

Welcome to New Member

Cathy Taylor

Corner Garden Contributors

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**Farmers' Markets Continue
through October 28; Tuesday morn-
ings and Thursday afternoons**

**Street sweeping in
mid-October**

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

**October
2010**

**Vol. 29
No.10**

Amendment to By-Laws

An amendment to the GRO by-laws is proposed in response to requests regarding residence outside GRO geographical boundaries.

Currently, three categories of membership exist:

- 1.Regular membership, open to persons 18 years of age or older who reside, are employed, or have a business in the GRO service area.
2. Friend of GRO, a nonvoting membership open to persons not eligible for a regular membership who share the interests and goals of GRO
3. Honorary membership, bestowed by the Board of Directors on persons who have made outstanding contributions toward achieving the goals of GRO.

A fourth category is being proposed:

4. Voting Friend of GRO, open to persons 18 years of age or older, who live outside the geographical boundaries of GRO, and: a) have been dues paying friends of GRO for two consecutive years and have attended no fewer than four meetings per year, b) attended four consecutive monthly meetings prior to their application for this change of status, and c) present a written request, either by post or e-mail, to a member of the executive board who will pass that request on to the other board members. That request will be subject to a majority vote by the executive board at their next meeting. Such members will be accorded all rights and privileges of normal GRO membership including serving on the board of directors as a committee chair if asked and running for elected executive board positions if slated.

**GRO Elections Coming Up At
October Meeting!**

Voting in the GRO election is one of the privileges of GRO members. Get in practice for the November elections by voting in the GRO election on October 4. The candidates are:

President: Eric Sinclair
1st Vice President: Sara Dell
2nd Vice President : Lois Graziano
Secretary: Bea Tersch
Treasurer: Tracy Bartholomew

These candidates can serve for two years, but will have to be reelected every year. Exceptions are the Treasurer and Secretary offices, which have no term limits.

Follow Chicago tradition; vote early and often.

Jacob Playlot Friend-raiser a Huge Success

It was great to see so many people out on a mid-September Sunday afternoon to give Jacob Playlot some love!

First of all, thanks to everyone who helped make it happen: Benton Harbor Lunchbox, Horner Park Advisory Council, Alderman Schulter's office, and GRO. Most important were neighbors who got their hands dirty, hauling tables and grills, designing and passing out flyers, tidying up the park, and coming out. It was a great neighborhood event!

So what's next? One thing you can do is join the Friends of Jacob Playlot Facebook page (www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=122332931152862), or you can contact jacobplaylot@hornerpark.org to be added to the email list.

We'll do an email survey in the next few weeks, which will be a chance for people to weigh in on ideas and add their own (another reason to send us your email address) which will give us a good sense of what folks would like the park to be.

Of course we'll need to round up some money to make our plans come to life, so for anyone with energy and/or ideas in this department, this is a golden opportunity to be a neighborhood hero.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Send your email address to jacobplaylot@hornerpark.org and join the effort. Thanks!

Nate Hutcheson/Friends of Jacob Playlot

Human Rights Defender to Speak

*Luther Memorial Church
2500 W. Wilson
7:30 p.m. Thursday Oct 14*

Cipriana Jurado has worked in Mexico as an advocate for labor rights of women and for economic and environmental justice for more than 20 years. She is the founder of the Center for Information and Solidarity for Working Women (CISO), and has recently undertaken investigations of human rights violations committed by Mexico's Army. Because of this work, she has received death threats and one of her colleagues was killed. She is in Chicago seeking temporary refuge from these threats and to speak about her mission.

For more information call Luther Memorial Church at 773 539-3018

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); Special Events/Fundraising: Anne Zender (561-4772); Beautification: Bea Tersch (561-0794) (clean up and graffiti); Mary Conway (907-8502) (corner gardens); Urban Development: Abbey Botkin (989-6861) Tom Gunderson (539-1665), Budget: Ron Graziano (840-8010)

Newsletter drop points

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

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Ten Reasons to Join and Support GRO

Fall is the time for our Membership Drive and since all memberships are due for renewal, we thought we would outline the benefits of having an active community organization. These are the activities that your GRO membership supports:

1. Coordinating clean up and beautification of the neighborhood

Neighborhood volunteers, coordinated by GRO, are responsible for our beautiful corner gardens. Our members have been picking up trash and removing graffiti for more than 30 years. We also commissioned and funded the “Our Kind of Town” mural on the north wall of Beans & Bagels.

2. Providing support to independent local businesses

GRO worked with the CTA and the Lincoln Square Chamber of Commerce to minimize the impact to local business during the Brown Line expansion project. We practice and encourage the patronage of local businesses and provide reviews in the newsletter.

3. Providing neighborhood communications and forum

Through the newsletter, the GRO website, e-mail blasts and monthly meetings we keep you informed of community news. Whether it is a new business, a request from the alderman’s office or something going on in the city that impacts us, these tools not only provide a way for us to be informed but also give us a voice.

4. Providing awareness of and connections to other local organizations

GRO provides connections for our members to many local organizations and a forum for the organizations to meet, inform and work with our members. Examples of organizations that have presented to our membership include Active Transportation Alliance, Ravenswood –Lake View Historical Association, Luther Memorial, Heartland Alliance and Beyond Today.

5. Supporting local parks and greenspace

GRO works with Friends of the Park, Welles Park, Horner Park Advisory Council, Friends of Jacob Play Lot, Gross Park, Ravenswood Manor Garden Club, Openlands and Friends of the River to protect and improve our local green spaces.

6. Supporting local schools

GRO has long worked with Waters School and supports the efforts of the Waters Today organization of parents. GRO has organized a book drive and underwritten the cost of the carpeting for the library.

7. Organizing social events/coordinating the annual neighborhood yard and garage sales

Our annual social events include the summer “more than a block” party and the Pot Luck held in late winter. Both are family-friendly events that provide entertainment and lots of food. The annual GRO Garage Sales is an event to look forward to, whether you’re a shopper or a seller. GRO provides permits, maps and advertising and the benefit of having forty-plus participating sellers to draw a crowd.

8. Providing a voice in local development

GRO was instrumental in down zoning the neighborhood, which has allowed the neighborhood to maintain its character. GRO is also consulted when neighbors request variances to zoning and when businesses need our support.

9. Promoting community safety

Members attend police events such as the Beat 1911 CAPS meetings and the District Advisory Council and report back to the membership. GRO also e-mails community alerts when there are local issues.

10. Keeping on top of issues that can affect property taxes/property values

GRO has stood up for the 7% cap on property taxes with TRAC, and hosted speakers to educate residents about property tax issues. GRO has also spoken up on issues such as green living, TIFS and eminent domain.

**We can do even more with your help! Please join us — by becoming a member or renewing your membership.
And join us at a meeting the first Tuesday of every month!**

**The Peoples' Forum:
Questions on the Race for
Cook County Assessor**

The Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC), the Illinois Policy Institute (IPI) and The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) present The People's Forum: Questions on the Race for Cook County Assessor moderated by the Better Government Association (BGA).

*Tuesday, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.
Inter-American Elementary Magnet School
851 West Waveland Avenue, Chicago
Entrance is on the Fremont Street
(west) side*

*Candidates for Cook County Assessor:
Joseph Berrios (Democrat), Forrest Claypool (Independent), Robert C. Grotz (Green Party), and Sharon Strobeck-Eckersall (Republican).*

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.; there will be limited parking available at the school.

October Calendar

- 4 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, California & Montrose
- 5 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 5 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION!
- 6 Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Tour for prospective parents. Waters School, Campbell & Wilson
- 7 Thursday 6:30 p.m. Homes in Haiti Benefit Concert. Giddings Plaza. Free; donations suggested.
- 9 Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. 5th Annual Rockwell Crossing Art & Craft Walk. Rockwell between Leland and Eastwood
- 12 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 18 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 29 Friday, 9:00 p.m. Dank Haus, 4740 N. Western. Jazz; doors open at 8:00 p.m. patio open weather permitting
- 31 Saturday HALLOWEEN!

Other events coming up:

October 13 7:00 p.m. Sulzer Library One Book One Chicago Discussion Group *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison -

October 31 6:00 p.m. The outrageous and imaginative NorthHalsted Halloween Parade Halsted from Belmont to Addison

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