

**Thanks to Corner Garden
Contributors**

Richmond & Christine Jones

Welcome to New Members

Jennifer Paxhia & Randy Balch
Jason & Kate Kraus

**Special Thanks to Mr. Lee and
Westwood Liquors at Western & East-
wood for continuous and generous
support of GRO**

GRO POTLUCK FRIDAY APRIL 1

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS!

**March
2016**

**Vol. 35
No. 1**

**Results of the First GRO Neighbor-
hood Survey**

Thanks to the 130 of you who completed the survey, including approximately 89% of current GRO members.

While a more detailed analysis of the survey will be presented at a future GRO meeting and posted on the GRO website, we have learned that:

- Survey respondents are loyal to the neighborhood: more than three-quarters have lived here at least 7 years; 31% have lived here more than 11 years.
- GRO members are loyal to the organization: 51% of members joined more than 7 years ago; 25% joined more than 11 years ago; and 71% have been continuous members since joining. GRO members, on average, join as soon as they move into the neighborhood.
- People join GRO primarily “to be active in my community.” “I was new to the neighborhood” is the second most popular response.

(continued on p. 3)

**COMING UP AT THE
GRO MARCH MEETING**

GRO will be featuring speakers from Congressman Mike Quigley’s office at the March GRO meeting.

District Director Mary Ann Levar and Research Director Robert Becker will be discussing the changes to the runway configuration at O’Hare that are causing significant increases in noise levels as well as other issues in our neighborhood and throughout the 5th Congressional District. Please plan to attend this timely presentation. The speakers are scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be fielding questions from attendees. We hope to see you there.

Join us on Tuesday, March 1 for a discussion on an issue that affects homeowners and renters alike.
7:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson.

Local Woman and GRO Member Anna Maria Loftus Running for Circuit Court Judge

Rockwell Crossing resident and current Cook County Circuit Court Judge Anna Maria Loftus was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court in March of 2014, and her appointment ends in December 2016.

She is one of three candidates running in the Democratic Primary on March 15, 2016, the others being Edward J. Underhill, practicing attorney, active in the Bucktown Community Organization, and Carlos Claudio, practicing attorney, and formerly a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney.

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1991, Anna moved to Chicago. She earned her Juris Doctor from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1998. Her first professional experience in the legal arena was as a Judicial Clerk in the 1st District Appellate Court of Illinois. She then began a civil litigation practice as a trial litigator at Hall Prangle & Schoonveld, LLC.

In March of 2014 the Illinois Supreme Court appointed her to fill a retirement vacancy, and for almost two

years, Judge Loftus has presided over a busy Mortgage Foreclosure call at the Daley Center.

Outside the courtroom, Anna has worked as a community organizer at Prevent Child Abuse America, and has also done fundraising and volunteered at local charities and outreach centers, including the Friendship Center Food Pantry in Lincoln Square and Deborah's Place in Old Town. Anna has lived near at Leland and Rockwell since 2003.

After a late evening on the campaign trail, she enjoys heading down the street to grab a Rockwell burger or a Pizza Art pizza, and she trusts only Figo at Devirm's Cleaners with her dry cleaning!

This is not an endorsement, as GRO does not endorse candidates for any office, but it's nice to know we have people such as Anna in our neighborhood.

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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Brown Line Station at Rockwell

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GRO SURVEY

(continued from p. 1)

- More than three-quarters (77%) of respondents indicated GRO completely or mostly represented their concerns. A number of people provided additional insight regarding other topics.
- Non-members indicated they hadn't joined GRO because they were unfamiliar with the organization (34% of respondents), they didn't have the time (27%), or they weren't homeowners (25%).
- Most of the respondents (53%) had attended a GRO meeting. Many of you provided additional insight on what you liked, or didn't like, about the meetings and what would make them more interesting. Big picture: Have a 1 hour meeting with an agenda that's adhered to and have interesting speakers whose presentations are advertised in advance.
- More than half (58%) of respondents didn't know the GRO newsletter was available online.
- Sixty-six percent of the respondents have no children at home; of those with children, 82% have children 8 years of age or younger.

The drawing for the four \$15 Amazon gift cards (given to respondents who successfully completed a survey) will take place at the March 1 meeting. (See front page for information on the speaker)

Thank you for your participation!

Shonagh Merits

ATTENTION! RECYCLING UPDATE

**The city will no longer accept
recyclables in plastic bags. All recyclables
must be put in the blue carts loose.**

FAMILY TREE RESALE

Looking for a worthwhile place to donate clothing and household items that you no longer need or want?

Look no further. Family Tree Resale, right here in our own neighborhood has a unique way of giving back to the community. The owner, Elizabeth, grew up in Chicago. Her mom introduced her to "thrifting" in the city when she was young and she stayed hooked! She learned how a resale store could play a role serving families in need through various programs. However, most stores that were giving back were associated with a single cause or group. She came up with the idea that a neighborhood store could help the entire community, and the Family Tree Voucher Program was born. She opened her first store in 2002; that closed after two years. She gave it another go in 2007 and opened in Glen Ellyn. That store is still open, but now in Wheaton, and the Chicago store opened at the end of 2013. Family Tree offers a free program to any school or charity in the area, through which families in need can access free clothes and household needs. Since 2007, Family Tree has donated back over \$82,000 in vouchers to local families and is the only store program we know of that services public schools directly.

Everything can be donated except food and mattresses. When you donate, you can choose a local partner to benefit. There is a list on the website www.familytreeresale.com and in the store when you come in. Donations can be brought in during store hours, and it's easy to donate – pickup is available.

The store is filled with clothing and items in great condition: clothing for the entire family is organized by gender and size. Household items, toys, books, jewelry and some furniture are also offered. If you join the email list you will receive a 15% off discount card to use every time you shop.

5066 North Lincoln Avenue

Monday - Saturday 10am - 7pm
Sundays 10am - 6pm.
312-918-9260

Winter Potluck Coming Up April 1!

Join us at the GRO end-of-winter (we hope) Potluck, to be held on Friday, April 1.

Come and visit with your neighbors, meet new neighbors, and just generally welcome spring at an old-fashioned potluck.

Bring a dish to share (enough for six): appetizer, main dish, side dish, dessert, salad.

Luther Memorial Church
Wilson & Campbell
6:30 p.m.

Garage space for rent
West side 4700 block of Talman
\$100 mo. 773-275-7786

March Calendar

- 1 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Wilson & Campbell**
- 7 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council, Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 9 Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 13 Sunday. Daylight Savings Time begins
- 15 Tuesday. 6:00 a.m - 7:00 p.m. Primary Elections: Remember to vote!
- 15 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Sulzer Library . 4455 North Lincoln
- 17 Thursday. St. Patrick's Day
- 18-20 Friday - Sunday. Food Drive. See drop-off locations below
- 20 Sunday. 1st day of Spring! (we hope)
- 27 Sunday. Easter

GRO/RGHA FOOD DRIVE COMING UP

The next food drive will be held the weekend of March 18 - 20. Donations benefit the Common Pantry.

The Common Pantry is Chicago's oldest operating food pantry, The pantry serves the Lincoln Square community and provides food and personal items to more than 1100 individuals every month.

Drop-off points are 4738 North Artesian, 2527 West Eastwood, and 2612 West Eastwood.

GRO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: *your membership is valid for 1 year from your application date*

Name(s): _____ Home phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual - \$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family - \$30
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (≥ 65) - \$10
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Family - \$15
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining - \$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would be willing to participate on a GRO committee (please circle): fundraising; special events; membership; newsletter; public safety; beautification; urban development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business and/or Friends of GRO (living outside GRO area) - \$20
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra \$ for the Corner Gardens

I would like to see GRO address the following issue(s):

Checks should be made payable to GRO and mailed to P.O. Box 25561, Chicago IL 60625-0561.
You may also pay via **Paypal**, or drop off your check at Ruff Haus Pets (4652 N. Rockwell Ave)