5038 W. Strong
Chicago, Illinois 60630-0072
773-282-3879
MAIL: jpna@jpna.net

Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association est.2001
Newsletter for Fall 2026

Website Facebook X

Meetings

You are all invited to JPNA meetings at 7pm Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 5320 W. Giddings.
September 30: Bridget Degnen, Cook County Commissioner (Property Taxes); Election of Board Members.
October 28: Ed Bannon, Board of Education, Update CPS District 1A.
November 18: Speaker TBD
December: Holiday Party Place, Date, and Time TBD
Please check JPNA website for up to date meeting schedule and past meeting minutes.
Free parking is available at the Hoyne drive-up Bank, Milwaukee & Giddings. Refreshments will be served.

School Board Elections 2026

By William Brian Wardman

Chicago parents and community members will soon have a meaningful opportunity to shape the future of local public education through the upcoming Chicago School Board elections. These elections represent a major shift in how Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is governed and give families a stronger voice in decisions that directly affect their children and neighborhoods. This is a ***Non-patrician position with election November 3, 2026.***

For many years, Chicago's school board was appointed by the mayor, limiting direct public input. That system is changing as voters move toward a fully elected school board. Elected members represent specific districts across the city and are responsible for setting policies, approving budgets, and overseeing the direction of CPS. For parents and residents, this means increased accountability and leadership that better reflects local concerns.

School board decisions reach into every classroom. Board members influence issues such as class sizes, special education services, school safety, mental health supports, building maintenance, and how limited resources are distributed. These choices can have lasting impacts on students, teachers, and entire communities. When parents and residents participate in school board elections, they help ensure that decisions are informed by real experiences from neighborhood schools.

Candidates in the upcoming election are expected to address key concerns including equitable funding, academic achievement, teacher retention, transparency, and community engagement. Because school board elections often receive less attention than mayoral or state races, voter turnout can be low. That makes each vote even more important.

Parents, caregivers, educators, and community members are encouraged to get involved by learning about candidates in their district, attending candidate forums, and asking questions about how they plan to support students and schools. By voting and staying engaged, Chicago communities can help build a public school system that is responsive, inclusive, and focused on student success. Districts within JPNA is 1a and 1b with the following candidates:

1a

- *Margie B. Luczak — https://www.margiefor1a.com/*
- *Ed Bannon (current-Appointed by Mayor Brandon Johnson) -https://edbannon.com/*

1b

- *Michelle N. Pierre — https://www.votemichellepierre.com/*
- *Claudia Peralta — https://www.communityforclaudia.com/*

A BIG 'Thank You' to all our Members, Advertisers, and Co-partners!!

By Eva Skowronski

Your membership dues and advertising fees provide the means for us to give back to the Jefferson Park Community, as follows:

Every year, we provide a 'movie in the park ' (Roberts Square), and it is attended by hundreds of Moms/ Dads/Kids. Our co-partner is Alderman Gardiner & staff.

We participated in an Easter Hunt for kids and brought many bags of candy for giveaways. The Jefferson Park District was our partner.

We joined several other co-partners and helped bring the Back Porch Music Series to Jefferson Memorial Park with 3 concerts in June, July, and August on the back porch of the Henry Esdohr House.

We donated toward the 45th Ward community shredding event.

We donated toward a fundraiser for the Prussing Elementary School.

Just before the school opened, we were offered the opportunity to participate in a 'Back to School Bash', giving away decorated pencils to all kids.

We volunteered to handle the gates for our new event, 'Italian Beef Fest' (Jeff Fest in the past), and provided some food support for our volunteers.

In the past, we have been a co-partner with both the Copernicus Center and the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a flea market, weather permitting (weather did not cooperate this year yet).

Every year we advertise in our Nadig Press, sending our greetings to the community for special occasions, Christmas, Mother's Day, etc. We wish to thank Brian Nadig for being so supportive of the JPNA in reporting our meetings and speaker announcements.

You can see how your support through your dues makes all this possible.

As the old saying goes, "WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU."



Brian and Eva at Prussing Back to school event on August 20.

Congregational Church of Jefferson Park, 165 Years of Excellence

By Sarah Foster

This year, the Congregational Church of Jefferson Park(CCJP), the host location for JPNA general meetings, turns 165. The CCJP was founded in 1861, two weeks after the beginning of the Civil War, when a group of neighbors in the town of Jefferson, the predecessor to the neighborhood of Jefferson Park, decided they wanted a spiritual community, a gathering place during a time of upheaval. Since then, CCJP has continued to be a place for our community to gather. In addition to our regular worship, this community of neighbors has often been known for its social gatherings, for events like the spaghetti dinner, the strawberry festival, rummage sale, and the Boy Scout auction, just to name a few. We have loved hosting groups like JPNA and others, and we hope to continue for a long time. To celebrate our anniversary, we are hosting a block party on London Ave for our community on Sunday, September 13 from 11:30-2:30. We hope you can join us for some neighborly fun, food, and music. Have a great fall, and we will see you at the next JPNA meeting.



Join us for monthly dinners and discussions @ Eden Church

3rd Tuesdays, 6pm Dinner/6:30-7:30pm Neighborhood Discussions

5051 W. Gunnison, Chicago

Contact info@edenuccchicago.org to join or donate

Neighborhood Activities

Board Game Day. Second Tuesday of the Month. 11am—12:30pm

Location: Eden UCC, 5051 W. Gunnison St. 60630

JPNA Board Members:

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

Support Our Local Businesses. Mention this AD.

16TH DISTRICT
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
5151 N. MILWAUKEE AVE
312-742-4480 (Main Line)
312-742-4521 (Community Policing)

Jimmy's Auto Care
6116 N. Elston Ave
Chicago, IL 60646
312-445-5760
MON - FRI: 8AM - 5 PM
SAT: 8AM - 1 PM
SUN: CLOSED

MB INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
Get Local Help With Your Medicare Questions
Call or Scan Code to Schedule a FREE One-On-One Appointment
Or Click To Learn More
Beata Bochnek
Licensed Insurance Professional
773.939.2020

PENNZOIL
LIGHTNING LUBE
COMPLETE OIL CHANGE CENTER
5609 N. MILWAUKEE
CHICAGO, IL 60646
RICH • GLENN
773-775-1611

Copernicus foundation
Become a member today!
773-777-8898 x 103
info@copernicuscenter.org
copernicuscenter.org

PATERNO'S PIZZA SINCE 1954
Sandy Patel
Paternos pizza & sports bar
5303 N. Milwaukee Ave.
CHICAGO, IL
773 631 5522
www.paternospizza.com
Paternospizza@gmail.com

ERNIE'S
Local Automotive, Inc.
(773) 763-4488
Family Owned - 3rd Generation
CHECK ENGINE
ASE CERTIFIED
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE
Zoomer's Towing: (847) 902-9407
Ask for Larry or Ernie
6424 W. Higgins Ave.
Chicago, IL 60656
For hours, directions and more, visit our website:
www.ernieslocalautomotive.mechanicnet.com

Looking for Life Insurance?
Chris Quigley SBCS, Principal
QIG QUIGLEY INSURANCE GROUP
5936 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60646
(O) 312-528-7844 ext 1
(C) 773-459-4158
Licensed in Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin**

Support Our Local Businesses. Mention this AD.

Colonial - Wojciechowski
FUNERAL HOMES
A tradition of trust and service since 1905
8025 W. GOLF ROAD ~ NILES ~ (847) 581-0536
6250 N. MILWAUKEE AVENUE ~ CHICAGO ~ (773) 774-0366
WWW.COLONIALFUNERAL.COM

GUESS WHAT?!
BPS chicago
This newsletter was printed right here at the
Blueprint Shops, your local, family owned printer!
We print everything from business cards to banners.
Stop in or visit our website for your next print job.
5130 N Elston•773-545-0308•blueprintshops.com

StateFarm®
David A Wians, Agent
5870 N Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646-5425
Bus: 773-774-1500
david@davidwians.com
www.davidwians.com
Thank you for your loyalty. We appreciate you.



AUTO REPAIR
TIM or PETE
ASE CERTIFIED
SKILLED MECHANICS
PETE'S AUTOMOTIVE INC.
• Foreign and Domestic
• All Services and Repairs
• Towing
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
5413 W. Higgins Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
Tel. 773.725.3030
Fax. 773.205.8670

Bruna
Bianca
Dino's
Italian Restaurant
Cocktail Lounge • Banquet Room
Pizza
(773) 763-4077
7004 W. Higgins
Chicago, IL 60656



CHICAGO
GOLF LOUNGE
5217 W. Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
Ph:(312)686-0382
Email: info@chicagogolflounge.com
www.chicagogolflounge.com