

Welcome to New Members
Mary Ellen and Christina Urbanik
Pamela Ladd

Thanks to Contributing Members
Joel Koplos
Dieter Schulte

Welcome to New Friends of GRO
Sharon Reyes
Frank Dudley and Jennifer McLaughlin

Corner Garden Contributors
Joel Koplos
Helene C. Ortega

Want to be kept up-to-date
on what's going on in GRO?
Visit our website at
www.greaterrockwell.org
and remember to sign up for GROnews
neighborhood email announcements.

April

2006

Vol. 25

No. 4

IT'S SPRING! (finally!)

April 15 Easter Egg Hunt Giddings Plaza

Meet the Easter Bunny at 10 am
in the plaza (4731 N. Lincoln) and
the hunt is on!

**April 27
Greening of Ravenswood
19th Annual Arbor Day Party**
Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro
Enjoy good food & entertainment
and support the beautification of
our community!
Contact (773) 784-0400 for more
information.

April 30 10th Annual Ravenswood 5K Run

A great neighborhood 5K
benefitting local charities.
Register at (773) 271-3338 or
www.fleetfeetchicago.com.

POTLUCK A BIG HIT

On Thursday, March 23, GRO celebrated the theoretical coming of spring with its annual potluck dinner. This year's version was a particularly big success. There was a big turnout with over sixty people showing up, and live entertainment in the form of GRO's unofficial house band, the Old Town School of Folk Music's jug band class, the Hump Night Thumpers.

The biggest hit of all was the food. GRO people absolutely knocked themselves out baking and cooking dozens of home-made items, from garlic linguini to blackberry cobbler, with freshly-made bread and many exotic appetizers. The high quality was matched by bounteous quantity.

Nobody went hungry. We went without boring speeches and visiting politicians, concentrating on welcoming many new faces. Raffle prizes were generously donated by Bloom Yoga, Lake Claremont Press, Inside Publications, Maria Bappert and Bea Tersch, and for the third year in a row, beautiful plant decorations were given away. There was a real sense of community and comfort. GRO wants to give special thanks to Luther Memorial Church for the use of the premises and facilities. Another good neighbor.

**Monday, April 24
GRO NIGHT at the GRILL
Dine with your neighbors
7:00 p.m.
Rockwell's Grill
Rockwell & Eastwood**

Fresh from the Farm to Your Table

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a unique approach to growing, selling, buying, and consuming food which allows consumers to consciously place their food dollars directly in the hands of family farms. CSA farmers grow a wide variety of flavorful, nutritional produce and provide members with a weekly bounty. Many CSA members realize significant financial savings, as the hidden costs of retail produce are eliminated.

The CSA summer season is twenty weeks long, from mid June to late October. We are fortunate to have three CSAs with drop points in our neighborhood: Home Grown Wisconsin, Angelic Organics, and The Family Patch. For more information on prices, offerings, and drop point days and locations:

Home Grown Wisconsin
www.homegrownwisconsin.com
(608) 333-1227
Drop point: Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson, Tuesdays

Angelic Organics
www.angelicorganics.com
(815) 389-2746
Drop point: 2800 W. Leland, Wednesdays or Saturdays

The Family Patch
(815) 693-5997
Drop point: Lincoln Square, Foster Avenue, and Western Avenue

And visit the Local Harvest website (www.localharvest.org/csa/) for a complete listing of CSAs both locally and nationally.

This month's editor is
Tracy Bartholomew

Free Home Repairs for Seniors

The Ravenswood Community Council offers the H-RAIL program (Home Repairs for Assisted and Independent Living) to eligible Chicago residents of the 47th and 40th Wards. These repairs provide much-needed support for seniors who have increasing health or mobility issues at no cost to them. In order to be eligible, you must be 60 or older and meet the program criteria. To learn more about this program or to apply, contact Chris Shickles at (773) 784-0400.

Carpet cleaning ad

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

President: Abbey Botkin (989-6861, president@*)

First Vice President: Les Kniskern, (506-2830, vp@*)

Second Vice President: Chuck Woodring (418-1822, 2vp@*)

Secretary: Bea Tersch (561-0794, secretary@*)

Co-treasurers: Ron and Lois Graziano (509-9679, treasurer@*)

* email officers at greaterrockwell.org

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Member Services/Welcome: Maria Bappert (728-8127); **Newsletter:** June Huitt (275-3210); **Public Safety:**

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Bea Tersch (561-0794); **Streetscape/Corner Gardens:** Mary Conway (907-8502); **Urban Development:**

Patti Huetteman (506-0795); **DAC Liaison:** Sara Spitz (275-7786)

Newsletter drop points
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Keeping Our Neighborhood Clean, Beautiful & Safe—GRO Residents Chime In!

Pet Courtesy

Have you ever noticed that common courtesy is not so common any more, or is it just me? One very discourteous practice I have seen as I walk to and from work every day is that dog owners do not clean up after their pets. I see it on sidewalks and on our parkways. It's like our streets are public pet toilets, and it is the ultimate discourtesy to the community.

This is not only an aesthetic issue but a health issue as well. Hookworm and roundworm parasites flourish in dog waste, and some can even live in the soil for years. With warm weather right around the corner, more children will be out, and children who contract these parasites while playing on contaminated ground are at risk of rashes or even organ damage; anyone picnicking or playing with a contaminated frisbee can get sick. Roundworms alone infect about 10,000 people in the U.S. each year. Many vets advise giving dogs a monthly heartworm pill. For more information, visit www.stopworms.com.

With more and more children in the neighborhood, we need to be aware of issues like this. Picking up after your dog and keeping it on a leash are important to the safety of the kids in the area. And it's the law.

MARIA BAPPERT
& FRIENDS

Graffiti—Threat or Annoyance?

Where there are city walls and writing material, from charcoal to spray paint, there will be graffiti. Whether it's political, personal or aesthetic expression, there has always been graffiti, from ancient Athens to retro-modern Greater Rockwell. When I was in Rome last year, a wall was spray-painted "Hendrix Lives." A recent multi-unit condo in our neighborhood was tagged "Yuppie Roach Motel" last month.

Usually, however, it's gang insignia or just sheer vandalism. A simple call to the Alderman's office (773-348-8400), and the Graffiti-Busters are on the job to remove graffiti very quickly. The theory is that if the tagger has his work wiped out right away, he will be demoralized that his production is so short-lived and will give up. The theory seems to work and the city's rapid-response team has been pretty successful. So if you see any strange markings, or even coherent slogans, call it in right away. One less blight in the neighborhood.

ABBEY BOTKIN

I'm down the street, or around the corner. Tell me your story, and together we'll write the next chapter!

Chuck Woodring 773-418-1822
Agent

Chuck@saffronrealtygroup.com

Walk away the Rockwell station closing blues and get fit at the same time with the Rockwell Crossing Fitness Challenge! From now through the station re-opening, join Alderman Schuler and fellow neighbors every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. at Bloom Yoga Studio at 4663 N. Rockwell St. and then set out on a walking or running route along the Chicago River with distances from 1 to 6 miles.

Free seminars will be 4ll ll u82(w thr)6(oock)JoEToBTo/T1 1 Tfo11 0 0 112.2319225

CURRENT EATS

This month, we welcome a new monthly column by Amy and Reed Current, residents of GRO (3½ years) and former undercover restaurant raters. The Currents love to try new restaurants, and their English Bulldog Truman loves the leftovers!

BLOCK 44: NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The busy corner of Lincoln and Montrose, most recently anchored by Acqualina, now hosts a new restaurant. Block 44 opened Thursday March 2 and hopes to become a destination location featuring food and wine pairings—diners are encouraged to pick from meal selections offered on a separate menu, with glasses of wine matched per plate.

We're unsure how this concept will fly, as the menu itself needs some tweaking (we chose not to indulge in the wine pairings during this visit). The mussels, while accompanied by a chorizo tomato sauce, lacked punch. The mushroom and blue cheese turnover was equally bland. Things improved when the main courses arrived. The flat iron steak was cooked perfectly—a robust cut of meat accompanied by a sizable lump of garlic mashed potatoes. The pappardelle dish was a noble effort. The noodles—broad with scalloped edges and studded with chicken and peas—were just like Grandma would make if Grandma were Italian. However, the pasta was a tad undercooked and somewhat starchy. Desserts are limited, but the shared bread pudding put smiles on our faces. We should have ordered two. Our server was eager to please, although we sensed some opening night jitters. Appetizers are priced between \$5–\$8 and entrees between \$15–\$25.

Give Block 44 a few weeks to work out the kinks. If you are looking for a different way to enjoy wine and food, this may be the ticket for you.

April Calendar

- 1 Saturday, 9 a.m. Rockwell Crossing Fitness Challenge (also April 8, 15, 22 & 29)
- 2 **Sunday, 1 p.m. GRO Spring Gardening Tea**
Daylight savings time begins
- 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
- 11 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 15 Saturday, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt. Giddings Plaza, 4731 N. Lincoln Ave.
10 a.m. 3rd Annual Doggie Egg Hunt. Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 17 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.
- 19 Wednesday, Local School Council Elections. Waters Elementary, 4540 N. Campbell Ave.
Wednesday, 7 p.m. Ravenswood Garden Club. Sulzer Library, 4445 N. Lincoln Ave.
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 **Monday, 7 p.m. GRO Night at the Grill.** Rockwell's Grill, Rockwell & Eastwood
- 25 No CAPS meeting in April
- 27 Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Greening of Ravenswood Fundraiser. Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro, 3905 N. Lincoln Ave.
- 29 Saturday, 1 p.m. Annual Earth Day Walk. Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL
- 30 Sunday, 8 a.m. Ravenswood 5K Run, 4550 N. Hermitage Avenue

COMING UP: May 13: City-Wide Spring Clean Up
June 10 & 11: GRO Yard/Garage Sales

Gross Park Selling Second Brick Round

It has been an exciting year for Gross Park. We hope you have had a chance to visit our new playground and see the beautiful forest-green slides, climbing equipment, and Donors' Circle of engraved bricks near the field house.

We are happy to announce that we are planning a second round of brick installations this summer. If you didn't get a chance to buy a brick, we hope you will consider becoming a part of Gross Park history. Brick orders received before May 31 are slated to be added to the park this summer.

The first brick round, installed last fall, was donated by neighbors and businesses from our community. The donations helped make the new playground possible. The new round will help support upkeep, programs, and ongoing improvements at the park.

Bricks are available in a range of prices starting at a \$30 shared brick up to a \$150 double brick. Go to grosspark@earthlink.net to download a brick form or stop by the fieldhouse at 2708 W. Lawrence Ave. For more information contact Gross Park Supervisor Gary Kuzmanic at (312) 742-7528.

We also welcome volunteers for a day of spring cleaning on May 13. As part of the Mayor's Clean & Green Day initiative, we'll be sprucing up the park from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Additionally, mark your calendars for Gross Park's 3rd Annual Party in the Park in September.

MAURA WEBBER SANDOVI, GROSS PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL