

New Friends of GRO
Becky Ramsey & Julie Freburg
Stephanie Samuels
Jack Scanlon

**A special thanks to monthly
Corner Garden Contributor
Westwood Food & Liquor**

Upcoming GRO Events

June 9 & 10: Yard and Garage Sales
July 1: Garden Walk
August 4: Block Party

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.

May
2007

GRO NEWS

Greater Rockwell Organization

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No. 5

15th Annual Chicago River Day Saturday, May 12

Join Friends of the Chicago River and 3,900 volunteers including community members, school groups, corporations, and neighborhood associations for a day of hands-on environmental work and celebration along 100 miles of sites on the Chicago River. Everyone from senior citizens to working professionals to toddlers can find something to contribute and celebrate at Chicago River Day.

The day begins with a workday at 9 a.m. at over 60 sites along the river. Afterwards, volunteers are invited to the Chicago River Festival beginning at 12 noon at River Park, 5100 N. Francisco. Festival-goers will enjoy a free barbeque, canoe rides, live music, an environmental fair, and more.

To find a worksite and to sign up, please visit chicagoriver.org.

Got Too Much Stuff? Sell It! At the 28th Annual GRO Yard and Garage Sales June 9 and 10

It's that time of year again to clean out your closets, basements, and garages and get rid of all your unwanted items at the the 28th Annual GRO Yard and Garage Sales on June 9 and 10. As they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Call Bea at 561-0794 by June 1 to sign up. Your \$5 fee covers newspaper ads and sales flyers with your address on the list of sellers. GRO gets permits for all sellers.

New this year: You must be a paid-up member of GRO to sign up for the yard and garage sales. If you join now, your membership will be good through September 2008.

You can:

- sell at your own location
- sell at the GRO table (call Sara at 275-7786)

- donate salable items to the GRO table

To get the most bucks for your beauties:

- give some thought to displaying your items attractively
- price everything so people don't have to ask
- have an extension cord so people can see appliances work
- assign not-quite-salable items to a free (or free with purchase) box or table to draw browsers
- have lots of change on hand in a fanny pack or in pockets
- provide bags, boxes, and newspapers for purchases
- take names and numbers when you get low offers, so you can call at the end of the sale if an item hasn't sold at the price you set

NEWS FROM WATERS

School Enrollment for Fall 2007

Community excitement about Waters Elementary School continues to build. This spring, for the first time ever, Waters held an admission lottery for Fall 2007 enrollment spots. The school received 70 Kindergarten applications from families outside the neighborhood! In addition, several families also applied for spots in higher grades.

During these early stages of growth, it can be hard for a school to predict fall enrollment. If you plan to send your child to Waters for the first time this fall, please try to pre-register at the school by April 30th. School tours will be given May 10 and May 24 at 9 a.m.

Preschool

Waters will continue to offer a tuition-based preschool next fall. The Fall 2007 class is currently full, but names will be added to a waiting list. The school will also offer a free half-day preschool pro-

gram called "Preschool for All," which is part of Governor Blagojevich's effort to ensure that all children have access to preschool. For more information, contact the school at 773-534-5090.

Test Scores

Test scores at the school increased significantly this past year. The percent of students testing who meet or exceed state standards across all tests rose from 52% last year to 62% this year. Notably, the 3rd grade class showed a rise from 65% to 90%, meeting/exceeding ISAT state standards for both reading and math.

Summer Activities

Waters will be hosting at least four weeks of camp this coming summer: **Abakadoodle Art Camp** (ages 3-8): Weeks of July 23 and July 30 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. **Abakadoodle Parent-Tot-Art Class** (ages 20-36 mos.): Wednesdays July

25–Aug 15 from 9:30 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Call 773-314-7622 to register for art classes.

Global Explorers Camp (ages 3-8): Weeks of August 6 and August 13 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Call 773-491-2723 to register for Global Explorers.

Upcoming Silent Auction

Waters Today will be holding a Silent Auction fundraiser at the Dank Haus in Lincoln Square on the evening of June 8th. The community is encouraged to attend to show their support for our neighborhood school. Tickets are \$30 each or \$250 for a table of 10. There will be music, food from neighborhood restaurants, music, and a silent auction. Donations of merchandise, gift certificates, services, etc., are needed for the auction. For information on tickets or to donate something, please contact Ronda Butler at 773-907-9077 or RondaButler@comcast.net.

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 in improving our community.

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Newsletter drop points

Beans & Bagels, Rockwell & Leland
Carol's Hair Care, 2556 W. Lawrence
Brown Line Station at Rockwell

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GROnews e-mail alerts at:
www.GreaterRockwell.org

What's Growing in the Corner Gardens?

Fifteen (15) gardening friends attended the annual Gardening Tea on March 31, 2007. This was the largest tea yet! Bea Tersch hosted the event this year.

The group discussed a number of topics:

- Compost for the corner gardens—various alternative sources of compost are being explored. More info to follow.
- GRO will hold its 4th annual informal garden walk this summer on Sunday, July 1, from 2-5 p.m. Ruth Kurczewski will host. More info to follow in early June.
- Caretaking of various corner gardens was discussed. All corners are now covered. Mary Conway distributed the revised “Corner Gardener Guide” to the corner gardeners after the tea, containing updated caretaker information.
- The group discussed investigating the City’s process for requesting tree plantings on the parkways. Once this information is obtained, volunteers from the group will approach homeowners in the neighborhood regarding the planting of trees on their parkways. June Huitt, Patti Huetteman, and Cathy Osika will be helping with this.

If you would like to volunteer to help with a corner garden and/or meet fellow gardeners, contact Mary Conway at 773-907-8502.



This month's editor is Tracy Bartholomew

Nhu Lan Bakery: More than baguettes and buns

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Vietnamese casual dining is the banh mi—a sandwich made in 9 varieties at the Nhu Lan Bakery, which recently opened at 2612 W. Lawrence between Rockwell and Talman.

These delicious sandwiches are prepared and served dine-in or take-out on fresh demi-baguettes, made with your choice of veggies, chicken and pork—the recommended being the grilled pork—although making your way down the list is also a worthwhile effort. Each sandwich includes a wonderful and sometimes spicy combination of toppings that include cucumbers, carrots, homemade mayo, cilantro, jalapeno, and daikon. The sandwiches are very reasonably priced and if you buy 5, you get one free.

Your meal is not complete without some of the other takeout available at Nhu Lan, including bagged snacks and premade sides of spring rolls, sweet rice snacks and puddings, and steamed buns. There are homemade tapioca drinks in the cooler, as well as canned sodas and juices including a great mandarin orange drink filled with tangy pulp.

While waiting for your sandwiches to be made, you'll not miss the smell of fresh bread baking, and here is your final reason for stopping into this new neighborhood establishment. Baguettes are 4 for \$1.00, and a variety of loaves are made throughout the day, along with an assortment of pastries such as croissants and some familiar western desserts.

As the weather warms up, it's a perfect opportunity to stop by Nhu Lan to pick up a full meal to enjoy on a picnic, at the beach, on your way to Ravinia—or in our case, to grab a quick meal after a long and busy day. This is a great neighborhood addition to our already wonderful and diverse selection of food from around the world.

Nhu Lan Bakery is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed on Tuesdays.

JENNY MOHLER

Maximize value with “the local guy.”
Call me for a free market analysis.

Chuck Woodring 773-418-1822
Agent
Chuck@saffronrealtygroup.com



Bike the Drive

On Sunday, May 27 (Memorial Day weekend), Lake Shore Drive will be closed to car traffic from 5 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for the annual Bike the Drive event. Choose your own pace and distance and enjoy a morning of peaceful, car-free Lake Shore Drive with amazing views of Chicago's lakefront and skyline. To register, visit BikeTheDrive.org or call the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation at 312-427-3325.

AllStar Carpet Care LLC
in GRO area for 15 years

773.728.7705
847.420.4111 (cell)

May Calendar



- 1 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Monthly Meeting.** Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 5 Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon. Clean & Green Day. Meet at Rockwell & Leland for cleanup and conversation.
- 7 Monday, 7 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 8 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 12 Saturday, 9 a.m. Chicago River Day. See pg. 1 for details.
- 13 Sunday. Mother's Day.
- 14 Monday, 7.30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Horner Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.
- 16 Wednesday, 7 p.m. Ravenswood Garden Club. Sulzer Library, 4445 N. Lincoln Ave.
- 20 Sunday. Ravenswood Manor Garage Sales.
- 22 Tuesday, 7 p.m. 19th District CAPS Beat Meeting. Kindred Hospital, Rockwell & Montrose, top floor meeting room
- 28 Monday. Memorial Day.

8th Annual May Fest

This year's Mayfest kicks off on Thursday, May 31, at 5 p.m. and continues through the weekend. Don your lederhose or dirndl and join your friends and neighbors under the big tent at Lincoln & Leland for good food, dancing, and German Gemutlichkeit!

New member _____ Renewal _____

GRO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____

Home Tel. _____ Work Tel. _____ E-mail _____ Occupation _____

Categories (circle one): Individual \$20 Family \$30 Senior \$10 Senior Family \$15 Sustaining \$50
Business \$50 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/Beautifcation 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