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LCA WATCHDOG #3



YUP!

There are important reasons aplenty for joining LCA

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Your Board of Directors thinks it's time the low number moves upward. But board members know LCA membership won't grow unless there is a joining of forces to increase membership. The subject got good attention at your board's last meeting. A heady question kept cropping up:

Why is membership in LCA important? Fair question deserving of good answers. [READ MORE](#)

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Paul Maggio

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The urge to purchase just might overwhelm you**



We're open for business

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651 West Armitage. Sales and traffic have been, if you will, biking along very nicely since day one. [READ MORE](#)



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YUP!

There are important reasons aplenty for joining LCA

By Tom McGavin
WATCHDOG EDITOR

As a member of Lincoln Central Association, count yourself one of a select few. Membership hovers around 250 in a neighborhood whose residents number in the thousands.

Your Board of Directors thinks it's time the low number moves upward. But board members know LCA membership won't grow unless there is a joining of forces to increase membership. The subject got good attention at your board's last meeting. A heady question kept cropping up:

Why is membership in LCA important? Fair question deserving of good answers.

So members agreed everyone should go away and ponder the question. No quick answers. No off-the-cuff stuff. That they did. And submitted some pretty solid thinking in writing over the ensuing days. Following is a summary of thoughts from various board members:

"If you like living in Lincoln Park, give your ideas a voice," says Sally Drucker. "By joining LCA you will have the opportunity to make your neighborhood the best it can be."

'A voice ... for over 52 years'

- Rodger Owen

Board President Rodger Owen makes several points on the value of LCA membership, including: discuss issues and interests in a neighborhood forum that meets every month; a voice of the neighborhood for over 52 years; (LCA is) still here representing you after the election.

Writes new board member Paul Maggio: "After attending my first board meeting, I can see that board members care about the neighborhood and LCA is important to the community. I appreciate the diversity of the board and what each individual contributes. The newsletter and the emails that go out to members on current issues that affect the LCA region keep people up to date on what is happening in our area."

‘Doing my part to keep our neighborhood liveable’

- Jennifer Uson

Board member Jennifer Uson, who balances a professional career with raising young children, feels neighborhood associations such as LCA must remain viable so that families can enjoy the benefits of city living “rather than fleeing to the suburbs.”

“I grew up in the DePaul area until the 3rd grade, and I loved living in the city,” she reminisces. “I could walk to the playground and the corner grocery store (Bart’s on Altgeld and Racine) and buy my own candy.

“At night, I would stand outside our apartment and watch for my parents to walk down our block from the el station, and I would run to meet them. I went to a great school – St. Clements. So I want to raise my kids in Chicago, not in the suburbs. But that means that our neighborhood and Chicago overall, has to be safe and vibrant, with good schools, parks, cultural institutions, job opportunities, So being an active member in LCA is one way of doing my part to keep our neighborhood livable.”

‘Nothing ever should be taken for granted’

- Tom McGavin

Your editor grew up in Detroit a long time ago. When my hometown was a dynamic, vibrant city with wonderful parks, great schools, marvelous public transportation, a population that made it the nation’s fifth largest metropolis. Sadly, no need to spend words recapping what fate has befallen the “Arsenal of Democracy” in recent decades. All the world knows. Motown’s ills are ample inspiration for this writer to be involved in LCA. Nothing ever should be taken for granted.

Your board suggests that every member go get a neighbor to join LCA. Simple as that. Show them this article, and they’ll eagerly join up. That would put our ranks close to 500 Sounds pretty robust, especially compared to 250.

(Editor’s Note: We’d like to hear why you think LCA membership is important. Send me your thoughts at tmcgavin@rubloff.com).

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LCA adds two new members to board, re-elects three others

By David Varnerin

Lincoln Central Association's 2010 annual meeting and election was recently held at Bacino's Restaurant on Lincoln Ave. Some 30 members and directors attended. Alderman Vi Daley and staff assistant Chuck Eastwood also were present.

The main order of business was the election of two new members to the board and the reelection of three current directors.

New directors are Brian Kasal and Paul Maggio. Brian is a long-time member of Lincoln Central and a former director, having served on the board in 1998 and 1999. An experienced financial professional, he recently joined Morgan Stanley as a senior vice president/portfolio manager. Brian and his wife Tripti have been active in many local organizations, including the Menominee Club and the Old Town Triangle Association.

Originally from Kenosha, Wisconsin, Maggio has lived in Chicago for over twenty years. He and his family moved into the Lincoln Park neighborhood in 2008. Paul is an experienced financial professional and a senior vice president with Newedge USA. He concentrates on financial futures for institutional clients. Paul and his wife Marisa enjoy cooking for family and friends and traveling.



Brian Kasal



Paul Maggio

President Rodger Owen and Director Richard Harris were elected to additional one-year terms, and David Varnerin was elected to a two-year term as secretary.

Alderman Daley addressed current issues facing the neighborhood. She updated the status of the proposed plans for redevelopment of Lincoln Park Hospital and encouraged individuals and groups in the neighborhood to work together to reach a consensus on the project.

A highlight of the evening for attendees was some outstanding food and spirited visiting and conversation.

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Beware of entering the Dutch Bike Shop The urge to purchase might just overwhelm you



We're open for business say Vince Spina, left, and Will Brehman of the Dutch Bike Shop on Armitage.

Multi-colored tulips. Whirring windmills. Iconic wooden shoes. All images likely to be conjured up when one's thoughts turn to the Dutch Netherlands.

But bicycles?

Not hardly, at least not in Chicago's Lincoln Park area. Don't be so sure in the future, though. That's because the Dutch Bike Co. opened shop last fall at 651 West Armitage. Sales and traffic have been, if you will, biking along very nicely since day one.

The Dutch, you see, have been designing and building world-class bikes for generations. Their products are omni-present on the streets and by-ways of city's all throughout Europe and are enjoying growing popularity all around the globe.

The Dutch Bike Co. turned the key on its first retail shop some three years ago in Seattle, owner/principal David Schmidt informed in a phone interview. He said that the company in that time has also established a strong Web presence.

Chicago came next, Seattle resident Schmidt informed, "...because I always liked the city. Besides, my wife is from Illinois." One senses that the entrepreneurial Schmidt knows a thing or two about starting a business. And that his due diligence included understanding that Chicago is one of the country's most bike-friendly towns. Not to mention that Mayor Daley is a big proponent of the eco-friendly mode for getting around.

A recent visit to the Lincoln Park shop found store manager Vince Spina eager to count the countless attributes of the cycles that are being bought up in growing numbers, even though current "Work Cycles" brand models (six in all) range in price from \$1,300 to \$2,100.

"First of all, our bikes are built to last a lifetime," Spina emphasized. "They are precision engineered and only the best, most durable materials are used in the manufacturing process. One example is the frame which is constructed of 100 per cent high-quality steel. Alloys are never used in our bikes," he said.

Spina pointed out that the gears are immune to the harsh elements of Chicago winters because they are snugly encased in a unique hub. The tires are made with Kevlar threads (the same material used in bullet proof vests) so flat tires are virtually a non-issue. And chances are excellent bikes leaving the shop likely will perform "...for years and years before making a return visit for adjustments or repairs," Spina said.

As for a profile of the typical Dutch Bike Co. customer, Spina with a smile said it is definitely not the Lance Armstrong, high-performance type person. "Our customer is looking for a bike for everyday transportation needs. A bike that by design is comfortable and very utilitarian," he observed.



The Dutch Bike Company is well equipped and highly capable to service what it sells.

Common uses are commuting to work, going grocery shopping, taking the kids sightseeing in the park or along the lake, even giving the family pooch a break from hoofing it.

If all goes according to plans, the company will be adding another line of outstanding bikes in late spring/early summer in a lower price range (\$500 - \$900).

"We get a lot of curiosity seekers in the shop," says Will Brehman, who sports both mechanic's bib and salesman's hat. "But tire kicking is where it starts, just as with cars. People come in three or four times before making a decision to buy. Sure, we are in the bike business. But we are very much in the people business, too. We love to have visitors to the shop," he said.



The perfect model for toting groceries, tots and tons of other stuff, as clearly demonstrated by these capering Dutch Bike staffers.

Dutch Bike is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The store is closed on Monday. Phone 312 265-0175. Web site www.dutchbikeco.com.

Reported by Tom McGavin / Photos by David Varnerin

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Neither freezing temperatures nor wintry snow blasts kept dedicated workers from pursuing their mission of transforming the South Pond in Lincoln Park into a magnificent boardwalk of nature. Through their persistent efforts, an amazing new urban ecosystem will be ready this summer for all to behold.

The new Nature Boardwalk will provide a haven for native birds, frogs, fish and insects while serving as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages. Visitors will enjoy close views of pond life beneath the shadows of Chicago's skyscrapers. Get ready to plunge into a new urban ecosystem-beginning summer 2010.

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