



SECC News

South East Chicago Commission (SECC) 1511 E. 53rd St., Chicago, IL 60615

Put Another Nickel in: Parking Meters to Fund Local Programs

In July, the Parking Committee of the 53rd Street TIF Council recommended the creation of a **Parking Improvement District (PID)**.

A PID is an innovative tool that can help finance local programs, help manage the parking inventory and generate additional revenue for the City of Chicago.

Currently PIDs (known elsewhere as Neighborhood Parking Districts, Transportation Benefit Districts and Community Parking Districts) are used in many other cities around the country. There are none in Chicago—yet.

Last Spring the SECC and Alderman Preckwinkle met with the Department of Revenue and the Department of Planning and Development to introduce the concept. Both departments responded very positively and agreed to explore the concept.

To continue the momentum, Aldermen Preckwinkle (4th), Flores (1st) and Colon (35th) introduced a resolution to City Council that requests the Department of Planning and Development along with several other city agencies :

“to develop and design a program for the establishment of pilot Parking Improvement Districts (PID)

in Hyde Park and Logan Square.”

City Council is expected to hold hearings on the proposed pilot program later this year.

How would it work?

Within a geographically defined area, the City and the community agree to increase parking meter rates. The parking revenues are then **shared between the city and the local community.**

Communities can then use PID revenue to support and promote:

- Pedestrian mobility

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“A PID presents a singular opportunity to generate revenue for needed local programs and improve parking on 53rd St.”

Alderman, Toni Preckwinkle, 4th Ward

HomeMade and Homegrown

HomeMade Pizza Company is coming to the Hyde Park Shopping Center later this year featuring its trademark made to order pizza that is freshly prepared for you to bake at home.

HomeMade Pizza uses all natural, local and seasonal products. This unique concept has grown from a modest storefront in Lakeview to include eight

stores in the city and suburbs.

Hyde Park Produce opened in its current 3500 SF location in 1995. The store’s enormous popularity and loyal customers are evident in the checkout lines which can, at times, extend the full length of the store.

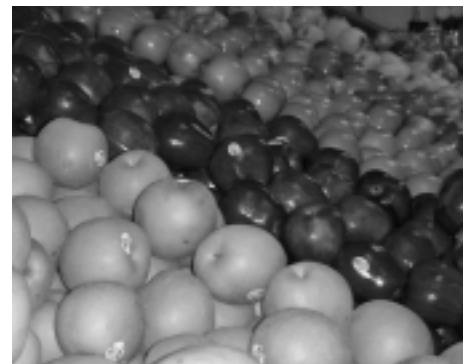
Given the obvious need for more space, **Hyde**

Park Produce plans to triple the size of the store by relocating into the 10,000 SF Co-op Express space in the adjacent Kimbark Plaza early next year.

Larry Damico, owner, says he “really enjoys doing business in Hyde Park .” He said customers can expect expanded produce, dairy, deli and grocery products.



HomeMade Pizza and an expanded Hyde Park Produce are coming to Hyde Park.





Many communities use meter revenue to make an area more pedestrian friendly.

Local Meters to Fund Local Services

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- and safety,
- Public way maintenance, beautification and improvement,
- Use of alternative modes of transportation, and
- Parking facilities and improvements.

In addition, the increase in curbside rates leads to the availability of more spaces for customers.

Governance

Typically a local organization will work with the City and key stakeholders to establish such a district, which will require City Counsel approval.

Once designated, the Mayor would appoint a Commission which would be charged with developing a budget and programs for the use of PID funds. The Commission in turn would then contract with a service

provider to implement the programs. The service provider, generally a local non-profit, is responsible for the day to day operation and management of the district.

Next Steps

The TIF Council and the SECC will be meeting with property owners, businesses and residents to discuss potential uses of revenue. **Tell us how we should use the revenues at secc2@sbcglobal.net**



Eyes and Smiles on the Street

Cleanslate is a neighborhood beautification business that provides public way maintenance services to communities. Perhaps more importantly, **Cleanslate** provides a bridge to permanent employment for at risk individuals through its on-the-job-training programs.

Currently the **Cleanslate** program operates in four Chicago neighborhoods:

Auburn-Gresham, the Quad Communities, Uptown and the Illinois Medical District.

More than just cleaning, **Cleanslate** establishes a positive presence on the street. Interns in the program are trained to greet 100 persons daily (see picture at left). Jesse Teverbaugh, Cleanslate Supervisor and Eric Weinheimer, Cleanslate

President, explained the **Cleanslate** program at the September TIF meeting.

Jane Comiskey, Co-Chair of the Neighborhood and Business Environment Committee said, "**Cleanslate is just what 53rd Street needs**". Alderman Preckwinkle, the SECC and the 53rd Street TIF Council are working to bring this service to Hyde Park in 2007.



Lake Park Facelift Planned for 2007

Last spring we proudly reported that the City and Metra have committed \$4 million to fund Phase I of the viaduct and embankment renovations for 53rd and 55th Street viaducts (see picture on left) and the landscaping of the Lake Park embankment in between the viaducts. This will complement

Metra's recent renovation of the stations.

Wait! The story gets better. Representative Barbara Flynn Currie (D-25th), while in Springfield this summer, secured another \$2.5 million from the State of Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) to support additional project compo-

nents and phases. Work is scheduled to begin in 2007.

Representative Currie stated that "**ITEP grants are competitive grants. Our Lake Park story was a very strong story. Working together, we told it—and we sold it.**"

Thank you, Rep. Currie!

Right in Our Backyard

The *New York Times* just ran a story recommending a few 'must see' Chicago neighborhoods which of course included a trip to **Hyde Park**. Specifically suggested were a visit to the **Oriental Institute** followed by a walk through "this happily bookish neighborhood ...to some of the best bookstores in the city": **57th Street Books, Powell's Bookstore and Seminary Co-op Bookstore**.

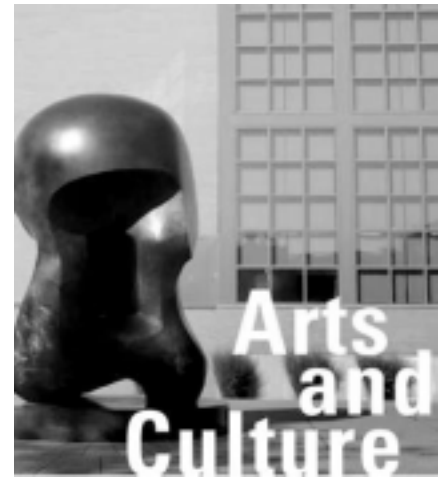
The *Chicago Tribune* re-

cently featured, "**Your Guide to Cool Public Art**". Of the 10 sites identified, two of them are in Hyde Park; **The Fountain of Time** (1922, Lorado Taft) located on the Midway Plaisance at Cottage Grove and 59th Street, and the soon to be restored "**Where We Came From...Where We Are Going**" mural (1992, Olivia Gude) located at 56th and Lake Park Avenue.

The **University of Chi-**

cago recently produced 350,000 full-color promotional brochures that were distributed to over 1,000 locations in Illinois profiling our museums, galleries, theaters, concert venues, bookstores, restaurants, and architecture.

Separately, while celebrating fountains in the city, the *Tribune* noted that the **Nichols Park Fountain** (1355 East 53rd St.) "displays a tapestry of life within the eclectic South Side neighborhood."



For a current listing of Hyde Park's arts and culture activities visit www.uchicago.edu/hydeparkartsculture

SECC Organizes Safe Routes to School Workshop

Do you remember when walking and bicycling to school was the norm, not the exception?

We do, and so does Ray School Principal, Cydney Fields, who wants to encourage and enable more Ray School students to walk and bike to school safely.

In response, the SECC arranged for the Chicago

Department of Transportation and the Chicagoland Bike Federation to lead a **Safe Routes to School** workshop to look at the needs of Ray School.

Parents, administrators, the SECC, a City of Chicago traffic engineer, and a police officer from the 21st District participated and identified barriers to walking and bicycling to Ray. The workshop

focused on developing strategies to:

- Educate students, parents and drivers about safe travel,
- Encourage more walking and biking,
- Implement physical changes, and
- Strengthen enforcement.



Joy Clendenning, a Ray School parent participated in the **Safe Routes** workshop.

Public Safety

SECC data show a **25% decrease in violent crime** for the first nine months of 2006 compared to the same period in 2005. Violent crime is currently at record low levels in Hyde Park-South Kenwood.

Over the past ten years violent crime has **decreased 39%** for comparable periods. The 2006 vio-

lent crime rate is **11% lower** than the previous all-time low rate set in 2002.

This dramatic reduction in crime results from the determination and collaboration of the **21st District police, University of Chicago police, and Area One detectives**. We appreciate the excellent work of Commander Howard

Lodging (21st District), Chief Rudy Nimocks (UCPD), and Commander Patricia Walsh (Area One detectives) who work together to protect our neighborhood.

SECC data is based on Chicago Police Department reports. Violent Crime is defined as murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault and battery.



University of Chicago Police currently have **305 E-phones** located throughout the neighborhood for anyone to use in the event of emergency.



Fall 2006

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**Special thanks to the
University of Chicago
and the City of Chicago
Department of Planning
and Development for
their generous support.**

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of The CARA Program.**

SECC NEWS is created and
produced by **Community
Counsel**, a planning and
development consultancy.

