



## President's Message

For the past several years, the Lincoln Central Assoc. Board of Directors has established priorities early in the year to focus our efforts in a unified direction. At our February meeting, we finalized our priorities for 2007.

### We plan to:

- Grow our membership from 250 members to more than 300.
- Publish two newsletters per year.
- Manage our expenses to again produce positive cash flow for the year.
- Work to achieve passage of an ordinance to keep backyards, at grade, in Lincoln Central.
- Update and improve our web page.
- Increase our broadcast e-mail list by at least 20 percent.
- Host one fundraising event or more, to generate at least \$2,500.
- Focus on one new open-space improvement project.
- Recruit volunteers to join our Board and to join our zoning, finance and publications committees.

The two priorities that affect the community the most are the **backyard ordinance** and the **open-space improvement project**. We have been working with Alderman Daley for some time now to draft language in a proposed zoning change that would establish at-grade backyards and eliminate tall breezeways from our neighborhood. We feel it is important for the health and beauty of our community to require that rear yards provide space for adequate drainage, allow for large trees to be planted and prevent structures that eliminate light. We expect the ordinance to be introduced this year.



**Our open-space project** last year was a refurbished parkway on the north side of Bauler Playground. We still have some ground cover to be installed this spring, but overall that project is completed. We now are looking at what we could do to improve the open space on the northwest

corner of North Avenue and Larrabee Street. We have assisted in the maintenance of this area for the past several years, but feel this area could look a lot better. After all, it's a prominent "gateway" to Lincoln Central. Should the area be returned to an open prairie look? Should we fill it with trees? Should it be a dog-friendly area? By the end of 2007 we expect to have raised the funds needed to start improvements to that area.

If you have **other suggestions** regarding what Lincoln Central should work on this year, let us know. We are always open to suggestions and look forward to hearing your comments.

**Richard Rausch**  
President



## More Oz Park Improvements on the Way

By David Varnerin

There's no place like Oz Park



Since its creation in 1967, Oz Park has benefited from the generosity of its numerous users, area residents and local businesses. Private support and donations made possible many of the park's amenities, such as the Children's Playground (1988) and the reconstruction of the athletic field now named in honor of Dorothy Melamerson (1996 and 1997). The Oz Park Advisory Council spearheaded additional projects, such as the Emerald City Gardens and the statues of

characters. The final statue, of Dorothy and Toto, is set for installation in May.

Now, additional benefactors are stepping forward to fund further improvements.

Since all of the sculptures including Dorothy and Toto are fully funded,

the Council decided to focus on the Children's Playground, specifically replacing the surface area. Heavy use over the past 19 years has caused the existing sectional rubber surface to deteriorate. The Council submitted a proposal to the Park District to get a firm cost for the project and then



worked with Alderman Daley to get the project approved. As a result, a new rubberized surface will be installed this year. This surface will be similar to the surfaces now in place at the renovated play areas at Ogden Mall Park and LaSalle Language Academy. Some play equipment may be repaired or replaced as part of the project.

The Advisory Council has established a playground improvement committee to evaluate what further projects beyond those already in the works should be undertaken. Anyone interested in getting involved with the Advisory Council or in contributing time or money for the Oz Park Playground should contact Judy Johanson at (773) 929-2034 or e-mail the Advisory Council at [ozwitch@aol.com](mailto:ozwitch@aol.com).



## Orange-rated Buildings

Lincoln Central is honored to harbor over 100 orange-rated buildings. An orange-rated building possesses an architectural feature or historical association that is significant within the context of its community. Orange-rated buildings can be landmarked. An early work (1880-1889) of Adler and Sullivan, 2310-2312 N. Lincoln Ave., was listed as “orange”, but was later designated a Chicago Landmark. Yorndorf Hall (northeast corner of Halsted Street and North Avenue) is another outstanding example of an orange-rated building within LCA boundaries that was later designated a landmark building. Other orange-rated buildings that have been landmarked within our boundaries include the Burling row houses in the 2200 block of Burling. Go to [www.lincolncentral.org/OrangeRatedBuildings.htm](http://www.lincolncentral.org/OrangeRatedBuildings.htm) to find details and photographs of orange-rated buildings on our streets.

What can we do to preserve such historic buildings? Lincoln Central’s zoning committee links homeowners wishing to sell with builders who preserve and enhance old buildings instead of tearing them down. Why do we favor preservation over teardowns? There’re lots of reasons, from the sublime (the beauty of our historic streetscapes) to the everyday (demolition and new construction often pollutes our air, disturbs existing structures and robs the community of land that can soak up rain water, as well as mature trees).

Lincoln Central’s board and committees discuss these issues at monthly board meetings, periodic public meetings and

each and every time a builder or homeowner requests an exception to the rear-yard space required by Chicago’s zoning code. Lincoln Central believes that Chicago’s back yards are unique urban



spaces that must be preserved, enhanced and protected. When a breezeway of any size is built, light, air, ground soil and neighbors’ views are changed for the worse.

When applying for an exception to the rear-yard requirement, builders and homeowners claim back yards are unsafe. Many of us have lived in Lincoln Central as long as 40 years, and we think it’s a pleasure – not a danger – to step outside and take a short walk to the garage. Birds nest in and feed off of our trees; sprouting perennials remind us that we’ve shaken off another Chicago winter.

We look to other neighborhood and preservation groups when forming these decisions. The following comes from Preservation Chicago’s website: “Communities have to collectively decide what factors represent a livable environment and then balance those factors against their expected or assumed profit... if community residents value the beauty of their architecture, the scale of their neighborhood, the existing greenery and trees that may be destroyed by continued development, the consequences of their neighborhood becoming a continuous construction zone, or the possibility that new larger development may increase flooding or other water problems...”

Join Lincoln Central’s board or one of its committees and help us preserve our streetscapes, historic homes and unique back yards.

[www.lincolncentral.org](http://www.lincolncentral.org)

**Wow!** Check out Lincoln Central’s newly designed web site ([www.lincolncentral.org](http://www.lincolncentral.org)). Thanks to new board member Evan Reiffel, LCA’s website has a great new look and many new or soon-to-be activated features. Log on and check out the fantastic banner Evan created, using images from Oz Park and Lincoln Central’s view south to the Loop.



## Historic Stable Saved

In zoning and planning news, **a developer dropped a request for a wide breezeway connector** planned for a multi-lot home on Howe Street after Lincoln Central voted unanimously (13-0) to oppose the application. Lincoln Central was alerted to the planned rear-yard breezeway, which was wide enough to accommodate a study and a bathroom, by homeowners in the area concerned with lots that are completely filled. Lincoln Central urges homeowners to be vigilant about planned construction, and to bring your concerns to Lincoln Central and Alderman Vi Daley. Your voice counts!

At another Howe Street property, **a homeowner wished to expand his garage**, making it into a three-stall space. The existing two-story brick garage had been a stable, built around 1870; its hay loft and side windows (so horses could get air) are still apparent. Because the building is two stories, the homeowner would exceed the allowable FAR with the addition of a one-story structure, so his application was denied by the City Zoning Dept. The garage is not protected by landmark status. The owner could tear down the structure and build a new one-story, three-car garage. Neighbors on both sides of the structure did not object to the addition, citing the value of old buildings. The owner and Lincoln Central feel that such a building enhances the texture, beauty and history of the neighborhood. Lincoln Central unanimously (9-0) supported the homeowner's application.

A developer again approached Lincoln Central to support **a conversion from residential to commercial** for a parcel on the 2100 block of Halsted Street. Lincoln Central had earlier supported the application to commercial but not to the density the developer was seeking, which was out of character with neighboring commercial properties. The developer has dropped the application.

Zoning welcomes new committee members **Brant Serxner, Doug Jensen, Tom Ward** and **Brad Boersma**. If you're interested in zoning and planning issues, join us. We are a committee of Lincoln Central Assoc. and report to the LCA board; we meet 10 days before Lincoln Central's board meeting, mid-month, Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Lincoln Park High School. Meetings are open to the public.

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## Fundraising

For the past two years, Lincoln Central Assoc. hosted Dickens' Fest, a fun-filled winter holiday event beside Lincoln Central Park, at Lincoln Avenue and Dickens Street. We had music, entertainment, vendors, jugglers, carriage rides and a visit from Santa Claus. It has been our annual fundraiser as well as an exciting and unusual neighborhood event, since so few in Chicago are held during the winter. We found out why: winter weather is too harsh and unpredictable to make such an event a worthy endeavor. We made some money (about \$3,000), which has been used on park and playground upkeep, and support for Lincoln Park High School.

While the event achieved its goals – bringing neighbors and friends together – we will no longer host such an event in December. Instead, LCA this year is hoping to host smaller “block parties” or movie nights during the warm summer months. We need your help; our fundraising committee needs more members. Please e-mail or call LCA; join us!



# 43rd Ward Contest

## Nail-biter in 43rd

It wasn't supposed to go down to the wire like it did. After all, four years ago Alderman Vi Daley ran unopposed. However in the most recent election she was anything but. Four other worthy candidates threw their hats in the ring. Each promoted a distinctive platform. The debates were animated and the campaigning relentless. When the smoke first cleared the results were Michele Smith at 33% and Vi Daley with a shade under the required majority. It set the stage for a dramatic run-off.

The issues separating the two contestants gravitated around how to provide the most effective representation in city council for the increasing demands of the ward and what programs could be implemented to balance development with preservation of our neighborhoods. As meaningful as these subjects were to Vi and Michele, both campaigns appeared to take on lives of their own with a finger-pointing war of postcards. If you didn't get one you must have been vacationing on Mars.

Ironically, after all was said and done, the residents of the 43rd weren't left hopelessly polarized by antagonistic political ideologies. Following her insurmountable seven-point lead on run-off election night Vi addressed supporters at John Barleycorn's. Her remarks focused strongly on key principles the other candidates had so passionately espoused; she intends to adopt them in leading our great community forward.

Lincoln Central Association is inspired by Vi's commitment. We praise all the candidates for their remarkable enthusiasm and we congratulate Alderman Daley for sharing her hard-fought victory with everyone.

– Richard Harris, board member

### Spotlight Quiz [Answer]

#### [ANSWER TO LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ]

Where in LCA's world can you find this architectural detail?

(Answer: 1940 North Lincoln Avenue)



### Join us!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send this completed Application, with your check, made payable to Lincoln Central Association to:

Membership Chair  
Lincoln Central Assn.  
P.O. Box 14306  
Chicago, IL  
60614-0306

Voice Mail  
(312) 409-2783

#### Membership Type

- Family (2 Members) \$25.00
- Individual (1 Member) \$20.00
- Organization (1 Member) \$25.00
- Senior (1 Member) \$10.00

#### Contribution

(includes membership)

- Patron \$50.00
- Benefactor \$100.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please indicate your interests.

- Membership
- Newsletter/Public Relations
- Planning/Zoning
- Beautification/City Services
- Parking
- Fund Raising
- Safety/Security
- Community Relations
- Finance
- Parks
- Social Programs
- Schools

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[www.lincolncentral.org](http://www.lincolncentral.org)

# Spotlight

A publication about your community

Address correction requested

## SPOTLIGHT QUIZ

Where in LCA's world can you  
find this architectural detail?

