



Six Corners News

Lightpoles, Milwaukee Avenue work next in streetscape

Streetscape work will resume this month with new lightpoles being put on the east side of Milwaukee, according to the Chicago Department of Transportation.

The city is waiting for a final 2010 construction schedule from the contractor, Capitol Construction, but some approximate dates were available for this year's work.

Six Corners will be updated in March once a more definite schedule is available.

Although it will depend on the weather, sewer connection work on Milwaukee will probably occur toward the end of March. The sewer lining work on the Milwaukee sewer will likely be done after the sewer connection work.

Capitol Construction will probably start pouring concrete for the sidewalk on the west side of Milwaukee in mid- to late-April. That work will last about two months. The signal installation at Belle Plaine and Milwaukee and at Kilpatrick

and Milwaukee will occur about the same time. Trees will be planted on Milwaukee tentatively in June.

The city projects that by Memorial Day most of the Milwaukee work will be done.

Traffic is to remain flowing in both directions on Milwaukee during construction. The contractor's permit does not a street closure unless there's an emergency.

Also, pedestrian crossing signs and senior citizen crossing signs like the new one post at Belle Plaine and Milwaukee will be added at the Six Corners intersection.

Overall, the streetscape beautification will bring new sidewalks, new streetlights, new trees and new planters up and down Six Corners.

In addition, many amenities will be added such as sidewalk gateway arches, information kiosks and community identifiers on the lightpoles, marking the area as Six Corners. To get to other side of the construction

project, we have to undergo the actual construction, which will mean some disruption.

This year's work includes the addition of a right-hand turn lane on southbound Cicero at Irving Park Road. The lane is being added to improve the flow of traffic on southbound Cicero. The right added lane will give buses and right-hand turners a place to idle while two lanes of traffic remain clear.

Work is planned for the rest of Six Corners in 2010 and into 2011.

Other sidewalk beautification additions will include:

- Three (3) Six Corners gateways which incorporate planters and a trellis will be installed. Two are on Cicero Ave. on the east side of the street, north of Six Corners at the north and south end of Sears and one is on Irving Park Rd. on the NE corner of Six Corners.

- New pre-cast planters along Cicero Avenue and Irving Park Road near the Six Corners Intersection.



IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Upcoming work

(subject to change)

February-March

- Milwaukee lightpoles on east
- Sewer work connections on Milwaukee

April

- West side Milwaukee sidewalks begins

June

- Trees planted on east side of Milwaukee
- Signal installation on Milwaukee at Belle Plaine and at Kilpatrick

If you have any questions about the streetscape schedule, feel free to call the Six Corners Association (773) 685-9300.

Monthly meeting calendar



Please join us for these monthly committee meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

March 2: [Design Committee](#) 1 p.m. at Six Corners Association office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave. #205 Discussion to include 2010 Work Plan and streetscape

March 9: [Organizing Committee](#) 1 p.m. at the Six Corners office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave., #205. Discussion to include administrative issues, 2010 work plan and meeting plans.

March 16: [Economic Restructuring Committee](#). 1 p.m., Parkway Bank, 4106 N. Milwaukee Ave. Discussion to include business recruitment, incentives.

March 23: [Promotions Committee](#), 1 p.m. at PC Here, 4055 N. Milwaukee Ave. Discussion to include Six Cornucopia, Six Corners map, Portage Park sign.

Six Corners included in new city tour

The Chicago Office of Tourism has launched a new city tour that includes Six Corners and a visit to the Portage Theater.

The Portage Theater's restoration, 1920s beaux-arts interiors, and audiences then and now will be discussed. Both Jefferson Park and Portage Park's residential streets and commercial areas will be visited as part of the tour.

The first tour will be held the morning of April 17. Two more tours will be held later in the year on July 10 and Nov. 6. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students and seniors.

More information is available at www.chicagoneighborhoodtours.com

The Northwest Chicago Historical Society was instrumental in establishing the tour.

Dan Pogorzelski, who co-authored a history book on Portage Park, will be



The Portage Theater will be featured in a new neighborhood tour

conducting the tours. Dan is also vice president of the NCHS.

Dan has been working with the Six Corners Association Design Committee to design the historical information kiosks that are being erected as part of the streetscape. Rich Lang, president of the Irving Park Historical Society has also been working on that projects.

President's Message

Vincent Mastromauro
Villa Roma Hair Designers, 3936 N. Cicero Ave.



We start 2010 with great joy and happiness in our hearts because something good is going to happen. For something good to happen, we need to strong and united – all of Six Corners.

One of the good things is the streetscape construction that started last year and is to be completed this year. Work will restart when the ground thaws sometime around March. This project for Six Corners will bring new lightposts, sidewalks and countdown timers to make it easier to cross the busy streets.

Another good thing is the opening of Gonzales Mexican Restaurant, 4918 W. Irving Park Road. Please have a meal there and support your fellow business. Ysabel Grille, 4908 W. Irving Park Road, has also opened just down the

street. And Play N Trade, 3918 N. Cicero Ave., is schedule to open this month.

Another good thing is sign removal. We are working with property owners to remove some old sign clutter to improve the area's appearance. Look for that to happen on Milwaukee north of Irving early this month.

We need volunteers to bring good ideas. We are reviewing our plans for 2010, so now is the right time to come forward. We have new committee chairs with good intentions to bring Six Corners up.

If you received a membership letter, send in you dues, because we need your support to keep on moving Six Corners forward.

Join Six Corners today

The association supports the economic development of Six Corners through beautification, promotions, business support and advocacy with the city. We understand that you're busy running your business, so we provide services for the area that would not be feasible for an individual business to provide.

2009 Accomplishments

- Growing our mailing list (4,000 postal and 1,500 e-mail) through holiday raffles
- 200+ special requests to Streets & Sanitation for graffiti removal and other clean-up.
- Publication of a Six Corners business directory, listing all local businesses.

Benefits of membership

- Monthly issues of the Six Corners News (packed with invaluable information)
- Access to the Six Corners mailing list (\$150 value)
- 25 tickets to the Portage Theater Christmas Spectacular (\$250 value)
- Acting as a united group when requesting improvements.

To join, go to the Six Corners website and click [here](#). Or call (773) 685-9300 for more information.

SCA meeting schedule



1 p.m. 1st Tues.	<u>Design Committee</u> Parkway Bank, 4106 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chair: Bob Brobson
1 p.m. 2nd Tues.	<u>Organizing Committee</u> SCA office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave. #205 Chair: Joe Angelastri
1 p.m. 3rd Tues.	<u>Economic Restructuring</u> Parkway Bank, 4106 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chair: Don Blair
1 p.m. 4th Tues.	<u>Promotions Committee</u> PC Here, 4055 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chair: Michael Inglimo

The SCA is organized into four committees. Anyone is welcome to attend any committee meetings to share their ideas. For newcomers, the Organizing Committee meeting provides a useful overview of all SCA activity. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings at the SCA office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 205.

Your storefront IS your billboard. Give it curb appeal.

Just like a house needs curb appeal, your store needs sidewalk appeal. Is your storefront a window into your store or a barrier to business? We think this issue of curb appeal is so important that we will dedicate space in every *Six Corners News* to the topic.

1. Imagine that your storefront is a billboard. Its purpose is to sell. Make sure your window has a "5-second" message, because you only have as much time as it takes to walk past your window to draw a customer in.

2. Make sure your merchandise or business activity is visible by keeping your windows clean and clutter-free. Customers are more likely to walk through your door if they know what they are walking into. A window washer will charge \$5 or less for inside and out.

3. Follow the **Rule of Three** by grouping or displaying items in threes. Display three items of the



News Six Corners Flowers, 4951 W. Irving Park Road, always has an attractive floral display inside and outside the shop, leaving no doubt what this business sells.

same kind — three dresses, three necklaces or three perfume displays. Or set up three distinct displays within your window.

Amy Meadows is an Old Irving Park resident who has been a window designer for more than 25 years. Visit her website at www.windowmatter.com

To advertise in the Six Corners News

The Six Corners News is distributed via mail, e-mail and door-to-door to 400 business, property owners and community residents four times a year. Advertising in the Six Corners News is an effective low-cost way to reach this market. To advertise, call the Six Corners Association at (773) 685-9300.

Grant promotion, abandoned sign removal, Facebook project

Design Committee report

The committee is focusing on four immediate agenda items: The four activities are:

#1 Existing Storefront Survey and Plan. #2 Storefront Rehab #3 SBIF Grants and Business Assistance #4 Streetscape improvements

The storefront survey and plan will be a visual tool to help the committee, property owners and business owner. The survey will be a series of photos stitched together so we can see the entire streetscape of Six Corners. The survey will also include information on who owns the storefronts. Having this information will help with the next two projects -- storefront rehab and Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) grants/business assistance. There's a need to communicate more about storefront design. This can be done through the newsletter or with small meetings with owners. This might also be accomplished through storefront renderings, talking about costs, doing renderings and talking about how can we get storefronts improved in the short term while vacant.

The streetscape improvements are under the Design Committee umbrella. (See the streetscape update on Page 1.)

At the January SSA#28 commissioners meeting, Glenn Nadig, publisher of the Nadig Press, said window displays are a key factor to a business community's success. He was glad that the association was making it a priority to help businesses improve their storefront appearance. Pictures of successful storefronts will be taken as examples to show local businesses.

Promotions Committee report

The mission of the Promotions Committee is to promote a positive image of Six Corners. But he asked, who are we marketing to? 1) is to public 2) our businesses 3) the government, city or state.

To market to the public, the committee is working on the Facebook project, to get all the businesses to create a fan page on Facebook. Several raffles are going on this year and we are trying to promote those. Santa Claus came to Six Corners this year for the first time, and we are looking to do that again or revise it with a Santa's Workshop in one of the vacant storefronts in 2010.

A subcommittee has been formed to work on a district map to hang at the Portage. The map will be geared toward entertainment and dining options in the area. The map will focus on food, beverage, retail and ATMs. There will be space for brochure holders for these business to put tri-fold flyers. The plan is for the sign to graphically match the outdoor kiosks. The Portage will focus on post-theater entertainment options but the outdoor kiosk maps will include all Six Corners businesses. The subcommittee is working on drafting a request for proposals (RFP) The next meeting of the Portage Sign Subcommittee was called for 1 p.m., Feb 10, at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Six Corners Association Annual Meeting

6 p.m., Thursday, April 15

Lydia Home offices, 4839 W. Irving Park Road, in the Chicago Landmark People's Gas & Coke Building

Program

- Vincent Mastromauro, SCA President
- Six Corners Association Committee chair
- 2010 plans and progress report
- Light dinner will be served

Economic Restructuring Committee report

In December, the SSA commissioners approved the hiring of the Lakota Group to write a near-term action plan for the Six Corners Association. Lakota will identify other near-term action items and will create a land-use map building by building to identify possible improvements.

For the long-term strategic plan, city staff has said that the city was on track for issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for the long-term plan this spring. The report will take 6-8 months to do.

Also, the committee is contacting building owners of vacant properties to talk about taking down abandoned signs. This project will have a good near-term effect to get momentum going. The committee is requiring building owners to help pay for the removal, but by grouping the project together, the association can get the best price of all property owners. The city can levy steep fines on property owners who leave up abandoned signs, but the association prefers to use this cooperative approach.

In preparation for the master plan, the ER committee is planning a trip to Lincoln Square on Feb. 27. The committee plans hopes to learn how the Lincoln Square implemented parts of its master plan and get some ideas on how the commercial district became so successful.

The committee is also working on a program to help make it easier for businesses to take advantage of the Small Business Improvement Fund grant program. One of the problems is that because the SBIF program is a reimbursement grant, so the businesses have to come up with the cash up front, which can be a problem. The committee is working with banks to get them to grant lines of credit based on the city approval of a SBIF grant and then the city pays the banks directly. This securitization could get credit flowing to Six Corners businesses. Blair will be following up with banks in early March.

Organizing Committee report

The Organizing Committee is working on several project to make the Six Corners Association a strong organization.

One major project is to complete a database of Six Corners businesses, potential businesses and volunteers. The database will help us better communicate with everybody and make the organization more efficient.

The committee plans to apply for 501(c)3 charitable non-profit status this year, so we can take advantage of more grant opportunities. We currently have non-profit status as a business organization, but not a charitable organization.

This newsletter is also a project of the Organizing Committee. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to contribute an article to it, please contact Ed at (773) 685-9300.

In Memoriam

Linda Pudlo

1948-2010

Linda was a longtime Old Irving Park resident who volunteered her time, talent and energy to making her neighborhood a better place. She volunteered many years as the Old Irving Park Association treasurer. She spent countless hours at neighborhood group meetings, CAPS meetings and any other meeting she was asked to attend. She was a vigilant watchdog for the neighborhood. Her dedication to her community was inspiring. The Six Corners Association expresses its condolences to Linda's husband, son and all her loved ones.

Six Corners incentives

Rent subsidy

The Six Corners Association will help pay for your first year of rent while you are getting your business established. A grant of \$5 per square foot up is available for new tenants.

Building improvement grants

Drastically cut your up-front costs. This program will pay for up to 75% of your build-out costs. It covers any changes you make to a building such as plumbing, electric, roof and storefront. The association can help you facilitate this process with city agencies and the alderman's office.

Façade Assistance Program

The Six Corners Association will provide a complimentary redesign of your new storefront. An architect will review your façade needs and provide a rendering that you can show to sign designers and general contractors to best convey your vision.

Sidewalk and landscape maintenance

Focus on running your business. Daily sidewalk litter pick-up is provided through the Six Corners area. Snow removal is provided in the winter. Landscapers maintain the flowers, planters and parkways as well as making sure weeds don't sprout in the sidewalk.

75% OFF Sale on building improvements

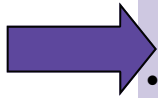
The Small Business Improvement Fund Grant pays for up to 75% of all build-out costs. Special offer for Six Corners businesses only.

Covered costs include windows, electric, signs, awning, HVAC, carpeting and much more.

A grant, not a loan.

Call today (773) 685-9300

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