

Gold Coast Neighbors Association



www.goldcoastneighbors.org

SPRING 2013

Spring Splendor ~ May 22

Come celebrate Spring in Gold Coast Neighbors fashion by attending the annual Spring Event, "Spring Splendor". The event will take place on Wednesday, May 22 at the Racquet Club of Chicago 1365 North Dearborn from 6:00-9:00pm. There will be cocktails, appetizers, entertainment and a live auction. A pre-event tour of the historic Charnley-Persky House (1365 N. Astor) will start at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. Please visit the GCN website or call the office to purchase tickets for the event.



Chicago Ward Changes

The new Chicago ward boundaries are now effective for all services. The Gold Coast Neighborhood now incorporates three different wards. If your ward has changed, please rely upon your new aldermen for all constituent service requests. Refer to your voter registration card that was mailed out last fall for your new ward number.

Ward 43
Alderman Michele Smith
2523 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60614
☎ 773-348-9500
✉ yourvoice@ward43.org

Ward 2
Alderman Bob Fioretti
121 N. LaSalle Room 300
Chicago, IL 60602
☎ 312.744.6836
✉ ward02@cityofchicago.org

Ward 42
Alderman Brendan Reilly
325 W Huron St, Suite 510
Chicago, IL 60654
☎ 312-642-4242
✉ office@ward42chicago.com

A Message from Your GCN President

Guiding our Growth

A recent media report noted that Chicago's population increased by nearly 50,000 people within two miles of City Hall from 2000 to 2010, an increase of 36.2%. This area is adding residents faster than any other urban core in America, according to US Census Bureau.

We certainly have all noticed the pace of this change in and around our neighborhood in the last 10 years. And with the economy now beginning to show signs of recovery, we can expect the pressure for development in the Gold Coast will only grow stronger.

The Gold Coast neighborhood is a special place, having been saved from total redevelopment in the second half of the 20th Century by a few far-sighted individuals who are precursors to our Gold Coast Neighbors Association. In their moment, they marshaled their collective energy, working with city leaders and in the courts, to end the indiscriminate destruction of historic homes in the Gold Coast. As a result, we now have a livable and special neighborhood that mixes stately homes and buildings with a sprinkling of high rises without oppressive density.

But the gracious nature of the Gold Coast is not forever guaranteed; it likely will be more frequently challenged in the coming years by well-meaning residents and opportunistic outside developers alike. Just west of

Continued on next page

PRESIDENT

Vern Broders

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Dorothy Bossung

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Herman

VICE PRESIDENT

Chris Ryan

SECRETARY

Michael Perlstein

TREASURER

Jane Lenkman

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Tim Egan

ASSISTANT TREASURER

John Gable

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Tom Thillman*

DIRECTORS

Michael Bocco

Sheila Clarke

Dan Collins

Janice Corley

Susan Downing

Audrey Gallery

Sandi Gaskin

Kimberly Gleeson

Joe Gromacki

Gerry Himmel

Bill Ketchum*

Jim Kinoshita

Gay Leffel

Bobby McGuire

Maureen O'Brien*

Pat Paul

Mary Clare Starshak*

Mario Stefanini

Gabrielle Weisberg

Sis Whennen

Peggy White

Abby Zanmarini*

Dianne Zaubi

* Past President

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Russ Iacono

Karen Kammer

Rosie O'Neill

Bill Staples* (in memoriam)

Jack Telander (in memoriam)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim Klein

GCNA Office

216 W. Jackson Blvd. #625

Chicago, IL 60611

☎ 312-332-6122

✉ info@goldcoastneighbors.org

🌐 www.goldcoastneighbors.org*President's Message, Continued*

our neighborhood, construction is now underway on a new Target shopping mall, and other new developments have been announced that will bring yet more residents, more traffic and thus likely even more construction to our vicinity.

One of the key missions of Gold Coast Neighbors Association is to carry the torch for the resident's point of view in zoning matters. We believe all projects should be subject to an advance public review process, including an opportunity to express our opinions to the developers and to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

We work hard to keep an open communication channel with developers, city leaders and our members to thoroughly examine all proposals before they are given city approval to proceed. We raise our voices loud and long if the project is clearly out of character for our neighborhood, but we recognize and applaud the positive aspects of these developments, particularly when replacing a previously substandard building or when adding to the amenities we appreciate.

We rely on our board and committed members of GCNA to maintain this vigilance over zoning. If you are interested in being a part of this process, I encourage you to contact me so you can be included in our oversight process. Together we can ensure the Gold Coast neighborhood grows responsibly in the face of developer pressures while protecting our neighborhood's special quality of life and living.

With Warm Regards,

Vern Broders

President, Gold Coast Neighbors Association

vernbroders@hotmail.com

Zoning

The North Dearborn Association has just informed us of a proposal to renovate the historic 3Arts Club Building located at Schiller & Dearborn. The Historic Building has been shuttered for some time and the Ownership is planning to fully restore and renovate the property in conformance with the City of Chicago Landmark Commission and is proposing to lease the interior space as a retail furniture and art gallery which will require a zoning change. This property is currently non-conforming with the existing zoning as it is currently zoned for residential use. We plan to meet with the owner of the building to learn more about their plans.

The GCN Zoning Committee continues to monitor new neighborhood developments and businesses which require certain zoning changes/approval. The plans for the new Jewel redevelopment to include a residential high rise at Clark & Division were presented to the Board by the Fifield-Jewel team at the January Board Meeting. The developers are continuing to work on refining the plans before moving ahead with the City and we will keep everyone informed of the process.

With Sympathy

We recently lost two great friends of the Gold Coast.

Robert J. Dowey (1948-2013) was a great friend of many Gold Coast Neighbors and loved the Gold Coast. He was a veteran photographer of our neighborhood and had recently been the photographer at the 2012 Evening on Astor and Spring Event in years past. He was the official photographer of the Chicago International Film Festival and his work was featured in many local publications. He also was the photographer for

the book, *Images of America - Chicago's Gold Coast*. Bob was a gracious and caring individual, who will be missed by many.

Mary Davis O'Brien (1922-2013) was the dearly beloved wife of the late Daniel P. O'Brien, Sr., and was born and raised in Pawtucket, RI. After marrying Dan, she traveled to Chicago to live with her husband for 68 years and together they raised six children. Mary and Dan brought us a neighborhood favorite, O'Briens Restaurant, in Old Town.

Safety Committee

Simple Tips from the Safety Committee:

1. Don't walk and talk while on your cell phone.
2. Don't wear ear plugs while walking home.
3. When parking your car in your garage, back into the space.
4. Be aware of your surroundings, if you notice some unusual activity don't be afraid to report it to 911.
5. Get to know your neighbors, be friendly, speak and ask questions about what's happening on your block.
6. If you are out late at restaurants/bars take a taxi home.
7. Don't take a short cut through an alleyway.
8. Engage your doorman.
9. Never open your door without confirmation of who is on the other side.
10. Refer your friends to joining the Gold Coast Neighbors Association as members.

Since the inception of the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), the partnership between the Department and the community has proved overwhelmingly positive as we share responsibility to keep our neighborhoods safe. Attend the next Sector Beat 20 CAPS Meeting, which occurs on the 2nd Tuesday every odd month (May, July, etc.) at 7:00p.m., First St Paul's Lutheran Church, 1301 N LaSalle Street. Any changes will be noted on the 18th District Events Calendar at www.chicagopolice.org.

Access the Chicago Police Department's CLEARpath site which offers the community a means to share important information, find the latest news, programs and community oriented services that the Department offers. Access only the CLEARpath site at: <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath>.

Finally, if you are interested in joining the Gold Coast Neighbors Safety Committee, please contact Janice Corley at 773-230-8700 or Maureen O'Brien at 312-961-1515. Or email janicecorley@remax.net or maureenobrien@remax.net, respectively.

Beautification Committee

Spring Gardening Tips – To Do List

Spring is the time for preparations for a beautiful summer garden and yard. Here is a helpful list of tips and chores that should be done in the spring.

1. Pruning – remove dead, damaged, and diseased branches from woody plants. Prune early blooming shrubs such as forsythia and viburnum as soon as blooms have passed. Thin and trim summer blooming shrubs such as hydrangea and most roses.
2. Prepare your tools by making any necessary repairs or replacements.
3. Choose and order new plants.
4. Remove spent flowers from bulbs and pull weeds from your beds and borders. Now is a good time to fertilize and mulch. Clear away heavy winter mulch. Spread high-acid fertilizer and pine-needle mulch around acid-loving shrubs like azaleas and camellias.
5. Tend to your compost pile or start a new one.

Whether you start these chores in early, mid, or late spring depends on our climate and factors such as when the threat of frost has past or when the ground is thawed enough to dig.

Membership

We are sending out letters to all the new residents of the Gold Coast and to all Real Estate agents to involve them in helping include their clients as members. We ask you to have your friends and family visit www.goldcoastneighbors.com and get involved in our neighborhood. Your neighbors will receive a letter from Janice Corley and Sandi Gaskin providing information on joining Gold Coast Neighbors Association.

Please email Janice janicecorley@remax.net or Sandi sgaskin31@gmail.com if you would like to refer any of your neighbors.

Gold Coast News Nuggets



Save the Date for the **31st Annual Evening on Astor** on Wednesday September 11, 2013. Come celebrate our neighborhood together on Patriot's Day.

Goudy Square Park Renovation...

Goudy Park will be closed for a few months this year for the renovation. If you would like more information on this project, which is being facilitated through the Friends of the Parks organization, please contact Stephanie Harris via email at stephanieharris77@gmail.com.

Watch for Exciting New Stores in the Neighborhood....

Plum Market will open on June 13th at 1225 N Wells Street. Plum Market will offer the area a full-service grocery shopping experience with the convenience of a neighborhood market, appealing to a wide range of consumers including the health-conscious and inspired foodies looking for natural, organic, local and specialty products.

Da Lobsta opened its doors at 12 East Cedar Street.

Yogurtland will be located at 1 West Division Street. The grand opening is set for April 6th.

Oak Street Tailors has relocated to 1159 North State Street.

Mario's Ristorante has changed it's name to **Mario's Table!** There are many exciting changes to the menu and décor. Located at 21 West Goethe. Their slogan: "Where good friends gather", says it all.

MEMBERSHIP FORM – PLEASE PRINT

All dues paying members receive coupons to local businesses. 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: _____

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

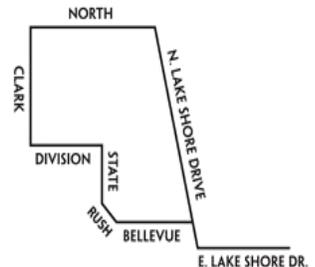
Annual Dues: \$ _____

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"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Ghoully Halloween | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <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 _____