

NEAR WEST GAZETTE – August 2008

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NewsBriefs

1890s revival at Festival on Prairie Avenue

The Prairie District Neighborhood Alliance (PDNA) on Saturday, Sept. 6, will celebrate its 30th anniversary as the first district in Chicago to be designated “historic.” The event will run from noon to 6 p.m. and will be held on Prairie Avenue at 18th Street.

“We wanted to make this year’s annual block party special and meaningful by re-creating the atmosphere of the 1890s, when Prairie Avenue was the epicenter of the city’s commercial elite,” said Tina Feldstein, president of the PDNA. “We will be honoring the founders of this historical district.”

Among the celebration’s highlights, PDNA leaders will present an award to Mayor Richard M. Daley to honor his father, the late Mayor Richard J. Daley, for his role in creating the district in 1978. They also will honor Jeannette Fields, one of the founders of the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

Residents will don period Victorian costumes, and entertainment will include period music; a Victorian fashion show; and an organ grinder with Mr. Monk, a 36-year-old monkey who participated in the event celebrating the area’s historical designation 30 years ago.

Visitors also will enjoy access to and free tours of the Glessner and Clarke House Museums and the Second Presbyterian Church. At the Chicago Women’s Park, history buffs will recreate a War of 1812 encampment and perform re-enactments. Also, William Tyre, executive director of the Glessner House Museum and author of *Chicago’s Historic Prairie Avenue*, will sign copies of his book. Jacobson will serve as master of ceremonies, and food will reflect what was served at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

The event is sponsored by Harris Bank, Phoenix Rising Management, Dominick’s, and Elite Physical Therapy.

For more information, e-mail pdna.chicago@gmail.com.

--Marie Balice Ward