. CHECKOUT
THE NEW INFORMATION**

**THE PARADE WILL START AT 9:30 AM IN PORTAGE PARK AT THE CORNER OF LONG AND
BERTEAU. WE WILL TRAVEL EAST ON BERTEAU TO DICKINSON SOUTH ON DICKINSON
TO BELLE PLAIN, WEST ON BELLE PLAIN INTO THE KIDS END OF THE BBQ FEST.**

COME FOR THE KIDS GAMES, BAND, RAFFLE AND FOOD.

**EVERYONE ATTENDING WILL GET
FREE ADMISSION TO THE BBQ FEST**

**PARADE STARTS
SUNDAY JUNE
19TH 9:30AM
PORTAGE PARK**



**PARADE STARTS
SUNDAY JUNE
19TH 9:30AM
PORTAGE PARK**

New 45th Ward Office Opens



**Alderman Arenas
new office at 4754 N
Milwaukee.**

Alderman Arena opens his new ward office and announces weekly ward nights;

“For the last year I've been talking to residents of the 45th Ward about accessibility and

responsiveness from your Alderman. Well, it starts now!” Ward nights will be held Tuesday, Tuesdays from 5-7pm. Please take this opportunity to come by your ward office at 4754 N. Milwaukee and

let Alderman Arena know what's on your mind. Mr Arena wants the residents of the 45th Ward to know that his “door is always open” and he is “eager to hear your ideas and concerns.”

Area Markets In Full Swing

All the neighborhood Farmers Markets and are in full swing. Last week we had the opening of the Portage Park Farmers Market. This, along with Independence Park and Jefferson Park will

give us plenty to do over the summer.

The dates for the Portage Park Farmers Market are June 19 / July 17 & 31 / Aug 7 & 21 / Sept 18 / Oct 2

Jefferson Park has fun stuff also. Another Sunday Market will be in the Copernicus center lot on June 26th 10 am to 2 pm. And lets not forget Jeff Fest July 15 - 17th.



P. P. Market music for 2011

- 6/19...Rebecca Rego
- 7/17...Belleville
- 7/31...Kent Rose
- 8/7...Stolie (Special Kids Show)
- 8/21...Dan Aranda
- 9/18...The Vegetables
- 10/2... TBD

We will be discussing the subject of the PPNA expanding its borders at our meeting on June 13th, 7:30 PM, 4839 W Irving Park Rd.

PPNA New Borders

In an on-going effort to improve the Portage Park Community and provide a voice and support for the Portage Park Neighborhood, the Portage Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors is considering expanding our association boundaries to align with the United States census map. This consideration will take our boundaries north to Gunnisson west of central and Lawrence east of central with the southern boundary Belmont and the east west boundaries of Narragansett / Austin and Cicero and the C & N Rail line. [The exact map can be seen here.](#)

We will discuss this subject at our next meeting June 13, 2011.

The current PPNA's boundaries were founded by a core group of active neighbors and families within the south central area of the Portage Park community. As both our community and organization evolves and introduces the current trends in technology and easy access to communications of all sources, the PPNA is seeking to take the big step forward in increasing our boundaries for the benefit of the entire community.

It is our sincere goal that by expanding our boundaries to include a broader geographic area, more neighbors, families and businesses will come together to continue improving our community and expand on the 10+ years of activities, support and various city government relationships that strive to benefit the neighborhood as a whole.

Volunteers will be critical for the success of this expansion and its our hope that many of you will seek leadership roles or come with ideas when you join our neighborhood association.

We look forward to your input and joining us on the next 10-year journey towards improving our Portage Park Community.

Portage Park Garden Club Update By Jan Kupka



Due to a mistake by the editor, this article should have run in May. We apologize to the PP garden club for our oversight.

Finally it's time to start planting the garden. Here are some tips for buying plants whether at local nurseries or big box stores: Read the labels on the plants, you need to know at least basic information. Don't buy the plant if it doesn't have a label. Know if the plant is an annual or a perennial. Make sure the leaves have a healthy green color. The plants should be nicely shaped and not have spots on the leaves or insects crawling or flying around them. Watch for roots. If roots are coming out of the bottom of the pot, the plant has been in there too long.

Annuals cost less, bloom more and don't come back the following year. When you buy annuals it's important to see the color. Make sure that there is at least one bud so you know what color you're getting.

Perennials are for gardeners who want a plant to come back year after year. Read the label if you are buying a perennial in bloom. Think before you buy one that is blooming at other than its normal blooming time. It will not bloom again this year.

If you are looking for hardy plants that will sleep (the first year), creep (the second year) and leap (the third year – allowing you to share them with your admiring friends), try these five perennials **Coneflowers**, **Daylilies**, **Ferns**, **Hostas** and **Russian**

Sage. All can be divided or transplanted in the fall or the early spring.

The more common variety **Coneflowers** comes in lavender with orange centers, but newer varieties are white, magenta, orange and yellow. They reach heights from 2 to 5 feet. Coneflowers bloom between June and October and attract bees, birds and butterflies. The plant is self incompatible, meaning they cannot pollinate their own flowers. They depend on bees to transfer pollen between plants. This plant thrives in full sun and well drained soil. During the first year water it once a week.

The more common **Daylilies**



are orange, bloom once a year and can grow in just about any sunny, well drained spot. The ones that really seem to bloom all summer are the Stella d'Oro which are smaller and come in yellow or orange and also love the sun. With constant dead-heading the blooms will last throughout the summer.

Daylilies like to be watered weekly for the first year.

The many different varieties of **Ferns** will perform well in the shade. Their pretty foliage will grow up to 3 feet high and wide.

Hostas come in a wide variety of foliage with spikes of flowers, prefer shade to light sun and need to be watered once a week.

Russian Sage very hardy and the biggest of the four with a potential four foot span. The plant is bushy with periwinkle blue flowers. It likes full sun and well drained soil.

Another hardy perennial is the **Shasta daisy**. It starts blooming in June and with regular dead-heading will bloom the whole summer. Dividing every two or three years will help lengthen the lifespan. It is another lover of full sun and well drained soil.

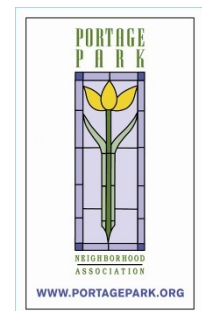
June Meeting

The June 25 meeting will feature a field trip. Instead of our usual meeting format we will be going to the Felician Sisters Convent at 3800 W.

Peterson. This place is a gem right in our own area. The convent's grounds have received citywide recognition and many awards. Peter Knipple, gardener and building engineer, has devoted years to making these grounds into beautiful gardens,

and he'll meet with our group for a personal tour. These gardens were featured in a past

“When you buy annuals it's important to see the color. Make sure that there is at least one bud so you know what color you're getting.”



Garden Club Update

(Continued from page 3)

issue of Chicagoland gardening Magazine, and look just amazing. Please be prepared for quite a bit of walking by wearing comfortable walking shoes and bringing water. Also note there are not many benches around the grounds. We will be allowed to use the restrooms. We're starting at the Austin Irving Library on June 25 at 9:15 a.m. We'll

gather in our usual meeting room before departing to begin our tour at 10 a.m. If you would like to car pool, please talk to your fellow garden club members when you arrive at the library and make your arrangements. As a courtesy, please do not leave cars parked in the library parking lot, and also be aware of any time restrictions for street parking. If you prefer, you can meet us at the convent at 3800 W. Peterson at 10 a.m. We'll meet up outside at the rear of the building.

The convent is on the North side of Peterson a few blocks East of Pulaski. Park in the second (larger) lot on the east side of the building. In case of rain, the meeting will be conducted as usual at the Library with alternate activities planned, so please plan to join us rain or shine.



Part of the Felician Sisters garden on West Peterson.



"a book full of fascinating tidbits for any Chicago history buff or gardening geek"

Irving Park Garden Club

"The History of Gardening in Chicago"

Please join the **Irving Park Garden Club** in welcoming author Cathy Jean Maloney on Thursday June 16th 7:00 – 9:00. Cathy will give a talk about the "History of Gardening in Chicago". Cathy is the author of *Chicago*

Gardens which chronicles the history of Gardening in Chicago. Beth Botts, garden writer for the Chicago Tribune had this to say about Cathy's book; "Maloney has combed through

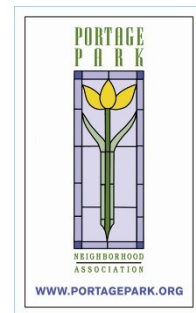
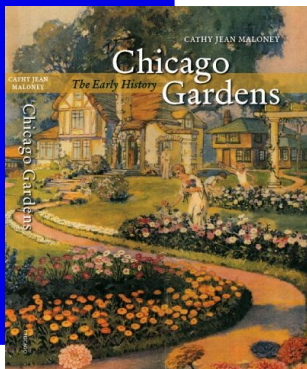
seemingly endless documentary sources from Chicago's first 100 years—newspapers, magazines, garden-club minutes—to produce a book full of fascinating tidbits for any Chicago history buff or gardening geek that includes many maps, photos and old catalog illustrations from her own collection."

We will have autographed copies of her book for sale at this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Our meeting are always free and open to all but you need to be a paid member in order to receive the monthly **Garden Club Newsletter** and to participate in our **"Members Only Plant Exchange"** in May and our **"Members Only**

Garden Walk" in July. **Yearly dues are only \$15.00.** Our meetings take place at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3857 N. Kostner. If you have an interest in gardening or the early history of Chicago, please join us. We'd love to meet you!

New book
"Chicago
Gardens,
the Early
History"



Portage Park Palates By Jill and Jan



Smokey's BBQ with the front windows out for the summer.

The gang went to Smokey's BBQ on Northwest Highway, it is in an industrial area of Northwest Highway-north of Foster, next to Vaughn's Pub near Austin, because people who live and work in the area need something good to eat. Smokey's BBQ, owned by two couples, run by Kathy this night, fits the bill perfectly. And it's BYOB. Our group sat in the main dining area at a big long table they put together for us next to the entrance. There is also a private room for parties in the back. The first thing you encounter as you walk in is a large overhead menu and the ordering cashier. Having never been here before, we opted to take a menu and sit a bit while we decided what we wanted.



There is only counter service so you pay when you order, After you order they will plate your food, put it on a tray, and call your number on your receipt when it is ready. We had a sizable group and we all sat and looked at the menu, and made our way to the ordering desk to order. Some of our group was not so quick in ordering, so they had to watch us devour our barbeque while they waited. Plus, there were other customers coming in, either to eat in or get it to go, not to mention the delivery guy.

So, the place was hopping, but not overcrowded, to enjoy the very good barbeque and sides. We all had our choice-ours being Sam Adams-but many varieties of beer were represented. I threatened to take a picture of the table stocked full of empty beer bottles and hold it for ransom, but it was an empty threat as many of the empties were ours.

Smokey's BBQ has really serious ribs and smoked meats. They have full and half slabs for \$19.95 and \$10.95 respectively. They come with dinner roll, coleslaw and one side plus add any mini sandwich for \$2.45 plus add 50 cents for Smokey's cheesy potatoes. And they have full size sandwiches of brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey, or Smokey Joe's-brisket and pulled pork simmered in Smokey's sweet BBQ sauce, plus coleslaw and one side, ditto the 50 cents for the cheesy potatoes for a total of \$6.95 or \$7.95. And, if that's not enough, there is the sampler platter which is half slab of ribs, trifecta (three mini sandwiches, your choice and three sides for \$19.95, which is for two or one really ravenous eater.

The mini sandwiches are served on a mini brioche roll, and plenty of sauce in bottles on the side. The side dishes are seriously good, too. The

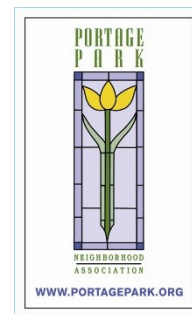
afore-mentioned Smokey's Cheesy potatoes for \$2.45, fries, baked beans, southwest corn medley (served cold) for \$1.95 each, and coleslaw for \$1.00. I had the brisket and loved it. And I tried the beans and corn medley and slaw and thought they were first rate. They serve cheesecake and bread pudding for dessert-but who has room?

The place is amazing and really, really good. We had a great time and they deliver. There is a pretty big dining room with a large duct along the ceiling and pretty, clean restrooms. The owner who was there that night was friendly and welcoming. The service was pretty fast, even for our stragglers. We will be back. The Nadig has coupons for a percentage off. Go and have really good smoked meat of choice. They also have salmon and potatoes, smoked, of course. There is plenty to like here. Thanks, Kitty, for your recommendation. Smokey's BBQ is at 5481 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago, IL 60630, (773) 763-2328.

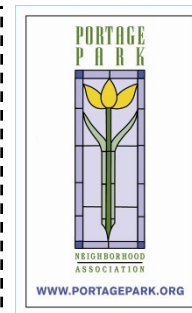
www.smokeysbbqchicago.com/

Next month?-well, you'll just have to wait.

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.



"Smokey's BBQ has really serious ribs and smoked meats."



Mahoney at Seanachai Monday



You are cordially invited to

An Evening of Entertainment

Including special guest JOHN MAHONEY



Monday, June 13th, 2011
7:00-10:00pm

The Fifth Province Pub
Irish American Heritage Center
4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL 60630

We invite you to join the Seanachai Ensemble, as well as veteran Chicago actors Brad Armstrong and Steve Pickering for an evening of music, food, drink and dramatic readings, as well as a special poetry reading by Steppenwolf ensemble member, John Mahoney, long celebrated for his work in Irish drama.

The fundraiser will also serve as an appreciation and farewell event to Consul General of Ireland, Martin Rouine, member of the Seanachai Board of Directors, who returns to Ireland later this year.

All proceeds will benefit Seanachai's upcoming 2011-2012 Season.

An Evening of Entertainment with Seanachai Theatre Company
Monday, June 13th, 2011 7:00pm
Includes free parking, hors d'oeuvres, 5¢ entertainment. Cash bar.

Tickets are \$50 with advanced purchase or \$60 at the door (subject to availability).
ADVANCED PURCHASE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

To Reserve Your Tickets, call (773) 878-3727

Irish American Heritage Center
Fifth Province Pub
4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
(Complimentary parking lot)

John Mahoney at Seanachai

An Evening of Entertainment

John Mahoney is Seanachai Theatre's special guest

Monday, June 13, 2011

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Seanachai Theatre Company is thrilled to announce that **John Mahoney** will be a distinguished guest at our June 13th's benefit event.

Mr. Mahoney is affectionately known as Frasier's father, Martin Crane, in the television show, *Frasier*. He was born in Manchester, England in 1940 and immigrated to the States when his sister married an American. He won his citizenship by joining the U.S. army. John had been an associate editor of a Chicago medical journal until he was almost 40 and then started acting classes at St. Nicholas Theatre.

Soon after, he met actor

John Malkovich in one of those classes and, in 1986, accepted Malkovich's invitation to join Steppenwolf Theatre. Mr. Mahoney now regularly appears in Chicago theatre productions and enthusiastically offered his June 13th performance to support Seanachai's June 13th fundraiser because he cherishes Irish drama and respects the quality of this company's talent.

Mr. Mahoney will be performing a special poetry reading as part of **"An Evening of Entertainment"** on Monday, June 13th, from 7pm to 10pm, in the Fifth Province Room of the Irish American Heritage Center. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door (subject to availability.) All proceeds will help fund Seanachai's 2011-12 season.

The evening also features dramatic readings with the Seanachai ensemble and

venerable Chicago actors, Brad Armacost and Steve Pickering, two well-respected Chicago actors who will star in our second play of the 2011-2012 season, Eugene O'Neill's *Moon for the Misbegotten*. Traditional Irish Music, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar round out this one-of-a-kind fund raising event.

The Benefit will also serve as an appreciation and farewell event to Consul General of Ireland, Martin Rouine, member of the Seanachai Board of Directors, who returns to Ireland later this year.

Advance reservations for **"An Evening of Entertainment"** are strongly recommended and can be made by calling **(773) 878 3727**.

The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox, Chicago IL 60630 and boasts two large, FREE parking lots. Take I90/94, exit 43a, Wilson Avenue, or the Blue el line to Montrose.

Chicago Pedestrian Plan

This summer the Chicago Department of Transportation is holding a series of public meetings to help inform the development of the Chicago Pedestrian Plan. This Plan is a citywide effort to identify strategies for making Chicago the most

pedestrian-friendly city in the country.

There will be seven meetings throughout the summer and a final online meeting for those who cannot make it in-person. The next page includes the dates and locations of these

meetings. Please plan to attend one of the meetings and encourage your friends, neighbors, and other interested parties to attend. Chicagos efforts in the development of the Pedestrian Plan depend on the input, ideas, and

(Continued on page 7)

Chicago Pedestrian Plan

(Continued from page 6)

experiences of local communities. They value

your input. For more information, to obtain Spanish or Polish-language flyers and to

register for the special sessions please visit www.chicagopedestrianplan.org.

FARRAGUT CAREER ACADEMY **JUNE 20**
Main Entrance
2345 S. Christiana Ave.
6 - 8 PM

COPERNICUS CENTER **JUNE 22**
Lobby
5216 W. Lawrence Ave.
6 - 8 PM

KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE **JUNE 29**
The Great Hall
740 W. 63rd St.
6 - 8 PM

AUSTIN TOWN HALL **JULY 13**
Auditorium
5610 W. Lake St.
6 - 8 PM

RAINBOW BEACH FIELD HOUSE **JULY 27**
Gymnasium
Enter from 75th St. or 79th St.
3111 E. 77th St.
6 - 8 PM

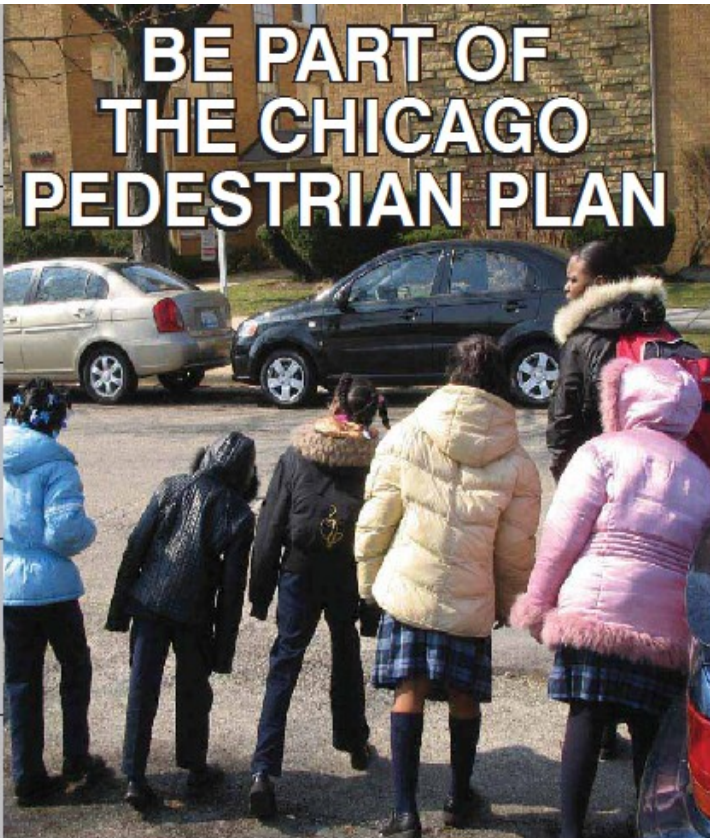
TRUMAN COLLEGE **AUG 10**
Cafeteria
1145 W. Wilson Ave.
6 - 8 PM

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Harold Washington Library **AUG 24**
400 S. State St.
Room A/B - Lower Level
11:30 - 1:30 PM

Online Midday Session **AUG 31**
12 - 1 PM

To register for these special sessions, please visit chicagopedestrianplan.org

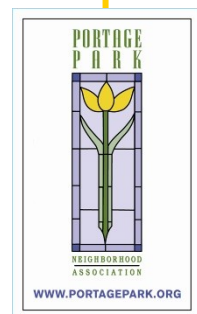


Come share your ideas on how to make Chicago a great city for pedestrians. Choose a meeting that's convenient and let us know what's important to you.

To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Mark de la Vergne at mdelavergne@samschwartz.com or (773) 305-0800. If you are requesting an accommodation, at least 72 hours advance notice is required.



Chicago Department of Transportation is holding a series of public meetings to help inform the development of the Chicago Pedestrian Plan



HAVE YOU NOTICED ??

By Marlena Ascher

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

Would you like to help create a community mural?

Anyone who loves community murals is welcome to join the team of people who are creating a mural on the railroad viaduct cement walls east side of Keeler Avenue, wrapping around to the north side of Irving Park Road.

We welcome the help of non-artists as well as artists create this newest mural on the Northwest Side.

I am the project manager, and my role is to act as liaison between and among mural volunteers and the Old Irving Park Association’s board which is sponsoring the project and selecting the final design from among several expected to be submitted. The design selection will be made by June 14. Volunteers from surrounding

communities will be welcome with open arms!

Amy Hanks is the project’s art director. Her role is to ensure that the artist team has fun working together, that the artistic integrity of the selected design is honored, and that the mural is completed on time and within budget.

In addition to artists (people who can paint within lines drawn by artists qualify for this title), we welcome people to help us prepare the site by washing the mural walls and sidewalks. Our work will begin in June and end by September 1.

If you are interested in participating, contact Marlena Ascher marlenaascher@sbcglobal.net

Phone 773-481-1749



Old Irving Park Association 2011 Mural Project

OIPA is looking for artists who want to help Old Irving Park create its 8th community mural!

The Old Irving Park Association Board is asking northwest side artists to submit design proposals for the mural we will create at railroad viaduct walls on the east side of Keeler, wrapping around to the north side of Irving Park Road. *Design proposals are welcome from all artists; they do not have to live within the boundaries of Old Irving Park, although the visual will depict life in Old Irving Park.*

DESIGN CRITERIA HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Incorporate elements of Old Irving Park’s historic buildings
2. Weave greenery/gardens/flowers and other images depicting life in Old Irving Park into design
3. Words “Old Irving Park” should be prominently positioned
4. Mural image should camouflage where predictable deterioration will appear due to natural elements
5. Timeless image – not trendy
6. Dense design to deter taggers who like blank spaces
7. Design appropriate for talent level of our artists
8. Design that can be completed within targeted timeframes - by August 19, 2011.
9. Emphasize our popularly-shared vision, which is to “become known as a destination for the arts – visual, performing, horticultural, and culinary”

For more details about the design criteria, including a list and photos of the historic buildings, visit our Old Irving Park Association (OIPA) page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oldirvingenarkassoc>; or email Marlena Ascher at marlenaascher@sbcglobal.net.

DEADLINE FOR DESIGN PROPOSALS:
All design proposals must be submitted to OIPA board by June 1. You can submit your design proposal to Marlena Ascher by mailing it to 4036 N. Kostner Ave., Chicago, IL 60641 or by emailing your proposal to marlenaascher@sbcglobal.net.

The OIPA Board will choose which design will be created by June 14, 2011.

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:
ppna.newsletter@gmail.com



The Portage Park Neighborhood Association News is a publication of the PPNA

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Gerard Staniszewski—PPNA President | Philip Schwartz—Secretary |
| Bob Brobson—Director | Jill Staniszewski—Membership |
| Chris Ericksen—Treasurer | 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.

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

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