

Logan Square Lamppost

Newsletter of the
Logan Square
Chamber of Commerce

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Spring, 2006

Alderman Colon to Address Members at Annual Meeting



What's Happening? The Logan Square Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business Meeting will take place next Tuesday evening. Our keynote speaker, 35th Ward Alderman Rey Colon, will address Logan Square's business growth and discuss his vision for the future.

Who Should Attend? All chamber members and other local businesses are encouraged to attend this event, which is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by leaving a message at (773) 489-3222.

When and Where? The meeting will take place April 18th, 2006 at the Logan Square Library, 3030 W. Fullerton Ave.

6:30 -7:00 pm Dinner Buffet
7:00 -9:00 pm Annual Meeting

Logan Square Farmers Markets: Every Sunday June-Oct

After being piloted in 2005, the Logan Square Farmers Market will be returning and expanding in 2006, and the Chamber is proud to partner with the Mayor's Office of Special Events as a host organization.

Changes for 2006 include:

- Weekly markets every Sunday (it was bi-weekly in 2005)
- New expanded hours, 11am to 3pm
- Health, Nutrition & Community Tent

The Logan Square Farmers Market is the only city-sponsored market that focuses on organic- and sustainable-grown products. Many of the vendors from 2005 will be returning as well as some new ones.

Tentative vendors include:

M's Organic

vegetables, flowers, canned goods and soap from Woodstock

D&K Farms

Floral vendor from Kankakee

Bleeding Heart Bakery

Sweets and baked goods, Chicago

Beeline Honey

Harvested on Chicago's West Side

Seedling Fruit

Fresh, dried and preserved fruit from South Haven, MI



The Logan Square Farmers Market is a great way to build activity and excitement at the heart of Logan Square. Looking into the future, the city has proposed a new permanent public plaza for markets and art fairs, which is depicted in the sketch above. This plaza would be located on CTA-owned land south of the monument and could be built in tandem with redevelopment of the Mega Mall property (read more about that inside). This project is one of several strategies proposed in the Logan Square Open Space Plan to address the lack of greenspace in the community.

'Round the Square

7-11 has opened two convenience stores in Logan Square, one in the old Royal Restaurant at Fullerton & Milwaukee and the other in the new shopping plaza at Armitage and California. Additionally, Royal's old second floor banquet hall is now home to a 7-11 regional training center with the corporate-owned store below being used to teach new owners the tricks of the trade. The Armitage location was opened by the corporate office, but they are looking for a franchisee to take over. Contact Michelle Thibodeau at (312) 443-6160 for more information about this business opportunity. Due to recent ownership changes and restructuring, it looks like two other 7-11 sites will not be moving forward at Logan /Western and Milwaukee/Central Park.

Just down the street on Armitage and pictured below is the second **Foodsmart** (2901 W. Armitage) grocery and convenience store owned by John Mourikes, who also developed the plaza it sits in. He has another 3,000 sq. ft. storefront available next door and can be reached at (773) 384-1125.



In addition to several new convenience stores, Logan Square is now home to several unique and independent BBQ rib joints. 4-year old veteran **Fat Willy's Rib Shack** (2416 W. Schubert) is making the most of their location across



from the AMC City North theatre after expanding their dining room a few years ago. In the last year, the smoke has started drifting up from the south, from **Honey 1 BBQ** (2241 N. Western Ave.) and **Calvin's BBQ** (2540 W. Armitage). While Calvin's sign proudly proclaims its adherence to a policy of 'strictly hickory', word is that Honey 1 prefers a blend of hardwoods in the smoker. We recommend you try all three and decide for yourself.

Camille Martinez's **Digame** language school is going strong and has recently added kids classes. The spring schedule begins April 10 and more info can be had at digamechicago.net. Down the street, **Provenance Food and Wine** has opened at 2528 N. California in late February.

In the building that housed Abril Mexican restaurant, **Layer Resurrected Clothing** (2601 N. Milwaukee) has opened its doors with some throwback style. If you are looking for vintage duds and are tired of sifting at thrift stores, this is the place for you. Owner Steven Negovan carries a colorful array of 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's casual wear. More info and hours at layerchicago.org.

Just across the square and near Dunlay's, **Wolfbait & B-Girls** (3131 W. Logan) has taken over the title of newest retail clothing boutique in the 'hood. Featuring exclusively goods made in Chicago by small-scale designers, their shop was already featured in a spread in Time Out Chicago magazine.

Alliance of Logan Square Organizations (ALSO) is one several local non-profits to join the chamber recently. We welcome their support of the business community and appreciate their hard work to address crime and

violence prevention. ALSO organizes the local cease fire campaign and other youth initiatives. Their 11th annual **Memorial Service and Peace Walk** is set for Saturday, June 3rd. They will march from Palmer Square to Mozart Park, starting at 10am. ALSO also recently welcomed David Cassel as their new executive director.

Additional new and renewing members include:

- Allstate- Maryann Matias
- American Family Insurance
- Alberto Ramos Sr.
- Appetizers And Inc.
- Bark Chicago
- BVL Sales & Service Inc.
- Cherilyn Stewart
- Chicago Public Library
- Dumas Associates
- Dunkin' Donuts (Diversey)
- Fleur, Inc.
- Hachi's Kitchen
- Healthcare Alternative Systems
- Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
- Logan Square Pantry
- Logan Square Preservation
- Lula Café
- Milshire Hotel
- PrimeCare Community Health Center
- Quencher's Saloon
- Quizhpe's Design & Print
- Ryan Realty & Associates
- Shea Law Group
- Sussex & Reilly
- Zina Murray

Chamber News

Putting Logan Square on the Map

The Chamber recently received a grant from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission to inventory and map Logan Square's commercial corridors. Using wireless handhelds, staff and volunteers will undertake curbside business and property surveys to create a wealth of new data.

For example, we are currently counting trees, bus shelters, lampposts and other elements of the streetscape in advance of the Fullerton Ave. streetscaping project. We hope to use this information to expand this improvement project along Fullerton and influence planning for the future reconstruction of Milwaukee Ave.

The Chamber has hired longtime resident Paul Levin as part-time coordinator the 18-month mapping project. You may recognize Paul from his other part-time position working on economic development issues in the 35th Ward office.

City Issues RFP for Mega Mall

Although it has not acquired the property yet, the city's Department of Planning and Development released a Request for Proposals for the Mega Mall site (2500 N. Milwaukee) on April 4th. The city has established broad guidelines for what type of development could occur on this 2-acre site.

Copies of the RFP are available at City Hall, in room 1000. Proposals are due to the city by July 7th. Once the department reviews the proposals, it will likely hold a community meeting to solicit input. For more information, contact the department's project manager, Mike Weber (312) 744-4163.

Should the city buy this land for redevelopment? If so, what would you like to see developed on the Mega Mall site? The Chamber wants to hear from its members about this important issue. If you have an opinion, give us a call and tell us what you think, no strings attached.

KEBIC Business Fair

Our neighbor to the north, Kedzie-Elston Business and Industrial Council (KEBIC) will be holding its 3rd

Annual Business Fair on April 29th from 9am-1pm on the second floor at Park National Bank, 3515 W. Irving Park Rd.

Logan Square Business Guide

Over the next several months, we will be reaching out to you to list or advertise in our fresh, new business and community guide. All Chamber members automatically receive a basic listing, so if you've already paid your dues, don't worry about missing the boat.

The details are still being worked out, but advertising rates and distribution arrangements will be available in a few weeks, so stay tuned.

New Special Service Area Created in Wicker Park

Just to our east, the Wicker Park Bucktown Chamber worked to create a new Special Service Area (SSA) to better maintain its business district. The SSA will assess a small property tax on properties in the business district and use the money for cleaning, greening, security and maintenance. A local board of commissioners from the district (appointed by the Mayor) decides how the money is actually spent and the Chamber will handle the day-to-day management.

There are over thirty SSA districts in the city and each one is different. While many SSAs hire sidewalk cleaning crews and companies to shovel snow in the winter, others fund business marketing or parking strategies.

The main downside of an SSA is that it raises taxes at a time when commercial taxes are already increasing. However, a small investment in improving the area helps businesses succeed and can also raise property values.



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Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

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Buy Local, By Locals: Campaign Comes to Logan Square

A new campaign is launching across Chicago with a message of "Buy Local". Businesses connected with **Local First Chicago** place a sign in their front door or window indicating that they are a locally-owned business and help spread the word about the benefits of shopping, eating and drinking locally. The campaign provides stickers, brochures and thank-you cards that businesses can also use.

What makes a business 'local'?

There are several ways businesses support the local economy, but for this campaign the focus is on who owns the business. To be a member, more than 50% of the ownership must live within 25 miles of the main place of business. Local businesses are also able to make decisions about the business at all levels, including the name, look and feel of the business, menus and products sold, where inventory is purchased, marketing, accounting and distribution of profits.

Who is sponsoring this campaign?

Local First Chicago is a network of locally owned, independent businesses joined together to keep money and character in our neighborhoods and build a thriving local living economy.

Why a Local First Campaign?

Chicago is a city of neighborhoods. Local First Chicago believes that Chicago Shoppers will respond to a campaign that helps them keep money and business in their own communities. A 2004 study in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood showed that locally owned, independent businesses recirculate far more money into the local economy than chain businesses. For every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 stayed in the Chicago economy compared to \$43 for a national chain store.

How can my business join in?

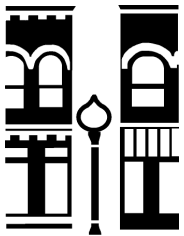
Participating businesses pay annual



dues ranging from \$100-\$500 to Local First Chicago. Since we are a partnering organization, Logan Square Chamber members get a 20% discount. Call Josh Deth at the Chamber office for a signup form or more information.

What do we get for joining?

All members receive the basic campaign material kit plus listing on the Local First Chicago brochure and website. A \$30 campaign kit only option is also available that includes a window sign, brochures and stickers.



Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

3147 W. Logan Boulevard, Suite 12

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(773)489-3222

Come to the Annual Meeting!

Next Tuesday, April 18th
Logan Square Library

Dinner @ 6:30
Meeting @ 7pm