

**Welcome to New Member**

Judy Lindboe

**Sustaining Member**

Tom Kosinski

**Business Member**

Beans & Bagels

**Corner Garden Contributors**

Patrick & Tracy Bolger

Jan Woelffer

Siegfried & Marianne Werner

Judy Lindboe

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

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**November  
2010**

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**It's Been Swell ....** *by Tom Kosinski*

Perhaps it's a function of age, but my two years as president of GRO seemed to pass in a flash. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience for me, though I had my doubts at the beginning. I came to it a bit unprepared. There is an informal, traditional line of succession that exists from second vice-president, to first, to president. Chuck Woodring sold his home and moved to Iowa, elevating me to the president's position, but lacking the intermediate experience as first VP. It was a double whammy: out-going president Les Kniskern was a tough act to follow being the highly organized and disciplined individual that he is and me being, well, being who I am. Nevertheless, I tried to carry on the traditions of the organization, while introducing my own wrinkles such as featured speakers at the monthly meetings, people who had something meaningful to offer to the community.

There are a lot of people I'd like to thank for their long years of service, too many to mention in a short piece. Maria Bappert, Bea Tersch, Sara Spitz, Ron Graziano, Lois Grossman, and Les Kniskern (the man with the truck) deserve special recognition for their many years of service to GRO.

I'd also like to mention Congressman Mike Quigley. I think his particular interest in our group is a great illustration of how a good community organization, such as GRO, functions. We are not a political organization, but a civic organization, so we do not entertain political figures during election cycles. The truth of it is, though, that most political figures are not much interested in our organization outside of the election cycle. Besides attending our social events, the Congressman made himself available to us on two occasions, off-cycle, answering questions and reporting to us, his constituents, about

*(continued on p. 2)*

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**Membership Vote at  
December Meeting**

A vote will be taken at the December GRO meeting to determine whether an amendment to the by-laws — adding a fourth category of membership — should be passed.  
*(October newsletter)*

*The fourth category would include persons 18 or older living outside the GRO geographic boundaries, but who have paid dues for two consecutive years and have attended four consecutive monthly meetings. They would have to make a request by mail or email, and their application would be voted on by the Executive Committee. They would then be able to vote and serve on the Board as either a committee chair or as an officer.*

## Great News For Jacob Playlot

At a recent meeting, Alderman Schuller and his staff shared some encouraging information about Jacob Playlot.

The city's Department on Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that the CTA and Chicago Park District are working toward a lease agreement for the vacant CTA lot adjacent to the play lot. The CTA needs to first conduct a soil study, within the next month or so, to determine whether any remediation needs to be done before the lease is signed.

Alderman Schuller has identified \$100,000 available for park expansion and has earmarked it for Jacob. These funds could be used on any expenses related to park expansion, such as remediation, grading, fence removal, etc.

We discussed the idea of using the CTA lot to do raised soil beds for creating a community garden. Part of the thinking here is that improving the whole play lot will require more time and neighbor involvement; building and tending a community garden would be a great way to get others involved- not just those with kids- while we develop a vision for the whole site. Alderman Schuller was very supportive of this idea and did not think it was unrealistic to be planting gardens in the coming spring.

Some good next steps would be to think about a plan for managing the garden, raising funds, creating a website, and forming a 501(c)(3).

There's lots to do before planting season. If you're interested in getting involved and building a garden, contact [jacobplaylot@hornerpark.org](mailto:jacobplaylot@hornerpark.org).

*Nate Hutcheson*

*(continued from p 1)*

both his successes and his frustrations in Congress. If GRO weren't here, there would be no dialogue, no accountability, no information, just silence.

Recently I've found myself reflecting on the last two years and my participation in GRO in general; what are we, what's our function? We express pride of place, that simple, mundane, and often dirty task of making our common surroundings more attractive and that much more livable for ourselves and our neighbors. And that pride of place causes us to act as social agents as well creating outreach events which are convivial and inclusive, further defining our corner of this huge city. When issues of common neighborhood concern arise such as tax assessments or zoning or derelict properties, GRO serves as the basic grassroots vehicle to address them. And it has done all this for over 30 years. I am so pleased to play a minor part in the history of our continuing success, and congratulate Eric Sinclair and the new executives on their election.

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

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Bea Tersch  
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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); Mary Conway (907-8502) (corner gardens); Urban Development: Abbey Botkin (989-6861) Tom Gundersen (539-1665), Budget: Ron Graziano (840-8010)

### Newsletter drop points

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Carol's Hair Care, 2556 W. Lawrence  
Brown Line Station at Rockwell

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## **Deck the Halls ... Fa-la-la-la-la!**

*Luther Memorial Church of Chicago Holiday Market*

Campbell & Wilson

Sun., Nov. 21, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

All are invited to the **Sixth Annual Holiday Market** fundraiser event at Luther Memorial Church of Chicago, 2500 W. Wilson Ave., for some holiday shopping and cheer, including: handcrafted gift items, fresh holiday wreaths, delicious lunch, holiday cookies and other goodies, and raffle drawing and children's holiday tree prizes.

Individuals interested in participating as craft vendors, please note that space is limited! Download and submit a.s.a.p. the vendor registration form via the link on the church Web site home page (<http://www.luthermemorialchicago.org>).

Event proceeds will benefit educational programs and children's activities at: Thomas J. Waters Elementary School in Lincoln Square, Grace Lutheran School in Chicago's Pilsen Neighborhood, and the schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. We are also requesting supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For more information, call the church office (773/539-3018) or visit the "Happenings" section of the church Web site (<http://www.luthermemorialchicago.org/happenings.htm>).

## **Second Annual Holiday Artisan Sale**

*Waters Elementary School*

Wilson & Campbell

Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Great gifts for the upcoming holiday season!

This sale will offer handcrafted articles of all kinds, as well as a bake sale. Come early for the best selection of artisanal objects - for gifts or for yourself!

## ***Wine Fundraiser***

*DANK-Haus*

*4740 North Western Avenue*

*November 5, 6:15 p.m.*

*Here is a rare opportunity to explore the "Lost German Chicago" exhibit after hours as well as romp through Wine 101 complete with food pairing tips and varietal information.*

*The cost is \$15 per person, please reserve today at [dank@dankhaus.com](mailto:dank@dankhaus.com)*

Your ad could be here, reaching more than 1000 households in the Greater Rockwell area

For more information and pricing, contact newsletter@greaterrockwell.org

Discounts for ads running in multiple issues

# November Calendar

- 1 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Coucil. Horner Park Fieldhouse, California & Montrose
- 2 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 2 ELECTION DAY - GET OUT THERE AND VOTE!
- 5 Friday, 6:15 p.m. Wine Fundraiser. DANKHaus 4740 North Western
- 7 Sunday - Daylight Saving Time ends - set those clocks back: remember spring forward, fall back
- 9 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 15 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 21 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Luther Memorial Church Holiday Market. Campbell & Wilson
- 23 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. CAPS meeting . Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell
- 25 Thursday, All Day. Thanksgiving - give thanks for our great neighborhood!
- 29 Friday, 9:00 p.m. Dank Haus, 4740 N. Western. Jazz; doors open at 8:00 p.m. patio open weather permitting

## Support Your Local School

Saturday December 4, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Waters School Artisan sale, Wilson & Campbell

Every Monday during the month of November, Rockwell's Grill will donate 5% of its food sales to Waters School.

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**