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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
Chicago Tribune

YOUR VOICE
YOUR ALDERMAN

About John

John Arena has lived, worked and raised a family on Chicago's north and northwest sides for most of his adult life. John and his wife of 18 years, Jill, have owned and operated a small business in the ward since 2001. They share the challenges and joys of raising their two children, Jenny, age 10, and Joe, 15. John's years of development leadership have given him hands-on experience in what it takes to help a community thrive, while still respecting the unique character of our neighborhoods.

Accomplishments

John served on board of the **Portage Park Neighborhood Association** for ten years, and was elected vice president of the association twice. His PPNA service encompassed the following:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Secured funding for the Six Corners streetscaping project
- Served as PPNA liaison to the alderman's Six Corners Streetscape Steering Committee
- Helped organize the effort to protect and re-purpose the historic Klaffer building, collecting more than 600 signatures opposing its demolition
- Helped secure RFP for the Klee building and ensured community input in the redevelopment process
- Represented PPNA and community concerns on several occasions before Chicago City Council's zoning committee

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES

- Organized 11 Independence Day parades with an average attendance of 500 per year
- Held nine community holiday parties with an average attendance of 250 per year
- Lead fundraising efforts for association events, raising more than \$60,000 over ten years

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- Established the organization's newsletter, which publishes ten times a year and reaches approximately 4,500 local households each month
- Established PPNA website

THE SIX CORNERS ASSOCIATION

John has served six years as an active member of **The Six Corners Association**. He works with all of their four committees, but his accomplishments with the association centered on two committees in particular:

Economic Restructuring Committee

- John partnered with Six Corners businesses on the redevelopment of the Klee building, streetscaping, pedestrian designation advocacy, zoning changes and the revival of the Portage Theater.

Promotions Committee

- John created a distinct identity for the shopping district at Six Corners and used his design expertise to help businesses create branding and customized marketing materials. He also helped create and market the annual shopping event known as The Six Cornercopia, as well as the annual Monster Movie Festival at the Portage Theater.



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OTHER COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- John developed a unique directed-donation fundraising system for *Friends of Bell School*, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- John has coached his son's little league baseball teams through the years: two years at Chopin Park, one year at Jefferson Park and four years at Wells Park. Last year, his team won the world series in the Wells Park Senior League.
- John is a member of *Friends of Dickinson Park* and *Friends of Portage Park Advisory Committees*.

Our Campaign

Citizens to Elect John Arena is a solid, grassroots organization of dozens of dedicated volunteers and an experienced staff of seasoned professionals. The campaign collected more than 1,000 petition signatures to get John on the ballot, opened a dedicated headquarters in the heart of the busy Jefferson Park transit hub and has been positioned as the leading campaign in this race, demonstrating both the resolve of this effort and the intense desire for change in the 45th Ward.

Issues

You can learn more about where John stands on specific issues at his [website](#), but the three pillars of John's campaign convey a fundamental understanding of his values and concerns for the future of our city:

RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

- John's open-door policy and plan for 48-hour turn-around time for constituent requests demonstrates that he will be an advocate for the ward, not outside interests.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- John will create a special economic task force with full time staff to help bring jobs and new opportunities to the community, while also helping existing businesses access the many services available to them from the city.

REFORM

- John is committed to open, honest government conducting business in the most transparent way possible, while focusing on fiscal responsibility and providing the residents of Chicago the services they deserve.

Endorsements

While John has won hearts and minds of many on the northwest side, his support reaches beyond the 45th Ward. A list of John's prominent endorsements include:

- **Chicago Tribune:** "We endorse John Arena, who has been deeply involved in historic preservation and neighborhood development. He has sound ideas on ethics and pension reform...Arena, with his long connection to this Northwest Side community, deserves support.."
- **Chicago Sun-Times:** "We back John Arena, who has long been active in trying to improve the ward and who, if elected, would take that fight to City Hall."
- **Former State Rep. Nancy Kaszak:** "John Arena is a business owner, a parent and a community leader, He knows the 45th Ward and will fight for his neighbors in City Hall. I am proud to support him."
- **Attorney, author and 2009 candidate for U.S. Representative Tom Geoghegan:** "We independents need a leader in City Council... I know John Arena, and I'm convinced he'll be that leader."
- **Former State Rep. Mike Holewinski:** "[John] has a record of grassroots involvement, a commitment to the improvement of the community and a vision for the future of Chicago."
- **Northside Democracy For America** not only endorsed John, but they voted to adopt John's candidacy
- **IVI/IPO** Independant Voters of Illinois/Independant Precinct Organization

Questions? Comments? Ready to join in? Contact us at: info@ArenaFor45.com,
or at 4962 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL 60630. (773) 685-1099.