



GRACELAND WEST NEWS

August 2005 • A Publication of the Graceland West Community Association

GWCA Calendar

GWCA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 25th, 7 PM
Lakeview High School Auditorium
GWCA Fest Update, Zoning
Overlay News



CAPS Beat 1922

Wednesday, September 7th, 7 PM
4701 North Ashland
1st Wednesday of every month



GWCA Fest

Saturday, September 10th
4300 North Greenview
11:30AM - 4:30PM



GWCA Fest Adults Only Party

Saturday, September 10th
Warner Park and Gardens
7 - 10PM



CAPS Beat 1923

Tuesday, September 13th, 7 PM
4100 North Greenview
2nd Tuesday of every month



GWCA Book Club

Thursday, September 13th, 7 PM
Marla Rubin's house
4236 North Greenview
Book: *Stones from the River*
by Ursula Hegi

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CAPS Beat 1922

Wed @ 7pm • October 5
Wed @ 7pm • November 2

CAPS Beat 1923

Tue @ 7pm • October 11
Tue @ 7pm • November 8

GWCA Halloween Party

Sunday, October 30 • 1-3pm
Warner Park and Gardens

GWCA Book Club

Thursday, October 20th, 7pm
Karen Lohss' house
4101 N. Greenview
Books: *My Sister's Keeper* : A Novel
by Jodi Picoult

GWCA Cemetery Tour and Wine Tasting

More info to come!!!

GWCA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 25th at 7pm

Lakeview High School Auditorium

GWCA Fest Details Update!

Neighborhood Zoning Overlay!

GWCA Fest is coming up, get the latest schedule details from Barb Sullivan. Also, there is still time to volunteer to help at GWCA Fest - please sign up at the meeting!

Learn more about the proposed GWCA Neighborhood Zoning Overlay. A member of the Cook County Zoning Committee will attend to discuss the proposal.

The GWCA Board is looking for 1 more member, if you are interested in the position, please talk to a GWCA Board member at the meeting.

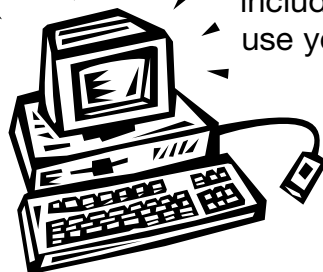
Donate Items for the Auction

Own a sailboat? A summer Home? Do you know someone who does? Do you have connections with a travel agent? Your hairdresser? The cleaners? Or your favorite restaurant? Services are great too. Can you or your kids baby sit? Walk dogs? Mow lawns? Would you cook dinner in your home for some neighbors? Be creative.



GWCA would like more donations for the auction. The auction is the main source of income for the neighborhood organization.

The earnings from the auction support all the other activities including publication of the newsletter. We could use your help. Contact Ann Maxwell 528-6677 to:



1. Donate an item.
 2. Solicit local businesses.
 3. Help catalog items.
 4. Help the day of the fest
- Or email her at annie_mg@hotmail.com

GWCA GARAGE SALE

Would you like to organize or participate in a Fall neighborhood garage sale? If so, please contact Jane Huber at 773 296-4200.

August 2005 Comings and Goings

Micheal and Sandra Fogarty now reside on Hutchinson with their children, 2 year old **Elisa** and 6 month old **Michael**. Sandra is originally from France and the family is bilingual. Any French speakers out there?

Rachel Fiske and her 9-year-old daughter, **Lily**, moved to Warner. Rachel is a private yoga instructor and Lily will be a 4th grader at the Chicago Waldorf School. They are excited about the neighborhood activities and look forward to participating.

Maureen and David Rosenberg and their 5 year old son **Ben** are moving to Berteau. Ben attends Anshe Emet.

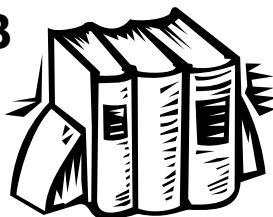
Berteau bids farewell to **Mary Spellman** who gave up her house for a loft in the south loop.

News from long time Graceland resident, Astrologer and author, **Barbara Schermer**. Her most recent book, *Astrology Alive*, will be available in its Spanish version in September. This will assist her Spanish students and clients at Rio Caliente Spa outside of Guadalajara, Mexico. She is the Spa's guest expert, leading "Star Walks", speaking about the Cosmic Trends for 2006. She will be teaching there in February.

Send news, announcements and/or corrections to Deirdre Jameson at djameson@jameson.com

GWCA BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading and discussing good books? Would you like to meet GWCA neighbors who are avid readers also? Attend a GWCA Book Club Meeting in the future!



Thursday September 15th

Marla Rubin's house 4236 N.Greenview
ph# 477-9782 email: mrubin1@interaccess.com or
mrubin@ensemblegraphics.com
Book: *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi

Thursday October 20th

Karen Lohss' house 4101 N.Greenview
ph# W 219 647-5627, cell 773 835-9954
email: Klohss@nisource.com
Book: *My Sister's Keeper: A Novel* by Jodi Picoult



23rd Annual Garden Walk

One of our most popular events, the 23rd annual GWCA Garden Walk was held July 10th with 42 participating gardens. The planning committee for the walk and the post garden walk party included Jennifer Farrell, Donna Frosberg, Susan Hart, Jane Huber, Dawn Ragan, Cheryl Sigsbee, and Peg Tomasek-Witry. Thanks to all of you.

Many walkers enjoyed viewing the gardens and about 50 neighbors feasted at the pot luck supper party in Warner Park. Thanks to Diane Dorsey who served as announcer at the party. A neighbor from Greenview and one from Hutchinson won gift certificates donated by Gethsemane Garden Center.

We're looking forward to the 24th GWCA Garden Walk next year!

GWCA goes High Tech!

www.gracelandwest.org

Have you visited the GWCA website lately? Point your browser to www.gracelandwest.org! All current meeting announcements and newsletters can be found there. We are constantly updating and improving the website. Your suggestions are welcome!

Did you notice a problem in the neighborhood? Go to the GWCA website. You can email the GWCA board from the website and get an answer back in a couple of days.

Do you have trouble receiving the GWCA newsletter? You can receive it electronically now. Just go to the GWCA website www.gracelandwest.org and email the board. Ask to be added to the GWCA email list. You will be able to get your newsletter before the paper copies arrive! Past newsletters are also available on the website. You will also receive the CAPS crime reports so sign up now!

99 % Recycling Guaranteed!

Criticisms of the city's blue bag system of recycling abound. If you want to be guaranteed that your recyclables are in fact recycled, join other GWCA neighbors in having the Resource Center pick up recyclables from your home. The cost of basic service (news, mixed paper, glass, cans) is \$7.00 per month. Pick up of additional recyclables is also available. For more information, call the Resource Center at 773-821-1351, or e-mail neighbor Elyn Bank at earthmomma2@comcast.net.

Graceland West Community Association

Treasurer's Report as of July 30, 2005

Income	\$886.48
Expenses	\$1,524.70
Available Cash	\$10,515.78

Lake View High School News

The Principal, Scott Feaman, extended his thanks to GWCA for its continuing support and recent monetary donation. The money will be used to improve the school's main entrance. He will also contact the band instructor, Mr. Jim Barbic, to see if he can locate a volunteer drummer to lead the GWCA Fest pet parade in September.

The Local School Council discussed several issues at its July meeting that impact enrollment.

First, LVHS has been designated a receiving school for Foreman High School located near Belmont and Laramie. LVHS will be expected to enroll 25 to 40 students because Foreman is overcrowded.

Secondly, LVHS has undergone a "facility inspection" to determine its capacity. Current enrollment is 1350 students. Although the results of the inspection are not yet in, the principal is concerned that enrollment could go up to 1600 students.

Thirdly, the Chicago School Board is considering a boundary change for LVHS that would produce an immediate influx of 125 new freshmen.

The principal expressed his concern that the steady gains that LVHS has made in reading and math scores will be eroded by an influx of students because the class sizes will increase and the environment of "small, learning communities" will disappear. Charter schools and selective admissions schools have the privilege of limited enrollment. LVHS has achieved its gains even though 18% of the children they educate have been designated "special need" and many bright children who live in the area chose other educational options.

Beyond the obvious educational issues, there is the issue of 250 more children attending LVHS and how it will impact the neighborhood. The LSC has written to the CPS board, Mr. Arne Duncan and Mr. Eugene Schulter

requesting that enrollment remain at 1350. Neighbors who feel strongly about this issue are asked to write letters as well. A vocal neighborhood can influence their decisions.

Office of the Board of Education
Michael W. Scott, CPS Board President
126 S. Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
msscott@cps.k12.il.us

Mr. Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools
125 S. Clark Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
aduncan@cps.k12.il.us

Mr. Eugene Schulter
Alderman 47th Ward
4237 N. Lincoln Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60618
Ward47@cityofchicago.org

For questions and clarifications please contact Steve Bines 525-3249

The Ravenswood Music Institute

For more information about the Ravenswood Music Institute, call Gloria Grasse Hendrix, coordinator and Graceland West resident, at (773) 814-4792.

Newsletter Staff

Deirdre Jameson, Editor
Jane Huber, Board Member and Assistant
Iris Brenk, Layout

Please send any suggestions, news or corrections to djameson@jameson.com

GWCA Council Members

Steven Bines (6/05-12/06)	525-3249	Steven_d_bines@rush.edu	High School Liason
Carol Blalock (1/05-6/06)	281-1648	cmcb918@msn.com	CAPS coordinator
Dimitri Christopoulos (1/05-6/06)	446-0351	dimitri@christopouloslaw.com	Beautification
Bob Flannery (6/04-12/05)	549-7472	flannerybob@yahoo.com	Alderman Liason
Jim Friestad (1/05-6/06)	975-6218	jfriestad@yahoo.com	Website Developer
Jane Huber (6/04-12/05)	296-4200	JHuber@stl-inc.com	Newsletter Assistant
Ann Maxwell (1/03-12/05)	528-6677	annie_mg@hotmail.com	Auction
Barbara Sullivan (6/05-12/06)	327-2940	bjsulli@us.ibm.com	GWCA Fest

A council of 9 people governs Graceland West Community Association. Feel free to contact these people with ideas, issues, concerns and solutions for our neighborhood.



IT'S TIME FOR GWCA FEST!

Saturday, September 10, 2005 until 4:30

4300 Block of Greenview

11:30 Pet Parade

All day we'll have fantastic music, pony rides, community information, magician, and other surprises! Also available, for a minimal cost: excellent food & drinks, games for children and pony rides. Come for the food and stay for the fun! Also, a great silent auction ... come see what great things YOU can go home with! Support the organization. Meet your neighbors. Have a FUN FILLED DAY with family & friends.

GWCA ADULTS-ONLY PARTY

7 PM UNTIL 10PM

WARNER PARK AND GARDENS

Take the kids home, get them fed & settled with the sitter and then come on over to Warner Park & Gardens for our 2nd annual evening party from 7-10 pm. Elegant food, a marvelous band and terrific company (our neighbors!). Come relax, celebrate the success of GWCA fest and have an enjoyable evening..

Watch for more information and posters for specific times for events.

GWCA Fest Volunteers Needed:

To those who have volunteered - THANKS A MILLION! We still need volunteers for:

1. picking out prizes for children,
2. soliciting donations for the auction,
3. advertising the party,
4. helping the day of the party

Sign up below or call Barbara Sullivan at 327-2940 to volunteer.

Fill out and drop this off or mail it to:

Barbara Sullivan, GWCA Fest, 4117 North Greenview Avenue, Chicago, 60613

Yes, I'd like to help make GWCA fest 2005 - Saturday, September 10 - the BEST ever!!!

Name _____ Phone _____

- Check choice(s):**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working to get ready | <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting Auction items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting prizes for children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soliciting for bake sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Getting Pop/Water/Beverages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anything needed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working day of party: | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up (8:30 am- 11 am) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shift 1 (11 am - 1 pm) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shift 2 (1-3 pm) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shift 3 (3-5 pm) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up (5-?) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime needed |

**Minutes of the Graceland West Community Association
General Membership Meeting**

A General Membership Meeting took place at Warner Park & Gardens on Monday, June 13, 2005 at 7:00 pm. In attendance were the following Board Members: Jim Friestad, Ann Maxwell, Dimitri Christopolous, Tim McGonegle, Bob Flannery, and Carol Blalock. Approximately 22 other neighbors were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION

Alhambra, located at 3737 N. Southport, selling garden furniture and plants and specializing in container gardens, provided the presentation. Alhambra donated 3 beautiful containers, which were raffled off to attendees. Winners were Ellen Romano, Steve Bines and Deirdre Jameson.

The most successful containers have plenty of holes for drainage and are filled all the way to the top with potting soil, so that the plants don't have as far to grow, in order to spill over the sides and look abundant. A lightweight, slow release fertilizer is recommended (Miracle Grow Potting Mix along with Miracle Grow Osmocote) for long life and full blooms. Large focal points in the center of the container are important, along with a mix of foliage and flowering plants. Perennials also work well. Alhambra generally uses 4-1/2" cups for maximum impact.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: NEW BUSINESS

I. Approval of the March 14, 2005 Membership Meeting minutes was moved and approved, with a request to revise the amount of funds approved for GWCA Fest, from \$7,000 to \$9,000, with an expected \$2,000 in income resulting from the Fest.

II. Committee Reports:

- a. The Garden Walk needs volunteers on Pensacola and Cullom to solicit their neighbors to show their gardens and also need volunteers to create the location signs for the blocks. Contact Dawn Ragan or Donna Forsburg if you're interested in volunteering. Exhibitors will qualify to win a Gethemanie gift certificate, and are invited to attend the after-Walk dinner party at Warner Park & Gardens. The 23rd Annual Graceland West Garden Walk will be held on Sunday, July 10 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- b. Seven (7) people attended a GWCA Fest planning meeting last week. The committee is looking for a volunteer to help with publicity and a volunteer to supervise the Boy Scouts with the games portion of the day. GWCA Fest will be held on Saturday, September 10 in the 4300 block of Greenview, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, with the evening adult party scheduled for 7:00 – 10:00 at Warner Park & Gardens.

III. Elections were held to replace three outgoing GWCA Board Members: Tim McGonegle, Dale Petersen and Laura LeCoque. Steve Bines and Barbara Sullivan were elected by acclamation, and GWCA is still looking for one more volunteer.

IV. 4136 N. Greenview:

- a. A recap was provided on what has occurred so far with the lot at 4136 N. Greenview Avenue. The GWCA Board was approached by Ald. Schuller regarding the excavation being in violation of the 45 foot setback. A "Stop Work Order" was issued. A City of Chicago Zoning Administrator was present at the meeting in order to facilitate a compromise on the setback. The Administrator sought to establish a baseline of approximately 35 feet based on surveys taken of other lots in the area. The city does not enforce private covenants.
- b. The Alderman was going to consider a lesser overlay district but not as recorded on the plats. This was found to be unacceptable to nearby neighbors.
- c. A lawsuit was filed in early May to enforce the setback. Judge Bronstein issued a Temporary Restraining Order on May 18,

2005. A preliminary or permanent injunction date has not yet been set. Discovery is taking place now, with a status to be determined in early August.

- d. The defendants responded with a survey of the West side of the 4100 block of North Greenview claiming current placements of stairs, porches & bays are in violation.
- e. The plaintiffs are asking for GWCA to join as a party plaintiff to the suit.

Discussion:

- a. Board members and the association are protected from being sued by the defendants because of the not for profit status of GWCA with the exception of willful and wanton conduct.
- b. Two people voiced concerns about GWCA being a party to the suit and felt it would set a precedent. On what basis would GWCA choose to support future covenant issues?
- c. One neighbor mentioned that all neighbors should send a letter to the Alderman, expressing support for the plaintiffs in the case, in order to exert public pressure.
- d. Several neighbors voiced concerns that violation of the setback would result in a domino effect, i.e. any future tear-downs would want to build right up to the sidewalk and violate setbacks in other parts of Graceland West. Current setbacks on side streets are not protected, as they average around 25 feet, and current zoning stipulates 20 feet.
- e. One neighbor stressed that it is incumbent upon the Board to become a party to the suit, if only to enforce its own by-laws, which are "to develop and preserve an appreciation for the historical significance of the area and to encourage preservation, restoration and beautification".

Motions:

1. A resolution supporting the plaintiffs will be sent to the Alderman. It was unanimously passed.
2. A resolution for all supporting neighbors to petition the alderman, using a "boiler plate" letter to be found on the GWCA web site. It was unanimously approved.
3. A resolution for GWCA to formally become a plaintiff in the pending litigation. In order for the resolution to be passed, GWCA needs an extraordinary majority for such a major decision by the membership:

Those in favor:	18
Those against:	4
Those abstaining:	6

 The motion was passed.
- V. GWCA Yard Sale: No yard sale will be held this year. Those interested in heading up a community yard sale for next year should inform a GWCA board member.
- VI. Illinois Transportation Improvement Grant: Joy Schaad asked GWCA to contact Ald. Schuller about applying for a grant for the area on Clark Street from Montrose to Irving Park Road. The funding is 80% federal and 20% local, and is allocated toward new and improved light fixtures, pavement, etc. A motion was passed unanimously to investigate this grant money.
- VII. Lake View High School: Steve Bines discussed the possibility of the City of Chicago directing 400 more students to Lake View High School, and its resulting effects on parking, moving students in and out of the neighborhood, and the possible decline in test scores. He will send a letter to the school board, on behalf of GWCA, opposing the additional students and supporting Principal Scott Feaman and LVHS present enrollment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25th at 7pm.

Warner Park and Gardens News

The Annual Fairy Tea Party in June was a huge success. The fairy garden continues to grow strong; it must be due to all of the "fairy dust" sprinkled on the flowers at the tea! The park is looking forward to hosting the Annual Halloween Party set for October. Get your costumes ready, as this is a party that you won't want to miss!

Don't forget to visit Warner Park and Gardens to view many of the new planting this summer.

In case you didn't know...WP &G is a non profit 501C3 organization that operates the park. We rely solely on donations and contributions to sustain and maintain this beautiful gem of a park. We are in desperate need of a watering system (especially after this summer's lack of rain!) We are estimating the cost of this project to be around \$10,000. Is anyone interested in making a contribution to donate or possibly underwrite part of this endeavor? Please contact Georgie Yost at 929-0290 or send your check to 1449 West Berteau. All contributions are tax deductible!

Used Book Sale

Lincoln Belmont Library • 1659 West Melrose
October 13, 14, and 15, 2005

The Friends Group of the Lincoln-Belmont Library is holding a used book sale to benefit the library. GWCA neighbors are asked to participate in two ways. First, the library is accepting donations of books, books on tape, CDs, VHS tapes, DVDs and children's books. Donations can be accepted anytime during regular hours of operation. So take some time to weed out your shelves, cabinets and closets and donate! Secondly, please attend the sale. The library has a parking lot and all the money raised benefits the Lincoln-Belmont Library directly.

**Don't forget to join your neighbors at GWCA Fest
September 10, 2005
11:30 - 4:30**

JOIN TODAY! Graceland West Community Association Membership Form

Date: _____

Type of Membership: \$15.00 Family
(circle one) \$10.00 Individual
\$2.00 Senior Citizen

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

(C) _____

E-mail address _____

Make checks payable to: GWCA
Send or drop off CHECK & COMPLETED FORM to:
Kathy Scardina, 4325 N. Greenview, 60613

I am interested in volunteering for GWCA in:

- helping plan and organize events/parties
- helping build the GWCA website
- helping write the newsletter
- being a block representative
- helping set up or breakdown events/parties
- helping deliver the newsletter
- being on call to lend a hand
- other _____

Chicago police tell us that the best way to protect against criminal activity is to know and care about your neighbors. To that end GWCA plans to publish the names and phones of the members and mail it to members in February each year.



You have my permission to publish my information in the **GWCA Membership Directory**.
I have circled the information above that I do not want published.

Sign here: _____



Warner Park and Gardens Presents:

16th Annual Halloween Party

Sunday, October 30, 2004

1446 Warner Avenue

1:00 - 3:00 pm



Costume Parade at 1:00pm

Pensacola & Greenview

(No scary masks or toy weapons, please)



Storytelling at 2:00 pm



Beer and Brats for Sale

Games Crafts Prizes Sweets Cider

Bring your own pumpkins to carve or paint and decorate



Block Assignments

Juice Boxes - *Greenview, Belle Plaine, Clark, Warner*

Treats - *Berteau, Pensacola, Ashland, Cuyler, Hutchinson*

Cider and Cups - *Berteau, Cullom*

Event Volunteers Needed.

Please call: Kelley Shields 244-1590 or Sharon Langshur 929-9094

Sponsored by *GWCA* and Warner Park and Gardens