

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



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

Fall 2009

In and Around Our Neighborhood

Meet your alderman at all-neighborhood meeting

ASNA will hold an all-neighborhood meeting with special guest Alderman Gene Schulter on Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. The Koval Distillery, 5121 N. Ravenswood, will be our host. Alderman Schulter will give an update on our neighborhood and answer questions. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments will be served. This meeting will replace ASNA's monthly board meeting.

Bark if you love Howl-O-Ween!

The 5th Annual Howl-O-Ween Parade & Costume Contest for Dogs, sponsored by ASNA will be held on Halloween (Saturday, October 31) this year. Registration opens at 12:30 p.m. with the parade/judging at 1:30. The parade will start in the private park at the corner of Ravenswood and Carmen. Cash prizes. Registration: \$5 per dog (includes three raffle tickets). Proceeds go to ASNA's fund for the Ravenswood Parkway beautification.

Watching is free! There's nothing quite like seeing dogs in their Howl-O-Ween finery.

ASNA's Howl-O-Ween Parade & Costume Contest for Dogs is one of Andersonville's most popular

events. Plan now to be there on October 31. Be sure to tell your friends and fellow dog lovers. See enclosed flyer for details.

Refreshments will be available for dogs and people. To volunteer, please call 773-989-4514.

More Halloween fun

Games, treats and prizes await costumed children and their families at the "Ghostly Garden" sponsored by West Andersonville Neighborhood Together (WANT). The garden, on Ravenswood between Berwyn & Balmoral, will be open Saturday, October 31, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

'Tis the season almost....

Plans for an ASNA caroling party are in the works. Tentative date is Sunday, Dec. 20. Watch the website (www.asnachicago.org) for details.

Save this date

When winter looms long in February, it will be time for ASNA's annual Beat the Midwinter Blahs Party—a fun event that gets us all

out and together. The date is set for Sunday, February 28.

Duly noted

Our neighborhood seems to be plagued with an unusually high number of "sink" holes this year. Rest assured that ASNA has contacted the Alderman's office and the Department of Water Management, responsible for sewer maintenance, is well aware of the problems. Cutbacks in the city budget mean that it's taking longer than usual to fix...hopefully, before winter.

Get checked out

Free home security checks are available from the Chicago Police Department. Contact Officer Ron Rufo in Crime Prevention at 312-745-5838, ext. 84652.

See the ASNA website for more details: www.asnachicago.org.



Andersonville South Gardens named "Conservation at Home" site

—Julia Bunn, "The Spirited Gardener"

Good news ASNAites! Thanks to the vision of landscape architects Stephen Christy and David Bier, and the tenacious back-up of members of our association, our Ravenswood embankment is qualified to receive the Conservation at Home status. Conservation at Home is a program run by The Conservation Foundation, based in Naperville.

Criteria include:

- Property must have some native plant components for the benefit of water conservation and/or for wildlife.
- There should be clear evidence of stewardship of the land (invasive species control and other management issues).
- Property along creeks, rivers or a pond should be managed to reduce erosion and pollutants. (Our local "river" is the storm water system that ultimately travels to Lake Michigan.)
- Protection of existing natural areas as well as creation of new areas is highly encouraged.

Curious about the specifics of our lovely garden's qualifications?

- Our beautiful retaining wall serves both

as erosion control and habitat for a variety of reptiles and insects.

- Recently a mother catbird with two fledglings was spotted in the thicket just opposite our gardens at the corner of Winnemac and Ravenswood. This bird, rarely seen in the city, was no doubt attracted by the arbor vitae evergreens, native deciduous shrubs and other ornamental plants on the parkway.
- The native perennials we have planted provide food for birds, bees and other insects. One example is *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, Prairie Dock. Its large leaves serve as natural bird feeders.
- Our terraced beds keep more water on the embankment where it lands, thereby using it constructively and keeping less water filled with pollutants from our streets' impermeable surfaces from streaming toward our lovely Lake Michigan.
- In terms of invasive species, Stephen Christy's expert knowledge has helped to keep the embankment clear of challenging weeds such as garlic mustard, that migrate up the train tracks.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who contribute their efforts to beautifying and preserving this bit of nature in the city, and to our corporate sponsors who contribute generously to help maintain the Andersonville South Gardens!

To learn more about having your own property qualify for this wonderful program contact Julia at 773-944-9657.

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TODD MACK * PROPRIETOR



Congratulations to the Andersonville South Neighborhood Association for your ongoing commitment and beautification of our Andersonville community.

Gethsemane Garden Center ☎ 5739 N. Clark St ☎ Chicago, IL 60660 ☎ (773) 878-5915
www.gethsemanegardens.com

Meet Your Neighbor ... Audrey Morrison

If your windows are open or you're walking down Carmen and think you hear the sound of a lone trombone, you're not hallucinating. You're hearing Audrey, a professional musician at work, either practicing for her performances with local jazz and classical ensembles or teaching her students.

Born/raised

Audrey was born on a little island in the Atlantic Ocean—the island of Manhattan. Her mother was a model and her father produced TV commercials. She pursued her interest in music at the Eastman

School of Music at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) An Andersonville South resident since 1998, Audrey previously lived in Rogers Park and Ottawa, Ontario.

Special interests

Objects of beauty: photographs, paintings, antiques. Art films. Live music. Wine tasting. Creative cuisine. Yoga. Travel. Also her three kittens—Jasmine, Marlan and Roo.

What kind of changes have you seen in our neighborhood?

The changes have been overwhelmingly positive, although I'm sorry that La Donna has left the neighborhood! The recycling program has been terrific. I love our wonderful embankment along Ravenswood and I always enjoy the ASNA get-togethers!

What do you like most about living here?

Without hesitation, all my wonderful neighbors! So many creatively-minded people who treat their homes and gardens with such care. I also appreciate how much communication there is among everyone about everything going on around us.



Photo: Erich Schrempp

Anything you'd like to see change?

I wish there was no litter in our streets and alleys!

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

I love walking along Clark Street, the lakefront, sampling the wonderful local cuisine, wine tastings at In Fine Spirits and jazz jams at Big Joe's.

What are you reading?

I am presently reading Eckhart Tolle's "The Power of NOW". It's all about living in the moment — essential for a musician!

Anything else you think would be fun to share?

A favorite quote: "There's probably no better example of democracy than a jazz ensemble." — Michelle Obama



Thank you ASNA supporters!

Many of our local businesses are good neighbors in more ways than one. The following have contributed cash or merchandise to ASNA's efforts during 2009. We encourage you to patronize them and let them know you appreciate their support.

Ravenswood Parkway

Bow Wow Lounge, 1744 W. Winona
Futurity, Inc., 5121 N. Ravenswood
Hayes Properties, 4043 N. Ravenswood
Hermitage Art Group, 5151 N. Ravenswood
Imaginary Landscape, 5121 N. Ravenswood
RE/MAX Signature North, 5135 N. Ravenswood

Neighborhood Party

Andersonville Wine & Spirits, 5201 N. Clark
A Better Tan, 1136 W. Bryn Mawr
Bow Wow Lounge, 1744 W. Winona
Calo, 5243 N. Clark
Foursided Custom Framing Gallery, 5061 N. Clark
Koval Distillery, 5121 N. Ravenswood
Metropolitan Brewing, 5121 N. Ravenswood

What a swell party it was!

—John Gavin, ASNA President

By all accounts this year's Neighborhood Party, held July 18 on Carmen, was the best one yet!

From Mr. Hiro's kites to the kids' games, the mounted police and great music from Zerostars, the day was hopping from beginning to end. Mother Nature helped out by keeping the rain away, while the hard work of our volunteers kept the food and fun flowing. The food our neighbors brought was plentiful and delicious. We have hopefully found the right formula and can continue to build on this success going forward!

I want to acknowledge some of those who contributed their time and talents and money to making this party such a success. First to our Social Committee, Lisa Spiegler, Genji Leclair, Trudi Gavin and Linda Wallace, who did such a great job organizing the event. Their efforts resulted in what by most estimates was the best-attended party that we have had and a raffle that was the

most successful in ASNA's history.

I'd like to thank all our neighborhood businesses for their generous contributions to the raffle and the party. Also Hiroshi Kaneko, who delighted us with his handmade Japanese kites and toys; Mark Rosenberg, our chef extraordinaire; Noel Suarez, who provided both power and manpower to keep the party running; Rick and Rita Sullivan, for generally making things run smoother, and to everyone else who contributed to this fun and successful event.

Our neighborhood is a better place because of all those who volunteer and support ASNA. Thank you all for your help.



Neighbors mix and mingle at ASNA's annual Neighborhood Party.



Act now to ward off seasonal allergies, colds

—Kyla Boles, Licensed acupuncturist and owner of Urban Acupuncture

Autumn is the time of the lungs in Traditional Chinese Medicine. It is the season when the lungs and large intestine are most active and most susceptible to both positive and negative influences.

The lungs perform the important function of extracting Qi ("life energy") from the air we breathe. They also produce *Wei Qi* (pronounced "way chee"). *Wei Qi* is similar to the Western concept of the immune system and protects the body against harmful external factors such as wind, cold and damp, as well as germs and bacteria.

Contrary to what many people think, acupuncture is not just a way to relieve pain. It can also strengthen and support the body to prevent future illness and disease. The goal is to activate the natural, self-healing abilities of the body.



If the lungs become imbalanced, *Wei Qi* can be weakened and we become susceptible to illnesses and conditions such as allergies, asthma, colds, flu and dry skin, to name a few. This can occur for a variety of reasons including poor diet, stress, smoking and pollution. Autumn is a good time to look inward and take some time to address any unresolved issues before they have an impact on your health.



ASNA teamwork on display—The Ravenwood Parkway has never looked better than this past summer, thanks to the efforts of our Second Saturday volunteers. Enhancing its beauty are new signs commissioned by ASNA Greening Chair Stephen Christy. Erich Schrempp rebuilt the sign holders using new posts generously donated by Noel Suarez. Long-time ASNA member Harry Kaiko contributed cash to the effort.

Neighborhood Favorites Survey

Curious minds want to know where Andersonville South residents prefer to dine and shop. Please fill out and return this form to Mark Rosenberg at 1544 W. Carmen. Results will be tabulated and reported in the next ASNA newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you. *Thanks!*

DELIVERY FOOD

Who is your favorite for:

- Pizza _____
- BBQ _____
- Chinese _____
- Mexican _____
- Italian _____
- Indian _____
- Japanese _____
- Thai _____
- Middle Eastern _____
- American _____
- Other _____

What are your top three restaurants?

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

What is your favorite store of any kind in Andersonville?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Where do you get your dry cleaning done?

Any other favorites you wish to recommend/comments you care to make?

- _____
- _____
- _____

ABOUT ASNA

Meetings

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

Log on

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. To subscribe, send a message to asnachicago@asnachicago.org.

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.

Neighbor to Neighbor

This newsletter is published by the Andersonville South Neighborhood Association, a non-profit community organization. For information about ads, contact Mark Rosenberg, 773-942-7050 or mark@homefurniture123.com. For news items, contact Linda Wallace, 773-989-4514 or lkwallace@mindspring.com.



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: (check one)

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

Special Interests: (check all that apply)

- Greening
- Social
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Howl-O-Ween

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! 



Learn more at: www.eco-Andersonville.org

Andersonville Recycles!

Introducing a new unique streetscape recycling program in Andersonville.



- Recycle along Clark Street as you shop, dine, and play in Andersonville.
- The Andersonville Recycles! program collects paper, plastic, aluminum, and glass.
- Partnering with the Chicago Resource Center guarantees a recycling rate of 99%.



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eco-Andersonville is a comprehensive initiative that encourages & promotes environmental, economic, and social sustainability in the Andersonville commercial district. Learn more at www.eco-Andersonville.org

This project financed in part by a grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity



ad design: www.melissastrassel.com

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. Send your questions to Art at arthur.gregg@bairdwarner.com or 773-398-3818.

Q: What is the status of the \$8,000 tax credit the government is offering to first-time homebuyers?

A: The tax credit is nearing its end. A first-time homebuyer must close by November 30. Something relatively new in Illinois, you may take advantage of the Homestart Program, utilizing up to \$6,000 towards your down payment. This is a zero interest short-term advance loan to be paid back when the buyer earns his or her tax credit in 2010. Stay tuned. Real estate groups are trying to get the tax credit extended and increased to \$15,000.

Q: What is an absorption rate? I hear this term on the nightly news when they talk about real estate.

A: The absorption rate is the ability of the real estate market to sell all of the houses for sale in a given amount of time. This does not take into account the number of houses that will eventually come on the market in addition to those already for sale. If you would like to sell your property in the next 12 months, you need to take the absorption rate into account. For example, if 100 houses are sold every month and there are 2,400 homes for sale, we know that half of them are going to sell in the next 12 months. You need to price your property in the lower 50 percent of the range for similar properties in order to sell in the next 12 months. A realtor can help you figure this out.

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Please Join North Side Federal Savings for our Annual Fall Event

Food drive to benefit Care for Real
 Nov. 27 - Dec. 19, 2009

Non-perishable items needed:

- Pasta
- Cereal
- Rice
- Soup

For more information on our upcoming events, please call Julia or Sharon at 773.561.7051

