



# CHICAGO JOURNAL

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## Who is the city's best doorman?

Chicago Journal is searching for the best doorman in Chicago. We're collecting 100-word nominations until June 19 and then will award the winning doorman \$500, the second most-popular doorman \$250 and the third-place champion \$100. To nominate a doorman, e-mail [bmyers@chicagojournal.com](mailto:bmyers@chicagojournal.com) or snail-mail us at Chicago Journal Doorman Contest, 141 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302. Be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone and e-mail address.

## Chicago metro area earns an F for its air pollution levels

Despite Chicago's green reputation, the city was given a failing grade by the American Lung Association for its levels of short-term particle and ozone pollution.

The ALA issued its State of the Air report last Thursday, ranking cities by levels of short-term particle pollution (usually soot or smog), year-round par-

# Cityside

ticle pollution and ozone.

The report ranked Chicago as one of the nation's most polluted cities on two of the three qualifying lists. For short-term particle pollution, the metropolitan area received an F and ranked 13<sup>th</sup> worst in the nation.

For ozone pollution, Chicago metro got another F and ranked the 24<sup>th</sup> most polluted city. Last year it was No. 20.

"These numbers aren't terribly different," said Brian Urbaszewski, director of environmental health programs at the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago. "We still fail in the Chicago area. We aren't meeting the quality standards."

The ranking is determined by the number of days Chicago failed to meet clean air standards.

"We use the air quality index. We look at the number of days that the area falls into each category and come up with a weighted average," said Janice Nolen, ALA's assistant vice president for national policy and advocacy. "Pollution is generated by a lot of things in a region."

Some of the primary causes of metropolitan pollution include vehicle exhaust, factories, coal-fired power plants and even household items like hairspray and barbe-

cue lighter fluid.

"We still have almost two dozen coal-fired power plants here in Illinois—some of which date back to the Eisenhower administration," Urbaszewski said.

"Coal-fired plants are one of the biggest sources of particle pollution," Nolen said, and tighter restrictions are needed for those power plants.

## South Loop Neighbors May meeting

South Loop Neighbors is holding a meeting on May 14. The group will be discussing the Grant Park Conservancy's plans for the south end of the park. Conservancy head Bob O'Neill will present. Also on the agenda is planning for fall events, including the Living History Photo Show and Loftwalk. After the meeting, a walk over to the renovated Blackstone Hotel is planned.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in room 401 the Columbia College building at 600 S. Michigan.

—Compiled by Micah Maidenberg and  
Town Travis, Medill News Service