

Locating TIF information on the City's website:

Go to: cityofchicago.org; click on [City Departments](#); click on [Planning and Development](#)
Then, to find the Western Avenue North TIF District: under **Maps** click on [Tax Increment Financing Districts](#); click on [North](#); click on [Western Avenue North TIF Map](#)
Or, to register as an Interested Party: go to [Planning and Development](#); under **Forms** click on [Applications](#); click on [TIF Interested Parties Registration Form](#)

GRO Potluck '08
Tuesday, March 11
6:30 p.m.
Luther Memorial Church
See page 3
for more information

March

Vol. 27

2008

No. 3

Coming Up

Bookcellar, 4736 North Lincoln.
Monday March 17, 7:00 p.m.
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with
a glass of wine and harmonious
acoustic music.

Waters School Open House and
Roundup, Campbell & Wilson.
Monday, March 24, 10:30 a.m.
Parents are invited to learn
about the Waters School Kinder-
garten and the Integrated Cur-
riculum. The Principal, Assistant
Principal, Fine Arts and Kinder-
garten teachers will be on hand
to answer questions.

Bloom Yoga, 4663 North Rock-
well. Join other expectant
parents and learn how a doula
can help your family through
labor, birth and beyond. Sunday,
March 30, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

TIF: Using Our Tax Dollars

A GRO Editorial on the Tax Increment Financing District

Tax Increment Financing, or "TIF," is a special tool that the City of Chicago can use to generate money for economic development in a specific geographic area. TIF allows the City to reinvest all new property tax dollars in the neighborhood from which they came for a 23-year period. These 'new' revenues—also called 'increment'—arise if new development takes place in the TIF district, or if the value of existing properties rises, resulting in higher tax bills. These funds can be spent on public works projects or given as subsidies to encourage private development. But TIF also makes it much easier for the City to acquire private property and demolish buildings to make way for new construction" (Neighborhood Capital Budget Group/TIF ALMANAC, 2002-2003; p. 8).

In December, a public meeting was held at Chicago Soccer to protest the use of eminent domain in the 4800 block of Western Avenue. (Eminent domain refers to the power of a government to appropriate private property for a public use.) Following the meeting, a group of 100 concerned citizens marched to the 47th Ward office asking that the property not be forcibly taken.

The Alderman responded by moving most of the parcels to a voluntary acquisition list. In January, in spite of public testimony, the use of eminent domain was approved by City Council for the remainder of the parcels at the Walgreens corner. We believe taking private property for private development is improper and have personally expressed this view to the Alderman.

continued on page 2

TIF: Using Our Tax Dollars (continued from page 1)

is debate will not end with the events at Chicago Soccer. e Western Avenue North TIF District extends far beyond Western and Lawrence (to see a map, follow the internet instructions on p. 1 of this newsletter). Many development projects will arise in this area and must have community input and community control. Now is the time to establish open, transparent communication by creating a true Community Advisory Panel comprised of residents, business owners, and local community organizations so that more than just developers' interests are being heard. A panel with regularly scheduled, open-to-the-public meetings with proper advance notification will bring light to our community's TIF District, which uses our tax dollars.

What can be done?

Call the Alderman. Ask for the creation of a Community Advisory Panel.
Alderman Gene Schuler; Ward47@cityofchicago.org; 773-348-8400;
773-348-8480 (fax)

You can also register as an Interested Party for the Western Avenue North TIF District (see page 1 of this newsletter for instructions).

L K

This month's editor is
Sara Spitz

The Greater Lincoln Park
Democracy for America is hosting
"The Truth About TIFs—Part II"
with Cook County Commissioner
Mike Quigley. For more informa-
tion on TIFs visit: <http://glpdfa.wordpress.com/about-tifs>

The Truth About TIFs—Part II
Thursday, March 13, 2008
7:00pm
Monroe Hall at DePaul
2312 N. Clifton, Room 114

AllStar Carpet Care LLC

773.728.7705

in GRO area for 15 years

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.

Officers

Les Kniskern
President@GreaterRockwell.org
773-339-5915
Chuck Woodring
VP@GreaterRockwell.org
773-418-1822
Tom Kosinski
2VP@GreaterRockwell.org
Bea Tersch
Secretary@GreaterRockwell.org
773-561-0794
Ron and Lois Graziano
Treasurer@GreaterRockwell.org
773-509-9679

GRO Board/Committee Chairs

Membership: Patti Huetteman (506-0795); Newsletter: June Huitt (275-3210); Public Safety: Maria Bappert (728-8127); Special Events/Fundraising: Open; Beautification: Bea Tersch (561-0794)(clean up and graffiti); Mary Conway (907-8502) (corner gardens); Urban Development: Tom Gunderson, Brad Schenkel; Budget: Ron Graziano (509-9679)

Newsletter drop points

Beans & Bagels, Rockwell & Leland
Carol's Hair Care, 2556 W. Lawrence
Brown Line Station at Rockwell

Address correspondence to:
newsletter@greaterrockwell.org or
GROnews, P.O. Box 25561
Chicago IL 60625-0561

Newsletter staff

Editors: Tracy Bartholomew, June Huitt, and Sara Spitz
Graphics/Layout: Angela Silvia
Proofreader: Melanie Parenti
Contributors: Jenny Mohler
Distributors: Allie Botkin, Michael Buckwalter, Gertrude Buhler, Ottilia Burany, Joyce Dall, Mark Dawson, The Donnelly boys, Holly Gerberding, Diane Gregart, Patti Huetteman, Nina Sandlin, Eric Sinclair, Carol Vitale, Marianne Werner, and Chuck Woodring

GRO logo created by Randy Sweitzer

Printing by Printed Impressions
4432 N. Kedzie, Chicago IL 60625
773-604-8585

www.greaterrrockwell.org



It's the GRO Annual SPRING POTLUCK

... and you're invited!

Tuesday, March 11

6:30 pm

Luther Memorial Church

corner of Campbell & Wilson

RAFFLE FOR GREAT PRIZES

Proceeds to go to Children's Memorial Hospital

**SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY HONORING
19TH DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS**

ENTERTAINMENT BY BARBARA SILVERMAN

Barbara Silverman has appeared with Emmy Lou Harris, Bill Monroe, Odetta, Arlo Guthrie, Tom Paxton, David Bromberg and more, and has six recordings available

If the first letter of your last name is:

A-G: bring a main dish

H-O: bring a dessert

P-Z: bring an appetizer

Please label your dish and list its ingredients!

Make sure it will be enough to feed six!

To volunteer to help with the Potluck, call 773-506-2830

Raffle sponsored by GRO, Kiwanis Club of Ravenswood, and the 19th District Community Police Officers



Join the Peasantry!

Here's your chance to commune with nature and help grow your own food. Peasants' Plot in Manteno, Illinois is offering a worker share program for those of you with the urge but no yard.

Here's how it works: If you commit to 40 hours of labor over the growing season—from June through October—in return you'll receive one bag of organic, fresh, just picked vegetables every week (to be picked up at one of the local farmers' markets). The 40 hours can be scheduled in either eight- or four-hour increments.

Manteno is about 50 miles from Chicago. A bonus — just a five-minute drive from the farm is a hiking/fishing trail that connects with beautiful Kankakee state park.

For more information, visit www.peasantplots.com or call 847-334-4278.



March Calendar

- 3 Monday, 7 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 4 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Monthly Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 9 Sunday. Daylight Savings Time begins
- 11 **Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. GRO Potluck '08. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 17 Monday. St. Patrick's Day
7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 23 EASTER Sunday
- 25 Tuesday, 7 p.m. 19th District CAPS Beat Meeting. Kindred Hospital, Rockwell & Montrose, top floor meeting room

Saffron Realty Group – way, way, beyond

Call me for a free market analysis.



Chuck Woodring 773-418-1822

Realtor

Chuck@saffronrealtygroup.com



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 \$_____ 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/Welcomes Newsletter Public Safety

Streetscape/Beautification Streetscape/Greening Urban Development

Make your check payable to GRO and bring it 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