

Seasons Greetings from Southport Park Association!

1 message

Susan Andrea <susan@andreahome.com>  
To: "spotlydia@gmail.com" <spotlydia@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 12:15 PM

From: Caroline Vaaler <caroline@andreahome.com>  
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:00 PM  
To: Susan Andrea <susan@andreahome.com>  
Subject: Fwd: [TEST] Seasons Greetings from Southport Park Association!

Hi Susie,

Nov 2019 Newsletter for website



DECEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II

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#### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## Southport Beach House Renovation Begins!

On August 5th, 2019, the Common Council approved the contract for the first phase of the renovation of the historic Southport Beach House. Two weeks later, the scaffolding was up and renovation of the East side of the beach house had begun. The work continued thru November and the transformation thus far is remarkable.

This initial renovation milestone is certainly reason for celebration and thanks. Eight years ago, the community rallied to save the Southport Beach House. This led to the formation of the Southport Park Association. Your support and encouragement is what fueled our momentum and kept us moving forward. Additionally, you showed us that this movement was as much about environmental stewardship and sustainability as it was about the brick and mortar aspect of historic preservation. More importantly, we

have a greater appreciation of the important role that our parks and historic buildings play in the overall health of our community.

**“ It has been said that, at it’s best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present, over a mutual concern for the future.”**

– William J. Murtagh,  
First Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

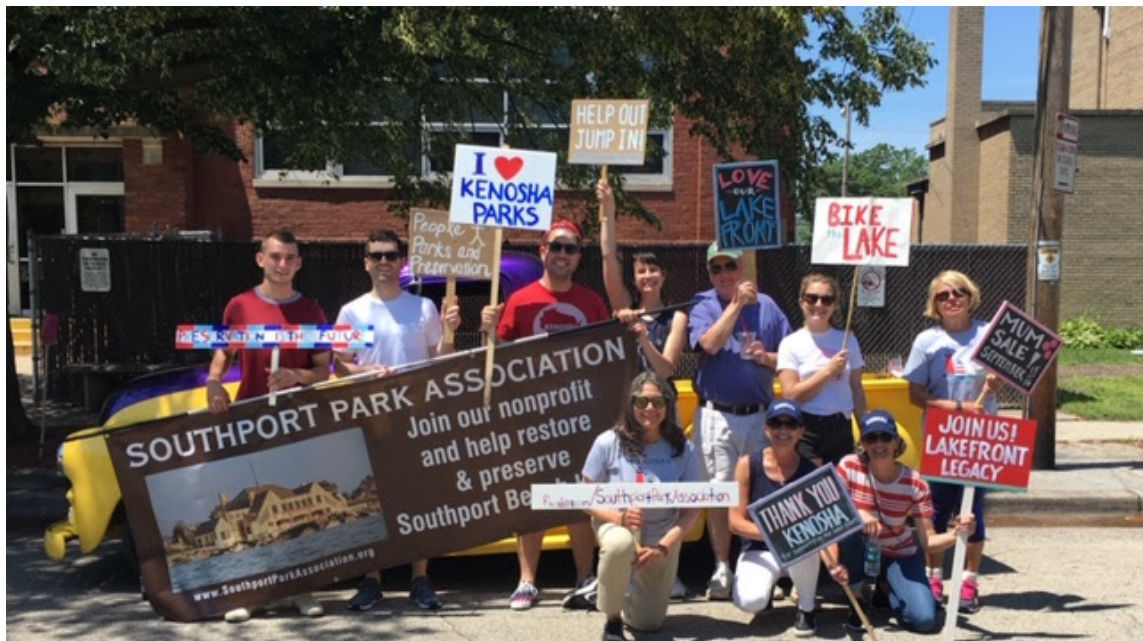
On behalf of our entire board I would like to thank Mayor John Antaramian, City Administration, Parks Commission, Public Works, Historic Preservation commission and the entire Common Council for working in partnership with Southport Park Association in the continued efforts to restore our historic coastal parks and historic beach houses for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this movement. Please keep in touch, we value your input.

*Happy Holidays and warm wishes for 2020*

*Susan Andrea-Schlenker  
President*

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### **A special thank you to our outgoing board members!**

Vice President, Linda Sarli, a founding member of our association pictured front and center during the 2017 Kenosha Civic Veterans Parade, one of the many events she organized; Secretary and Marketing Chair, Laura Belsky and Marketing co -chair, Cynthia Oblein. We thank them for giving of their time and talent. Their steadfast dedication, commitment and leadership was integral in helping us achieve our goals.

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Nancy Carlson, WATERshed Program Director

## **The award-winning WATERshed Program at Southport Park!**

Over the past two years, Southport Park Association (SPA) has partnered with the WATERshed Program to bring over 1,000 local students from Kenosha Unified School District to the Southport Park. Participating students become water scientist as they explore the unique ecosystems of our park. The goal of this program is to help create "water literate" citizens who understand the value of living in a Great Lakes community.

This summer, the WATERshed Program Director, Nancy Carlson, was named 2019 Champion of Conservation by the Lake Michigan Stakeholders for her efforts to help local students make connections to Lake Michigan. Nancy created the WATERshed Program over 11 years ago in Racine, and since its inception, has reached over 25,000 students. Southport Park is happy to be the Kenosha home to this valuable award-winning program.

The WATERshed Program is an all inclusive project to include economically disadvantaged students. These unique experiences for our local children could not be possible without the support from our community and funders. SPA is proud to be partnering with the WATERshed Program, KUSD, The City of Kenosha, UW-Parkside, and Hawthorn Hollow. We are grateful to Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and other funders who are helping to ensure this project continues in 2020.

If you are interested in volunteering [please click here](#) or if you would like to help fund the environmental educational programs [click here](#).

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## PRESERVATION CORNER



Above: Simmons Island Beach House renovation underway to be completed in 2020

**Preservation is about deciding what is important, figuring out how to protect it, and passing along an appreciation for what was saved to the next generation. Preservation is hands-on.** *-National Park Service*

This is a very exciting time for historic preservation in Kenosha. We are very grateful for our preservation champions throughout our community who have worked hard to protect the irreplaceable. The current list of historic buildings being saved from the wrecking ball, continues to grow and this is a very positive sign for the future of Kenosha. It shows that people in our community care about the historic significance of these buildings and recognize the positive economic impact of preserving the historic character of our unique city.

**There's lots of exciting preservation happening in Kenosha:**

- Simmons Island Beach House has made great progress with the completion slated for 2020.
- Stella Boutique Hotel housed in the newly restored Elks Club opened to rave reviews, this past summer.
- Isermann Brothers is scheduled to open in 2020 as a restaurant, boutique hotel and a rooftop patio.
- Anderson Art Center is undergoing a major renovation with a grand opening scheduled for February 2020.
- The iconic Barden's Department Store downtown is undergoing an expansive redevelopment. Public Craft Brewing will occupy the first floor. The second floor will be an event space. Both are scheduled to open in 2021.

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#### BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE



**2019 marked the beginning a multi-phase renovation to the exterior of the Southport Beach House.** The east façade has been rebricked and tuckpointed with Cream City brick. These repairs were of the highest priority for both the Southport Park Association and the City of Kenosha after decade of serious damage from lakefront storms. The initial reconstruction has ceased for winter months and will begin again next spring. Over \$600,000.00 will be spent by the City of Kenosha to continue exterior repairs and renovations in 2020, with work continuing for a couple of years after this.

In addition, the City will be undertaking repairs to the park shoreline revetments south of the Beach House to the north end of the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area. Severe storm damage and rising lake levels have caused serious erosion to that shoreline, and the City of Kenosha and the Kenosha Water Utility determined these repairs are urgently needed at this time.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/chiwaukee-prairie>

The Southport Park Association has begun discussions with Mayor Antaramian, Alderman Mitchel Pedersen, and City Staff on ways to enhance Southport Park's landscape, family recreational areas, parking, and lighting fixtures. In early 2020 we hope to present our vision to the City of Kenosha Parks Commission and to begin a program of improvements for the park that will complement the beautification of the Southport Beach House. We would welcome your ideas and volunteer support in this work.



## **Bike Valet is Gearing up for 2020 season at Harbor Market**

For the past three years, Southport Park Association has offered a Free Bike Valet Service at the HarborMarket. We provide this secure bike parking service to encourage biking to the market which reduces traffic and parking issues, is a green and healthy mode of transportation, and promotes our beautiful lakefront bike paths. The service is available every Saturday, from 8:45 to 2:15, from late June thru the end

of September.

The past two years, this service was made possible by our wonderful volunteers from the Bradford Varsity Football team. Our sincere thanks to the players who volunteered and to Varsity Coach Troy Bowe and his wife Jennifer, who help coordinate the volunteers and supervise the valet. A special thanks to Terry Schlenker and Mike Foster for giving of their time and effort to set up and break down the Bike Valet over the past three years.

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a sponsor for the 2020 season click below.

[Yes! I'm interested](#)

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Left to right: Linda Sarli, Leslie McPeek and Jan Sinclair

## Thank you for making a difference

Whether you volunteered, attended an event or donated to our cause, your involvement made a difference. Over the years, we invited you to join us in a variety of activities. So thank you for your participation.

We had fun along the way...

- Yoga & Friends Sunrise and Sunset Yoga on the Beach
- Pop Up Parties at the Beach House
- Mangia Garlic Dinners
- Dancing to Trombone Dave & the Lawn Clippings
- Movie in the Park
- Mum Sales and Spring Plant Sales
- Marched in the Kenosha Civic Memorial Parade
- Plein Air Painting in the Park
- Zumba on the Beach
- Plaque Dedication at Simmons Island and Southport Beach House
- Bike Valet Service at HarborMarket
- Elsie Mae's Pear Butter Events
- Volunteered for the WATERshed Program
- Ground Breaking Celebration...and more to come!



We will continue to keep you posted regarding the restoration progress and upcoming events.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to preserve our historic parks for future generations. Click here to make a tax deductible donation to Southport Park Association today!

[DONATE TODAY!](#)



SOUTHPORT PARK ASSOCIATION

4623 75th Street #4 Box # 249  
Kenosha, WI 53142

[southportassociation@gmail.com](mailto:southportassociation@gmail.com)

[www.southportparkassociation.org](http://www.southportparkassociation.org)

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