

News-Star / Booster

A Lerner Community Newspaper

Patrick Butler: Booster shots

Mell: St. Vincent DePaul eyeing Kimball/Addison

After more than a century in Lincoln Park, the St. Vincent DePaul Day Care Center could be moving to the Avondale area. According to Ald. Richard Mell (33rd), the agency is negotiating with International Paper Co. for the 10.5-acre site at Addison Street and Kimball Avenue.

Mell -- who has been trying for more than two years to get something other than a "big box" retail operation on the property -- says the plan is for St. Vincent to take 5 acres for its own use and sell the rest for commercial/residential development.

Mell credited the neighborhood groups that make up his 33rd Ward Advisory Council with "keeping up the pressure that finally brought International Paper to the table."

A year ago, Mell had asked local civic and business groups to write to International Paper asking it to be a "good neighbor" and not sell to a large retail operation like Home Depot (which had originally been eyeing the property) -- or to hold out for even larger offers from some high-density residential developer.

Candidate opposes raves

Tattoo parlors and "raves" -- all-night unsupervised dance parties -- are about to become campaign issues in the six-way 32nd Ward aldermanic race thanks to candidate Lorna Brett, who is challenging incumbent Ald. Ted Matlak. She says her 15-year-old son had no trouble getting his tongue pierced at a local tattoo emporium without her permission, and that minors should be barred from raves even though no liquor is served.

"It is common knowledge that drugs are rampant. And last month, a teen-ager died at a rave when he inhaled nitrous oxide (laughing gas) to get high," Brett said in a letter recently distributed to ward residents. She says there are two tattoo/body piercing parlors in the ward.

Larger lots sought

Proposed changes being sought by the city in the three-year-old "overlay" ordinance affecting the Southport Special Conservation District will be discussed at a 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, meeting at Blaine School, 1420 W. Grace St. The city wants to increase the minimum lot space in the district's "northwest quadrant" between Grace Street, Ashland Avenue, Irving Park Road and Southport Avenue. The SNA, in turn, expects to get the extra backyard green space it wants in all future developments, says Gary Bonikowski, the neighborhood watchdog group's planning and development chairman. The amendments are expected to be introduced at the Jan. 20 City Council meeting.

Postal panel sets meeting

ACT-NOW President (and retired mailman) Frank Piatek is trying to get every civic group in the 60618 Zip code area to send at least two representatives to a 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, meeting of the newly revived Kedzie/Grace Post Office Customer Advisory Council. The original panel had been disbanded last year for lack of interest.

Quigley opens office

New County Commissioner Mike Quigley didn't have to wander too far from his old digs when he opened his office at 1057 W. Belmont Ave. That's two doors away from the 44th Ward Service Office where he worked as an aide to Ald. Bernard Hansen. Quigley represents the county's 10th District. The new office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and his staff will include Reva Bauch, Alicia Obando, Michelle Dewlen and Jonathan Silverstein. The phone number is (773) 935-1010. Quigley's downtown office is (312) 603-4210.

Hospital having party

Ravenswood Hospital Medical Center, 4550 N. Winchester Ave., will host an alcohol-free family New Year's Eve party, 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31. Activities will include kids' games, live entertainment, music and food. It's free, thanks to sponsors like the 19th and 20th police district CAPS programs, Ald. Eugene Schalter (47th), the Amundsen and Lake View High School health centers, the Ravenswood Community Council, the Mayor's Office, and the Ravenswood Community Health Assessment Task Force, as well as Ravenswood Hospital.

Donations sought

You can give (and get) a warm holiday feeling by contributing whatever you can to the Lake View Citizens Council's "Operation Mitten." The annual collection drive provides much-needed gloves, scarves and hats to needy neighborhood kids. (Yes, there are still plenty, despite the hundreds of low- and moderate-income families who have been squeezed out of the neighborhood over the past few years.) Checks can be sent to Operation Mitten, c/o the LVCC at 3245 N. Sheffield Ave. Chicago, IL 60657-1113. Or you can authorize a credit card payment by calling Joanne at (773) 472-4050.

Congratulations, good luck

Congratulations to Pat Oeth, who received this year's Special Appreciation Award from the 44th Ward Regular Republicans at their annual holiday party at LaFinca Restaurant, 3361 N. Elston Ave. The longtime state employee and veteran of 32 years of political activism, once captained 28 precincts singlehandedly, said an appreciative (and visibly awed) GOP Committeeman Bob Oberg.... And the best of luck to the Rev. Joseph Dorsey, who is leaving after four years as an associate pastor at St. Alphonsus parish to become a missionary in Nigeria [Comments, compliments or complaints about this story?](#)

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