

Save the Date!

Welcome to New Members
Matthew & Bridget Hollingsworth

August 20
for the
GRO Street Party

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

June
2011

Vol. 30
No. 6

**32nd ANNUAL GRO YARD
& GARAGE SALES
JUNE 11 & 12!**

Come one and all to find that perfect whatchamacallit - there'll be plenty of those - along with furniture, lamps, household goods, children's items, gardening stuff - you name it - it's sure to be there.

**Oistrach Symphony Orchestra
Summer Concert by Candlelight**

Sunday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m.
Luther Memorial Church
2500 W. Wilson
Program includes works by Mozart,
Mendelssohn and Elgar

Tickets on sale at Oistrachsymphony.org
Ticket Prices: Adults \$15, Students/
Seniors \$10, Family up to 5 \$25

**Stress Reduction, Yard and Garage Sales on
June Meeting Agenda**

The next meeting of the Greater Rockwell Organization (GRO) will take place Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial Church.

Our speaker will be Cliff Morland, acupuncturist at the Galter LifeCenter. Morland has been a licensed, board-certified acupuncture therapist for more than 20 years, focusing on blending Eastern and Western approaches to healing and assisting patients in helping themselves to heal more quickly. He also holds a BA in corrective exercise and a MS in exercise science and is a health and fitness instructor with ACSM and a certified nutrition specialist. Morland will focus a general overview of acupuncture and its history, with an emphasis on reducing stress.

Galter LifeCenter is a medical fitness facility committed to empowering its community members to develop mind, body and spirit through exercise, good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. It is located at the corner of Foster and Francisco avenues.

Also on the agenda for the meeting are preparations for the upcoming GRO yard and garage sales, coming right up on June 11-12.

You Can't Stop at One Slice at First Slice

First Slice has set up shop a step or two north of the Francisco stop on the Brown Line, just a 7-minute walk from the GRO neighborhood, depending on how fast you walk.

I walked in and was downright giddy. It's a bright, sunny space with big wooden tables and like its other location, soups, salads, sandwiches, quiche, and of course, pie, are offered.

I came away with a slice of Michigan sour cherry pie and one of the biggest lemon bars I've ever seen. It was hard not to try and buy everything, but I had to remind myself that since this place is practically in my backyard, there's no reason I can't come back every day and sample their offerings, which also include chocolate chip cookie bars and snickerdoodles.

The lemon bar was one of the biggest and best I've ever had - nice and lemony, and just tart and sweet enough with a perfect crust. And priced at just \$2.00, it was a steal. The cherry pie was nice and tart and topped with a lattice crust, which is my preference.

As much as I love my sweets, the crowning glory may just be that they also offer fried chicken on the menu, which I was able to take a peek at, and it looked divine. There's a good chance I may just end up being their best customer since no two things make me happier than sweets and fried chicken in one place.

In addition, First Slice offers a shareholder program. As a subscriber, you will receive home-cooked, restaurant-quality meals. Your subscription also directly contributes to funding the same high-quality food to people in need. Individual and family subscriptions are available. Families may subscribe to receive three gourmet meals per week. One family subscription feeds 20 hungry people for a month.

What could be better than eating well and doing good? For more information about the subscriber program, or to volunteer, call 773- 506-7380 or email info@firstslice.org.

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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2525 W. Lawrence Update

At our May meeting, GRO again discussed and deliberated on the zoning variances requested by Horizon Realty and their representatives to further their efforts on renovating their property at Maplewood and Lawrence (2525 West Lawrence).

As previously discussed at the April meeting and in communications in advance of that meeting, Horizon Realty's stated desire is to retain the building as a rental property.

The initial proposal was to increase the height of the building by two stories and to convert ground floor retail space to residential units. In doing so, they planned to keep the same number of units in the building as before - 42 - but increase the size and commercial attractiveness of the apartments.

In our May discussion and in two separate votes, GRO supported with some reluctance the conversion of the ground floor units, and unanimously opposed the increase in height of the structure. The GRO board has conveyed this consensus opinion to the developers and our new alderman, Ameya Pawar, and will continue to monitor and share information as the situation develops.

Eric Sinclair

Lincoln Square Farmers Market

Lincoln & Leland

Tuesdays beginning June 7
opens at 7:00 a.m.

Evening market on

Thursdays beginning June 16
opens at 4:00 p.m.

2011 Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program

This summer, the City of Chicago will be hosting a series of Sustainable Backyard Workshops to highlight the many ways residents can create more environmentally-friendly landscapes in their back, front, and side yards.

Sustainable Backyard Workshops

Tuesday, June 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Friends of the Chicago River
28 E. Jackson, Suite 1800

Tuesday, July 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Chicago Center for Green Technology
445 N. Sacramento Blvd.

More workshop and events will be scheduled in the coming weeks... please check www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel soon.

Sustainable Backyard Rebates

The City of Chicago is now offering rebates to Chicago residents for up to 50% off their next local purchase of:

TREES (up to \$100 back)
NATIVE PLANTS (up to \$60 back)
COMPOST BIN (up to \$50 back)
RAIN BARREL (up to \$40 back)

Residents are not required to participate in a Sustainable Backyard Workshop to receive a rebate form, but are encouraged to attend a workshop to learn more about how to install, plant, and maintain these green management practices. To download rebate forms, please visit www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel.



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Calling All Gardeners! (or would-be gardeners)

If you are taking care of a corner garden or you are interested in doing some gardening, please contact Nate at hutcheson.nate@gmail.com or 773-330-2472.

The sidewalk and street work in recent years has taken a toll on some of the gardens, and we also need to update the list of who is taking care of which corners.

It's not too late to start some flowers, grasses, or veggies!

June Calendar

- 4 Saturday, Giddings Block Party. Giddings Avenue between Washtenaw and Virginia
- 5 Sunday, 6:00 p.m. Summer Concert by Candlelight. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 6 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 7 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 11& 12 Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.-? GRO YARD & GARAGE SALES . Lawrence to Wilson; Western to the river
- 14 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 19 Sunday. Father's Day
- 21 Tuesday. Summer Solstice
- 26 Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk

Maifest

June 2-5

Lincoln/Leland/Western

Time to leave town! The annual Maifest is here, with all the attendant public urination, noise, and cars blocking the walkways all over the neighborhood. Come back home on Sunday night.

Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk

The Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk is Sunday June 26th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. This year, gardens south of Wilson Avenue will be on the walk; in 2012 it will be the gardens north of Wilson Avenue.

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