

News-Star / Booster

A Lerner Community Newspaper

Patrick Butler: Booster shots

Mell mulls an Elston without bicycle lanes

Watch for Ald. Dick Mell (33rd) to try to get the city to remove the bike lanes on Elston Avenue.

The specially marked paths were installed about two years ago as a kind of experiment Mell believes never really caught on.

"I think bikes are great, but I've never seen anyone using those lanes," Mell told his 33rd Ward Advisory Council recently. "So I'm seriously thinking of taking them off."

Mell also told the group that a Walgreens should finally be going up soon on the northeast corner of Kedzie Avenue and Irving Park Road now that a deal has been struck for the one remaining piece of property on that block that hadn't been bought up by the city for resale to developers.

He added that he hopes to see "some movement" on the vacant piece of property at Addison Street and Kimball Avenue now that, he reports, the International Paper Co. has agreed to cut the asking price from \$11.9 million to \$8 million.

While no buyer is in sight, Mell said he doesn't care if the eventual purchaser uses the property for light manufacturing or housing -- "just so its not a 'big-box' store" like the Home Depot that had originally been eyeing that location

On another front, Mell said his now-epic battle against illegal corn vendors has entered a new phase, with Chicago Health Commissioner Sister Sheila Lyne wanting to meet ASAP with Streets and Sanitation officials and a committee of concerned community residents.

The idea, he said, is to develop new strategies for cracking down on the unrefrigerated push-cart operations that Mell and other concerned residents say produce litter and attract rodents.

Warm birthday wishes

More than 40 friends and family members converged on Zum Deutschen Eck Restaurant on Sunday, Aug. 30, to help Lucy Adams celebrate her 90th birthday. She still lives just a few doors away from daughter Ann Moeller in the 103-year-old house on George Street the family has occupied since 1940; goes to St. Alphonsus Church every day; and has been walking about six blocks to help tend a garden for an ailing younger woman in her 80s, reports son Jim Adams, a retired Illinois National Guard general and first president of the 34-year-old South Lake View Neighbors.

He will be missed

Condolences to the family of Solomon Schreck, proprietor of the Army-Navy Surplus Store at 3100 N. Lincoln Ave. Schreck, who died recently at age 75, had originally planned to become a dentist, but took a summer job in a surplus store to help pay his way through Northwestern University and decided he liked the surplus business better. He opened the Lincoln Avenue store in the late 1940s.

On the ballot

One-time state rep candidate Thomas O'Donnell is running again -- this time for president of the Lake View Kiwanis Club. The 1998-99 slate also includes Dave Kanelos, 1st vice president; Dr. Fred Purcell, 2nd VP; Bernice Cillo, treasurer; and former club president and district lieutenant governor Lynnea Rioch, assistant treasurer.

Board nominees include the Rev. George Rice, Dan O'Donnell (no relation to Tom), Leah Steele, Ronald Roenigk, Bob Maggioncalda, Beth Kanelos (Dave's wife), Bill Frantz, and Otto Wenzel.

Landlords take note

U.S. Rep. Rod Blagojevich (D-5th) and Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine unveiled yet another anti-crime program outside a former gang hangout at 2048 N. Western Ave. A \$5 million federal grant will help prosecute landlords who allow their buildings to go to seed and become havens for gang activity and drug trafficking. How badly needed is the program? During a tour of the building just before the press conference, police arrested a woman they said was shooting up heroin in the basement. A man was found fatally stabbed in that same building back in March. According to assistant city Corporation Counsel Norma Reyes, the landlord has been warned to get rid of the criminal element or risk seeing the six-flat put in receivership.

Nominations requested

The Mayor's Office for People With Disabilities is seeking nominations for the 13th annual August Christmann Awards, conferred on individuals and organizations that have made the most significant contributions to the handicapped, said Lawrence Gorski, the agency's director. For more information or to get a nomination form, call (312) 744-7050 (voice) or (312) 744-4964 (TTY). Deadline for nominations is Friday, Sept. 4. ... And nominees for the 1998 Illinois Family Business of the Year Award should be sent to the Loyola University Chicago Family Business Center, 820 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611-9810. Call (312) 915-7738 for details.

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