



# Graceland West News

February 2008 • A Publication of the Graceland West Community Association

## GWCA Calendar

**GWCA Community Meeting,**  
Thursday, February 21st at  
7 PM at Lake View High  
School Social Room



**Lake View High School**  
Local School Council Meeting,  
Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30  
in the Social Room.



**LSC elections** will be held  
Wed., April 16 in at the  
High School Polling place  
from 6 am to 7 pm.  
Please take the time to vote.



**CAPS Meeting Beat 1923**  
(south of Berteau), Tuesday,  
March 11 at 7 PM at  
4100 N. Greenview



**Caps Meeting Beat 1922**  
(north of Berteau), Wednesday,  
April 2 at 7 PM at  
4701 N. Ashland



**Spring Fling Fundraiser,**  
Saturday, April 12, 7:30 PM,  
Ann and Andy Maxwell's  
house, 4240 North Greenview



**GWCA Council Meeting,**  
Thursday, April 17 -7:30 PM,  
4117 N. Greenview



**Community Meeting,**  
Thursday, May 15, GWCA  
7 PM, Warner Park and  
Gardens



**GWCA Garden Walk,**  
June 22, 2008



**GWCA Summer's Eve**  
**Adult Party,** Saturday, July  
12, 2008 (tentative) at Warner  
Park and Gardens



**Annual GWCA Fest,**  
Saturday, September 6, 2008

## Come Out and Vote!

### GWCA Council Elections & Community Meeting

**When:** Thursday, February 21st at 7 PM

**Where:** Lake View High School Social Room. Enter the school through the door just west of the parking lot and playground. Follow signs to the Social Room.

**Why:** Vote on new GWCA council members...or maybe become a council member yourself?

### Proposed Meeting Agenda

- I. Election of **FIVE** GWCA Council Members - three terms will be from February 2008 through June 2009 and two terms will be February 2008 through December 2008.
- II. Neighborhood Survey Results - over 120 GWCA residents responded. Come here what they had to say about GWCA and your neighborhood
- III. Discussion on the proposed new Graceland West Summer Adult Party
- IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Membership Meeting on September 13, 2007.
- V. Approval of GWCA budget for 2008 - presented by Keith Johnson. A copy of the proposed budget is included in this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the meeting to discuss the budget and have any questions, please contact any GWCA Council member.

## GWCA Council Board Positions Available - Volunteers Wanted

The Graceland West Community Association is comprised of a nine member volunteer leadership council. The council members serve rotating 18 month terms so that there is always a balance of new and sustaining members. The council works as a team and each member generally focuses on one or two areas of interest during his/her term. These focus areas include schools, parks, garden walk, GWCA Fest, website, newsletter, fundraising, social events, alderman liaison, safety/security, etc. The Council generally meets 4 times a year. You will find the experience interesting and rewarding in addition to being a great way to give back to your community. In addition to the five positions currently up, we will be seeking three more candidates for expiring terms in June. Thanks for considering this opportunity. If you are interested, please contact any Council member.

# Comings and Goings

GWCA welcomes new members:

**Andrea Wood & Erik Jessen** of Berteau  
**Jeffrey & Felicia Greenbaum** of Clark  
**Cornelia Grumman** of Greenview

Congratulations to **Daniel Witry** of the 1400 block of Warner. He graduated from Navy boot camp on July 6. He has been selected to attend a school for Sonar/Radar in San Diego, CA.

## NEW ARRIVALS

**Michael and Sheila Kailus** of Hutchinson Street proudly announce the arrival of their second daughter, **Caitlin Emily** on May 6, 2007. Caitlin joins sister **Kelly**, 22 months old.

**Dan and Ann Shannon** of 4212 N. Ashland arrived from Long Island, NY in July 2007 brought here by the arrival of their first grandchild. They are looking forward to meeting neighbors and being part of the community.

Cullom Avenue welcomes **Ellen, Scott and Samuel Seder** to 1450 W. Cullom. Shortly after moving to Cullom, Samuel and his parents welcomed his little brother **Jonathon**.

FYI-The birth of Samuel's little brother brings the grand total of children living on Cullom Ave. between Greenview and Clark to 25! How many kids are living on your block? GWCA newsletter editors would love to know!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Neighbors **Sharon and Eric Lanshur** of CullomAve. recently published a book called "We Carry Each Other: Getting through Life's Toughest

Times" based on true stories they encountered while running their business, CarePages, one of the world's largest social networking sites where lifestyle and health needs meet community and emotional support.

Neighbor, **Josh Eisenberg**, of Cullom was featured in the 6/17/07 (Father's Day) Q Section of the Chicago Tribune on stay at home dads. Josh lives with his wife **Audry** and their 2 year old son, **Andrew**.

## GOOD BYES

**The Walker Family** of Pensacola has moved to the Wind Point area of Racine, Wisconsin. **Jim** is working at SC Johnson. **Karen** is starting her own magazine sales rep firm, and **Tori** will be attending The Prairie School. Good Luck. The GWCA community will miss you.

**Prew, Tom, John, Suzy & Ola Bowtell** just returned to their lovely rural Oxfordshire village in the UK. They resided on Hutchinson for 3 years. They are happy to be "home" but felt so blessed to have lived in our wonderful neighborhood. They made many good friends and wanted to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome. They will treasure their memories of Graceland West.

And lastly, a sad goodbye to the gray **2005 Honda Civic** parked at the corner of Greenview and Belle Plaine on the afternoon of the "flood." Once owned and loved by GWCA member Diane Lewis, the car is now relocating to the junkyard after a brief stint as moving aquarium.

Send news for the comings and goings section of the GWCA newsletter to **Deirdre Jameson**, [djameson@jameson.com](mailto:djameson@jameson.com)

## Helpful Neighborhood Web Sites and Information

**Ravenswood School** is the neighborhood K-8 school for the northern half of Graceland West. Did you know that Ravenswood School, located at that corner of Paulina and Montrose was rated one of the top public grade schools in the City by the Chicago Tribune? Learn more about this wonderful neighborhood resource at the school's web site at <http://www.ravenswood.cps.k12.il.us/>

Need a car once a month, once a week or once a year? Check out these convenient and easy to use car-sharing programs! **I-Go and Zipcars** have cars ready to go in convenient locations on Montrose and Irving Park. See their web sites for more info. <http://www.igocars.org/> or <http://www.zipcar.com/>

The Chicago Police Department's **CAPS Program** is a partnership between police and community and is the foundation of Chicago's own philosophy of community policing. For more information visit [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org)

Learn more about other public schools located in the area, test scores and enrollment boundaries at the **CPS school locator website** at <http://schoollocator.cps.k12.il.us/>

Find out about crime locations, trends, times, etc. at [www.chicagocrime.org](http://www.chicagocrime.org)

Learn about the 47th Ward, Contact **Alderman Gene Schulter** and sign up for Alderman Schulter's weekly email announcements at <http://www.ward47.com/>

Learn more about the **Graceland West Community Association** at the GWCA website at [www.gracelandwest.org](http://www.gracelandwest.org). NOTE: The GWCA website is currently down, but will be back up soon.

Sign up for the **Chicago Cub's** Community Connection newsletter and eblasts at [www.cubs.com](http://www.cubs.com).

## Lakeview High School Report

The school was recently notified that it will maintain the status of "Not on Probation" for the 2006-2007 school year and continues to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

The student body is approaching 1600 and Principal Feaman is working hard to ensure that all staff positions are being filled in accordance with the school census figures.

We are proud to announce that seven students won Outstanding Awards at the Area 19 Science Fair and will move on to the next level.

**The next meeting of the LSC will be Wed., March 25 at 5:30 in the Social Room.**

**The LSC elections will be held Wed., April 16 in the High School at the polling place located off of Irving Park from 6am to 7pm. Please take the time to vote.**

*Respectfully submitted by Steven Bines -- GWCA resident and Local School Council representative*

## Lake View High School Swimming Pool Needs Our Help!

The swimming pool at Lake View High School on Irving Park and Ashland has been broken since May 2006 (almost two years!). The school has had a vibrant water sports program in the past. The lack of a pool has impacted the school's physical education program and decreased the number of students who can participate in extracurricular sports programs. To date, the school's efforts to get action from the CPS area facilities manager to fix the problem have been unsuccessful. The LSC has written to CBOE president Arnie Duncan and the CBOE head of Facilities Management requesting action. The GWCA Council has also sent a letter to Facilities Management.

According to the School's principal, Scott Feaman, GWCA neighbors can also help by being the "squeaky wheel" and contacting Chicago Public School leaders to express your concerns. The following individuals should be contacted:

*Dear Mr./Ms.:*

*The Graceland West Community Association is a long standing supporter of Lakeview High School. Our organization makes an annual contribution to the school targeted to improve the academic environment for Lakeview students. We have worked closely with the principal, Mr. Scott Feaman to make this happen.*

*We have watched the school steadily improve in terms of both student behavior in the neighborhood and student academic performance on national tests. We believe this is due to the hard work of the schools administration, faculty and student body. Their hard work has created an atmosphere filled with enriched intramural and extramural opportunities for the school.*

*One of the important opportunities for the students is having a functional water sports program. It makes the physical education program well rounded and gives the students the option to participate in competitive swimming. In the past, the swimming program has been quite vibrant, especially for the girls.*

*The pool at Lake View High School has been broken since May 2006 and efforts to get it fixed have been unsuccessful. The contractor hired to do the repairs is under investigation by the school board and Mr. Young, the school engineer, has not been able to get action on this problem from the office of facilities despite many letters and phone calls.*

*We stand ready to help in any way we can. Both Mr. Duncan and Alderman Gene Shulter are friends of our organization and we can petition them for help if necessary.*

*Please let us know how we should proceed in our efforts to get our community high school's pool fixed and its water sports program back on its feet.*

*Sincerely,*

- The School is in area 19, cluster 1. The supervisor for that cluster is Mr. Pedro Ravelo, His phone number is 773-842 0927.
- Mr. Ravelo's boss is Ms Heather O'Bora. She is the Director of Operations/Facility Management. Her number is 773 553 2750.
- The CEO of the School Board is Mr Arnie Duncan. His Number is 773 553 1500.

Letters to Mr. Ravelo or Ms. O'Bora should be sent c/o Mr. Scott Feaman, the school principal. Mr. Feaman's address is as follows:

Mr Scott Feaman, Principal.  
Lakeview High School  
4015 N Ashland Ave.  
Chicago 60613

Please take a minute and call the offices of these people and leave a message that fixing the pool is an excellent idea in the opinion of the neighborhood! Calls to Arnie Duncan actually work. A template of the letter than can be sent is as follows:



# SPRING FLING

## Graceland West Fundraising Event

**COME OUT FOR FOOD, DRINK,  
MUSIC AND CONVERSATION!**

The Second Annual GWCA Spring Fling is planned for Saturday, April 12th. Come out and talk about how the Cubs and Sox are doing two weeks into the new baseball season. The event is being graciously hosted by Ann and Andy Maxwell at their home at 4240 Greenview. The evening will consist of:

- Gourmet dining buffet • Live music
- GWCA benefit auction • Complimentary beverages

**All this for \$40 to benefit GWCA.**

Please fill out the sign-up sheet below and return to Ann Maxwell at 4240 N. Greenview no later than Tuesday, April 1, 2008 or email to [annie\\_mg@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_mg@hotmail.com).

## GWCA SPRING FLING SIGN UP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendees

@ \$40 per person: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to assist with \_\_\_\_ set up \_\_\_\_ clean up \_\_\_\_ auction \_\_\_\_  
food \_\_\_\_ beverage \_\_\_\_ entertainment

**Auction items are needed for this fundraising event.**

If you can donate, or solicit donations from others, please contact Ann Maxwell at the email noted above.

**Remember to mark your calendar for other GWCA social events:**

**Sunday, June 22, 2008**

**GWCA  
Garden Walk**

**Saturday, June 12, 2008**

**GWCA Summer's Eve  
Adult Party  
Warner Park & Gardens**

**Saturday, September 6,  
2008**

**GWCA Fest**



## Graceland West Community Association

Please add/change anything based on what you think your projects will need next year or any new things you think we ought to consider

### DRAFT Projected Budget for 2008

	Anticipated Expense	Anticipated Income	Net Spending	2008 Council Approver	Chair Person
<b>Community Support/Beautification</b>					
Lake View High School	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	B Sullivan	S Bines
Warner Park & Gardens	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	D Forsberg	T McDonald
Welcome to Graceland West Signs			\$0.00	T Ramsey	
Neighborhood Beautification	\$300.00		\$300.00	T Ramsey	
Other?			\$0.00		
<b>Community Support SubTotal</b>	<b>\$2,300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,300.00</b>		
<b>Events</b>					
March Madness (March)	\$1,000.00	\$(2,000.00)	\$(1,000.00)	Ann	Barb
Garage Sale (May)	\$100.00	\$(300.00)	\$(200.00)	C Lowell	
Garden Walk (June/July)	\$500.00	\$(500.00)	\$0.00		
GWCA fest (Sept)	\$6,000.00	\$(6,000.00)	\$0.00	B Sullivan	
Evening Party at GWCA fest (Sept)	\$500.00	\$(1,000.00)	\$(500.00)		K Lohss
Halloween Party (Oct)	\$1,500.00	\$(3,500.00)	\$(2,000.00)		
Cemetery Tour	\$400.00	\$(400.00)	\$0.00		C Lowell
Carolling Party (Dec)	\$250.00	\$(250.00)	\$0.00		B Sullivan
<b>Events SubTotal</b>	<b>\$10,250.00</b>	<b>\$(13,950.00)</b>	<b>\$(3,700.00)</b>		
<b>Communications</b>					
Newsletter (5 times?)	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	C Chesne	
Kiosks	\$350.00		\$350.00	Barb	T Miller
Block Captains	\$500.00		\$500.00	T Ramsey	
Website	\$250.00		\$250.00	J Kroah	Jim F
Other?			\$0.00		
<b>Communications SubTotal</b>	<b>\$3,600.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,600.00</b>		
<b>Organization</b>					
Membership / Meetings	\$500.00	\$(1,000.00)	\$(500.00)	B Sullivan	
Administration	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	J Kroah	
Advertising/Donations		\$(3,000.00)	\$(3,000.00)		
<b>Communications SubTotal</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>	<b>\$(4,000.00)</b>	<b>\$(2,300.00)</b>		
<b>Total for 2007</b>	<b>\$17,850.00</b>	<b>\$(17,950.00)</b>	<b>\$(100.00)</b>		

## Graceland West Council Member List

Current Graceland West Council Members-Please contact council members with questions

Christi Lowell	525-2426	christilowell@aol.com	Garage Sale/Cemetery Tour
Keith Johnson	883-1356	kj1463@gmail.com	Finance/Recycling
Jeny Kroah	312-543-0307	jkroah@nextlevelms.com	Family/Children Networking
Ann Maxwell	528-6677	annie_mg@hotmail.com	Newsltr Distribution/Alderman
Liaison			
Carol Blalock	281-1648	cmcb918@msn.com	CAPS program
Donna Forsberg	348-1469	donnaforsberg@sbcglobal.net	Garden Walk
Barbara Sullivan	727-3419	barbarasullivan06@comcast.net	Event Planning



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

A General Membership Meeting took place at Warner Park on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:00 pm. In attendance were the following Board Members: Ann Maxwell, Keith Johnson, Barbara Sullivan, and Carol Blalock. Approximately 25 neighbors were also in attendance.

Special Guest was 47th Ward Alderman Eugene Schuler. Ald. Schuler made some opening remarks about enjoying the Warner Park "green space" of Graceland West, and mentioned that he has spearheaded the development of more green space in our Ward, including new park space at the Senior Development that is being built at Irving Park Road and Western Avenue, and next to Lane Tech High School at Addison and California. He then took questions from those in attendance:

### **Q. When will parkway trees unearthed during the August storms be replaced?**

R. Fall 2007 and Spring 2008

### **Q. What is happening with 4136 N. Greenview and its violation of land covenants?**

R. Action has been taken by the city Judicial System. The owners must backfill the hole by September 20, 2007. The next court date is September 25. If the hearing officer determines that the hole has not been filled, the owners will be fined retroactive to the date of the lawsuit (approximately 30 months ago). An overlay has not been enacted for the neighborhood, but permanent restrictions are in place to deter future violation of the setbacks.

### **Q. Speed humps have been proposed for the 4300 block of North Greenview:**

R. Two petitions have been distributed in the neighborhood; 1 for speed humps and 1 against speed humps. Either petition needs 60% approval. A survey is being mailed to residents in the 4300 block of North Greenview. Chicago Corporation Council and the Department of Transportation are being consulted as well.

### **Q. When will Graceland Cemetery reopen?**

R. Graceland Cemetery sustained heavy damage as a result of the August storm and has been open for burials only since that time. Their website (<http://www.gracelandcemetery.org/>) will advise a re-open date.

In addition, Ald. Schuler would like GWCA to request that Graceland Cemetery remove the razor wire that is on the Montrose side of the cemetery, as he considers it to be an eyesore and not indicative of the neighborhood. The cemetery has been cited for it, as its placement is illegal.

### **Q. Recycling Initiative in 47th Ward:**

R. Adding multi-unit and condo buildings to the ward's recycling initiative will be investigated in October. Please see Ald. Schuler's web site for more information. If you find that pick-up every other week is not enough, you can request a 2nd blue dumpster for your use from 311 or the Alderman's office.

### **Q. There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of crime between Cullom and Montrose, near Greenview Avenue.**

R. Ald. Schuler requested that concerned neighbors attend

the next CAPS meeting at Chase Park (4701 N. Ashland) on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, and in addition, he will schedule a separate meeting with the 19th District Commander. Information about this meeting to follow.

### **Q. CTA Buses and Private Coaches continue to idle on Clark Street. What can be done?**

R. Neighbors should contact the Cubs Care web site to report private coaches that park on Clark St. on game days [www.cubs.com/neighbors](http://www.cubs.com/neighbors)

Alderman Schuler then introduced Tom La Pore, a Water Commissioner who addressed some of the flooding issues that occurred after the August storms. The Commissioner said he was pleased to see how many GWCA neighbors have disconnected their down spouts and are diverting water into their yards, rain barrels, etc. He said the Chicago sewer system is approximately 100 years old and that no sewer system could have handled the amount of water that came into the sewers during the storm. Approximately 1100 basements were flooded between Addison and Lawrence, from Damen east to the Lake. The Deep Tunnel system was working and didn't have a chance because it happened so fast. The Rain Blocker program is designed to hold water in the streets rather than in basements so that the water can gradually enter the sewers. The sewers are cleaned out every 5 years and they are seeking funding so that they can be cleaned every 2 years. The sewers in Graceland West were just cleaned out this year. Keeping sewers and catch basins clean needs to be a partnership with the city. If there is still standing water after 2-3 hours, contact the Alderman's office. [www.ward47.com](http://www.ward47.com) or 773/348-8400. There is a program in place that allows homeowners and building owners up to 4 units, to hire a contractor to "televise" their sewer line. If damage is present on the homeowner side of the property line, the cost to rout out the line is borne by the homeowner. If it's on the city side, the city pays the cost. If a tree root is the problem, the cost is borne by the homeowner.

Neighbors are asked to attend a hearing regarding citizen complaints about **The El Gato Negro Club**, 1461-63 West Irving Park Road. The meeting is being held by the Department of Business Affairs & Licensing, Local Liquor Control Commission.

### **Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 10:00 am City Hall 121 North La Salle Street, Room 805**

A letter in hand is needed to attend the meeting (attached)

There will be 5 openings on the GWCA Board in December. If you're interested in running for a slot on the board, please notify a board member.

GWCA Fest in September netted a \$500 profit.

The Halloween Fest will be held on Sunday, October 28 at Warner Park. The Committee is looking for volunteers. Contact Jeny Kroah @ 312/543-0307 or [jkroah@nextlevelms.com](mailto:jkroah@nextlevelms.com)

A group tour of Graceland West Cemetery, led by a cemetery docent, is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 14. Contact Ann Bines at 773/525-3249 or [annbines@yahoo.com](mailto:annbines@yahoo.com) for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

## **GWCA Classifieds**

Alison Creed of Pensacola is an Instructor of Writing and Rhetoric at Columbia College Chicago. She is available for tutoring middle school through high school students in Literature and Composition courses (\$40.00 per hour). Lessons at your home or her apartment on Pensacola. Contact Allison at [creeda2003@yahoo.com](mailto:creeda2003@yahoo.com).

# Thank You to all for a Another Successful Halloween Party at Warner Park

On October 28, 2007, GWCA once again celebrated its Halloween Fest held at the Warner Park & Garden. Neighbors of all ages participated in this annual tradition in full gear! What was notable this year was how remarkably sunnier and warmer the weather was compared to the past. GWCA added more attractions for this year's festivities - "Donut Bobbing" (catching donuts hanging on a tree), "Ninja for a Day" (ninja mask & shuriken making), and Robert Miller the Magician (and all his unbelievably

amazing tricks). Thank you for bringing all the treats for everyone to enjoy. Special thanks to Terese McDonald who coordinated our access and use of the Warner Park & Garden, Mark & his crew from Ranalli's, and all the neighbor volunteers who helped during setup, teardown, and cleanup! A special note of thanks to Jeny Kroah who again chaired this successful event. See you all again on October 26, 2008!



Reprinted from *Crains Chicago Business*

## Meeting set on development proposed near Wrigley

(Crain's) — The developer who wants to build a big residential and retail complex across from Wrigley Field says he has signed a lease for a health club and is in talks with Global Hyatt Corp. about running a 137-room hotel at the site.

The site at West Addison Street and North Clark Street could include two eight- or nine-story towers, says Steven Schultz, a little-known real estate investor who is proposing the development after spending more than a decade buying the necessary properties.

The proposal will be aired at a Jan. 23 meeting to be hosted by Alderman Tom Tunney (44th) in the Stadium Club at Wrigley Field, according to Bennett Lawson, an aide to the alderman.

While Mr. Schultz's plan calls for towers that would be about 105 feet tall, the height has been a sensitive matter because of the site's proximity to the historic stadium. Ultimately, the project's height will be subject to "what the

neighborhood groups will allow," Mr. Schultz says.

The plan also calls for as many as 150 apartments and a total of 100,000 square feet of retail space. Mr. Schultz, a managing partner of Chicago-based Preferred Properties, says in addition to the health club, Xsport Fitness, he's also talking with drugstore chains and grocery stores. The development would have a footprint of 75,000 to 80,000 square feet, he says.

Mr. Schultz met privately with a small group of residents in early December to discuss the proposal and receive their feedback.

The proposal has been floating for about a year, when Mr. Schultz first approached Alderman Tunney about a 10- to 12-story development that would have included 192 residential units, a grocery store, gym and other retail. Mr. Tunney told Mr. Schultz the development was too large, according to minutes of the ward's Community Directed Development Council. A five-story building was considered more appropriate.

Neighbors have expressed concern about the congestion the development could create, given that traffic is already an issue in the area.