

**Thanks to Corner Garden
Contributors**

Ana & Javier Martinez
Mark & Mary Bookman

Welcome to New Member

Paul Callaway

Business Member

Rockwell's Neighborhood Grill

NO GRO In January!

**The next GRO meeting will be
Tuesday, February 2, 2010**

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

**December
2009**

**Vol. 28
No. 12**

Neighborhood Happenings

Seeds of Change Marketplace

Saturday, December 5, 2009

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Berry Methodist Church
4754 North Leavitt Street

Waters School

1st Annual Artisans Holiday Sale

Saturday, December 5

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Waters School
4540 North Campbell

State Rep. Fritchey's Annual Helping Hands Campaign

Donate NEW hats, scarves, gloves, clothing, as well as toiletries and household items to be given to a local service agency for distribution to those in need.

Bring donations to the December GRO meeting, or to a collection box on the front porch at 2527 W. Eastwood or Representative Fritchey's office, 2539 N. Southport Avenue.

To learn more about State Rep. Fritchey's annual Helping Hands Campaign, please call (773) 871-4000 or email dave@fritchey.com

**Coming Up At The
December GRO Meeting**

December's meeting will feature speakers from the Active Transportation Alliance. Formerly the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, the Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit and engage people in healthy and active ways to get around.

For the urban dweller this talk is a must!

Tuesday, December 1,
7:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial
Church, Campbell & Wilson

GRO Dines Out

Another great restaurant right here in Lincoln Square!

Located at 5019 N. Western is I Monelle, a wonderful, unpretentious Italian corner restaurant serving fresh, good quality and delicious food! A group of us went there on a Friday night and enjoyed pasta, fish and meat dishes.

The salads were excellent and were passed around for everyone to enjoy. Each entree was plated to please the eye as well as the stomach. Their specials of the day have always been tempting and never disappointing (Ron and I have been there numerous times).

As a special treat, Angelo treated our table to tiramisu made with champagne, which even surpassed the usual Tiramisu, also heavenly. The menu includes appetitifs, soups, salads, pasta, pizza, sandwiches, pastry and soft drinks. What could be better? It's BYOB!!!

Owner Angelo Grimaldi
773/561-8499
www.imonelli.info

Lois Graziano

Tax News

On Monday, November 16, GRO president Tom Kosinski testified before the Chicago city council finance committee on behalf of Alderman Gene Schulner's resolution that the city council endorse the renewal of the 7% tax cap due to expire in 2010.

Tom joined Barb Head, TRAC president, Dan Farley, chairman of the Ravenswood Community Council, Clovis Evans, representative from WECAN (Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors Inc.), Art Lyon from the Center for Economic Policy Analysis and Alderman Schulner in urging the Finance Committee to request the council's adoption of the resolution.

The text of Tom's comments can be viewed on the GRO website (greaterrockwell.org).

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

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Brown Line Station at Rockwell

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Property Tax Watch

In speaking with my neighbors, I have learned that many of you who qualify for the Long-Time Occupant Exemption may have received it last year but didn't see it on this year's tax bill. This may be because it is an exemption you have to apply for every year.

Here's how it works. If you have lived in your home as the primary residence for 10 years or more, and earn a combined household income of less than \$100,000, you may qualify for a 10% assessment cap. If you have a combined household income of less than \$75,000, you may qualify for a 7% assessment cap. There is no "cap on the cap" for this exemption and depending on the increase in your home's value over the past triennial there could be substantial savings. One homeowner I assisted saw a reduction of \$1,200 in her tax bill and another neighbor realized a \$2,200 savings.

The Assessor's Office says there is no limitation on when you may apply for this exemption, and long-time occupants may still be eligible for a refund on 2008 or 2007 property tax bills (2007 was the first year of the Long-Time Occupant Exemption).

As many of you know, I continue to work with Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC), and am a proponent of a Permanent Assessment Cap on our Cook County property taxes. I encourage you to sign up for TRAC's e-mail alerts at www.trac-il.org.

As your neighbor, I'm available to take a look at your individual property tax bills, assist in filing for your exemptions, or review other property tax issues. I'm here purely as an advocate, not an attorney, but still, a nominal donation based on the amount of work required is appreciated. For more information please contact me at: lkniskern@sbcglobal.net.

Les Kniskern

.... **A FORMER GRO NEIGHBOR IS HAVING A PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!**

Calling all Chicago lovers, book lovers, history lovers, bargain lovers, librarians, booksellers, Lake Claremont Press fans, and curious others! We're inviting GRO members (and residents) to any of our holiday receptions at our new location. It would be great to see some familiar faces!

Wednesday, December 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

1026 West Van Buren 2nd floor

Refreshments! Raffles! Special Chicago Guests! Festive mingling!

Lake Claremont books priced for affordable holiday giving.

Lake Claremont Press garage sale (de-cluttering our office & warehouse)

Used book sale (business books & more)

Vintage & collectible Chicago book sale (we've accrued quite a few!)

Buy 2 books, get an additional book FREE! Buy 3 books, get 2 more books FREE!

Buy 4 books, get 3 more books FREE! Buy 5 books, get 4 more books FREE!

Offer valid for new and bargain books. Please visit our website to see what's available:

Space is limited. RSVP requested: Call 312-226-8400 or email lcp@lakeclaremont.com

One block from UIC-Halsted blue line station. One block from Morgan Street exit. Free parking available in gravel lot at Van Buren & Morgan.

Gift Suggestions . . .

Ms. Bette recommends her favorite gifts for those who don't want any, or are very hard to buy for:

A favorite from 30 years ago, a library stool, one of those that has little wheels on it, but stops and is very sturdy when you step down on it. Very good for the short person, or anyone who has high shelves or bookcases.

An atomic clock radio and indoor outdoor thermometer. This marvelous device shoots the time (which is absolutely correct since it comes from the satellite) and temperature up on a wall or ceiling at night so you can take a peek and decide if you have slept enough, or just don't want to get up because it is 8 degrees outside. This should have an outside sensor which requires a battery, very easy to install.

An indoor/outdoor thermometer, with outside sensor. These can be just the temperature, or other weather forecasting indicators.

Bette Vidina

December Calendar

- 1 **Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. GRO Meeting. Luther Memorial Church, Campbell & Wilson**
- 5 Saturday, Toys for Tots Parade. kick off at 95th & Western at 10:00 a.m.
- 7 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 8 Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. Gross Park Advisory Council. Gross Park Fieldhouse, Lawrence & Washtenaw
- 11 Friday. Hannukah
- 21 Monday. First day of winter
- 25 Friday. Christmas Day
- 31 Thursday. New Year's Eve

January Calendar

- 1 Friday. New Year's Day
- 4 Monday, 7:00 p.m. Horner Park Advisory Council. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Montrose & California
- 5 **NO GRO!**
- 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
- 26 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. CAPS meeting. Kindred Hospital; Rockwell & Montrose

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