

Welcome to New Member
James Holfheimer

**Welcome to New Business
Member**

**GRO Yard and Garage Sales
Coming Up!**

Thanks to Sustaining Member
Sarah Hoxie

Tony Zataj
Kidz Creative Corner

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**May/June
2019**



**Vol. 38
No. 2**

GRO TURNS 40!

The Greater Rockwell Organization (GRO), your neighborhood organization, celebrates its 40th anniversary on May 25. We hope that you will join with us as we continue the work of those who have been investing their time and energy to improve our community for the past 40 years.

About GRO

The Rockwell Task Force, the predecessor to GRO, was instituted in the mid-70s in response to serious problems in the neighborhood, including gangs, drug dealing and prostitution

In 1979 the Task Force was chartered as a block club, the current Greater Rockwell Organization, Over the years as gang activity waned, GRO began to channel its efforts in other directions, for example helping to design a new playground at Jacob park in the early '90s, and fighting to keep the Rockwell el station open. GRO also started and continues to maintain the Corner Gardens, and GRO members have repeatedly appeared in Housing Court against negligent landlords, as well as conducting a book drive for Waters School.

The charm of 'the crossing', as the area by the Rockwell station is referred to, might not be what it is today if GRO had not fought to keep first floor retail on that block. In addition, GRO worked with the alderman's office to downzone the neighborhood to prevent the construction of oversized, poorly constructed condo developments that you see in other neighborhoods. GRO also commissioned the lovely mural by a neighborhood artist on Leland and Rockwell.

Every year GRO conducts a spring cleanup, and every summer holds a neighborhood garage and yard sale. The whole neighborhood also looks forward to the annual Summer Street Party at Jacob Playlot.

You Can Be Part Of Our Vibrant Community

Join GRO for the first time or renew your membership and **COME TO A MEETING!**

Connect with your neighbors and find out what is happening in the community. Maybe you can't change the world, but you can work to change your corner of it. It's low-risk with potential of high returns!

Earth Day Cleanup

Many thanks to the volunteers who showed up at Jacob Playlot for the Earth Day cleanup. About 20 adults and children turned out, even though the weather report predicted snow

Unfortunately, foul weather prevented the volunteers from extending the cleanup to Rockwell area. Those cigarette butts will have to wait for another time! Gotta love Chicago weather!

MAIFEST in Lincoln Square

Thursday, May 30th - Sunday, June 2nd
Lincoln & Leland Ave | Live Music & Entertainment Every Day!

Thursday: 5:00 - 9:30.p.m. "Rock the May Fest" Preview Party

Friday: 5:00 - 11:00.p.m. (8:00pm Official Opening Ceremony, Traditional Keg Tapping and May Queen Crowning)

Saturday: Noon - 11:00 p.m. - Live Music & Entertainment

Sunday: Noon - 10:00 p.m. (Maipole Dance & Cultural Program 1:00 - 4:00.p.m.)

Annual Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale

Sunday, May 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Ravenswood Manor; west of the river, Wilson Ave

This garage sale is one of the oldest and most popular neighborhood events in the City of Chicago and a fun and fruitful way for residents to do some spring cleaning. People come from far and wide to shop the goods assembled by more than a hundred households in one of Chicago's most desirable neighborhoods.

Garage Sale info:

<http://ravenswoodmanor.com/manorgaragesale/>

Lincoln Square Summer Concert Series

The annual Summer Concert Series, Lincoln Square's favorite free summer event, begins on Thursday June 6, with The Flat Cats (swinging jazz and blues). Swing by Giddings Plaza between 6:30 and - 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays (weather permitting) and check out the tunes of local Chicago musicians. The Series runs through the end of August. Be sure to tell your entire family and all of your friends! No one is going to want to miss out!

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 are:

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Save the Date

GRO GARAGE & YARD SALES

Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9, 2019

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This is a favorite neighborhood event that draws bargain seekers from all over the city. It's an excellent opportunity to declutter the basement, find great deals, meet your neighbors, and enjoy the summer weather!

To participate, the registration fee is FREE to GRO Paid Members
\$5 for Non-members (for early registration before May 19)
\$10 for Non-members (for late registration after May 19)

To register in advance, have your address added to the map and advertising, and be included in the neighborhood permit, please email the following information to vp@greaterrockwell.org or drop off this completed registration form and fee (if applicable) at the Red Lion on or before May 19th:

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. Phone number _____
4. Email address _____

Register now and join in on the fun!

May Calendar

- 1 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council, Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 7 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Wilson & Campbell**
- 11 Saturday 9:00 -noon. River Day. Jacob Park Riverbank
- 14 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 12 Sunday Mother's Day
- 15 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Sulzer Library, Lincoln & Sunnyside. Beat 1911 CAPS Meeting
- 18 Saturday, 10:00 – noon. Manor Garden Club Plant Sale. Luther Memorial Church, Wilson & Campbell
- 19 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Ravenswood Manor Garage Sales. West of the River at Wilson
- 20 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Manor Garden Club Lecture. Sulzer Library
- 25 **Saturday: GRO turns 40!**
- 27 Memorial Day Observed

June Calendar

- 4 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Wilson & Campbell**
- 5 Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council, Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 8&9 **Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-- 4:00 p.m. GRO Garage & Yard Sales (see page 3)**
- 11 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Father's Day
- 21 Summer officially begins

Coming Up!

Farmers Market begins June 4

August 24 GRO Street Party

Lincoln Square Farmers Market

Lincoln Square Farmers Market will be opening on Tuesday June 4 and continuing through October 31. The markets will be held on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings.

In addition to the usual veggies and fruits and plants, etc., this year the Market will be offering yoga classes, cooking demonstrations and Kids in the Market during June, July and August.

Sweet Virginia's Kitchen: An Ode to Family and Good Food

Tucked a few steps off street level south of Foster at 5131 North Damen is Sweet Virginia's Kitchen, a sweet little place with a well-curated menu of breakfast and lunch options. Chef and Owner Angie opened the eatery in honor of her grandmother, Virginia, using many of her grandmother's recipes. The décor is full of nostalgia with old cheese graters as light fixtures, her grandfather's old radio on a shelf, and Grandma Virginia's recipe cards on the wall.

The food is phenomenal. Three favorites: the breakfast sandwich, the "Z", and the eggs foster. The eggs foster is a scrambled egg, broccoli combination that is incredibly delicious. But the absolute star of the menu is the donuts. Unlike a traditional cake donut one would find at a chain store, the donuts are yeast donuts, making them less dense and softer. Made to order, they are brought out fresh and warm. They are crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside, and rolled in cinnamon and sugar. 1 for \$4, and 3 for \$10, they are not an everyday item for a college student such as myself, but they are the best donuts I have ever had. I would come here for the donuts alone, but the story and love behind this eatery make a visit even more worthwhile.

Open Thursday through Sunday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A word of advice: This is a small place – anticipate a wait on Saturday and Sunday.

Teagan Capek

GRO online

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.

If you're into social networking, look for GRO on both FaceBook (<http://bit.ly/GROFaceBook>) and on Twitter (http://twitter.com/gro_org). Friend or follow us to stay connected!