



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RICK RAUSCH

In early September, I participated in the meeting of the Presidents of the Neighborhood Association in the 43rd Ward. This group used to meet fairly regularly under the banner of Lincoln Park Conservation Association (LPCA), but stopped meeting in the early 1990s. Six of the associations were present with a combined membership of over 2,500. As we each went around the table giving a brief description of our Association, I realized how fortunate we are to be members of the Old Town Triangle Association. OTTA represents a very large percentage of our neighborhood. We have the largest major fundraiser and thanks to John Knoche and this year's Art Fair committee, we have a fundraiser that is still growing. And we are the only Association with our own staff and our own space/property. We have strong resources. My goal with working with the other Associations in Lincoln Park is that with collaboration, OTTA can continue to expand what we can do for our members and for the community at large.

But collaboration is not new to us. This issue of the newsletter focuses on the first annual Great Chicago Fire Festival, with the culminating event

taking place on October 4th on the Chicago River between State Street & Columbus Drive. During the last year, we have been working with the Old Town Merchants & Residents Association and Near North Unity Program to represent the "entire" Old Town Community in this event. We also co-sponsored with Chicago Community Trust the *On the Table Potluck Dinner & Dialogue* at the Triangle Center in May where over 40 neighbors spent the evening talking about how to make Chicago a better community. On September 20th, we co-sponsored the 90th Birthday Party for Ella Jenkins with Lincoln Central Association and Lincoln Park Village. We also are working with various homeowner groups in the neighborhood to jointly repair and upgrade open spaces. We have worked with Fern Court residents several times on planting repairs, and now we are starting to work with 1660 LaSalle Homeowners and the Eugenie Terrace Homeowners to upgrade the Triangle Park at Clark and Eugenie.

When we reach outside of our borders, using the Old Town Triangle resources to work hand-in-hand with our neighbors and friends, we're creating a stronger OTTA. 🍁

Best Regards,
Rick Rausch, President

To learn more about the 43rd Ward's Neighborhood Associations, visit <http://ward43.org/about/neighborhood-associations/>.

TREASURER'S REPORT | Fiscal Year Ending July 31, 2014

By Claire Leaman, OTTA Treasurer (Triangle resident since 2005)

The Board of Directors again created a balanced budget for the past fiscal year: August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014 (FY2014). The revenue and spend profiles were similar year-on-year with the exception of salaries since a part time office assistant was hired in May. A full set of FY2014 financial reports are available on the OTTA website at www.oldtowntriangle.com/board-meeting-minutes.

FY2014 Performance: The FY2014 budget was approved at expenses matching revenues, so a net income of zero. Actual net income performance was an \$81,477 surplus of which the largest components were:

- \$52,000 from the Art Fair which both exceeded its revenue plan and underspent in expenses
- Under-spend of \$15,000 in Salaries, \$4,000 Capital Improvements, \$4,000 Communications

If you are interested in participating in the planning or management of OTTA initiatives or financials, please join a committee! You can find a

full list at: www.oldtowntriangle.com/support-old-town/volunteer-opportunities.

Balance Sheet: Total FY2014 current assets were \$690,878 held in checking, savings and money market accounts. The OTTA continues to be in a strong financial position between its current assets and the ability to create ongoing annual balanced budgets. The Old Town Art Fair, which celebrated its 65th year in 2014, continues to be the Association's financial life-line and most important asset by far.

Art Fair 2014 Performance: Total revenues were \$405,559, up 3% from last year and up 13% versus 2012. The promotional trip to Barcelona helped drive attendance to both the First Site Gala and the Fair. The over 3,000 names/email/zip code entries collected during the Fair should prove extremely valuable in refining our OTAF 2015 advertising and public relations initiatives.

Total Art Fair direct expenses were \$101,166 vs. budget \$125,200. Art Fair 2014 net income was just under \$305,000, comparing very favorably with the six year average of \$266,700

from 2009 through 2014.

The First Sight Gala sold out and achieved its net profit plan of \$15,000. Two ideas were tested this year: (a) smaller silent auction with a higher percentage of OTTA profit share, and (b) holding the event one week prior to the Fair instead of the Friday night before. The latter was very successful allowing more neighbors to attend the party and everyone a week to regroup before the fair.

Art Fair Attendance: Total 2014 donating attendees of 19,830 was very similar to last year's 20,430. Both years represent an encouraging reversal from the 2002 to 2012 decline from approximately 36,000 to 17,500 donating attendees. There is confidence the decline is due mainly to competition from the seven other major fairs and festivals taking place in Chicago on the same weekend. The fact that the OTTA has been able to reverse this and hold it for a second year is a reflection on the teamwork and a job done extremely well by all participants - the Fair's nearly 700 volunteers, the OTTA's office staff, and all who so graciously gave their significant time and talents. 🍁

GRANTS AWARDS SPOTLIGHT | *Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative*

By Diane Sokolofski (Triangle resident 1969-1970 and since 2006)

Are you interested in Lincoln Park's timeless restaurants and menus or discovering the history of homes in Lincoln Park or learning about Lincoln Park's four decades of music? These are some of the free programs, open to the public, that were hosted by Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative and can be viewed on film in the Special Collections & Archives Department of DePaul University's Richardson Library. A permanent collection of the history of Lincoln Park, both past and present, is housed in the library. The collection is a partnership of DePaul University and Lincoln Park community organizations and businesses with a goal to collect, document, preserve and celebrate over 100 years of shared history. The Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative (LPCRI), founded during the DePaul University's Centennial Year 1998-1999, was established as a way to recognize, build and celebrate the collection of DePaul's shared history and the Lincoln Park neighborhood. It has hosted 29 programs, all free to the community, which includes Old Town, of course. The LPCRI was awarded an OTTA grant at the annual Art Fair Thank You Party on June 20th and Fran Casey, Director of Community Relations, presented an overview of the Initiative Program.

The historical materials collected are located in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Collection of the DePaul University Library. LPCRI helps develop and support the research, publications, exhibits and educational programs about the Lincoln Park community. According to Jamie Nelson, Director of Special Collections and Archives at the Richardson Library, "to access the historical information, the materials themselves in the Lincoln Park collections have not been comprehensively digitized, but the finding aids (like an index or guide) are online. The finding aids can be accessed at <http://libguides.depaul.edu/content.php?pid=606113&sid=5002820>. This link goes specifically to the Lincoln Park tab within the Community Collections."

In addition, educational programs, held twice a year in the Spring and Fall, examine the diverse cultural and political issues of the community and city at large. These programs help encourage contributions to the Lincoln Park Collection. The Fall 2014 program will be held on October 14 at the DePaul Student Center (2250 N. Sheffield Street; reception at 6:30pm and program at 7pm) presenting "From Farm to Table: The Creation of the Green City Market and its City-wide Impact." Old Town residents, Vi Daley and Diane Gonzalez, are on the Board and will help keep us informed of future programs.

For more information on the Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative, contact Fran Casey fcasey@depaul.edu or 312.362.8100 in Community & Government Relations at DePaul or for historical research, email archives@depaul.edu. 🍁



Participants of the MENUS FOR SUCCESS Spring 2013 Program (l to r): John Barleycorn's Sam Sanchez, moderator Steve Dolinsky (ABC News), Geja's Jeff Lawler, Chicago Pizza & Oven Grinder's Kathy Galanis, Alderman Michele Smith, RJ Grunt's Rich Melman, Twin Anchors' Paul Tuzi. The Lincoln Park Community Research Initiative was founded in 1999 and is funded by Lincoln Park residents and neighborhood associations. Its mission is to preserve neighborhood history – our shared history.

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | *Paul & Darlene Fahrenkrog: Building the Good Life Together*

By Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)

Arguably the second greatest "event" to impact and shape our neighborhood was urban renewal development, overseen by Richard J. Daley from 1955-1976, that saved Chicago from the same fate as other Rust Belt cities. It wasn't a 2-day event like the Great Fire of 1871 but a 2-decade event laced with controversy. History notes that by revitalizing the downtown area and firmly fixing the middle-class in place in the city limits, Daley probably saved Chicago from decline. While other cities were in fiscal crisis in the 1960s and 1970s, Chicago always had a double-A bond rating.*

In 1956, Lincoln Park was designated a conservation area. In 1961, the Lincoln Park Conservation Association (founded in 1954) and the Federal Department of Urban Renewal identified Old Town, the area in the southeastern section of Lincoln Park, as one of three neighborhoods designated for Project One. This was the beginning of the implementation of the General Neighborhood Renewal Plan which included the closing of Ogden Avenue, a major road dividing neighborhoods.

At about the same time, Paul Fahrenkrog and Darlene Crampton met at First St. Paul's Church, still at 1301 N. La Salle Drive. He had recently graduated from University of Illinois with a degree in Architecture, having just landed a job with the City's Department of Public Works' Bureau of Architecture – where he worked for 30 years – and she was studying Art Education at The School of the Art Institute.

Paul loved his role as Project Manager, despite the bureaucracy, as it put him in the center of exciting public projects, including The Harold Washington Library, working with all the major architectural firms, many aldermen and the Mayor's Office. As a City worker, he knew Ogden Avenue was "going away". Knowing this made it easy for him & Darlene to decide to buy property in Old Town...a good investment, they bet. *(Continued on page 3)*



Darlene & Paul Fahrenkrog recently at Kamehachi Restaurant in Old Town.

NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT | Paul & Darlene Fahrenkrog | (Continued from page 2)



June 1964 wedding day on Ojibway Island in Saginaw, MI.

In 1966, Willow Street didn't dead-end at Wells Street, which was booming. That came later. One evening, Paul & Darlene dined at the fish restaurant that is now Nookies before taking a stroll around the Old Town neighborhood after dinner. It was during that walk that they spotted a frame house for sale and fell in love with the idea of building their own home here. Private projects like theirs were encouraged then and building rules were relaxed. In July, 1968, forty-six years ago, Paul & Darlene moved into their townhouse residence at 218 W. Willow Street. Designed by Paul, the 3-level home is situated on a 19'x100' interior lot without an alley. Even with these shortcomings – and the turmoil of the day with hippies, yippies and police – trees and shrubs in the front and rear yards and on the deck above the carport have always provided a tranquil urban setting.

Darlene graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and was a professor of art at Concordia University in River Forest for over thirty years. Today she is Professor of Art Emeritus there. In the 1980s, she became deeply engaged with Art Therapy programs in the City and she continues to volunteer as an Art Therapist at Community Counseling Centers of Chicago. Paul & Darlene were equally active in the community. She exhibited in many Old Town Art fairs and designed several of the posters for the Fair. Darlene also taught evening and summer classes in painting and design at the Triangle School on Wells Street. Paul served on the OTTA Board of Directors for many years.

Together they raised two children, Latin School alums Eric and Erin. Both children were very active in the Menomonee Club for Boys & Girls. Three dogs resided with the family over the years: Wimphy (a Miniature Schnauzer), Halley (a Weimaraner) and Sprungli, their Chocolate Labrador that you'll see escorting Darlene or Paul around the neighborhood on any given day.

In addition to enjoying the many attributes of the City of Chicago, Paul & Darlene thoroughly enjoy travel, and their home reflects this with artifacts displayed from some of their favorite places, including Barcelona, Berlin, Tallinn (the capital of Estonia), Ljubljana (the capital of Slovenia) and Istanbul. While always a treat to visit friends and relatives throughout the United States, they are completely convinced that their Old Town home and location cannot be surpassed!

Writer's Note: Darlene continues to make and exhibit her art. She is currently in a group show at Kretzman Gallery through October 12th (Ferguson Art Gallery at Concordia University, 7400 Augusta Street, River Forest, IL). 🍁

CHICAGO HISTORY | The Great Chicago Fire and The Old Town Triangle

By Diane Gonzalez (Triangle resident since 1974)

Many Chicagoans can tell the tale of Mrs. O'Leary's cow knocking over a lantern as what set the city ablaze on Sunday, October 8, 1871 (cow FALSE, date TRUE). Other Chicagoans can relate that in 36 hours the Fire tore through roughly three plus square miles of the city destroying about 17,500 structures and leaving almost 100,000 residents homeless (TRUE).

But what was the devastation like in Old Town, then called North Town? St. Michael's clergy and neighbors provided the following accounts after the Fire:

At St. Mike's, Brother Adrian heard the roosters crowing on Monday morning, October 9th. He concluded that he had overslept and dashed up the tower steps to ring the Angelus bell which was scheduled to toll at dawn. He determined that it was only 3 a.m. and the roosters confused daylight with a lit southern sky; Chicago's business district was ablaze. The bell was rung anyhow, and soon fleeing inhabitants arrived to seek shelter and neighbors gathered to pray. School was cancelled for the 1,050 St. Mike's students. The clergy began burying church artifacts, and some valuables were transported by oxcart to the orphanage at Rose Hill.

Although the Fire continued, many thought North Town would be spared.

But after burning debris jumped the Chicago River's main branch and grain elevators along its banks exploded, North Town citizens joined the crazy mass exodus. Some fled up Lincoln Avenue and Clark Street. Others went east to today's Lincoln Park, a former cemetery whose open graves could provide shelter or into Lake Michigan's waters, a chilly sanctuary in October. That afternoon, St. Michael's roof collapsed, and the bells that had only hours earlier had summoned residents tumbled and melted.

The Fire died out after 36 hours when it reached Fullerton Parkway or what was then called the prairie, and it began to rain. St. Mike's outer walls had amazingly survived. By the next week, the priests and brothers had erected a 90 foot wooden shanty attached to a surviving church garden wall. For a while, this would be their home with straw-filled burlap bags as beds. By November, clergy and neighbors had erected a 90 by 40 foot two-story church/ school where students crammed in for class.

John J. Healy, age eight, resided with his family in a small cottage at Oak and Sedgwick. Realizing their house would burn, his father secured an uncle's 2-wheeled coal cart to remove the Healy's belongings to a cottage Healy had just built on Hurlbut (Cleveland today) south of

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CHICAGO HISTORY | The Great Chicago Fire and The Old Town Triangle | (Continued from page 3)

Center (Armitage today). They traveled up Sedgwick Street, which was crowded with people fleeing and littered with items dropped along the way. They dumped their furniture into the cottage's basement but soon determined that building would be destroyed. Healy's father moved their belongings to a vacant lot next door, covered the items with carpets, and piled mounds of sand atop the rugs. Their belongings were saved! Healy recalled sleeping on a pool table in a Clybourn Avenue saloon that night. After the Fire, Healy's dad obtained lumber from the Relief Society to build a two-room cottage at the rear of their Hurlbut lot. He added that when a Field Leiter & Co. wagon could make it through the litter, it stopped on his Hurlbut and Center corner where residents picked up free bread and meat.

Emil Rudolph, age 16, who would later become a famous surveyor, resided by the Healy's at Sedgwick and Oak. In recalling the Fire, Rudolph described a sky filled with sparks as plentiful as snowflakes and heavens so lit up, one could read a newspaper.

Johann Strohm, age 44, of 30 Menomonee Street (218 Menomonee today) was a teamster who sent off his family and began to load his cart with their belongings. The Fire came so fast that Strohm soon unhitched the horse and fled. The family was reunited later after Maria Strohm and the children had taken refuge under a six foot high wooden sidewalk that somehow survived the Fire. The Strohm's rebuilt their home which stands today.



Sixteen year-old Emil Rudolph (second from left), who would later become a well-known Chicago surveyor, in front of realtor W.D. Kerfoot's shanty believed to be the first building erected after the Fire. Rudolph stated it was built while the Fire was still burning!



St. Michael's Church whose outer walls survived the Fire. By November, clergy and parishioners had built the two-story frame structure in the center of this photo which served as temporary school/church.

Patrick Webb, age 58, resided on Church Street (Hudson today) and worked along the river's west bank. Aware of the Fire but believing it would not reach North Town he headed, to his job on Monday. At 10am his foreman sent him home. Webb learned that the Chicago Avenue Bridge and a nearby distillery were burning. He began burying family valuables in the yard. Webb, his wife Johanna, and their four children fled north to the prairie. Webb's buried goods did not survive. He received \$90 worth of lumber and \$100 cash from the Relief Society. Webb commented that after a life of "hard labor, honesty, and sobriety" he lost everything and considered himself a "beggar." He sold himself short for not only did he recover, but he lived to be age 99!

A.S. Chapman, age seven, lived a bit north of North Town. He recalled riding south on Clark Street with his father Monday morning to view a "steadily and sullenly advancing wall of smoke shot with fire." He described Lincoln Avenue as a direct outlet to the country and Clark Street with horse car line rails curled into giant bows. The prairie was a scene of "indescribable chaos", with cows gone and piles of clothing and furniture whose owners moved about restlessly. The fire stopped two blocks south of Chapman's house where that night's survivors slept anywhere they could. Chapman spent the night in the barn.

North Town was rebuilt. St. Michael's and several fire relief shanties are visible reminders of this horrific time while hidden, perhaps, are surviving walls and reused scorched timbers. Very much in evidence is the enduring neighborhood spirit continuing today in its landmark designations, its Art Fair, and its Menomonee Club. 🍁

CHICAGO HISTORY | AND THERE WERE MORE | By Jim Fitzgerald (Triangle member since May 2014)

Factors accompanying the rapid growth of cities in the late 1800s and early 1900s made them vulnerable to massive fires: effective building regulations were lacking, buildings were too close together and were constructed mainly of wood, and firefighting infrastructures were inadequate. The Great Chicago Fire started on Sunday, October 8, 1871

and burned for two days. Here are some other fires of note:

BOSTON: November 9, 1872

The fire, of unknown origin, started in a building in the downtown area on a weekend. It was apparent from the start that the blaze was beyond

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CHICAGO HISTORY | AND THERE WERE MORE | (Continued from page 5)

the scope of the first responders and additional alarms called for help from neighboring locations. As with other catastrophic fires, a combination of factors, some long-standing and some coincidental, combined to result in significant losses of property. Thirty lives were lost. Water mains and fire hydrants were old and inadequate; under then-common insurance practices, owners had no incentive to build fire-safe structures; the Boston fire department's ability to respond was seriously affected by an epidemic among its horses. Fire departments from almost every state in New England responded with aid, but the fire consumed 65 acres of Boston's downtown resulting in a loss of more than \$70 million.

CHICAGO (again!): July 16, 1874

The fire began, as had the Great Fire, in a small barn near the corner of Clark and (now) Roosevelt Road. The weather conditions were the same as in 1871: a prolonged dry spell and a wind from the southwest. The fire stopped at Wabash between 8th and 9th Streets when it encountered the brick walls of the newly rebuilt business district. Much of the burned area consisted of small, closely spaced and poorly constructed wooden housing which existed due to limited and inadequate building regulations established after the Great Fire. This fire, although affecting "only" 60 acres, resulted in more effective reform that ultimately resulted in Chicago's building code. Again there was a question of how the fire started, and the owner of the barn was arrested and charged with arson.

SEATTLE: June 6, 1889

The fire started in a cabinetmaker's shop as a worker heated glue over a gasoline fire. It quickly spread through the wood chips and turpentine on the shop's floor. The spring weather had been unusually dry, and the fire was soon spreading out of control, fueled, some said, by the alcohol in several nearby saloons. Seattle was dominated by the logging industry, and easy access to lumber meant that almost every building was built of the plentiful material. This, coupled with the city's inadequate water supply resulted in the fire which destroyed 120 acres and resulted in losses estimated at \$8 million. There was no recorded loss of human life, but it was reported that one million rats were killed in the blaze.

BALTIMORE: February 7-8, 1904

The fire, of unknown origin began in a downtown commercial building on a Sunday morning. It spread quickly as the result of "numerous heavy explosions" which were never explained in contemporary descriptions. The explosions served to spread the fire and it was out of control before the first firemen arrived. The wind, which had been blowing at about 12

miles per hour reportedly blew at velocities up to 40 miles per hour as the fire burned. Help arrived from a number of other cities, but a lack of standardization of hydrant and hose couplings frustrated most attempts to actually provide aid. More than 1500 buildings were destroyed in the 140-acre path of the fire.

Writer's Notes: While hand-held cameras evolved between 1855-1871, Baltimore is the only fire with photos taken during the actual burning of the city. For the others, photos are all of the aftermath. And to understand area destroyed by the fires, one acre = .0015625 square miles. Millennium Park is about 25 acres. 🍁



Left: The Great Fire of Baltimore, February 8, 1904. Right: Baltimore's inner harbor pier with fire boats, February 7, 1904

The Great Chicago Fire Festival - Saturday, October 4th

A collaboration between the City of Chicago, Chicago Park District and Redmoon Theatre celebrating Chicago's epic resurgence and strength after the Great Fire of 1871, and the grit of its people that propelled us forward to build anew.

CHICAGO RIVER BETWEEN STATE AND COLUMBUS | Time: 8 PM

The inaugural Great Chicago Fire Festival will light up the City with a spectacle of fire on the Chicago River. Highlights of the Spectacle will include fiery cauldrons lowered from the bridges, hundreds of kayakers pulling flaming buoys and prairie gardens, and three floating sculptures resembling pre-1871 homes that will be set ablaze, each revealing a dramatic, symbolic interior core. The finale will feature a fireworks display set to music and a moving tribute to Chicago's neighborhoods.

Come early for a pre-show bazaar starting at 3pm along the riverwalk, featuring crafts, food and entertainment from Redmoon's neighborhood partners. <http://chicagofirefestival.com/> 🍁

COMMUNITY CORNER | Compiled by Diane Fitzgerald (Triangle resident since 1997)

Did you notice that **POTBELLY'S** moved into Old Town? Located at 1560 N. Wells Street, it opened on June 10th. Already a good neighbor, Potbelly's has partnered with **Franklin Fine Arts Center** to raise funds and awareness for the school. Open daily from 11am-10pm.

GREENHEART SHOP (www.greenheartshop.org), our neighbor at 1714 N. Wells Street promoting fair trade, is participating in the Great Chicago Fire Festival along the Chicago River on October 4th. Also, on Wednesday, October 15th they are partnering with Greenheart Travel to present an informational session with panel discussion for high school students interested in studying abroad (6-8pm at 1714 N. Wells Street). (Continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY CORNER | (Continued from page 5)

The **MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE** (www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org), a good neighbor since 1948, has a full schedule of programs for the fall, including a Creative Writing Workshop on Saturday, October 4th from 10am-12pm and a Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser on Sunday, October 5th at 11:30am (\$5.00/person). Also on October 5th is scheduled an Open House Interfaith Tour of the Temple and new Japanese Gardens, from 1-3pm. For more information about these programs – and all the Temple's programs, events and activities – visit their website.

The **MENOMONEE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB** (www.menomoneeclub.org) is more than delighted about their Judo Players who took home 12 national medals during the summer tour that took them from Reno, NV to Fort Lauderdale, FL. Congratulations to medalists Howard Wilson, Robert Anderson, Angela Geis, Sara Luan, Robert Kim, Sarah Chung, Nik Crosby, Alice Mihas, Mikey Mutz, Manuel Rosenkranz and Max Antoniou. For information about current judo classes at the clubhouse, visit <http://www.menomoneeclub.org/programs-by-season?s=2&c=11>. Also, Brett Wolf was named Paralympic Judo Coach of the Year for 2013, an honor acknowledging all of the hard work that the staff, athletes and supporters put into the Menomonee Club Paralympic Judo Program. See Brett receiving his award at www.brettwolfjudo.com/brett-wolf-selected-as-2013-paralympic-judo-coach-of-the-year.

ST. MICHAEL IN OLD TOWN (www.st-mikes.org/) is looking for volunteers to support their programs, events and activities, such as the Marquard Center Meals Program. Contact Toni Dunning at 312-642-2498, ext. 211 or tdunning@st-mikes.org for more information. And while you're at it, contact Christine at ext. 301 to learn more about YOGA at St. Michael's – The Body in Meditation. 🍁

COMMITTEE NEWS

Membership Committee | Karen Pfendler, Chairperson (Triangle resident since 1951)

The Membership Committee is in the early stages of organizing a Membership Drive. We will be asking member residents of each Triangle street to find out who of your neighbors are currently non-members of OTTA. We would like each member to solicit at least one new individual, or family, to join the Association. We will be having a contest to see which street can bring in the most members by next spring. The winning street will win a party for your street, compliments of the Membership Committee of the OTTA to be held at the Triangle. Stay tuned for more specific information. 🍁

Neighborhood Improvement Committee | Karen Pfendler, NIC member (Triangle resident since 1951)

The Neighborhood Improvement Committee (NIC) continues its infrastructure work as our summer draws to a close. The trees look wonderful; our fledgling trees continue to thrive; we remind residents to consider taking advantage of our 20% rebate tree planting and parkway/sidewalk brick replacement programs. We are keeping track of new empty tree wells in the parkways and are planning to do additional tree replacement next spring. NIC wishes to thank many of the families living on Fern Court for their generous donations towards covering the costs of mulching, purchasing and planting 6 new burning bushes at the north end of Fern Court in the City parkway along the Buddhist Temple property line. NIC handles the monthly maintenance of those 65+ burning bushes, and neighboring residents take the responsibility for watering them. Our community is grateful for the time and attention resident owners on Fern Court invest in this City parkway. NIC is investigating a Feral Cat Program to assist in overcoming the growing rat population in our Historic District. Tree House sponsors this program. More information about this program will be forthcoming. 🍁

Neighborhood Relations Committee | Karen Pfendler, NRC member (Triangle resident since 1951)

The Neighbor Relations Committee continues to host the 18th District CAPS meeting for all Beats (1811, 1812, 1813, and 1814) in 10 Sector on the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 7:00 pm in the south room of the Triangle Center. This is a great opportunity to dialogue with officers from the 18th District as well as other neighbors who come to share their concerns with one another. Neighbor Relations continues to encourage our members to use their **iBOT** cards and visit the participating vendors. You will find the specific vendor participants listed on the Old Town Triangle web site. If you know of any businesses that would like to join our participating list, please write to membership@oldtowntriangle.com and our committee will follow up with your suggestions. Now that your kids are back in school, perhaps you'll have more free time to shop! We love supporting our local vendors. 🍁

Events Committee | Anne Giffels, Chairperson

Our second annual Oktoberfest is in the books, with another great evening of music, food, drinks and fellowship. We hope everyone had as great a time.

The OTTA Yard Sale brought hundreds of visitors to the Triangle, and we had a profitable day for sellers as well as buyers. Many thanks to Green Element Resale for picking up the remaining items. Be sure to visit them at 6241 N. Broadway.

As we head in to the holiday season, look for an announcement for our holiday event. Celebrate the season at the Triangle with friends and neighbors.

We are planning an Old Town version of On the Table on November 12th. Details are coming soon, but we're reaching out to the entire Old Town community (members and non-members alike,) to learn how we can do a better job. Start thinking about how we can make the Association even stronger and share your ideas with us. 🍁

iBOT SPOTLIGHT | Ranalli's Lincoln Park | By Barbara Guttman (Triangle support staff since May 2014)



An Old Town tradition for 40 years, Ranalli's is located at 1925 N. Lincoln Avenue.

Say the word "Ranalli's" and everyone has their own immediate sensation. A memory of pizza, a great burger, that time with a small group of really great friends, and who hasn't had delivery from Ranalli's? You're among friends, you can admit it. Over the past 40+ years there has been tinkering around the edges. But not too much, Jerry left a very successful recipe.

In November 2013, the Four Corners Tavern Group became the newest proprietors and we wondered about their take on their new space located at 1925 N. Lincoln Avenue (www.RanallisLincolnPark.com, 312-642-4700). Four Corners Tavern Group (FCTG) may not be familiar but their other locations are sure to ring a bell; names like Benchmark, Kirkwood, and Brownstone.

Ranalli's new General Manager, Mike Williamson (with FCTG since 2005, most recently at West End), told me that the FCTG really wanted to be in Old Town. They had been looking for a while and this space had everything – a great indoor space, plus a huge outdoor area, and a fantastic, local following. They know that to maintain the trust that has been developed over these many years, they have to provide great service, better quality than expected, and keep it a good value so that you will want to come back.

So, what's new here? There are more locally grown ingredients. You have to try the crispy cheese curds! Wisconsin cheese, breaded and battered daily. Not frozen. Created completely in-house. Sounds to me like a perfect nosh for watching a football game. There are more seasonal and locally grown items being used and/or featured. And there are, of course, a few tweaks on some of the old favorites – *spicy pizza* for instance.

So, welcome FCTG and Mike. Many thanks for being an iBOT Merchant with the Old Town Triangle Association! Here's to another 40 years of Ranalli Traditions!

iBOT (I Buy Old Town) is a discount loyalty program for OTTA members offering services, merchandise and products at special rates by Old Town merchants. See www.oldtowntriangle.com for a complete list of merchants and discounts. To receive your personal iBOT card, visit the Triangle Office. 🍁



Left: Ranalli's outdoor seating is perfectly situated for people-watching and sun bathing! Right: Sports fans on a Sunday afternoon in September. See what I mean about the Badgers?

CALLS TO ACTION | By Phil Graff (Triangle resident since 1985)

Since 1925, the week during which October 9th falls is observed as National Fire Prevention Week. Commemorating the Great Chicago Fire (October 8th - 9th 1871), National Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Each year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets a theme promoting fire prevention and emergency procedures. This year NFPA urges us to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on every floor in our homes (including basements). According to NFPA, working smoke detectors can reduce fire deaths by half and so we are advised to test our smoke and fire detectors monthly.

It's useful to review the themes that NFPA has set for National Fire Protection Week in recent years:

- 2000 Fire Drills: The Great Escape!
- 2001 Cover the Bases & Strike Out Fire
- 2004 It's Fire Prevention Week! Test Your Smoke Alarms
- 2005 Use Candles With Care
- 2006 Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat
- 2012 Have 2 Ways Out!
- 2013 Prevent Kitchen Fires
- 2014 Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month

Each of these themes can be Googled for more in-depth information.

Meet YOUR Chicago Fire Department Team! Of course, always dial 9-1-1 in case of emergency... but if you get a chance, swing by "our" fire houses to thank our local first responders! 🍁



Two Fire Houses serve the Triangle. Here is Engine 22/ Ambulance 43, the 1st Platoon at 605 W. Armitage. Our second Fire House is Engine 4/Tower Ladder 10 at 548 W. Division...both at Larrabee. Standing second from left is Engineer Ben Hosek who has 3 children at LaSalle Language Academy and who sits on the Local School Council for LaSalle.



1763 N. North Park Avenue
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ESTABLISHED IN 1948

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OldTownTriangle

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday--
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact Leslie Wolfe at the office during these hours.

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Call to Action

OTTA Newsletter Summit Meeting Tuesday, December 2nd,
6:30-8:30pm at The Triangle Center to discuss 2015
Editorial Plan and recruit contributors.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE OLD TOWN TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION IS A COMMUNITY-BASED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN AN AREA OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO BOUNDED BY NORTH AVENUE, CLARK STREET, AND THE GHOST OF OGDEN AVENUE ("THE TRIANGLE").

Old Town Art Center Gallery: October & November, 2014

Chasing Light II The Art of Pastel - Work by Kathleen Newman and Students

October 4 – October 28 | Reception for the Artists: Sunday, October 12, 2-5pm



Technically, pastel is not chalk, but pure powdered pigment rolled into round or square sticks and held together with a non-greasy binder. Blending the surface smooth or keeping it active with visible strokes and lines provide endless possibilities in the expression of this drawing and painting medium.

Artists: Kathleen Newman, Paula Benson, Evelyn Brody, Elizabeth Bowman, Lynn DeJong, Jean Fargo, Reven Fellers, Janet Lerman Graff, Ray Grzebielski, Barbara Moline, Julie Skoda, and Judy Skulborstadt.

Paintings by Meredith Dyтч - November 1- Dec 4 Reception for the Artist: Sunday, November 9, 2-5pm

Meredith Dyтч has moved from being an architect to her next chapter of representing the essence of her city as a painter. Her images evoke "sabi", which is the Japanese aesthetic related to beauty inherent in the old, the decaying, and the weathered.

