

THE LAKE VIEW SAGA

1985-2005

By the middle of the 1980s, redevelopment was on the rise in various pockets of Lake View, as they had been in other neighborhoods—such as Lincoln Park—a few years earlier. Three-flats and single homes alike were either being restored to their former glory by forward-thinking “urban pioneers” or else being razed to make way for condominiums by savvy developers as neighborhoods-within-the-neighborhood such as Wrigleyville and Northalsted tried not so much to “redefine” themselves as to “reassert” themselves.

“Yuppie”—young urban professional—was a new word in the city vernacular, and as the initial influx of singles flooded Lake View while families moved to the suburbs, changes were both subtle and stark. Many newer residents, while loving the abundant shopping, restaurants and nightlife opportunities, had little idea of Lake View’s rich history. The period from 1985-2005 was when those two Lake Views began to merge together to become the one diverse and vibrant neighborhood that exists today.

Where once a street dead-ended into an abutment for the Milwaukee Line railroad tracks, it is now a cul-de-sac lined with identical townhouses. And the view from the elevated train shows a sky broken by both spires of churches a century old, along with towers of rebar and steel that are the shells of million dollar condominiums yet to be finished. Yet, that very dichotomy is also what helps make Lake View so unique.

It is now the age of information, and even elderly residents with no need for a home computer can go to the Levy Senior Center further north on Lawrence and learn to point and click to access any knowledge about Lake View they might need, even if that data was

only going to be used to settle a bet on what was the date of the first night game at Wrigley Field or what was the name of the bookstore that stood next to the Biograph Theater.

Lake View has numerous buildings of landmark status. Some of the interiors may have changed, and other buildings retain their indoor ambiance, but the outside entrance has changed its look or name. The ornate older constructions sitting side-by-side with sleek new designs is part of the architectural charm of Lake View.

As of the 2000 census, the population of Lake View was 98,814, making it the second largest community in Chicago. Demographics break down into a population that is 79.5% White, 4.42% African-American, 8.72% Hispanic, 5.4% Asian, with the remaining two percent falling into the



Vito Guistino, Historian

category of “Other.” The median income per household is \$53,811.

The one constant is the multitude of diverse faces, from those who have run successful businesses for twenty-plus years to entrepreneurs who have followed the influx of reasonably affluent residents into the neighborhood, from sharp-minded homeowners who have lived here for more than half a century to young people getting their first taste of “city life” in one of the most accessible and welcoming neighborhoods in the city.

GENTRIFICATION & REVITALIZATION

The previous editions of *THE LAKE VIEW SAGA* were missing two key words that are now synonymous to Lake View’s 3.1 square mile boundaries: “Yuppie” and “Gentrification.” Whereas gentrification was

a term used in other sections of the city, Old Town and Lincoln Park being examples, the word yuppie made its appearance in San Francisco long before it came into common usage here.

Yuppie describes a demographic of people primarily comprising the children and grandchildren of the baby boomer generation. They are most commonly in their late twenties and early thirties, although one can be either younger or older and still fall into this statistical label. The word emerged in the early 1980s as an iconic echo of earlier labels such as ‘hippies’ and ‘yippies.’

Syndicated newspaper columnist Bob Greene is generally credited with having used the term in one of his human interest columns, without giving credit to the word being coined by Alice Kahn, who wrote a column about young urban professionals in a 1982 article for the *East Bay Express*, a newspaper available free to several San Francisco communities, much like Chicago’s own *Windy City Times*. The first known citation in Chicago lore was in a May 13, 1983, article in the Chicago Tribune, written by R. C. Longworth and titled “Chicago: City on the brink.”

Gentrification initially spread across Lake View in a checkerboard fashion. The word itself is defined as “when dilapidated neighborhoods are restored and refurbished in conjunction with changing demographics and



Clark Street, Looking South

the influx of wealthier residents. Starting in the mid-1980s, Clark Street, Diversey and Lincoln Boulevards saw the first, slow changes. Soon, Ashland and Belmont would see redevelopment arrive, and, recently, Southport Avenue has seen the biggest changes with

both residential and commercial development thriving.

One of the keys to the new renaissance can be attributed to dedicated and long-time

business owners on North Halsted. Jim Ludwig, owner of Roscoe’s, Mick Levine of the Ninety-Ninth Floor, and Mickey Hornick and his vegetarian Chicago Diner were all there in 1985, when “North Halsted” was still considered two words.



Chicago City Diner

Roscoe’s remains at ground zero of what is still called ‘Boystown’ by many long-time residents. Jim Ludwig bought the building on a Good Friday, April 1st, 1987; previously the location had been a convenience store. He is one of the individuals who helped shepherd the changes to the area, including what has become perhaps the most iconic symbol of this area of the city: the rainbow pylons on bronzed bases, with one word etched into each: *Northalsted*.

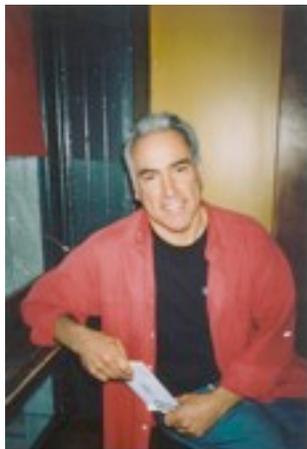
NORTHALSTED

Most people would say that Wrigley Field, with its attendant restaurants, bars and shops is the chief economic engine of Lake View, as well as the unofficial “capital.” However, a persuasive argument can be made that the area which really defines the changing demographics and spirit of Lake View would be “Northalsted.” The area long known as “Boystown” has always been centered around Roscoe and Halsted, though now it is simply a nickname, such as “gayborhood. While the southern boundary was previously considered to be Diversey Parkway—gentrification and a broader mix of residents have blurred some of the traditional boundaries. Today, Northalsted is equally home to the young couples with children who claim part of the attraction is the “Disneyfied” look to some storefronts as it is

to longtime residents who still refer to it as “Boystown.”

“An urban Eden,” is how Jim Ludwig characterizes Northalsted. Two decades back, the intersection of Roscoe and Halsted was somewhat of a ramshackle area—when he purchased the building that today houses Roscoe’s, while historically significant, was dilapidated and had three pages of code violations. The late 1980s was a time to develop a vision, an anchor for what was being increasingly recognized as a “gay-friendly” neighborhood. How, within that context, many challenges existed: AIDS-related stories were in the news every day, and fear of the disease had brought fear and uncertainty into an already-depressed economy.

Ludwig opened Roscoe’s at 3356



Jim Ludwig, Owner of “Roscoe’s”

North Halsted patterned after 1970s-style San Francisco buildings: clean and bright, with many windows facing the street. In the fall of 1989, he opened the back room as a dance hall. In the distant past, it had been a stable for seven horses.

As neighborhood began to fulfill the promise of gentrification in the 1980s, development—by those targeting both gay and straight audiences—began to accelerate in earnest. By 1995, most of the dilapidated buildings had been resurrected as condominium developments, and the character of Northalsted was changing. Young people



Construction on Belmont

were investing in properties in increasing numbers, bringing explosive growth, yet the area remained pedestrian-friendly, with sidewalks widened and outdoor patios and service areas establishing a presence for the nightclubs and restaurants. Antique shops multiplied on Belmont Avenue and stylish storefronts prospered up and down Broadway.

Mick Levine is the owner of The Ninety-Ninth Floor, a shoe and apparel store up the street from Roscoe’s.



Ninety-Ninth Floor

Across the street is Mickey Hornick’s vegetarian Chicago Diner. Both opened in 1986, at a time when Levine said the area had a vibrant “bohemian vibe.” The area was so eclectic that John Waters, director of *HAIRSPRAY* and *CRYBABY*, took to the streets to film there. Levine rattled off the names of many of the earliest gay-themed businesses, starting with Little Jim’s, which opened in 1975 and was Northalsted’s first gay bar. The owner, Jim Gates was inducted into the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2002. Sidetrack, which opened at 3349 North Halsted in April of 1982, had a new concept for the times, overhead monitors so patrons could enjoy video projected entertainment while dancing and socializing. The Orbit Room was located at 3708 North Broadway, lending its exteriors to the NBC television show *CRIME STORY*. The art deco sign above the doors perfectly fit with the gritty drama’s 1962 setting. It was sometime in the 1990s that the area started to make a dramatic shift from being “Boystown”—simply an enclave of gay-themed destinations—to “Northalsted”—a shopping and entertainment destination that appealed to gays, straights and all people in between.

A PARADE ABOUT “PRIDE”

Lake View had long been home to Chicago’s version of the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, which highlighted the very active and visible gay and lesbian community. The “Pride Parade,” as it has come to be known, evolved from a 1970 march on then Civic Center Plaza, (since rechristened Daley Center Plaza). The parade served as a rallying point for the gay and lesbian community to pull together with one voice and be noticed as an important constituency. Indeed, during his first term in office, Mayor Richard M. Daley began including the gay community in city planning. In 2005, Chicago held its 36th annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, with more than 250 floats and groups, along with city, county and state politicians including Gov. Rod. R. Blagojevich, Secretary of State Jesse White, and Illinois Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. As had been customary, the parade started off at noon from the intersection of Halsted Street and Belmont Avenue, continuing north to Grace Street before turning onto Broadway, and then traveling south to Diversey Parkway, where it made its final turn, heading east into Lincoln Park via Cannon Drive.

Nearly 400,000 revelers crammed the parade route for the Pride Parade, making it one of the largest single day events in Chicago.

The parade is always free, and festivities also include parties and picnics along the lakefront. Jim Ludwig has said that there was talk of moving the parade downtown at one point, but Northalsted wanted it to remain “theirs.”

As the Pride Parade grew from that initial 1970s march comprised of activists to a giant party with close to half a million people, one interesting demographic fact began to emerge: each year, more and more individuals from outside the gay and lesbian community were coming to participate in the

festivities. At the about the same time, another type of celebration was becoming increasingly popular in Chicago: the street festival.

Sort of a combination neighborhood block party and open air bazaar, street festivals such as the Old Town Art Fair and Taste of Lincoln Avenue were drawing enormous crowds of not only residents of that particular neighborhood, but tourists from literally all over the world.

The logical intersection of these two ideas—the growing intermingling of so-called “gay” and “straight” culture and the popularity of neighborhood street festivals—reached the pinnacle of success in Market Days Street Fair.

The idea for the Market Days fair was conceptualized in the late 1970s to showcase Halsted and try to put it on the radar. At the time, Halsted was considered the poor step-child of Belmont, Broadway, the “runt of the litter around Clark and Sheffield. Some residents considered themselves outcasts, artists, and, for that time frame, “evil” vegetarians. Initially, the fair was run primarily by volunteers. The sidewalk fair was popular from the start, and as it picked up major sponsorships, it began turning a profit. “Market Days,” as it is now known, which runs along Northalsted from Belmont to Addison, has become the largest event of its kind in Illinois, and Ludwig calls it “a crowning event in the Midwest” as established Lake View emporiums, popular local restaurants and neighborhood bars bring their wares curbside. An article in *Gay Today* attributed “beer, water pistols, and the CTA” to the growth of Market Days from a simple sidewalk fair to a major destination point for both gay and straight tourists from all over the world, drawing upwards of 500,000 visitors to sample food and drink as well as groove to diverse types of musical acts performing in various locations throughout the festival.

The runaway popularity of both the Pride Parade and Market Days was not lost on city planners and politicians, who began to actively view the demographics of the Northalsted neighborhood as a crucial component of not only Lake View, but Chicago proper, and, working with community leaders, began to create special programs—often called “Special Service Area” (SSA) designations—tailored specifically to the increasingly diverse population.

The culmination of much of those efforts took place in the spring of 1998, when the Northalsted Streetscape (SSA#18) was completed; that tangible visualization of color, sculpture, and community unification became a series of over twenty bronze pylons that are now as



Northalsted Pylon

synonymous with the neighborhood as the wrought-iron flag overhang on Division Street, identifying that area’s Puerto Rican neighborhood, or the columns and temples in Greektown further south on Halsted.

The project was one of 24 neighborhood-based identity designs in the one-billion dollar *City Neighborhoods Alive!* capital improvement program. The program was designed to celebrate the city’s diversity by recognizing specific characteristics of neighborhoods, such as the stylized Puerto Rican flag over Division Street in Humboldt Park, the Greek columns and temples in Greektown further south on Halsted near the University of Illinois’ Chicago campus, or the gateway sculpture of an African-American businessman in Bronzeville, near 35th and Michigan.

After the pylons were erected, Chicago became the first American city to formally recognize the contributions of its’ gay and lesbian businesses and residents through

specific curbside improvements, a variation of the more common flower planters found along Ashland and Lincoln avenues that meander through other Lake View neighborhoods.

The radically distinctive Northalsted streetscape program, at a cost of \$3.2 million dollars, comes not from the context of recognizing the character of the area, but through the planning process that expressly brought gays and lesbians to the table as a recognized neighborhood constituency. While progressive planners stand concerned by the effects regarding issues of equity and justice in a material sense, marginalized groups also seek to gain acceptance and a voice in said decisions. The Northalsted project illustrated one path toward that kind of recognition and participation.

The Northalsted undertaking celebrated the city’s diversity by recognizing the specific character of the neighborhood, thus encouraging economic development in areas where existing merchants have demonstrated a commitment to improvements, and helping to promote tourism.

Designed by Stefano & Partners, the initial design, introduced in late 1997, included the widening of sidewalks, new street lights, bump-outs on the side streets and, in particular, rainbow-themed gateways and modern columns. This last item was subject to immediate neighborhood opposition.

Some objected to the inclusion of the rainbow theme, which they felt reflected the gay aspect of the community without recognizing others, but most of the opposition was to the design itself. It was considered loud and strident, with members of the North Halsted Neighbors claiming the pylons “looked like Disneyland was in your front yard.”

Ironically, several gay and lesbian communities were uncomfortable about the plan, feeling they did not need their neighborhood publicized in such a way, afraid of a decrease in the ever-rising property values. The pylons were redesigned and

toned down, and a common nickname for the structures today are “rocket ships.”

The pylons were dedicated in November, 1998. Mayor Richard J. Daley told a cheering crowd that the project had been ‘a labor of love,’ and said that “(he) knew from the beginning this was about fairness...to the community . I am thanking you for what you have done for North Halsted Street for many, many years.”

Dave Edwards, then-president of NAMA—the Northalsted Area Merchants Association—and the owner of two bars, Gentry of Chicago and Gentry on Halsted, said that the publicity surrounding the pylons—articles had appeared in newspapers from Boston to San Francisco—was already drawing more tourists and would likely boost attendance at Market Days and throughout Northalsted for both gay and straight visitors.

The evolution of Northalsted from being a rundown corner of Lake View, to first a booming gay mecca and then a melting-pot of diversity reflecting many different cultures and orientations perhaps symbolizes best the concomitant growth and welcoming of diverse groups to all of the neighborhoods of Lake View.

LIGHTS ON...CHICAGO NIGHT GAMES AT WRIGLEY FIELD

Mike Lufrano, General Counsel for the Cubs, grew up a few blocks away on Aldine Street in Lake View, close but not quite close enough to catch any homer that went out of the park like you can on Waveland or Sheffield Avenues. His position as an employee of the Cubs notwithstanding, he shares nothing but the highest



Wrigley Field

praise for the team and its storied ballpark, as much as any single Cubs fan displaced to the south side or out of state. Win or lose, rain or shine—Wrigley Field will always be “The Friendly Confines.”

“Wrigley Field is the center of a new dynamic,” Lufrano says from his second story office in the famous ballpark. “We are always continuing to build on our past tradition...building a new tradition.”

“I can’t think of a better place to be in the summer,” he says. The numbers seem to agree with him as well. Wrigley Field and the Cubs continue to be one of the biggest draws in sports, often regardless of the actual performance of the team in the standings.

The years from 1985-2005 saw many changes in both Wrigley Field and the neighborhood surrounding the ballpark that bears its name: “Wrigleyville.”

Possibly the most dramatic event occurred in 1988, with the advent of playing night baseball finally arriving at Wrigley Field. For many years, Wrigley Field was the only Major League Baseball stadium without lights, meaning that the Cubs had to play all of their home games during daylight hours (an excuse often given for the team’s struggles).

The idea of having night games at Wrigley had been debated as early as 1941 (when the plans were scrapped due to Work War II). In one corner were the group that felt the Cubs and Wrigley needed to modernize to compete, not only on the field, but also in advertising and other revenues. Television revenues, for example, depend largely on being able to broadcast games during evening hours, especially during the playoffs. The other camp was comprised of two groups of individuals: One, those who loved Wrigley Field for the historical appeal of a park that has gone largely unchanged since opening—a hand operated scoreboard, no “Jumbotron” giant TV screen, no recorded rock music, just the play of the old organ to accompany balls and strikes, etc. Wrigley Field remains the only ballpark in major league baseball with no

permanent advertising on its interior—including the legendary ivy-covered outfield walls, and two, those neighborhood activists who felt that having night games at Wrigley Field would cause too many problems—traffic, crime, alcohol-related and noise—for the neighborhood. Wrigley Field is also unique in that it sits squarely in the middle of a neighborhood, with apartment buildings and condominium developments literally overlooking the ballpark.

There was a great deal of spirited debate, but in the end, the city council approved a “limited” number of night games per year at Wrigley Field, and the city, the neighborhood and fans prepared for the first night game during the 1988 season. August 8, 1988 (8.8.88) will forever be known as the evening when the lights were switched on at Wrigley for the first-ever night game. While protesters picketed outside, the fans gathered in the park let out a great roar when the lights came on, effectively ushering in a new era for the famous ballpark. Unfortunately, the game itself (against the Philadelphia Phillies) was rained out after 3 ½ innings, and so, the first “official” night game to be completed at Wrigley Field was the next evening, August 9, 1988, when the Cubs beat the New York Mets 6-4.

In 1989, private boxes were constructed on the mezzanine level, which was formerly occupied by the press box and broadcasting booths. In turn, the press box and broadcasting booths were relocated to the upper deck directly above and behind home plate. In 1996, an elevator was added to the third base concourse, to assist physically-impaired fans.

However, some of the most important changes have occurred outside “the friendly confines.”

Because of the fact that Wrigley Field is in the middle of a thriving neighborhood, many businesses have long been dependent on the traffic that the Cubs’ games generate. Aside from the numerous and expected bars

that ring the streets surrounding the ballpark, a number of other businesses have been able to thrive. Wrigleyville is now host to restaurants that serve food a bit more complicated than a hot dog—ranging from casual to fine dining. As well, retail has branched out from the predictable vendors selling baseball memorabilia to encompass all facets of goods, making Wrigleyville a shopping destination, even on days when the Cubs are not playing.

As those businesses came into the neighborhood, there was also a tremendous influx of new residents, mainly young, post-college graduates who found Wrigleyville—with its high concentration of bars and nightlife opportunities, coupled with other young single—the perfect place to live in the city. Developers were quick to recognize and capitalize on this trend, first building apartment units and then condos as the initial neighborhood residents and demographic grew from “renters” to “homeowners.”

One of the more interesting hybrids that grew in such an environment involved the buildings that circle the outside of Wrigley Field on both Sheffield and Waveland Avenues. Where once people had gathered on the rooftops to watch the action over the bleacher wall and perhaps barbecue, business-minded individuals recognized the opportunity to charge groups for the opportunity to have a “party on the rooftop” across from the ballpark. The buildings with a view of the field suddenly became a hot commodity simply for their roof space. This in turn angered the owners of the Cubs, who felt that the rooftop owners were unfairly “poaching” their product.

As the rooftop parties became more profitable and popular, the situation between the rooftop owners and the Cubs deteriorated, with the Cubs eventually threatening to install giant screen to block the view of the field from the buildings across the street. Fortunately, the two groups were able to come to an amicable solution without having to resort to such drastic measures.

As one of the most prominent “citizens” of the neighborhood, the Cubs organization is very cognizant of its role as a community participant—and leader. For example, Lufrano tells of new ways the organization is “making a concentrated effort to get Cub fans from “there to here.” With concerns about traffic and parking a constant issue, the city, the neighborhood and the Cubs have worked together on improvements, such as new bike paths and extended bus routes. The Chicago Cubs organization continues to make a concentrated effort to contribute the area, including using funds for neighborhood protection. To alleviate street congestion, a 400 capacity car garage was recently erected.

Certainly, Wrigley Field is “the draw” for the area as evidenced by the fact that, prior to the 2005 season, 600,000 tickets were sold in a single day. Despite only have made the playoffs three times since 1985—in 1989, 1998 and, memorably in 2003 when the team came within five outs of going to the World Series for the first time since 1945—the Cubs continue to have a tremendous fan base.

However, the Cubs are also committed to give back to Lake View, and the entire city. Cubs Care—a registered trademark—raised \$8,000,000 in 1991, supporting organizations such as the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Chicago., the Chicago Abused Women’s Coalition, and Children’s Memorial Hospital. Other support was targeted to Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center, La Rabida Children’s Hospital, Night Ministry, Tuesday’s Child, Windows of Opportunity, Athletes Against Drugs, and Counseling Center of Lake View.

On Friday, May 13th, 2005, a benefit for the Lake View Citizens’ Council was hailed as “An Evening At Wrigley Field.” Auction items included photos from a Cubs vs. Marlins game, a two week yoga package at Om on the Range Yoga Studio, a Retro Sweet Basket from Suckers Candy Company, a tune up at Johnny Sprockets, and drinks and coffee for a year at Caribou Coffee.

Event sponsors included the Archdiocesan Gay & Lesbian Outreach, Hi-

Tops, BoystownChicago.com, Roscoe’s Tavern & Café, SPIN Nightclub, Blum Animal Hospital, Steamworks Men’s Gym & Sauna, Binny’s Beverage Depot, and Valhalla Wineshop.

Cubs representatives regularly attend meetings of the Lake View Citizens Council, amongst other organizations. Wrigley Field has hosted the LVCC fundraiser for three years. It also hosts the bi-annual Wrigleyville “Neighbors Day” allows hundreds of neighborhood residents to run the bases and play catch on the field of the famous ballpark “in their backyard.”

Nettlehorst School: A Rebirth

In the 1990s, things were not so good at Nettlehorst School, an unassuming four-story building located at 3252 North Broadway: Water damage had caved in the roof. The sidewalks were cracked and upper story windows were broken. While pockets of Lake View like Northalsted and Wrigleyville were booming just blocks away, the school had fallen into disrepair.

Located in East Lake View, the Nettlehorst School is a Chicago Public School (CPS) cluster magnet school, and is home to an International Fine and Performing Arts site. Nettlehorst is also one of the first CPS and still values the partnership between home and school. Each Tuesday, the public and parents new to the neighborhood are encouraged to take a walking tour of the school and meet with the principal, Dr. Susan Kurland.



Dr. Susan Kurland

The tour begins in the library, promptly at 9:00. Story hour has just ended. The tour, which encompasses every room of the school's three floors, is handled proficiently by Jacqueline Edelberg. An introductory video is shown to couples and women with empty strollers and already tired toddlers draped over their shoulders. The shelf next to the VHS player carries diverse titles such as *CHILDREN OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION*, *12 RIFFS ON THE POWER OF MUSIC*, and *THE BEAR SNORES ON*.

A plaque on the door identifies the room as the Deanna Selzer Library, and makeshift butterflies are stuck to the windows, with butterfly masks placed nicely across empty tables, making one thing of a tiny cotillion. Handsouts at the library counter include a booklet: *GREAT KIDS READ AT THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY. BE A DESIGNATED READER!* Supported by Mayor Daley, the Chicago Public Libraries, Kraft Great Kids, and Kidstart, a log is provided for the date and the time allotted reading (fill in the blank) story, book, or any other printed material. One man said his niece would read his comics and learn words in context with the visual images. Another pamphlet offers the names of authors pertaining each age group, from Molly Bang for Toddlers through Hans Christian Andersen and A. A. Milne for Read Aloud For All Ages.

As a magnet cluster school, Nettlehorst must accept thirty percent of its students from within one and one-half mile radius. Registration for the school takes place in person, and children who have turned three on or before the first of September can be enrolled in the early childhood program. The school first opened in 1892.

Because of the damage to the roof and other various factors, the school was one of five Lake View CPS that were on a list of potential closures. Through the Nettlehorst Parents' Co-op, a volunteer organization, the board won significant funding totaling over \$360,000, and earned the distinction of being

named a "CPS Rising Star School."

In 2004, Nettlehorst experienced a ten percent increase in both math and reading scores, ranking the school in the top 20 CPS schools for gains. The school has formed strong ties with DePaul,



Nettlehorst School Mural

Northwestern, Loyola an Erickson, and partnered with Jane's Place at Nettlehorst.

The attendance area runs from Diversey, Clark, and Halsted to Belmont, reaching from the Lake Shore Drive to Racine, and Cornelia to the North. Articles on the school ran in the Reader in 2003 and the Chicago Sun-Times on April 3rd, 2005. The CPS has been mentioned on CNN, 60 Minutes, and National Public Radio.

Jane's Place offers diverse classes such as Belly Dancing For Adults and Young Adventurers Summer Camp. These signs are stapled to various bulletin boards throughout the school as the walking tour begins. In January of 2001, the school received an award for Outstanding Service in Recreation. As adults walk through the halls, toddlers push tow trucks between tables, perhaps envisioning a future with the Department of Streets and Sanitation. One thing a visitor notices immediately is how clean the school is and how willing each student is to pick up the errant gum wrapper or loose paper.

In 2002, the infrastructure of the school was found to be under par and it took seven months to get the school in its current shape. Nettlehorst now has a lab where students have hourly access to wireless computers.

Edelberg talks about the "textbook diversity" at the school. Twenty-seven different languages are used at Nettlehorst, and 28 students are assigned to a classroom. She tells of a French Farmers Market which

“gussied up the front of the playground.” The open kitchen has space enough for a display of strollers. The now-closed Flashy Trash store donated a mural which hangs near the cafeteria. David Cisco also provided murals for the school; his most recognizable work is at the Belmont el platform.

The three floors of the school are designated and decorated to the tone of Earth, Sky, and Sun. Past wall murals of dolphins splashing playfully, youngsters walk by, willing to show the adults the paper mache anteaters they had just made.

Caitlin Dorsey is a third grade teacher who won an award for excellence in 2004, and the children with their art creatures had rushed from her room. It is apparent that each student adores their teachers and Dr. Kurland. In fact, students, parents and faculty all acknowledge the tremendous positive influence Dr. Kurland has had on Nettlehorst.

Nettlehorst School is a true example of a neighborhood pulling together and making a difference.

ALDERMAN BERNIE HANSEN PASSES THE TORCH TO CURRENT ALDERMAN TOM TUNNEY

Bernie Hansen was a longtime Chicago Democratic alderman, serving from 1983 until 2002, when he retired as alderman of the 44th Ward.

Hansen was appointed to the Council when the incumbent alderman, Charlie Weber, unexpectedly resigned. In 1987, he defeated Dr. Ron Sable, a liberal gay activist, by a slim margin, winning with only 52% of the vote. Sable ran against Hansen again in 1991, but he lost badly, 65% to 35%.

Hansen sponsored or co-sponsored several human rights ordinances, including the Human Rights Ordinance expanding

protection against discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and credit to gays, lesbians, and persons with disabilities, an ordinance to assist victims of hate crimes, and a 1997 ordinance Hansen introduced to extend health-care benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees

Hansen was also an active proponent of environmentalist measures, including recycling programs and the extension of Chicago’s moratorium against the creation of new landfills. Since his retirement from the city council, he has also continued to serve as Democratic committeeman from the 44th Ward.

Thomas M. Tunney was born on August 22nd, 1955, and since 2003 he has served with distinction as the first openly gay alderman of the Chicago City Council, and was formerly a member of the Democratic Party. Tunney was born and raised in the Irish southwest side of Chicago. Upon graduating from Brother Rice High School, he attended the University of Illinois where he obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in restaurant management. Also having hopes of following in his parents’ footsteps in the hospitality industry, he received a Master’s Degree in hotel administration from Cornell University in New York state.

Upon returning from college, Tunney settled into the Lake View neighborhood and worked in his family’s restaurants. Upon hearing that Ann Sather was retiring and closing her iconic restaurant on Belmont Avenue in 1981, Tunney offered to purchase her business. He gained full ownership of the Ann Sather Restaurant and expanded it into a successful chain of enterprises.

When not downtown at City Hall, Tunney assists his constituents from his offices at 1057 West Belmont. Directly across the street, as if a direct statement towards Lake View itself, stands a half-block long thrift shop called SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW.

Tunney says that one of his priorities is funding the Special Service Areas (SSAs). Monies are spent towards small commercial and residential areas, providing added security in the forms of wider sidewalks and brighter lighting. The operating maintenance for each SSA is approximately \$100,000 per year.

The alderman says that the “streetscapes” bolster the area and “act as a catalyst for new commercial development.” A current project surrounds Belmont, Ashland, and Byron, once the areas busiest intersection. For example, Belmont received new light structures between Sheffield and Halsted.

Tunney says that the neighborhood is still perceived as a safe area, and “its’ vitality is funneled by entertainment.” The word “hospitality” comes up often in any conversation one has with Tunney, even if one were to encounter him at the nearby Caribou Coffee shop. In addition to entertainment venues and restaurants, hospitals, are “major employers,” according to Tunney, particularly St. Joseph’s and Advocate Illinois Masonic.

While in office, Tunney has been solidly committed to the community and has long term strategies. Six public schools improved their overall student performance greatly—the highest ratio of schools per neighborhood in the city.

One of the recent successes, according to Tunney, was of “families with children staying in the neighborhood, not moving on after a year or two.”

Tunney also doesn’t want the seniors to be forgotten, to provide a “senior lifestyle that precludes older couples deciding to retire to the suburbs.” There are many offerings, including computer classes, for retired people at the Ruth Ahriman Center in the 4000 block of North Sheridan and the Levy Center further north on Lawrence Avenue. He has lived in the ward for over two decades and said that the big change, to him, occurred around 1995,

with the coming of the more affluent townhouse and condo owners and the middle class suddenly having to struggle.

Through this, he has tried to maintain diversity, strength AND affordability, mentioning Section 8 housing such as the Del Ray, the Hotel Abbott, and low-rent housing at 722 West Diversey.

Additionally, Tunney joined several prestigious circles and became chairman of the Illinois Restaurant Association. He founded and led the Lake View Center Business Association and White Crane Wellness Center. As a result of his success as a businessman, Tunney was inducted into the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 1995.

He opened his restaurants to grassroots and non-profit organizations as town halls, serving as free meeting places. He committed himself to helping AIDS and HIV victims through programs he created, which were later adopted by Illinois Masonic Hospital.

Chicago politicians also offered Tunney positions in city governance: he became chairman of the small business subcommittee of the Chicago Economic Development Committee. Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Tunney to the Mayor’s Parking Task Force.

Tunney has faced some criticism over his handling of the Chicago Cubs’ demands for more night games and expansion of Wrigley Field. Residents are concerned over how these issues will affect traffic and safety in the neighborhood. While the concerns are valid, it should be noted that Wrigley Field brings in much of Lake View’s revenue whenever the Cubs are playing home games.



Abbot Hotel

As might be expected, Tunney is an avid Cubs fan and can be often be found in his ward office, seated in front of a framed Cubs jersey with the name Tunney and the number 44 (for “44th Ward) emblazoned on the back.



Tom Tunney

LAKE VIEW’S VIBRANT THEATRE COMMUNITY

Chicago has long been known as a great “Theatre town.” In the 1980s through the middle of the first decade of the 21st century, Chicago continued to build upon its reputation—not only with “top tier” productions from organizations like Second City and Steppenwolf, but also the vast “independent” theatre scene, from improv comedy to experimental productions to such “late night” fare as “The Brady Bunch—the Musical” and “Cannibal Cheerleaders on Crack.” The diversity of the theatre scene mirrors the diversity of the neighborhoods that comprise Lake View. In turn, the individual distinctiveness of the many theatres in Lake View also reflect that diversity.

Athenaeum Theatre.

Built in 1911 just south of St. Alphonse Church, at 2936 No. Southport, the Athenaeum was conceived as a neighborhood playhouse and also served the need as an opera house for the area’s largely



German Plaque, St. Alphonse Church

German parish. The theatre’s name is defined as “a literary or scientific association for the promotion of learning.” The building contains a gymnasium, food pantry, two 80-seat studio theatres, as well as a 50-seat studio theatre. The mintage is actually two theatres in one, implementing 454 main floor seats for smaller needs, and adding 530 balcony seats, larger productions can be seen by nearly a thousand people. The Athenaeum is managed by SCT Productions, which also is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, the Chicago Dance Coalition, South Lakeview Neighborhoods, and the League of Historic American Theatres. Currently, Fred Solari is the general manager, with Clyde P. Foster acting as theatre manager.

Briar Street Theatre.

Designed by the late Walt Topel, founder of Swell Pictures, the Briar Street Theatre is located at 3133 N. Halsted. The theatre’s layout can change in terms of seating patrons to converting to film and television productions. Among the first productions were David Mamet’s THE SHAWL and THE SPANISH



Briar Street Theatre

PRISONER, and future pre-Broadway engagements of Neal Simon’s LAUGHTER ON THE 23rd FLOOR, Herb Gardner’s I’M NOT RAPPAPORT, and the Pulitzer-Prize-winning DRIVING MISS DAISY. The theatre is a proscenium, i.e., it has a wall that separates the stage from the main auditorium, and seats 625. Since the autumn of 1997, the Briar Street Theatre has been transformed by its resident performance ensemble BLUE MAN GROUP. The theatre has 625 seats on the main floor and boasts a 52-seat balcony, and was built in the early 1900s as a carriage house. The original

second floor actually hangs from the ceiling by means of massive turnbuckles—oblong metal couplings that swivel at one end—that can still be seen.

Organic Theater Company.

Founded in the 1970s, by artistic director Stuart Gordon, the Organic was housed at both 2851 No. Halsted Street and 3319 No. Clark Street. Notable productions included *WARP* by Stuart Gordon and Bury St. Edmund, David Mamet's *SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO* and Terry Curtis Fox's *COPS*, starring Dennis Franz and Joe Mantegna. In 1996, Organic Theater Company merged with Touchstone Theatre under the leadership of the latter's artistic director Ina Marlowe. Gordon had previously left Chicago for Hollywood to make his cult classic science-fiction film *THE RE-ANIMATOR*, based on H.P. Lovecraft's novella, "The Strange Case of Charles Dexter Ward."

Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

Of course, no mention of Chicago theatre institutions would be complete without Steppenwolf. Founded in 1974 by actors Gary Sinise, Terry Kinney, and Jeff Perry, by 1980, the theatre had taken up residence as a 134-seat venue at the Jane Addams Hull House Center on North Broadway—where Second City had its origins. For a time Steppenwolf was also located at 2851 N. Halsted. Since 1991, their current complex is just outside Lake View's boundaries, at 1650 N. Lincoln. This does not diminish its importance to the history of Lake View Theatres, as Steppenwolf had and continues to have a tremendous influence upon the theatre community in Chicago. Careers launched through Steppenwolf include Sinise, John Malkovich, John Mahoney, William Petersen, and Laurie Metcalf.

The Vic Theatre.

Proclaiming itself "the best theatre in Chicago" in its advertisements, The Vic is

located right off the Belmont Red & Brown line elevated stops, at 3145 No. Sheffield, in the central Lake View neighborhood. Designed by architect John E.O. Pridmore, it opened in 1912 as the Victoria Theatre. The lobby floor and staircases are still Italian marble, with the interior still showcasing most of its original ornate wall sculptures. The Vic currently can seat 1400 people, and in recent years has evolved into a "performance venue" with an emphasis on live music and comedy tours. Notable international acts David Bowie, The Band, Tears For Fears, and Mary Chapin Carpenter have shared the stage with such Chicago favorites as Liz Phair, Wilco, and Poi Dog Pondering.

Del Close and IO

One of the most interesting chapters in Lake View Theatre history concerns that of Del Close. Perhaps best known for leaving his skull to the Goodman Theatre in the Loop after passing away in 1999 (presumably for productions of *Hamlet*), Del Close was much beloved in the Lake View Theatre District. He was member of the Compass Players, the precursor of Second City. In 1970, Close set up a free, open-to-all workshop at the Kingston Mines Company store, the café that was attached to the Theatre Company of the same name on Lincoln Avenue. Currently, Children's Memorial Medical Center stands in that historic spot. Soon a hand-picked group from the workshop, including Betty Thomas, Dan Ziski, and Jonathan Arabanel, began the Chicago Extension Improv Company at the Body Politic, further down Halsted. Close developed a long-standing professional partnership with Charna Halpern and ImprovOlympic, or the "IO", as a comedy training center across the street from Wrigley Field, at 3541 N. Clark.

WARD 47 and ALDERMAN GENE SCHULTER

A large portion of Lake View is under the auspices of Gene Schulter, whose 47th Ward office is located at 4237 North Lincoln Avenue. Schulter joined the Chicago City Council in 1975 at the age of 26, making him one of the youngest aldermen to ever serve in office.

The boundaries of the 47th Ward run from Foster to Cornelia and from the Chicago River to Clark Street, with a few small pockets north of Lake View, and he is in charge of 51 Precincts.

Born on November 14th, 1947, he attended, along with four other siblings, John Audubon School in Lake View. He graduated from Lake View High School in 1966, then went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree from Loyola University in 1970.

His career with City Council has had him as Chairman of various committees, including License and Consumer Protection, Beautification and Recreation, the Committee on Cable Television, Historic Landmark Preservation, and has been a member on committees for Budget and Government Relations, Finance, Rules and Ethics, Traffic Control and Safety, Zoning, and Parks and Recreation.

Schulter is a Board Member for the Levy Senior Citizens Center Advisory Board (the city's first senior citizens center), Greening of Ravenswood Committee, Common Food Pantry, St. Benedict's High School Advisory Council, and the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club Community Leadership Council.

In 1993, he was recognized by the Chicago Tribune for his leadership in reducing the number of license fee categories to 200 from 500 by adjusting the fees to more accurately reflect the city's cost of inspection and certification.

Schulter helped found the Selzer Regional Library, and helped re-establish

Sunday hours at Chicago Libraries. He played a part in the new fire station at Damen and Grace, police and court facilities at Belmont and Western, a new field house at Chase Park, and substantial improvements at Welles Park and Paul Revere Park.

He is married to the former Rosemary Biebel, and they have two children, Philip and Monica.

LAKE VIEW SSA#27

Special Service Areas (SSAs) abound throughout every part of Lake View. One example of a Special Services Area is known as "Lake View #27." This SSA includes these boundaries: On Belmont, from Paulina to Racine; on Lincoln, from Addison to George; along Ashland, from Addison to Diversey, and on Southport, from Byron to Belmont.

As improvements are being made on the Brown Line elevated tracks, so too, are similar meliorations along Lincoln Avenue. The Fullerton el stop is within a block of Lincoln Avenue, the Red Lion English Pub and the Biograph Theater (soon to be the new venue for Victory Gardens).

Facade improvement projects established by the SSA during the spring of 2005 helped businesses and residents all over the service area improve the looks of their buildings. Facade projects include Suvan's Café & Bakeshop at 3351 North Lincoln, Strega Nona at 3747 North Southport, and D'Agostino's Pizza & Pub at 3151 North Addison. Cartridge World opened a second printer cartridge refill store at 3259 North Ashland Avenue, and owner Chris Gallagher was offered SSA funds to improve signage over his store. His revenues have since increased by 25% each month since his new look took notice.

STREETSCAPE

Georgina Middleton has lived near Dakin and Sheridan for several decades, working at the Illinois Psychiatric Institute through much of her life, and said that in her neighborhood, by 1987 there was a “hell of a lot of new buildings put up.” There are some historic two- and three-flats, but she misses the old Festival Theater, which is now a “Supermercado.” She said it is an “attractive area for young people.” Her favorite part of the neighborhood is Wunder and Graceland cemeteries.

For many years, there has been anticipation for the Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland Streetscape project to be awarded funding. The first phase of the project received funding in the autumn of 2004. The construction of the portion was awarded 3.8 million dollars. Construction began along Ashland Avenue on November of 2004. The first phase of the project is on Lincoln Avenue north of Belmont Avenue, Belmont Avenue west of Lincoln and Ashland Avenue north of Belmont.

Chester Majerowic has lived near Ashland and School Street for nearly fifty years, and he is pleased with the current trend of building townhouses, along with other business developments, such as the Bank of America Building, that have been built at the three-way intersection of Ashland, Belmont and Lincoln. The site had been vacant since the early 1990s. The Tower Lofts were constructed on the site of the old Weiboldt’s store.

Yet, with all the development and beautification, Chester misses “the old five and dime stores,” naming S. S. Kresge’s, Woolworth’s, and the smaller family-owned grocery stores. But he still is pleased that areas like Lincoln and Melrose are being rehabbed, and where a Citizens State Bank once stood is now the newest library in the Chicago Public Library system.

According to Mr. Majerowic,

Enterprise Development was a “major player” in the years between 1995 and 2005, and Southport has “grown leaps and bounds.”

“New families are willing to help the elderly,” he said, noting that he and his wife Rose are the oldest family on his block. “Younger guys will shovel snow on the block filled with single bungalows and two-flats,” not giving in to the older residents, saying that they want to do the shoveling themselves.

In Lake View, both the longtime residents and the newer additions to the neighborhood seem to be integrating quite well.

“PLAY BALL!” AT HAMLIN PARK

In West Lakeview—just North of Damen Avenue—lies one of the most beautiful properties in the Chicago Park District’s portfolio: Hamlin Park. Hamlin Park proper consists of not only the “park” itself, a rolling green expanse among single family homes and condos, but also tennis courts, a playground, a dog run and the Hamlin Park Field house. The Hamlin Park Field house is available to residents for events as disparate as basketball leagues, boxing instruction, dog-training classes and meetings of a local dance troupe.

But, undoubtedly, what Hamlin Park is most well known for are the four baseball diamonds that dominate the Southeast corner of the property. Those fields are home to little league teams, park district intramural softball leagues and countless pickup games and impromptu sessions of simple “catch.”

So, it was a concern that the state of the ball fields was deteriorating because of the increase in use by this rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Residents and community activists sprang into action, creating the “Hamlin Park Baseball Association.”

Through an innovative combination of private donations, selling items such as “Walk of Fame” bricks and participation of major supporters like Cubs Care, the HPBA was able to bring about the renovation of the baseball fields.

Indeed, there was a ceremony to re-dedicate the baseball fields that was attended by former Cub greats Ernie Banks, Ryne Sandberg, Ron Santo and Billy Williams. Alderman Ted Matlak, who was instrumental in helping the renovation succeed, also participated in the dedication ceremony. Once again, community involvement—a strong recurring theme in Lake View—represented by groups such as the Hamlin Park Neighbors and Hamlin Park Baseball Association—were able to make a positive difference in the neighborhood.

THE LAKE VIEW CITIZENS’ COUNCIL

“Twelve Neighborhoods. One voice. Get involved.” Is the motto of the Lake View Citizens Council, which exists to pull together resources and residents for neighborhood improvement.

The LVCC is located at 867 West Buckingham Place and there are a dozen branches blocked out between the lakefront of the North Branch of the Chicago River and Diversey Parkway to Irving Park Road. These include:

BHN	Belmont Harbor Neighbors
CLVN	Central Lake View Neighbors
ELVN	East Lake View Neighbors
HPN	Hamlin Park Neighbors
HN	Hawthorne Neighbors
SPN	Shell Park Neighbors
SELVN	South East Lake View Neighbors
SLN	South Lakeview Neighbors
TN	Triangle Neighbors
Association	
WDNA	West DePaul Neighbors

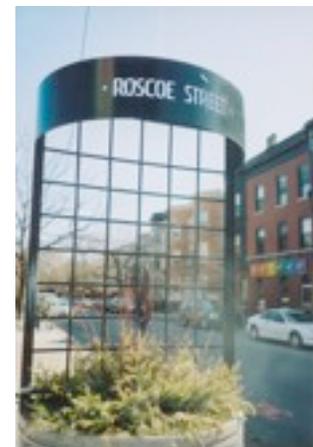
Association
WLVN West Lakeview Neighbors

The LVCC is a non-profit civic organization begun in 1952, with a grassroots membership. “Our main goal is to push people to stay in the neighborhood,” says David Winner, who was elected President of LVCC in 2005, “I view Lake View as a neighborhood within a city.” One way people will continue to stay is the conversion of rental units to make way for condos and townhouses.

“LVCC bridges the gap between one organization and other neighborhood groups,” Winner said. “We make people aware of the various branches and try for reformation against anything negative.” Recent public forums have been on the growing concerns of credit card theft, graffiti, and the registration of known sex offenders.

The Council has played a role in supporting property tax reforms, developing the Jarvis bird sanctuary, helping create the Neighborhood Protection Plan, coordinating the Thanksgiving Food Drive to assist Lakeview Pantry, and raising funds for our ongoing operations, including the LVCC Summer Fest (formerly known as the “Clark Street Fair”, and “A Night at Wrigley Field.”)

Over the years, major accomplishments include the support of property tax through TRAC, the Tax Reform Action Coalition, partnering with City Hall for the passage of a Neighborhood Safety Ordinance, redevelopment of community play lots and increased “green space”, i.e., trees planted along boulevards and the building of new neighborhood parks, the



Roscoe Street, Facing West

newest one built is at 815-817 West Roscoe.

There is also a Lake View Garden Walk and branch-sponsored events such as the Northalsted Halloween Parade, Southport Children's Festival and ELVN's Oktoberfest.

Successful efforts were made to get city commitment for a new 23rd District Police Station, renovation of pedestrian and bike paths, and facilitated the LeMoyne School campus park.

PRESIDENTS OF LVCC 1985-2005

1985-1986	Mr. Paul J. Kendall
1986-1988	Mr. Wayne A. Krauss
1988-1990	Mr. Herbert G. Lowinger
1990-1992	Mr. Michael O'Connor
1992-1994	Ms. Lorraine Hoffman
1994-1996	Mr. Gary Gray
1996-1998	Mr. Peter J. Donoghue
1998-2000	Ms. Diann Marsalek
2000-2002	Mr. Gregg Kiriazes
2002-2005	Mr. James Ludwig
2005-	Mr. David Winner

Jean O'Neill and ELVN

Sometimes people doubt the power of individuals or small, grassroots community groups to get things done, especially in a city as big as Chicago.

Jean O'Neill and ELVN would have to disagree.

Ms. O'Neill spoke of her long relationship with the East Lake View Neighbors, having lived in the area of Dakin and Sheridan since 1971, she says the Dakin Street Block Parties were "the stuff of legend. She laughingly talks of the demographic changes, the long gone "Bucket of Blood" bar, and the various gangs spouting names like "the Latin Eagles." She worked as a night nurse at the Cook County Hospital, in the Trauma Unit. In that Trauma Unit, Saturday night was unofficially known as the

"Knife & Gun Club."

Such gallows humor notwithstanding, it came to the attention of Ms. O'Neill and her neighbors that a "house ill repute" was operating at the corner of the 3900 block of North Sheridan. According to Ms. O'Neill, it wasn't just limited to prostitution, it was also drug activity, centered around first PCP, and then cocaine.

The neighbors worked together, with ELVN and the police to try and get the crime-provoking house closed for good.

Different members of ELVN made over forty appearances in court, and finally, the criminals were put out of business, thanks to the efforts of the community working together.

But, for Ms. O'Neill, there were plenty of examples of how wonderful the neighborhood is as well. In the 1980s, for example, there were caroling parties at Christmas, and ELVN meetings were held in different members' apartments. The area was like a small town, echoing how Jim Ludwig and David Winner likened Lake View as a whole to a city within a city.

A TRUE GEM ON HENDERSON STREET

"We were called the dead end kids on Otto Street," Dorothy McMahon said, referring to the street's original name. Henderson is a cul-de-sac off Southport, at one time stopped by the berm leading up to the Milwaukee Railroad tracks. Dorothy has been living in her three-flat since 1922. The only Otto Street on the 2005 City Atlas is a sliver of land that connects O'Hare Airport to Chicago, and the railroad has long since gone. Beautiful townhouses are now at the edge of Henderson, two buildings over from Dorothy's well-kept white home, the wrought-iron fence in front always kept unlatched.

Dorothy McMahon knows the old

Lake View, before the townhouses and lofts. She has lived in this house since 1922, when she was just shy of turning two years old. Alderman Bernie Hansen renamed the street “Honorary Dorothy McMahon Circle” in her name, for her contributions to the neighborhood as it changed over the years. If Lake View was a giant department store, with Wrigley Field being one of the separate sections, Dorothy would be the official greeter.

The brown street sign came loose and fell off a few years ago, but at least it wasn’t stolen, like those named after Nelson Algren (since given back its original name, Evergreen Street) or Pope John Paul II Drive in Brighton Park, near Five Holy Martyrs.

“This neighborhood has gotten so big it doesn’t fit its own clothes,” she smiled and winked, as if letting someone in on a secret. She sits surrounded by photo albums, the current copy of the *Booster* newspaper, and proudly showed off a recent gift, a massive hardcover, *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHICAGO*. Shelves are adorned with generations of faces and she wears a gray sweatshirt that reads *Somebody Special Calls Me Grandma*.

She also likes to use phrases like “you bet your boots” more than a few times, pointing a finger to prove some obscure fact about Lake View, be it past or present, weighing the pros against the cons. Whereas there is heavy street traffic and cabs running all night on Belmont or Southport, this *also* means that less of a police presence is needed. “No crooks, no stolen cars, no break-ins,” she explained.

Born in American Hospital (now Thorek Hospital), her mother “had to take a streetcar from Oak Street so that [Dorothy] could be delivered.” The building on Henderson had belonged to her parents and was built in 1895. She recalled her days at Osgood Public School on Kenmore, then laments long gone businesses such as Cushman Brothers’ bakeries and Andy’s Candy.

Dorothy met her husband Mac when they were in the same drafting class in high school. He went on to become a WWII underwater demolitions expert, only Dorothy used the phrase “son of a gun” to describe his expertise at the job. She started working for Illinois Bell as a switchboard operator, retiring in 1984. Her husband ran M. C. McMahon Plumbing after the end of the war, and he passed away in 1995.

While Mac was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, Dorothy moved into the house with her parents, living upstairs. Now, it is her daughter Becky and son-in-law Vic’s place. Roger Ebert attended their wedding and Vic is a musician with The Infamous, which play Lake View venues like the Metro and the Vic.

Dorothy learned Spanish at the Bell Foreign Language School to better her job skills; every promotion she received meant another quarter per hour. Her newest hobby is working on a new Dell computer, provided by the Levy Senior Center on Lawrence Avenue.

She leaves off the interview with another memory, going back to the days of the railroad and coal trains. “We’d climb on top of the coal cars and toss as many pieces of coal down to Otto Street, so our parents could heat the furnace during the winter. But if you missed getting off the train before it gained speed, you couldn’t get off until you got to the train yard on Sunnyside, and that, well, that was a long walk home.”

Dorothy McMahon is a living example of Lake View history. Sometimes people forget that there are easier ways to cull information than by going to the Internet or looking something up in a book.

Summary

Lake View is, and continues to be, a neighborhood of astonishing diversity and culture. The years from 1985-2005 only served to cement Lake View as not only one of Chicago’s “up and coming” neighborhoods, but in fact, one that had really “arrived.”

From the Hamlin Park Field House to the cheering throngs located inside the boisterous Wrigley Field, Lake View has become a destination not only for residents from within the city and from the suburbs, but, indeed, from the whole world. In many ways, Lake View's growth and prosperity in the last 20 years has mirrored that of the city of Chicago.

For many years, Chicago was thought of more along the lines of "Hog Butcher to the World" than as a world-class, cosmopolitan city. However, with careful planning, the lakefront and the downtown areas have seen a revitalization that has seeped into the surrounding neighborhoods.

Similarly, Lake View, which is often described by residents as "a city within the city," with its myriad bars, restaurants,



Man-Jo-Vin's restaurant

theatres and nightlife opportunities has not only made the successful transition to a neighborhood destination of choice (Which is one of the first steps in gentrification), but has also managed to adapt to retain those visitors and turn them into residents.

Other emerging neighborhoods in the city—River West, Roscoe Village, Wicker Park, Logan Square, Andersonville—all seem to have followed Lake View's template of creating an atmosphere welcoming and celebrating diversity, and then taking those people who come into the neighborhood—whether it be to shop, eat or for the nightlife—and have them fall in love with the neighborhood so much that be become—and stay—residents.

Going forward, Lake View still must struggle with issues that come with explosive—and sustained—growth. Issues—such as parking, traffic, poorer residents being forced out of the neighborhood because of rising property values—are all symptomatic of neighborhoods working to adapt to change.

What Lake View does have going for

it is a strong infrastructure of committed citizens (represented by various local neighborhood groups, as well as the LVCC), and local political participants (aldermen) who are actively as passionately committed to their constituents. Such individuals and groups serve to keep revitalization projects on track.

As well, good corporate citizens—such as the Chicago Cubs and Wrigley Field—help



Diplomat Hotel

out not only in being economic drivers, but also by being willing to join the discussion and participate fully at the grassroots level in making the neighborhood better and more enjoyable for everybody.

When larger organizations take an active interest in

the well-being of the neighborhood, it is more than just a good business decision.

The large and growing number of small businesses, restaurants, theatres and other entertainment destinations keep the neighborhood alive and humming with the energy of a trendy and exciting place, which encourages more visitors, more development and an influx of more residents.

Finally, the very diverse mix of



Yoshi, Owner of "Yoshi's"

citizens—young, old, gay, straight, black, white, Hispanic, etc. etc.—that is able to work together to make Lake View a great place to visit, work and live is probably the greatest asset. The balance of long-term residents who have a strong knowledge of

the neighborhood, and the enthusiastic newcomers, who have their own ideas to add to the discussion and all the folks in between

make Lake View one of the most interesting and vibrant neighborhoods in the city of Chicago.

What the next twenty years has in store for Lake View is unknown, but based on past indicators, the future looks very promising.