




Times

CALENDAR



All events are held at the Old Town Triangle Center unless otherwise designated. Meetings are open to all members.

OTTA BOARD MEETING

November 9, 7:00 p.m.

December 14, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

November 15, 7:00 p.m.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

November 16, 7:00 p.m.

ART FAIR

November 18, 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OTTA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

OTTA ANNUAL DINNER AND ELECTION

January 27, 2011, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

ART GALLERY OPENING

AN EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS
BY TOM FRANCESCONI AND STUDENTS

November 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ECLECTIC PERSONALITIES

THE PAINTINGS OF ELIZABETH WEBER

December 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

ELECTION NOTES

THE RACE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The hottest news on the Old Town political scene this month is the race for State Representative. This year, we have two candidates in contention: incumbent, Democrat **Sara Feigenholtz** and challenger, Republican **Dave Lenkowski**. Both are highly qualified, knowledgeable, and sincere in their desire to serve the District and the State. → **p2**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRIANGLE

November is a busy month at the Triangle, what with election activities, the Art Fair Kickoff, and the regular complement of meetings. Here is a rundown of what will be going on.

The **national and state elections** take place on November 2, 2010. Once again, the Triangle Center will serve as the polling place for precincts 49 and 52. See page 2 for details and information about candidates for State Representative.

Old Town Gallery openings featuring watercolor paintings by **Tom Francesconi and Students** and acrylic & oil paintings by **Elizabeth Weber** will take place on November 14 and December 5. Look on page 3 for information about the exhibiting artists and their shows.

The **Annual OTTA Holiday Party** will be held on Sunday, December 5—sharing the date with the opening for December artist Elizabeth Weber. Come and share the joys of the season with Weber, your Old Town friends and neighbors, and some special entertainment. Read all about it on page 2.

Tom Francesconi will teach a **One-day Figure Workshop** on Saturday December 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information about this workshop is on page 3.

The **CAPS** program will continue to hold their monthly meetings for Beat 1814 at the Triangle Center on the fourth Thursday of every month. Since the November and December meetings fall on holidays, they will be rescheduled. **T**

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ART FAIR 2011 UPDATE

EMILY ROSE, GENERAL CHAIR

Plans for the 2011 Art Fair are well underway, and committee chairs are hard at work rounding up volunteers and generating ideas that will make the 62nd Old Town Art Fair the biggest and best yet. The poster image has been selected and is in the design process. We know you are going to love it! Our new Vice-Chair, Kelly Cooney, is settling in and taking over her responsibilities like a seasoned pro. The Music guys are lining up exciting acts that will have everyone flocking to the Entertainment Stage. First Sight promises to be even more spectacular. The new PR committee is reaching out to organizations, businesses, and media to climb aboard the Art Fair bandwagon. Many of our former chairs will be returning, and there are some new faces joining the team. Now, we need you! There are still a couple of committees that need chairmen. This is your opportunity to serve your community, get to know your neighbors, and have a wonderful time doing it. If you are interested, and we hope you are, please e-mail emilyjanerose@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2011 OTTA ELECTIONS NAMED

OTTA Board President appointed five members to serve on the Nominating Committee to select a slate for the 2011 election. Board member **Jeff Pines**, who has chaired the Historic District/Planning & Zoning Committee for a number of years, will chair the Nominating Committee. He will be joined by **Claire Leamon**, an Orleans Street neighbor and → **p2**

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Administrators
Shirley Baugher or Leslie Wolfe at the office
during those hours.

OFFICERS

FERN BOMCHILL DAVIS, *President*
PHILIP GRAFF, *First Vice-President*
CHRISTINA BEER, *Second Vice-President*
CHRISTINA BEER, *Secretary*
JOHN KNOCHE, *Treasurer*

DIRECTORS

SUE APEY
DEBBIE DAY
ALICE HUFF
JEFF PINES
JACQUI THAMS
DIRK VOS

COMMITTEES

HISTORIC DISTRICT PRESERVATION,
Jeff Pines/Sue Apey
MEMBERSHIP, *John Knoche*
EVENTS, *Chris Beer*
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS, *Dirk Vos*
NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS, *Debbie Day*
COMMUNICATIONS, *Phil Graff*
OLD TOWN ART FAIR, *Emily Rose*
CONTRIBUTIONS, *Alice Huff/Sue Apey*
CONTINUING EDUCATION, *Jacqui Thams*

ANNUAL COMMITTEES

NOMINATING (2010), *Jeff Pines*
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, *Sue Apey,*
Martha Connolly, Phyllis Hall

The Old Town Triangle Association Times
is published ten times a year by
Old Town Triangle Association
Bounded by Clark Street, North Avenue,
and the ghost of Ogden Avenue


SHIRLEY BAUGHER, *Editor*
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Triangle member. She has been an enthusiastic volunteer for many Triangle activities; **Phyllis Hall**, a Crilly Court resident, longtime Old Town neighbor, and former President of the Old Town Triangle Association, currently serving on the Capital Improvements Committee; **Allen Naragon**, a Triangle enthusiast who has done a magnificent job of restoring his Menomonee Street house; and **Linda Sarli**, longtime resident, volunteer, and winner of the Great Pie Baking Contest a few years back. The Board unanimously approved Fern's appointments. The Nominating Committee will report its nominations to the Secretary of the Board no later than November 1. The slate will then be posted and reported in the next newsletter.

If other members wish to be slated for the Board, they may submit a written petition executed by at least 25 voting members to the Board Secretary. Additional nominations must be received no later than midnight, December 10.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

CHRIS BEER, CHAIRMAN

Once again, we are looking forward to our Annual Holiday Party, which will be held at the Triangle Center on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will have crafts activities for the kids, a holiday concert for the "big" kids, and group singing of seasonal songs. There will be punch and home-made cookies for all. We will also have the 18th District Food Drive and ask neighbors to contribute non-perishable food items for needy families in our area. Old Town has been the largest contributor to this drive, and we hope to keep up the tradition this year. So—mark your calendars. 

ELECTION NOTES (CONTINUED)

Sara Feigenholtz has served the 12th Legislative District as State Representative since 1995. The 12th District, which Sara describes as "unique and progressive," runs from Goethe on the South to Lawrence on the North, and from Cleveland to the Lakefront. Even after fifteen years, she is as enthusiastic and dedicated to her job as she was when she started. She describes her time in the legislature as "happily, wonderful"! It doesn't get much better than that.

A key component of Sara's legislative agenda has been and is still **education**. She says the children are thriving in a very positive educational environment. Chief among the contributors to this environment are the parents, who have become much more involved in the educational process. They, along with outstanding staff and able administrators, are helping to create an atmosphere in which learning is fun. Sara herself is very hands-on

when it comes to her schools. She visits classrooms, talks with parents, and is a positive presence in the everyday life of the schools.

Health Care is another important concern for this active legislator. She chairs the Human Services Appropriations Committee under whose aegis many other health care agencies operate. **Health and Family Services** administers the **Medicaid** program which gives families and children access to pediatric services. Another agency, **The Department of Public Health** deals with treatment and prevention of disease. It also provides screening and treatment for the underinsured in the areas of breast and cervical cancer.

She admits that system change in health care is necessary given the current economic situation, but her approach is to make change slowly so that it will be lasting, to alleviate existing problems, and to insure adequate health care for all in the next decade.

She believes the Obama Health Care Plan, which takes effect in 2014, is the key to system change; and she is very excited about the promise of this plan.

Sara recognizes the need for **pension reform**, and she stresses that the pension reform program recently passed by the State Legislature is focused on the future. It addresses such important considerations as retirement age and benefit levels. She assures that nothing will happen to affect pension plans for those retirees already receiving benefits. (The Illinois Constitution prevents alteration of pensions for people already in the system.) The new program has already reaped huge benefits, including helping the State's bond rating. It has allowed forward movement in the area of capital improvements, which means jobs, jobs, jobs for Illinois.

A little known aspect of Sara Feigenholtz's personal and legislative life is her passion for the rights of **adoptees**. She was instrumental in the passage of



FALL IN THE



NOVEMBER

watercolor interpretations

Tom Francesconi & students

DECEMBER

eclectic personalities

Elizabeth Weber

The Old Town Art Gallery has an exciting season coming up. In November, Art School instructor **Tom Francesconi and his Students** will present an exhibition of watercolors, **Watercolor Interpretations**. The interpretations representing the work of sixteen students, include subjects as varied as night club scenes, floral still lifes, stylized renditions in the Deco tradition, landscapes, and urban images. All are characteristic of their respective artists, and all show the influence of the master. ¶ Tom studied with Irving Shapiro at the American Academy of Art in Chicago after majoring in art at Eastern Illinois University. He worked as a commercial artist for many years before devoting time to his own art and teaching. He is President emeritus of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and a signature member of the National Watercolor Society. His magnificent watercolors embody his representations approach to painting and subtle use of color. ¶ The show runs from November 7 through December 1. The formal opening will be held on Sunday, November 14, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Gallery, 1763 N. North Park. ¶



detailed portraits and exhibits a number of artistic personalities—not limited to any one genre, color palette, or subject matter. Her paintings represent her time spent in different parts of the country as a sailor, garden designer, care giver, resident artist, and observer of the human condition. She finally chose Chicago as her home and studio site. ¶ Weber's forests, harbor scenes, and



portraiture all depict her intricate patterns and angles, as well as her fine brushwork. The canvases, individually and as a group, evoke strong emotional responses and invite the viewer into the environment created by the artist. This is a strong and dramatic show that you won't want to miss. Eclectic Personalities will be on display in the Triangle Gallery from December 4 through January 14. The formal opening takes place on Sunday, December 5, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Avenue—sharing the space with the OTTA's Annual Holiday party. It should be a gala event, and you won't want to miss it. ¶

FIGURE WORKSHOP

And don't forget about the one-day figure workshop on **Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This is a water-color workshop taught by popular instructor **Tom Francesconi**. Tom

will demonstrate his painting process from the beginning drawing to the finished painting. Topics include gesture drawing, creation of simple shapes to convey the form, and use of color. Students may work from their own photographs, or they may use photographs supplied by the instructor. ¶

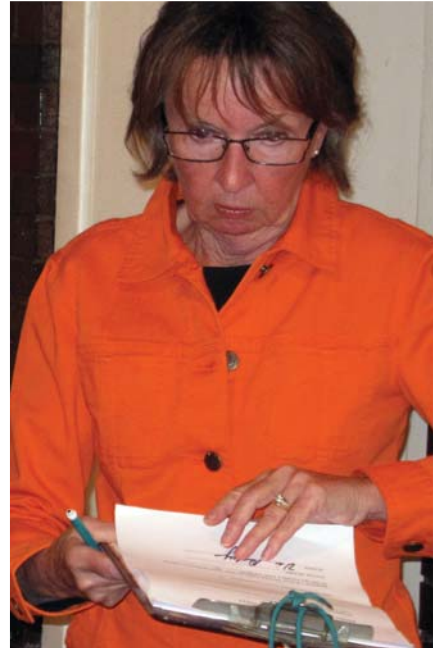
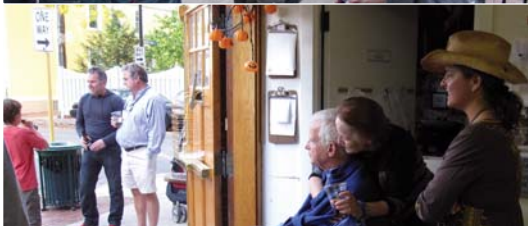
a bill that gives persons adopted after 1946 the right to obtain non-certified copies of their birth certificates, a basic right that has been denied to them since 1946. Adult adopted persons born before 1946 are able to request a copy of their original birth certificates, effec-

tive immediately, and adult adoptees born after 1946 and over the age of 21 can begin requesting their original birth certificates on November 15, 2011. Birth mothers and fathers of post-1946 adoptees can decide whether or not they wish to remain anonymous. .

Some 200,000 adoptees born in the State of Illinois, which is the most populous state to open records, are affected by this law. Sara has recently participated in a documentary film on the process. The film provides information about the nature of the law and its impact on both

adoptees, adoptive parents, and birth parents. An adopted person herself, restoring this basic human right to Illinois adoptees has been one of the highlights of Sara's career.

I know I'm changing lives every day," says Sara, "and that makes my life worthwhile." → p6



Fall, and the call came:
It's Hoe-Down and meat-
loaf time.

Everyone welcome!

The pied pipers set up out-
side, tuned their instruments
and the crowds gathered,
tapped toes, and waited for
chow time.

The meat-loafs arrived, first
one, then many, twenty in
all. Side dishes overflowed
other tables.

Judges juggled plates and-
forks, and wielded pens and
clipboards.

Scores were tallied.

The Winners: Lucyna
Wojtas, all who entered and
all who came.





Tables were attacked—all the food disappeared.

Not a morsal was left.

The center hummed (loudly) with conversation and lots of laughter among friends and neighbors .

Moms and pops and young'uns filled the rooms and the sidewalk. Squeals and thumps of jumpers filled the south room.

ELECTION NOTES (CONTINUED)



Dave Lenkowski, an Old Town neighbor, is a newcomer to the political

scene, though he served as legislative liaison to State Senator Dan Duffy for one year. Dave was born and raised in Illinois, and he is running for office so that he can contribute to alleviating some of critical educational, social, and financial issues facing Illinois. With a BS in Management and a Masters Degree in Education, Dave has been teaching for the past four years at Barrington High School. He describes himself as “a socially moderate and fiscally responsible, independent-minded Republican”. He wants to work with both sides of the aisle to bring about meaningful social and political change.

Not surprisingly, one of Dave’s top priorities is **education**. He finds the 50 percent graduation rate in Chicago unacceptable. He proposes eliminating the cap on Charter Schools and giving an option to kids who are not receiving an adequate education in their local schools. He also advocates giving all schools the tools they need to provide a first-rate education to their students.

Like most Illinois citizens, Dave is seriously concerned

about the current economic situation. “Illinois is 13 billion dollars in debt,” he says and “current proposals to address this deficit are inadequate”. Illinois doesn’t have a revenue problem,” he maintains, “we have a spending problem. Politicians spend more than taxpayers can afford to pay, and every year, state bureaucracy and wasteful spending grow, while the job market and economic opportunities shrink. Many companies don’t want to come here because they believe the system is overregulated and unstable.”

Lenkowski proposes **reducing the bloated number of legislative committees** by consolidating existing committees and making committee members accountable for the work they do. He recommends a performance review process, and if a committee is found to be ineffective, it should be assigned new members or be dissolved.

“It is imperative to follow through on a **real, balanced budget**. While the Illinois Constitution requires a balanced budget each year, many legislators have disregarded the state’s law through deficit spending and excessive borrowing.” One way of cutting waste and inefficiency is to stop relying on budget gimmicks and start implementing measures that have proven success. Legislators need to create a comprehensive list of programs and services that the government

funds on a daily basis and fully fund the essential services like education.

Another item on his legislative agenda is **cracking down on Medicaid fraud**. He says that Medicaid fraud and over-billing consume more than ten percent of all Medicaid spending. With Medicaid spending over \$13 billion in Illinois, the state may be losing more than one billion annually to fraudulent practices. He believes an increase in enforcement of the regulations and prevention spending would allow the state to recoup lost resources and pass the savings on to taxpayers.


To cut costs, Dave suggests **limiting the size of the state bureaucracy**. He points out that there are nearly 16,000 state bureaucrats who make more than \$100,000 in wages and benefits. He recommends not rehiring some of these positions when current state employees quit or retire.

In the area of **competitive bidding**, he says “Illinois should emulate Florida and Louisiana which created councils of efficient government to identify services that could be outsourced to a job-creating sector. This independent bipartisan council would be in a position to review government activities and ‘right-size’ government through competition and contracting. The process would be open to the

public and contracts would be awarded to private contractors who demonstrate a willingness to provide cost-effective, timely services to the state.”

Dave acknowledges that the current **pension system** is underfunded. While he would not move to change the status of retirees currently receiving pension benefits, he would begin to address the future of the system by locking in earnings and creating more reasonable, comprehensive pension packages.

“Yes, the current situation is bad,” Dave admits, but “our best days are not behind us. The solutions are out there, I want to help find them. I believe I can make a difference, and leave all citizens of Illinois better off than they are now.”

The 43rd Ward Aldermanic Race is heating up. The December issue of the Old Town Times will feature profiles of all the candidates. In addition, we will hold a town hall-type meeting in January and invite all of those running to appear and present their ideas about how they would serve the neighborhoods and people of the ward. Members of the audience will have an opportunity to submit questions for the candidates’ responses. The date and time for the event will be posted on the OTTA website and will appear in the next newsletter. 



Congratulations to neighbor Lucy Wojtas, winner of the Great meat Loaf Contest of 2010.

Lucy tried out five versions before coming up with the winning recipe: Jalepeno & Red Pepper Stuffed Turkey Meat Loaf. And a big thank you to all of the awesome contestants, whose loaves were devoured by hungry guests: Lucy Baldwin • Shirley Baugher • Courtney Beemer • Chris Beer • Lynn Chaloupka • Chelsea Davis • Anne Giffles • Edie Scala Hampson • Bob Holmberg •

Bill Lackland • Don McDougall • Barbara McGill • Shana Owen • Stephanie Turken • Karen Pfindler • Masita Thams • Michael Warnick

Equally as impressive were the wonderful sides contributed by Sue Apey • Shirley Baugher • Judy Blessington • Alice Huff • Candace Jordan • Anne Holmberg • Mary Morony • Monika Shibicky • Donna Vos. Thank you all.

Of course, a contest isn’t a contest without judges, and we had some of Old Town’s finest: **Vi Daley, Candace Jordan,**

Ryan Poli, and Keith Thams. They did a fantastic job, although I doubt any of them will want to even look at meat loaf again for a while.

As for the event itself, the only word to describe it is AMAZING. We had more food, more beverages, and more adults and children than have ever turned out for any neighborhood event except, of course, the Art Fair. We look forward to seeing you all again at the Annual Old Town Holiday Party on December 5.

Old Town authors are keeping busy.

Last month, we reported that neighbor **Tom Payne** had published an exciting new work entitled *The Template of Time*.

Hopefully, you've had an opportunity to peruse it. This month, we announce the upcoming publication of a new local history book titled *Our Old Town: The Hidden History*. The book is being published by The History Press out of Charleston, South Carolina, and its author is **Shirley Baugher**. Shirley says, "The format will be a series of short stories about the Old Town nobody knows. The stories will be tied together by location, time, trends, events, and people—with people the most powerful component. I believe the general public connects better with stories—especially stories about people—than with text that is heavy with dates and events. We are inundated with data, but data without context is not always interesting. Context can turn data into a coherent, useful, and memorable experience. Context in the hands of a good story-teller can become magical. I will try to create magic."

WELLS STREET JOURNAL

A lot is happening south of the (North Avenue) border. I met with my counterpart at the Old Town Merchants and Residents Association, John Blick, recently, and he

shared information about some new places that have opened up recently and are attracting big crowds.

Benchmark, 1510 N. Wells, is the hot place to see and be seen these days. An overnight sensation (the line is down the block on any given week night) Benchmark is another restaurant owned by the 4-Corners Tavern Group. Their other places include: Gaslight, Schoolyard, North End, and West End. Their newest establishment is a combination night club and sports bar, with a really HUGE tv viewing area. The classic interior features dark wood, leather chairs, stools for those who want to sit at the bar, and the first retractable restaurant roof in Chicago. Benchmark's extensive restaurant menu includes burgers, a variety of pizzas, and the specialty of the house, fish tacos.

Palermo has opened up at 1533 N. Wells. This is the second location for this second generation Italian bakery, which calls itself a "Tastecceria & Gelateria". They specialize in Italian sweets. In fact, many of the neighborhood restaurants order their pastries from Palermo. The owners sell traditional Italian sweets, including cookies by the pound and tiramisu—both individual and for a group—and 16 flavors of gelato. For the lunch crowd, there are excellent grilled sandwiches and soups.

The good news is, all come in generous portions and are very reasonably priced. The signature dish, Brioche, is a savory egg pastry filled with the customer's choice of gelato. Intriguing, Palermo is offering a Halloween Special for the children. They will have "trick or treating" from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The first 25 will receive a gift certificate for a free birthday cake.

Kelwins has just opened at the site of the former Josephine's boutique. It is a franchise establishment that sells fudge, ice cream, and sweets. John didn't have a lot of information about this shop because it is so new. But, stay tuned and I'll find out more about their tantalizing sweets.

North of the border, **Chef Ryan** (Poli of course) has introduced more of his fall specialties at **Perennial**. New on the menu are *crostini with Spanish white anchovies, romesco spread, and piquillo pepper salad topped with frisee; sweet potato soup with honey smoked chiles and Perennial trail mix; confit duck croquettes with garlic aioli and thyme; a surf and turf of milk-poached chicken breast, crayfish cannelloni, vanilla turnips, and baby carrots; and a deconstructed carrot cake that will bring you to your knees*. Good neighbor Ryan also stopped by to act as a judge for The Great Meat Loaf Contest of 2010. Thank you, Ryan.

Ⓣ

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

It's as old as Old Town itself. Its members have built it, watched it burn, rebuilt it, and made it grow. Through the years babies have been baptized there, couples have married and renewed their vows there; they have grown older there, and, at the end, they say their last good-byes there. The little houses that surround it rest secure in its shadow. Its bells ring out across the neighborhood and beyond—so far, it is said, that any Chicagoan residing within the sound of St. Michael's bells are Old Towners.

Two Interviews, Two Centuries, One Church

In 1985, the Old Town Triangle Association undertook an oral history of Old Town. Among those interviewed was Father Barton, pastor and "unofficial historian" of St. Michael's Church. Father Barton spoke of the original German constituency, the Italian population who moved to the neighborhood when their own church was demolished to make way for Cabrini Green, and of the gypsies and gangs.

In His Own Words

Father Barton first came to St., Michael's in 1950. He left and returned in 1960. *"The second time is when I came to work with the gangs and so on. So the gypsies came in after the Italians, and to this day, the gypsy population, eighty thousand concentrated*



around St. Alphonsus, come here to St. Michael's. They consider this their true parish, even though they moved north when the gangs came in.

There are two groups of gypsies in the area, he explained.

One is northern and the other southern (Europe). This is the southern group, the Hungarians, that is very religious. Whenever there is a wedding, funeral, baptism, they want to come home to St. Michael's. The group from the north, those are the ones that have crystal balls and steal babies, etc. They are not religious at all. As a matter of fact, the two groups have nothing to do with one another.

Now, they were the last of the ethnic groups that came in, and then there was an amalgamation—urban renewal started. Homes were knocked down, rebuilt, renovated, and so on. The gypsies couldn't stand it because it was too expensive.

I'd like to explain about the gangs. Mayor Daley was very interested. The gangs would keep moving. They moved into this area, migrating above North Avenue. They really took over St. Michael's area pretty thoroughly. People would never go out; people were frightened and barricading themselves and all of this.

I can remember many a time coming out myself and walking all the way over to the lake, and I wouldn't see a soul because the people who lived here (Italians and Germans) were afraid to go out. This was in the 60s. Here were these young people going around the streets killing one another, etc. I know because I was a mem-

→ p8

→ **p7** ber of all five gangs in the area. It was my job to go into these gangs, find out what was going on, and let the members be informed. They all had their own ethnic divisions, but here in the high school, we had a lot of them all together. The gangs were whites, blacks, and Puerto Ricans. They were all different.

It got so people around here would not send their children to high school because they were afraid of the gangs. What really broke up the gangs was urban renewal. When the different real estate companies came into the area, they started building and rehabbing houses. The gangs and their parents couldn't afford to live here, so they moved north where it was cheaper. Mayor Daley, in appreciation to the priests at St. Michael's for all the work they had done during the gang era, built up the front of the church and cut off the avenue."

Father Thibodeau Speaks of St. Michael's Today

The "gang era" left its mark on St. Michael's. While the church parishioners remained close, the neighborhood had become less aware of the church, its activities, and its leadership potential. Recently, **Reverend Richard Thibodeau**, pastor of St. Michael's, was interviewed about what is happening at St. Michael's today. He says there is a concerted effort underway to have St. Michael's play a greater role in Old Town life. These efforts are being publicized through an electronic newsletter and through fliers advertising special events sponsored by the church. St. Mike's is very much a part of the 21st century with a website and a facebook page. A new musical director, **Dr. Zvonimir Nagy** is



revolutionizing the music program. Dr. Nagy holds a doctorate in music from Northwestern, and recently participated in an international organ conference in the Netherlands. He holds tri-monthly organ vespers on Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m. which are open to the public; and performed on the organ at a Spooktacular Halloween concert held in the church on October 24. The spooktacular featured "scary scores" from everyone's favorite movies and Broadway shows, including Harry Potter, Phantom of the Opera, Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, and more. The music program was followed by tricks and treats. Spooktacular is one of the many neighborhood events sponsored by St. Michael's Music Ministry, the Special Events Commission, and the New Mom's group.

St. Michael's is also looking ahead to its future. They are asking "What do we want to be five years from now?" To answer that question, they are building relationships with other organizations in the community and taking steps to make people feel welcome at the church. Along with the music activities and special events, a docent program offers parishioners and visitors tours of the church every Sunday. All of these events are very popular with young people in the community. Reverend Thibodeau is excited about the involvement of young people in the church today. "They are attracted for different reasons," he says..."a respect for the enduring influence of the church, an appreciation of its glorious past, and a need for something larger to give their lives meaning." He noted that there are more weddings taking place in the church than ever. So far this year, 85 couples have taken their vows there. St. Michael's marches on. **T**