



A quarterly community newsletter for the Chicago neighborhood of Galewood

Calendar of Events

- March 10** Galewood Residents Organization Meeting
at 7 pm
Galewood Community Church
- April 5** 36th Ward Alderman Run-off Election
6 am – 7 pm
- April 9** Chicago Historic Bungalow/
Green Home Expo
10 am – 4 pm
Merchandise Mart
- April 16** Earth Day Clean-up
Rutherford Sayre Park
9:30 am – 12 pm

Welcome Spring! After the heavy snowfalls of February we look forward to the green grass and spring flowers that are just around the corner. As winter slowly fades away take the time to get out of the house, reacquaint yourself with your neighbors and enjoy Galewood. Take part in a community meeting, join the Earth Day clean-up, and vote on April 5th.



36th Ward Alderman Run-off Election John Rice vs. Nicholas Sposato

On February 22nd there were six candidates on the ballot for 36th Ward Alderman and now it's down to two. Alderman John Rice and Nicholas Sposato are in a run-off election to be decided on April 5th. The Galewood Gazette asked both candidates to reflect on the election and their proposed strategy for their upcoming campaign. Read their reflections on the February 22nd election on pages 10 and 11.

36th Ward Aldermanic Election Results

Total Votes Cast: 14,020

John A. Rice	48.1%
Nicholas Sposato	23.97%
Jodi Biancalana	14.09%
Brian Murphy	4.69%
Thomas J. Motzny	4.64%
Bruce Randazzo	4.51%



Alderman John A. Rice



Nicholas Sposato

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Galewood Residents Organization (GRO)

The Galewood Residents Organization is excited that we have been meeting monthly for over two years! We meet on the second Thursday at the Galewood Community Church, 1776 Narragansett, at 7 pm. Our goal is to help neighbors get to know each other and talk about the community. We organized some great activities this past winter, and we plan on being just as motivated this spring.

The topic of our March meeting is the Galewood-Montclare Community Library. We plan to share and brainstorm ideas that will help move this endeavor in a positive direction. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10.

Another event, planned for Earth Day on April 16, at Rutherford Sayre Park, is a plant and seedling exchange. We will be collaborating with the Garden Club Galewood Montclare on this event. Bring your plant divisions and/or the extra seedlings you have started to the Garden Club's garden in the park between 9:30 and 11 am. You will receive a ticket for each plant you bring. Exchange your ticket at the designated time for a plant you've always wanted. Pick up will begin at noon and last until 1pm. You can also bring gardening tools and pitch-in with the Earth Day clean-up while you wait.

36th Ward Aldermanic Forum



photo courtesy of galewood.net

On February 17, 2011 the 36th ward held an Aldermanic Forum at the West Belmont Branch Library. In attendance were four of the seven candidates for Alderman - Thomas Motzny, Jodi Biancalana, Brian Murphy and write-in candidate Brian Matos. Galewood community member sTom Drebenstedt introduced the candidates and Jeanine Tobin served as moderator. The candidates spoke to a packed crowd of Galewood and 36th ward residents.

Thank you to those who attended the forum and to the candidates. The forum was sponsored by the Galewood Residents Organization, Garden Club Galewood Montclare, Moms in Action, and the Galewood Gazette.

Rutherford Sayre Park

Congratulations! Sayre Park has received a \$1,000 grant from the Friends of the Park to create a large mosaic tile mural to cover the walls of the pedestrian underpass at Sayre Park. The designs and tile work will be done by children in the neighborhood working with a teen group under the direction of the Rutherford Sayre Park Art Instructor Carol Tarnoff.

The field house is getting spruced up! Renovations include exterior and interior paint, refurbishing the weight room, refinishing of the gym floors, and tuckpointing. Stop in and sign up for a class this spring. Classes start March 28th.

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Garden Club Galewood Montclare

By: Tom Drebenstedt

As the photograph tells us, Galewood Gardeners are thinking about the last of the winter snows melting off the tools. It's almost time to start digging in the dirt.

The Garden Club took a break from our monthly meetings during the coldest season, just socializing and planning for a very busy new year. The web site will soon be undergoing some needed remodeling, so we encourage you to sign up for our e-mails to stay current.

Our February meeting showcased our neighbor Lois Collins, MD. She presented "Helpful Plants", a look at herbs, flowers, and houseplants that provide natural means to enhance our food, health and indoor environment. We held this meeting at the Oak Park Conservatory and were treated to a private facility tour by another one of our neighbors, Suzette Gacek. See what you missed?

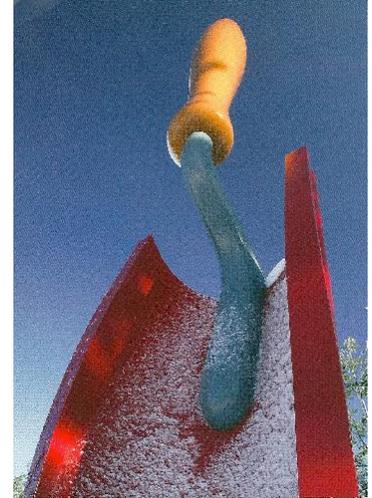
Outside of our neighborhood, some of us attended a fantastic lecture about Chicago Victory Gardens, Yesterday and Tomorrow. Go to www.petersonsgarden.org to learn about the public garden movement, sprouting up in neighborhoods citywide.

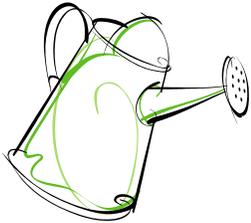
In March we'll present "Through a Gardener's Lens", a show and tell about sites worldwide that have caught our attention. Earth Day at Rutherford Sayre Park occurs in April, while May brings us a session on "Container Gardening".

The 2011 Garden Walk is going to be better than ever, happening in July. Please contact us if you know of a garden that may be worth a visit.

Watch our web site www.GMCgardenclub.org and plan on joining us for an event or two or three. Do you have a topic you'd like to see covered at a meeting? Just ask and we'll get to work on it. You can sign up there for e-mails or call Tom at 773-637-4416 for that personal touch.

The History Column will return next issue if the writer can escape from the archives!





Labors of Gardening Love: Joe Capobianco

By: Maureen Connell

Joe Capobianco willingly subjects himself to heat, wind and back pain for the sake of beautifying the Galewood and Mont Clare neighborhoods. "It's a labor of love," he said about his work on the gardens in the area.

Joe was born into gardening. Raised in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood on Taylor Street, Joe learned the art of gardening from a young age as he was put to the tasks of watering and pulling weeds in his family's garden. He explained that as a young boy he enjoyed watching things grow.

Joe moved to Galewood in 1977 and the area is more eye-catching for it. After becoming the president of his building's condo association and personally revamping the building's landscaping in the early 1980s, Joe's reputation as a hardworking, neighborhood gardener began. Since then he's adopted numerous corner gardens and the traffic circle at the intersection of Sayre and Wabansia, planting and maintaining them each year. Additionally, he's been tending the garden at the Mont Clare Metra station since 1998. As if that's not enough, Joe also works with the Garden Club Galewood Montclare to take care of the gardens at Rutherford Sayre Park.

Joe's an award winner. He's been honored twice with second place in Mayor Daley's Landscape Contest, once for his garden at the Metra station and once for his garden at the corner of Newland and Palmer. Joe was also deemed a 2003 Man of the Year by the Mont Clare/Elmwood Park Chamber of Commerce. It's good to know that his work doesn't go unnoticed.

If you happen to see a friendly-looking gentleman hard at work in a neighborhood garden this spring, summer or fall, introduce yourself; chances are its Joe Capobianco. You can enjoy a nice chat and thank him for making his plant- and flower-filled marks on our neighborhood. I'm sure he wouldn't mind if you offered to lend a hand, either.

Earth Day Clean-up at Rutherford Sayre Park

On April 16 from 9:30 am – 12 pm join the Sayre Park Advisory Council, GRO and the Garden Club Galewood Montclare in an Earth Day clean-up of Rutherford Sayre Park. Community members of all ages are invited. Help pick up trash, plant flowers, spread mulch and clean-up the community garden. GRO will also host a plant and seedling exchange.



Chicago Climate Action Plan

Take the \$800 savings challenge! You can make a difference in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money too. The savings challenge is part of the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP) - the City's blueprint to a more sustainable future. The CCAP is a roadmap of five strategies with detailed actions that will reduce Chicago's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Each of us has a critical role to play and we can make a significant impact. For more information visit www.chicagoclimateaction.org.

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Sayre Language Academy

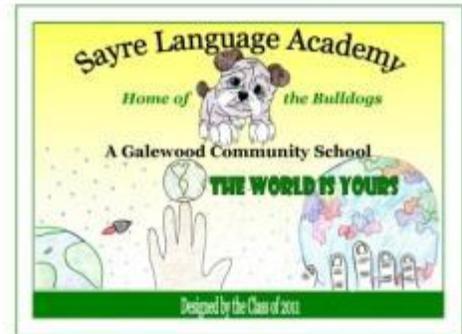
1850 N Newland Ave, Chicago 773- 534-3351

School website: www.sayre.cps.k12.il.us

Principal Ustabecir e-mail: sustabecir@cps.k12.il.us

Assistant Principal Dr. Aitken e-mail: maaitken@cps.k12.il.us

We have had a great start to the second half of the school year with 107 students on the honor roll, 47 on the principal honor roll, and 165 with perfect attendance. Students are taking part in our afterschool programs in music, math, chess, and reading, and our girls and boys basketball teams are successfully finishing up their winter season.



School banner designed by the 8th grade graduating class.

On April 19th, we are welcoming volunteers from Chicago Cares. The program participants will help us paint wall murals, organize our science lab, and build bookshelves. Thank you Chicago Cares! We would also like to thank the Lowe's ToolBox for Education Grant program for awarding Sayre a \$4,000 grant to renovate the existing greenhouse and to build a new school garden. The garden and greenhouse will provide an excellent horticultural learning center for Sayre students. We are looking forward to our Sayre Silent Auction Gala on March 19th at Elmcrest Banquets. We invite Sayre families and community members to join us at the Gala. Come have a fabulous time and support one of Galewood's neighborhood schools. For more information on the Gala visit www.sayreffo.org.

Galewood-Montclare Branch Library Update



Good News! The Galewood-Montclare Branch Library will soon have a new home at 7153 W Grand Ave. According to Alderman John Rice the proposed Library space will be 6,000 square feet - twice the size of the previous library. It will also contain a community room, children's section, reading area, and computers.

Library Commissioner Dempsey confirmed that the lease for the space is currently in negotiations and after the terms are finalized, the lease will be submitted to City Council for approval. Presently, the branch library is housed at Rutherford Sayre Park, 6871 W Belden Ave.

Chicago Public Library Story time in the Park!

3 to 5 year-olds are welcome to join us for winter stories, finger plays, and fun!
Tuesdays February 8 – March 15, 2011
11 – 11:30 am
Galewood-Mont Clare Branch
6871 W Belden Ave

Sayre & Bell Park Youth Baseball Spring Registration

Each Saturday until league is full
9 am – 12:30 pm
at Rutherford Sayre Park
6871 W Belden Ave



<http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=sbyba>

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Reminiscing about Galewood & Mont Clare (Part 2 of 2)

By Mark Farina

A few years ago I started to jog my memory and asked other longtime residents about businesses that used to be in the community. So here is a trip back in time from a 42 year resident of Galewood. Part 1 of Reminiscing about Galewood & Mont Clare was part of the Winter 2010-2011 Galewood Gazette.

Do you remember the Electric Trolley Busses that ran throughout the city and locally on North Avenue from Narragansett all the way to Lincoln Park and on Fullerton? The bus driver would periodically have to get out and re-attach the large arms on the back to the electric overhead wires.

On Grand Avenue just east of Harlem was the Sabbath's Department Store, with its creaking wooden floors. Down the block where the Auto parts store is today, was the Mont Clare Theatre and The Atlantic Restaurant and Pub.

While the Mont Clare was not as successful as the Mercury Theatre, it still showed some good movies and was the home of the Christmas shows with Santa held for the neighborhood children. The Atlantic was a delightful British-Irish Pub, which served good food and had great live entertainment.

Across from the Galewood Funeral Chapels, where the excellent Maria's Mexican Restaurant now stands, was a favorite neighborhood hangout, Shakee's Pizza Parlor.

Many an hour was spent munching on their pizzas and drinking pitchers of cold soda, (and if you were of age), pitchers of beer. They also had a large picture window where you could watch them make the pizzas. Most notably they would show vintage Black & White comedy shorts on a projection screen, (Laurel & Hardy, The Three Stooges, Our Gang).

(Story continued on page 7)



The Atlantic Restaurant and Pub on Grand Ave in 1973.

The Mont Clare Theatre is on the far right.

Photo courtesy of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society and Elmwood Park Library.



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Reminiscing about Galewood & Mont Clare (Part 2 of 2)

(story continued from page 6)

How about some bowling? The Gateway Bowling Alley was on North Avenue and Nagle, where (what else) the strip mall now stands. This is where many learned the sport of bowling, shot pool and spent what seemed like hours on those arcade and early video games (Pac Man, Space Invaders, etc.). Down the block was the Black Steer Restaurant which later became Tuddi Toots bar and restaurant.

Recently Tankel Pharmacy closed its doors on North Ave between Newland and New England. For many neighborhood teenagers, Tankel's was our first job. Wilbur, the owner, was also one of the great people of the neighborhood. Remember the soda pop machine, which dispensed glass bottles of ice-cold Coke, and had the bottle opener on the front?

For many years Hoagie's Pub on North Avenue and Sayre was a delightful neighborhood bar and restaurant. They had a wood burning fireplace and an unlimited supply of peanuts in the shell, and popcorn. One of the quaint features was the discarded peanut shells on the floor. The Pub was owned by the notorious Spilotro Brothers made famous in the Martin Scorsese film "Casino" starring Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci.

At one time there were at least seven auto dealerships along North Avenue, Harlem & Grand. Recently McGrath Honda-Hyundai bought the former Jacobs Twin, which was for most of its time simply a Buick dealership. Across the street where Pep Boys is today was Mont Clare Pontiac, originally Bianchi Pontiac. North- Oak Chrysler was torn down on North Avenue to be replaced by another Strip Mall with the Dry Cleaners and the Chase Bank branch. On Bloomingdale and Harlem, we had both a Volkswagen dealership, where Burger King and the strip mall now stand, and until recently a Ford dealership stood where the CVS Pharmacy and strip mall stands. Also in recent years, Staples Office Supplies and the Snappy Car Wash-Citgo Gas Station was the site of Horwaths Restaurant and a used car lot. A National Food Store and later Osco Drug store stood where Fifth-Third Bank operates in its new facility.

Famous Galewood residents include former Illinois Governor James Thompson, Comic Actor Bill Daly (the fellow astronaut of Larry Hagman in "I Dream of Jeannie" and the bachelor airline pilot neighbor on the "Bob Newhart Show"), Leo Graziano (drummer for the "American Breed" and their pop hit "Bend Me Shape Me,") and Danny Seraphine the original and long-time drummer for the legendary rock band "Chicago," and of course Playboy creator-Hugh Hefner. Our current Illinois Governor, Pat Quinn has been a resident of Galewood for over twenty years and was an original Local School Council member at Sayre Language Academy.

While it is a bit sad to have seen many neighborhood institutions disappear, it is also exciting to see some of the new additions to the neighborhood. Hopefully you will develop fond memories of all that is offered in our neighborhood.

If you have old photos or memories you would like to share about the Galewood neighborhood please contact us at galewoodgazette@att.net.

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The Galewood Gazette

Spring
2011

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The Galewood Community Online

Galewood Community (community news and host of past and present issues of the Galewood Gazette)
website: www.galewood.net



Garden Club Galewood Montclare
website: www.gmcgardenclub.org

Galewood Residents Organization (GRO)
Subscribe to their online discussion board by e-mailing a request to: GalewoodCommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Galewood Montclare Community Organization (GMCO)
E-mail gmco@comcast.net or subscribe to discussion board: galewoodmontclareforum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MomsinAction (a group for stay at home and working moms in the community)
Subscribe to their online discussion board by e-mailing a request to: momsinaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Galewood Facebook Page
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/galewoodneighborhood>

Chicago Historic Bungalow and Green Home Expo

Saturday April 9, 2011
10 am – 4 pm
at the Merchandise Mart

“The Expo offers advice and resources for bungalow owners and other Chicago homeowners and homebuyers. With more than 140 home restoration and energy-efficiency experts, tradespeople, companies and organizations, there's something for everyone.” Stop by Chicago Architecture Foundation's table where we'll promote Galewood. For more information visit www.chicagobungalow.org/.

Additional Police in the Ward

Alderman John Rice, 36th Ward, announced that twenty-nine (29) additional police officers will be coming to the Ward's 25th Police District. The new officers are arriving as part of a two-stage deployment: seventeen (17) new officers began their new assignments in January, 2011, with an additional twelve (12) officers arriving in February, 2011. The 25th Police District encompasses the southern half of the 36th Ward; the portion south of Belmont Avenue. For more information visit www.aldermanrice36ward.com.

CAPS Schedule

Be active in our community and attend a meeting. For CAPS information call 312-746-5090 or e-mail 025caps@chicagopolice.org.

BEAT 2513

Armitage to North Ave
4th Tues. of **every other odd** month
Amundsen Park
6200 W Bloomingdale Ave at 6:30pm

Spring Meeting Dates:
March 22, May 24

BEAT 2512

Diversey to Armitage
1st Wed. of **every other even** month
Shriners Hospital for Children
2211 N Oak Park Ave at 7pm

Spring Meeting Dates:
April 6, June 1

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North Avenue Business Association

by: Wendy Tannenbaum

NABA's Food Drive a Success!

The North Avenue Business Association's 2010 Food Drive donations went beyond expectations. NABA's annual food drive took place November 9-December 10. Five area businesses along North Avenue (ABC Bank, Al-Mart Bedding & Furniture, Charter One Bank, FirstMerit Bank and US Bank) participated, as donation drop-off points. Galewood-Montclare Library Branch and Sayre Language Academy participated as community donation drop-off points.

Thank you to everyone for their participation and for their generous donations. Businesses, neighbors and students and teachers from Sayre School really took the spirit of the food drive and holiday season to heart. Donations from Sayre School included food and toiletry items, books and school supplies. Area dentists donated cases of toothpaste and toothbrushes. NABA member, neighborhood Granny's Corner Child Care donated food, toiletries and winter coats. These are just a few of the many stories of generosity.

The donated items collected were divided between two area food pantries, Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry at 848 Lake Street in Oak Park and St. Cyprian's Food Pantry, at 6535 W Irving Park Road in Chicago. St. Cyprian's donation drop-off hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am to 11 am. In lieu of food donations, monetary donations are also welcome.

NABA Scholarship Program — application deadline March 18

The North Avenue Business Association (NABA) is sponsoring two \$1000.00 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, continuing their education at a college or university as a business major or in a business related field. This is NABA's fifth year sponsoring the scholarship program.

Eligible students must reside in the Village of Oak Park, River Forest or in the City of Chicago neighborhoods of Galewood and parts of Austin. Chicago resident boundaries include Armitage (2000 North) to the north, Division (1200 North) to the south, Austin (6000 West) to the east and Harlem (7200 West) to the west.

Eligible students must complete an application and essay, must rank in the upper 20% of their class, have a 3.00 GPA, a combined ACT score of 21, provide a copy of their transcript, two letters of recommendation and demonstrate financial need.

The deadline for applications is March 18, 2011. The two award recipients will be notified in writing and be invited to an award presentation at the North Avenue Business Association's Annual Meeting in April. A press release will be sent out to neighborhood newspapers. For more information about the North Avenue Business Association and its scholarship program, contact NABA's President, Wendy Tannenbaum at wendytannenbaum.naba@yahoo.com

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The Candidates Reflect on the February 22nd Election



1. *What are your thoughts on election results?*

Candidate: John A. Rice

I am, of course, somewhat disappointed that we were not able to secure sufficient votes to avoid a run-off in April. I was pleased, however, that, despite the best efforts of a coordinated coalition of six (6) candidates, all focused on attacking me rather than proposing new ideas, we, nonetheless, came within a percent and a half of a complete victory.

I would much rather focus my efforts on continuing to raise private funds to support youth programs, community organizations, schools and churches, as I have in the past, rather than raising funds to finance the run-off. That said, I will focus on the task at hand and work hard to reach out and make my case to as many citizens, seniors, working men, women and families as possible in the next six weeks. I remain confident that the work I have done and all that we have accomplished on behalf of the citizens, families and children of the 36th Ward will result in success.

Candidate: Nicholas Sposato

I'm pleasantly surprised at the outcome given the number of worthy candidates on the ballot. While not currently the individual front runner, given that 52% of the voters did not vote for the incumbent, it's a whole new race. Now more than ever the voters will decide who they want as Alderman of the 36th Ward. They have two choices: Machine politics as usual with my opponent, or a proven community leader who is committed to being a full-time Alderman with an open door policy and regularly scheduled town hall meetings.

2. *What is your strategy for the run-off election?*

Candidate: Nicholas Sposato

Get out the message that I am about a positive change, a reformer who will work tirelessly for his constituents, making the 36th Ward a place where people will want to work and live. I am also committed to furthering economic development in the ward to attract and grow businesses. In addition to the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Firefighters endorsements, I am currently seeking other such endorsements. Out of fairness to our fellow residents, I strongly encourage my opponent to take part in a candidate forum where we both can answer questions regarding our view for the future direction of the 36th Ward.

Candidate: John A. Rice

I am very pleased with the campaign. My intent was to talk about what our great neighborhoods, and our great community, can accomplish when we work together to meet the challenges that are before us. Despite the difficult
(continued on page 11)



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(John Rice Response continued from page 10)

economic circumstances in which we find ourselves, we have been able to:

- Increase public safety with the addition of twenty-nine (29) new police officers.
- Build a new library at Dever School;
- Save the Galewood-Mont Clare Library from closure and relocate it to a new, larger facility, thus preserving a vital neighborhood resource;
- Build new classrooms and a new auditorium at Canty School;
- Institute a *Computers To Schools* program to ensure every student has the ability to have a computer for their schoolwork;
- Raise more than \$ 850,000, in private funds, to improve both Shabbona and Sayre parks;
- Improve and re-pave more than fifty (50) streets;
- Construct more than eleven (11) miles of new curb and gutter;
- Initiate the reconstruction of Harlem Avenue (from Belmont to Wabansia) and schedule the reconstruction of Addison (from Harlem to Cumberland);
- Ensure our streets and neighborhoods are clean and well-maintained – even in the face of a devastating snowstorm.

The run-off will allow the ability to compare and contrast our plans, programs and accomplishments with those of my opponent. I am very proud of all that we, together as a community, have accomplished – it is what makes the 36th Ward the most desirable place to live in the city of Chicago. I look forward to continuing to talk about the issues, ideas and programs that matter to the residents, seniors, families, children, and working men and women of our Ward; I run against no one, but run for the citizens of the 36th Ward.

In the final analysis, I believe that the citizens of the 36th Ward are concerned with their safety, security, progress, prosperity and future. Those are the issues I intend to talk about in the next six weeks. I am confident that an issue, program and performance based campaign will result in a resounding victory.

The Galewood Gazette thanks both candidates for their responses.

Galewood Photos

Send us your photos of Galewood! We will feature a photo each issue showing off all the great things we love about our neighborhood.

Submit your photo(s) to galewoodgazette@att.net.

The Blizzard of '11 is remembered in this photo by Tom Drebenstedt.



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Spotlight on Chicago Cultural Attractions

Check out a Free Pass for many of these Chicago Museums at any Chicago Public Library

Art Institute of Chicago *John Marin's Watercolors: A Medium of Modernism*

January 23 – April 17, 2011. This exhibit of American modernist John Marin is the first to present the Art Institute of Chicago's collection of the artist's work in its entirety—ranges from early images rooted in traditional practice to more personal and experimental compositions, showcasing how Marin, in the process of reinventing watercolor, transformed American painting. www.artic.edu.



National Museum of Mexican Art *Mexican Muralism and its U.S. Influences*

Saturday, May 15th. This public symposium will feature some of North America's foremost experts on Mexican art in a lively discussion on the muralist movement in Mexico, its effect on U.S. artists, and this lasting legacy.

<http://www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org>

Garfield Park Conservatory *19th Annual Green and Growing Fair*

Saturday, April 30th. Kick off the growing season at the Garfield Park Conservatory. The fair, sponsored by GreenNet, Chicago's Urban Greening Network, plunges into spring by hosting a variety of vendors, workshops, demonstrations, and family activities to get your rusty green thumb up and running. <http://www.garfield-conservatory.org/>

Chicago Symphony Orchestra *Kraft Family Matinee Series: On the Waves of Sound*

Saturday May 7 11 am and 12:45 pm. Join the CSO and special guest artists in a family friendly exploration of music inspired by the wonders of nature and the sounds all around us.

<http://cso.org/Institute/ChildrenAndFamilies/KraftSeries.aspx>

Chicago History Museum *Chicago's Birthday Party*

Friday, March 4 9:30 am–1 pm. Celebrate the city's 174th birthday. This very special event includes music and remarks to honor the City of Big Shoulders. A commemorative cake by the Bleeding Heart Bakery adds flavor to the day. Presented in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Free admission. <http://www.chicagohs.org/>



Goodbye Winter... Hello Spring

Thank you to the Galewood Gazette staff and all the members of the Galewood community that are working towards making Galewood one of the best neighborhoods in Chicago.

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