

**Thanks to Corner Garden  
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**Special Thanks to Mr. Lee and  
Westwood Liquors for continuous and  
generous support of GRO**

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**AN INVITATION FROM THE PREZ**

I am honored to have been elected President of GRO and grateful to our current and former neighbors who started GRO 30-some years ago with the goal of bettering the community. GRO has had a beneficial and lasting impact on the neighborhood by working to reduce crime, creating the corner gardens, preserving the character of the neighborhood by downzoning, and campaigning to keep the Rockwell station open and the crossing commercial. The neighborhood is a different place than it was when the organization began, but GRO still provides the opportunity to connect with neighbors and to advocate for the neighborhood.

One of our goals for GRO is to increase membership and involvement. If you have been meaning to get involved, there's no better time than now. Come to the monthly meeting on February 5, and make plans to join us for the annual pot-luck on April 5. We can always use volunteers for the corner gardens, so if you have a yen to try your hand at gardening, contact Bea at [secretary@greaterrockwell.org](mailto:secretary@greaterrockwell.org) to find out about the gardening tea she will be hosting and meet other like-minded neighbors.

If you have questions, comments or ideas for GRO, please contact me at [president@greaterrockwell.org](mailto:president@greaterrockwell.org). I look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at a meeting and/or a GRO social event soon.

**Coming Up At The February  
GRO Meeting**

Laura Goldberg, Environmental Outreach Coordinator for CUB (Citizen's Utility Board) will be speaking on recent changes in electricity providers for the city of Chicago, and how that affects Chicago residents. Please join us for this informative presentation.

**GARDENERS' TEA**

Sunday February 10

Bea Tersch will be hosting a tea for gardeners and anyone interested in gardening at 3:00 p.m. on February 10 at 4742 N. Virginia, #2. If you maintain one of the corner gardens in the Rockwell area or would like to become involved, or just learn more about neighborhood beautification, please join us. RSVP to 773 561-0794.

## Make Energy Efficiency Your New Year's Resolution— Take Advantage of Rebates and Financing Options Available to Homeowners this Winter

A new year means new opportunities and, of course, New Year's resolutions. Homeowners in the Greater Rockwell neighborhood and surrounding areas can make 2013 the year they become energy efficient with the help of limited-time rebates and financing available through Energy Impact Illinois, made up of an alliance of local organizations, utility companies and non-profit groups and run by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Rebates of up to \$1,750 or up to 70% of the cost of energy-saving home improvements are available through Energy Impact Illinois and its utility partners like ComEd and natural gas utilities.

Air sealing and insulating are two of the most cost-effective and permanent improvements that homeowners can make to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. More than half of total energy costs come from heating and cooling a home and almost all homes let too much air escape or penetrate. Most homes (even newer ones) also have incorrectly installed or insufficient amounts of attic insulation.

Energy Impact Illinois connects homeowners with certified and vetted contractors who can assess and estimate the right mix of projects for their home to maximize savings. In addition to the rebates, Energy Impact Illinois can also link homeowners with attractive loan options with 0% interest for the first year. This program applies to single-family and 2-4 unit buildings. Other programs are available for 5 + unit buildings.

To learn more about the program and schedule an energy assessment, Greater Rockwell homeowners are encouraged to contact their local Field Organizer, Matt Elmore, at 503-333-5578 or [matt@energyimpactillinois.org](mailto:matt@energyimpactillinois.org). Homeowners can also call 855-9-IMPACT for more information. Energy Impact Illinois is offering a free home assessment for homeowners who host a house party with five to 10 homeowners from their neighborhood.

Matt Elmore

GROnews is published by the Greater Rockwell Organization (GRO), a community group dedicated to making our neighborhood a safe and pleasant place in which to live. Tenants, homeowners, landlords, and business owners are welcome to join us in improving our community.

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## **AT LAST! A BETTER MOUSETRAP**

Neighbors in the GRO area may have seen fliers reading “Missing: Four Black Kittens” starting in December. Pet lovers can take heart, however: the kittens aren’t really missing. They are settling in to a new home as part of a feral cat colony on Campbell Avenue.

The cat colony is being hosted by an area condominium association through the Tree House Humane Society’s Cats at Work Project. Cats at Work removes feral cats from life-threatening situations, sterilizes and vaccinates them, and relocates them to new territories where their presence will help control the rodent population. The program is in accordance with the Cook County Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance.

Numerous rat sightings on the block prompted the association to look for an environmentally friendly solution. The group volunteered to sponsor a colony, making a commitment to feed the cats and provide them with shelter with ongoing support from Tree House.

The program is an outgrowth of Tree House’s Trap-Neuter-Return program, in which feral cats are humanely trapped and spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped and then released. The Tree House Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic sterilizes and vaccinates more than 4,000 animals each year, most of which are free-roaming cats, according to its Web site. Tree House reports that the Community Cats/TNR Program now sponsors more than 250 managed cat colonies, made up of more than 2,000 “community cats” in Cook County. There are several sponsored cat colonies in the Greater Rockwell area, according to Tree House

Feral cats look just like domesticated cats, only they are not tame: they are wild or undomesticated. They do not want to live indoors and generally are not suitable for adoption as pets. Tree House believes that although feral cats will not socialize completely with humans, they should still be given a chance to lead the best life they can in their known environment.

The four black kittens on Campbell were originally rescued from a foreclosed building in another neighborhood. The condo association has built a shelter under one of its porches. Plastic storage boxes lined with styrofoam and straw serve as cozy hiding places and food and water are provided daily. While confinement for a couple of weeks is initially recommended, within hours the freedom-loving kittens twice dug their way out to find hiding places. They did, however, keep returning for meals.

The condo association put up the “missing kittens” flyers to alert the neighborhood. While the cats remain reclusive, the condo association continues to provide food and shelter, and numerous “sightings” of the cats around the building and in the immediate area are reported. Best of all, the cats are keeping neighborhood rats at bay--a win-win for everyone.

To learn more about feral cats and the Cats at Work Program, visit <http://www.treehouseanimals.org>.

*Anne Zender*

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

**Mark your Calendars!**

**The next Food Drive will be held the weekend of April 19 -21. Locations and suggestions in the April newsletter.**

## Streetwise GRO

(A series on the origin of the street names within the Greater Rockwell neighborhood)

Have you ever wondered where the name of the street where you live came from? Wonder no more: We'll start with the GRO border streets: more streets in the future.

**Lawrence Avenue:** Bradford A. Lawrence was a friend of Lazarus Silverman (1830-1909), a banker and subdivider. While the two were walking along together in Silverman's new Montrose subdivision, Silverman apparently said, "Let's call this Lawrence Avenue."

**Western Avenue:** Once the western boundary of the city in 1853. It is the longest (24.5 miles) continuous street within a city limits in the world.

# February Calendar

- 2 Saturday. Ground Hog Day. Maybe only six more weeks of winter?
- 4 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 5 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 13 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gardening Workshop. Alderman's office 4243 Lincon Avenue
- 14 Valentine's Day. Remember your sweetie
- 18 Monday, all day. President's Day.
- 18 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 19 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. CAPS Beat 1911 meeting, Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell

SAVE THE DATE!

GRO Annual Potluck, Friday April 5. Details in the March newsletter!

**Wilson Avenue:** Named after John P. Wilson, a lawyer who gave money to start Children's Memorial Hospital.

**Virginia Avenue:** Named for Mary Virginia Dunham, the daughter of John H. Dunham (1817-1893), a Chicago grocer, real estate developer, and banker. He founded the Merchants Loan and Trust Company

*Sources: Streetwise Chicago: a History of Chicago Street Names by Don Hayner and Tom McNamee and the Chicago History Museum's online database of all the streets in Chicago.*

*Tracy Bartholomew*

Memberships run from October 1 through September 30

New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

### GRO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Categories (circle one): Individual \$20 Family \$30 Senior (65+) \$10 Senior Family \$15 Sustaining \$50

Business \$20 Friends of GRO \$20 (living outside GRO service area)

I'm adding \$5 or \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Corner Gardens

I would like to see GRO address the following issues:

I would like to participate in the following committees (please circle):

Fundraising/Special Events Member Services/Welcome Newsletter Public Safety

Streetscape/Beautification Streetscape/Greening Urban Development

**Make your check payable to GRO and bring it to a meeting, drop it off at Ruff Haus Pets, 4652 N. Rockwell (just north of the el tracks), or mail it to GRO Membership. P.O. Box 25561, Chicago IL 60625-0561**