

Thanks to Sustaining Members

Jen and Ben Johnson

GRO annual elections will be held at the October meeting. You must be a member to cast a vote. Join by completing the form on the back page of the newsletter and bringing it to the GRO meeting, or drop it off at RuffHaus on Rockwell

Special Thanks to Mr. Lee and Westwood Liquors at Western & Eastwood for continuous and generous support of GRO

**Sept.
2014**

**Vol. 33
No. 9**

IT'S GRO ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

The Nominating Committee has selected the following candidates for office; other nominations can be made from the floor at the September 2 GRO meeting:

President: Emily Carruthers
1st Vice President: Tom Kosinski
2nd Vice President: Shonagh Merits
Secretary: Bea Tersch
Treasurer: Lucinda Dieker

Here are some facts about the candidates:

Emily Carruthers, candidate for President, has lived in Chicago for over 10 years, and moved to the GRO area about three years ago. She and her husband John live on Lawrence Avenue. Emily has previously served as Vice President for GRO, and participates regularly in GRO events like the Street Party, the Spring Potluck, and GRO Happy Hours. She works as an implementation consultant for a software company, and has also worked in the Human Resources field. Emily loves the convenience

of being able to walk to great restaurants and Harvest Time, and enjoys getting together with neighbors at GRO meetings and events.

Tom Kosinski, candidate for 1st Vice President, has lived in the GRO area for more than 20 years. Tom has been involved with GRO for many years, serving GRO as President from 2008 – 2010, and before that as a Vice President. He also has been very active in obtaining speakers for GRO meetings, and participating in GRO events, like the Potluck and the Street Party. For good or for ill, Tom updates the web page & schleps newsletters as well. Tom loves all the convenience and excitement of living in a great city, but also the feel of the neighborhood: "it's like living in a small town."

Shonagh Merits, candidate for 2nd Vice President, moved to Lincoln square nine years ago, and works in higher education accreditation. She's been caring for one of GRO's corner gardens for four years, and is currently serving as Chair for the Corner Garden

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GRO Corner Garden Corner

Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to garden and everyone gets tomatoes.
-- Anonymous

This has nothing to do with corner gardens, but how many of you are trying to grow tomatoes this summer? WTF (and I don't mean why the face)! I have plenty of tomatoes, but they're all green and hard. Will they ripen?

I don't know, but we all planted late and it's been one of the coolest summers on record and the rain is seemingly never ending. Patience, grasshopper. They still may ripen if given time. However, tomatoes need heat. We've been short on those days. Keep your fingers crossed!

On a related note, my endless summer hydrangea is ginormous right now and my fall clematis is already blooming. When you are dealt lemons (like this cool, rainy summer), there is always lemonade.

Shonagh Merits

Raffle Detour

Thanks to these generous business friends and neighbors who donated raffle items, we collected some really great prizes for our Street Party Raffle.

AllStar Carpet Care, Beans & Bagels, Card Magic (Rob Mendell), Bloom Yoga, DeVrim Cleaners, Hello Doggy, Pro Holistic Institute, Red Lion, Rockwell's Grill, and Ruff Haus Pets. Thanks also to Alderman O'Connor and Harvestime Foods for their donations.

Alas, the raffle couldn't be held as scheduled, but it will go on with a few adjustments: Anyone who is a 2015 member at the time of the raffle will be automatically entered. Tickets will be sold and renewals accepted outside Beans & Bagels on Saturday the 6th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (\$2 per ticket 3 for \$5). Or, you can contact president@greaterrockwell.org.

The drawing will be held at the Red Lion on Wednesday September 10, at 8:00 p.m. We will draw from all entries for all prizes (i.e., you cannot designate your prize).

Thanks again to the generous people who donated, and a big thank you to Gus, the Grillmaster extraordinaire, who did his usual great job, and to Emily and John Carruthers, without whose truck we would still be hauling.

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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GRO Board/Committee Chairs

Membership: Patti Huetteman (506-0795); Newsletter: Sara Spitz (275-7786); Public Safety: Maria Bappert (728-8127); Beautification: Bea Tersch (561-0794) (clean up and graffiti); Shonagh Merits (corner gardens) (312-208-3130) Urban Development: Abbey Botkin (989-6861) Special Events: open

Newsletter drop points

Beans & Bagels, Rockwell & Leland
Carol's Hair Care, 2556 W. Lawrence
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The Street Party That Almost Wasn't; or, Go With The Flow

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GRO volunteers were up early on Saturday morning shopping and preparing for the annual street party. They were setting up the tents and tables when a neighbor checked his phone and saw a thick angry orange line, the length of Chicago, moving steadily towards the city from the west on his weather app. The storm was set to hit at 2 pm and another storm at 5 or 6 pm. The first of two large storms was well on its way.

Soon after that, the torrential downpour started. GRO members grabbed their umbrellas and scurried to arrange the supplies and keep raffle prizes dry. Someone brought rain gear and it was gratefully donned, as people took shelter in cars, restaurants and whatever was handy. Whoever saw the large yellow banana mumu rain poncho at Beans & Bagels will never forget it

Texts started flying: "We are at Beans & Bagels. The tents collapsed. I am in my car eating my side dish. Went home. What do we do now?"

As the downpour subsided a bit, the organizers emerged from homes, porches, and local businesses, wading through flooded streets to assess the situation. The two tents had broken and a lot of the supplies were wet. The band arrived and wanted to play. But there was no shelter on the street for them or for an audience. What to do?

GRO President Patti Huetteman made a decision. The party would go on: a sign was created and left at the heart of the block party site (Leland and Maplewood) and a message was posted on the Facebook page, directing everyone to 4738 Artesian. The band began to play in the garage, food and supplies were moved, a grill was fired up with the help of "Gus the Grill Master," and chairs were wiped down from drenched to damp. Neighbors and friends began to come out to enjoy food and celebrate their neighborhood as the rain continued to fall.

The next big storm front never materialized, and as the rain stopped, the block party grew more and more festive. Families came by and children and adults alike danced to the band that put on the best show ever. The magician was seen right after the first downpour, wheeling his magician's cart, and then "poof" - his "disappearing act" must have been real.

Congressman Mike Quigley stopped by early as he always does, before the decision to move the party was made; but at least he missed the storm. Alderman O'Connor generously donated water, pop and school supplies.

All in all, it was a great party. The rain, rather than calling off the show, added an element of chaos and magic. This is the first Street Party that has been rained out, but it seemed to not matter. Even so....next year we're hoping for a day of sun.

committee. Shonagh has lived in the city since moving to Chicago after college, and loves the diversity, convenience, and attractions Lincoln Square has to offer.

Bea Tersch, candidate for Secretary, helped start GRO 35 years ago, and has been an active participant in the neighborhood since then. In addition to being GRO secretary, she chairs the beautification committee and cleans graffiti in the neighborhood. She also creates stained glass; some of her pieces have been raffled off at various GRO functions. She takes care of plants at Carlton Michigan Avenue hotels, and helps GRO by picking up the newsletter at the printer and preparing it for distribution.

Lucinda Dieker, candidate for Treasurer, has lived in Lincoln Square for almost 12 years. She became a "Friend of GRO" in 2008 after reading current President Patti Huetteman's compelling newsletter article about investing in one's neighborhood since the financial markets were a tenuous place to invest (at that time). She recently purchased a condo within the designated GRO area. Her favorite aspects of the GRO area are the small town feel amidst the big city and the larger civic representation GRO offers within the Ward and the Congressional District.

Lucinda has been involved in the planning and organizing of GRO street parties, the spring potluck, and other GRO events over the past few years. She works in bank regulation, monitoring banks for discriminatory practices.

Sara Dell

SCOUTER REUNION AND POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, September 27,
5:30 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church Gymnasium, 2500 W. Wilson Ave.

The welcome mat will be out for all former and current Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout members, leaders, and parents! All GRO members are invited to attend.

Please join us – in your uniforms and earned medals -- for food, songs, skits, crafts, camaraderie, and sharing of memories. We will also have a memorial service for deceased Scouters.

Maureen Guinane, our courageous neighbor who single-handedly scared off a bicycle thief from her neighbor's porch last year, will be honored by the Community Policing Office of the 19th district. RSVP to Maria Bappert at 773-728-8127 by September 25, and let us know what dish you'll bring. The church is handicapped-accessible; please ask for help at the front door

Maria Bappert

September Calendar

- 1 Monday, Labor Day
- 2 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting . Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 8 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose and California
- 10 Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 16 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Beat 1911 Meeting, Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell
- 23 Tuesday, First Day of Autumn
- 28 Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Great Perennial Divide 4742 N. Virginia. All gardeners welcome

Calling all over-zealous recyclers!

Recycling is great, but please be mindful of accepted items before you fill up your blue carts in the alleys. On top of the carts is a list of recyclable items. Styrofoam, clothing, plastic bags, and textiles are not accepted. However, plastic bags may be donated to Harves Time or other stores, and clothing may be given away in dropboxes throughout the city. Clothing that is unwearable is recycled by the Salvation Army. Also, please remember to collapse cardboard boxes before placing them in the blue carts so that the lid can be closed.

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