

**Thanks to Sustaining Members**

Owen Coll  
Mark & Mary Bookman  
Patti Huetteman

**Welcome to New Members**

Cat & Alex Theis

**CORNER GARDEN CONTRIBUTORS**

Cat & Alex Theis  
Carole Harmel  
Anna Loftus  
Karen Peterson  
Helene C. Ortega  
Sieg & Marianne Werner

**Special Thanks to Mr. Lee and  
Westwood Liquors at Western & East-  
wood for continuous and generous  
support of GRO**

---

**November  
2014**

**Vol. 33  
No. 11**

---

**Passing the Torch**

I am honored to have served as president of GRO, however, unlike the state or the city, GRO has term limits and having met the two consecutive years' limit, it is time to pass the torch. GRO was started by neighbors more than 30 years ago when there were serious problems to address, and when I joined GRO over ten years ago the organization was active in advocating for limits to property tax increases, and zoning issues. For better or worse, the past two years have been fairly quiet and GRO has focused on our social events including the Pot Luck and the Block Party (thanks Anne and everyone else) and also occasional Happy Hours (thanks Emily).

The neighborhood yard and garage sales brought in more funds than prior years (thanks Bea, Emily, Tracy and Tom). GRO was instrumental in getting the CTA lot adjacent to Jacob Playlot transferred to the Park District and helped gather signatures to win a Chicago Plays! renovation (thanks Tom and others). The newsletter continued to be published (thanks Shellie, Meryl and mostly Sara); we published the first April Fools newsletter this year (thanks John, Emily and Meryl). Maria kept the public safety committee going, Bea performed random acts of beautification and Shonagh breathed new life into the corner gardens. As you can see, it takes the effort of many to keep the organization going and I am grateful to all who contributed their time and energy during the past two years.

As for passing the torch, unfortunately for us, Emily, the president-elect, and her husband John are moving out of the neighborhood and she will be unable to serve as president. We wish them well in their new home and are glad it is not too far away. Per the bylaws, the board will vote in a replacement within the next few months. In the meantime, we are in good hands with the new executive board. The two first time officers are Shonagh Merits as second VP and Lucinda Dieker as treasurer, returning board members are Tom Kosinski as first VP and B J Tersch as the secretary. I'm sure you join me in wishing them the best in the year ahead.

Patti Huetteman

## GRO DINES OUT

*Paris on Lawrence Avenue*

*“That’s the best French restaurant in Chicago. Chez Simo.”*

The taxi driver stopped for a red light on Lawrence Avenue at Damen and pointed to a storefront, promising some of the finest food in the city.

The next week I visited Chez Simo and still wish I could find the taxi driver to thank him. If you ever dream of tasting the glorious cooking that made Julia Child famous, try this restaurant. Chez Simo is the French expression for “at Simo’s place.” The owner, Simo Yacobi, makes you feel right at home, and then creates delectable and memorable dinners. His restaurant is affordable, plus it’s BYOB.

My friends and family ordered classic French dishes such as steak au poivre and coq au vin (the famous chicken braised in red wine with onions, bacon and mushrooms), lamb shank

with couscous, seared duck breast and leg confit, and Croque Monsieur (the amazing ham and cheese sandwich). I continue to order the superb fish selections. Last time I had a special trout in beurre blanc sauce with pommes duchesse (mashed potatoes to die for) and brilliant green beans. Appetizers include escargot à la Bourgogne, terrine de fois gras, and several soups that remind people why French food is so famous.

Classic desserts are fresh surprises. Crème brûlée, tarte Tatin, profiteroles, and chocolate mousse are only the beginning. Do not skip dessert at this place! Focus your attention and know you are in good hands. Sit back with a coffee and listen to the romantic French music. This is Paris on Lawrence Avenue. Don’t miss it. Chez Simo is open Tuesday—Saturday, and offers a fixed-price menu Tuesday-Thursday, from 5:00-6:30. Chez Simo, 1968 W. Lawrence Avenue, 773-334-7466 [www.chezsimobistro.com](http://www.chezsimobistro.com)

*Caroline Bell*

*Attention: A distributor is needed for the 2700 block of Leland. Contact Bea Tersch (773-561-0794) for information.*

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

[President@GreaterRockwell.org](mailto:President@GreaterRockwell.org)

Tom Kosinski  
[VP@GreaterRockwell.org](mailto:VP@GreaterRockwell.org)  
773-463-7608

Shonagh Merits  
[2VP@GreaterRockwell.org](mailto:2VP@GreaterRockwell.org)  
312-208-3130

Bea Tersch  
[Secretary@GreaterRockwell.org](mailto:Secretary@GreaterRockwell.org)  
773-561-0794

Lucinda Dieker  
[Treasurer@GreaterRockwell.org](mailto:Treasurer@GreaterRockwell.org)  
312-804-4042

### 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  
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

Production: Sara Spitz, Leigh Arber  
Distribution Manager: Bea Tersch  
Distributors: Maria Bappert, Allie Botkin, Michael Buckwalter, Mark Dawson, the Donnelly boys, Holly Gerberding, Bill King, Tom Kosinski, Nancy Kramer, Karen Peterson, Nina Sandlin, Eric Sinclair, Graham Van Swearingen, Neenah Vittum, the Yoshida family

GRO logo created by Randy Sweitzer

Printing by Printed Impressions  
4432 N. Kedzie, Chicago IL 60625  
773-604-8585

Webmaster: Tom Kosinski

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

## A Corner Garden Corner

Happiness held is the seed. Happiness shared is the flower.

--Unknown

On Sunday September 28, Bea Tersch hosted The Great Perennial Divide for more than 20 gardeners, including GRO corner gardeners. Everyone brought plants and took plants home. Look for Shasta daisies instead of Northern Sea Oats grass at the corner of Artesian and Leland next year!

If you're planning to thin your own plants, now is the time. Timing and technique are important. Perennial plants are healthiest and most productive when they are young and have room to spread. Below are 10 tips on dividing perennial plants, as presented with greater detail here: <http://www.finegardening.com/10-tips-dividing-perennial-plants>

Divide when a plant looks good: Don't wait until a plant has become decrepit or monstrous to divide it.

Start at the drip line: The roots will generally extend that far, so digging there lets you lift the plant with most of its roots intact, and minimize root damage.

Divide in cool weather: The best time is just before peak daffodil season in spring, and in early fall right after the nights become cool.

Keep roots cool and moist: Soak them in a bucket of water for about an hour before replanting.

Replenish soil with organic matter: Without additions, plants will not have the advantage of renewed, fertile soil and the bed will settle after planting, putting the plants at a disadvantage in terms of drainage and air circulation.

Use vigorous sections first: After dividing, replant pieces that are no greater than 20% to 25% of the original clump.

Take extra care when a plant's in bloom: More attentive watering or shade at midday, will ensure plants will fare well, too.

Keep only the healthiest pieces: Usually these are the outside sections. Watch for discolored stems and eroded crowns and roots.

Spread out your divisions: Replant divisions in a wide hole and over a wide area. Spread out the roots wide and down over a mound of soil.

Let the roots be your guide: The five basic root types (form clumps or offsets, surface roots, underground running roots, taproots, and woody roots) will determine how you proceed.

## Corner Gardens: Who and Why

One of the small things that improves the quality of life in our neighborhood is the presence of the beautiful corner gardens, so meticulously nurtured by volunteers. Who organized this? Who picks which corners? How long has this been going on?

About 15 years ago, a few GRO members with a love for gardening decided to expand beyond the borders of their own homes and do something for the neighborhood in the way of street beautification. They contacted GreenCorps, and took a Master Gardener course at the University of Illinois at Chicago. They reached out to other GRO members, and with the support of the GRO organization, today we have more than 30 corner gardens being cared for by neighbors.

One of the faces behind the flowers belongs to B.J.Tersch, one of the original organizers of the corner garden project. She is a 38-year resident of the neighborhood and a GRO member since its start in 1979. Over time she has taken stewardship of FOUR corners near her home on the 4700 block of Virginia: Virginia and Leland, Virginia and Lawrence, and two at Giddings and Virginia. Visit them and you can appreciate her greening skills. She also coordinates an annual plant exchange so gardeners can consider new possibilities for their own corners.

If you would like to adopt a corner, Bea or Corner Garden coordinator Shonagh Merits would be the people to contact.

Abbey Botkin

## Outdated Meds?

Outdated meds can now be dropped off at all Police Stations in Chicago proper. The closest ones to Lincoln Square is the 19th District at 2452 W. Belmont, the 20th at 5400 N. Lincoln, the 23rd District at 850 W. Addison, and the 24th District at 6464 N. Clark.

Alternatively, you can bring them to the next GRO meeting and give them to me for delivery.

Maria Bappert

## GRO Steps Boldly into the 21st Century

Did you know that you can now pay your yearly GRO dues or donate to GRO any-time the spirit moves you from any device that connects to the internet? Yes, from your smartphone, iPad, laptop, or desk top computer – you're just a click away. Amazing!!! Yes, you can donate through PayPal. Simply go to the GRO website, greaterrockwell.org, click on the Donate button beneath the calendar, and you'll be directed to the PayPal site. Just follow the directions. Nothing beats the feeling of donating to a good cause without the bother of check, envelope, or stamp. Of course for the people who simply can't resist the taste of glue, we're still opening our mail in hopes of your largesse. Or indeed, if you feel like a stretch of the leg, you can still drop off your check at Ruff House. Or, **better** yet, kill two birds with one stone; come drop off your check and join your neighbors at a monthly GRO meeting at Luther Memorial, (first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m.)

Tom Kosinski

## November Calendar

- 2 Sunday. DST ends, CST begins
- 3 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose and California
- 4 ELECTION DAY! Vote at least once!
- 4 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting . Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 11 Tuesday Verterans' Day (formerly Armistice Day, for those old enough to remember)
- 12 Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 18 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Beat 1911 Meeting, Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell
- 27 Thursday. Thanksgiving

### *Picky People Pick Us!*

**ALL STAR CARPET CARE**  
**CARPETS- UPHOLSTERY- RUGS- FLOOD**  
**RICK SUTTLES**  
**OWNER**

**15% Off Coupon**



2741 W. FARRAGUT  
 CHICAGO, IL 60625

773-728-7705  
 CELL: 847-420-4111

ALLSTARCARPET57@YAHOO.COM

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**