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

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### Proper Disposal of Outdated Medicine

For the sake of public health, prescriptions and medications should not be flushed down the toilet or placed in trash cans. If you need to dispose of expired medications, they can be brought to the GRO meetings and given to Maria Bappert for delivery to the 19th District Police Station or at Beat 1911 meetings.

You can also go online to: [DisposeMyMeds.org](http://DisposeMyMeds.org). to get information about which area pharmacies accept unneeded meds. One location listed recently is Sutcliffe Pharmacy at 801 W. Irving Park Road.

*Maria Bappert,  
GRO Public Safety Officer*

### How to be Safe & Sound Key Points to Remember:

1. There is safety in numbers.
2. Ignoring your instincts is not worth the risk.
3. Don't be afraid or too shy to ask someone to walk you to your car or home.
4. On public transportation, use the busiest, best lit stop to get on and off the bus or train. Always sit near the driver or operator.
5. Adopt a frame of mind that allows you to recognize and avoid potential threats on the street.
6. If you feel threatened, call 911 IMMEDIATELY!

*Maria Bappert,  
GRO Public Safety Officer*

### Dead Cell Phone? How I Saved Money

My cell phone was broken. I wanted a replacement like the QWERTY keyboard slider I had. The shops for my provider all were pushing high end Smartphones. My style of phone was discontinued. I discovered a detail in my cell phone plan: another phone can be activated for a small transfer fee without affecting my service or increasing my monthly bill.

I searched online and bought a refurbished slider with a warranty. If you have a style of phone you like, look for another like it. Try eBay, Amazon, Craigslist and ask friends if they have a spare. Store clerks make it seem like you need to buy a new phone even if you can activate a replacement phone.

*Shellie Lewis*

## **Waters School Fundraising Gala Event on May 11th**

Kick off the spring season with a fabulous fundraising event hosted by Waters Today: Waters' Big Night, on Friday, May 11, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Dank Haus, 4740 North Western Ave. The evening will host amazing silent auction items, games, music, and food and beverages from the neighborhood's finest eateries. (Last year's event featured food from area favorites like Tank, Semiramis, Noon O Kabab, LM, Cafe Selmarie, La Bocca della Verita, Garcias, and Rockwells.) Bid, eat, drink, and have tons of fun as you help raise money for a truly worthy local cause.

Waters Today, started in 2005, raises funds to help sustain the ecology and full-time music programs for students at Waters Elementary, our area's local public school (at Wilson and Rockwell). This year the group has a special fundraising opportunity; it needs to raise \$30,000 on top of its usual goals to meet a matching a grant by Alderman Pawar to fund Waters' new science-designated classrooms. Corporate or business sponsorships of \$500 or more will be recognized with a special plaque in these new rooms. The Waters' Big Night event on May 11 will be a perfect opportunity to make this matching grant happen!

Community and neighborhood involvement is how Waters has become such a thriving, vibrant school, and just one of the many advantages we enjoy in our neighborhood. So be sure to join your friends and neighbors at this fantastic event! Individual tickets are \$40 apiece; or \$350 for ten. Corporate sponsorships are available for \$250-1000.

For tickets, volunteer opportunities, or any other information, visit: [waterstoday.org](http://waterstoday.org).

*Terri Versace*

## **SPRING CLEAN UPS - April 21**

As in recent years, both clean ups are scheduled for the same day. From 9:00 to noon, please join volunteers for the Friends of the Parks Earth Day Clean Up at Jacob Park.

Les Kniskern will bring his pick-up truck and accept electronic and hazardous waste which he will take for proper disposal. At 1:00 we need volunteers for the City-wide Clean & Green. We will clean at Rockwell Crossing and possibly other areas. Call Bea Tersch (773 561-0794) to sign up or for more information.

*Bea Tersch*

## **Potluck Report: Starting With Dessert Is Always an Option**

New neighbors and old friends gathered at Luther Memorial Church on March 23rd for the annual GRO potluck. An array of delicious appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts was provided by the guests and area restaurants, as well as coffee and sodas.

Special guest Congressman Mike Quigley stopped by to chat with constituents and buy a few raffle tickets. Raffle items included a stained glass window, theater tickets, gift certificates and the ever-popular GRO T-shirt.

Thanks for donations from Bea Tersch, Maria Bappert, Havana Nights, Monti's, Art Pizza Cafe,

The Red Lion and Ron Roenigk. We also want to thank our friends at Luther Memorial Church for allowing us to use the space and the friendly volunteers who helped with setting and cleaning up.

Proceeds from the raffle will support upcoming events including the GRO area yard sales on the weekend of June 9 - 10th and the block party scheduled for August. See you there!

*Anne Zender*



## **Green Thumbs Wanted**

Do you like flower gardening? There are some corner gardens in the neighborhood that need sponsors and caretakers. Corner gardens beautify the neighborhood and provide plants that benefit birds and butterflies. Stop by a GRO monthly meeting and learn more!

*Shellie Lewis*

## Seven Ways for Greener Home Cleaning

With Earth Day coming up, people look for ways to lower their impact on the environment. Using older methods of cleaning that our grandparents were familiar with is one way to reduce the use of household chemicals. Here are things I have done over the years:

White Vinegar is a powerful multi-purpose cleaner. Keep some handy in a spray bottle. Use it to degrease pots and pans, sometimes letting it soak for a while is needed. If you have heavy burnt on foods on your stove top, pots or pans, sprinkle baking soda and mist it with white vinegar, then use a scrub brush while it fizzes. Microwave a cup of white vinegar for a minute or until very hot and let it sit to steam the interior, then wipe down the surfaces with a sponge for fast cleaning.

Mist wooden cutting boards & let dry overnight to kill germs. (You will need to re-oil your cutting boards periodically.) Clean glass with sprayed vinegar as a substitute for window cleaner. Use it to degrease wax on fruits such as pears and apples before washing the fruit with lots of water.

Get a second use out of used drier sheets; they are good for quick dust rags that can be thrown away.

Knit or crochet a reusable cotton cover for a Swiffer cleaner. Wash the knitted cover after use. I have sprayed wood polish on the knitted cover. I used a low cost 100% cotton yarn to knit my Swiffer cover.

Damp baking soda will polish silver and silver plated items to a bright shine. I often use it on sterling silver jewelry and rinse with water, then pat the jewelry dry.

Rub lemon juice and salt on tarnished copper and brass. Very discolored copper pots may take a lot of scrubbing but they will gleam with enough effort.

Kitchen sponges are more sanitary that wash cloths. Microwave a damp kitchen sponge for a minute to boil it or place it in the top rack of a dishwashing machine to sanitize.

Buy low impact, biodegradable detergents and soaps for laundry and washing the floor. Glycerine and natural soaps are good for bathing. US military bases have banned the use of antibacterial soaps and body washes because the hurt the water table and damage waste water processing. Unless you are immune compromised and need antibacterial products for health reasons, they are environmentally damaging.

*Shellie Lewis*



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**  New Member  Renewal

Membership dues are active October 1st - September 30th

**I AM INTERESTED IN:** \_\_\_ Fundraising / Special Events; \_\_\_ Member Services / Welcome; \_\_\_ Newsletter; \_\_\_ Public Safety; \_\_\_ Streetscape / Beautification; \_\_\_ Streetscape / Greening; \_\_\_ Urban Development

Checks payable to GRO: Bring to a meeting, drop off at Ruff Haus Pets 4652 North Rockwell (just north of the "el" tracks), or mail to GRO Membership, P.O. Box 25561, Chicago IL 60625-0561

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30
- Senior \$10
- Senior Family \$15
- Sustaining \$50
- Business \$50
- Friends of GRO \$20 (living outside of GRO service area)
- ADD to the Corner Gardens \$5 or \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hip to be Square

Steps from the Western Brown Line stop, these four Lincoln Square shops have an offbeat selection that turn the drudgery of gift-buying into an adventure.

### Gallimaufry Gallery

4712 N. Lincoln Ave. 773.728.3600  
Gallimaufry – a Shakespearean word for “hodgepodge” – is a fitting moniker for this 34-year old shop with eco-friendly wares. Its selection runs the gamut from fancy candlestick holders (\$55) to hand puppets (\$20) to humorous, politically-charged bumper stickers (\$3). The glittens (a glove/mitten hybrid) from Nepal are fair-trade, while the hand-made wooden keepsake boxes do not use any endangered tree species.

### Eclecticity

4718 N. Lincoln Ave. 773.275.3080  
Evil spirits got you down? Eclecticity has just the thing: witch balls. The hand-blown, glass spheres may not really catch ghosts, but they still look great. Here, vintage and antique mingle with new and hand-made. Grandma

## April Calendar

- 3 GRO Meeting at 7:30 pm, Luther Memorial Church on the corners of Campbell & Wilson
- 8 Happy Easter!
- 16 Manor Garden Club meeting
- 17 Beat 1911 Public Safety meeting at 7:00 pm at Chase Park, 4701 N Ashland Ave.
- 19 Free day at the Museum of Science & Industry
- 21 Friends of the Parks Earth Day Clean Up at Jacob Park, 9:00 am - 12:00
- 22 Earth Day

may not appreciate the artful tarot cards (\$18), so why not get her a print ad (\$10 and up) or framed magazine cover (\$80 and up) from the 1930s instead.

### Laurie's Planet of Sound

4639 N. Lincoln Ave. 773.271.3569  
Sure, Laurie's has a wide selection of new and used CDs, buttons, patches and posters – but its record selection trumps all. Vinyl aficionados take note: the shop sells plastic sleeves and boxes to store your prized album collection. Music not your thing? Then check out the quirky selection of movies – from hip favorites like the “Twin Peaks” collection (\$74) to cult classics such as

“Turkish Star Wars” (\$15).

### Quake Collectibles

4628 N. Lincoln Ave. 773.878.4288  
Rediscover your inner child at Quake. Its floor-to-ceiling array of collectibles – mostly action figures, but also vintage lunchboxes, toy cars, dolls and concert t-shirts – can be overwhelming at first glance. Navigate the organized chaos to find treasures such as a mint-in-box, original Nintendo (\$125), a lunchbox from “The Riflemen” TV series (\$100) and a Transformers Optimus Prime action figure (\$65). But most items range from \$3 to \$20.

*Sal J. Barry*

### 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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