

Complete List of Publications

most clips can be viewed on my webpage
www.aprilgalarza.com

News & Feature Articles

Demo Magazine

<http://cms.colum.edu/demo/>

2008

Election Night Memories

Gazette (Chicago) Formerly The Near West Gazette

2007

Global Warming: we all can do our part to improve environment (City Beat Feature)

This article won an award in the 20th Annual Apex Awards for Excellence competition

Quarry Park Slated to Open Spring 2008 (Front Page Cover Story)

Ald. Balcer, City look to replace Bridgeport Jewel (Front Page Cover Story)

Jewel Closes its Doors (Front Page Cover Story)

Quarry Park Plans Revealed (page 2 story)

McGuane Park to host Summer Fest

St. Mary of Perpetual Help celebrates 125th anniversary

Chicago Memorial Day Parade a grand solemn tradition

McGuane Park women finally get new lockers

Problems at Bridgeport Village slow development's completion

Balcer, CDC look to redevelop old bank property, brownfield.

Bridgeport Battle sees Segvich taking on Balcer

Halsted Street the gateway to 11th Ward revitalization

2006

Park district won't budge on swim coach

Park District ousts star swim coach

Fireman Joseph Kish proves to be a true Bridgeport hero

Community leader Bland takes on Turner in 9th House District

Day of the Dead Celebrates life and lost love ones (City Beat Feature)

Art Revolution underway throughout Pilsen Area (City Beat Feature)

Roosevelt University cuts Tuition in Some Programs

Spirit: A Magazine Designed for the Diverse Woman

www.spirit-mag.com

2006

Spheres Of Influence; Someone You Should Know, Pat Michalski

2007

In the Spirit of Enlightenment; An Interview with Cindy Kelly

An Anchor of Hope; an Interview with Lisa Aprati

Healthy Conflict: Why you should argue with your Partner!

For Her Information Chicago

<http://www.forherinformation.com>

2007

A New Era For Working Moms

Essortment.com Formerly pagewise.com

<http://www.essortment.com/>

2002

Ten ways to destress before a test

Learn about skiing; techniques, equipment and instruction

Hosting a dress-up birthday party

Short Stories

Story Week Reader

http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Fiction_Writing/Publishing_Lab/SWR/2006SWR.php

2006

The End of Summer

10,000 Tons of Black Ink

<http://aprilgalarza.wordpress.com/2008/01/02/1a-llorona/>

2007

La Llorona

Ald. Balcer, City look to replace Bridgeport Jewel

By April Galarza

To the frustrated shoppers who patronized the former Jewel-Osco on 31st and Halsted Sts., a grocery store solution is needed—and quickly.

“CVS is not a full service food place, nor is the Egg Store,” lamented Victor Martinez. “They have no meat sections.” Martinez shopped at the Jewel for about three years. Since the Jewel closed he frequents local convenience stores and goes outside the neighborhood for larger shopping trips. “I shop more at the Walgreens and Dominick’s on Archer and Ashland,” he noted. When asked what store he would prefer in the old Jewel site, he said without hesitation, “Another Jewel.”

Rory Peracki said, “I thought the old Jewel was bound to close. It was too crowded and cramped. It was small for a major chain but it was good for necessities.” He admits missing the convenience of the neighborhood Jewel. Like many residents he does not have a car yet now has to travel for his groceries. “I go out of the neighborhood to the Dominick’s on Ashland, the Jewel on Archer and Western, and the Fairplay on 47th and Halsted. I don’t have a car, and I have to take the bus. That’s pretty far by bus.”

Katie Miller, a Bridgeport native who shopped at the Halsted St. Jewel for almost 30 years, thought the closing was both abrupt and unmerited. “I really liked the Jewel,” she said. “It was small but convenient. Good for getting last minute breakfast ingredients on a Sunday morning or picking up a few things for dinner.”

Serena Kolep shopped at the Jewel for six years before its closing. “Going all the way to Archer and Western does not make me happy,” she said. “The worst thing they did was shut it down because a lot of the folks around here are elders [who] don’t drive.”

Alderman James Balcer also felt dismay, saying, “My family shopped at this Jewel for years.” Nevertheless, “It was their [Jewel’s] decision to move,” he said. “We tried to keep them here, and they decided to up and move.”



Alderman James Balcer promises the old Bridgeport Jewel location will not become condominiums, and is trying to attract a new food store to the site.

Juanita Kocanda, a media representative for the Jewel-Osco Co., echoed Balcer's sentiments when she explained, "We constantly have to re-evaluate our business, and although it was a difficult decision to make, it was the best for the company in whole. All associates currently working there were offered jobs at other locations."

Rumors about building housing in the now vacant Jewel location are false, Balcer said.

"There will be no condos, no townhomes," he said. "The lot will not be residential." He explained the property has been rezoned from a C-13 to an R-1 designation, which limits the property's potential uses. Under the old zoning, developers could build up to 15 condominiums, but the new zoning permits only single family houses; with the property valued at \$6 million, the new zoning makes anything other than commercial use cost prohibitive.

"No one is going to pay \$6 million for single family homes," Balcer said.

Balcer has been meeting with grocery store owners to encourage one of them to locate at the property. Pete's Market is a possibility, he said, but no decision has been made and no decision has been made on using the building as is or expanding it. Balcer said the City is open to expansion so long as parking requirements are met.

A possible new Jewel-Osco at another Bridgeport location is in the planning stage; Balcer is meeting with Jewel representatives to determine the new site.

Connie Buscemi of the City Department of Planning and Development confirmed City efforts for a new grocery store at the old site but knew nothing about a new Jewel-Osco in Bridgeport.

"We are currently working with the Alderman to put in a new food store to benefit the community," she said. "There is considerable interest in the lot as it butts up against two major thoroughfares."

According to both Balcer and Buscemi, the City has made a priority of getting a new grocery store in as quickly as possible. They consider the lot at 31st and Halsted Sts. a prime location, and a new store would complement other development in the area, such as new senior housing and the new police station. Most important, the new store would provide groceries within walking distance for many residents.