

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



Newsletter of the
Andersonville South Neighborhood Association (ASNA)
www.asnachicago.org

Spring/Summer 2009

Mark your calendar: Neighborhood party — July 18

Those lazy, hazy days are almost here and so is ASNA's annual summer neighborhood party—a fun time to mix and mingle with your neighbors. Plan now to be there: Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m. to dusk, Carmen.

ASNA will provide hot dogs,



hamburgers and sodas. You bring a dish or dessert to share and something to sit on. Zerostars—the great band we had last year—will be back. There'll be a piñata, Jupiter Jump and other fun activities for kids, and a raffle with great prizes.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome, whether or not you belong to ASNA. Be sure to tell your neighbors. Todos bienvenidos!



Good things are happening

—John Gavin, ASNA President

As incoming President I am fortunate to be leading our association at a time when several new developments should provide positive benefits to our neighborhood.

First, in cooperation with the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce and other area neighborhood associations, we are working on ways to help support area businesses. Though nothing has been decided I anticipate that this cooperation will result in benefits to our association members in the form of discounts or other promotions. Second, a farmers market, starting June 24, will provide an opportunity to buy fresh produce

and hand made items from small, local producers.

Finally, we are excited to have three new neighbors—the Bow Wow Lounge, the Metropolitan Brewery (they only make it, don't sell it, at least not here) and most recently, Koval, a boutique distillery—all located at the corner of Winona and Ravenswood. We welcome them to our neighborhood and look forward to having them add to the very positive reputation that our neighborhood enjoys.

Our website, asnachicago.org, is the best way to stay in touch with what is going on in the neighbor-

hood. We will be updating the website as information on these and other developments becomes available. We encourage you to visit the website in order to stay informed and to share its address with neighbors who may not yet have joined ASNA. We also have an e-list for news of interest between newsletters. If you would like to subscribe, please send a message to asnachicago@asnachicago.org.

I look forward to serving the members of our association. I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you at the block party on July 18.



Advice from the Spirited Gardener

—Julia Bunn

There are many simple ways that we can act as responsible stewards for our corner of the planet. For example, if you seek to have a relatively weed free lawn and minimize the use of toxic substances, you can start by having a good base for your lawn.

Healthy soil produces healthy lawns. To control some of the annual seeding broadleaf weeds, apply corn gluten in the spring and pay attention to the weather conditions when applying it. Like its chemical counter part, the amount you use and the environmental conditions must be right to maximize its effectiveness. Be sure to follow the directions. The bonus of the corn gluten is that it actually feeds nitrogen to the existing grass.

A great source to learn more about this system of lawn care is to read *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* by Paul Tukey.



Parkway blooms with help from ASNA

—Stephen Christy

Spring has just arrived and already your ASNA neighbors are busy working on what we all most look forward to this time of year: our neighborhood greenery.

Our ASNA parkway along Ravenswood came through winter in good shape. Surprisingly, we did not lose much grass from salt damage, probably because there was so much snow to protect it! And we have a whole flock of daffodils thanks to last fall's crew of volunteer planters.

We also put a new cover of wood chips on the entire parkway. This mulch is so important in our neighborhood because all our soil is so sandy. Did you know that 10-12,000 years ago ASNA was lakefront property? Yes, Lake Michigan's predecessor, glacial Lake Chicago, was some 60 feet higher than our current lake. ASNA, Rosehill Cemetery, and the rest of the



Save your local economy...

three stores at a time.



SAVING THE BRICK AND MORTARS OUR NATION IS BUILT ON

3

Think about which three independently owned stores you'd miss most if they were gone. Stop in and say hello. Pick up a little something that will make someone smile. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

50

If just half the employed U.S. population spent \$50 each month in independently owned stores, their purchases would generate \$42,629,700,000 in revenue.* Imagine the positive impact if 3/4 of employed Americans did that.

68

For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 of it returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and *nothing comes home.*

1

The number of people it takes to start the trend...*you.*

Pick 3. Spend 50. Save your local economy.

For more information, visit the350project.net

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* Employment statistics courtesy U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2/6/2009

land around us would have been a peninsula in that lake, enjoying watery views from three sides. Think about that next time you're driving south on Western Avenue from Foster Avenue. Notice how you're actually going downhill? That's the old beach!

Fast forward to today. ASNA's new mulch keeps our soils moist and cool for our many trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses along the parkway. This helps them perform to their best all season long. It also keeps the weeds out, so we'll have less work to do!

We greatly appreciate the support we receive from local businesses to help beautify our neighborhood. But it's a big job and we depend on volunteers. This year we will hold regular gardening sessions for volunteers at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. See you there!

Meet Your Neighbors ... John and Trudi Gavin

ASNA's new president John Gavin and wife Trudi are world travelers who are happy to call Andersonville South home. John formerly served as vice president and has been an active ASNA volunteer. You may have bought popcorn from him at the Howl-O-Ween!

Born/raised

John grew up in Lake Bluff, Ill.; Trudi in Kansas City, Kans. The couple lived in Singapore before moving to Andersonville South seven years ago.

Occupation

John is a futures broker at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Trudi, once a professional dancer on Broadway, is a fitness instructor/personal trainer at the East Bank Club.

Special interests

Music, travel, dance, theater, travel.

What do you like best about living here?

The fact that it is a small, close-knit community and that we are so close to Clark with all of its shops/restaurants.

Is there anything you'd like to see improve/change?

It would be nice if we could get more people involved in ASNA. It is a great organization, which provides residents with an opportunity to get to know each other better. Overall, I think the neighborhood is wonderful.

What are your favorite things to do/places to go in our neighborhood?

We like to walk the neighborhood. It is very pretty and has some beautiful homes. We also like to walk Clark Street.



Photo: Erich Schrempf

What kind of changes have you seen in the neighborhood?

The growth along Clark Street has been great. In addition, the greening of the Ravenswood Parkway along the train tracks has helped beautify the neighborhood.

What are you reading?

"Outliers, The Story of Success" by Malcolm Gladwell.

Neighbor to Neighbor

The *Neighbor to Neighbor* newsletter is published by the Andersonville South Neighborhood Association (ASNA), a nonprofit community organization.

For information about ads or submitting news items, please contact: Linda Wallace, lkwallace@mindspring.com or 773-989-4514.

SUPPORT ASNA!

The Andersonville South Neighborhood Association is dedicated to making our neighborhood a great place to live, work and play. Your dues help support Ravenswood Parkway beautification, the annual summer party, the Mid-winter Beat the Blahs Party, our neighborhood newsletter and other efforts. Please join us!

Type of Membership: (Please circle)

- Students & Seniors: \$5
- Families: \$30
- Individuals: \$25
- Businesses: \$50 Includes two business card-size ads in our newsletter

Your name(s) _____


Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Dues Period: July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Please make checks payable to ASNA. Mail with this form to Elaine Filus, ASNA Treasurer, 1748 W. Carmen, Chicago, IL 60640.

Thank you! 

A Neighbor's Neighborhood Favorites

—Elaine Filus

I have lived in the neighborhood for nearly 15 years now, and I've seen favorites come and go. I miss Atlantique, TomBoy, and having A Taste of Heaven close by on Foster. But as the area changes we are the beneficiaries of a multitude of new places so the supply of prospective favorites is always growing. And that's a good thing!

Here is a brief rundown of my current favorites:

Although it's farther from my house now, **A Taste of Heaven** (5401 N. Clark) is definitely worth the walk. As the sign says, "The best scones in the world." Moist and delicious and big enough that when I order one to eat there I immediately ask for only half to be heated and the other half put in a bag to go. Other favorites include Dan's banana bread, the raspberry chocolate torte, and the coconut cream cake. One benefit of the move from Foster to Clark was a larger

kitchen, so now they serve great sandwiches, salads and breakfasts, too.

A newer addition to the neighborhood, **In Fine Spirits** (5418 N. Clark) is part wine shop and part bar/restaurant. They have free wine tastings every other Saturday in the shop, wine tasting classes (not free), and a variety of special events. Featured in the center of the store are displays of great wines priced under \$12. Go to the bar to enjoy a flight of wine (smaller pourings of three different wines) and one (or more) of their "small plates" -- tasty appetizers like meatballs, roasted chicken tartine, tuna confit, or a wide variety of flatbreads (the pulled pork flatbread is excellent).

My new favorite place to go for breakfast or brunch is **Over Easy** (4943 N. Damen). Retro kitchen tables and chairs give this small place a hip yet cozy feel. And the food is

excellent. Great egg dishes, and the pancakes and waffles look gorgeous! Excellent sourdough toast, too.

I do other things besides eat and drink, really. As evidence: my recommendation of the **Andersonville Galleria** (5247 N. Clark). The space serves as shared retail space for a number of fine artists and artisans. You will find home decorations, ceramics, photography, jewelry, women's clothing, Irish gifts and jewelry, hand knitted clothing for children, and more. I have happily found several great gifts there, along with some new clothes and jewelry for me!

These are just a few of my favorites. Happily, there are many more in the 'hood these days. I'll leave some for the next guest writer!

Submit your Andersonville "favorites" to asnaed@mindspring.com.

Heads up!

Coming soon: Andersonville Farmers Market

Andersonville will have its own Farmers Market starting Wednesday, June 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. on Berwyn between N. Clark and Ashland. The weekly market will feature an array of local, sustainably grown produce, also honey, cheese, wine, crafts and more from local vendors. Also in the works are live musicians, family-focused activities, chef demonstrations and other programming

Help keep the parkway green!

Volunteer gardening/clean up sessions will be held the second Saturday of the month (June 8, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10) through October. Meet at 9 a.m. at Ravenswood and Carmen. No expertise necessary! Bring gloves, trimmers, trowel, whatever tools you think might come in handy. Water & treats will be provided. An hour of your time will be a big help. Let us know which session you can attend (773-989-4514)



– or, feel free to come to all of them! Bring the kids!

You're invited

The West Andersonville Neighbors Together (WANT) invites everyone to join their Memorial Day (May 25) festivities. The day starts with a Bike Decoration Contest for kids and AmVets parade. Assembly is at 9:15 a.m. at 5739 N. Clark. The parade begins at 10 going up Clark to Bryn Mawr to Ashland to Rosehill Drive. There will be a ceremony at the Rosehill Cemetery following the parade. The fun continues at the Ravenswood Pub, 5455 N. Ravenswood, with a pig roast starting at noon. Free!

Support neighborhood safety

CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) is a unique program that brings police, community members and various City agencies together to anticipate, identify and solve neighborhood crime problems. Our local CAPS meetings are held bi-monthly at 7 p.m. on Thursday at

Ravenswood Church, 4900 N. Damen. Everyone is invited. Upcoming dates: May 28, July 30, September 24, and November 19. Andersonville South is part of Beat 2032.

The CAPS folks will also make sure your baby's car seat is installed properly. For more info, contact the 20th District Community Policing Office at 312-742-8770.

Watch where you park

Street cleaning days are:
May 28 and 29 (Thurs. & Fri.)
July 16 and 17 (Thurs. & Fri.)
September 2 and 3 (Wed. & Thurs.)
October 22 and 23 (Thurs. & Fri.)

Questions? Call the 47th Ward Department of Streets and Sanitation (312-744-0111).

What's happening

Find out about fun and interesting events (many of them free) in and around our neighborhood at the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce Calendar of Events at www.andersonville.org/index.php/events.

The Winner!

“Mr. Spock”, a 12-year-old Tibetan terrier dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow, from the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean* won the \$100 Grand Prize in last fall’s Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade & Costume Contest. He also won the Best Pet-Owner Combination with his owners Lise Hauser & John Pendergrass. Special thanks to our new neighbor and partner the Bow Wow Lounge, at 1442 W. Winona; our judges, Alderman Gene Schulter; Lucy Moy, our neighborhood beat commander; Corrie Christensen, owner of the Bow Wow Lounge; Harry Kaiko,



past president of ASNA; and Tracy Hurst, co-owner of Metropolitan Brewing; also the Ruff N’ Stuff Pet Center, Famous Fido’s Doggie Deli and all our door prize contributors. Forty-four dogs and a crowd of



onlookers turned out for this fun neighborhood event sponsored by ASNA.

Everything you need to know about ASNA

ASNA Calendar

Meetings

ASNA meets the first Monday of the month (except for February and July) at 7 p.m. Meetings generally last an hour. Everyone is welcome! For locations, see the ASNA website at www.asnachicago.org.

June 8 – 1644 W. Carmen
Aug. 10 – 1739 W. Winona
Sept. 14 – 1706 W. Carmen
Oct. 12 – 5121 Ravenswood (Koval)

Special Events

July 18 – Neighborhood Party, Carmen
Oct. 31 – Howl-O-Ween Parade & Costume Contest, Ravenswood at Carmen

Stay informed

Check out the ASNA website at www.asnachicago.org for helpful information about our neighborhood and association. To receive timely news and announcements of neighborhood interest, sign up for the ASNA e-list. You need not be a dues-paying member to sign up. You can use the list to share items of neighborhood interest, including items you might want to sell. To join, send a message to asnachicago@asnachicago.org.

If, for some reason this newsletter is not delivered to your home, please let us know and we will make sure you receive a copy. Call 773-989-4514.

Questions/Concerns

Contact ASNA President John Gavin at 773-728-5474 or windchill@ameritech.net. You can also fill out a form on our website at www.asnachicago.org.

Welcome to our new officers

ASNA has new officers effective with our May meeting. They are:

President: John Gavin

To learn more about John, see “Meet your neighbors.”

Vice president: Mark Rosenberg

Mark and wife Andy will soon celebrate their first anniversary living on Carmen. Mark is semi-retired but sells contemporary furniture online at home123furniture.com.

Secretary: Scott Plummer

Scott is a Senior Operations Manager with Charles Schwab & Co. and works on the North Shore. He and his partner Jim Snyder are working on plans to rehab their condo on Winona.

Treasurer: Elaine Filus

A Carmen resident for nearly 15 years, Elaine works as a treasury management consultant, but would rather be going to movies, sailing, scuba diving or playing fiddle at an Irish pub.

Volunteer here

Volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbors, do good and have a good time while you’re at it! If you are interested, please contact the following:

Social Chair: Lisa Spiegler,

lisaspiegler@yahoo.com or 728-3030

Major events are the upcoming summer neighborhood party and Midwinter Beat-the-Blahs party. Good ideas are always welcome as are helping hands to organize activities, set up and take down.

Greening Chair: Stephen Christy,

schristy@lfolia.org or 773-271-3235

The Ravenswood Parkway between Winnemac and Foster has been transformed thanks to this hearty band of volunteers. No gardening expertise required.

Membership/Communication:

Linda Wallace, lkwallace@

mindspring.com or 773-989-4514

Have marketing skills? Love to write? Put your talents to good use helping to recruit new members and put out the ASNA newsletter.

Howl-O-Ween: Linda Wallace

(see contact info above)

This event, now in its fifth year, can always use help decorating and monitoring the parade route.



REAL ESTATE Q & A

Art Gregg is recognized as one of the top-selling agents in our area. He is also a lifelong resident of Andersonville South. You can reach Art at arthur.gregg@bairdwarner.com or 773-398-3818.

Q: What is going on with the proposed 11-story condo building proposed for the Sears Parking lot on Lawrence Avenue?

A: I talked to the Alderman's office at the end of April. After their first meeting, the architects are making some revisions to address some of the community's concerns. The next neighborhood meeting will be tentatively

scheduled for the end of May or early June. If you are interested, please send me an email and I will let you know when the time is set.

Q: What is new with lending, mortgages and government programs?

A: When the banking crisis hit last year, low down payment loans almost disappeared. There are now a few qualified lenders in the Chicago area that have the ability to do 3.5 and 5 per cent down payment loans. The government is giving a tax credit up to \$8,000 to first-time homebuyers. There are also programs available to help people stay out of foreclosure via a lower interest rate.

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