



SOUTHEAST EVANSTON ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5003 | Evanston, IL 60204-5003 | [www.southeastevanston.org](http://www.southeastevanston.org)

## SPRING 2020

### Community Response



COVID-19. Historically, SEA has primarily focused our efforts toward preservation of our public spaces, historic buildings and our environment but in these difficult times the Board was committed to contribute financially to preserve the stability of those Evanstonians most affected by the pandemic. We are grateful to the Evanston Community Foundation for their leadership in responding to this crisis.

### Lakefront Preservation



THE SHORELINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT contracted by SmithGroup was presented at the May 11th City Council meeting. The report identified 5 areas of urgent need, including 1. Greenwood Beach and beach house, 2. Elliott Park South and Lee St. beach house, 3. Dempster St. Beach facility, 4. Garden Park north, and 5. Sheridan Rd area, across from cemetery. A 2-stage plan was developed for temporary repairs to these areas. Sites #1 and #2 require immediate attention prior to the summer 2020 beach season to mitigate severe shoreline, parkland and beach house damage and instability. A second stage in fall 2020 would require extensive rehabilitation to sites #1-4 to stabilize all areas for the coming year. The total cost for both stages is estimated at \$750,000. Plans for Site #5, along Sheridan Rd, will need to be coordinated with IDOT, so are not included in the estimate. Consultants are developing future plans for long-term repairs.

Financial support through a request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Chicago and suburban lakefront areas from the federal government is currently on the President's desk. The issuance of general obligation bonds was discussed as an alternative funding source. City staff was asked to explore these as well as other options for funding and bring that back to the City Council.

### Tree Preservation: Call to Action



DUTCH ELM DISEASE has become a renewed and pressing concern. The confluence of a warmer than usual winter, in tandem with recent city revenue shortfalls have left many trees vulnerable. The City Council voted on May 11<sup>th</sup> to cut the budget of Dutch Elm Disease inoculation by 50%. This cut would undoubtedly lead to the deaths of many old growth trees. In response to that vote, SEA's president, Jean Prindiville, coordinated a lobbying campaign to reverse the decision. Partnering with community leaders, including Citizens' Greener Evanston, we were able to effectively pursue a public awareness campaign, informing aldermen and the public of the damage such a cut would have on Evanston. As a result, many concerned citizens contacted their alderman and many spoke out at the Council's May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting; SEA was represented there by our Vice President, Josh Bowes-Carlson. As of the printing of this newsletter, the Council has committed to reviewing the decision at their next meeting.



The South East Evanston Association is relaunching our quarterly newsletter. Especially as our in-person activities remain limited, it is essential that we renew our effort to communicate with our neighbors on issues that affect our community. We look forward to the time when we all can meet again, but remain committed to maintaining our advocacy for the shared values that define our neighborhood.

To join our effort, or renew your membership, please visit us at:

[www.southeastevanston.org/membership](http://www.southeastevanston.org/membership)

### Historical Preservation



HARLEY CLARKE. Public presentations for the four proposals for re-use of the Harley Clarke mansion have been delayed for a minimum of 60 days to allow in-person presentations. The four proposals are from 1. Evanston Conservancy Benefit Corporation; 2. Evanston Community Lakehouse and Gardens; 3. Artists Book House; and 4. One Community Museum. These groups propose very different visions for the use of Harley Clarke, as well as varied funding mechanisms. The city website provides a full description of all proposals.

### Your SEA.

We are only effective when we are speaking to the concerns of our members. Please consider filling out the survey on the link below!

[www.southeastevanston.org/survey](http://www.southeastevanston.org/survey)