

Kalo buys Iannelli Studios **Historic preservation advances**



C. Peterson

The winning entry in the Historic Preservation Commission poster contest features the Iannelli Studios. And fittingly so as the Kalo Foundation will acquire the property August 31. Rescuing the property and its buildings, once on the list of 10 most endangered historic sites in the state, is of major significance.

The Alfonso Iannelli Studio at 255 N. Northwest Highway served as the home and workplace of the sculptor-designer and many other artists from 1919 until 1966. An anonymous donor's six-month challenge grant was key to the foundation making a successful bid.

"Thank you to our angel and to all the people from Park Ridge and elsewhere who supported this venture," said Kalo President Betsy Foxwell.

Plans are to develop the property as "Iannelli Studios Heritage Center" for all of Park Ridge and the surrounding area so efforts to raise money for repairs and restoration continue.

The Historic Preservation Commission, headed by Judy Barclay, has already taken initial steps for its designation as a landmark.

Winners in the Historic Preserva-

tion poster contest, all third graders, were recognized at a City Council meeting and entries are on display at City Hall.

First place: Julia Jakubic; second, Ben Taalman and Marcela Wilk tied; third, Anna Schmeltz.

The special support of many school children who have learned about Iannelli Studios through programs by Herbert Zuegel and Burt Olsson of Kalo was acknowledged. Second grader Danny Guay presented Kalo with \$135 in proceeds he collected.

Iannelli is best known locally for his interior design of the Pickwick Theatre, the Camp Fire Girls Fountain in Hodges Park, and the Guard Family monument in the Town of Maine

(Continued on page 4)

Sign up for alerts

Recent power outages in the City brought renewed attention to Everbridge, the City's emergency alert system. Residents are urged to sign up now if you have not already done so.

You may sign up on the City website at www.parkridge.us.

The system enables fast dissemination of critical information to increase our capability in responding to any emergency situation. When registering, participants can specify different means of being contacted including mobile phone, computer, work phone, and texting. This way the City can reach you in any emergency.

Those who do not have a computer, or who otherwise need help to register are asked to stop by the Public Library, or call City Hall for assistance. ▲

Save the post office mural

Residents have an opportunity to rediscover a link with our past by helping in the restoration of the Post Office mural commissioned in 1938 and placed in the Park Ridge Post Office at 164 S. Prospect Ave. in 1940.

The mural, "Indians Cede the Land," was created by George Melville Smith and was commissioned by the U.S. Treasury Department under the Treasury Relief Art Project to decorate federal buildings across the United States.

The New Deal era mural depicts what is believed to be the first occurrence of Native Americans selling their own land to new settlers in 1816.

The Post Office building was sold to the Park Ridge-Niles School District #64 in 1970 and the mural was to be discarded to make way for renovation of the building.

Paul Carlson, a history teacher at Maine East High School and a founding member of the Park Ridge Historical Society, endeavored to rescue it.

Upon his death in 2008, his family and friend, Otto Kohler, another Maine East teacher, were prompted to return the mural to Park Ridge. The mural was delivered to the Park Ridge Public Library where it is hoped it will be put on permanent display pending restoration.

A Mural Restoration Committee composed of members of the Historical Society and Public Library Board was formed to take on the task of raising funds for the effort.

It will cost \$38,000 to properly restore the mural. The Park Ridge Mural Restoration Committee and the

(Continued on page 6)

An eventful summer continues

Hello everyone,

We have had an eventful summer already. It began with the new City Council making substantial spending cuts to the budget passed by the previous Council. While I had hoped for more cuts, the Council did make notable progress toward repairing the damage of years of unsound budgeting and reckless spending.

I believe we have turned the corner, however, and will be able to adopt a budget next year that provides more essential city services in a more cost-efficient manner through some new budget policies and practices.

Of course, the biggest news was the two recent storms which wreaked havoc on our trees and the electrical power grid, causing multi-day power outages accompanied by hardship and expense. In the wake of the first storm, I called a special City Council meeting to address ComEd's response and what I believed to be inadequate communication between the City and its residents. The second storm hit by the time we held the meeting.

At the meeting, we discussed ways the City can better provide information during times of emergencies. And ComEd representatives made many promises and commitments to improve its emergency responses and the integrity of the power grid itself.

In the past, I and other City officials blindly accepted ComEd's word without following up to make sure its promises were kept. No more. I have directed the City Manager to appoint a senior staff member to track ComEd's performance and report to the Council on a regular basis. From now on we will be proactive in our dealings with ComEd.

Many residents enjoyed another successful Taste of Park Ridge.

Appointed

Several persons were recently appointed to serve on City boards and commissions by Mayor David Schmidt with the approval of the Council.

They are John Benka, John Schmidt, and Robert Trizna to the Library Board of Trustees and John Kocisko and Crystal Zamaites to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Candidates for the volunteer posts are interviewed and recommended by the Mayor's Advisory Board.

The Board, currently chaired by Alderman Rich DiPietro, also includes the committee heads: Aldermen Daniel Knight, Marty Maloney, and Sal Raspanti.

Persons interested in serving are encouraged to complete a volunteer application form that is on the city website, or stop by the Administrative Services Department to obtain one. ▲

City clerk's corner....

Park Ridge waited months for this summer to happen! It came to us with a vengeance bringing weather surprises and historic power inconveniences for days at a time; however, the City survives thanks to our many dedicated city workers. Our theme became "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" and troublesome as the lack of power was, it brought out the best in so many neighborhoods. Our appreciation for light and sound heightened as we sought to relax and celebrate at a very successful "Taste of Park Ridge," Fine Arts summer concerts series and National Night Out.

We are in a good place. The trees will grow in time, the gardens are all blooming and beautiful. Enjoy your city as we celebrate the gift of our history, arts and culture made possible by your Kalo gifts. You, the good citizens of our city with your time, talent and treasure, are making it happen. "Hopefest" coming on September 11. ▲

While I hope that event continues for years to come, the residents need to know about the Taste and how it has evolved into its current form.



As recently as eight years ago, the Taste was run by the Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the City. In June 2005, the City permitted a group of volunteers to run the Taste, supposedly for the City's financial benefit. Those volunteers, however, formed a corporation, took control of the Taste, and have run it ever since, with the City receiving no share of the profits, nor any reimbursement for the police, fire and public works services it provides. Moreover, the Taste organizers have steadfastly refused to provide financial information upon request so the City could analyze whether the organizers' claim that they could not afford to repay the City had any basis in fact. Consequently (and although it may come as a shock to many residents), the Taste actually has cost the City tens of thousands of dollars over the past few years.

The new Council will soon begin exploring ways to establish complete transparency and accountability concerning how the Taste is managed, and to ensure that the Taste is run for the benefit of the taxpayers who support and pay for it.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. "See" you in the October issue.

Sincerely,

David F. Schmidt, Mayor

The Spokesman

CITY OF PARK RIDGE

505 BUTLER PLACE • PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

(847) 318-5200 FAX: (847) 318-5300

HOME PAGE: www.parkridge.us

ELECTED OFFICIALS

David F. Schmidt

Mayor

Betty W. Henneman

City Clerk

ALDERMEN

Joseph F. Sweeney

First Ward

Richard DiPietro

Second Ward

Jim Smith

Third Ward

Sal Raspanti

Fourth Ward

Daniel J. Knight

Fifth Ward

Thomas A. Bernick

Sixth Ward

Marty Maloney

Seventh Ward

The Spokesman is published by the City as a public information service for residents.

Jim Hock

City Manager

Aggie Stempniak

Editor

City Hall hrs: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri

City Council meetings:

First and third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall

City meetings now on WOW channel 6

Due to generous contributions from Wide Open West (WOW), both Committee of the Whole (COW) and City Council meetings are now being broadcast live on the WOW government channel, which is channel 6 for WOW subscribers. Over the last year, WOW cabled Park Ridge facilities for digital cable and put in a fiber connection from City Hall to the PEG (Public Education Government) channel. WOW also contributed a 'character generator' device, which is used to create, schedule and play slides on the PEG channel, and provided the cable equipment, connection and a professional quality camera to be able to broadcast live meetings in the City Council Chambers. The equipment will allow for meetings to be recorded for later playback on the City's website. The City is planning on rebroadcasting the City Council and COW meetings on the PEG channel on a scheduled basis.

The City estimates the services and equipment provided by WOW are in excess of \$50,000 and greatly appreciates receiving them.

WOW subscribers can benefit from the information provided on WOW channel 6 and will have the ability to view live broadcast Committee of the Whole (COW) and City Council meetings. ▲

On the web

There are many features on the City's website at www.parkridge.us that are designed to assist residents. An especially helpful tool is Map Office (*under Maps and Facilities*), which offers detailed information about properties in the City. Residents are encouraged to use the website for this information and more. Also available are frequently asked questions and answers about the many services provided to the community. The website includes a comprehensive Business Directory as well. ▲

Forestry addresses needs

As the summer season wears on, the Forestry Division is working diligently to keep the City's 21,000+ street tree population healthy and hazard free.

The June 21 storm resulted in significant damage to more than 100 street trees and minor to moderate damage to hundreds more. With damage this widespread, the Forestry Division will be identifying and removing storm related hazardous branches and whole trees throughout the rest of year.

Additionally, the Forestry Division will working to keep up with the necessity to remove a growing number of Emerald Ash Borer infested and Dutch Elm Diseased street trees as they begin to decline and become hazardous.

As always, the City Forester encourages residents to be familiar with the street trees in front of their homes and contact the City if they notice any problems. ▲

Observe summer fire safety tips

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, and picnics. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor grills. Annually almost 5,000 are injured by charcoal/wood-burning and propane grill fires. Families also enjoy camping in the summer. It is important to follow rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires. Use these guidelines for safe barbecuing:

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes—where the air and gas mix—are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Supervise children around outdoor grills.

- Dispose of hot coals properly—douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Do not place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas—carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 if a burn warrants serious medical attention. ▲

Report power outages

The City Council met with Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) to discuss concerns over power outages.

Those with chronic outages (for no apparent reason) are asked to contact the City at 847/318-5228 or 5227 to provide their addresses for further evaluation.

Residents who lose power need to report the outages to 800/334-7661 so their accounts get "tagged" and outages registered w/ComEd. Rotted poles or wire problems should also be reported.

Representatives emphasized the importance of hearing from each customer.

ComEd noted it will drop residential lines free of charge to allow tree trimming on private property. Give ComEd advance notice of at least 5 days. Other area residents will be affected if sharing the same line so please notify your neighbors. ▲

Missing something?

Is there information you would like to see or especially like that is already in *The Spokesman*? Please let us know as we are evaluating its publication on an ongoing basis. Write to Spokesman Editor c/o City Hall, or email to: spokesmaneditor@yahoo.com.

We will be happy to hear from you. ▲

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Saturday

Critter Connection Presentation, 10:15 a.m.
PR Park Dist. @ Wildwood Nature Ctr.
Farmers Market, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

August

2 Tuesday

National Night Out; 6:30 p.m.
PR Police Dept. @ Hodges Park

3 Wednesday

"Toy Story 3" – Movie in the Park; dusk
PR Park Dist. @ Centennial Park

5 Friday

First Fridays - "Dog Days of Summer"; 5 p.m.
Various Uptown and South Park Merchants open 'til 9 p.m.

16 Tuesday

Senior Citizens Breakfast Club; 9 a.m.
PR Police Dept @ Senior Center

20 Saturday

Iannelli Studios Benefit; 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Art Deco Society @ Pickwick Theatre
Long Grove Art Fest; 10:30 a.m.
PR Park Dist. departs from Maine Park

21 Sunday

IL Post Office Murals

Lecture & Slideshow; 2 p.m.
PR Historical Society @ 720 Garden

22 Monday

District 64 Schools – First Half Day
www.d64.org

27 Saturday

Harry O'Brien Community Walk/Run; 9 a.m.
PR Comm. Fund & Chamber of Commerce starts at Senior Ctr., 200 S. Western

Wildwood Anniversary Celebration; 10 a.m.

PR Park Dist. @ Wildwood Nature Ctr.

29 Monday

"Race to Nowhere" movie; 7 p.m.

Dist 64 & 207 @ Maine South H.S. Auditorium

September

2 Friday

First Fridays - "Cruisin' Park Ridge"; 5 p.m.
Uptown and South Park Merchants open 'til 9 p.m.

8 Thursday

Gardening Interests; 7 p.m.

PR Garden Club @ Senior Center

9 Friday

Back to School Bash; 7 p.m.

PR Park Dist. @ Maine Park Leisure Center

10 Saturday

Keller Williams Community Wide Garage Sale; 8 a.m.

Various locations t/o City
For info call: 847/685-2290

Antique Market & Collectibles; 9 a.m. (rain date 9/11)

PR Historical Society @ Hodges Park

11 Sunday

Hopefest 2011; 9 a.m.

Maine East H.S. & PR Youth Campus

12 Monday

Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing; 9:30 a.m.

11 a.m. start time @ Evanston Country Club

16 Friday

Free Friday Family Fun Flick; 7 p.m.

@ PR Presbyterian Church

Park Ridge Art League; 7:30 p.m.

@ South Park

23 Friday

Arts & Crafts; 6:30 p.m.

Kalo Foundation @ PR Country Club

Family Campfire; 7 p.m.

PR Park Dist. @ Wildwood Nature Ctr.

24 Saturday

American Red Cross Babysitting Training; 9 a.m.

PR Park Dist. @ Maine Park Leisure Ctr.

Twice as Nice Mom's Twin Club Resale Event; 8 a.m.

@ First United Methodist Church

30 Friday

Scholarship Benefit; 11:30 a.m.

PR Panhellenic Club @ PR Country Club

October

1 Saturday

Cemetery Walk; 10 a.m.

PR Historical Society @ Town of Maine Cemetery

@ Dee & Touhy (also on 10/8 & 10/15)

4-Wheels & Fall Family Fest; 11 a.m.

PR Park Dist. @ Maine Park

Adler Planetarium; 10 a.m.

PR Park Dist. @ departs from Maine Park

Fire Department Open House; noon

1000 N. Greenwood

Save the dates

10/13 Rummage Sale @ PR Presbyterian Church

10/14 Center of Concern Bunko Parties

10/15 Electronic Recycling @ PWSC

Historic preservation

(continued from page 1)

Cemetery. He also designed Sunbeam appliances, created Midway Garden sprite statues for Frank Lloyd Wright, the Rock of Gibraltar at Chicago's Prudential building, and bronze Zodiac symbols at Adler Planetarium.

The Pickwick Theatre received the first landmark designation by the City. In July, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval of its first residential landmark designation for 424 Talcott Place (1927), designed by architect Benedict Bruns of Park Ridge. He is well known in Chicago for bungalows in Independence Park, and the North Mayfair and Rogers Park Manor Historic Districts.

Special events

A special event benefiting the Iannelli Studios is being hosted by the Chicago Art Deco Society at the Pickwick Theatre Saturday, August 20, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (\$10).

In September an ice cream social is being hosted by Kalo by invitation to thank all contributors and neighbors. More than 500 contributors (including many community organizations) cared to provide Park Ridge with this jewel, Foxwell said. ▲

Recognized

Mayor David Schmidt presented the Maine South Constitution Team with a proclamation recognizing the team's achievement, placing first in State Competition and ninth in National Competition.

George Kirkland was presented a proclamation and thanked for his two years of volunteer service to the City and videotaping City meetings.

A proclamation was read and presented to St. Paul of the Cross Parish in honor of its 100th anniversary. ▲

Refuse reminder

Residents are reminded not to put their refuse containers in the street for pickup if they have street pickup.

Place the containers on the parkway or at the curb line for street pickup. Also, residents are not to place containers, bags or anything for pickup on the parkway prior to 3 p.m. the day before pickup. ▲

To obtain event details, visit <http://www.ParkRidgeArts.org> or call 847/318-5200.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hopefest reclaims 9-11 as day of hope

Sunday, September 11 will mark the tenth anniversary of the World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks. Three area United Methodist churches, including First UMC Park Ridge, are organizing a day of remembrance, community service, and first responder celebration. Hopefest events at Maine East High School will include a LifeSource blood drive, the Advocate Lutheran General KIDS Fair, CPR training sessions, a food pantry collection, and Salvation Army disaster relief program.

The Park Ridge Youth Campus will host a volunteer clean-up/fix-up work project.

View a complete events schedule and volunteer opportunities at www.hopefest.net.

Whether it's just one hour or for the whole day, it's your chance to embody hope by giving back to your community. ▲

Flood Update:

Christopher B. Burke Engineering presented its report on the Citywide Sewer Study on Monday, July 18 at a special City Council meeting. The Flood Task Force is meeting again on September 7 to discuss the report and will make recommendations to the City Council. ▲

Next police academy in spring

The Citizens Police Academy gives insight into all aspects of police work. A fall session is being waived at this time; however, it will again be offered in the spring.

Alderman Thomas A. Bernick (Sixth Ward) took the course to familiarize himself with the Police Department and its service to the community. It gives you a better understanding of what goes on within the City and what the police officers do in our community, he noted.

Those who live or work in Park Ridge, at least 21 years of age, are eligible to participate. If interested in attending the session in March 2012, contact Lt. Duane Mellema at 847/318-5263. ▲

What about brush collection?

Collection of brush and branches for chipping by the City was discontinued in September 2009.

For brush collection, branches less than three (3) inches in diameter and five (5) feet in length can be tied together in bundles weighing less than 50 pounds for collection with regular yard waste. Twigs and small brush can be broken up and placed in large paper yard bags (not plastic) or in special yard waste carts available through ARC Disposal, the City's refuse hauler, on the regularly scheduled garbage day. Residents with larger branches or tree removals will need to contact a tree service company or landscaper to arrange for the removal. ▲

Dispose of sharps, CFL's and medications

Prescription drugs and sharps are taken at City Hall for recycling on monthly basis. The City also accepts compact fluorescent bulbs for recycling.

Collections are the first Thursday of the month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Upcoming collection dates are August 4, September 1, and October 6.

Items for recycling may be turned in, in the lobby area of City Hall, 505 Butler Place.

Medicines need to be placed in a labeled container, and the bulbs in plastic bags. Fluorescent tube bulbs are not taken. ▲

Quick facts about us

Recently released information from the 2010 U.S. Census shows some new facts about Park Ridge.

The median age changed from 42.5 in 2000 to 44.8 in 2010. The percentage of population under 18 stayed basically the same—24.5% in 2000 and 24.4 in 2010. The population of residents 65 and older decreased slightly, from 19.6% in 2000 to 18.4% in 2010. Total population is 37,480.

For a further look at census data pertaining to the City go to <http://factfinder2.census.gov> on the web. ▲

Hydrant flushing underway

The City of Park Ridge Fire Department has started the 2011 hydrant flushing program. This program will continue until all hydrants in the City have been flushed. Approximately 150 to 200 hydrants will be flushed a week. Residents will be notified via Everbridge, on Saturday mornings, if your neighborhood hydrants will be scheduled for flushing the next week. Please note, you may receive calls multiple weeks depending on where your address falls within our hydrant grids.

The Fire Department will flush hydrants between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. During this time you may notice a change in water pressure and possible discoloration. If you notice discoloration of the water, it is not harmful and will disappear in a short amount of time. However, it is strongly recommended that residents refrain from laundering clothing while the water is discolored.

If you have any questions, please call 847/318-6721. ▲

Important phone numbers

A list of emergency and other important phone numbers is available at City Hall, as well as an Illinois Emergency Management Association (IEMA) Severe Weather Preparedness Guide.

Please note the following numbers:

Emergency Police/Fire

911

Police/Non-Emergency 24/7

847/318-5252

ComEd

800/334-7661

Public Works, Administration

847/317-5227

Forestry/Tree Care

847/318-5231

Street, Sewer, Water Main Repairs

847/318-5240

A full listing of important numbers will be published in an upcoming *Spokesman*. It is also downloadable from our website under Online Services, Documents, Forms & Permits. ▲



POSTAL CUSTOMER
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068

Presort Standard
U. S. Postage
PAID
Park Ridge, Illinois
Permit No. 491

Mural

(continued from page 1)

Park Ridge Historical Society are working together to raise the funds.

Each and every dollar will go towards the restoration and installation of the mural within the Library.

Mary Emma Thompson, an authority on New Deal Treasury Department artwork in Illinois, will present a program for the Park Ridge Historical Society on "Illinois New Deal-era Post Office Murals." Scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 21, at the Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., the program will also focus on the 6' by 20' mural, "Indians Cede the Land." The mural strongly suggests many of the elements present in the Chicago area at the time the Native Americans signed treaties to give up their claims to the Indian Boundary Territory.

There is no admission charge for this program; however, donations to the restoration project will be welcomed.

More information and a donation form may be found at the Historical Society website www.pennyville.org or mail donations to the Mural Restoration Committee, Post Office Box 1365, Park Ridge, IL 60068. A pamphlet detailing the effort is available at the Library.

Those serving on the Committee are Tony Borrelli, Jeff Caudill, Pat Lofthouse, John Murphy, Nancy Pytel, and Richard VanMetre. ▲

City of Park Ridge Mission Statement

The City of Park Ridge is committed to providing excellence in City services in order to uphold a high quality of life, so our community remains a wonderful place to live and work.



This picture dates back to the '70's, before the mural was removed from the post office wall.

Welcome new business

We welcome these new businesses to Park Ridge and encourage residents to look to the City first for their shopping and service needs.

Fase Media

5243 Devon Ave.
Phone: 847/208-4667

Fencing Center of Chicago

Bakhyt Abdikulov, head coach.
111 S. Washington St.
Phone: 847/292-1146
www.fencingcenterofchicago.com



Jack and Jill, Kids, Cuts and Toys Party packages, hair cuts.

70 N. Northwest Highway
Phone: 847/692-3550
www.jackandjillparkridge.com

Piazza Caffe and Grill Restaurant

1056 Busse Highway
Phone: 847/518-2233 ▲

First Fridays continue

First Fridays Park Ridge is continuing to provide special evenings of shopping and dining for area residents. Artistic talents and sounds of summer opened the venue.

Merchants are staying open late and city restaurants are offering many specials to encourage residents to come out and support their local businesses. The activities are scheduled in the Uptown and South Park. "Dog Days of Summer" featuring animals and adoption is planned for Friday, August 5.

Participants will display the First Fridays flag shown here. For more information, including merchants and details on specials offered, go to www.firstfridayspr.com. ▲

