

Gold Coast Neighbors Association



www.goldcoastneighbors.org

Summer 2011

THE WORLD'S MOST ELEGANT BLOCK PARTY - EOA 2011

The **Gold Coast Neighbors Association** is proud to announce the **29th Evening on Astor**, to be held on **Wednesday, September 7th** from **5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** on Astor Street between Goethe and Banks. Please note that there will be no rain date. EOA Chairperson Jacqueline Chesler, Co-chairs Michele Frame Miller and Jane Lenkman, and the rest of the event committee promise you a terrific evening worthy of the title: **"The World's Most Elegant Block Party."**

A Gold Coast Neighbors Favorite

Join us to be a part of this annual block party, hosted by **GCN** since 1983, which brings nearly one thousand people together for an evening of fun on Astor Street. This event is a fundraiser for the **GCN** and it is a great way to meet your neighbors. **RE/MAX Premier Properties** has graciously pledged to be our corporate sponsor this year.

Admission

Free of charge. For everyone's safety, please remember that dogs and skateboards are not permitted.

Tables

Tables may be reserved in advance by contacting **Michelle Dietzler** at **(312) 656-6997** or at **dietzler@me.com**. Availability is limited and we usually sell out, so **please reserve promptly to avoid disappointment**. The deadline for table reservations is Friday August 26th. Tables come furnished with a vinyl cover, but we encourage you to be creative and design your own special, festive tablescape. New this year: Table Awards (Most Elegant, Most Original, Most Beautiful Food, Most Neighborly). Tables come in two sizes: 36" diameter round tables that seat 4 people, and 8' x 30" rectangular tables that seat 8 people.



Table prices: Round 4-tops are \$125 for members, \$175 for non-members. Rectangular 8-tops are \$250 for members, \$300 for non-members. Sorry, we're unable to provide refunds on reservations cancelled less than one week prior to the event.

Entertainment

Once again this year we're pleased to have the fabulous **Michael Lerich Orchestra** for your listening and dancing pleasure. A variety of children's activities will be available from 5:30 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. The **Elysian Hotel** is donating pedi-cab rides in the neighborhood for children and two chair massage stations for on-the-spot relief.

Raffle

We'll be raffling off an incredible two-night weekend package generously provided by the **Elysian Hotel**. The package, which retails for \$2,190.00, includes a premier Gold Coast Suite, daily breakfast for two, and two spa treatments. Raffle tickets (\$50 each) may be purchased in advance by phoning the **GCN office** at **(312) 332-6122**. Tickets will also be available for purchase the night of the event.

Food and Drinks

Pizza will be available from **Edwardo's**. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be offered by the **Division Street Merchants Association**. Choose from pastries and chocolates created by the **Elysian Hotel**. And it wouldn't be Evening on Astor without hotdogs from our good friends at **Mario's Gold Coast Ristorante**.

The 2011 Evening on Astor is proudly sponsored by:

RE/MAX
Premier Properties

PRESIDENT

Tom Thilman

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Vern Broders

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Herman

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Ryan

SECRETARY

Jacqueline Chesler

TREASURER

Dorothy Bossung

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Michael Perlstein

ASSISTANT TREASURER

John Gable

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Ketchum*

OTHER DIRECTORS

Sheila Clarke

Dan Collins

Susan Downing

Tim Egan

Jess Forrest

John Gable

Audrey Gallery

Kimberly Gleeson

Joe Gromacki

Julie Hess

Gerry Himmel

Jim Kinoshita

Jane Lenkman

Gay Leffel

Michelle McCarthy

Michele Frame Miller

Maureen O'Brien*

Pat Paul

Mary Clare Starshak*

Mario Stefanini

Gabrielle Weisberg

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Dianne Zaubi

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Russ Iacono

Karen Kammer

Rosie O'Neill

Bill Staples*

Jack Telander

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Klein

GCN Membership Committee Report

"Great Neighborhoods Just Don't Happen"...

The **GCN Membership Committee** is happy to report that members continue to join and renew at a steady pace. However, the Committee believes that **GCN** could be doing much better so it decided to go back to basics by taking a look at the recently approved mission statement. To refresh your memory, the **GCN** mission is to:

"Build a sense of community and enhance our quality of life by:

- *Advocating on behalf of our members*
- *Serving as a forum for community issues and historical education*
- *Fostering friendship among our neighbors and promoting safety, preservation and beautification"*

Here are some thoughts on that subject from **Committee Chair John Gable**:

- **GCN** gets lots of gold stars for fostering friendship. **GCN** hosts some of the best parties on the planet. The Spring Event is a wonderful party in a unique location. The Evening on Astor is one of the most elegant and enjoyable block parties imaginable.
- **GCN** is truly a great forum for community issues and historical education. This newsletter and the **GCN** website are two of the tools we use, but we believe we can do better. Perhaps you have an idea on how we can do better in this arena, so please send us an e-mail at info@goldcoastneighbors.org to find out who you might be able to work with to improve our communications.
- **GCN** advocates on behalf of our members regarding issues such as safety and zoning.

While that last bullet point covers two key areas, **GCN** is also committed to the beautification of the neighborhood it serves. **GCN** has done some wonderful work in the past with its improvements and upkeep of **Goudy Park** and the mail box planters. To continue these efforts, **GCN** has a committee dedicated to beautification. Do you have some ideas? Do you have a green thumb? You would be very welcome on the **GCN Beautification Committee**. Send us an e-mail at info@goldcoastneighbors.org and we will get you connected to the right people.

There are many opportunities available for you to participate with **GCN** and contribute to the improvement of our neighborhood. Please send us an e-mail at info@goldcoastneighbors.org and we help you find your niche.

GCN hopes you'll get involved.

GCN's Annual Beautification Awards

The **GCN Community Beautification Committee** would like to report that the annual beautification awards will be announced in September. Please submit your suggestions for recipients to Kim Klein at info@goldcoastneighbors.org no later than Wednesday, August 31, for consideration. The awards are given to residential and commercial properties that have exhibited and maintained an extraordinary floral display throughout the summer months.

Gold Coast Neighbors Association

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Suite 625
Chicago, IL 60611

☎ 312-332-6122
✉ info@goldcoastneighbors.org
🌐 www.goldcoastneighbors.org

Other Key Contacts

Alderman Michele Smith
735 W Wrightwood Ave
Chicago, IL 60614

☎ 773-348-9500
✉ yourvoice@ward43.org
🌐 www.ward43.org

Alderman Brendan Reilly
325 W Huron St, Suite 510
Chicago, IL 60654

☎ 312-642-4242
✉ office@ward42chicago.com
🌐 www.ward42chicago.com

GCN Members Can Add Their 2 Cents

Mayor Emanuel announced the launch of a new interactive website where people across Chicago can engage in the budget process by submitting ideas and discussing solutions. This is a great opportunity for you to make your voices heard by posting your ideas, commenting on suggestions, and voting for your preferences. This website is another way Mayor Emanuel hopes to engage not only residents and taxpayers but city employees as well in a conversation about the future of our city.

Please visit:

www.chicagobudget.org

CAPS #1824

GCN encourages members and neighborhood residents who have concerns regarding crime and safety to attend the CAPS #1824 Beat meetings.



The most recent meeting was held on Tuesday, July 12 and reported that from the period of 5.12 to 7.12, the GCN Beat received 4,175 311/911 calls, which was 50 more calls during the previous time frame last year. The next CAPS meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 7:00 p.m.** at the Ambassador East, 1301 N. State Parkway.

Welcome to the Gold Coast Neighborhood

As good neighbors, GCN would like to welcome a new business that we can all enjoy, Lou Malnati's Pizzeria located at 1120 N. State Street. The former Anthropologie building will seat 366 patrons, who undoubtedly will treat themselves to Malnati's famous deep dish pizza.

Phone:

312.725.7777

Website:

www.loumalnatis.com



Wooden Alley Update

A long time project that GCN has dedicated itself to is moving forward. GCN has received word that there will be an article published soon by **SKYLINE newspaper's Felicia Dechter** regarding the next phase of the wooden alley renovation. Keep an eye out for the ribbon cutting behind the Cardinal's Mansion, which will be featured in Dechter's "Heart of the 'hood" column.

GCN, past GCN President **Maureen O'Brien** and former 43rd Ward Alderman **Vi Daley** have led the charge on this preservation project.

MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE PRINT

If you are a new member, choose either a \$20 ChicagoLimosineService.com certificate toward your \$65 airport ride or a \$10 Mario's Ristorante gift certificate, 30% off room rates at Hotel Indigo or At Your Service Dry Cleaning, or 25% off at Spa at the Gold Coast. 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) • 216 W. Jackson Blvd. #625 • Chicago, Illinois 60606

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ (month) _____ (year)

Signature: _____

Select a certificate from above:

Membership Categories:

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

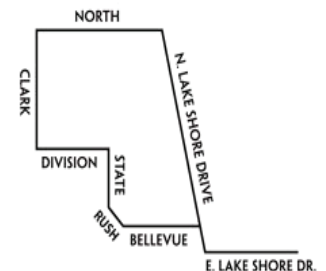
Annual Dues: \$ _____

All categories are \$50 per year

(New option: 3-year renewal for \$120)

General Fund: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____



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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Goudy Parkways | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Ghoully Halloween | <input type="checkbox"/> Police & Streets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws | <input type="checkbox"/> History/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication/PR | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening on Astor | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 312.332.6122. Please share your comments & suggestions _____

A Message From The GCN President

Dear Gold Coast Neighbors,

Finally, our summer is in full swing and our lawns and gardens are beautifully lush. And what a pleasure it has been to reconnect with neighbors and vendors at our weekly farmers market.

Early this season the neighborhood was facing serious issues with crime and safety in the area. Alderman Reilly hosted a community meeting with Ken Angarone, Commander of the 18th District and Deputy Chief of Police, Matt Tobias. Alderman Michele Smith, the Gold Coast Neighbors and other business group representatives were on hand to express their concern and show their support regarding these matters. Although we continue to see some incidents of crime and misbehavior, our Chicago Police Department has been effective in responding with a strong show of force along with some very innovative strategies to combat these activities.

While the mayor's office and the police have committed to provide continuing support, this certainly remains an ongoing concern and all of us must remain vigilant. Please remember to call **911** if you have **any** feeling of discomfort about a situation.

There is a recent uptick in neighborhood development activity and many of you may have heard about some of the planned projects. Our zoning committee has been closely monitoring these matters and we are working

closely with both aldermen to insure that all neighborhood concerns are considered.

This gives me the perfect opportunity to introduce our new website. While you may not notice significant visual changes, the functionality of the site has been dramatically improved. We invite you to browse: www.goldcoastneighbors.org to catch up on the latest happenings and interact with us on membership and activities issues.

Please mark September 7th on your calendar and join us for our annual **Evening on Astor**. The Evening on Astor committee turns an ordinary block party into an elegant evening! The setting is beautiful, the food is delicious, and this year the committee has added a "Kids Corner." You are sure to see many of your friends and neighbors.



We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of Chicago and while the economy continues to concern many of us, I think the opportunity to enjoy friends and neighbors becomes increasingly important. I look forward to meeting you and sharing in the upcoming activities.

Respectfully,
Tom Thilman

GCN Supports the CHICAGO Plan: Citizens Helping Identify Criminal And Gang Offenses

The **CHICAGO Plan** is a Chicago Police Department initiative that works with the community to attack crime and gang offenses and to help make Chicago a safer city.

The **CHICAGO Plan** asks the owners of businesses and privately owned properties who operate closed circuit security cameras to register those systems with the Chicago Police Department. As the CPD responds to criminal incidents in the Gold Coast neighborhood, they can utilize detailed information or even footage from the cameras to assist with the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.



"Get Involved"

GCN encourages our neighborhood businesses and properties to get involved. To help police investigate and solve crimes, simply register your security camera system with the CHICAGO Plan by visiting the CPD's **Clearpath** webpage at www.chicagopolice.org.

To register, you will need to provide the name and address of your location, contact details for the owner and operator of the security camera system and details regarding the system, such as; type of camera, number of cameras, areas covered by the camera(s), and recording and retention capabilities.

More information on the GCN website: www.goldcoastneighbors.org