DevCorp North celebrates businesses in Rogers Park

DevCorp North’s annual awards benefit was a huge success this year. The event recognized some of the many people and organizations who, along with DevCorp North, are committed to making the Rogers Park community a better place for residents, businesses and visitors. The theme of this year’s event, “Investing In Our Future,” encouraged us all to look ahead.

This year’s Façade of the Year, Clark Manor Convalescent Center, 7433 N. Clark St., set the stage for our event by highlighting their investment and commitment to continuing to provide quality care for adults in Rogers Park. In order to make the façade project work, the skilled nursing facility sacrificed five beds, reducing their total number of beds from 273 to 268. Clark Manor was established more than 30 years ago, and they pride themselves on being independently owned, having a strong, experienced and longstanding staff and providing excellent services. Mark Schlichting, the administrator of the center, arrived at Clark Manor in Rogers Park more than 20 years ago by simply answering an ad he saw in the paper. Twenty years later, he remains committed to both the work of the center and the community of Rogers Park. That commitment is readily apparent in the form of a new façade that was resulting from an expansion project.

What do you get when you take local artists, theaters, property owners, business owners and a cobblestone street and put them all together? In Rogers Park, you get the Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest! The organizers of the fest received this year’s award for Community Partner. Started five years ago, the Arts Fest is a grassroots team effort by the artists, organizations and businesses that make up the Glenwood Avenue Arts District in Rogers Park. It has experienced tremendous growth in the past five years and is a true example of community partnership. In fact, the festival is growing again this year, and will expand to include a section of Morse Avenue when the festival is held Aug. 25-26. Dedicated to remaining a free neighborhood festival and preserving its unique Rogers Park character, the Festival is a nonprofit community event. Entry fees are kept low to allow community artists to participate, and food vendors are local restaurants and cafes.

S&C Electric, the winner of this year’s Business Leadership award, was founded by Edmund Schweitzer and Nicholas Conrad, who were engineers with Commonwealth Edison. In 1909, they invented a spring-loaded fuse filled with carbon tetrachloride and called it the “S&C Liquid Power Fuse” and a company was born. They moved into their first store on Wilson Avenue in 1911 and later built a factory in Ravenswood, continuing to grow in size and reach, registering 111 patents alone in 1937. Nicolas Conrad eventually purchased the company and was assisted in running S&C by his son, John, who had worked for Douglas Aircraft. In 1947, having outgrown the Ravenswood site, S&C purchased six acres of land along Ridge Avenue to build a new factory and campus. That campus eventually grew to 50 acres, and the company set up subsidiary companies and locations throughout the world. Today, S&C has a worldwide network of sales engineers and representative companies in more than 40 countries, all backed by support organizations in the six engineering and manufacturing facilities.

S&C has always supported the communities in which it operates, noting on its Web site that Rogers Park is one of the most ethnically and economically diverse communities in the United States. S&C supports the neighborhood and the city through contributions to Chicago public schools and area universities, participation in community and civic organizations, and support to the world-renowned Museum of Science & Industry and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 2006 alone, S&C and its associated foundation supported nearly 50 organizations and institutions. S&C is also an active participant in skills training programs for high school students and adults, often hiring graduates of the programs. In 2005, John Conrad passed away at the age of 89 after 50 years at the helm of the company. Today, S&C Electric remains privately owned and is a leader in the field of electric power, switching and protection equipment.

Joe Mirro has deep roots and a deep love for Rogers Park. This year he can add Friend of Rogers Park to his list of achievements. As a resident for more than 30 years, he has coached little league baseball teams, basketball, football and served as a den mother for his daughter’s Girl Scout troop.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 13 - 7:30 to 9 a.m. - Rogers Park Business and Artists Networking Group breakfast meeting. The Common Cup (1501 W. Morse). Meetings held every second Wednesday (locations change monthly). Grand Opening Event and Ribbon Cutting. FREE!

Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17 - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Artist of the Wall Festival. Loyola Beach.

Wednesday, June 27 - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Rogers Park Business and Artists Networking Group meeting. La Cazuela (6922 N. Clark St.). Meetings held the last Wednesday of each month (locations change monthly). $10 includes food and fun.


Tuesday, July 3 - 6:30 to 8 p.m. - “Ask The Lawyer Night,” sponsored jointly by the Law Offices of Jonathan Dixon P.C. and Ennui Café (6981 N. Sheridan). Anybody with a legal issue or question -- big or small -- is invited to stop by to "ask the lawyer!" For more information, call (312) 217-0321.

Wednesday, July 11 - 7:30 to 9 a.m. - Rogers Park Business and Artists Networking Group breakfast meeting. Family Matters (7731 N. Marshfield). Meetings held every second Wednesday (locations change monthly). FREE.

Saturday, July 14 - 12 to 8 pm and Sunday, July 15 - 12 to 6 pm – Celebrate Clark Street Festival – on Clark Street, between Morse and Touhy. 17 live musical acts, arts, crafts, jewelry, and food from around the world. FREE!

Friday, July 20 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Rogers Park Job Fair. Howard Area Employment Resource Center (1623 W. Howard).

Wednesday, July 25 - 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Rogers Park Business and Artists Networking Group meeting. Meetings held the last Wednesday of each month (locations change monthly). $10 includes food and fun. Hosted by www.rogerspark.com.


Saturday, August 4 - Dusk – Movies in the Park – Happy Feet. Touhy Park (7348 N. Paulina).

Tuesday, August 7 – 6:30 to 8 p.m. – “Ask The Lawyer Night,” sponsored jointly by the Law Offices of Jonathan Dixon P.C. and Ennui Café (6981 N. Sheridan). Anybody with a legal issue or question -- big or small -- is invited to stop by to "ask the lawyer!" For more information, call (312) 217-0321.

Wednesday, August 8 - 7:30 to 9 a.m. - Rogers Park Business and Artists Networking Group breakfast meeting. Location TBD. Meetings held every second Wednesday (locations change monthly). $6 includes breakfast.


Sunday, August 19 – 8 a.m. – Heartland Heat of the Summer 5K Run. Heartland Café (7000) N. Glenwood).


Saturday, August 25 and Sunday, August 25 – 12 to 8 pm – 6th Annual Glenwood Avenue Arts Fest. Glenwood and Morse. Arts, crafts and live entertainment on 3 stages.
Rogers Park BizArts celebrates 6 years
Networking events an affordable way to get ahead in community

It’s been six years since the first Rogers Park BizArts Networking event was organized by Mike Glasser. For those who have never met Glasser, he has a long-term relationship with Rogers Park, having lived here at various times in his life. In 1992, Glasser was one of the founding members of the Rogers Park Builders Group, an organization that he headed from 1998 to 2006. Glasser owns and manages www.rogerspark.com and is always looking for ways to promote the Rogers Park community.

Rogers Park BizArts meetings were started as a way to give local business owners, artists and residents a chance to get to know each other and promote themselves and their enterprises through networking. Rogers Park BizArts has consistently arranged monthly breakfast meetings since May 2001. It soon became necessary to add networking events in the evenings for those individuals who couldn’t attend the morning meetings. After Hours events began in October 2003. At this point it became a much bigger job than anticipated and Glasser came to DevCorp North for help. We started partnering with Rogers Park BizArts and have been organizing the events ever since.

Breakfast events are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and After Hours events are held on the last Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Although DevCorp North and www.rogerspark.com organize and promote each event is hosted by a local business at a location of its choice. We recommend charging no more than $6 per person for a breakfast meeting and no more than $10 per person for an After Hours. Admission fees do not necessarily cover all costs of the event, but usually help defray a portion of the cost. Some businesses choose to host the event at no charge.

Upcoming events include:
• BizArts Networking Breakfast
  Wednesday, June 13, 2007
  7:30 to 9 a.m.
  The Common Cup, 1501 W. Morse Ave.
  Grand Opening Event and Ribbon Cutting.
• BizArts Networking After Hours
  Wednesday, June 27, 2007
  5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  La Cazuela Restaurant, 6922 N. Clark St.
• BizArts Networking Breakfast
  Wednesday, July 11, 2007
  7:30 to 9 a.m.
  Family Matters, 7731 N. Marshfield
• BizArts Networking After Hours
  Wednesday, July 25, 2007
  5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  Hosted by www.rogerspark.com, location TBD
• BizArts Networking Breakfast
  Wednesday, August 8, 2007
  7:30 to 9 a.m.
  Location TBD
• BizArts Networking After Hours
  Wednesday, August 29, 2007
  5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  Good To Go, 1947 W. Howard St.

If you would like to be notified of upcoming events, you can register for the e-newsletter on www.rogerspark.com (to be on the rogerspark.com list), or e-mail Sandi Price at sprice@devcorpnorth.org to be included on DevCorp North’s daily “Rogers Park Happenings” e-mail list.

Urban planning veteran joins DevCorp North
Courtney Owen will head up Howard Street operations

DevCorp North recently hired Courtney Owen, an urban planner with experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, to fill the vacancy of Commercial District Planner and Special Service Manager for Howard Street. Although Chicago is her adopted home, Owen is a native of Galesburg, Ill and has lived and worked in cities large and small, including a one-year contract in Shanghai, China. In China, she worked for the Tongji Urban Planning and Design Institute on urban heritage conservation planning, including work on two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Prior to joining the DevCorp North staff, she worked as a land use planner at the law firm of Foley and Lardner. She has extensive knowledge of zoning regulations and processes. Owen has also worked at the American Planning Association, UIC’s Center for Urban Economic Development, and for the Allen County Department of Planning Services in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Owen earned a bachelor’s degree in urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Owen is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Welcome Courtney!
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DevCorp North celebrates businesses

Clearly, this man is fearless! Mirro became interested in creating a community-oriented bank several years ago, wanting to create a lending institution that offered hands-on personal service and focused on building relationships. He joined with Dan Starzyk and Steve Olsen, banking professionals from Uptown Bank, to make it happen. The site of Community First Bank is the former Angus restaurant on Western Avenue, a property that Mirro owned and had planned to make into 24 condos. But that’s not the only reason they decided to build a bank here in the neighborhood: Mirro and other bank founders decided on Rogers Park because of its cultural and ethnic diversity and the strong reputation of community organizations like DevCorp North. Mirro has been a developer for 35 years, working on projects throughout the city, with a special emphasis on Edgewater, Rogers Park and West Ridge. He recently completed two projects at Damen and Birchwood and currently has a project underway at Clark and Ridge. Mirro believes in Rogers Park’s future: He knows that it has great people, architecture and buildings, assets like proximity to the lake and easy access to transportation options.

Each year, the President’s Award is given to someone that has gone above and beyond in their work. There is no one more deserving of that award this year than Gina Caruso, an assistant commissioner at the Development Support Services of Chicago’s Department of Planning and Development. Caruso is a native Chicagoan who initially studied arts before moving into community planning. After receiving her dual undergraduate degree in Visual Arts and Sociology, she moved to Rogers Park and joined a clay artists’ collective at Glenwood and Albion. She began to participate in art fairs and showed such impressive organizational skills that soon she was managing art fairs and eventually was tapped to work with the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce as its executive director. Caruso worked there for 6 years, improving and expanding the chamber’s reach and quality of services. She entered the world of private consulting with Lakota Development Group and subsequently branched out on her own under the banner of Caruso Consults. Caruso continued her studies by obtaining a master’s degree in urban planning and policy from UIC and has certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners. Recognized as Chicago’s expert on Special Service Areas, she was recruited by the City of Chicago to oversee the nearly 40 SSAs located in Chicago. As evidence of her talents, her responsibilities at the city have grown and she was promoted to assistant commissioner a year ago. Caruso now oversees the Small Business Improvement Fund, the Special Service Area program and the Retail Chicago Initiative. With Caruso’s guidance, all these programs have grown in quantity and quality. In Rogers Park, she provides guidance and direction for both Special Service Areas, is helping to roll out the new Small Business Improvement Fund for the Devon-Sheridan area, and is seeking ways to bring new retail to the Rogers Park community. Caruso has gone above and beyond in her position with the city, constantly striving to provide value to local organizations such as DevCorp North and communities like Rogers Park.

DevCorp North would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Rogers Park restaurants who donated food for our event. We would also like to thank the many businesses who donated items for our silent auction and St. Scholastica Academy for all their hard work assisting with set up and tear down. A special thanks to Liz Vogel for the design of this year’s logo and to our event’s major sponsors, Camelot Realty, Charter One, Harris Bank, Loyola University Chicago and MB Financial.

DevCorp North Awards Dinner is great fun, lively networking

Even a lingering cold can’t stop Neighborhood Direct’s Craig Leiber from enjoying the evening

I was feeling a little under the weather, having missed my first day of work in many years. Upon stopping into the DevCorp North office upon my return to the salt mines, Sandi asked me if I would be attending the DevCorp North Awards Dinner at St. Scholastica. How does she keep track of all of us members and remind us to participate in DevCorp North events? OK, I admit I tried to back out having spent the better part of a week struggling with the flu. Of course I tried to leave my options open until the last minute.

So I get back to the office and try to type out the silent auction donation on my computer. (At least I could save face if I decided to weasel out of the actual function.) Since I have only completed one session of my DevCorp North Introduction to Microsoft Office computer class, preparing a three-paragraph gift certificate turned into a monumental task. Now my (once-resolved) self-esteem issues are a glaring factor in my first day back to work. I ask a co-worker to help me; she prepares the entire thing.

There was only one way to restore my integrity: Call Sandi and say I’m coming. It turned out to be quite a surprise. Funny how quickly one recuperates from the flu when the bartender goes through the beer list and Beck’s is on it! First thing that happens: a lady starts talking to me as we browse the silent auction selection. We immediately reveal our business identities to each other and Carla Price turns out to be the wife of my newest, biggest advertising client in Evanston. Alan Price organized 20 small businesses from the Main Street Merchants Association to buy separate ads from me (at a well-negotiated price of course). Now I know that his love interests include Carla as well as a love for classic Jaguars. We become friends for the evening, and hopefully for the future.

Next thing I know, another client, Gregory Altman from Morseland, is introducing me to Alderman Joe Moore. He compliments our company on how much money he saves using coupons from Neighborhood Direct. I order my second beer. Then I meet yet another client (and old friend of my then-hippie brother in the late 1960s), Michael James – in a suit and tie, no less. I’ve only known Michael two years but this is the first time in about 100 visits I’ve seen him look, well, conservative. Just kidding, Michael!

The second beer begins to go to my head. Time for food. The international selection was amazing. Where else could you eat food from about 20 countries (free of the crowd and hassles at The Taste of Chicago) under one roof, and have a balanced meal three times over during one evening – all without eating the same thing twice?

Now I’m relaxed. The jazz trio is excellent and thanks to their focus on reasonable volume, I can hear every word spoken to

continued on page 12
During the nearly four-year tenure of the Clark/Morse/Glenwood Special Service Area #24, many projects have been completed and great plans are in store for the future. These accomplishments are due to the team efforts of very committed SSA commissioners, DevCorp North, and community members that have been collaborating and are very supportive of the projects. The Commercial Corridor Revitalization Plan that covers Clark, Morse and Glenwood has guided these efforts.

One of the projects that will revitalize Morse and Glenwood is a Viaduct Mural which will serve as an identifier for the Glenwood Avenue Arts District. This exciting project is a partnership with the Chicago Public Art Group and has the support of 49th Ward Alderman Joe Moore. Carl Lingenfelter, CTA Chairman Carol Brown’s chief of staff, has been attending the planning meetings. Lingenfelter, who lives in Rogers Park, is giving his support and will be including the mural proposal in an upcoming CTA Board meeting agenda.

Damon Lamar Reed, the local artist who created the Cocoabean mural at Glenwood and Lunt, has been selected by the Chicago Public Art Group to create the Morse Ave. mural. Measurements of the viaduct have been completed and the final design has been approved. The viaduct mural will showcase the arts and assets of Rogers Park using bright compelling colors and illustrations.

The process of painting has already begun using state-of-the art materials in a method whereby it is not necessary for the artist to work directly on the wall. Instead, the mural will be created in a studio and installed on the wall when ready. The materials are more resistant to the elements and repair is easy in case of damage. Morse Avenue and the Glenwood Avenue Arts District will be proud to showcase this new expression of public art in time for the Glenwood Avenue Arts Festival in August. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on July 21st.

Since the creation of the Clark/Morse/Glenwood Special Service Area #24 in the winter of 2004, many positive changes have taken place for the Rogers Park community. Through DevCorp North, the sole service provider for SSA #24, we have created a comprehensive maintenance program which provides maintenance services on a daily basis. These services are street cleaning, industrial-strength sidewalk pressure washing, snow removal, and landscaping and beautification of the public way. Our most recent addition to these services has been the creation of a sand blasting program which will allow us to prepare the CTA embankment on Glenwood Avenue in preparation for the Mile of Murals Project scheduled to begin this summer.

The majority of the labor services we provide are made possible by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services through the Earnfare Program, which provides individuals with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while receiving public assistance. This is a subsidized program that allows all labor costs to be 100% reimbursable to the employer. Our grant with the Illinois Department of Human Services has grown from four employees in 2003 to 25 employees in 2007. We have worked very hard to maintain the parameters of our contractual obligations with the Department of Human Services/Earnfare Program and have maintained a high retention rate of employable clients through this program from 2004 to the present time. Due to the increased staffing, DevCorp North hired a part-time assistant director of maintenance in 2006.

Through hard work and due diligence, we are succeeding in creating a vibrant and revitalized community that has attracted many businesses to Rogers Park. These are just some of the exciting things that are happening in the Rogers Park community.
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Howard Street SSA

Howard Street landscaping program keeps going strong

11 years, 17 planters and 75 tree grates later ...

In the 11 years since the Howard Street Special Service Area was initially approved, a comprehensive maintenance program was created which has made a significant impact on the Rogers Park community. One of the most notable changes over the last several years has been the introduction of a landscaping program on Howard Street. This includes the purchase of 17 decorative planters distributed strategically between Sheridan Road and Paulina Avenue. Along with the introduction of our new spring plantings in 2007, fresh plants and flowers are renewed annually in the summer and fall, with dry decorative flora in place for the winter holiday season.

DevCorp North signed a contractual agreement with the City of Chicago’s Department of Transportation for the maintenance and upkeep of the cement cast streetscape planters installed on Howard Street from Seeley to Wolcott. This maintenance agreement is part of the streetscape beautification project completed in the summer of 2003. There are also 75 tree grates along the Howard Street Special Service Area that need seasonal amending with fresh mulch. Since this program was created in the spring of 2004, we have distributed more than 100,000 pounds of fresh mulch in our continuing commitment to the beautification of Rogers Park. This mulch is available to us free of charge from the Department of Forestry.

In the winter of 2004, a commercial utility tractor was purchased for the removal of ice and snow within the Howard Street Special Service Area boundaries. This piece of equipment can outperform what once was being performed manually by over more than a dozen employees, and in only a third of the time. This equipment is also shared with the Clark/Morse/Glenwood Special Service Area.

The majority of the DevCorp North maintenance crew is composed of employees hired through the Illinois Department of Human Services Earnfare Program. See article on page 7.

A recently added component to the maintenance program in 2007 is the high pressure cleaning of all commercial area sidewalks throughout the Howard Street Special Service Area. An agreement has been reached with the Clark/Morse/Glenwood Special Service Area to rent their equipment in order to clean the boundaries of Howard Street on this year with all labor being performed in house by the DevCorp North maintenance team at a fraction of the cost of hiring private contractors.

The changing face of Howard Street

An interview with Lorrie Woos

Lorrie Woos is a long-time resident of Rogers Park and a new commissioner for the Howard Street Special Service Area. The SSA was recently reconstituted and expanded through a vote of affected property owners. Our new SSA manager, Courtney Owen, interviewed Woos about the changes she has seen in the neighborhood and her goals as an SSA Commissioner.

How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Thirty-one years. We bought our house on Howard in 1975 because we were looking for an affordable single-family residence. That was a time of big revitalization plans for Howard, including Ed Noonan’s proposal to restore the Howard Theatre.

What kind of changes have you seen since you moved here?

There have been a lot of plans and planning for Howard. I saw the deep decline of the 1980s with the serious public safety problems in the area. Since then, there has been a slow, steady upward direction with improvements in public safety and a greater array of housing opportunities. Howard Street has lost businesses but I don’t believe we can blame all of it on the negative perception of the street. Our challenge will be to replace them.

The local buying power is being spent elsewhere. This poses a challenge for our neighborhood business districts and I feel that we should look to success stories in other Chicago neighborhoods for ideas, as well as developing our own ideas for issues that are unique to our area. This may mean targeting major retailers or providing more parking to make us more competitive with the shopping opportunities in the suburbs. On the other hand, we see some Chicago business districts with similar infrastructure and parking challenges, such as Andersonville’s Clark Street shopping district, that are extremely successful, and that rely on unique ma-and-pa small businesses to create an interesting retail mix. Basically, continued on page 12
On Saturday, April 14th, student artists and their families attended the “Celebrate Art in Rogers Park” event held in Gateway Plaza. Students from area schools submitted their artwork around the theme, “What I love about Rogers Park,” to be judged in four age groups with the winners announced at the event. The process for the contest and celebration was developed by the Howard Street Special Service Area and DevCorp North with the assistance of students from Northwestern University.

Attendees enjoyed performances by local youth groups such as the Good News Partners Gospel Choir, video shorts by After School Matters, karate by ZAM’s Hope Community Resource Center, African Drum Corps (Family Matters Young Men’s Program) and a hip-hop dance troupe from Rogers Park Community Council.

Jamaica Jerk and Lake Side Café provided wonderful refreshments, and visitors enjoyed viewing the artwork and creating some of their own. All of the contest entrants’ work is displayed along Howard Street in various vacant storefronts. A map of the art is available at DevCorp North’s office (1557 W. Howard St.).

First-place winners were awarded $50 gift certificates to their favorite Howard Street business. All first-place and second-place winners had their art matted and framed.

Congratulations to our winners:
- **Kindergarten-2nd Grade**
  First Place: Shelton Meyers, 2nd Grade, Jordan Community School
- **3rd Grade-5th Grade**
  First Place: Glenford Johnson, 5th Grade, Jordan Community School
  Second Place: Elijah W., 5th Grade, Gale Community Academy
- **6th-8th Grade**
  First Place: Rebecca Taylor, 8th Grade, Chicago Math and Science Academy
  Second Place: Jonathan Guijosa, 8th Grade, Chicago Math and Science Academy
- **High School**
  First Place: Courtney Andrews, 9th Grade, Nicholas Senn High School
  Second Place: Sergio R., Lawrence Hall Youth Services

Thanks also to the local schools and community groups that participated in the art contest:
- Chicago Math & Science Academy
- Family Matters
- Gale Community Academy
- Jordan Community School
- Lawrence Hall Youth Services
- Senn High School
- Starfish Learning Center
- Sullivan High School

Winners get $50 gift certificate for art showing love of Rogers Park.
Interview
continued from page 10

I don’t think we have to reinvent the wheel to address some of our issues.

You recently joined the SSA Commission for Howard Street. Why did you join and what are your goals for the SSA?

I was invited by DevCorp North to join the commission when the boundaries were extended to Sheridan Road. All of my goals incorporate a concrete, direct benefit that residents and business owners can see. There have been 30 years of visions for Howard Street but unfortunately, none have been fully realized. DevCorp North’s maintenance program, however, has been highly visible and extremely effective. That struck home with me – the fact that even in times when development is lagging, the street is clean and plowed. I think it is reasonable to expect that the new Commission for Howard Street will be moving things up to the next level.

It seems like, in the case of Howard Street, hope springs eternal.

What can you tell us about your career path and what you bring to the commission?

I bring theoretical knowledge as well as practical experience. I was with the City for 11 years in both the Planning and Housing departments, serving under four mayors from Daley I to Washington. This has provided me with experience reacting to changing directions, for example, in policy.

Why is Rogers Park (and/or Howard St.) a great place to live or open a business?

The first word used to describe Rogers Park is always diverse. For me, this means that you find pleasant, interesting people living and working here and this provides a good feeling about the community. Rogers Park has fantastic transportation options and the lakefront is a huge benefit as it draws residents who in turn create a customer and employment base for businesses. I feel that the residential sector is strong and that it is an untapped resource for the business districts in the neighborhood. We have to find a way to tap into this buying power.

DevCorp North is celebrating its 14th year. What can you tell us about the influence of this organization in Rogers Park?

I think the staying power of DevCorp North and its predecessor agencies is a testament to the organization’s work. The SSAs are a prime example. Some SSAs are voted out when they come up for reconstitution. The successful reconstitution, and expansion, of the Howard Street SSA is a compliment to the efforts of DevCorp North, and in particular, their maintenance crew. It is impossible to fully appreciate the powerful presence and service of the crew. The workers are polite and good-natured and provide a tremendous service.

DevCorp North Awards Dinner is great fun
continued from page 5

me. I strike up a conversation with a brand-identity marketing man named Pon Angara, who’s doing work for one of my clients, DCI Furniture. A week earlier, we waited in line together for appointments with our mutual customer. He introduces to me a massage therapist who is interested in advertising. The evening keeps going this way.

Time for awards. All right, it’s true; everyone seems a little happier at this point but Kimberly’s description of a typical day at work with DevCorp North was not only funny and candid, but inspiring. Thanks, everyone. I had a great time. I’ll be back next year, not only because I genuinely had fun (love the invention of open bar and great food), but about 200 people from my business community viewed our donated ad campaign that we gave away this year. Last year, Dan Sullivan bought our donated ad campaign to advertise his new businesses Charmer’s Cafe and Dagel Beli at Jarvis Square. That worked out well for our company when Dan bought more advertising directly from us this year. Best of all, I got a little closer to new and ongoing friendships in Rogers Park. That makes work fun!
Welcome to all of you!

For a full list of members, visit our Web site: http://www.rogers-park.com.
Thank you!
DevCorp North would like to thank the sponsors of our Annual Awards Benefit, held May 2, 2007 at St. Scholastica Academy

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GNC
Granville Galleries
Gulliver's
Heartland Café
High Ridge YMCA
Hilton Garden Inn - Evanston
I/O Chicago
Iowa Metamorphosis University
Joanne Farber
Jord Hall Dance Center

JR Dessert Bakery
Karen Peck
Kingston Mines
Lake Side Café
Lakeshore Athletic Club
Lakeshore Bank
Lifetime Theatre
Light Opera Works
Live Bait Theatre
Loyola University
Malini Organization, Inc.
Marecillo's
MB Financial
Metropolitan's
Greenehouse Inn
Next Theatre –
Novos Cultural Arts Center
Northwestern University
Athletics
O' Donoghue's
Old Town School of
Folk Music
Onion Newspaper
Pegasus Players
Raven Theatre
Robinson Traveller
Rothschild Theatre
Riverview Theatre
Rock Café
Robert's Cycle
Rogers Park Historical Society
Rogers Park Professional
Shedd Aquarium
Signature Room at the 95th
Soie Inspirations
Spectra Institute of
Jewish Studies
Swedish Bakery
Sweet Magic Studio
Sybaris
Taste of Peru
The Common Cup
The Firehouse Inn
the side project
The UPS Store
Theatre Building
Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding
Tri Fitness
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St. Scholastica Academy
AND THE FOLLOWING
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