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Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association est.2001
Newsletter for Fall 2025

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Meetings

You are all invited to JPNA meetings at 7pm Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 5320 W. Giddings.
October 29, 16th Dist. Commander Thomas Hanrahan.
November 19, TBD.
December Holiday Party.. Date and Time to be Determined.
Free parking is available at the Hoyne drive-up Bank, Milwaukee & Giddings. Refreshments will be served.

Roberts Square Park: A Neighborhood Gem Kept Vibrant by Its Community.

by William Brian Wardman

Nestled in the heart of Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood, Roberts Square Park is more than just a green space — it's the beating heart of a tight-knit community. Throughout the year, local residents work tirelessly to keep the park clean, welcoming, and full of life through volunteerism, neighborhood events, and a strong sense of civic pride.

*One of the key reasons Roberts Square remains such a beloved neighborhood hub is the dedication of the **Roberts Square Neighbors**. Volunteers gather throughout the year to organize clean-up days, where neighbors of all ages pitch in to pick up litter, and maintain the playground and walking paths. Families often make it a community affair, turning these clean-ups into social gatherings that strengthen neighborhood bonds. Their collective effort ensures that the park remains safe, beautiful, and enjoyable for everyone.*

*The summer months bring a special kind of magic to Roberts Square, thanks to the annual Movies in the Park series. Sponsored by the **Roberts Square Neighbors**, **Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association**, and 45th **Ward Alderman Gardiner**, two movie nights are hosted each summer, transforming the park into an open-air cinema. Residents bring picnic blankets, lawn chairs, and snacks to enjoy family-friendly films under the stars. The movies not only offer entertainment but also reinforce the sense of togetherness that defines the neighborhood.*

*As autumn arrives, the community gears up for one of its most anticipated events — the **Boo Bash**. This family-friendly Halloween celebration invites children and pets to dress in costume and enjoy games, music, and treats in a safe and festive environment. Volunteers decorate the park with pumpkins, hay bales, and spooky décor, making it a joyful occasion that captures the spirit of the season.*

*When winter settles in, Roberts Square shines once again with the annual **Park Tree Lighting**. Neighbors gather to celebrate the start of the holiday season, sipping hot cocoa and singing carols as the park's towering evergreen is illuminated. The event, often accompanied by local choirs and community groups, brings warmth and cheer to even the coldest Chicago nights.*

*Through the dedication of community members like **Julius Rose**, **Rina Rose**, **Dan Metivier**, **Rachel Chan**, **Emile Sandra**, **Andy Sandra**, **Doby Murry**, **Sara Khan**, **James Thompson and Others**, Roberts Square Park continues to thrive as a shining example of neighborhood pride. These residents play a vital role in organizing events, maintaining the park's cleanliness, and ensuring every celebration runs smoothly. Their hard work and enthusiasm bring people together and inspire others to get involved. Thanks to their ongoing commitment and leadership, Roberts Square Park remains not just a public space, but a cherished gathering place where families and neighbors can connect, celebrate, and create lasting memories for generations to come.*

16TH DISTRICT

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
5151 N. MILWAUKEE AVE
312-742-4480 (Main Line)
312-742-4521 (Community Policing)

Be Prepared

- *Severe weather can happen at any time of the year. Preparing for floods, tornados and severe thunderstorms before they strike will help you stay safe throughout the year. Maintain an emergency supply kit.*
- *An emergency supply kit should include the following:*
- *A battery powered radio, weather alert radio and flashlights with extra batteries*
- *Bottled drinking water*
- *First aid kit and manual*
- *Three day supply of canned or sealed food that do not require refrigeration or cooking*
- *Basic eating and cooking utensils, non-electric can opener*
- *Paper towels, toilet paper, soap and detergent*
- *Household laundry bleach*
- *A blanket for each member of the family*
- *A list of family physicians*
- *Cell phone and car charger*
- *An extra set of car keys, credit card and cash*
- *Medications-Do not store in your kit for a long period of time but add at the last minute*
- *Face mask for each member of family*
- *Hand sanitizer*
- *Toothpaste, toothbrush, extra eyeglasses and contact lens supplies*
- *From: Illinois Emergency Management Agency*

Fall Activities

Roberts Square
5230 W. Argyle St, Chicago IL.
- Boo Bash — October 18 @ 3pm
- Park Tree Lighting — December 14 @ 4pm

Flea Market
Capernicus Center
October 19 @ 9am

Follow-up on ADU's from Summer 2025

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A proposed Chicago ordinance would permit Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) throughout the city. The council's zoning committee passed the ordinance in July. It can be brought back up for a full City Council vote at their next meeting in September.

There was a heated discussion on the pros and cons of ADUs, with the JPNA debating whether to support or oppose Accessory Dwelling Units.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are also known as "mother-in-law apartments" or "granny flats," terms that reflect their long-standing and traditional role in housing arrangements. Under current usage within Chicago, this already exists. They usually belong to a single-family home and house family members. Thus, an ADU ordinance or law is unnecessary for this purpose.

Another ADU perspective is to expand a single-family home to generate additional income. Within the current zoning, the requirement is to have two entrances to the apartment. A property owner is permitted to build two entrances as long as all relevant zoning and building code regulations are followed. Thus, an ADU ordinance or law is unnecessary for this purpose.

Another ADU perspective is to convert garages to living areas. This would allow rent from a detached building structure. Converting would cost the owner over $300,000. Most homeowners cannot afford the conversion. Developers in California have purchased single-family homes for conversion. The JPNA's concerns are that this will convert neighborhoods from single-family homes owned by individual owners to large tracks of property owned by developers.

The final argument stipulates that low-income housing will be provided through accessory dwelling units (ADUs). A 30-year low-income agreement on the property is being proposed for this purpose. Have we failed to learn from the effects of long-term contracts on our city (e.g. parking meters and skyway)? ADU's in California, Oregon, and Washington have minimal impact on low-income housing. We currently permit both apartment buildings and single-family homes for low-income housing, should owners wish to pursue these options. The current housing structure provides support for low-income housing.

The Last concern is that taxing bodies will use this to raise property taxes. That is where we believe the bottom line is regarding the support of ADU's.

The board of the JPNA in a split vote on August 2025 not to support the ADU's.

Contact your alderman now to voice your opinions about ADUs.

JPNA Board Members:

Colleen Murphy (President); William "Brian" Wardman (Vice-President/Newsletter Editor); Floyd Rueger (Secretary); Bruce Herr (Treasurer); Gwynne Carlson; Steve Neidenbach; Eva Skowronski; Peter Insley; Alan Insley; Eleanor Mass

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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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