

### Welcome to New Members

Tamara Jackson\*  
Mike Fourcher  
Sarah & Chris Haind \*

\* also Corner Garden Contributors

### Thanks to Corner Garden

#### Contributors

Ann Heraty  
Helene C. Ortega  
Cathy Taylor

**It's Membership Renewal Time!**  
Membership runs from Oct 1 -Sept 30

Sign up for locally focused email  
announcements from GRO at  
[www.greaterrockwell.org](http://www.greaterrockwell.org)

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

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### Big News from Friends of Jacob Park

On September 11 the Park District and the CTA reached an agreement to transfer the CTA property adjacent to Jacob and extending to the river to the Park District. This follows years of pressure from neighbors and unsuccessful attempts by the CTA to auction the lot.

With the help of GRO and the Horner Park Advisory Council as well as Friends of the Parks, Friends of the Chicago River, OpenLands and other civic groups, the CTA and the Park District were encouraged to work together in ways that otherwise might not have been done. No details are available on how the negotiations proceeded, but Aldermen O'Connor and Pawar both worked hard to reach a deal with CTA President Forrest Claypool and the Park District. Rumor has it that the discussion made it as far as the Mayor's office; a lot of attention for a little parcel tucked away in the corner of the river and the tracks.

There are no immediate plans or funds available to improve the property, although some work needs to be done before it can be safely opened up for public access. Lots of excellent ideas have

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### Coming Up At The GRO October Meeting

Alderman Patrick O'Connor will be joining us at our October meeting to address GRO and take questions.

As a result of the redistricting approved by the city council in January of 2012 GRO will be split between two wards. Residents on the north side of Leland and north will become part of the 40th ward represented by long time Alderman Patrick O'Connor. Those residing south of there will remain in Ameya Pawar's 47th ward. While we might have preferred that the pols did not split our community down the middle we can also choose to use this to our advantage to have two aldermen going to bat for us. If you have specific questions for Alderman O'Connor let us know ([president@greaterrockwell.org](mailto:president@greaterrockwell.org)) ahead of time so he can be prepared.

Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 2013-2014. The slate for the coming year consists of:

President: Patti Huetteman  
1st Vice President: Emily Carruthers  
2nd Vice President: Meryl Williams  
Secretary: Bea Tersch  
Treasurer: Tracy Barholomew

For more information on your candidates, see page 4

## Big News from Friends of Jacob Park *(continued from page 1)*

emerged for how to use the property, but the one that seems to have the most support at this point is a simple plan including an open field over most of the lot, with a river overlook on the west side. With the new playground equipment now being installed at Jacob Park, it doesn't seem necessary to extensively program active uses for the new area - flexible spaces and natural areas would be a great addition. There's been a lot of interest in creating a path along the river edge like the ones at Ronan Park and the Berteau riverbank, which would involve working with MWRD as well as the Park District – it seems like we don't take on simple projects over here!

There's also been talk of having community garden beds installed (as the Peterson Garden Project has done at the Ronan Park expansion site at 3400 W. Lawrence Ave) as an interim use while the planning and funding for permanent improvements comes together. Some community garden beds could become a permanent fixture of the parcel as well.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new playground is being planned for early October. For updates on the park progress and upcoming events, join the Friends of Jacob Park facebook page at <https://>

[www.facebook.com/groups/jacobpark/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/jacobpark/) or check the Horner Park Advisory Council website at <http://hornerpark.org/>.  
*Ben Ranney*

### *More GRO Street Party .....*

One of our enterprising residents made an amusing GRO Block Party video of the children breaking the Pinata. It is available on the Internet at: [Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com) by entering GRO Block Party - Pinata. Enjoy!

OOPS . . .

we inadvertently left Pizza Art Cafe off our list of donors for the block party raffle. A belated thank you, thank, thank you.

### New to the Neighborhood?

If you are, or if you have new tenants or new neighbors who have moved into our community recently, a "Welcome Kit" is available which contains fliers and information about the GRO area, Lincoln Square community and the 47th Ward. To obtain a copy, please call Maria Bappert at 773-728-8127 and leave your name, address and telephone number, and whether you have a secure mail slot where the kit can be deposited.

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**

Patti Huetteman  
President@GreaterRockwell.org  
773-506-0795  
Tom Kosinski  
VP@GreaterRockwell.org  
773-453-7608  
Emily Carruthers  
2VP@GreaterRockwell.org  
847-507-5366  
Bea Tersch  
Secretary@GreaterRockwell.org  
773-561-0794  
Tracy Bartholomew  
Treasurer@GreaterRockwell.org  
773-329-5964

#### **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); Urban Development: Abbey Botkin (989-6861) Tom Gunderson (539-1665),

#### **Newsletter drop points**

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

Address correspondence to:  
[newsletter@greaterrockwell.org](mailto:newsletter@greaterrockwell.org) or  
GROnews, P.O. Box 25561  
Chicago IL 60625-0561

#### **Newsletter staff**

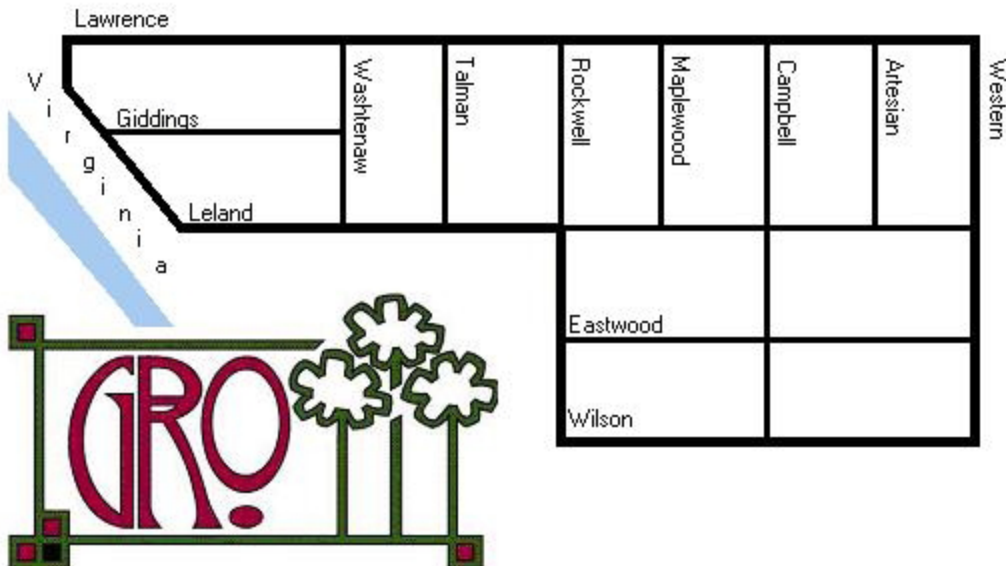
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[www.greaterrockwell.org](http://www.greaterrockwell.org)



**This map represents the formal boundaries of the GRO area which includes about 1200 households. We are, however, more than happy to have near neighbors join as “Friends” and get involved.**

## ABOUT GRO

If you're new to the neighborhood, or if you've attended a potluck or the street party, you might wonder about the neighborhood organization that sponsors these events, and what else the organization does.

The goals of The Greater Rockwell Organization (GRO) are to preserve, promote and develop the Greater Rockwell residential and business community, encourage and foster mutual understanding and goodwill in the community, and engage in activities that will promote civic pride and community welfare.

Since its beginning more than 30 years ago, some projects that GRO has undertaken or supported are the corner gardens, the downzoning issue, a book drive at Waters School, the Property Tax Assessment issue, Brown Line service. GRO also has worked hard to conquer the gang problem and get rid of graffiti.

Please consider participating in one of the committees. We welcome your involvement at any level. You can contact GRO President Patti Huetteman and she will put you in touch with the right person for your interests. – we welcome any amount of time you care to give.

### Newsletter

Produces the GRO monthly newsletter – what's happening in the neighborhood as well as what GRO is involved in. If you've ever wanted to write and be published, this is your chance.

### Beautification – Gardening

The beautiful and award-winning corner gardens in the GRO area are the result of the hard work of this committee. You'll look at a corner garden in a different way if you've had a hand in creating it.

### Beautification - Streetscape

Keep a work glove and a plastic bag in your pocket and you'll have everything you need to be a member of this committee – picking up trash can be done anytime and anywhere. Cleaning graffiti is also rewarding. Formal events are the spring and fall cleanups, which require only a couple of hours of your time twice a year. For those of you who haven't been to a barn raising, you'll enjoy the esprit de corps of a cleanup. Bea Tersch 773-561-0794;

### Public Safety

Activities of this committee include: attending court for local arrest incidents; overseeing stop sign and traffic issues, street and alley lighting, tree trimming, safety alerts and illegal work on buildings; and keeping current on gang problems, crime trends, and other local issues. Maria Bappert 773-728-8127

### Membership

Identifies new residents with the help of GRO members, and prepares and delivers a welcome kit that includes – of course – a GRO newsletter and a membership application. A great way to make new residents feel welcome!

*(continued on page 4)*

**ABOUT GRO** (continued from page 3)

**Fund-Raising/Special Events**

Plans and coordinates GRO's special events. The March potluck and the annual summer street party are the two biggest, but there are other events. By participating you'll have twice as much fun as if you just attend the event.

**Urban Development**

Keeps track of construction, transit, building permit and zoning issues to help city agencies adhere to quality assurance standards for construction and people-centered development.

# October 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, 7:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse 2708 West Lawrence
- 12 Sunday, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Friendship Food Pantry Grand Opening. 2733 West Lawrence
- 14 Columbus Day observed
- 15 Tuesday
- 19 Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Fall Clean-up. Meet at Rockwell Crossing
- 21 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club, Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 31 Halloween: Get ready for trick-or-treaters!

## GRO OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR 2013-2014

**Patti Huetteman**, current President, moved to the GRO area in 2003, and shortly after became involved with GRO. She has served as Membership Chair, besides helping in other capacities.

**Emily Carruthers**, candidate for 1st Vice President, has lived in Chicago for about 11 years, and moved to the GRO area last November. She has served as 2nd VP for the past year, and has participated in many GRO events.

**Meryl Williams**, candidate for 2nd Vice President, and the only new candidate, moved to the

neighborhood in May 2012. She works at Groupon and in her spare time runs a news site that covers the neighborhood called 60625news.com.

She loves this neighborhood because even though it's in one of the biggest cities in the country, it reminds her of the small town where she grew up, and where she knew her neighbors and shopped in their local stores.

**Bea Tersch**, candidate for Secretary, helped start GRO 34 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 the graffiti in the neighborhood.

**Tracy Bartholomew**, current Treasurer, moved to the GRO area in 2003 and has served GRO in different capacities, including newsletter editor and distributor, corner gardener, and volunteer at clean-up days and special events.

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**