

Gold Coast Neighbors Association

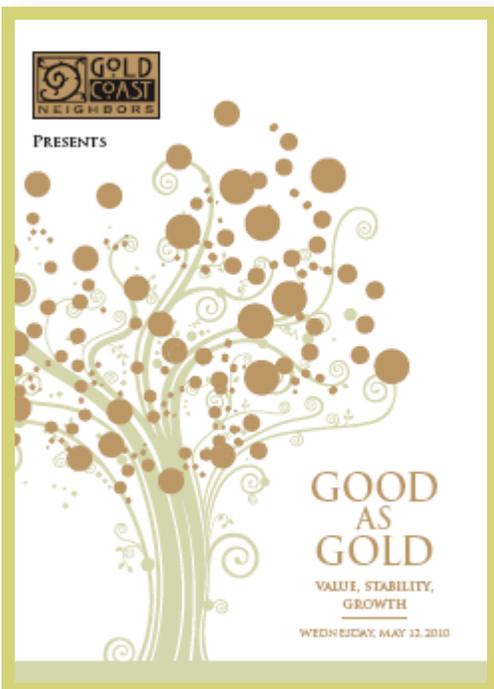


www.goldcoastneighbors.org

Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring 2010 edition of our newsletter

Our mission is to protect and enhance the heritage of our historic area for the benefit of our neighbors, the City of Chicago at large, and for all those who visit our lakefront and parkways. We accomplish this by educating neighbors about our history, providing information on current matters of importance, serving as a public voice, contributing to area beautification, and sponsoring forums to exchange ideas. Our committees are all volunteer and we do our work because we are passionate about our unique neighborhood.



Mark Your Calendars!

The theme of this year's spring fundraiser "GOOD AS GOLD" highlights Gold Coast Neighbors' core concepts of value, stability and growth, and we stand behind our community to promote them. *Value*: we do not lose sight of the historic value outside our front doors. *Stability*: we are committed to moving forward by finding creative solutions to challenges that may lie ahead. *Growth*: we welcome and encourage participation by all area residents and their families.

Join us as we come together as a community. Help us celebrate our value as an organization at our spring fundraiser at The Racquet Club of Chicago on Wednesday, May 12th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Along with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, there will be music, a fabulous live auction, and for the first time, we are offering a Mega Raffle – a Buddy International Scooter!

This event is a great opportunity to bring friends and welcome spring, meet your neighbors, and above all, have some fun!

Watch your mail for the "official" invitation.

event sponsored in part by:

Cendrowski Corporate Advisors LLC

and

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Zoning Committee Report - Proposed Shop at 1400 N. Lake Shore Drive

At the March 15 meeting of the Gold Coast Neighbors Association board of directors, the Zoning Committee presented its report in consideration of the proposal by Lush Wine and Spirits to open a boutique wine shop with patio seating serving wine by the glass. We discussed the relative merits and potential problems with the proposal and formed a list of favorable aspects and unfavorable concerns for evaluation.

The favorable aspects were:

- A new store in the area is positive for the neighborhood.
- Other stores by Lush owners elsewhere in Chicago are noted as attractive and neat.
- The neighborhood may appreciate a social spot for warmer weather evenings.
- Sheltered site of patio limits noise spreading to other surrounding buildings.
- Traffic noise from Lake Shore Drive and window air conditioners offsets patio noise to a degree.
- City ordinance prohibits outdoor music after 10pm.
- Since the Commissary at 1350 N. Lake Shore Drive already sells wine and beer, adding another outlet for alcohol sales is not expected to create additional problems with alcoholic beverages.

The unfavorable concerns, along with committee comments were:

- The hours of the store and patio
 - We recommend that start times be limited to no earlier than 11am.
 - We recommend that closing times be limited to no later than 10pm, including weekends.
 - We recommend reasonable limits on seating capacity, both indoor and outdoor, to avoid over-crowding.
 - GCN will need to determine if such rules can be agreed to by owner.
- The window treatments and signage
 - We recommend that we obtain agreements with the owner on tasteful signage and window treatments.
 - We recommend that the size and brightness of signage be strictly regulated with no overnight electrical or neon signage.
- Outdoor music
 - Relevant city noise ordinances should be included in operating agreements and monitored by the building owner and condo association.
- The terms of the lease
 - The leaseholder should also agree to the GCN operating stipulations.
 - The operating stipulations between GCN and the owner should survive any change in ownership.

The committee noted that given the track record of the owner in other neighborhoods in Chicago (South Loop, Roscoe Village), the unfavorable concerns could be alleviated through acceptance of the GCN stipulations by the store's owner. In view of the many positives that the store brought to the neighborhood, the Zoning Committee recommended an affirmative vote on the proposal.

After discussion on the pros and cons of the new establishment, the Gold Coast Neighbors Board voted in favor of supporting the proposal if Lush Wine and Spirits agrees to reasonable operating stipulations to meet neighborhood concerns.

- Vern Broders

GCN's Ongoing Commitment to Goudy Park



A particularly appealing feature of our neighborhood is Goudy Park, located at the corner of Astor and Goethe. This leafy enclave wasn't always so attractive. To learn about the history of the park we interviewed GCN Director Karen Herman. Karen has played an active role in efforts to revive the park and we're grateful for her involvement.

What was Goudy Park (and the parkway) like before GCN became involved in upgrading it?

"The park had not been fixed up since the '60's. By the early '90's it was in total disrepair, just an unattractive play lot with weeds and dirt. No plants, no maintenance, and no weekly trash pickup. Interested neighbors and GCN raised funds and collaborated with the Chicago Park District to

place an attractive fence around the park, install new playground equipment, and put down a rubber surface on the ground. Six years ago GCN then turned its attention to the parkway areas (between the sidewalk and the street). That area is not the Park District's property/responsibility but rather the City of Chicago's turf so to speak. The Park District didn't have the budget to adequately maintain the parkways, which were suffering wear and abuse due to the increased popularity of the park. We didn't want to see such unattractive grounds adjacent to the park that everyone had worked so hard to improve."

What are some of the ongoing parkway maintenance issues that GCN is concerned about?

"There are three unending factors that impact parkway maintenance: people, pets, and the weather. Over the past 15 years Goudy Park has seen a huge increase in the number of two- and four-legged visitors, subjecting the parkways to wear and tear. When designing the parkways we specifically installed gravel areas for pets so that they would be less likely to jump into the plants. However, even gravel requires maintenance. GCN puts down fresh gravel in the spring, and it is raked and cleaned weekly. Our harsh winters and episodic summer droughts are tough on the plants. They have to be watered, the litter removed, and over time some of them need to be replaced. The parkway fence requires ongoing maintenance to prevent rust."

Why should area residents be concerned about stewardship of the park? After all, isn't it Park District property?

"Yes, it is Park District property, but if you look around the city you'll see that the nicest parks are often located in neighborhoods where residents take an active role. We need to collaborate with the Chicago Park District and make sure that we advocate on behalf of Goudy Park. Legally GCN cannot modify the interior of the park itself, but we can work with the Park District to ensure that the park is well-kept and that the adjacent parkways owned by the City are improved and maintained."

If you had a "wish-list" for the park, what are the top three things that would appear on it?

"Some of the playground equipment needs to be repaired or replaced, and the rubber play surface, brick walkways and curbs need to be refurbished.

New trees and bushes need to be planted within the park.

We need committed residents who will help make sure that Park District funding of new parks doesn't come at the expense of established parks like Goudy."

What is your favorite thing about the park?

"Goudy is like a small jewel in the middle of an urban neighborhood. Hundreds of people stop by with little children every week. Once they close the gate behind them it's as if they've entered a very special, safe haven."

If people want to contribute to GCN's effort toward parkway maintenance, can they earmark their donation specifically?

"Financial contributions are very much needed and most appreciated. Donations are 100% tax deductible and hopefully you or your building can help maintain the parkways. Five buildings have helped in the past, and your Association commits substantial funds each year, too. Donations should be sent to the GCN office." Please indicate that the funds should be allocated for "Goudy Parkway Maintenance."

- Larry Gard

Society of Architectural Historians Organizes Archaeological Dig at Historic Charnley-Persky House Museum

In the summer of 2010, the Society of Architectural Historians will sponsor an archaeological dig at its headquarters building, the historic Charnley-Persky House. Led by Rebecca S. Graff, a Professor at DePaul University, a summer field school will be held for five weeks to investigate what may be the remains of the Potter Palmer family's nineteenth-century garbage pit on the Charnley-Persky House property.



The Charnley-Persky House at 1305 N. Astor

Extensive renovation work at the Charnley-Persky House in 2001-2003 involved digging a trench on two sides of the building to install waterproofing material below grade. When an eight-foot-deep trench was dug at the back of the house, it revealed a rich deposit of nineteenth-century refuse including metal cookware, imported china shards, glass bottles and Wedgewood tile. Staff members of the SAH worked to document and preserve materials from the area, with the desire to professionally excavate the site at a later date to coincide with further renovations to the structure. Their working hypothesis was that the location of the artifacts - cutting into the Charnley-Persky House foundation and thus predating that structure - indicates they could well have come from the Potter Palmer house property, part of which James Charnley purchased for his own home site in 1890.

SAH's Executive Director, Pauline Saliga, contacted Graff to see if a professional excavation could take place to continue the work that the SAH staff began in the early 2000's. Through this partnership, Graff hopes to uncover further insight into the life-ways of the Gold Coast elite in this time period, perhaps even definitively tying the Charnley-Persky House deposits to the Potter Palmer household. The work aims to compliment the extensive research on the built environment that is at the heart of SAH's mission.

See more of the house at www.charnleyhouse.org.

Become a 2010 "Good As Gold" Angel

Although you will receive the "official" invitation in early April, we hope you will consider making a donation for GCN's "Good As Gold" event scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12th**. The following Angel categories are available:

\$2000

Very Special Angels: 8 tickets, special program listing, full page congratulations

\$1000

Special Angels: 5 tickets, special program listing, full page congratulations

\$500

Angels: 3 tickets, special program listing, 1/2 page congratulations

\$250

Special Friends: 2 tickets, special program listing, 1/4 page congratulations

\$80

Friend: 1 ticket, special program listing

(non-members of GCN may purchase tickets for \$100)

For more information, please call the GCN office at 312-629-6046 or visit www.goldcoastneighbors.org.

Lake Shore Drive Bus Shelter Destroyed

As daily Gold Coast commuters and visitors know, there are eight bus stops along inner Lake Shore Drive's east side. These stops are outfitted with protective plastic shields designed to protect people from inclement weather and drenching splashes from passing vehicles. The shields are all in disrepair and now one has vanished.

On Sunday morning February 28 in front of 1540 LSD, an SUV went out of control and literally wiped out the entire bus stop area. There were apparently no injuries but several individuals were seen running away from the accident. If members and neighbors have ideas about how to improve commuters' splash protection please email GCN at info@goldcoastneighbors.org or call 312-629-6046. (Photo below courtesy of J. Kinoshita)



A Message From GCN's President

Dear Neighbors,

For many of us, 2010 has ushered in economic concerns and professional challenges. Especially now, it is worthwhile to focus on the benefits offered in our Gold Coast Community.

The Gold Coast Neighbors Association will introduce you to wonderful people with many interests and talents. I know you'll enjoy our social events and the opportunity to interact with people who share your local concerns.

I have been involved in the GCN for several years and have always had an appreciation of its efforts, but in my new role as president the view from the front seat is even more impressive. I have a keener understanding of the efforts of all our board and committee members and of the programs that we take for granted. Check out our website for a comprehensive description of our activities and upcoming events.

The Association is also very involved in programs that focus on safety matters, zoning issues, neighborhood beautification and much, much more.

Our board is comprised of men and women who enjoy the rewards of volunteering. They give their personal time to improve the quality of our neighborhood. Take a look at our board members and see your neighbors who contribute to the quality of life in the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Neighbors is not a private club. We're individuals with a common interest in our neighborhood. Familiarize yourself with our organization. Join us. Share your talents or simply participate in one of our casual events. GCN offers you small town benefits in our beautiful big city. A familiar face can be a welcome sight in a city of 3 million!

- Tom Thilman

MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE PRINT

If you are a new member, choose either a \$20 ChicagoLimosineService.com certificate toward your \$65 airport ride or two \$10 Mario's Ristorante gift certificates. Renewing members may select either the \$20 limo certificate or one \$10 Mario's gift certificate. Please also consider a donation for our General Fund! Kindly send this form along with your tax deductible check or charge card authorization to:

Gold Coast Neighbors (or GCN) · 307 North Michigan Avenue · Suite 1803 · Chicago · Illinois 60601

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Card #: _____
 Expiration Date: ____ (month) ____ (year)

Signature: _____

Select a certificate: Limo Mario's

Membership Categories:

Neighbor, Building Association,
 and Associate (for those outside
 GCN's boundaries)

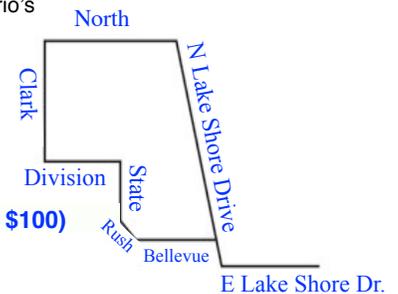
Annual Dues: \$ _____

All categories are \$40 per year

(New Option: 3-year renewal for \$100)

General Fund: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____



• I would like to volunteer for the following Committee(s): *please indicate your choice(s)*

- Annual Meeting
- Beautification
- Bylaws
- Communication/PR
- Evening on Astor

- Goudy Parkways
- Ghoully Halloween
- History/Education
- Membership
- Newsletter

- Outreach
- Police & Streets
- Spring Event
- Website
- Zoning

Please visit our website:
www.goldcoastneighbors.org
for more information about
our committees and the work
they do.

Questions? Please call GCN office at 312.629.6046. Please share your comments & suggestions: _____

Membership Report

As of December 31, 2009, Gold Coast Neighbors had a total of 643 members. Our membership level remains stable but we have some great opportunities to increase our membership even more.

Probably our greatest opportunity lies with members who have recently allowed their memberships to lapse. Our most recent analysis shows that we have 479 members who have allowed their memberships to lapse in the past 12 months. Of course, many of those members have moved or have other excellent reasons for not renewing, but we would love to hear from the rest of you.

Thus, one of our major challenges is to communicate why membership in the Gold Coast Neighbors Association is of sufficient value so that members will want to renew promptly and with enthusiasm.

I personally believe that GCN can be proud of the wonderful opportunities it affords members to get to know each other – including the Spring Event, Evening on Astor and our Halloween Party at Goudy Park. We have also been proactive in making our members aware of neighborhood issues that are of significance –

especially issues that involve zoning and neighborhood character. We are also diligent in advising our members about safety issues in our community.

But I believe we can do more. To that end, our President, Tom Thilman, has initiated a strategic process. One question that is of interest to the Board of Directors is the role GCN should play in contentious neighborhood issues. Should GCN analyze such issues and take a position (for example with the appropriate Alderman) or should we limit our role to informing our membership about the issues so that each member has the opportunity to personally act on the issue with the benefit of adequate understanding?

This is just one question we hope to address in this strategic process. There are many more. As we work on this, we'd like to hear from you. Please tell us the issues you would like to see us address in our strategic process. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gable
Chairman, Membership Committee

**MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?
IF NOT, SEE FORM INSIDE**



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