

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA) Newsletter for Summer 2022



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General Meetings:

- June 29: 12th District Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen.
- July 27: New Commander of 16th District Heather L. Daniel
- August 31: TBD. Nominations for Vice-President, Treasurer, 3 board members.
- September 28. Haley LeRand, Farm Manager of Global Garden Refugee Training Farm. Vote for board members.

EDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - Embodying "Sanctuary" for a New Day

By Jacki Belile

Founded in 1914 by Volga German immigrants from Russia, Eden United Church of Christ (originally known as Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church) has long been a pillar of the Jefferson Park neighborhood. It has increasingly strived to become a partner and provider of "sanctuary" as it shares its worship space and other facilities with the neighborhood.

In the last decade, Eden has significantly increased partnership and service in the neighborhood by developing regular intergenerational programming for 'After School' and 'Summer Camp Programs'. The gym has been open to neighborhood youth and young adults in need of a safe and wholesome recreation, and has begun to reopen, with caution, after the pandemic. It has served as the inventory center for donations to the homeless organized by the Working Group on Homelessness in Jefferson Park.

The church's pastor and key leaders care deeply about nurturing skills for bridge-building in these polarized times. They have twice hosted the "On the Table" neighborhood conversations as part of the Chicago Community Trust's city-wide annual initiative, and convened the local coalition known as "Bridging Jeff Park: Neighbors Past, Present and Future." (JPNA is a charter member; learn more at www.jeffparkchicago.com.) The church has received grant funds for dialogue training and conflict resolution workshops, and plans a dialogue series "Envisioning the Future of Jefferson Park" for this summer.

Eden shares its building with Boy Scouts Troop 963, Cub Scout Pack 3963, as well as Girl Scouts Troops. It is actively looking for new space sharing partnerships to replace those disrupted by Covid.

Despite the huge challenges presented by Covid, the church has raised more than 2/3 of funds needed for "Raising the Roof: Restoring Eden's Sanctuary and Song." The total project expenses are \$300,000. Since 2020, the church has replaced the original 94-year-old sanctuary roof, including the necessary asbestos abatement, restored the sanctuary which had seen water damage to plaster and paint, and is now preparing for final work on its Möller organ (which sustained plaster damage in the spring of 2020). In the short term, the congregation's summer 2022 expenses for this exceed \$43,000. Supporters can give through its GoFundMe or campaign websites at www.edenroofandorgan.org.

"We truly want to be a sanctuary in ALL that we do, on Sunday mornings and throughout the week, in our beautiful sanctuary and also with classrooms and gym," says Pastor Jacki Belile. Learn more at www.edenuccchicago.org.



CPD Court Advocacy Program

It takes more than good police work to make our neighborhoods safer. It takes police, the community and City agencies working together to really make a difference. The CAPS partnership does not stop when the police make an arrest. To have a long-term impact on the safety of our neighborhoods, the community needs to let the offenders know that we care even after an arrest is made.

The Court Advocacy program is an integral part of CAPS. Each of the 25 police districts has a Court Advocacy Subcommittee. With input gathered at beat meetings or from other members of the community, the Court Advocacy Subcommittees, working with the Police Department, identify and track cases of interest to the community. Cases can range from violent crimes, such as murder or rape, to "quality of life" cases, such as drug dealing and public drinking, abandoned buildings and negligent landlords, and problem liquor establishments. Volunteers then attend court dates associated with those cases.

Court Advocacy Subcommittees play an important role in advancing the goals of making our neighborhoods safer. First, volunteers provide support for victims and witnesses who may be hesitant to testify in court. The presence of Court Advocacy volunteers from their community can make the difference in whether a victim or witness decides to appear in court.

Second, the presence of Court Advocacy volunteers sends a strong message to the defendant, the judge and all other interested parties in the criminal justice system: the community cares about the outcome of these cases and is willing to devote its time and energies to monitoring the workings of the judicial system.

Neighborhood Business You Should Know

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At a time when many funeral homes are being bought and sold by large corporations, Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes prides itself on being family owned and operated. The funeral homes were established nearly a century ago in the small ethnic Chicago neighborhood of Bucktown by Joseph Wojciechowski Sr. Today, Joseph Sr.'s grandsons, Jody and Mark Wojciechowski run the family business. They have brought Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes a long way from its early beginnings as a horse livery service to a well respected funeral home serving all cultures, faiths and religions.

Join JPNA Today



Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association has been in existence since the year 2001.

The JPNA is made up of neighbors, like yourself.

Membership: Family (Same Address): \$30 (1 Year); \$50 (2 Year); \$60 (3 Year)

Regular: \$15 (1 Year); \$25 (2 Year); \$30 (3 Year)

Senior (55+): \$10 (1 year); \$15.00 (2 Year); \$20 (3 Year)

Business: \$50 (1 Year); \$90 (2 Year)

Name: _____

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Make checks Payable to:

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Jefferson Park Events

Jeff Fest: July 29: 5pm to 10 pm; July 30: 2pm to 10 pm; July 31: 2pm to 10pm. Jefferson Park Memorial Park. 4822 N. Long.

Jefferson Park Farmers Market: July 10, 24; August 14, 28; September 11,25; October 9, 23. 9:30—2pm; Jefferson Park Memorial Park . 4822 N. Long.

Throw Back Fest: Sept. 9: 4 pm to 10:30 pm; Sept, 10: 11am to 10:30 pm; Sept 11: 11am to 9pm. 6030 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago Illinois

JPNA Board Members

Colleen Murphy (President); William "Brian" Wardman (Vice-President/Newsletter Editor); Bruce Herr (Treasurer); Gwynne Carlson; Steve Neidenbach; Floyd Rueger; Eva Skowronski; Karen Ptak;



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Raising the Roof

Restoring Eden's Sanctuary & Song

Eden UCC has been a pillar of the Jefferson Park community for 108 years! Our sacred space has nurtured generations in faith and family tradition. As we share God's building with Jefferson Park, and engage in new ways beyond our building, we're providing neighborhood sanctuary.

to give please visit  <http://edenroofandorgan.org/>

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