

JPNA



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association
News and Commentary

www.jpna.net

Come to the Market, Come to the Fair! by Bob Bank

If you haven't been to the Sunday Market at Jefferson Park, you don't know what you are missing. Set under the shade trees of Jefferson Park, you will find terrific shopping and entertainment, fresh food, coffee, pies and more. Enjoy live music, artists and meet friend and neighbors there. You can also sit down and enjoy your fresh coffee from NW-side favorite, Perkolator, while the kids play in the playground right next to the market.

The Sunday Market idea got its start on social media back in 2010. Three time JPNA President, Merrill Miller and longtime JPNA Board Member, Eva Skowronski's connections to Copernicus and the other groups, took it from discussion to a real live market in just three months. Eva and Merrill did this along with several other Jefferson Park residents, and with the support of the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, the Copernicus Foundation, Nadig Newspapers, and the JPNA. The first market was held in the Copernicus Center's parking lot, but soon moved to its current location in the park. The park atmosphere is festive, with stands operated by local producers featuring everything from home-made bath soaps, art and crafts, vegetables, hormone free grass fed beef, aged cheddar cheese, locally produced honey, specialized dog treats, breads and sweets, fresh coffee from Perkolator, freshly prepared crepes, ethnic treats and more. Listen to live music performed on the porch of the historic Craft House. It is the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 9:30am - 1:30pm, from June through October.

The last two years also added 4 winter/indoor market dates--all tied to holidays. The Winter Market is held in the Copernicus Center Annex at 5214 W. Lawrence.



JEFFERSON PARK

SUMMER SUNDAYS AT THE MARKET
 PRODUCE • BAKED GOODS • FOOD TRUCKS
 9:30am - 1:30pm • RAIN OR SHINE
 AT LAWRENCE AVENUE & LONG AVENUE

2017
 June 11 June 25 July 9 July 23 August 13
 August 27 September 10 September 24
 October 8 October 22
2017

45th Ward Alderman John Arena, Chicago Park District, Copernicus Foundation, Jefferson Memorial Park Advisory Council, Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Park Forward, Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association, Nadig Newspapers, The Windsor Tavern, Yoga with Merrill

MORE INFO www.JeffersonParkSundayMarket.com
facebook.com/JeffersonParkSundayMarket



Jeff Park Residents from All Different Walks of Life Have Been Living in Harmony for Many Decades

By Lotty Blumenthal, JPNA Board Member and 50 year Jeff Park resident



This a photo of me standing next to the Prussing Asst. Principal, in back of my fellow Local School Council members on June 10, 1998. The LSC is elected by the parents and community people in the defined boundaries of a neighborhood school. No students can go to school outside the “home” school area; so no one is bussed in. The only students who can leave the home school boundaries are those who qualify for special programs like the gifted program at Beaubien. Prussing, Farnsworth, Hitch are neighborhood schools as is nearby Portage Park. Whoever is in the school also lives in the neighborhood. That is the way it is according to the executive director’s office of the Chicago Public Schools. The LSC is elected by the people in that area. The LSC, among other things, hires the principal for a four year term. I don’t remember most of the people on that council with me. But, I do remember the minority lady seated in front of me because

she still lives kitty-corner across the street from me.

The voters from Prussing School’s boundaries voted us in. Prussing and the other elementary schools have been integrating ever since. According to official CPS statistics* on their web site, by 2015-16, Prussing was 47% White and 53% minority or other. Hitch was 41.9% White and 58.1% minority or other. Farnsworth was 39.2% White and 60.8% minority and other. Portage Park was 26% White and 74% minority and other. Beaubien which does have students bussed for a gifted program while the rest of the students live in the boundaries is 53% White and 47% minority and other. All have some “Black” students. **Anyone who does not know this, should not be our alderman.** I asked the 16th district Caps people how many hate crimes have been committed in Jefferson Park in the last 20 years. I was told none. **Anyone who does not know this and calls us racist should not be our alderman.** We have had a block party for the last 10 years to which everyone came. Some of the minority residents do not have school age children like the “black” family across the ally, 2 houses down or some of the minorities next door. The photo was taken by the Principal who was Jewish. He was given at least 4 four-year contracts until he retired 2- 3 years ago by LSC’s who were not Jewish. About 10 years ago he added bi-lingual Arabic and Spanish to the Bi-Lingual Polish already there. There have been no hate crimes or problems. **Anyone who thinks there have been, should not be our alderman.**

The CPS also lists poverty level students by school data for Federal reasons. Hitch has 62.5 % low income students living in their boundaries. Beaubien has 53.2% low income. Portage Park has 81.4% low Income. Farnsworth has 66.7% low income. Prussing has 62.5 poverty level. They all have found affordable housing in their school areas. **Anyone who wants to bring more poverty level into our area should not be our alderman.** Trader Joe’s has refused to come here because Jefferson Park’s “Household” income is too low. **Anyone who wants to make it lower should not be our alderman.**

According to both CPS official records and DNAinfo stories, all of these schools are overcrowded. Prussing is 166% overcrowded; Farnsworth 128% overcrowded; Hitch is 141% overcrowded; Beaubien is 124% overcrowded. According to a July 2016 DNA story, schools have been crowded for 3 years. This is reason enough not to add to the overcrowding with tall, dense buildings. **Anyone who does not think so, should not be our alderman.**

A strange “vision” of the current alderman, has \$4.2 million in property tax payer dollars apparently to give a contract to St. Cornelius School, to put 4 early childhood classes from the overcrowded schools there. Early childhood is federally funded and costs CPS no funds at this time. If this “vision” were to exist, it would mean that low income parents would have to walk their 4 year olds 4-10 blocks further across Central and/ or Foster Avenues which is fact. Anyone who thinks a 4 year old, especially in winter, should do that, should not be our alderman. **Anyone who bases his beliefs on his “visions,” with no basis in fact should not be our alderman.**

When I asked the current alderman about the Sun-Times Jan. 15th article on page 11 that showed over 500 hundred government sponsored affordable housing units in Portage Park, Jeff Park and Irving Park with over 50 sexual predators illegally occupying some of those taxpayer’s supported affordable housing, he called me a racist. **Anyone who thinks sexual predators are a race and should be given taxpayer money for housing, should not be our alderman.** I was a volunteer in both the first and second political campaigns for this alderman. I feel I was betrayed, because before the election, there was no mention of tall, highly dense buildings. I am so sorry, so very, sorry I worked those campaigns. I will not do it again because **he should not be our alderman.**

*Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Other are CPS categories.

The Buckingham and 16 Candles Play to Jeff Fest Largest Crowd Ever

This year's Jeff Fest was a huge success, Saturday's headliners, two summer-time festival favorites, The Buckingham and 16 Candles, did not disappoint the big crowd. Revenue from the festival benefits the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, which counts on it as its main source of income since 45th Ward Alderman, John Arena has pulled City funding for the Chamber for the last four years. The JPNA was in force helping out, manning the main beer tent along with some Gladstone Park Neighborhood Association members. Tip money was divided by the two neighborhood associations. Anyone who has worked the beer tent knows it is great fun too. JPNA members also provided many of the gate volunteers, they also wore the bright green shirts as the beer tent volunteers seen here.



Sgt. Alvarez SAYS,

“LOCK YOUR CAR, HOUSE, GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS ALL THE TIME, EVERY TIME!”

Summer is here! Make your personal safety YOUR highest priority. When weather is good, more people spend more time outside. But, everyone must be vigilant to be safe.

Be aware of your surroundings, not just of people, but of vehicles too. If someone beckons you to come to their vehicle, don't go. In fact, go farther away. When going out, be with someone else if you can. Walk in populated and lighted areas. Don't walk, run or drive while using your phone, especially at corners. Have one ear bud in and the other out. Do not leave car windows open and unattended. Check the back seats before entering your car.

Think before you drink. Avoid violent situations. Go the other way. Be a good witness, try to remember descriptions of places, people and vehicles. Have safe fun!

If you suspect any crime, call 911.

For more information, call the CPS staff and Sgt. Alvarez at 1- 312-742- 4521

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Please come out and visit our Community Flea Market/Garage Sale,

Sunday, September 17, from 9:00 to 2:00 p.m., located at the Copernicus Parking Lot, Lawrence/Lipps. Thirty participants. This event is sponsored by the Copernicus Foundation, Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce and, yours truly, the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association. There will be entertainment by our member Stephen Gulyas. Our last sale was held in May and it was a great success. We hope to make this a semi-annual event with your help of supporting it.

Deadline for applicants is Friday, Sept. 8.

You can see if there are any spots left by calling 773 282-3879.



Membership IS Important!

The Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association has been in existence since the year 2001. We have tried to be a positive influence in the community. As different issues arise, the JPNA takes a stance which, we hope, is always in the best interest of its residents. And, that's where you come in. We need your input, thoughts and concerns. We would like you to be part of our decision-making process. We encourage your ideas which would improve the lifestyle in and around our neighborhood. We would love to be able to count you as our member. Joining is easy and, hopefully, within your budget. We now have a 2-year membership at a \$5.00 saving, and we also have a reduced senior (50+) membership. "WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?" you may ask. Well, the next time the JPNA takes a stance on an important issue, or sponsors a worthwhile event, YOUR voice was being represented and, I hope, that feels great!

Eva Skowronski

JPNA Board member

Join JPNA today!

**Membership: 1 year \$15.00 per person, seniors (age 50+) \$10.00 per person
2 year \$25.00 per person, seniors (age 50+) \$15.00 per person**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to:

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA) • P.O. Box 30072 • Chicago, IL. 60630-0072

JPNA Meetings are held the last Wed. of the Month, at the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park basement, 5320 W. Giddings, at 7:00pm (not December)

JPNA Officers: President, Bob Bank; Vice President, Brian Wardman; Secretary, Peter Insley; Treasurer and past President, Ed Irsch

JPNA Board Members: Eva Skowronski, Lotty Blumenthal, Ron Ernst, Colleen Murphy,

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