



Logan Square Lamppost

Newsletter of the
Logan Square
Chamber of Commerce

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Businesses Step Up To Plate for Haas Park Expansion

Over the past year, many local businesses have 'stepped up to the plate' with cash donations for the expansion of Haas Park at Fullerton & Washtenaw. In January, the Park District held a press conference to announce their \$2.6 million purchase of the Worldwide Distributors warehouse just west of the park. The brick warehouse is slated for demolition along with the existing park fieldhouse as part of a plan to expand the park's acreage by 75 percent. The Park District will then construct a new fieldhouse with a gymnasium, clubrooms and office space. In addition, outdoor amenities will include a new playground, ballfield, spray pool and increased open space.

There is a long history behind expansion plans for Haas that haven't always sat well with local businesses, but the current plans are a 'win-win' situation for all involved. Early city plans to acquire businesses property east of the park through eminent domain fell apart several years ago, partly due to business opposition. However, persistent leadership by Haas Park Advisory Council and a dose of good timing made the current project possible. With commitments from local donors to help cover transaction costs, the Trust for Public Land worked quickly to acquire the Worldwide building and hold it for later transfer to the Park District.



Businesses and individuals donated \$17,500 to the Haas campaign, which was a team effort of Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Haas Park Advisory Council, Logan Square Parks Alliance and the Chamber. Chief among local donors was Liberty Bank who recently made a second donation to bring their commitment up to \$7,500. These contributions, along with \$10,000 from 1st Ward Alderman Manny Flores and a \$25,000 match by Local Initiatives Support Coalition enabled the property acquisition to move forward.

The Haas expansion is part of a concerted effort by the city to increase open space in Logan Square. Other projects include new skateboard and dog parks under and adjacent to the Kennedy overpass at Logan Boulevard and the creation of a 2.7 mile elevated greenway on the Bloomingdale Avenue railroad embankment. A public market plaza is also planned at the heart of

Logan Square on CTA-owned land next to the Mega Mall. This site could host the Logan Square Farmer's Market, art fairs and other community events.

For more information about the Haas Park Expansion Campaign or any of the open space projects mentioned contact Josh Deth at (773) 489-3222.

Haas Park Expansion Business Donations

Bob Inn Tavern
Buona Terra
Café Bolero
Coldwell Banker
Cozy Corner Diner
Dunlay's on the Square
El Cid
El Nandu
Huber Cabinet Works
Liberty Bank and Savings
Midas Muffler
No Friction Cafe
Northern Trust Bank
Quencher's Saloon
Sai Mai
Simone Angelia's Boutique
Sonny's Pizza
Z & B Properties

'Round the Square

The Chamber recently welcomed **National City Bank** Vice President Bruce Lines as a new board member. Bruce is heading up National City's new Armitage and California branch and is looking forward to getting involved with the community. A few blocks east on Armitage, mom and pop shop **Junior Foods** is under new ownership and continues to offer fresh meat and produce.

Sushi has arrived on California with the recent opening of **Hachi's Kitchen** at 2521 N. California, just south of **Buona Terra**. Jim Bee, chef and owner of Sai Café in Old Town for over 20 years has brought his experience to bear in this new restaurant, which was developed in partnership with neighboring business, **Dumas Associates**. Step inside and you'll see that the restaurant's design and construction was certainly a labor of love. Hachi's has a liquor license and is open for dinner Tues-Sun 4:30-11pm.

Across the street, **Provenance Food & Wine** is getting ready to open for business. Logan Square resident Tracy Kellner plans to sell a wide selection of affordable and hand-crafted wines, some microbrews (no liquor) and a limited selection of food items including Red Hen breads. Her space was formerly occupied by the fabulous **Fleur**, which relocated its flower shop to the Logan Square Auditorium building earlier this year.

While many people were sad to see **Fixture** relocate to Roscoe Village, it is great to see **No Friction Café** make a successful move within Logan Square. Their relocation south to a newly-rehabbed space at 2023 N.

California offers more comfortable seating for patrons and the wireless internet, drinks and sandwiches available at their old spot.



Another new Chamber board member is Jill Bishop of **Workforce Language Services**. They offers customized, onsite Occupational Spanish and Workforce English as a Second Language trainings to help companies increase efficiencies, decrease turnover and better serve their Spanish-speaking customers. Her current clients include the Palmer House and East Bank Club.

Wrightwood Skewers & Café at 3640 W. Wrightwood, opened several months ago with breakfast, lunch and dinner menus along the quaint commercial strip west of Central Park. Their specialty consists of international skewers from around the world grilled to perfection and served with rice, vegetables and sauces.

But the newest restaurant in the neighborhood (sense a trend?) is **Fonda Del Mar** at 3749 W. Fullerton. This seafood eatery is a partnership between Angel Hernandez and Luis Montero, who hail from Mia Francesca and Raul Arreola, who spent a dozen years under Rick Bayless at Frontera Grill/Topolobampo. We've already received several glowing reviews of their great tasting dishes and presentation.

Additional new and renewing business members include:

Armitage Baptist Church

Boulevard Bikes

Chicago Business Systems

Coldwell Banker - Carolyn Fortman

Law Offices of Mario Correa

Linda's Flowers & Creations

Rangel, Rangel & Associates

SomerCor 504 Inc.

Threads Etc.

U.S. Cellular

Vas Foremost Liquors

Viking Ski Shop

Walgreens - Milwaukee

Whirlaway Lounge

Wordspace Press

3Verb Inc. Website & Data Design

**We need
business leaders!**

**Logan Square Chamber has
several openings on its Board
of Directors.**

**Call Josh Deth at
(773) 489-3222 if you would
like to help us build a
stronger chamber.**

Chamber News

Chamber Moves to New Office

In December, we moved into a new office in the historic Logan Square Auditorium building at 3147 W. Logan Boulevard. We are in suite 12 on the second floor above the storefronts and below the auditorium. Our second floor neighbors are a nice snapshot of Logan Square's business diversity and include a doctor, dentist, lawyer, architect, accountant and a web-based media company. Our fax number has also changed.

Logan Square Lampost is a publication of:

Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

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Jill Bishop
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John Doherty
Kimball Pharmacy

Bruce Lines
National City Bank

Bob Olson
Viking Ski Shop

Kevin Womac
Boulevard Bikes

Staff

Josh Deth, Executive Director
josh@loganchamber.org

SBIF grants still available

Thinking of rehabbing your commercial space? Money remains available for Small Business Improvement Fund grants within the Fullerton-Milwaukee TIF district. Please call Josh Deth at (773) 489-3222 to see if your business qualifies for a \$50,000 building improvement grant from the city.

For properties outside the TIF district, the Facade Rebate Program can help you improve your building's appearance from the street.

Chamber Working to Lift Fullerton Rush-hour Parking Ban

Responding to requests from several business owners, the Chamber has asked the City to investigate removing the rush hour parking restrictions on Fullerton between Western and California. The restrictions put a damper on business activity at an important time of day and their removal could help spur new business development. Please contact Alderman Manny Flores (1st) at (773) 278-0101 and let him know you support this change, which will also help control speeding and keep the sidewalk a safe place to be.

City Moves Forward with Acquisition of Mega Mall

Following a hearing of the Community Development Commission, the City is moving forward with acquiring the Mega Mall property. The City is not required to move forward with this plan, but has authorized staff to perform due diligence necessary to complete a purchase. At the hearing, Mr. Park, the Mall's owner testified against the city's plan, but also mentioned that he was also considering redeveloping the site.

The Department of Buildings shut down the Mall on June 10th for health and safety violations. Given the large

scale of this site, the Chamber is monitoring this situation and seeking input from the business community about its potential redevelopment by the city.

2006 Membership Dues

The Chamber has revised its membership dues structure for 2006. Previously, we had a simple, flat-rate system for all businesses. Following the lead of most other chambers in Chicago, the board recently adopted the following tiered dues structure to help provide solid funding for our operations in the coming year:

Small Business - \$75
Large Business - \$200
Financial Institutions - \$500
Nonprofits/New businesses - \$50

Business Directory Set For Spring

All members will receive a free listing in the new Logan Square business directory, which will be available in the spring. Advertising opportunities are also available and rates and sizes will be featured in the next newsletter.

Logan Square Farmer's Market

The Chamber will be partnering with the Mayor's Office of Special Events to organize the Logan Square Farmer's Market in 2006. Local resident Shani Gitter started up a new Sunday afternoon market last year featuring sustainable and organic products on the side boulevard at Logan and Milwaukee. If there is sufficient interest from vendors, we will hold weekly markets in 2006 starting in mid June. At this time, we are seeking input from the community about the time and location of the market in 2006.

We are looking for volunteers to help promote the market and staff an information table during the season. Please contact Josh at (773) 489-3222 if you are interested



Q & A: Chicago's New Clean Indoor Air Ordinance

1. What is the Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance?

A new Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance was passed by the Chicago City Council in December 2005. The ordinance replaces current law, passed in 1988, which generally requires employers to provide non-smoking areas in their workplaces and to designate them as such.

The new law is intended to protect the health of patrons and workers against the dangers of tobacco smoke, including secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is known to cause cancer and heart disease, and "safe" levels of secondhand smoke have not been identified.

The new Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance regulates smoking in and near the entrance to all public buildings and enclosed workplaces and facilities. It establishes an immediate prohibition on smoking in specified public facilities; provides an opportunity for owners of restaurants with bar areas and owners of bar/taverns to allow smoking until July 1, 2008; and exempts exclusively private residences, some hotel and motel sleeping rooms, retail tobacco stores and certain private clubs or lodges from regulation.

2. When and where is smoking being prohibited?

As of January 16, 2006 smoking is prohibited in:

- * All enclosed workplaces;
- * All restaurants without a bar area;
- * All restaurant areas more than 15 feet from the bar counter;
- * Public places including government buildings, convention facilities, laundromats, public transportation facilities and shopping malls;
- * Public restrooms, lobbies, reception areas, hallways and other common use areas in public buildings, apartment buildings and condomini-

- um buildings;
- * Within 15 feet of the entrance to enclosed public places;
- * Recreational areas including enclosed sports arenas, stadiums, swimming pools, ice and roller rinks, arcades and bowling alleys; and
- * City government vehicles

As of July 1, 2008 smoking will also be prohibited in:

- * All Restaurants, including Restaurants with Bar Areas; and
- * All Bars and Taverns

3. What areas are exempt from regulation under the Chicago Clean Indoor Air Ordinance?

- * Private Residences. Smoking is not prohibited in private residences unless they are used as a licensed childcare, adult care facility, health care facility, or a home based business of any kind that is open to the public.
- * Hotel and Motel Sleeping Rooms. Smoking is permitted in hotel and motel sleeping rooms that are rented to guests and are designated as smoking rooms. However, not more than twenty five percent (25%) of the rooms rented to guests in a hotel or motel may be designated as smoking rooms.
- * Retail Tobacco Stores. Smoking is permitted in retail tobacco stores as long as the smoke from the store does not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited
- * Private Clubs and Lodges. Private clubs and lodges, provided that the club or lodge is a not-for-profit association that has been in active and continuous existence for at least three years and has a membership of more than 50 bona fide members who pay membership dues on an annual or other periodic basis.

Smoking is also not regulated by this ordinance in unenclosed, outdoor areas that are at least 15 feet away from the entrance to an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.

4. Who will be enforcing the ordinance?

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has primary responsibility for enforcement. The Department of Business Affairs and Licensing (DBA) will work along with CDPH to ensure that licensed businesses comply with the requirements, and that bars, taverns, restaurants and restaurants with bar areas are correctly designated.

The Chicago Police Department is fully informed of the ordinance, and as with other ordinances, the Police have authority to write tickets to violators if necessary. However, because CDPH is principally responsible for enforcement, the public is advised not to call upon the Police, but to call 311 or email us to register complaints with the Health Department about violations of the ordinance.

Business owners, operators and managers are expected to require compliance by their patrons, tenants and visitors. However, if any person becomes unruly and refuses to comply with the ordinance after once being informed by management, the business should consider contacting the Chicago Police Department rather than risk escalating the confrontation.

5. How will the City enforce the ordinance?

The Department of Public Health and the Department of Business Affairs and Licensing will monitor compliance with the ordinance during routine inspections.

The City will also respond to complaints made to 311. Businesses will be notified of complaints, but after the third complaint, the Department of Public Health will send inspectors to investigate the establishment.

Answers provided by the Chicago Department of Public Health

Save the date:
**Logan Square Chamber of Commerce
Annual Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, April 18th at 7pm, location TBA