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What's Up in the Neighborhood?

Here's the latest on Urban Planning:

New Lincoln Square Master Plan

Over the last several months, Lincoln Square residents, business owners and stakeholders have participated in three polls, providing input for a master plan to serve as a guide to improving the neighborhood's look, feel and future development.

When completed, the master plan will be the guiding document for how funds collected through a Special Service Area are spent over the next five to 10 years.

Some of the topics discussed in the community workshops are changes to beautify the Western El stop and low-line, continuation of the Lawrence Ave Streetscape west of Western to the river, plaza spaces for Lincoln Square community events, traffic congestion, vacancies along Lawrence and a more seamless flow of the neighborhood north of Lawrence on Lincoln. A public presentation of the completed plan, originally set for March, has been moved to May or early June. More information is available at https://yourlincolnsquare.org/news/news_feed/neighborhood-poll-3-results

Lawrence Avenue Streetscape Project

The second phase of the Lawrence Avenue streetscape project extending from Western Avenue to the Chicago River is anticipated to begin construction in spring 2020. The proposed improvements include wider sidewalks on both sides of the street; new curbs and gutters; ADA ramps; bump outs; crosswalks; bike lanes; full width asphalt street resurfacing with bus pads; new street and pedestrian lighting with energy efficient LED lighting; parkway paver treatment; site furnishings including benches, bike racks and waste containers; tree planting and community identifiers.

The second phase of the Lawrence Streetscape project will be funded by the Western Avenue South TIF. GRO representatives have been attending the community meetings and will continue to communicate project progress to the neighborhood.

<https://www.aldermanoconnor.com/announcing-the-second-phase-of-the-lawrence-ave-streetscape-project-from-western-ave-to-the-chicago-river/>

Leland Greenway Extension in Lincoln Square

Neighborhood Greenways are low-stress residential streets which provide a safe and comfortable connection for people biking and walking. Neighborhood Greenways often feature

traffic calming elements to slow vehicle traffic, making the street safer for neighborhood residents and visitors.

The Leland- Greenway Extension includes a section of Leland from Western to Rockwell with marked contraflow bike lanes, allowing bicycle traffic to flow in both directions. At Rockwell the bicycle route will then turn south to Wilson, then west on Wilson across the river to Manor, then south on Manor to connect with Horner Park. There will be signage along the route and at alley intersections to warn people of bicycle traffic flowing opposite the normal flow of traffic.

This Neighborhood Greenway will provide connections to schools, trails, the Lakefront and the North Shore Channel Trail. GRO representatives are attending these community meetings and will continue to communicate the progress of this bike route.

Connie Barnes

40th Ward Shred Event

Streets & Sanitation Ward Yard Parking
Lot, 5333 N. Western Avenue
Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m. to noon
Limit – three shopping bags of paper.

GRO Dines Out

Sweet Pepper: a sweet addition to Lincoln Square

Nestled east down the street from Harvestime Foods on Lawrence Avenue, is Sweet Pepper Venezuelan Food Bar, a cute place that offers build-your-own Venezuelan fare from arepas to rice bowls, with a variety of toppings and sauces. I walked into the establishment unaware of what Venezuelan food would entail, and I was blown away not only by the food but by the customer service as well.

There are all kinds of protein and toppings to choose from - shredded chicken, all kinds of cheeses and vegetarian options. I chose a Caribbean cheese that I was not familiar with, but I found to be very delicious. Along with the proteins and toppings, there are a variety of sauces. My choices? the garlic sauce is delicious and the sweet pepper sauce is very good as well.

I originally ordered an arepa, which wouldn't have been ready for a few minutes. I was in a time crunch so I changed my order. After my meal, one of the staff brought me a slice of flan as an apology for not having arepas ready for me. The flan was amazing! The staff was friendly and the customer

service was amazing. I would recommend stopping by and trying this wonderful place!

P.S. During the cold weather, they encouraged everyone to come in out of the cold and wait for the bus inside – you didn't even need to be a customer! How neighborly is that?

Teagan Capek

What Is Smart911?

Smart911 is a free service that allows residents to create a Safety Profile for their households. The Safety Profile includes information that 911 and first responders would have access to in an emergency. 911 would have to be dialed from the phone associated with the Safety Profile, providing information to be used to facilitate the proper response to the correct location, saving valuable time. You can sign up for Smart911 at www.smart911.com and create a Safety Profile for your family.

Volunteer Opportunity:

Become a Citizen Audit Volunteer

The election might be over, but some things are not a done deal. Many races are now so close that recounts are necessary. Clean Count Cook County is looking for volunteers to monitor audits of this election's vote counts in Chicago or suburban Cook County from March 5 - 12.

Devote one day of your time to prevent election fraud during the 2019 election cycle. Go to www.CleanCountCookCounty.org to pick your date to volunteer and get a training video. Protect Your Vote; Prevent Election Fraud!

March Calendar

- 4 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council, Horner Park Fieldhouse, California & Montrose
- 5 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Wilson & Campbell**
- 10 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 12 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 17 St. Patrick's Day – You don't need to be Irish to celebrate!

Save these Dates!

**Saturday & Sunday June 8 & 9:
GRO Annual Garage Sales**

Saturday August 24 Neighborhood Party