

Volunteers needed for setup, cleanup, and what have you for the GRO Potluck on March 23. Please e-mail president@great-errockwell.org to volunteer.

See page 3 for Potluck details!

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

**March
2012**

**Vol. 31
No. 3**

Solar Panels at HarvesTime

It's hard not to notice the new solar panels at HarvesTime Foods, 2632 W. Lawrence. HarvesTime, which has shown an active interest in environmental sustainability, replaced its old canvas awning with solar panels and a new sign in November.

"We are trying to stay a little bit greener and healthier for the environment," said Chris Dallas, one of the owners, about the decision to install the solar panels. "Reducing our footprint, saving energy we consume and making it better for the environment. We needed to replace the old awning, and also needed a sign since it was on the old awning. We needed to put a sign on the building, to make the whole store look uniform from the outside." The new solar panel design fits both the advertising and structural needs for replacing the old awning. "We stand for a happier, cleaner, healthier environment."

Another goal was to lower the electric bill. The store is not using a battery array and has its system set up to use electricity generated by the panels before using electricity from the grid. "Everything that is produced by the solar panels is consumed immediately before we get anything from ComEd," said Chris Dallas.

The solar panels face both east and south. The panels facing east have been beneficial but not as much as the south-facing panels. Mr. Dallas explained, "I would say they produce quite a bit of electricity, but they don't come close to what our southern panels are producing."

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National Do Not Call Registry

Registering with the National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home.

Consumers can register on-line for the national do-not-call registry by going to www.donotcall.gov. To register by phone, call 1-888-382-1222; for TTY call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the phone number you wish to register. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint at the Website. You can register your home or mobile phone for free.

Registration will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008.

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Researching the different solar products available was a three-year process. Compatibility with the electrical system and concern about the origin of manufacture were both important.

“We had to find a domestic company; there were a few in Illinois. Our region is not the most popular with solar companies. We wanted to choose a company that fits what we like best and chose Solar Service Inc. Their outlook was very much like mine: to use strictly American-made products. We are using American-made panels, even though there are many Chinese panels. There is knowledge behind the American installers. It [all] has to be connected together and connected to our in-store grid,” Mr. Dallas said. The owners declined lower cost offers. “We had a couple of companies give lower prices to make their bids more palatable, but they were using Chinese products.”

Knowing the total financial benefit of savings on the cost of electricity will

evolve over the course of time.

“Grocery stores use a lot of electricity. It’s kind of hard to estimate [savings] accurately until we have a full year under our belt,” he said, “although there is a noticeable difference in electricity generated on sunny days versus cloudy days, and expected variations in electricity produced in different seasons.” Understanding the financial

benefits will be ongoing over the years. “We’ve got projections where we are looking at a payback in ten years, depending on electric rates. If the rates go up, the return on investment will be longer. From a building and investment perspective, if I were just to put signs on the building, when would I get that money back? Never.”

Shellie Lewis



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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GRO logo created by Randy Sweitzer

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www.greaterrockwell.org

You're invited...
to the GRO Neighborhood Potluck!

Friday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church (Campbell & Wilson)

Food!
Entertainment!
Meet your neighbors!

Please bring a dish to share (about six servings)

If your last name begins with:

A-H bring a dessert
I-O bring an appetizer
P-Z bring a main dish

Please label your dish and list ingredients (for allergies)

Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up. Please e-mail president@greaterrockwell.org to volunteer.

Visit us online at www.greaterrockwell.org, on Facebook, or @gro_org on Twitter

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You can read more about it at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/04/dncfyi.shtm>.

Warning: Scammers have been calling claiming to represent the National Do Not Call registry. The calls claim to provide an opportunity to sign up for the registry. These calls are not coming from the Registry or the Federal Trade Commission, and you should not respond to these calls.

Maria Bappert

A Big Thanks to Rick

Wineberg, snow remover

extraordinaire, for

snowplowing for his

neighbors!

March Calendar

- 5 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 6 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 13 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 19 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club, Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 23 Friday, 6:30 p.m. GRO Potluck. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson



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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