



Sheffield Neighborhood News

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January / February 2016

SNA to hold 2016 Annual Meeting on February 9

BY MALCOLM LAMBE

The 2016 annual general membership meeting of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association will take place on February 9, 2016, at 7 pm at Birch Road Cellar, 1113 W. Armitage. Please note that this is a 21 and over establishment. The general membership meeting will be preceded at 6 pm by the regular monthly board meeting of the SNA Board of Directors.

The first order of business at the annual general membership meeting will be the election of new officers and directors. Officers are elected for one-year terms and five directors are elected each year for three-year terms for a total of 15 directors. The proposed slate of officers and directors is recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. New nominees for the Board are:

Officers

President:
Malcolm Lambe

1st Vice President:
Ted Wroblewski

2nd Vice President:

Save the date for the 2016 Patrons' Party

Hilliary Szanto, Allison Spriggs and Patty Hayes will again organize the SNA Patrons' Party, which is scheduled for Friday, June 3.

This annual event is hosted at a neighbor's home or Sheffield business to raise start-up costs for the Sheffield Music Festival and Garden Walk. The 48th annual SMF&GW will be held July 23-24.

Each attendee for the Patrons' Party makes a specified donation and brings an appetizer, while beverages are provided through donations from local businesses and SMF&GW vendors.

If you are interested in hosting this year's Patrons' Party, please contact either Hilliary at hszanto@gmail.com or Allison at allison.spriggs@gmail.com.

Laury Lewis
Secretary:
Lisa Elkins

Treasurer:
Randall Royer

Assistant Treasurer:
David Zoretic

Directors (three-year term) **Term Ending 2017:**

Pete Burgeson
Laurie Dombrowski
Brett Gallagher
Beth O'Shaughnessy
Cadey O'Leary

Term Ending 2018:

John D'Antonio
Patty Hayes
Ann Redgate
Hilliary Szanto
Josh Thornton

Term Ending 2019:

David Bassin
Kate Jakubas
Holly Panter
John Roberts
Jim Gramata

Notice will be sent to SNA members listing the complete proposed slate. Only SNA members may vote, but everyone in the neighborhood is invited. New members are welcome. Current members are encouraged to bring their neighbors and to ask them to join SNA.

There will be a report on the State of Sheffield by President Malcolm Lambe and reports from chairs of various SNA committees. The Sheffield Star Awards for 2015, in recognition for outstanding service to the community and/or to the SNA, will also be presented.

The awards this year will be given to David Bassin, John D'Antonio, Father Jeremy Dixon of St. Vincent DePaul parish, Lisa Elkins, and 43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith.

In addition, the Teacher of the Year Awards will be presented to Michael Boraz, Principal at LPHS; Magen Rooney, Special Education, LPHS; Tracy Lester, Pre K3-Kindergarten, Oscar Mayer; Shannon Mahoney, 4th and 5th Grades, Oscar Mayer; Ana Solis, 4th and 5th Grades, Oscar

Join SNA for DePaul b-ball!

The Sheffield Neighborhood Association will again sponsor a Neighbor Day at the DePaul University Lady Blue Demons basketball game on Sunday, January 31, at noon. Join us to watch DePaul play St. John's.

We will provide complimentary tickets to the game, which you may pick up at Kelly's Pub, 949 W. Webster, on game day beginning at 11 am, which will also be the time for our pizza party featuring complimentary pizza and refreshments.

In addition, you may reserve tickets by sending an email to info@sheffieldneighborhood.org.

Mayer; Anastasia Hinchsliff, Garden Club and Wellness and Sustainability Coordinator, Oscar Mayer; Kelsey Bruce, Technology Program, St. Josaphat; and Warren Gast, Teacher and Principal, St. James Lutheran School.

Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing everyone on February 9.
Malcolm Lambe is SNA President.

Planning and changes for the 48th Annual Sheffield Music Festival & Garden Walk

The music festival and garden walk is set for July 23-24, 2016. This neighborhood event is one of the largest neighborhood festivals in Chicago. The 2015 festival and garden walk was produced by the partnership of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association and Chicago Special Events Management. The result was a very successful event that will help SNA donate money to the schools, parks, beautification and other social service organizations in the area.

There were several changes implemented in 2015 that will continue and be enhanced in 2016. These include the second music stage, an expanded Kids' Corner (last year a record was set for Kids' Corner participation), expanded food choices and the 5th annual Chicago Craft Beer Festival. Those individuals that want to participate with SNA and volunteer their time and talents in helping to produce this year's event, please contact Laury Lewis, co-chairman at lbl1948@yahoo.com or Patty Hayes, co-chairman, at pattyjhayes@yahoo.com.

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2016 winter reminders

BY PATTY HAYES

Parking restrictions

As the arrival of winter approaches, it is always helpful to review the City's winter parking restrictions and snow removal procedures. Chicago's annual snow-related parking restrictions began on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 3 am on a number of critical arterial streets and will end Friday, April 1, 2016, regardless of snowfall or snow accumulation.

Motorists ignoring the posted seasonal tow zone face a minimum \$150 towing fee in addition to a \$50 ticket and an initial \$10 daily storage fee.

A separate ban on parking exists on additional main streets when there is 2 inches of snow on the street, regardless the time of day or the calendar date. These streets include Halsted-Armitage- Clark-North-Division-Lincoln-Clybourn-Fullerton and Diversey.

Both of these seasonal restrictions are marked by signs that are permanently posted on designated routes. They constitute Chicago's "Snow Route System," which was created in response to massive snowstorms. These routes must be clear for emergency vehicle access.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

In addition to parking issues, there are many safety issues related to snowfalls. In accordance with 10-8-180 Snow and Ice Removal Policy, every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant, or other person having responsibility of any

"Ask an Architect" event is free and open to all Sheffield Neighbors

If you've ever wanted to learn more about renovating, remodeling, or new construction projects, don't miss this opportunity for a free consultation hosted by your friendly neighborhood architects at 2 Point Perspective.

Bring your floor plans, inspirational images, and questions and enjoy the opportunity to consult directly with a licensed architect and licensed contractors regarding code issues, buildability, aesthetics, and more! In addition, a mortgage specialist will be on hand to answer questions you may have regarding the financing of your dream project.

2 Point Perspective founders Lisa and Ron Elkins have lived in the Sheffield neighborhood for more than 10 years, and were thrilled to move their 7-person office into the area last year. With several projects in the neighborhood, they are also familiar with zoning issues particular to the area.

Details:

2 Point Perspective:

Architecture + Interior Design

1137 W. Webster Ave., Storefront

Chicago, IL 60614

Saturday, January 23, 10am - noon

Architects:

Lisa Elkins, Ron Elkins

of 2 Point Perspective

Construction Specialists:

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building or lot of ground in the city abutting upon any public way or public place shall remove the snow from the sidewalk in front of such building or lot.

The City of Chicago's "Request a Snow Corp Volunteer" connects volunteers with residents in need of snow removal, such as seniors and residents with disabilities. To request a volunteer to shovel your block in case of extreme snowfall, call 311.

According to the City of Chicago municipal code, residents and business owners have three hours to clear the snow if it stops falling by 4 pm (except Sundays). If the snow stops falling after 4 pm or on a Sunday, snow must be cleared before 10 am the next day. Individuals who do not comply with the sidewalk snow ordinance can face fines of \$50. Businesses that do not comply with the sidewalk snow removal ordinance can face fines from \$200 to \$500 per day of violation.

A "Snow - Uncleared Sidewalk" report can be submitted to the City of Chicago 311 Service Request line. Dial 311 or online at www.cityofchicago.org/311. Outside of the city limits, call 312-744-5000.

- When making this call or report, be sure the problem occurs on the sidewalk.
- Do not use this category to report snow on streets, parking lots or alleys.
- Provide a specific address where the issue occurs.
- Request a reference number from the operator; this will help track the status and resolution of the request.

In case of severely frozen snow and ice, the person having responsibility of the sidewalk is required to place ashes, sand, sawdust or other suitable materials to eliminate any danger to pedestrians. There is a provision that protects people who remove snow or ice at such locations from being held liable for civil damages.

If you have a neighbor who is elderly or otherwise physically unable to clear his or her own sidewalk, please call your Alderman and he or she will attempt to find volunteers to assist.

The Municipal Code of Chicago requires individuals to clear a 5-foot-wide path along the sidewalk, where conditions allow.

Most Efficient Ways to Remove Snow from the Sidewalk:

- Remove snow and ice along ALL sidewalks adjacent to your property
- Move snow to your yard or the parkway adjacent to your property
- Do not push snow from the sidewalk into the street
- Do not cover the crosswalks with snow
- Do not block alley entrances with snow
- Do not pile snow around fire hydrants

Good Business Neighbor Guidelines:

- As winter approaches, all snow or ice must be removed from the walkway in front of your business.
- Sweep and clean up any trash around your property. Please sweep in front of your neighbors, as well.
- Keep lights on in front and rear of your property. If a light fixture needs to be changed, please call 311.
- If there are any vacant storefronts or door-

ways near your business, remove newspapers or exposed mail that is present.

- If there is a vacant property that needs maintenance, notify the owner or real estate agent or contact your local Alderman's office.
- Do not let trash receptacles near your property overflow with garbage.
- Maintain and keep dumpster storage areas and adjacent alley areas clean and free of debris.
- Help your neighbors! Many residents get away from the cold Chicago winters, if you notice a neighbor who is out-of-town for an extended period of time, lend a hand and help clear their public sidewalk in front of their residence.

Note: "Sandwich advertising boards" are not eligible for city permits and are city Public Way offenses and will be ticketed by the city. Patty Hayes chairs SNA's Neighborhood Relations Committee and co-chairs the Sheffield Music Festival & Garden Walk.

Sheffield Music Festival & Garden Walk July 23-24



Sheffield Neighborhood News

Fullerton

Chicago River

Halsted

Armitage

Sheffield Neighborhood News is the publication of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association (SNA), a community organization representing the commercial, industrial and residential constituencies in the area bounded by Halsted on the east, the Chicago River on the west, Fullerton on the north, and Armitage on the south. The address of SNA is 2233 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60614; e-mail, info@sheffieldneighborhood.org.

www.sheffieldneighborhood.org

Sheffield Neighborhood Association

President	Malcolm Lambe
First Vice-President	Ted Wroblewski
Second Vice-President	Laury Lewis
Secretary	Lisa Elkins
Treasurer	Randall Royer
Assistant Treasurer	David Zoretic
Past President	Dan Hermann

Board of Directors: David Bassin, Bob Birkmeyer, Pete Burgeson, John D'Antonio, Laurie Dombrowski, Lisa Elkins, Brett Gallagher, Patty Hayes, Kate Jakubas, Colleen Kennedy, Cadey O'Leary, Holly Panter, Ann Redgate, John Roberts, Hilliary Szanto, Josh Thornton, Terry Tolwin. Committee Chairs: **Communications**, Laurie Dombrowski, Cadey O'Leary, and Hilliary Szanto; **Community Safety**, John Roberts; **Events**, Colleen Kennedy and Holly Panter; **Historic Resources**, Ted Wroblewski; **Membership**, Ann Redgate; **Neighborhood Relations**: Patty Hayes; **Nominating**, Hilliary Szanto; **Parks & Beautification**, Laurence Lewis; **Planning**, Ted Wroblewski; **Schools**, Brett Gallagher; **Music Festival & Garden Walk**, Richard Ashbeck, Patty Hayes, Dan Hermann, and Laurence Lewis.

Staff of Sheffield Neighborhood News

Editor	Jay Becker, 773-481-1147
Advertising Manager	Rhonda Emrich, 312-203-4747
Items to be considered for the Sheffield Neighborhood News should be sent to: Jay Becker, Editor, SNA, 2233 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60614.	

Planning a block party

These parties, popular in Sheffield, officially are recreational street closures for residents to hold an annual event for their neighborhood. Residents may apply to close their stretch of a residential side street between 10 am and 10 pm. Permits are issued by the city Department of Transportation. Why plan a block party? As former SNA Board member Jeffrey Markowitz observed in the January 2009 SNN, "Planning the parties and the events themselves create opportunities to strengthen your relationships with neighbors you may already know and also to meet many other neighbors you wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to meet. A block party is a fantastic opportunity to get the neighborhood kids and adults together and can quickly become an annual event that all neighbors look forward to. The planning of the event, which can take place over the course of several meetings, is a collaborative effort that can provide a chance for neighbors to contribute their skill and creativity."

32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack's office advises that if this is your first time applying for a block party or you have not had one in the past two years, circulate a petition among your neighbors demonstrating support for the event. He also encourages residents to submit applications at least 30 days in advance to allow time to plan and notify your neighbors.

Aldermen's offices can supply or facilitate a number of items; you may need to arrange pick up and drop off of some items:

- "No Parking" signs
- Barricades (first come, first served)
- Popcorn machine (first come, first served)
- Fire engine and crew from the Chicago Fire Department
- Police canine unit or mounted police
- Jumping Jacks (first come, first served)

Copies of petition and request forms for the 32nd Ward are available on line at <http://ward32.org/residents/block-parties/attachment/2015-32nd-ward-block-party-application-packet/>. For the 43rd Ward, visit <http://ward43.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/BlockParty2013.pdf>. Following is a step-by-step block party recipe used successfully by Markowitz and his neighbors. His advice: "Start planning early in the year."

Appoint a block party leader.

Pick a date for the block party — be sure to select it several months in advance.

Secure a block party permit through your alderman's office.

If this is your neighborhood's first block party, you will need to get a signed petition. Contact your alderman's office for details.

Communicate date to neighbors. This can be done via e-mail or a paper flyer (since not everyone has e-mail).

Organize several planning meetings to:

- Develop a schedule for the day.
- Set up committees to plan and manage kids' activities, music, donations, communications, and signage and flyers.
- Organize who will bring food, drinks, etc. (we do it block by block).
- Devise a job schedule, including set-up and clean-up detail for the day.

Design a funding strategy to help offset event costs (corporate sponsor, solicit neighborhood monetary donations, entrance fee).

You may want to secure a tent in case of poor weather.

Organize kids events, for example, bouncy, arts and crafts, bike parade, water balloon fight, piñata.

Organize music, DJ, band, etc.

Organize street cleaning for the weekend in advance of the event.

Post laminated signage in the area highlighting the event at least 3 weeks in advance.

Put up No Parking signage obtained from the alderman's office the week of the event.



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We'd like photos!

Do you have pictures of events and happenings in the Sheffield neighborhood from block parties, school graduations, unusual scenes or SNA-sponsored events such as the Garden Walk and the Spaghetti Dinner?

Please send your pix to info@sheffieldneighborhood.org, Subject: "SNN Pix." Be sure to include your name and a very brief description of the event...who/what/where/when. Thanks!



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WHAT'S WHO
2015

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Broker Associate
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millie.rosenbloom@bairdwarner.com
millierosenbloom.com
2762 N. Lincoln Avenue | Chicago, IL

2015 — The year in review

The Sheffield neighborhood had another exciting year in 2015. Here are some of the key events highlighted in words and pictures.

SNA 2015

Annual Meeting

The Sheffield Neighborhood Association held its 2015 Annual Meeting on February 26 at Arrogant Frog, 1365 W. Fullerton. SNA members elected officers and directors and presented the Sheffield Star Award for community service. SNA Board members provided updates on the association and the neighborhood, and neighbors enjoyed refreshments from local establishments.



Photo for SNN by Tony Dombrowski

2015 Sheffield Star Award recipients Randy Royer, Laurie Dombrowski, and Hilliary Szanto at the SNA Annual Meeting.

Thanks to our advertisers

SNN thanks the following advertisers for their support in 2015:

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St. Josaphat School
St. Vincent de Paul Church

**48th annual
Sheffield
Music Festival
&
Garden Walk
July 23-24,
2016**

Sheffield hosts 47th annual Music Festival & Garden Walk

Mother Nature provided the SMF&GW with a summer double punch. There was a torrential downpour on Saturday afternoon combined with 90+-degree heat. However, many attendees persevered and were able to view the gardens and enjoy the music, craft beer festival and other festivities. More than 3,000 people viewed the 85 gardens and all of the specialty garden tours and architectural tours were filled. Taking this into account with a record number of children enjoying the expanded Kids' Corner on Belden, the diverse assortment of food and beverages, the great line-up of music on two stages and the 3,000 people who attended the Chicago Craft Beer Festival, the SMF&GW was very successful.

This year, the Sheffield Neighborhood Association again partnered with Special Events Management to organize the festivities. This success simply was not possible without great planning by the SNA's managers, the professionals at SEM, and our many volunteers. As a result, the Sheffield Neighborhood Association can continue to maintain its beautification program and provide benefits to schools, parks and other community organizations. The music line-up included Miles Nielson and the Rusted Hearts, Sister Hazel, Cowboy Mouth and Rusted Root.

Please mark your calendar for the 48th annual Sheffield Music Festival and Garden Walk, July 23-24, 2016. There are some exciting changes that will be announced shortly that will make this year's festival the best ever.

—Laury Lewis and Patty Hayes, Co-Chairmen, Sheffield Music Festival and Garden Walk.



Photos for SNN by Matthew Rubenberg Photography ©.



2016 Calendar

January 12, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

January 31, Sunday, noon, SNA Neighbor Day at DePaul women's basketball.

February 9, Tuesday, 6 pm, SNA Board meeting.

February 9, Tuesday, 7 pm, SNA Annual Meeting, Birch Road Cellar, 1113 W. Armitage.

March 1, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

April 5, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

May 3, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

June 3, Friday, SNA Patrons' Party.

June 7, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

July 5, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

July 23-24, Saturday and Sunday. 48th Sheffield Garden Walk and Music Festival.

August 2, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

September 6, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

October 4, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

November 1, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

December 6, Tuesday, 7:15 pm, SNA Board meeting.

Check SNN or visit the SNA website at www.sheffieldneighborhood.org to learn more about these and other neighborhood events.

SNA committees report on 2015 activities

Beautification and Parks

This past year was a year of continued growth for beautification in Sheffield, the "Garden District of Chicago." The 60 street planters located along the business thoroughfares and several residential streets were spectacular. The Sheffield Neighborhood Association contracted with Christy Webber Landscapes to plant and maintain the planters. The planting theme this year focused on color combinations using foliage and ornamental grasses. The winter greens that were added after Thanksgiving gave the planters a special look well into February.

The Trebes Park Advisory Council completed its sixth year. The council has experienced an increase in participation, in great part to the increased neighborhood enrollment at Oscar Mayer School. Parents at this school recognize the value of having a well-maintained park with good playground equipment and attractive landscaping. For more information, please contact Melissa Seiler, President, at Meilssa@seiler.me.

In the summer of 2015, the perennial garden at the entrance to Trebes Park at Clifton and Webster was modified to include a butterfly garden. Laury Lewis and his wife, Nancy Bradt, designed and installed numerous perennial plants that attract butterflies, providing them with food and a habitat to lay their eggs. Look for a more colorful garden in 2016.

The Oz Park Baseball League completed its sixth year of baseball leagues with over 1,500 neighborhood boys and girls playing at Trebes Park and Oz Park. As part of our neighborhood agreement, the Oz Park Baseball League again committed \$5,000 towards capital improvements at Trebes Park. The Sheffield Neighborhood Association again was a sponsor for the Oz Park Baseball League.

—Laury Lewis, *Chairman*

Communications

The Communications Committee continued to oversee the publication of the bi-monthly Association newsletter, the *Sheffield Neighborhood News* or *SNN*; the Association's website, Facebook page, and the Association email communications systems.

In 2015, the *SNN* continued the tradition of a "Year in Review" in the January/February issue. The July/August issue focuses on the Sheffield Music Festival & Garden Walk. The *SNN* publishes two print issues (January/February and July/August) and publishes four issues online (March/April, May/June, September/October, November/December).

The number of visitors to the SNA website, www.sheffieldneighborhood.org, grew again in 2015. We are attracting more visitors with more frequent postings. In addition, we have a "Neighborhood Pulse" section on the website, which is designed to keep the community apprised of important issues going on in the Sheffield neighborhood.

Finally, the Committee continued to inform the membership of safety alerts, meetings, events, and other time-sensitive information through periodic email blasts.

—Laurie Dombrowski, Cadey O'Leary, and Hilliary Szanto, *Co-Chairmen*

Community Safety

Happy New Year! 2015 saw a drop in crime for the Sheffield neighborhood. We should all praise the Chicago Police Department for its work in keeping this area safe. The Department responds quickly when called upon. As you see in *SNN*, the crime statistics have steadily been reducing over the past couple of years. You should also give yourselves credit for calling in suspicious or actual criminal activity, which helps the police maintain order. Please keep up the good work to make 2016 even better. Enjoy 2016 to the fullest and stay safe.

—John Roberts, *Chairman*

Events

Many fun events were sponsored by SNA during 2015!

SNA's Annual Spaghetti Dinner was held March 28 at Cortelyou Commons on the DePaul University campus. The neighborhood came out to enjoy wonderful food, terrific music and magic. People feasted on salad and pasta from Via Carducci. Entertainment was once again provided by that great acoustic rock band, Whiskey Jezebel, and kids and adults alike enjoyed magic from The Amazing Bibek, as he performed for guests tableside. Great donations were provided by neighborhood businesses, including local restaurants, bars, salons and clothing stores. March Madness fans were even able to keep tabs of their favorite teams, as updates were provided throughout the night.

August saw two more great events held in lovely Trebes Park. Both were sponsored by SNA and offered free to the neighborhood. On August 13, the band The Smoking Fish performed live in the park to a rocking audience! (A second concert was not possible due to inclement weather.) On August 27, families again gathered in Trebes Park to enjoy The Lego Movie, under the stars. The movie was part of the Chicago Park District's Movies in the Parks series where movies are provided free at various parks through the city.

Stay tuned, as many more exciting events are being planned for 2016.

—Holly Panter, *Co-Chairman*

Membership

Recent enhancements allow for online credit card payment for annual membership dues. All memberships (family or business) are one year in duration. The committee is in the process of transitioning all membership records to a single database that will automatically generate renewal notices. For your convenience, you can pay by check or credit card. Membership dues are Individual/Family \$20/year, Business \$20/year. To join or renew online, please email us at info@sheffieldneighborhood.org.

—Ann Redgate, *Chairman*

Neighborhood Relations

The Neighborhood Relations Committee (NRC) continues to be your voice for neighborhood-related issues such as new business license applications, sidewalk café applications/renewals, and liquor licensing. The committee works to improve issues for the community that can affect you and your neighbors.

When new or existing businesses request sidewalk cafes, liquor licenses, valet zones, Loading Zones, and the like, 43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith or 2nd Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins requests an opinion from the SNA community.

SNA's process begins with the NRC, to which the business presents its plan or request. In most cases, the requested license will directly affect the community and its neighbors. After a request is made, the NRC schedules a Community Meeting that gives the neighbors the opportunity to view the plans and voice their approval, issues, concerns and suggestions for the request. The NRC hand-delivers Community Notices to all residential and retail neighbors within a 3- to 4-block radius of the business presenting the request. The meeting is held in a convenient and neutral location; the Alderman and staff are invited to attend. The meeting is also announced several times in an email blast to the community and SNA membership.

After the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC presents the outcome to the SNA Board, taking into account the input gathered from the attendees and makes a recommendation to the Board. The SNA Board usually adopts a recommendation, but may revise or reject it. The Board then communicates its recommendation to the Alderman. The final approval resides with the Alderman and is contingent upon the business meeting all city requirements regarding permits, inspections, and other conditions.

The NRC conducted the following Community Meetings in 2015:

- June 24, 2015: State's request for a sidewalk café area on Bissell. The request was not approved.
- August 10, 2015: Range's request to begin the proceedings to lift the Planned Development Ordinance prohibiting an outdoor café at this location; an additional meeting was held on October 21. The request was not approved.
- December 17, 2015: Uprising Wood-fired Pizza Cafe: request for an incidental liquor license to serve wine and beer in the soon-to-open café. Request will be presented to the City Council in January 2016.

Other NRC/SNA Community Activities:

- Whole Foods: 959 W. Fullerton; ongoing meetings to assist with the Grand Opening, February 2015.
- August 11, 2015: Whole Foods hosted a Neighborhood Appreciation Day; The SNA was given 5% of the net revenue for the day. Several SNA Board

Continued on page 10

10 years ago in Sheffield

A review of the 2005 issues of the *Sheffield Neighborhood News* turned up the following memories:

January/February

A community meeting was scheduled to discuss DePaul University's plan to build a six-story dorm at Fullerton and Lakewood. Children's Memorial Hospital searched for a site on which to build a new facility.

March/April

SNA honored educators and volunteers at its February annual meeting. Spring Bloom 2005, a benefit event to support local beautification, was planned for April.

May/June

43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley declined to support landmark designation for the Sheffield Historic District. The Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce announced a strategic plan.

July/August

The neighborhood prepared for the 2005 Sheffield Garden Walk and Festival on July 23-24. Lincoln Park High School was named one of America's top high schools by *Newsweek* magazine.

September/October

The 2005 Garden Walk was successful despite rain and high heat, with more than 100 neighbors opening their gardens. The Brown Line Task Force was disappointed in the CTA's Business Outreach Program.

November/December

Neighbors raised concerns about the CTA's construction plans for the Fullerton and Belmont El stops. SNA won first place for Community Gardens Region 3 in Mayor Daley's 2005 Landscape Awards Program.

—Jay Becker, SNN Editor

Looking back at 2015



2015 SNA Patrons' Party host Lisa Elkins is flanked by volunteers Hilliary Szanto and Allison Spriggs at the successful June 5 event.



Native plants adorn the perennial garden at the entrance to Trebas Park, thanks to an SNA initiative in summer 2015.



Sheffield Neighborhood Association

Welcome to our website

www.sheffieldneighborhood.org

History: the roots of our neighborhood and its evolution to the present.

Happenings: the events and activities impacting the neighborhood today.

Helpful Hints: information on city services and local businesses.

Please visit us today and everyday!

It's time to apply for sidewalk cafés

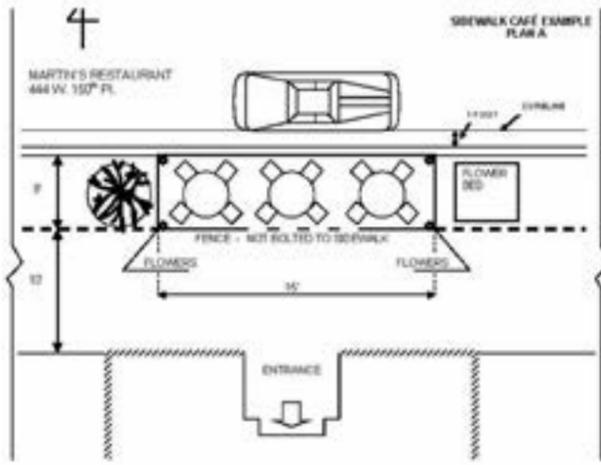
BY PATTY HAYES

The sidewalk café season begins March 1, 2016, and ends December 1, 2016. Sidewalk café permits have a nine-month term, **and must be applied for, approved and issued, every year.**

Businesses with a valid Retail Food Establishment License may apply for a sidewalk café allowing them to serve food outside their restaurants on the sidewalk. Applicants intending to serve liquor at a sidewalk café must have a valid liquor license pursuant to Chapter 4-60 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago.

Guidelines for the 2016 sidewalk café season; Sidewalk Café Applicants:

- Modified landscaping requirements ensuring the sidewalk cafes are aesthetically pleasing and consistent with the City of Chicago's objective of developing attractive-tree lined streets, boulevards and greener neighborhoods.
- Easier and simpler renewal process for previous Sidewalk Café Permit holders. If your 2016 sidewalk café application and site plan will not change from what was permitted in 2015, you may simply renew your permit by checking the "No Change" box provided in the Renewal Option Choice section of the application. If you did not receive your renewal application, please contact publicwayuse@cityofchicago.org or 312-744-6249.
- In order to open by March 1, business owners are required to submit their Plan of Operations and photos of their proposed Sidewalk Café Site Plan (submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 paper) to the 2nd Ward and 43rd Ward Alderman's offices for review prior to the February 2016 City Council for final approval.
- The entire Sidewalk café permit



A sample sidewalk café plan from the city's application form. application process may take 30 to 45 days.

The City of Chicago has very strict guidelines for approval of sidewalk cafes. Minimum requirements include:

- A Plan of Operation (including photos) submitted to the Business Assistance Center, City Hall, Room 800, 121 North La-Salle, Chicago, IL 60602 (312-744-6249).
- Minimum non-refundable payment of \$600 must be submitted for the Sidewalk Café Permit.
- Plans must be clear and readable. Photocopies will not be accepted.
- A minimum of 50% of the boundary of the sidewalk café must be covered with live plants and foliage – no portion of the plants shall extend over the permitted café area.
- No boundary shall be stabilized by bolting to the sidewalk.
- A minimum of 6 feet of clear space is required for pedestrian passage from the

furthest edge of the sidewalk boundary/ landscaping to any permanent structure on the public way.

- No smoking is allowed within the limits of a Sidewalk Café outside the approved operating hours.
 - The Sidewalk Café operator may designate a dog-friendly area within the Sidewalk Café.
- Patty Hayes** chairs SNA's Neighborhood Relations Committee.



St. Vincent de Paul Church

1010 W. Webster
773-325-8610
www.stvdep.org

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY!

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. (Choir mass)
5 p.m.
9:30 p.m.
When DePaul University is in session



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Daycare Center Coming Soon (6 weeks to 4 years) !!!

Community safety update

BY JOHN ROBERTS

Happy New Year! Compared to last year at this time we have lucked out with no "polar vortex" in the near future. Most people have been good neighbors in regards to shoveling their walks. There are still plenty of ice patches that can catch you off guard and trip you up, so please be careful. Also, the construction zones continue on a few streets that require particular caution. Check the no parking signs to avoid tickets. As usual, intersections can be dangerous places with inconsiderate drivers. Use caution while crossing. The early morning hours are especially hazardous due to drivers who think the rules of the road do not apply before 6 am.

Our furry friends also need attention in winter. I have seen pets with coats and booties, which is a great help. We use a salve on our dog's paws called "Mushers Secret"; it provides a thin layer of protection to help with snow and ice. Also to help our pets, there is pet-friendly salt that greatly reduces the damage that regular salt can do to the paws. Please remember that waste still must be properly disposed of. The snow may "cover" but it's not going to disappear and spring will reveal the evidence! Also, rats are attracted to waste, frozen or not.

As always, be aware of your surroundings, especially with parka hoods and hats obscuring your peripheral vision. Occasionally look behind you, especially at night, to see if you are being followed. As an added precaution, try not to wear ear buds that further diminish your awareness.

I mentioned the "Court Advocate" program in the previous issue of *SNN*. I went to my first court date regarding a "peeping tom" incident in the neighborhood. There were about 15 other cases on the agenda which, in the preliminary round, were dealt with promptly. When the case that I was there for was called, I rose when the defendant's name was read to acknowledge that I was interested in the case. I was surprised how quickly it was handled. One of the state's attorneys came over to me and mentioned that the defendant had requested a trial, which will be set for February. I urge other people to consider this program. It was both educational and inspiring to see the justice system at work.

Crime has dropped in the city due to increased police presence. To help the police in their jobs, citizens need to report suspicious activities that they might observe. One of my neighbors told me of a recent incident in the alley where he had witnessed an alleged drug deal. This is the type of suspicious activity that should have prompted a call to the police. If they do not

know about this activity, the police cannot help. A new billboard quote sums it up:
"For a question call 311, For a crime call 911."

Crime Reminders, Bulletins

1. Always remember when something seems suspicious or you witness a crime, do not hesitate to call 911. Without your help, the Chicago Police have a harder time protecting the neighborhood.
2. SNA urges you to sign up for crime bulletins provided by the Chicago Police Department's Sergeant Schulman. The bulletins advise the community of the area incidents and/or criminals that are operating in this neighborhood. Sign up by sending a request via email to Cynthia.Schumann@chicagopolice.org. If you have any questions regarding the latest crime bulletins, call the 18th District Community Policing Office at 312-742-5778.

Crime Track

For some time, SNA has tracked the major incidences of crime to keep the neighbors informed. Your vigilance has helped the police to keep this area's crime incidence down. Please keep up the good work by getting involved with the CAPS meetings and calling **911**. Initially, the project has been tracking non-domestic crimes to persons that occur on the streets, sidewalks, and alleys. The statistics will be somewhat dated in that they are based upon what is available from the Chicago Police Department's CLEARpath website on the date that material must be submitted for publication. Thus, for this issue, the project tracked crimes from November 3, 2015, through January 1, 2016. This is not every incident but gives a good representation of the activity.

DAY/TIME	BLOCK	LOCATION	CRIME TYPE
Nov. 03/ 7:00 AM	2200 N. Magnolia	Residence	Burglary
Nov. 05/ 4:30 PM	900 W. Webster	Street	Simple Battery
Nov. 05/ 8:35 PM	2100 N. Kenmore	Sidewalk	Attempted Armed Robbery
Dec. 08/ 11:35 PM	900 W. Fullerton	Sidewalk	Robbery
Dec. 10/ 4:15 PM	1100 W. Fullerton	Street	Armed Robbery
Dec. 17/ 10:20 PM	2200 N. Bissell	Street	Armed Robbery
Dec. 30/ 10:25 PM	2300 N. Sheffield	Garage	Simple Assault

TOTALS

Nov. 03-Jan. 01 (approximately 58 days) x 7 incidents = 1 incident per 8.28 days

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Beat Meetings:

The Chicago Police Department bi-monthly Beat meetings are helpful in understanding the policing efforts in our district (the 18th). The police prepare charts and maps that identify all crimes committed in the last month and discuss their efforts to arrest the perpetrators. They also bring the incident reports if a member of the community wants further details of a crime. In addition, the police bring guest speakers from the various departments to discuss their roles in the prevention of

crime and offer suggestions on how the community can help. The police have a number of pamphlets pointing out ways to protect yourself and the community, as well.

Attending a Beat meeting is the best way to communicate your concerns to the officers who patrol your community. SNA members attend the meetings, but they need your support. I strongly urge members of the community to take an active interest in the Beat program to show community support for the police.

Beats 1811, 1812, 1813 & 1814

(1811-North Ave. north to Fullerton, Sheffield west to the Chicago River)

(1812-Amitage north to Fullerton, Sheffield east to Sedgwick)

(1813- North Ave .north to Armitage, Sedgwick west to Sheffield)

(1814-North Ave. north to Fullerton, Sedgwick east to the lakefront)

2nd Thursday of every odd month at 7 pm, Old Town Triangle Center, 1765 N. North Park.

John Roberts chairs SNA's Community Safety Committee.

DePaul University

Neighborhood Parking Program

The Neighborhood Parking Program on DePaul University's Lincoln Park campus was developed with the cooperation of the Transportation Committee, a community-university advisory committee coordinated by DePaul's Office of Community & Government Relations. The program allows eligible Lincoln Park residential neighbors to park on-campus during off-peak hours, FREE of charge during the academic year.

In addition to the free program, area residents can purchase a 24-hour Clifton Parking Garage (only) permit. See the Rules and Regulations for details.

Lincoln Park homeowners who reside within the following boundaries are eligible for the program: Altgeld (north) - Armitage (south) - Halsted (east) - Wayne (west). The homeowner must reside at the property address within the boundaries of the program. There are a limited number of permits available to the first 300 participants. Participation is limited to one permit per household. Proof of residency is required at the time of registration (both walk-up and mail).

Available parking time and locations for the Area Resident: **Student Surface Lots L and P:** (Lot L is located between Fullerton and Montana on Sheffield. Lot P is located on the north side of Fullerton east of the El tracks)
Monday - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. * Weekends: Available all day.

Clifton Parking Garage (2330 N. Clifton):

Monday - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. * Weekends: Available all day.

*Weekday availability is subject to change and you would be notified.

Term of Area Resident Parking Permit: Sept. 1, 2015 - Aug. 31, 2016.

Permit display: Area resident homeowners will be issued an "Area Resident" parking hang tag which must be displayed when parking in all DePaul facilities. An access card is required for entrance to the Clifton Parking Garage. Please note that a parking permit does not guarantee an available space in the parking facilities.

Eligible homeowners may apply in-person or via mail every year.

- Complete the 2015-16 Area Resident Parking Permit Application.

- Bring proof of residency. You are required to present 2 ID's with your current address (e.g. driver's license, state of Illinois ID, etc.) or 1 ID and 1 proof of residency such as a utility bill with your name and current address.

- Area Resident parking permits are available at the DePaul University Parking Services Office, 2320 N. Kenmore, Room 177, open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- If you already have an access card, please bring it with you when you re-register or include the card number and your e-mail address on the application, so that we can program the card to give access for the new academic year. Lost access cards will incur a \$15 replacement charge.

If you are applying via mail, please return the application and proof of residency to the Parking Services Office at 2320 N. Kenmore, Room 177, Chicago, IL 60614.

For more information, visit <http://go.depaul.edu/NPP> or call (773) 325-7275.



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For information, contact:
Rhonda Emrich
(312) 203-4747
ads@sheffieldneighborhood.org

Attention, Sheffield neighbors!

Do you enjoy receiving the *Sheffield Neighborhood News* or reading it online? Do you enjoy seeing the planters on corners of our commercial streets? Do you enjoy the neighborhood events? Do you know that the Sheffield Neighborhood Association works with the Aldermen's offices and city departments to help provide guidance on neighborhood needs? Do you know that SNA is a volunteer group of residents and businesses that work together to improve the conditions of life, work, recreation, health and safety of our neighborhood? Would you like to receive e-mail notices about neighborhood issues and events?

Please support SNA by becoming a member! Just because you receive the *Sheffield Neighborhood News* does not mean you are an SNA member. Read this issue of SNN to see all that SNA does for you!

For your convenience, you can pay by check or credit card. Membership dues are: Individual/Family \$20/year, Business \$20/year. To join or renew online, please visit <http://www.sheffieldneighborhood.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=1>. Please let us know at info@sheffieldneighborhood.org.

Following is a list of current SNA members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chris Adams | Rich Ashbeck |
| Mohammed Alghoul & Duha Hamdan | Pamela Austin |
| Simon Amich & Liz Kores | Alan & Jennifer Axelrod |
| Kimball & Karen Anderson | Janice Bail |
| Lori Andre | Warren Baker |
| John Aren | David Bassin |
| Ernest & Paula Arnett | Christy Bauhs |
| Susan Arra | Jim Bee |
| | Anthony Benedetto |

SNA Business Members

Please shop locally and support the following SNA

business members:

- Beaumont Bar & Grill
- Lori's Designer Shoes
- The Salvation Army
- McCaffery Interests
- Bauhs Creative Group
- Sai Café, Inc.
- Berens Insurance Agency
- Lincoln Park Aesthetics
- Kincade's
- Faith & Whiskey
- Robinson's #1 Ribs
- Dee's Restaurant
- DePaul Library
- Little Sisters of the Poor
- St. James Lutheran Church & School
- 2 point perspective, inc.
- Baker Construction Group
- Spex
- Dirk's Fish and Gourmet Shop
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- State Restaurant & Café
- My Corner Playroom
- Glascott & Associates
- Floriolo Bakery
- LEED Council
- Kelly's Pub
- Oh, Olive
- Laudi Vidni LLC
- Nancy Krause Floral Design
- Kremin & Associates
- General Iron Industries, Inc.
- Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Cotelac
- Sir Speedy
- Hellman Frame Shop
- Derby Bar & Grill
- Milito Mobil
- Milito Car Wash
- Nookies Too, Inc.
- OSP
- City Scene Bed & Breakfast
- Dr. Lori Portnoy
- St. Josaphat Church
- Rinehart Design Group
- Christy Webber Landscapes
- Jam 'n Honey
- The Local Option
- Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce
- Vrai Amour
- Armitage Racine Currency Exchange
- Family Pet Animal Hospital
- Bridgeview Bank
- ICM Properties
- LEED Council
- The Exercise Coach
- Restoration Salon
- Lake Shore Physical Therapy
- Gramata Realty Group
- Bridgeview Bank Group
- Tarantino's
- Mario's Place Barber Shop
- Killion
- Golden Nail Builders, Inc.
- Fortunate Discoveries Inc.
- Carol Wolk Interiors

- Robert & Merilee Benson
- Susan Benton
- Lisa Berens
- Paul & Kathy Berghoff
- Michelle & Peter Bergren
- Sol, Elena & Martin Berman
- Alan Berry
- Frank Bianco
- Steve & Marsha Birchard
- Bob & Jo Birkmeyer
- Kathryn Bixby
- Hillary Bochniak
- Brad Bohmer
- Bastiaan Bouma & Kathy Deane
- Don & Cathy Breen
- Nate Brochmann
- Janet Brookman
- Matthew Brown
- Pete & Lindsey Burgeson
- Bobby Burleson
- Dianne & Tom Campbell
- Hunter Cannon
- Eric & Jenny Carpenter
- Barbara J. Casey
- Patrick Casey & Judith Lauth Casey
- Susan & Joe Castro
- Mary Jean Ceaser
- Stephen Cerrone
- Jim & Linda Cherney
- Kevin Chin & Patricia Chin
- Joe Cohen & Heidi Strong
- Joe & Lori Cole
- Buell & Victoria Cole
- Barry Collins & Lynn Collins
- Dr. & Mrs. Weiser & Lacey Cordero
- Cathryn & Jay Crookston
- Walter & Carole Crowley
- Dan & Kathy Cummings
- Vi Daley
- John & Angela D'Antonio
- Cory & Ben Daverman
- Kang Dee
- Special Collections - Kathryn DeGraff
- Patricia Dimm
- Development Director
- Anthony & Laurie Dombrowski
- Kevin Donnellon
- Pastor Robert Donovan
- Keith & Sheila Dorman
- Melinda Doty & Rich Williams
- Kathy Doyle
- Richard & Vicki DuFour
- Alisia Eckert
- Ruthmarie & Walter Eisin
- Jon Ekdahl
- Salli Eley
- Lisa & Ron Elkins
- Stephen Elpern
- Stephen Ensberg
- Lane Epstein
- Jim Fairhall
- Diane Farwick
- John Farwick
- Gil & Marge Fauteux
- Joel & Toni Fenchel
- Rosemary & Jack Fitzer
- Harry & Barbara Flaxman
- Jerry & Ann Fohrman
- Hamish Forrest
- Marilyn Frank
- Craig Freedman & Grace Tsau-Wu
- Christopher & Rebecca Freeman
- Stephen & Anita Friedman
- Richard E. Friedman
- Dirk Fucik
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- Wayne Gailis
- Paul Gallagher
- Leanne Galvin
- David & Sheila Ganch
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- Frances Gatziolis
- Jim & Lori Gelbort
- Kostas Giannoulis
- Lisa Gillis
- Stephanie Gioiosa & Michael Mann
- Timothy Glascott
- Robert & Sophie H Gordon
- William Gordon
- Scott Gould
- Adam Grant
- Suzanne Green
- Peg Griffiths
- Deborah Gubin
- Paul & Jennifer Gunning
- Lanni Guttman
- Mirja & Ted Haffner
- Pat Haneline & Alan Kozikowski
- Tom Hawkins & Bob Brown
- Patty Hayes
- Anne Hebert
- Barbara Hermann
- Dan & Beth Hermann
- Sandra or Mathieu Holl
- Susan Holtzman
- Mike Holzer
- Gabe Horstick
- Brian Horwood & Mary Beth Berkoff
- Sharlene & Jack Hsu
- David & Staci Hughes
- Barbara Huyler
- Ted Jadwin & Ellen Morris
- William & Camille Jaeger
- Christopher & Vineeta Jaeger
- Kathie Jagielo
- Kate Jakubas & Mike Mayer
- Buchanan Jennifer
- Walker & Carolyn Johnson
- Arthur Johnston & Jose Pena
- Joyce Judah
- Amy Kartheiser
- Grace Kelly-Volk & Craig Volk
- Polly Kelly
- Beth & Patrick Kennedy
- Ira & Marianne King
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- Steven & Sarah Noll
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- David & Kristi Nuelle
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- Chris & Charlene Olson
- William O'Malley
- O'Toole Family
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- Sarah Pallone
- Elise & Steve Paquette
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- Antigone & Lee Polite
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- Steve & Barb Wolf
- Ryan Wolf
- Christopher Wolvoord
- Ted Wrobleksi
- Ted Wysocki
- Ivan & Candace Yee
- James & Katherine Zartman
- Marie Zenere
- Neil Zuleta

How can I....

Get involved with the Garden Walk? Work on the Sheffield Beautification Project?

Help out with the Spaghetti Dinner? Make my voice heard? Find out what's going on in MY community?

Join the Sheffield Neighborhood Association!!

Enclosed is my check or charge my credit card for \$_____

	One Year		One Year
Family membership	\$20	Business membership	\$20

Credit Card MasterCard Visa Discover Card Expiration Date ___/___

Credit Card Number _____ Signature _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Areas of interest (Planning, Garden Walk, Historic Resources, Beautification, Events, etc.): _____

Please mail to: Sheffield Neighborhood Association, 2233 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60614 or fax to: 312-592-7565 if using credit card.

SNA committees report on 2015 activities

Continued from page 5

Members volunteered to greet customers and sign-up new members. The SNA was given a check for \$2,300.00. Thank you, Whole Foods!

- The NRC continues to meet with neighbors near Walgreens (Armitage) and with Walgreens management.
 - Sugar Fixe; Request for Sidewalk Café was approved.
- *Patty Hayes, Chairman*

Planning

2015 was a notable year for the beginning of construction for the new DePaul University School of Music building on Halsted between Belden and Fullerton. The DePaul Master Plan called for the Music School construction to begin shortly after the completion of the Theater School, but the beginning of construction was somewhat delayed. Now that it has begun, it is anticipated that the new building replacing McGaw Hall will be completed later in 2016, along with renovation of the Concert Hall building and other improvements. Meanwhile, the Theater School building has proved to be an attractive addition to both the university and our neighborhood.

With the completion of the new Theater School building, DePaul sold the old theater school building (formerly the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Grammar School) to a private developer. Presently, several new private homes are under construction on the property. 2016 should see the completion of these homes and possibly the start of construction of new homes on the remaining lots.

On Armitage, the new Walgreens store which was the subject of some controversy opened this summer. We will see how well Walgreens lives up to its commitments with regard to store operations and deliveries. Meanwhile, Armitage and Halsted Streets have seen a number of new businesses opening, particularly some new restaurants. 2016 should see more activity in this regard.

Meanwhile, work on the new plans for the Children's Memorial site remains on hold. While the plans have been approved by the city and a lawsuit brought by some neighbors was dismissed, that dismissal was appealed by the neighbors and it appears that construction will not begin until that appeal has been ruled on.

The Sheffield neighborhood has continued to experience the demolition of older homes and the construction of new high-end priced homes, as have neighborhoods nearby. The SNA has dealt with a variety of issues regarding these homes,

including the continuing desire of builders to maximize the amount of marketable living area on these city lots. Elevated backyards, living space on garage roofs, and variances in building setbacks have had an impact on adjoining properties. Issues as to the diligence of plan and construction review by city departments have also arisen. The SNA will continue to try to provide community input on these issues to our aldermen and city agencies.

The future of the industrial properties along the river and the Protected Manufacturing District was a major topic of discussion in 2015 and will continue to be an important issue for our neighborhood and the entire city in 2016. With the demolition of Finkl Steel, the acquisition of the Lakin and Guttman properties by developer Sterling Bay, and the recent fire at General Iron, it is apparent that this area will soon be undergoing significant changes. The issues relating to the character of new development and its impact on transportation to and from our community will be of continuing concern.

2016 should prove to be another significant year with regard to planning and zoning issues in Sheffield.

— *Ted Wroblewski, Chairman*

Schools

This year, the SNA Schools Committee received more nominations for the SNA's Educator of the Year Award than any year in recent memory. Teachers, parents, and other members of the community submitted glowing letters nominating educators from all four of the neighborhood schools: Oscar Mayer Magnet School, Lincoln Park High School, St. James Lutheran School, and St. Josaphat Elementary School. This not only reflects the quality and character of the educators in our neighborhood schools, but it also reflects the community's growing appreciation for those schools.

This past year also presented new and real challenges for our neighborhood Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"): Oscar Mayer Magnet School and Lincoln Park High School. Like many other public schools across the city and state, these two highly renowned neighborhood schools faced significant budget cuts. Unlike other public schools across the city and state, the parent-run organizations of these two neighborhood schools tirelessly met that challenge head on! Throughout 2015, the Friends of Oscar Mayer Magnet School and the Friends of Lincoln Park High School organized several fundraising events and projects to fill in the gaps that the CPS budget cuts left behind. They joined with neighbors

and local businesses alike to devise creative solutions to the schools' funding issues.

At Lincoln Park High School, the parent organization supported projects such as the #1School-1Community Initiative and events such as Lion Pride Night. At Oscar Mayer Magnet School, the parent organization supported projects such as their Annual Walkathon, their Fall Pledge Drive, and a Barnes and Noble Book Drive. These projects were successful in generating much-needed funding, but more importantly, they raised interest in the schools, their students, and the financial issues they all face.

This is not a problem that was solved when the New Year's ball dropped (or the Chicago star rose... whichever you prefer!). It is an ongoing battle and our neighborhood public schools have more projects on the horizon. Plans are moving forward for Oscar Mayer's Annual Walkathon later this spring and a Mayer Magnet Benefit at Salvatore's in March. Plans are also moving forward for Lincoln Park High School's Annual Lion Pride Night and auction this spring. There are always plenty of opportunities throughout the year to support our local public school in maintaining their excellence, and the Schools Committee encourages our neighbors to do so! The Schools Committee also encourages readers to visit these schools' websites for more information on their projects throughout the year.

— *Brett Gallagher, Chairman*



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Real estate market glance

BY CADEY O'LEARY

Median home prices throughout the Chicago metro area continued to trend upward in November (the latest data available at publication) showing a nearly 8% increase over the last year, reflecting a trend that began early in 2012. At this current rate of increase, it will take another 12 to 18 months before home prices return to their inflation-adjusted pre-recession levels.*

Chicago's housing market has continued to recover from the recession more slowly than other large U.S. cities, according to the Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller Home Price Index. In fact, Chicago recorded the smallest price growth among the 20 largest cities over the past year.

Chicago's tax burden and pension crisis likely factor into its relatively tepid recovery. The city's economic growth rate has also been registering a slower clip than its historic rate and is less than the national economy. Still, real estate is locally driven, varying by neighborhood and block.

Many agents who work with clients in buying and selling homes and condos in Lincoln Park and surrounding neighborhoods felt a positive momentum shift heading into the holiday season with a healthy market persisting into the typically quieter month of January. Market statistics don't keep up with our own experienc-

es; the data highlights below provide insights through November 2015.

Lincoln Park Market Highlights**

- New listings of Single Family Homes are up nearly 10% year to date (YTD) through November over year prior; condo listings are up 3.4% over same period
- Market times have increased over year prior for Single Family Homes and condos, registering nearly 8% increases for homes and 5% for condos
- Median sales prices are showing modest gains of nearly 2% for homes and condos; the median sales price for Single Families is \$1,600,000 with condos' median sales price at \$443,000

Luxury home sales (homes priced over \$2 million) topped 74 in 2015.

*According to Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, director, Regional Economic Applications Laboratory, University of Illinois.

**Courtesy of Midwest Real Estate Data.

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