

May 2008

NEWSLETTER

Sponsored in cooperation with
the City of Chicago Department of
Planning & Development.



JEFFERSON
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE PARK

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

May 8 1:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting
May 13 8:30 AM	General Members Meeting and Scholarship Awards
May 14 6:00PM	Spring Bowl-A-Thon Habetler Bowl
May 17-18 1:00PM-5:00PM	Bingo Extravaganza Sokol Community Center
Jun 6-8	2008 Jeff Fest Milwaukee & Higgins
Jun 10 8:30 AM	General Members Meeting Gale St Inn

**MAY BREAKFAST MEETING AND
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

Our May General Membership Business Meeting will be a "Breakfast Meeting" at the Gale Street Inn, 4914 N Milwaukee Avenue and we will also be giving our 3 \$1,000 Scholarship



Awards. We encourage all of you to attend this important meeting to show your support to the students who have worked so hard to obtain these scholarship awards. The cost of the breakfast is \$10 per person and reservations are needed. Please RSVP to the chamber office by Friday, May 9th.

**BINGO
EXTRAVAGANZA**



THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**MID-DAY MADNESS
1:00PM-4:00PM**

**BINGO BRUNCH
11:00AM-2:00PM**

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Karen Deal
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Alderman, 45th Ward

Wanda Majcher
Copernicus Foundation

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Eight Winds Home Inspections

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Stanton Hobby Shop

Kenneth Vonderohe, Retired
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Letecia M Puttrich
L&J Services, LTD.
Key Coordinator

6122 West Leland Avenue • Chicago, IL 60630-3034
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SBIF MEETING PLANNED

The Department of Planning & Development is scheduling a SBIF Presentation (Small Business Improvement Fund) on Thursday, May 15th at the Jefferson Park Police Station located at 5151 N Milwaukee Avenue at 5:00 p.m. The SPIF Fund has another \$750,000 added to the fund. This program uses TIF (Tax Increment Financing) revenues to help owners of commercial and industrial properties and/or tenants within specific TIF districts to repair or remodel their facilities. Program participants can receive reimbursing grants to cover up to 75% the cost of remodeling work, with a maximum grant amount of \$50,000.00. The grant DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REPAID.

Expenses eligible for a SBIF Grant include: New windows, floor or roof; sign removal and replacement; tuck pointing; new heating, ventilation and air conditioning; improvements to accommodate disabled patrons or workers; purchase of adjacent property for building expansion or parking.

SBIF grants are provided to property owners after remodeling work is completed and all expenses are paid. Residential property, residential components of mixed-use buildings, and property leased to fast-food chains and certain other businesses such as liquor stores, banks and pay day loans are not eligible for the program. Vacant property is eligible, but grants are not paid until the space is occupied by a business tenant. If you are interest in learning more about the SBIF program, you'll want to attend this very important meeting on May 15th.

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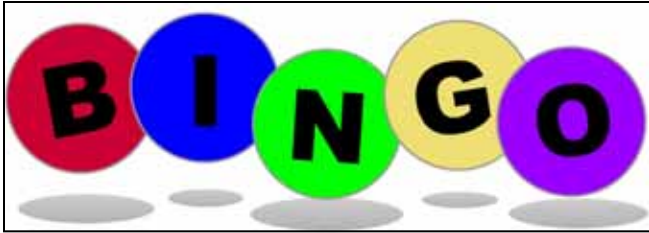
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2008 FESTIVAL DATES JUNE 6-8

EASTER COLORING CONTEST

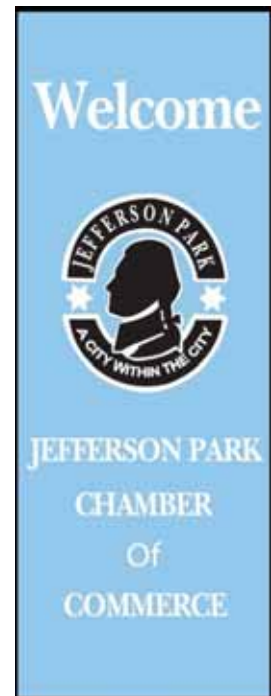
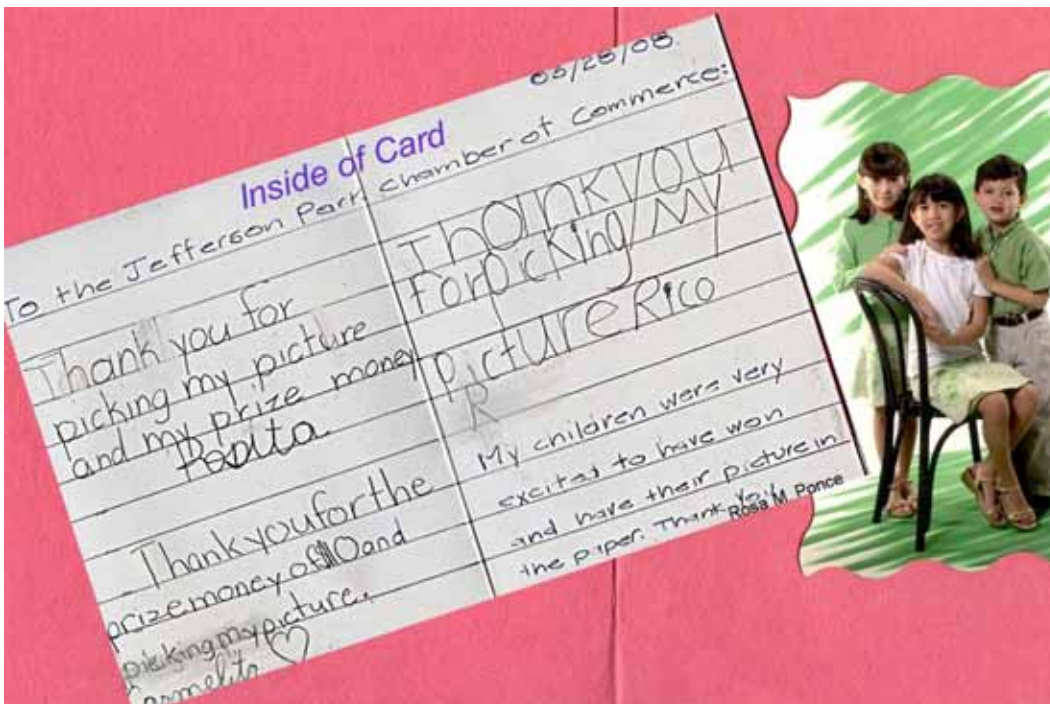
A big "thank you" to Michael Swinford of Parkway Bank for hosting the Easter Coloring Contest. Carol was on hand to pass out the prizes and Nadig Newspapers was there to take the group photo for the paper.

The following photo is a note received from a family of which 3 children all received prizes.

SPRING BOWLATHON EVENT

The Gladstone Park and Jefferson Park Chambers of Commerce are pleased to announce the *Annual Spring Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser* on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008 at Habetler Bowl.

See Flyer insert in this newsletter. We are in need of raffle prizes for this event. Please RSVP to Carol at 773-736-6697





Alice V. Dungey
Multicultural Outreach

Chicago Campus
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Recommendations

By Brian Nadig, President

Alderman Patrick Levar recently invited the chamber to a meeting in which a consultant firm presented its recommendations on the redevelopment of the Jefferson Park business district. These will serve as general guidelines, but will not necessarily dictate the exact type of developments which will be built.

The study, which was prepared by the urban planning firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, calls for taller and denser retail-residential buildings, from five to eight stories, on sites closest to the Jefferson Park CTA and Metra stations, with shorter structures being situated on those parcels which back up to homes. Three or four-story buildings are recommended for the 5200 and 5300 blocks of Lawrence Avenue.

About 5 years ago the city entered into a written agreement with the Mega Group, which owns most of the vacant lots on Lawrence, to build 132 condominiums and several storefronts on the south side of Lawrence between Laramie Avenue and the first alley to the east of Milwaukee. However, the project was never built due to community opposition, and there are no revised plans in the works at this time. The existing zoning on Lawrence would allow for about 60 condos.

The study also calls for the existing low-rise atmosphere of the 4700 block of Milwaukee, where most buildings are one or two stories, to remain. The firm also suggests that several parking garages which businesses could share be built and that, in an effort to maintain a continuum of storefronts along the sidewalk, the existing surface parking lots be replaced by buildings with an underground garage or a rear parking lot.

As for the former Cowhey Materials and Fuel Co. plant at Lipps Avenue and Ainslie Street, the firm recommends a 7 or 8-story structure. A parking/office structure is being considered for the site, but a zoning change is required for the project and no proposal has been filed with the city.

The consultants' study also states that area businesses would benefit from the increased foot traffic

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that would be generated by an influx of residential units in the shopping district and that many of these new residents would take advantage of the area's convenient public transportation options.

Levar is hoping that having general guidelines in place for the business district's redevelopment will speed up the revitalization process. Levar also told the chamber that the streetscape project for Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled to start this year, and improvements will be made on Milwaukee between Gale Street on the north and Montrose Avenue on the south. A streetscape also is planned for the Portage Park business district.

Levar is hoping that having general guidelines in place for the business district's redevelopment will speed up the revitalization process. Levar also told the chamber that the streetscape project for Milwaukee Avenue is scheduled to start this year, and improvements will be made on Milwaukee between Gale Street on the north and Montrose Avenue on the south. A streetscape also is planned for the Portage Park business district.

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MAYOR DALEY'S CLEAN & GREEN

May is the month for Mayor Daley's Clean & Green so Spring Cleaning is on the agenda. This has been a particularly long and hard winter and has left much refuse in its wake.

Please take a look around your storefront or place of business and take the time to clean up debris. All the beautification projects and the money that fund them can't make up for a little "elbow grease". So sweep up, wash up those windows and you might even want to plant some greens/flowers.

Let's all do our part to make Jefferson Park's business district more people friendly.



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NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following businesses to our chamber family:

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Fax: 773-631-7391

i Coffee

Ivin Barajas
4945 N Milwaukee Ave (30)
Phone: 773-777-7311

Swifty Blind Cleaning & Repairs

Laurie Bernstein
5535 W Montrose Ave (41)
Phone: 773-481-2981
Fax: 773-481-2982

MULTI-CHAMBER NETWORKING & EXCEL WORKSHOP

Please join us Friday, May 16th for a fun and informative morning. Come to network with members of several north-side chambers of commerce, stay for an informative Excel class.

- Multi-Chamber Networking 8:00 am-9:00 am
- DeVry University - 3300 N. Campbell Ave Chicago, IL
- Room 216 - Continental Breakfast to be served
- DeVry University Adult Education Workshop
- Creating spreadsheets in Excel 9am - noon

Please respond to Carol by May 12th if you plan on attending. This event is sponsored by DeVry University in conjunction with the West Ridge, Lincoln Square, Jefferson Park, Lincoln Bend and Roscoe Village Chambers of Commerce.



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