

ALDERMAN SCHULTER REPORTS

4237 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60618 • (773) 348-8400 • City Hall (312) 744-4021 • ward47@cityofchicago.org • Winter 2010

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the New Year. The past year was a very exciting and challenging year for the City of Chicago and for our neighborhoods. While our City was on the world stage in many ways, we faced a budget crisis, skyrocketing property taxes, and an increase in crime in many parts of the City.

I strongly believe that the neighborhoods of the 47th Ward fared better than many other neighborhoods as we faced the worst economic recession in decades. Property values in our neighborhoods remain strong. In fact, Lincoln Square, Northcenter, and Ravenswood have all been featured this year in local and national publications as some of the best places to live in Chicago. Your commitment to improving our community is one of the many reasons our neighborhoods continue to thrive. You have attended CAPS meetings to help keep our neighborhood safe. You have reported graffiti, cleaned the parkways, and worked to beautify our streets. You have shopped in our local stores and supported our Chambers of Commerce. Thank you for your commitment during the past year and, as always, I encourage you to get involved and keep up your efforts in making the 47th Ward the best place to live and work.

I am pleased to report that we have made a lot of advancements in the past year. Construction on the new Welles Park play lot is almost complete and will be ready for your families this Spring. This past November, I hosted the last meeting of the Brown Line Task Force, a collaboration of local officials and community groups to monitor the Chicago Transit Authority's Brown Line Capacity Expansion Project. The impact to our neighborhoods wrapped up a year ago with the opening of the Damen Station, but continued construction throughout the line has continued to affect our residents. As of January 1, 2010, this project is officially complete.

In this issue of Alderman Schuler Reports, articles will highlight my recent efforts to work with all of you to make our community even better. This includes leading the fight for property tax relief, creating a safe and affordable residential environment for our seniors, and creating better opportunities and environments for educating our children.

All of these projects have required community leadership and the support of other local officials. I want to take this opportunity to thank our representatives in Springfield for their efforts. State Representative John Fritchey, State Representative Greg Harris, State Senator Heather Steans, and State Senate President John Cullerton have all been incredible advocates and allies for our community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my Public Service Office at 773-348-8400 or via email at ward47@cityofchicago.org.

Best Wishes,

Alderman Gene Schuler

**We want to know
what you think!**

**Share your thoughts and feedback online
at our website, www.ward47.com,
or on Facebook.**

Alderman Schuler Fights for Property Tax Relief

In September, Alderman Schuler submitted a resolution to the City Council calling for the Illinois General Assembly to come together in agreement and extend the 7% Expanded Homeowners Exemptions. The resolution was signed by 48 City Council members and approved by the full City Council during 48-0 roll call vote on November 18, 2009.

Residents across Chicago and throughout Illinois are struggling to meet ever growing property taxes and live in fear of losing their homes. As many of you know, the 7% Expanded Homeowners Exemption legislation limiting property tax increases to seven percent is currently being phased out this year. The average Chicago taxpayer is realizing a \$300 increase in this year's property tax. Without any protection provided by the 7% Expanded Homeowners Exemption, the average Chicagoan will realize a \$750 increase in their tax bill in 2010.

Alderman Schuler strongly believes that legislators can't sit back as unfair property taxes are placing a burden on Chicago residents. Further reform is still needed but reinstating the 7% property tax cap is a necessary first step to protect residents.



Alderman Gene Schuler and Dan Farley greet local residents at the Annual 47th Ward Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Ald. Gene Schuler
47th Ward Public Service Office
4237 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618

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Or Current Resident

Alderman Schuler wants your
email
ADDRESS

Join the mailing list for the weekly email version of Alderman Schuler Reports. The weekly email version contains information regarding events occurring during the week ahead, traffic warnings, and other community alerts.

To join the list, please email us at
ward47@cityofchicago.org
with your name, address and email
address.

Or sign up at our website
www.ward47.com

**Alderman Schuler
Is On**

facebook

In our efforts to increase communication and to find new ways to interact with 47th Ward residents, Alderman Gene Schuler is now on Facebook! If you are on Facebook, look up Gene Schuler and become a supporter of the 47th Ward Public Service Office. Our Facebook page includes news feeds directly from our website, upcoming events, pictures from local events, and a discussion board. Head over to Facebook and let us know what you think!

CAPS Meeting Information



While most of the 47th Ward is included in the 19th Police District, the Ward includes seven different Police Beats in three different Police Districts. CAPS (Chicago's Alternative Policing Strategy) Meetings are broken down by Beat and meet bi-monthly.

CAPS Meetings are announced weekly via Alderman Schulter's Weekly Email Newsletter.

The schedule for CAPS Meetings for Police Beats in the 47th Ward is listed below. In addition, CAPS Meetings are announced weekly via Alderman Schulter's Weekly Email Newsletter.

Beat 1911 - Last Tuesday of Odd Months

Beat 1912 - Third Wednesday of Even Months

Beat 1922 - Second Wednesday of Even Months

Beat 1923 - Second Tuesday of Odd Months

Beat 2031 - Last Tuesday of Odd Months

Beat 2032 - Last Thursday Odd Months

Beat 2311 - First Tuesday Odd Months

To find out which Police Beat you live in, please call the 47th Ward Public Service Office at 773-348-8400.

Alderman Schulter and Project Partners Celebrate the Opening of Green Spaces in the Northcenter Senior Campus

On Saturday, September 26, 2009, Alderman Schulter joined local community leaders, the Department of Community Development, the Department of Human Services, and other key project partners in celebrating the official opening of the green space at the Northcenter Senior Campus located at Western and Irving Park.

The Northcenter Senior Campus is a unique affordable senior housing campus located in the heart of the 47th Ward's thriving Northcenter neighborhood. The campus offers two buildings of rental housing and one mixed-income condominium building. In addition, Advocate Health Center which offers medical services to many of the residents is located adjacent to the three residential buildings.

The new half-acre green space is located at the center of the campus. In addition to the central green space, a new pocket park was created at the corner of Oakley and Belle Plaine. The new green spaces offer two fountains, decorative lighting, and benches for residents and visitors of the Northcenter Senior Campus to enjoy. The land was donated to the project by Advocate Health Centers.

"This day has been almost ten years in the making," noted Alderman Schulter, commenting on an initial community meeting that led to the creation of the Northcenter Senior Campus. As a part of the celebration, Alderman Schulter offered his sincere congratulations to the many organizations and people whose efforts were crucial in the development of the campus, including TACH Development, the Northcenter Chamber of Commerce, The LaKota Group, Catholic Charities, and the Ravenswood Community Council.

Ralph Brown, president of TACH Development, expressed his sincere appreciation for the work accomplished by the many project partners and the leadership offered by Alderman Schulter. TACH Development is a non-profit housing development organization that led the development team in the creation of the senior campus. Upon completion of the parks, TACH Development is conveying the property to the City of Chicago.

"There is nothing else like this in the City of Chicago," stated Mr. Brown. "All of this is here because of the leadership of Gene Schulter. So many people here have played a part in the creation of this campus, but without Alderman Schulter, none of this could have been accomplished."

A portion of the funds for this project have come from Open Space Impact Fees paid by developers who have built new residential projects in the 47th Ward.

"These beautiful spaces are going to not only serve as an oasis for the residents of the Northcenter Senior Campus," states Alderman Gene Schulter. "They will add valuable green space to the entire Northcenter community."

Waters School Improvements

Alderman Schulter recently joined Principal Titia Kipp and families from Waters Elementary School to look at the progress of the new addition. The new addition includes a number of sustainable features, including the use of recycled materials, a green roof, a high efficiency HVAC system, and low VOC finish materials.

In addition, a rainwater collection system will be installed that will include clear piping visible to students from inside the building. This water will be used to irrigate plantings throughout the campus.



Alderman Schulter highlights plan for improvements at Waters School to students.

Blue Cart Recycling 2010 Pick Up Schedule

Residents living north of Montrose Avenue, week of

January 4
January 18
February 1
February 15
March 1
March 15
March 29

Residents living south of Montrose Avenue, week of

January 11
January 25
February 8
February 22
March 8
March 22

Gene's Sausage Shop Opens In Lincoln Square

Gene's Sausage Shop, a family-owned gourmet European market and delicatessen specializing in fine European imported foods, hand-made sausages, smoked meats, and prepared foods, opened their doors this past November.

Gene's new two-story store features authentic old world interior architecture including a grand staircase, a copper 10 x 8 skylight, custom floor to ceiling wood shelving, natural stone walls and hints of reclaimed wood. The store boasts over 6,000 square feet of European gourmet food products and delicacies, over 40 varieties of homemade smoked meats, prepared foods, and baked goods. The second floor holds an extensive list of hard-to-find imported beer, wine and liquor. For those on the go, the Lincoln Square location also offers hot soups, rotisserie, salads and sandwiches to go.

Alderman Schuler worked collaboratively with Gene's Sausage Shop to establish a European-style delicatessen at the site of the old Delicatessen Meyer. "Gene's Sausage Shop will continue the tradition of bringing European flair to our neighborhood," states Alderman Schuler. "I am sure that the new location is going to become a landmark of the Lincoln Square community."

If you are passionate about old world recipes, European culture, and true service visit Gene's Sausage Shop at 4750 N. Lincoln Ave in Lincoln Square, you won't be disappointed.



The Luszcz Family, the Farley Family, and Alderman Gene and Rosemary Schuler celebrate the opening of Gene's Sausage Shop with a champagne toast. (Left to right)

Featured Businesses

For this quarter, Alderman Schuler would like to recognize locally owned and operated businesses that give back to the community. Community partnership is one of the many important reasons to support local entrepreneurship. Recent urban planning studies have shown that 58% more of the dollars spent in locally owned stores as compared to national chain stores remains in our community.

BRIGHT ENDEAVORS

Bright Endeavors, located at 4222 N. Ravenswood, is a nonprofit social enterprise committed to helping inner city, homeless and at-risk young women, between the ages of 16-25, gain the necessary skills to become self-sufficient, successful adults. To aid in this process, Bright Endeavors produces and sells Dreambean Candles, an eco-friendly and socially responsible line of candle products. Proceeds from the sale of Dreambean Candles go to support training, mentoring and permanent job placement for the young women that lovingly create and package each product. By purchasing Dreambean Candles, you create the opportunity for associates to carve out a future rich with personal achievement, confidence and self-respect. To shop for Dreambean Candles, visit www.shop.brightendeavors.org.

LITTLE MISS MUFFIN

Little Miss Muffin is a specialty bakery located at 4014 N. Rockwell. The bakery was founded in 1993 by a brother and sister team, their goal was to change the way people thought of low fat, cholesterol free baked goods. Little Miss Muffin serves an assortment of baked goods including muffins, donuts, and seasonal treats. Little Miss Muffin regularly donates muffins and pastries to the volunteers at the annual 47th Ward Spring and Fall clean ups. This past Thanksgiving, Little Miss Muffin donated over forty pumpkin pies to Alderman Schuler's Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. For more information on Little Miss Muffin or wholesale options, please visit www.littlemissmuffin.com.

PIZZA DOC

Pizza DOC, located at 2251 W. Lawrence, is Chicago's premier restaurant for brick oven fired pizza and other Italian favorites. Featured on WTTW's Check Please and other local shows and publications, Pizza DOC is a favorite of 47th Ward residents and families from across the Chicagoland area. Pizza DOC also offers a wide variety of brunch items during their Sunday Brunch. The restaurant remains committed to the community. Active members of the Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce, the owners have also opened their doors to local community groups for workshops and other events. This year, as in past years, the owners and staff of Pizza DOC volunteered countless hours decorating Lincoln Square for the holidays. To see the menu, visit www.mypizzadoc.com.

Winter Safety and Services

As a reminder, during the winter season, the City of Chicago offers a wide variety of services to protect the public from deadly cold temperatures.

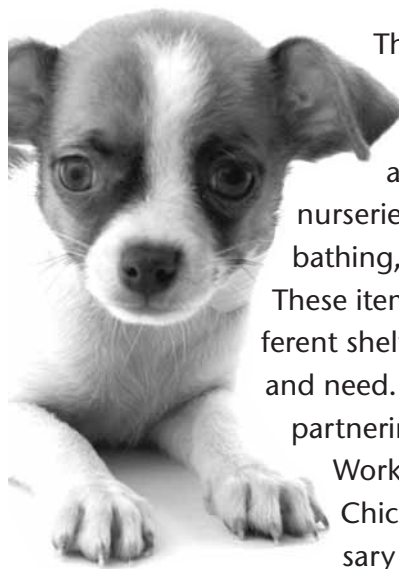
Landlords are required to provide adequate heat during the cold months, at least 63 degrees overnight and 68 degrees during the day. Warming Centers also are available to anyone in immediate danger. To locate the nearest warming center, please call the 47th Ward Public Service Office at 773-348-8400.

47th Ward residents should check on relatives, friends, and neighbors during extremely cold weather to ensure their safety, particularly the elderly or those who have serious medical conditions. Anyone at risk can register with the City for a well-being call during extreme weather.

The winter overnight parking ban is now in effect until April 1 on critical arterial streets. Foster Avenue is the only street included in this ban in the 47th Ward. Other arterial streets in the 47th Ward are considered Snow Routes. Parking restrictions on these streets go in to effect when snow is over two inches. Please be aware of all posted signs indicating parking restrictions.

Alderman Schuler also wants to remind everyone that shoveling your sidewalk is not only the neighborly thing to do—it's the law. Per Municipal Code, single family homes, apartment buildings, and commercial buildings are required to clear snow adjacent to their property. Make Chicago safer for everyone by clearing snow and ice from the public sidewalk by your property.

Towels, Baby Blankets, and Flat Sheets Needed For Orphaned Pets



The city's animal shelters are in desperate need of clean towels, washable baby blankets, and flat sheets for use in their nurseries, medical departments, bathing, and special need animals. These items will be distributed to different shelters according to population and need. Alderman Gene Schuler is partnering with DAWG (Dog Advisory Work Group) and Safe Humane Chicago to help raise these necessary supplies. The items may be dropped off at Alderman Schuler's 47th Ward Public Service Office during office hours.

Last year's supplies were distributed to numerous animal rescue facilities, including Chicago Animal Control, Anti-Cruelty Society, PAWS, Chicago Canine Rescue, Tree House, Felines, and Harmony House.

47th Ward City Services Survey

Dear Residents,

Thank you for taking a few moments to fill out the 47th Ward City Services Survey. The only way I can continue to serve your needs is through your valuable input. It is essential to obtain your continued assistance in identifying the issues that are important to our neighborhood.

I appreciate your honesty in all areas.

Best Wishes,

Alderman Gene Schulter

In which community do you reside?

- Lakeview Lincoln Square Northcenter Ravenswood

How would you rate the city services in your area?

- Excellent Above Average Average Below Average
 Poor No Opinion

Please rate the following city services, with 5 being excellent and 1 being poor:

Excellent *Poor*

Abandoned Car Removal
 5 4 3 2 1

Garbage
 5 4 3 2 1

Blue Cart Recycling
 5 4 3 2 1

Police Department Service
 5 4 3 2 1

Graffiti Removal
 5 4 3 2 1

Street Lighting Repairs
 5 4 3 2 1

Pothole Repairs
 5 4 3 2 1

Sewer Repairs
 5 4 3 2 1

Sidewalk Repairs
 5 4 3 2 1

Water Leak Repairs
 5 4 3 2 1

Snow Removal
 5 4 3 2 1

Tree Planting
 5 4 3 2 1

Tree Pruning
 5 4 3 2 1

Have you ever called the 47th Ward Public Service Office? Yes No

If yes, why?

Was the office responsive?

Were you satisfied with the results of the call? Yes No

How are your city services compared to last year?

- Better than last year
 Worse than last year
 About the same

What services do you believe need the most attention in your neighborhood?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Family Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Senior Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alley Repairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage Pickup | <input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Police Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Street Repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Planting and Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities |

Are there any services not listed above that you feel need attention in your neighborhood?

Do you have any additional comments or concerns?

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please complete and drop off or mail to:

47th Ward Public Service Office, 4237 North Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60618

**For a current schedule of community events,
visit: www.ward47.com**

Let Us Know Your Needs for City Services

Alderman Schulter asks that any ward residents who are in need of city services fill out this form and mail it or drop it by the ward office. Please check the appropriate box.

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Info | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street-Alley | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Curb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned Auto | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50/50 Sidewalk Program | | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**Mail to: Gene Schulter, Alderman 47th Ward
4237 North Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60618**