

Newsletter EXTRA: June 2009

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[Chicago Journal Blogs](#)

Track the very latest about what's happening in the 'hood by reading the blogs at the new and improved Chicago Journal website. SLN Board Member and regular Chicago Journal contributor, Bonnie McGrath, writes as the **South Loop Observer**, and Journal Editor, Micah Maidenberg writes the **Near Loop Wire**.

Happenings

Dearborn Park Garage Sale

Sat. July 18,
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Rain date: July 19
9th St. and Plymouth Ct.
Save the date: find a good home for your can-no-longer-keep possessions or shop for some excellent bargains to bring into your home. Or just come to browse and see all the great stuff your neighbors have. Questions? Call 312-961-3434.

Note: Sellers must remove all articles from the park at the conclusion of the sale. There will be no charity

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! A few important items came in after the deadline for the June newsletter, so I'm sending a newsletter Extra Issue. I hope you find this helpful.

Jones Expansion Still Undecided

by Enrique Perez, SLN Member

On May 18, the **Jones College Prep** Local School Council (LSC) sponsored a community forum to present an update on the Jones expansion and to take comments. The following was the presentation made:

Chicago Public School (CPS) Plan: entirely new facility, \$130m (\$90m TIF, \$40m CPS); capacity increase - selective enrollment from 750 to 900; option of 900 + 300 neighborhood students for total of 1,200 capacity; sale of existing building est. \$20m; mayoral support; aldermanic interest in neighborhood component; parking for 75 spaces; completion date 2012/2013

Discussion Points:

- No official decision yet re: capacity of 900 or 1,200 (neighborhood inclusion)
- Project is moving forward, architectural design progressing: Penny Varnava
- Geographical boundaries for attendance area not known or set
- Values: preserving college prep curriculum/program; maintaining ethnic & economic diversity; continuation of "Targeted Recruitment & Support Program" (TRSP) social justice mechanism; concern for integrated & unified student body

LSC Action Plan:

- Priority of JCP maintaining integrity of academic program & social justice bent
- Necessary long-term assurance that JCP enrollment of local students capped at 300
- Admissions Formulae (in order of preference):
 - All via selective enrollment process-weighted scoring for neighborhood (principal discretion included)
 - Neighborhood students admitted but integrated into comprehensive program
 - If demand exceeds 300 local students (total in HS), a lottery system implemented

Next Jones Expansion Update Meeting:

Monday, June 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

at Jones College Prep, 606 S. State St., in the cafeteria.

CPS officials are scheduled to give an update on the Jones College Prep expansion at this LSC meeting. Attendees wishing to ask questions or make comments will need to sign in at the start of the meeting. The Jones LSC normally meets on the third Monday of the month. For June, however, the meeting will be on the 2nd Monday (June 8). Everyone is welcome to attend - parents, students, teachers, staff, and community residents.

As of now, no other meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Jones expansion. While it is reasonable to assume that an additional meeting will be held, especially in light of the fact that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) money will be used, the June 8 meeting will give the community a

pick-up.

chance to hear directly from CPS and to ask questions or express concerns.

Keep in mind that the scope of this project has been expanded to include a whole new school facility instead of just a simple expansion, including a much taller structure and a footprint going down to Polk Street. While CPS generally decides what it is going to do regarding its schools (think school closings), the fact that TIF money will be used gives the community a real chance to weigh in, via the Alderman who generally approves TIF funding allocations, as to what it would like to see. *Since no decision has yet been made if the expansion will include a neighborhood component, the community's input becomes all the more critical.*

South Loop School LSC Meeting

by Dona Nishi, SLN Member / South Loop School LSC Community Rep.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the community forum on May 20th at South Loop School, and to those who were able to express their thoughts on the school's growth.

The South Loop School Local School Council (LSC) has a committee set up to work with the school and the community to create events and coordinate communication, called **South Loop Connections**. We will be meeting next **Tuesday night, June 9, at the school - 1212 S. Plymouth Ct., at 6:30 p.m.**

If you cannot attend but have a question or would like to suggest an activity on which the school and community can collaborate, please feel free to [email me \(Dona Nishi\)](#) or [Dennis Beninato](#).

The agenda for next Tuesday's meeting is as follows:

- I. Meeting called to order
- II. Old Business:
 - A. Mentoring program
 - B. Second Ward Clean and Green - set dates for Fall and Spring Clean and Green for 2009 / 2010 school year
 - C. Facebook Group Page
- III. New Business:
 - A. Community Forum questions and responses
 - B. Traffic congestion suggestions and ideas
 - C. Plan one additional event?
- IV. Comments or questions from attendees
- V. Schedule next meeting - August 11, 2009, 6:30 pm
- VI. Adjourn

If you have South Loop news or event info to share with your neighbors, I invite you to send me the scoop at

Helen@SouthLoopNeighbors.org. **Deadline for each month's newsletter is three days prior to the end of the previous month.**

Sincerely,
Helen Kaplow
Newsletter Editor
SLN VP, Membership

Save

Sweet Petal: A flower shop to brighten your day

It's summer and time for flowers. Sweet Petal has what you crave.
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