

48th Ward Newsletter: First Year Report

May 2011 – May 2012



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Dear Neighbor,

One year ago, I had the privilege of taking office as your Alderman. I entered office focused on key areas I knew were important to you and crucial in making our community an incredibly vibrant place to live, do business, raise a family and enjoy:

- making our streets safe for all;
- developing our commercial corridors with strong businesses that serve the neighborhood;
- strengthening our local schools and educational opportunities;
- providing professional, outstanding, and attentive constituent services;
- and, inviting all community members to help plan for the future of the 48th Ward

One year later, much has been accomplished and there is still a lot of work ahead.

I hope you enjoy this recap of my first year in office. As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, ideas or concerns at 773-784-5277 or Harry@48thward.org.

Thank you for continuing to work together for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,
Harry Osterman
Alderman, 48th Ward

Public Safety

Improving public safety throughout our community remains our top priority.

Over the last year, my office has worked with local police and community residents to identify gang and drug hot spots, and to increase police presence in those areas. Last summer we partnered with Loyola University Chicago, the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce, and SSA#26 to implement an additional foot patrol service in the Thorndale area. This summer the 20th District will be adding an additional foot patrolman to Thorndale to help improve safety in this area.

Last summer our office coordinated many safety events throughout our community including working with residents in the Buttercup Park area on positive loitering events in the wake of

the "Uptown Girl" drug arrests, whereby the Chicago Police arrested 27 gang members for narcotics sales.

Additionally, we have worked closely with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and neighbors on court advocacy. We have also worked to identify problem buildings and owners, and have held meetings with these owners or managers to address community concerns.

The Master Plan Public Safety Committee is developing strategic goals and to address long-term safety in our community.

Together, we will continue to make a difference in keeping our streets safe for all.

Service Requests

City service requests may include tree trimming, graffiti removal, burnt out lights, pot holes and blue bin requests.

The 48th Ward office collects service requests on our website www.48thward.org, by phone at 773-784-5277, by e-mail, or from walk-ins. We are happy to report your request to ensure speedy attention and follow-through.

This year, our top three service requests were tree trims, pot holes, and graffiti.

<u>Request</u>	<u># Completed from our office</u>
Tree Trims	210
Pot holes filled	167
Graffiti Removed	133



Ribbon Cutting at Pete's Pizza on August 10, 2011. Located at Granville and Winthrop, Pete's has contributed to Granville's increasingly vibrant business district.

Economic Development

My office has been committed to connecting new, expanding and existing business owners with property owners, developers, lenders and community organizations.

Almost every week, I take a business on a tour of the 48th Ward. These have included restaurants, breweries, retailers, developers, grocers and more. My office links them to available space that might be a good fit. We also streamlined the 48th ward community process for zoning and development approvals.

The 48th Ward is becoming more and more known throughout the City as a viable place to do business due to our strong support of unique, local businesses and impressive spending power.

This summer, we will kick off a Broadway Retail Corridor Study in partnership with Chicago's Department of Housing and Economic Development to strategically plan for the future of our commercial corridors.

Environment and Health

Edgewater and Uptown are special communities because of their commitment to healthy and green living.

The 48th Ward Clean & Green event held on April 21, 2012 exemplified this commitment and was a huge success. Dozens of volunteers at nine sites completed greening and beautification projects. There was also a great turn out for the e-waste and paper shredding events.

The Master Plan Environment Committee continues to work on goals towards a more sustainable 48th ward.

In March, over 500 seniors attended the Senior Health Fair. For 12 years, I have had the privilege of hosting this event, and every year it grows to serve more of our community members.

In November 2011, we celebrated the opening of the Pomeroy Senior Housing complex at 1039 W. Hollywood, which will provide a high quality senior living option for many years.

Youth and Education

Focusing on schools and educational programs has been another crucial priority. It is my mission to offer every child in the community a high quality choice for education. Senn High School has made significant gains, recently recognized by Mayor Emanuel as the first city school to offer a wall-to-wall IB program and a strategic partnership with Loyola.

I have also been a strong advocate for our local elementary schools including Hayt, Pierce, Goudy, Swift, and McCutcheon. Giving young children a positive start is essential for success. We are committed to expanding early childhood options for families. To create quality schools in our community, it will take focus and dedication which is why I have added an educational liaison to our staff.

This year, we celebrated and served our youth through many fun activities and events!

Some highlights include a basketball clinic at McCormick Boys and Girls Club; 6 outdoor movies as part of our 48th ward summer film fest; a back-to-school celebration and backpack giveaway; the first annual Halloween Parade and Festival; and an indoor Winter Sports Day. We look forward to more fun this summer and will be kicking off our 48th Ward Summer Film Fest on Tuesday, June 19 with *The Muppet Movie* at Hayt Elementary School.

We also started a weekend basketball league in partnership with We Got Game, with over 100 youth involved. It is crucial to provide the youth in our community with positive and engaging recreational and educational opportunities, and I will continue to ensure that those opportunities are available to every child in the 48th ward.

Many special events took place throughout the 48th Ward this past year... • 48th Ward Film Festival • Back to School Backpack Giveaway • Holidays Around the World • Senior Fair • Flu Vaccination Clinic • Take Back the Block • Neighborhood Nights • Clean & Green • City Sticker Sales Day • Beach Clean Up • Business Night • Shedd Aquarium Ward Day • Buttercup Park Pop-Up Market ...and we look forward to many more great events in the year ahead!

Street Resurfacing

In the summer of 2011, 26 streets were resurfaced, totaling 48 streets resurfaced throughout the Ward over the last 3 years. This summer, we will resurface an additional 13 streets. Sheridan Road from Hollywood to Lawrence will be resurfaced this summer and it is our goal to resurface Sheridan Road from Hollywood to Devon next summer.

2011 and 2012 Menu Projects

In 2011, menu money was used to fund a number of infrastructure projects, improved areas with additional lighting, street bump outs and bollards where needed.

In 2012, menu money will be used to bring a new traffic signal to the corners of Balmoral and Clark Street and Balmoral and Broadway; improve over 100 lamp fixtures on along Winthrop and Kenmore; and several blocks of curb and gutter replacements.

Other infrastructure projects include the Broadway Water Main project (Balmoral to Ardmore); Glenwood Water Main project (Foster to Balmoral).

Edgewater Library

In the summer of 2013, Edgewater will be home to the largest and most modern neighborhood library within the City of Chicago. Demolition of the Edgewater Library was completed in early 2012 and the foundation has been laid for construction

Buttercup Park

In June, we will unveil the renovated Buttercup Park. This is an exciting addition to the Margate Park neighborhood, and provides a beautiful gathering place for community members and youth. Buttercup Park is a result of an investment made by the Park District and a commitment through TIF funds.



CTA

The 48th ward CTA stations have been long overdue for upgrades. From the get-go, I have communicated to Mayor Emanuel and CTA's Forrest Claypool my strong commitment to improve these stations. On June 1, 2012 the largest capital improvement project on the north red line's station since their creation (in the early 1900s) will take place, including improvements to five stations within our community: Granville, Thorndale, Berwyn, Argyle and Lawrence.

The "Red Ahead" project will include viaduct repairs, platform replacement, station water proofing, lighting improvements renovated storefronts and new station house finishes.

Over the next year, our community will embark on a larger planning process for Bryn Mawr, which will receive a big expansion in 2014-2015.

City Council

My first interest at City Council is to represent the needs of our community when making legislative decisions. This year, I voted to approve a budget which forces us to live within our means while continuing to serve our City. I was able to restore funding for library services and the Condo Rebate program.

The ward "Remap" process took place around the 1st of the year, and I am proud to say that the new boundaries reflect a more cohesive Edgewater community while keeping intact the Argyle Street area within the 48th Ward.

Recently, I supported reforms that clean up Chicago's business licenses and reduce the number of total licenses by 60%. I continue to advocate for more clear, streamlined and expedited city approval processes for small businesses.



A Shared Vision for the Future

The 48th Ward Master Plan was launched in February 2012. Its goals are to create a shared vision of what the 48th Ward will look like by the year 2020; to create a roadmap for how to reach that vision; and to engage as many 48th ward residents and stakeholders throughout the planning process as possible.

The planning process is being guided by 11 topical committees including possible additional sub-committees that stem from the process. Each committee will meet 5 times throughout the process. Committees will look at existing conditions as well as priorities and key recommendations moving forward.

Everyone is welcome to join!

Master Plan Committees

Arts & Culture | Community
Engagement | Economic Development
| Education
Environment & Health | Housing |
Public Safety | Social Services
Sheridan Rd. & Lakefront |
Transportation | Youth & Recreation