



The SECC NEWS

Fall 2005

Hyde Park: A Hot Neighborhood

Will wonders never cease? - The *Chicago Tribune* conducted a contest to determine the "Seven Wonders of Chicago". Tribune readers nominated fourteen candidates and then voted for their favorites. On September 15, 2005, the *Tribune* announced the winners. It is no surprise that three of the seven wonders are right here in Hyde Park: the **University of Chicago**, the **Museum of Science and Industry** and the **Lakefront**. Hyde Park is home to more of Chicago's wonders than any other neighborhood.



Chicago's Best Burgers - The *Chicago Tribune* recently conducted a competition to determine the best burgers in the metropolitan area. 100

burgers. 34 judges. And the **Medici** on 57th Street was named a 'top

contender".

WHERE magazine, found in every hotel room, dedicated its October 2005 issue to **Beyond the Mag Mile: 6 HOT Neighborhoods Worth Exploring**. Of course, Hyde Park was one of the six.

WHERE describes Hyde Park as "culture corner" and recommends a plethora of activities including a visit to the **Museum of Science and Industry's** "must-see" new U505 exhibit, followed by a stroll in Jackson Park's **Osaka Garden**, an urban "Garden of Eden". Campus treasures like the **Smart Museum of Art**, the **Robie House** and the **Seminary Co-op Bookstore** and **57th Street Books** are all suggested. For sustenance, **Calypso Café**, **Dixie Kitchen** and the **Medici on 57th** are listed.

Right in our backyard - The *Chicago Tribune* drove over 200 miles in the

(Continued on page 2)



The Southside's New Communities

Hyde Park is surrounded by communities experiencing unprecedented levels of growth and re-development. Within each of these communities there are local initiatives underway to support comprehensive community development.

These efforts are part of the **New**

Communities Program (NCP) administered by LISC/Chicago and funded by a major grant from the John D. and Catharine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Woodlawn, Washington Park and the Quad Communities (Douglas, Grand Boulevard, and North Kenwood Oakland) have all developed quality of life plans which reflect their unique character.

The plans were the result of a collaborative community process with professional and technical assistance from Chicago's development community. These plans are available from www.newcommunities.org.

The **NCP** has created a fertile environment for community development supported by new financial resources, energy and leadership.

"... A remarkable boom that's transforming a historic slice of the city."

The New Southside, Chicago Magazine, March 2004



53rd St. TIF Advisory Council News



The **53rd Street TIF Advisory Council** has moved into high gear as it reviews a major development for 53rd and Cornell and devises new parking management strategies.



Fernando Leal of L3 Development proposes a mixed use development with approximately 100 condominiums and 10,000 SF of retail along 53rd Street. The Planning & Development Committee of the Council reviewed

the plan and recommended modifications to improve the pedestrian character of 53rd Street. As a result of concerns expressed by the immediate neighbors Alderman Preckwinkle and the TIF Council requested that the developer complete shadow and parking studies. The Council approved the proposal at the recent November meeting.

The Parking Committee is exploring a variety of

options with the Department of Revenue to improve operation and management of Hyde Park's parking inventory.

The TIF Council serves as a forum for the review and discussion of development proposals.

Council meetings are held on the **2nd Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 7 PM at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Club.**



Hyde Park: A Hot Neighborhood

Chicago region looking for pretty fall drives. What did they find? One of the very best and scenic drives is through *(continued from page 1)*

the lovely Jackson Park.

Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, **Jackson Park** was home to the famed 1893 Columbian Exposition. In addition to the standard playing fields, golf course, marina and tennis

courts, **Jackson Park** is one of the best sites in the city for bird watching, the only place in Chicago for Lawn Bowling, and home to Chicago's only Japanese garden, the **Osaka Garden.**

Bring your lunch, binoculars and your copy of *Devil and the White City* and you are well situated for a lovely day in the

park.

Chicago Magazine's annual edition of Chicago's "bests" says that **Harold's Chicken Shack** (1208 E. 53rd Street) is the best place to go for your last meal



A Neighborhood that thrives on Diversity

New Homes magazine recently featured a neighborhood profile on Hyde Park, and confirmed what we already know, that Hyde Park is a truly unique and special place. "Every neighborhood likes to think it's unique, but in

Chicago, none fits the bill like Hyde Park." The article points out that this distinction "can be sensed immediately on 53rd Street, the neighborhood's main commercial strip....." The crowd here is incredibly diverse –

African Americans, white, Asian and Latino. Well off and poor. Jewish, Muslim and Christian." According to the U.S. Census, Hyde Park is 46% white, 38% African American, 11% Asian and 4 % Latino, making it one of the few truly

Flower Power Blooms in Hyde Park

Flower Power has returned to Hyde Park for the 3rd year.

The SECC and the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce sponsor the 84 hanging flower baskets along 53rd and 55th Streets and contract with Panoramic Landscapes for two seasonal plantings and for maintenance of all baskets.

The annual cost of this program is approximately \$26,000. The **University of Chicago** matches every dollar from the community with a dollar.

We thank the following

generous supporters of Flower Power 2005:

Peter & Lucy Ascoli, Oswelda Badal, Douglas Baird, Frederick Ball, Ann Becker & David Muschler, Drs. Vanice & Ernest Billups, Bloom Realty, Inc., Sarah B. Carton, Jane Comiskey, Roberta Evans, Elizabeth Fama & John Cochrane, Citizens for Preckwinkle, Computer Resource Center, Curves Hyde Park, Décor Galore, Dixie Associates, Freehling Pot and Pan, Friends of Leslie Hairston, Madelon & Roger Fross, Carol Gittler, Nancy & Bruce Halbeck, Hyde Park Bank, Hyde

Park Chamber of Commerce, Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee, Hyde Park Herald, G. & R. Janowitz, Richard Kaufman, DDS, Lighten Gale-Group, Frances Grossman, Audrey & Ronald Grzywinski, James Mann, Magic Mart, Linda Neal, Shirley Newsome, New Office Temps, Ltd., Vivian & Irving Paley, J. Parzen & D. Johnson, Rajun Cajun, Raiselle & Kenneth Resnick, Ilene Jo Reizner & James Gimpel, I. Sherr & L. Breslau, Sara Spurlock, Julia Stark, Lorna & Frances Straus, University of Chicago, Virginia Vaske, James



Public Safety Beat

The SECC participates actively in a variety of public safety programs and services. Bob Richards, SECC Assistant Director for Law Enforcement, works closely with the City of Chicago Police force and the University of Chicago Police to monitor all crime within our service area. If we detect a crime pattern we alert law enforcement agencies and the media.

The SECC believes the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) is an effective strategy to

maintain and improve the safety of the neighborhood. Bob Richards attends all the monthly beat meetings in Hyde Park and North Kenwood / Oakland. Citizen involvement is the key to the success of the CAPS program. Call the SECC to find out when the next CAPS meeting is in your neighborhood.

Bob Richards received the prestigious Service Award from 21st District Commander Adrienne

Stanley at the 2005 CAPS award ceremony for his commitment to public safety. The SECC greatly appreciates this recognition from the 21st District.

In response to the community's request, the SECC expanded its law enforcement services to include the North Kenwood/Oakland community between 36th and 47th St. and Cottage Grove to the Lake. The SECC also works with the 3rd District to analyze

Visit the SECC's updated website and find information on:

- **Hyde Park's bests from A-Z.**
- **SECC business services**
- **53rd Street TIF**

www.hydeparksecc.com

Now Playing: New Businesses Here

Now Playing. Live blues and jazz in Hyde Park. The **New Checkerboard Lounge** (5201 S. Harper) opened November 18th to enthusiastic crowds.

Potbelly Sandwich Works (5428 S. Lake Park) What began as an antique store in Lincoln Park has grown into a nationwide phenomenon for casual, quick and friendly dining. **Potbelly Sandwich Works** opened

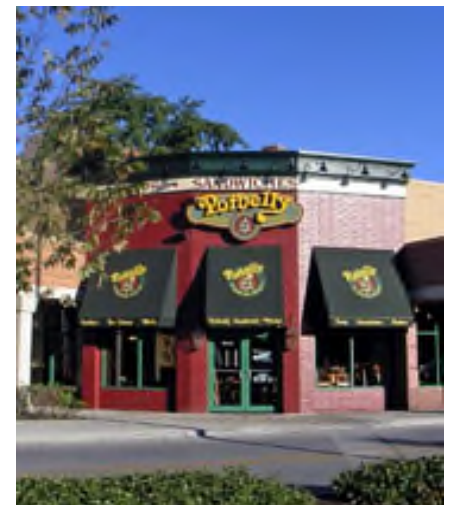
in the Hyde Park Shopping Center this fall. The 1500 SF space features their trademark toasted sandwiches, shakes and desserts.

Istria Café (1520 East 57th Street) – Metra riders can now pick up a cup of coffee for their daily commute from **Istria Café** at the 57th Street station.

Neighborhood residents Tim Schau, Marc Pribaz

and Paul Pribaz transformed the gritty space under the Metra tracks into a welcoming and sophisticated environment. Stop by for coffee, pastry, homemade gelato or a pannini. Look for a second **Istria Café** to open at the 51st Street station in 2006.

Shyne (1635 East 55th Street) features silver jewelry from all over the world.



SECC



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