

## Patrick Butler: Booster shots

### Pushcarts in 33rd Ward to be cleaned (out)

Ald. Richard Mell's battle against illegal street vendors is shifting its focus from seizing offenders' pushcarts to confiscating the carts' contents, Mell told his 33rd Ward Advisory Council recently.

And by the time you read this, city inspectors will be working later hours looking for violators, Mell assured an SRO meeting at Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

About 50 vendors and their supporters piled into the meeting room, but left quietly when Mell promised to meet with them in his office the next day.

Mell's original vendor-control ordinance was first introduced almost two years ago, but was put on hold by city attorneys citing "constitutional concerns" about the provision authorizing seizure and destruction of the offenders' carts.

City lawyers, however, don't think there would be a problem taking only the carts' contents, Mell explained.

Vendors and supporters like Bill Wendt, better known for his efforts to reform mass transit and save what's left of the Maxwell Street Market say the revised ordinance is just as discriminatory as ever against the, mostly Mexican, pushcart operators.

Mell admits even he has some mixed feelings about the crackdown.

But he said that, while, "I can understand these people want to make an honest living,... I get the complaints from homeowners who have to pick up corn cobs after their customers.

"Personally, I'd like to see them go (away from the parks and residential streets) somewhere where nobody would be bothered by them."

Which is easier said than done, Mell added.

"If anyone were to get sick from rancid mayonnaise or butter, you can be sure I'd hear about it. People would be asking me why I didn't do something about this," he said.

Mell, however, did have at least two pieces of good news to share.

He said there already appear to be some results from the the letter-writing campaign he started last month to encourage International Paper Co. to sell its property at Addison Street and Kimball Avenue to virtually anyone but a "big box" retailer.

Mell said International Paper will be meeting with city Planning and Development Department officials (as well as Mike Cevasco of KEBIC, the Kedzie/Elston Business and Industrial Committee) perhaps as early as this week.

And, he added, only one more parcel of property needs to be acquired before Walgreens can start building its new store on the southeast corner of Irving Park Road and Kedzie Avenue.

### For inquiring minds

When did the Ravenswood elevated open? Why is George Pullman buried in Graceland Cemetery in a coffin coated with tar paper and asphalt and set in a concrete block beneath train rails and still more concrete? And what was the original name of Montrose Avenue? And when is National Fun at Work Day? You can find these and other answers to even more obscure questions in the Chicago Public Library's just-released booklet of the 100 Most Challenging or Most Frequently Asked Reference Questions. The writers included Deputy Library Commissioner Charlotte Kim, Head Children's Librarian Elizabeth Huntoon, former Lake View (now Merlo) librarian J. Ingrid Lesley, and Glenn Humphreys, archivist at the Sulzer Regional Library.

### Charitable events

WBBM Newsradio's John Hultzman will emcee a Friday, May 1, "Circle of Life" benefit dinner/auction for St. Paul's House, 3800 N. California Ave. Going on the block will be skybox seats to sporting events, theater tickets and assorted artworks. Tickets are \$65. Call (773) 478-4222.... Also being auctioned off, at the May 14 spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for Lake View High School, 4015 N. Ashland Ave., will be a chrysanthemum still life by Robert Quinones, a 1974 LVHS graduate and People's Gas employee. Jim Bohn, Quinones' former basketball coach at Cuyler Covenant Church, 1614 W. Byron St., commissioned Quinones to do the painting. Quinones had previously done a portrait of the church for the Rev. Norman Collins, who has headed Cuyler for 36 years. Bohn is also donating a Red Skelton video for the auction.

## **Batters up at the L**

Another reason to ride the L to games at Wrigley Field. Seven-foot paintings of Cubs legends Ernie Banks, Fergie Jenkins, Billy Williams and Ryne Sandberg now grace the walls of the Addison Street Station, an easy throw from the Friendly Confines. The Depression-era WPA style murals are the work of Cub fan Steve Musgrave and are dedicated to the memory of Cubosity Incarnate, the late, great Harry Caray.

## **Golden apples**

Congratulations to Lane Tech High School's Dennis Costanzo, one of the winners of this year's Golden Apple Scholarships awarded to students planning on becoming teachers. Lane Tech itself was also honored at the recent Navy Pier dinner for producing more Golden Apple Student Scholars than any other school in the entire state during the 10 years since the creation of the Golden Apple Foundation.... And a happy 50th wedding anniversary to 47th Ward Ald. Emeritus John Hoellen and wife, Mary Jane.

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