



# West Lakeview Neighbors

Meeting notes: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

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## Agenda:

- 44th Ward Update – Max Bever
- Sheil Park Update – Christy Kyhl
- 32nd Ward Alderman Scott Waguespack
- Development
- Lakeview Chamber
- Other Business

### 44th Ward Update – Max Bever:

Street Cleaning: Cleaning will start soon. The 2010 schedule for the 44th ward is on their website: <http://44thward.org/index.htm>.

Sewer and Water Main Projects: Max listed some upcoming work – the list is on the 44th Ward website: <http://44thward.org/index.htm>.

Baseball Parking: As a reminder – LV2 parking restrictions will be in effect soon. LV2 permits do not allow residents to park in 383 zones.

City Stickers: City stickers expire on June 30th. Stickers will be sold all day at the 44th ward office at 1057 W. Belmont on Wednesday June 9th. Stickers will also be sold at City Clerk offices as well as online: <http://bit.ly/9bVK9g>.

### Sheil Park Update - Christy Kyhl:

Ground breaking will begin next week. The goal is to have work completed by the beginning of summer before summer camp starts. When the park is completed, there will be a grand opening celebration. Southport will be closed from 11 AM until 2 PM for the event. Volunteers are needed.

The Daddy/Daughter dance was held on two days. About 500 people attended. Mystic Celt and D'Agostino's donated a percentage of the proceeds from meals that evening to Project Imagine.

Eggstravaganza at Sheil Park is Saturday, April 5th from 12 PM until 3 PM. The event is sponsored by the Lakeview Chamber of Commerce and the SSA and will include an egg hunt and much more. More information is available on the website: <http://www.imaginesheilparkplaygroundrenovation.com/>

### 32nd Ward Update – Alderman Scott Waguespack

The office has been receiving applications for sidewalk cafes. All of the applications will be reviewed by neighborhood groups.

Work has begun on the National City Bank project at Addison and Ashland. Plans were revised to move the building closer to the corner. Construction should begin this summer.

On Saturday, April 17, 2010, community groups can make an immediate difference by volunteering their time and efforts to take part in Mayor Daley's Spring Clean & Green Day.

For two decades Chicagoans have teamed up with community groups and the City of Chicago to help beautify their communities by cleaning up and recycling accumulated litter & trash. Volunteers can sign up and join groups at locations that could really use a good cleaning including the new park at Lincoln, Ravenswood, and Addison. The City will provide brooms, rakes, shovels and bags. To volunteer, send an email to [info@ward32.org](mailto:info@ward32.org). A second weekend will be added to walk through designated areas in the ward to note issues such as graffiti and potholes.

A meeting with parents, administrators, and elected officials was held to identify issues (curriculum, infrastructure, etc.) and ways to improve Lakeview High School. We have a lot of elementary schools in the ward and the community would like to improve high school options. The group will reconvene in the near future. The alderman will provide an update after the next meeting.

The Inspector General issued a recent report on the performance of aldermen. There is no job description for aldermen. The report included the voting records of aldermen. Unfortunately, they got several votes wrong. For example, Ald. Waguespack voted against the meter deal, not for. Residents should look at financial as well as social voting records. Residents should contact their aldermen if they have any questions, concerns, or opinions.

The new 32<sup>nd</sup> Ward website ([ward32.org](http://ward32.org)) will be launched within the next two to three weeks. Constituents should sign up to receive the ward email newsletter.

Legislative update:

The city council passed an asset lease agreement disclosure ordinance to publish and track documents pertaining to city asset lease agreements worth more than \$10 million such as leasing the Chicago Skyway and the parking meter system. The ordinance will make the lease agreement documents available online in a single document, updated quarterly, on the City of Chicago Department of Finance website.

An ordinance to establish a new review process for city asset lease or sales agreements was introduced. The ordinance calls for a minimum sixty-day review period to allow for the Chicago City Council to properly assess, independently analyze and fully scrutinize the terms of proposed City asset lease or sale agreements before they are put out to bid. The ordinance authorizes the City Council to hire a third-party, independent analyst and auditor for the purpose of considering and analyzing the terms of the proposed City asset lease or sale agreement. In addition, the legislation allows the City Council to request that the Inspector General serve as the Council's independent analyst and auditor to review the proposed agreement.

Questions and Answers:

Q. Has there been any pushback from the mayor because Scott hasn't always voted according to the party line?  
A. Not really. Scott and his staff have worked to establish good working relationships with the various city departments who provide service to the ward.

Q. Is there anything happening with the lot south of the Paulina CTA station?

A. The lot was formally used as a staging area while the station was being built. Since federal dollars were used for the station, federal guidelines have to be followed for the sale. The property is currently out for bid.

Q. Can anything be done to address the outdoor café and traffic issues with Scooters (Paulina and Belmont)?

A. The outdoor seating was a big issue last year. A petition was circulated with the incorrect assumption that the alderman's office was trying to shut Scooter's down. They did not have a sidewalk café permit and were blocking the sidewalk. Scott will discuss the issue with the district police commander and look into some additional signage.

Q. Traffic at the intersection of Lincoln, Belmont, and Ashland is terrible. Traffic on Lincoln between Belmont and Addison (and up to Irving Park) is also bad. Has a traffic study been done or can there be one?

A. It may have been better to start the streetscape with that intersection. One way to improve the situation may be to "tweak" the timing of the traffic lights where possible. Crossing the intersection is a real issue for seniors. Scott will see if we can work with CDOT to get the situation improved.

**Sidewalk Cafes:** Both Aldermen Waguespack and Tunney send new or modified sidewalk café applicants to neighborhood groups for review. WLVN Sidewalk Café guidelines are on the website. WLVN Planning & Development Committee met with Panera's and Leo's prior to the March 16 meeting. Given the short time frame, Pony's was invited to address the full meeting.

Panera Bread Café:

Panera has been authorized for permit approval pending condo board approval. The restaurant would be in the old Blockbuster location. The 14-chair café would be self-service and located on the curb-side of School St. (across from Wishbone). Hours would be from 6 AM until 9 PM. No parking will be removed. Customers can use the parking garage formerly used by Blockbuster patrons. The vote to approve the café was approved with one no vote.

Leo's Coney Island Café:

Leo's opened one month ago and has received amazing support from the neighborhood. The owners have made an effort to address all possible issues such as trash and noise. Nozzles for hoses have been installed on both sides of the building and sidewalks have been washed every night. Three dumpsters have been installed with pickups four times a week and they have asked the Chamber of Commerce for additional public trash cans on the sidewalk.

There are 98 seats inside. The owners have applied and received city approval for a 60-seat outdoor café on the Southport and Cornelia sides of the building. The planned hours are 9 AM until 10 PM. They may remove some of the inside seats to accommodate waiting customers.

Concerns were expressed about the number of sidewalk café seats, strollers, safety for children, additional traffic, and the distance from the curb to the corral on the Cornelia side of the building. It was suggested that the number of café seats be reduced to 40 rather than 60. A question was raised as to whether the owners would apply for a liquor license. There are no current plans for applying for a liquor license.

The owners are investigating the possibility of a stroller valet. Staff are taught how to handle children so safety shouldn't be an issue.

Two motions were considered (we'll brush up on Robert's Rules of Order before the next meeting). Both the motion to approve an outdoor café with 40 seats and another with 60 seats were

overwhelmingly approved, with some voting no on both motions. WLVN will work with Lou at Leo's to ensure that the Southport thoroughfare is clear.

**The Pony Inn Café:**

Pony Inn has been open for 18 months (Belmont, just west of Lincoln). The owners also own Lottie's Pub in Bucktown. They are open to suggestions about their proposed outdoor café, which would be curbside with 7 tables and 16 seats with fixed benches. The owners agreed to change the closing time from 11 PM to 10 PM. Concerns included the café being curbside and the corral being only one foot from the curb. The owners agreed to address the concerns and present the revised plans at the next P&D committee meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. A motion to give conditional support for the outdoor café pending P&D approval was made by Patricia Craig and seconded by Jim Shipp. The carried with the majority for and a few opposed.

**Lakeview Chamber of Commerce Update – Heather Way:**

The Cuervo Games 2010 will be held on Southport between Roscoe and Addison. Eddy will also be closed. Sidewalks will be open. The one-day event will be held from 1 PM until 10 PM. No alcohol or food will be served. There will be no bands but there will be a DJ. Teams of 4 will compete.

The streetscape project is currently on hold due to budget constraints. Aldermen Tunney and Waguespack are working hard to obtain the necessary funding.

The new community kiosk project is 70% completed. Kiosks have been installed in several places including the Southport and Paulina CTA stations.

The renovation of the Jewel on Southport is ahead of schedule and should be completed by late summer or early fall. 70% of the work is underground.

**Other:**

West Lakeview Neighbors now has a Facebook page.

The next WLVN meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lincoln Belmont Library.