



Summer 2009

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09.09.09 ~ Evening on Astor

We're pleased to announce the 27th Evening on Astor block party. Plans already are underway to make this annual event a delightful evening. The block party will be held on Wednesday, September 9 (rain date Thursday, September 10), on Astor Street between Banks and Goethe.

Once again we will enjoy live entertainment provided by The Michael Lerich Orchestra. Food (including Edwardo's personal pizzas and hot dogs) and drink (beer, wine, and soda from our friends at Lodge Management) will be available for purchase. There also will be games, prizes and a clown for the kids, along with raffles for the adults.

There is no charge for admission, so we do hope you will consider making a donation to help defray our expenses. Contributions at the following levels may be made by phoning the Gold Coast Neighbors office at 312-629-6046. Sponsorships received by August 20th will be gratefully acknowledged in our program book:

\$500 Special Angel
\$200 Angel
\$100 Benefactor
\$ 50 Good Neighbor

Tables are once again available for reservation. Space is limited so please reserve promptly to avoid disappointment. A 4-top table (36" round) is \$75. A standard 8-top table (30" x 96") is \$150. If you would like a table in a particular location (e.g. near your home or next to another guest's table), premium 8-tops can be reserved for \$250. Tables come furnished with a vinyl cover, but we encourage you to be creative and design your own special festive tablescape. Sorry, no refunds on reservations cancelled less than one week prior to the event. The deadline for table reservations is Wednesday, September 2nd. To reserve a table please call Larry Gard during business hours at (312) 787-9620 or e-mail him at eoa2009@att.net.

At the event, we ask that you do not bring either dogs or skateboards to ensure everyone enjoys a safe and pleasant evening.

P.S. Watch your mail for exciting new raffle opportunities! Take a chance (even several chances) on an exotic destination, famous restaurants, or a great cash prize!



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Gold Coast Wooden Alley Update



The City of Chicago is currently working on securing a design contract for restoration of the Wooden Alley directly south of the Cardinal's Mansion in the Gold Coast. The Chicago Department of Transportation and the Landmarks Commission held a meeting on June 4 and no objections were presented for the continuation of the preservation project. Currently, CDOT is evaluating the cost of removing the wood block pavers in the Fall in an effort to protect them from continued erosion and damage from winter weather. The removal and storage of the wooden pavers would also allow the opportunity inspect and test the wooden blocks for reuse. A stone surface is proposed so the alleyway remains open for traffic and until the project would begin, possibly in mid-2010.

Halloween at GHOULY Sat, Oct 31, 4 - 7:30 PM
Spooky, Yummy & Scary



SEE YOU AT
GOUDY PARK
(Astor &
Goethe)

Presented by:GCN &
5th Annual
"Halloween at
Ghouly" Committee

The GCN Board is appealing to current members to help strengthen our ranks. Any current member whose dues are up to date and who refers a new dues paying member will receive a gift certificate for Mario's Gold Coast Ristorante or for a Limo ride. Their referral will also receive their choice of gift certificate, so it's a win-win-win situation. So please recruit neighbors, friends and family and they'll thank you for making them part of the fun. For more information, please contact the GCN office at 312-629-6046 or email info@goldcoastneighbors.org.

High Rise Life Safety Ordinance

On Thursday May 7th 43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley and 44th Ward Alderman Tom Tunney hosted an informational meeting regarding the high-rise life safety ordinance. Two representatives from the City of Chicago Building Department were also in attendance to explain the ordinance and answer questions. They encouraged the audience to visit their website for further information; www.cityofchicago.org.

High-rise buildings that have sprinkler systems are exempt from the ordinance, so the issues discussed at the meeting primarily affect those buildings over 80-feet tall that were constructed before 1975. Rather than requiring these older buildings to install sprinklers, the ordinance allows pre-1975 residential high-rises to achieve greater safety levels by adopting a variety of other measures. The measures include such things as fitting self-closure mechanisms on doors, installing advanced elevator controls, and adding smoke detectors in elevator lobbies. These measures (along with a building's existing structural qualities – e.g. fire resistance rating of walls between units) are assigned point values and a building can meet the requirements of the ordinance by attaining a minimum point score. Here are some highlights from the Department of Buildings webpage:

Sprinklers: Residential: Pre-1975 residential buildings are exempt from this requirement.

Life Safety Evaluation: All high rises that are exempt from having sprinklers are required to submit a Life Safety Evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to review the existing life safety features of the building and establish a commitment to repair any deficiencies over a seven-year period (starting in 2005 and ending in 2012). A licensed Architect or Professional Engineer must perform the evaluation.

Voice communication systems: In order for the Fire Department to communicate with building occupants in the case of an emergency and for emergency response teams to communicate with a central incident command post, the new ordinance requires that all pre-1975 high rise residential and commercial buildings have both a one-way and a two-way voice communication system (residential buildings less than 15 stories and 60 units only require a one-way voice communication system). For residential buildings the system must be completed by 2012.

Fire Rated Stairway Doors and Frames in Residential Buildings: In order to protect the path of egress in case of an emergency, the ordinance requires all existing residential buildings have one-hour fire rated doors in stairwells (currently post-1975 high rise residential buildings meet this requirement). The installation of the doors must be completed by 2012.

Life Safety Data Sheet: Existing high rise buildings will be required to provide basic information to the Fire Department regarding the building's standpipe and sprinkler system as well as the building's use, ownership and management.

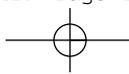
The 50+ people in attendance at the meeting voiced several concerns. Many buildings are finding it difficult to locate knowledgeable consultants and contractors who can assist them. Others spoke of widely disparate cost estimates and the lack of guidance from the Building Department. Another person noted that there were no condominium board representatives on the panel that devised the ordinance. Several people pointed out that given the current economic crisis, their buildings would be hard-pressed to afford the required modification on top of the building façade inspections and repairs they've already been mandated to make. There was concern that the 2012 compliance date was unduly harsh and unrealistic, particularly since the Building Department has been slow to provide feedback to those buildings that have filed a compliance proposal.

Many in attendance questioned the requirement that building communication systems be hard-wired, given that wireless systems are used in Europe. One audience member pointed out that residential high-rises have an exceptional life-safety record and that the financial costs of this ordinance were extraordinary given the historically known risk.

Several condo associations have serious concerns about the ordinance in its present form. Many have recommended that the deadline for compliance be extended and that all stakeholders pursue a dialogue that promotes thoughtful modifications to the ordinance.

For more information or to voice your concern, please contact 42nd Ward Alderman Brendan Reilly at 312.642.4242 or 43rd Ward Alderman Vi Daley at 773.327.9111.

Dr. Larry Gard



***Please Renew* If you are not current (see label below), please use this form.**

If you are a new member, choose either a \$20 ChicagoLimosineService.com certificate toward your \$65 airport ride or two \$10 Mario's Ristorante gift certificates. Renewing members may select either the \$20 limo certificate or one \$10 Mario's gift certificate. Please consider a donation for our General Fund! Kindly send this form with your tax-deductible check or charge card authorization to:
Gold Coast Neighbors or GCN 307 North Michigan Ave. Suite 1803 Chicago, IL 60601

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