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## JEFFERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PARK

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>September 5</b>	September Luncheon Reservation Deadline!
<b>September 11</b>	9/11 Ceremony at Milwaukee & Higgins—11:00 AM
<b>September 11</b>	General Meeting Luncheon Gale Street Inn, 11:45 AM
<b>September 12</b>	Board Meeting 1:00 PM Copernicus Foundation
<b>September 12</b>	Business Seminar at Wright College 8:00 AM
<b>September 20</b>	Ultimate Networking Event

**See the 2007 Northwest  
Network Golf Outing  
review on page 4.**



### Officers:

**Carol Gawron**  
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**Brian Nadig**  
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West Side Mentally  
Retarded Children's Aid

## Jefferson Park TIF District

**Brian Nadig, Chamber President**

The purpose of the Jefferson Park Tax Increment Financing District is to generate an increase in the total property value for the commercial district. At the time of the TIF's creation in the late 1990s, the tax base was frozen, meaning that any taxes generated from the increment (representing the increase in area land values) go into a special fund (called the TIF). The city controls this fund. Ideally the fund should be growing, with the revenue being used for improvement projects in Jefferson Park. However, the property tax revenue generated for the TIF district in 2006 was \$694,789, a 5 percent drop from 2005. In addition, the district's total net assets which can be used toward future redevelopment projects are at \$1.242 million, down from \$1.315 million in 2005. Part of the problem is that since the district's creation, the area has experienced an increase in vacant land. As buildings are demolished and not replaced, the values of these properties decrease. In addition, the city in 2006 purchased two vacant parcels at Lawrence and Laramie avenues, measuring about 21,000 square feet. Because the city now owns the land, the property has been removed from the tax roll, and, at this time, the city has no immediate plans to redevelop the site, which had been earmarked for a retail-condominium project that unraveled due to community opposition. The city paid \$1.446 million for these parcels, and, in order to cover the expense of buying these parcels, the city transferred \$853,000 from the Portage Park TIF District to the Jefferson Park TIF District. The city used its eminent domain power to acquire these parcels and had planned for the developer of the retail-residential project to reimburse the city for all of its land acquisition costs. However, the developer was no longer obligated to reimburse the city once the project, which had been in the works 8 years, was pulled off the table.

Everyone – merchants, residents and city officials – can agree that undeveloped lots in our business district tarnish the area. However, deciding the height and density of a new development that makes everyone happy is a much trickier issue. Unfortunately, the chamber does not have the answer, and the chamber is not looking to blame anybody for the problem. Our attention needs to be focused on how the business district at Lawrence and Milwaukee avenues can be revitalized, with a new influx of foot traffic and a new vibrant atmosphere. The streetscape project which will be completed next year is a good first step. Let's hope we can build on that momentum. If you have suggestions or would like to serve on our Economic Development/Revitalization Committee, please call me at 773-286-6100 or Carol at the chamber office at 773-736-6697.

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**FALL into Fitness 5K run/walk**

Co-sponsors:  
Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center & 38<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Tom Allen

**Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007**  
**8:30 a.m. – Portage Park**  
(Irving Park Rd. & Central Ave.)

Proceeds to help treat the indigent at OLR.  
Prizes, Food & Giveaways  
For information or to register:  
Call 877-RES-INFO 737-4636 (877-737-4636)  
or visit [olr.reshealth.org](http://olr.reshealth.org)

**SBIF Funds Are Still Left!!**

About \$150,000 in the Small Business Improvement Fund for the Jefferson Park TIF District is available for eligible business and commercial property owners. The city recently revised the program so that the maximum grant is \$150,000. Previously it was \$50,000.

Several area businesses which are located within the TIF boundaries have already taken advantage of this program, which started with \$750,000. Please note that this is a grant, not a loan. These grants are designed to help merchants pay for exterior improvements to their buildings, including the façade. For more information, call Sylvia at 312-360-3334. She administers the SBIF program for the city.

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**Kevin P. Walsh**  
[kwash@accucompappraisals.com](mailto:kwash@accucompappraisals.com)

## 9/11 CEREMONY SCHEDULED . . .

We will be holding a 9/11 Memorial Service on Tuesday, September 11 at 11:00 am the Veteran's Monument located at Milwaukee and Higgins Avenue. In attendance will be Alderman Levar, State Representative Joseph Lyons, WWII veteran William Sauter, the 16th District Police Department, the Jefferson Park Fire Department and members of the VFW. This event should last approximately a half hour and will be followed by our September Luncheon at the Gale Street Inn.

## . . . SEPTEMBER LUNCH MEETING (no morning meeting)

You and your guests are invited to a very special event which will be held at the Gale Street Inn on Tuesday, September 11th immediately following the 9/11 Ceremony at the Veterans Monument.. Our guest speakers at this meeting will be Alderman, Patrick J. Levar, State Representative Joseph M. Lyons, and William Sauter of Mega Realty, Inc., veteran of WWII. As many of you will recall it was the very day at Gale Street Inn during our monthly chamber meeting that we all heard the news of the planes crashing into the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon. This meeting is a kick-off for our 2008 Membership Drive. Chamber Treasurer, Michael Swinford of Parkway Bank, will present a DVD on the chambers accomplishments this year. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.

**Deadline for reservations is WEDNESDAY, SEPT.5.** Please call the chamber office or fill in the form below and mail it:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ How Many \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. of Ck. \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

***We look forward to seeing you this special event.***



## OCTOBER GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AT ELI'S CHEESECAKE WORLD

Mark you calendar now for the October chamber meeting which will be held at 8:30 a.m. at Eli's Cheesecake World. A complimentary breakfast will be served by Eli's and a tour of the facility will also be taken and the end of the meeting for those interested.

## BUSINESS SEMINAR

Save this date, **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007!** State's Attorney Richard A. Devine and the Cook County State's Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program will host a "**FREE**" **Business Seminar on "Protecting your Business in Cook County"**. Don't be a victim of financial crimes. Financial Experts from the FBI, Secret Service, Chicago Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit, MasterCard, Secretary of State Police and the State's Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program will be the speakers. **WHERE:** Wilbur Wright College, 4300 N Narragansett, Chicago, IL 60634 **TIME:** 8:00 am to 10:30 am

A continental breakfast will be served starting at 8 am and the program will begin promptly at 8:30 am. For additional information or to R.S.V.P. call Gloria Jean Waber at: 866-581-7284 or email: [gwaber@checkprogram.com](mailto:gwaber@checkprogram.com) This event is being sponsored by the following Chambers of Commerce: Belmont Central, Gladstone Park, Jefferson Park, North-Pulaski-Armitage and Portage Park.

## ULTIMATE NETWORKING EVENT

Once again over 20 chambers of commerce and community groups will sponsor the annual "Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox. You will be able to display promotional items and, more importantly, network with potential clients at the event, which will feature food and refreshments all for only \$15 per person, which includes a drink ticket. Please call the chamber office to make a reservation. We are also seeking donations of raffle prizes and food items.

# 8TH ANNUAL NORTHWEST NETWORK GOLF OUTING



What a great event! When the Gladstone Park, Jefferson Park, Portage Park and West Ridge Chamber get together, you can count on a good time. The weather cooperated and after a shot-gun start, our members and their guests were off for an exciting round of golf. Later, everyone had the opportunity to network, enjoy cocktails and a Texas-style BBQ. There was a mountain of raffle prizes and if you were one of the lucky ones, you got your pick from many wonderful prizes. Many attendees commented on how much fun they had and couldn't wait until next year. "Da Coach", (Don Feuling) a Mike Ditka look-a-like posed for pictures with our guests. We even had chair massages provided by (Rachel Shaffer) from the Sauaganash Wellness Center, Inc., for those weary golfers returning from the course! Special thanks to Carol Gawron and her fellow Chamber Directors for organizing the event. Benefits raised, fund the annual scholarships awards.

## *Thank you to all our Sponsors:*

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## FALL INSTALLATION DINNER



Mark your calendars now for **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007** for the chamber's annual **Fall Installation Dinner**. Yes, you saw it right – it's on a Tuesday. For the past 15 years since I've been here the dinner has been on a Sunday evening. So we've decided to try something new and hold it during the week right after work in the hope that this will make it more convenient for our members to attend and it will be held locally for further convenience. The event will be held at Colletti's Restaurant, 5707 N. Central Ave., Chicago, starting at 5:00 p.m. The cost for the dinner is **\$35.00** per person. Our menu will consist of: Minestrone Soup; Tossed Garden Salad; Chicken Angelina (parmesan crusted, pan sautéed in white wine and butter, crowned with asparagus spears); Red skinned mashed potatoes and vanilla ice cream with raspberry sauce for dessert; and Coffee, Tea or Soft Drinks. A cash bar will be available. Tables of 8, 9 or 10 are also available for those interested. If anyone has a raffle prize they would like to donate you can contact the Chamber office. Deadline for reservations will be Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope that this change in day and time and price will make it easier for you to attend. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chamber office.

## SEPTEMBER LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Wed., Sept. 19 – 7 p.m. – The Wednesday evening Book Club discussion will feature “These is My Words”, by Nancy E. Turner. Call to reserve a copy. Sat. Sept. 22 – 2:00 p.m. Join them for a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### Papanicholas Coffee Café

Contact: Tim Hebert & Cynthia Goldman  
4431 N Milwaukee Ave (30)  
No phone as yet  
chicagocoffeebean@msn.com

#### The Landview Group

Contact: Mario DiLorenzo  
6160 W Higgins (30)  
773-631-3636  
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mdilorenzo@landviewrealty.com

#### Insure Savings Core

Contact: Thomas Sullivan  
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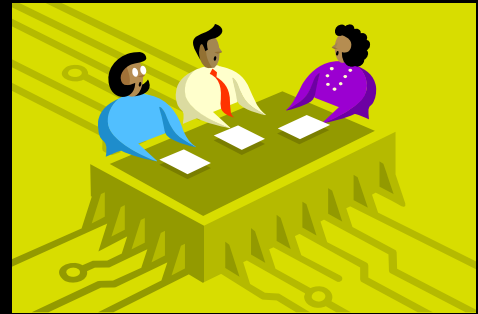
**PLEASE NOTE THAT  
THE CHAMBER OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
FROM  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7  
THROUGH  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**

# The Ultimate Business Networking Event!

**Thursday, September 20, 2007**

**6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Irish American Heritage Center  
4626 North Knox Avenue**



## Come Celebrate Chamber of Commerce Week!!

Come out and have fun, meet businesspeople from throughout the City, network and enjoy food from 20 different restaurants - all for only \$15.  
*(admission fee includes one drink ticket and all the food you can eat!)*

This event is co-hosted by the following business organizations:

Albany Park Chamber of Commerce	773-478-0202
Albany Park Community Center	773-539-3828, ext. 118
Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce	773-202-9923
EDC of Greater Logan Square	773-227-9335
Edgebrook Chamber of Commerce	773-775-0378
Edison Park Chamber of Commerce	773-631-0063
Gladstone Park Chamber of Commerce	773-775-8871
Greater Avondale Chamber of Commerce	773-267-6100
Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce	773-736-6697
Kedzie-Elston Business & Industrial Council	773-539-0000
Lincoln Bend Chamber of Commerce	773-334-0614
North-Pulaski-Armitage Chamber of Commerce	773-637-2781
Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce & Industry	773-763-3606
Polish American Chamber of Commerce	773-205-1998
Portage Park Chamber of Commerce	773-777-2020
Pulaski Elston Business Association	773-545-0941
Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce	773-561-5225
Sauganash Chamber of Commerce	773-545-9300
West Ridge Chamber of Commerce	773-743-6022
West Town Chamber of Commerce	312-850-9390
Wicker Park/Bucktown Chamber of Commerce	773-384-2672

This event is hosted with the support of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development

***Be sure to bring your business cards!***

For more Information and/or To R.S.V.P. Please contact the Chamber Office at 773-736--6697



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**Make your reservation for the September, 11th Luncheon at Gale Street Inn.  
Call or Email Carol today!**



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