

Welcome to New Members

Kristine Easton & Miro Sarig

Thanks to Supporting Members

Mark & Mary Bookman

Corner Garden Contributors

John & Emily Carruthers

Jan Woelffer

Javier & Ana Martinez

Frank & Maria Bappert

Sieg & Marianne Werner

Kristine Easton & Miro Sarig

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

Happy Holidays To All!

**December
2013**

**Vol. 32
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No meeting in January, but join us for a Happy Hour on January 28

There will be no GRO meeting in January, but never fear, you will still have an opportunity to break up the long cold winter and greet friends and meet neighbors. GRO will be hosting a Happy Hour on Tuesday January 28, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Lincoln Square, at 4749 North Rockwell Avenue. Cash bar; GRO will provide appetizers.

Hope to see you there!

Save the Date!

It's still early to think about gardening, but maybe thinking about spring will make winter seem shorter. Save February 16 and join GRO members and neighbors for a gardening tea to talk about and plan the corner gardens. No experience necessary. Further details in the Jan/Feb newsletter.

GRO Dines Out

Too tired to cook with all the hustle and bustle and busyness of the holiday season? Here's a great alternative:

Semiramis, located south of the Brown Line on the east side of Kedzie is a great Lebanese restaurant. There is a variety of dishes, from the traditional veggie plate with Hummus, baba ghannouj, tabbouleh, falafel and dolmas to my favorite, an earthy mix of lentils and rice topped with crispy onions, the perfect comfort food, especially when it has been too cold out, for too long. They also have kabobs, kibbe and other assorted sandwiches, entrees and mezzes - appetizers.

You can order family style and share, do a couple of small plates or just one large one for yourself. Most entrees come with salad that is mixed with lemon and fresh mint, giving it a fresh and zingy taste. Portions are generous and dinner always starts with a little dish of olives and pickled radish. The décor is pleasant, white walls and dark floors with some native rugs hanging on the wall. Service is good, and It's BYOB

4639-41 N Kedzie Ave (773) 279-8900
Closed on Sundays. Menu: semiramisrestaurant.com

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" with fliers and information about the GRO area, Lincoln Square community and the 47th Ward is available. To obtain a copy, please call me at 773-728-8127 and leave your name, address and telephone number, and let me know if you have a secure mail slot where the kit can be deposited.

Maria Bappert

Safety Tips for the Holidays

A word to the wise:

On the Street: Be Alert! Carry your purse in a manner that makes it hard to get – across your chest or under your arm where more than a simple grab is needed to snatch it. Carry wallets in an inside coat or side pants pocket, never in the back pants pocket where it is easy to grab. If you walk to and from work or public transit stations, particularly at night, use well-lit and populated streets. When possible, walk with friends and, if you can, vary the route you take each day or night.

On Public Transit: Be Prepared! Have exact fare ready before you leave home so that there is no need to open a purse or wallet. During late night or early morning hours, stay near the agent on duty in subways and whenever possible, sit on the aisle seat where you will have more mobility should trouble occur.

Maria Bappert

GRO/RGHA Food Drive

An assortment of food and personal items were collected during the October 19-21 Food Drive. Donations for the Common Pantry topped 180 pounds. Total donations for the year totalled 832 pounds! Keep it up!

Picky People Pick Us!

ALL STAR CARPET CARE
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OWNER

15% Off Coupon



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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); 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

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Ten Reasons to Join and Support GRO

The New Year, time to make resolutions, is almost upon us, and because we all love living in this great neighborhood, it might be time to make one of your resolutions about becoming more involved in your neighborhood by joining GRO and helping to keep where you live healthy and beautiful. Your GRO membership and participation organizes and supports:

1. The 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 and Bagels.
2. 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. Neighborhood communications and forum. Through the newsletter, the GRO website, email 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. 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.
5. 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.
6. Local parks and greenspace. GRO works with Friends of the Park, Welles Park, Horner Park Advisory Council, Jacob Play Lot, Gross Park, Ravenswood Manor Garden Club, Openlands and Friends of the River to protect and improve our local green spaces.
7. Neighborhood social events/coordinating the annual neighborhood Yard & Garage sales. 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 Yard & Garage Sales is an event not to be missed, whether you’re a shopper or a seller. GRO provides permits, maps and advertising to draw a crowd.
8. 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. Community safety. Members attend police events such as the Beat 1911 CAPS meetings and report back to the membership. GRO also emails community alerts when there are local issues.
10. Keeping on top of issues that can affect property/property values. GRO has stood up for 7% cap on property taxes, and hosted speakers to educate residents about property tax issues. GRO has also raised awareness about issues such as green living, TIFS and eminent domain.

It’s Your Community!! Get Involved!

Streetwise GRO

...or how your neighborhood streets came to have their names. (last in a series on the origin of the street names within the Greater Rockwell neighborhood)

Talman Avenue: Named for Thomas P. Talman, a real estate subdivider and home builder in the 1870s.

Giddings Street: L.R. Giddings was a prominent real estate investor in the mid-1880s. This street runs through one of his developments.

Campbell Avenue: Named after John Campbell alderman of the old 12th Ward in 1869. He was active in real estate and the building business and erected more than 1000 buildings.

Maplewood Avenue: Maplewood, so called because of the many maple trees planted here, was once a village on what is now

December/January Calendar

- 2 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 3 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting . Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 11 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 17 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. 1911 Beat Meeting, Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell
- 20 Monday. Martin Luther King remembrance
- 25 Wednesday, all day. Christmas
- 31 Tuesday. New Year's Eve

- Jan 1 Wednesday. New Year's Day
- 6 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 15 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 20 Monday, 7:30 p.m. Manor Garden Club, Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson
- 21 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 1911 Beat Meeting, Kindred Hospital, Montrose & Rockwell
- 28 Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. GRO-sponsored Happy Hour, Red Lion Pub, 4749 North Rockwell

the near northwest side of Chicago.

Artesian Avenue: Named for an artesian well at Chicago and Western Avenues, which is said to have supplied one half of a million gallons of the purest water every day. The well

was drilled by a group of spiritualists who thought God had led them to oil on Chicago's West side.

Sources: Streetwise Chicago: a History of Chicago Street Names by Don Hayner and Tom McNamee and the Chicago History Museum's online database of all the streets in Chicago.

Tracy Bartholomew

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