

May Day! May Day! It's the May Meeting!

The next GRO meeting will take place Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church (upstairs; please ring bell if door is locked). Agenda items will include information on the upcoming yard sales in June and an update on Jacob Park.

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

**May
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APRIL SPRING CLEAN UPS

**33rd ANNUAL GRO YARD AND
GARAGE SALES JUNE 9 & 10!**

Jacob Park's many young families came out for the Friends of the Parks Earth Day Clean Up. The 15 or so adults and 15 or so children picked up litter, mulched, weeded, pruned and gardened in the play lot. Dara from Alderman Pawar's office brought donuts for the workers. Friends of the Parks provided T-shirts, gloves, etc. Les Kniskern brought his pick up truck to receive e-waste for proper disposal.

We were able to get many signatures on the petition asking that the CTA's land adjacent to the park be taken off the market and made available for park expansion. (online petition @ <http://www.change.org/petitions/expand-public-use-riverfront-land-at-jacob-park>)

For our contribution to the annual Clean & Green, loyal volunteers cleaned their own yards and blocks and swept around the news boxes and cleaned the litter can on Harriet O'Donnell Way.

Remember that old adage — one man's trash is another man's treasure?

Here's your chance to exchange trash for treasure: you can get rid of old stuff and buy new stuff — how cool is that?

Signing up to sell your stuff during the GRO Yard and Garage Sales offers several advantages. The fee (\$5 for GRO members; \$10 for non-members) covers newspaper ads and a listing on the GRO flier, as well as the permit to sell on that day. Fliers will also be provided.

Posting signs on trees or utility posts is not permitted.

To sign up, email secretary@greaterrockwell.org with your name and address or call B. Tersch at 773-561-0794 by June 1.

GRO Dines Out

On evenings when I am too lazy to cook, a fast-casual restaurant like Monti's fits the bill perfectly.

My boyfriend and I grabbed dinner here last night. He spent years in Philly attending graduate school (and lived just blocks from the famed warring factions of Geno's and Pat's), so he was anxious to see how Monti's would compare with the "real thing."

We arrived on the late side (about 8) and were greeted enthusiastically and given menus. We started with the calamari and we each ordered fairly classic cheese steak sandwiches, an 8-inch for me, and a 12-inch for my bf. I ordered mine "hoagie style," which comes with lettuce, tomato and mayo. You are offered a choice of white American, provolone, or aged cheddar sauce. I don't think they offer Cheez Whiz (nor am I brave enough to eat that), but apparently that's what makes a cheese steak "authentic."

The calamari was really good and came with sliced fried lemons and banana peppers which added a nice contrast to the calamari. Good stuff.

Our sandwiches arrived soon after and came with a heaping pile of crispy fries. We both really enjoyed our sandwiches. The steak was tender and flavorful and all the other ingredients (provolone and grilled onions) were balanced perfectly. My bf was highly impressed that they used genuine Philly Amoroso rolls. I could eat only half my sandwich, but my bf scarfed down his entire sandwich. Another plus: gluten-free options are available for those who want them.

We were so full that we passed on dessert, but we'll be sure to save room next time. They offer Italian ice (one of my faves) and Tastykakes (another beloved Philly thing).

Monti's is a great addition to this part of town. I plan to bring my mom (who lives just down the block). She doesn't eat beef so she can enjoy the soy sausage sandwich while I devour a cheese steak.

Melanie Spitz

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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Waters School Named a Green Ribbon School

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was joined by White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson to announce the first-ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, a list including 78 schools that span 29 states and the District of Columbia.

Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is a federal recognition program that opened in September 2011. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating “green” environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education to prepare students with the 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy.

The 78 awarded schools were named winners from among nearly 100 nominees submitted by 30 state education agencies, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education. More than 350 schools completed applications to their state education agencies. Among the list of winners are 66 public schools, including 8 charters, and 12 private schools. In total, the schools are composed of 43 elementary, 31 middle and 26 high schools with around 50 percent representing high poverty schools.

The Illinois Schools:

- Academy for Global Citizenship, Chicago, Illinois
- **Thomas J. Waters Elementary School, Chicago, Illinois**
- Prairie Crossing Charter School, Grayslake, Illinois

Congratulations!

May Calendar

- 1 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 7 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 8 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 12 River Clean-up. 10:00 a.m. Horner Park & Ronan Park
- 19 Manor Garden Club Plant sale, Luther Memorial Church Campbell & Wilson
- 20 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Ravenswood Manor Garage sales. area west of the river around Wilson
- 21 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club, Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 23 Friday, 6:30 p.m. GRO Potluck. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 28 Monday. Memorial Day observed.

Coming Up in June: GRO Yard and Garage sales - June 9 & 10

Spring Food Drive

The Greater Rockwell Organization and Ravenswood Gardens Homeowners Association collected substantial donations during an April food drive.

An assortment of food and personal items were collected at three locations throughout the area. Donations were made to benefit the Common Pantry. The total collected was 168 pounds of food.

Additional food drive collections will take place July 20-22 and October 19-21.

Collection points will be at 4738 N. Artesian, 2527 W. Eastwood, and 2612 W. Eastwood. Neighbors interested in becoming a drop-off point should email president@greaterrockwell.org.

The Common Pantry, 3744 N. Damen Ave., is Chicago's oldest operating food pantry. It provides emergency food and personal items to more than 1100 individuals every month. The pantry serves the Lincoln Square community and the demand is higher than ever before. To learn more go to <http://commonpantry.org>.

For more updates on the food drive and other 2012 GRO activities, visit our web site at <http://www.GreaterRockwell.org/>, our Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/greaterrockwell>, and subscribe to our Twitter feed at http://twitter.com/gro_org.

MANOR GARDEN CLUB PLANT & BAKE SALE

Save the date!

10:00 a.m. — noon, May 19th at
Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W.
Wilson Av.

If you would like to place some posters for this event, please call me at 773-318-8466 or email me at anne.rozmin@comcast.net and I'll drop some off for you.

This is the only fundraiser we have, so please support us by buying plants. Current members get a 5% discount. Volunteers welcome and donated, labeled perennials are also welcome! Just drop them off at the church on sale day morning.

Enjoy Your Spring!

Anne Rozmin

Did you know that GRO has an online presence as well as an offline presence?

On the Web, GRO is available at <http://greaterrockwell.org>. You can sign up here to receive GRO's periodic news updates, bringing you information about your neighborhood, special events, and upcoming meetings. Don't worry about spam - you'll get no more than one or two emails a month! Also at the website you'll find copies of this newsletter, a handy calendar of neighborhood events, and links to local business and services.



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Call: 1-847-287-0449

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Memberships run from October 1 through September 30

New member _____ Renewal _____

GRO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Address _____

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

Categories (circle one): Individual \$20 Family \$30 Senior (65+) \$10 Senior Family \$15 Sustaining \$50
Business \$20 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/Beautification 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