



A quarterly community newsletter for the Chicago neighborhood of Galewood

Welcome to our Fall 2011 Issue.

After the hot and wet summer, the cool air of fall is a relief. Never fear there is still plenty of time to enjoy the neighborhood before the winter hibernation hits.



The Mosaic Wall has been a community collaboration. Special thanks goes to Carol Tarnoff, art instructor extraordinaire.

Teen Workshop (designers of the mosaic): Ally, Libby, Sean, Sarah, Jenny, Zach, Tyler, Matthew, Josh, Esther, Rena, Nockman, Marina, and Beth.

Kids Workshop (insect and fish designers) Alexia, Hailey, Hannah, Jessica, Joe, Kjirsten, Laura, Lila, Rory, Isabella, Olivia, Amaya, Nasir, Ezekiel, and Kahlil.

Community Volunteers:

Alderman Sposato, Burkett family, Carter family, Cassleman family, Daleiden-Brugman family, Dziwak family, Higgins-Turner family, Huske family, Joe Capobianco, Liguori family, Mahmoud family, Marino family, Salen-Aspin family, Shelley family, Susan Mensik, Tom Drebenstedt, Claire, David, Evren, Kenan, and Wyatt.

Community Mosaic Project

By: Jen Salen

Where can you find a bison, rabbit, turtle, fox and snake in the neighborhood? Check out the new tile mosaic created this summer on the north-east side of the Rutherford Sayre Park train tunnel. The design was made through a teen workshop at the park, led by art instructor Carol Tarnoff. It is part of a multi-summer endeavor to illustrate the history of Galewood-Montclare and beautify the tunnel. Panel 1, the Prairie Wall, begins with the neighborhood as a prairie filled with animals, grasslands, and blue sky. Future panels will continue the mosaic through the length of the tunnel as the neighborhood changes into farmland, to a golf course, to a residential neighborhood, and then will end with the big city of Chicago.

In addition to the teen workshop, Rutherford Sayre Park held two workshops for neighborhood kids to create the fish and insects for the mural. The Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council (RSPAC) held a Community Mosaic Day on August 20th. Throughout a wet and stormy morning, 20 – 30 volunteers, including our new alderman Nick Sposato, persevered under tarps to add their efforts to the overall design. Over the next week many other residents stopped by to work on the wall or to offer words of encouragement. The RSPAC would like to thank everyone that was involved in the project!

Looking forward to next summer's installment, there are several areas in which you can help.

- Sand blasting equipment – years of paint need to be cleared from the tunnel walls in order for the new tile to adhere properly to the concrete wall.
- Grouting - there is grouting work to be completed on the new wall.
- Business or individual monetary donations – help continue the mosaic by donating funds for the purchase of tile and supplies.

If you would like more information please e-mail galewoodgazette@att.net or call the park at 312-746-5368.

The mosaic was made possible through a grant from Friends of the Park, tile donations from Corna Kitchen Bath and Tile and the efforts of the Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council. Thank you!

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Galewood Residents Organization (GRO)

By: Kelly Higgins-Turner

The Galewood Resident Group has really been enjoying the summer. Helping in April at the Rutherford Sayre Park cleanup and plant/seedling exchange on Earth Day as well as advertising for the June neighborhood garage sale have become traditional events. We would like feedback from neighbors for upcoming events and activities they would like to see happening in Galewood. We will begin planning our holiday potluck dinner, and would love suggestions. Have you seen the neighborhood Facebook page? Visit it at www.facebook.com/galewoodneighborhood.

We are pleased that the new Alderman and candidate for Democratic Committeeman of the 36th Ward, Nicholas Sposato, will be attending our October 13th meeting. Please plan to attend on this evening. Mr. Sposato will surely have a lot to share regarding the Galewood community. As always, we meet on the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at 1776 Narragansett.

Garden Club Galewood Montclare

By: Tom Drebenstedt

Here's an end-of-summer recap from your very busy garden club. We've done our best to survive extreme heat, hail, hundred year rains, and other unexpected events.

The annual Garden Walk in July showcased our beautiful neighborhood for 85 guests enjoying nine very diverse gardens. We hope you saw the colorful banners that were hung around the community. A hot afternoon did not hamper efforts to locate a mystery plant at every location, key to a raffle that we began a few years ago, to connect our visitors to our gardens. About sixty five percent of our attendees came from outside the neighborhood, from as far away as Evanston and Lemont. Galewood is being discovered - and enjoyed!

Some of our members created mosaic garden stones for our community garden at Rutherford Sayre Park in a workshop coached by our park's art instructor. They were installed in June and looked terrific, maybe too terrific, since they have vanished. This vandalism certainly put a damper on the spirits of their creators. Our website was invaded, so as we create a new one, you'll have to contact us via garden_club_gm@sbcglobal.net, join the conversation on Facebook, or call Tom at 773-909-0899.

We have an interesting lineup of programs and workshops coming up in September, October, and November. Join our e-list for the specific dates and topics; we love to see new faces and expand our circle of gardeners.

Open House Chicago

By: Tom Drebenstedt

There is a free backstage pass to Chicago's Great Places and Spaces on the weekend of October 15th and 16th. Discover hidden gems and explore neighborhoods. It is organized and produced by Chicago Architecture Foundation with our Community Partners. Details can be found at www.openhousechicago.org.

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Sayre Language Academy

1850 N Newland Ave, Chicago 773-534-3351

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

Sayre Family and Friends website: www.sayreffo.org

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

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

Sayre Language Academy is a Galewood CPS neighborhood school and is also a CPS World Language Magnet Cluster school.

Sayre welcomes students back for the 2011-2012 school year on Tuesday September 6th. A Back to School Ice Cream Social was held on September 1st. Students picked up start of the year information, met their teachers, visited with new and old friends, while eating ice cream and popsicles provided by the Sayre FFO. In a few weeks a Fall Curriculum Night will be held on September 14th at 6 pm. Parents are invited to visit the classrooms and to hear about the learning plans for the upcoming school year. In October students will participate in a school wide walk-a-thon to raise money for new health and fitness equipment. The quarter ends with a Family Reading Night in November for families to celebrate the joys of reading and literacy.

Sayre is excited to announce that they have partnered with the Right At School organization to provide after school care (until 6 pm) on regularly scheduled school days. For more information on the programs please go to www.rightatschool.com.

Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council (RSPAC)

Get involved in your park! The Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council is an advocate for the park. The council usually meets the first Wednesday of every even month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. Call 312-746-5368 for information.

Next RSPAC meeting:

Wednesday October 5th at 6:30 pm in the field house.

Fall Classes starting at Rutherford Sayre Park

Take a class at Sayre Park. Stop in the field house to see their fall schedule and to register for classes today.

Galewood Camera Club

Are you an aspiring photographer and live in the Galewood area? Join the club on flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/1751968@N22/>

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Rutherford Sayre Park Field House

6871 W Belden Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60707
312-746-5368

Field House Hours

Mon – Fri: 9 am – 8:30 pm
Sat: 9 am – 1 pm
Sun: closed



Alderman Hosts Assistant Commissioner, Department of Water

By: Martha Kepner

This summer has been one of extremes. Heat, rain, flooding. The 36th ward has been particularly hard hit by the rain, causing widespread seepage and water in basements. In an effort to get as much information as possible out to the neighborhoods, Alderman Nick Sposato invited representatives of the Department of Water Management and Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) to come speak to the 36th ward.

On August 10, 2011, Tom La Porte, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Water Management, and Lionell Martin, of the OEMC, spoke to a crowd of ward residents gathered in the Shabbona Park field house. They attempted to dispel several urban legends:

- Flooding in our ward is not caused by flood gates to the lake being closed. The Chicago River system is lower than the lake, so opening flood gates would have the reverse effect.
- Rain Blockers, restrictors installed in many catch basins in the street, slow the rate at which the water enters the sewer system. This results in storm water ponding in the streets but does not cause sewers backing up in basements.
- Our neighborhood is not being ignored for the sake of others. The substantial rains we received overburdened the sewer system as a whole.

In addition, Mr. La Porte made several constructive suggestions on how residents can help minimize the impact of the exceptionally heavy rains on the Chicago sewer system and our basements:

1. Disconnect drain spouts which run from your roof to the sewer. During heavy rains, a tremendous amount of fresh water runs off roofs, filling the sewer system, causing untreated combined sewage to both back up in basements, and the streets. Allowing rain water to soak into the yard or collect in a rain barrel would alleviate this problem.
2. Install a rain barrel to capture fresh water for later use in the garden, a viable reuse and conservation initiative.

Both these suggestions would help reduce the flow of water into overburdened sewer systems during heavy rains. Mr. Martin reminded everyone to be sure to report flooding and sewer backups by dialing 311. The city keeps track of the volume of calls and can more easily pinpoint trouble spots. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

After an extended question and answer period, Mr. La Porte left his contact information for any further questions:

Tom La Porte, Assistant Commissioner
Department of Water Management
Jardine Water Purification Plant
1000 E Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611
312-742-1029 (office) / 312-744-3719 (fax)





A Business in Your Neighborhood:

Al-Mart Discount Bedding & Furniture

By: Maureen Connell



Alan Gorstein didn't stay in corporate America for very long before deciding to open his own business. After a year in the corporate world, Alan followed in his father and uncles' footsteps and opened Al-Mart Discount Bedding & Furniture. That was 21 years ago and he hasn't looked back since. Initially a few doors down, Al-Mart has been in its current spot at 7045 W North Avenue for the past nine years. Alan's proud to be a local business owner and is even starting to work on a shop local initiative in the area.

With more than 80 percent of his customers finding their way to Al-Mart through word of mouth, Alan attributes his success and ability to thrive in recent years to the high quality service he and his employees provide. I witnessed this top-notch service during our interview. For one customer he threw in an add-on item at cost and for another customer he didn't think twice about offering to put together a piece of furniture requiring some assembly.

Working with a mix of people, helping people solve their sleep problems with the purchase of a new bed or pillow, and the challenge of competing as a local business rank as Alan's favorite aspects of doing business in this neighborhood. He also wants to convey that he really appreciates the feedback he receives and hopes to be in the Galewood area for another 21 years. Alan urges Galewood and Mont-Clare residents to keep shopping local and support a dying breed. If shopping local includes strolling down North Avenue and taking a load off on a comfy couch or plush bed at Al-Mart, I'm in!

Free Community Yoga Class at ps yoga

Each Sunday at 3 pm come explore the benefits of yoga in a peaceful evening class that will integrate guided meditation, pranayama (breathing techniques), asana (poses) and carefully composed breath-synchronized movements. Many styles of yoga will be incorporated allowing for an ever-evolving class that will leave you feeling relaxed and grounded each week. This class is free and open to anyone.



Clients are asked to sign-up on-line at <http://www.psyogachicago.com/> or call the studio directly at 773-637-0560.

If calling after hours please leave a message. Make sure to check the website the day of the class to confirm that the class has not been canceled. ps yoga is located at 7169 W Grand Ave in Chicago, just half of a block east of Harlem.

Galewood Community Church United Church of Christ

There will be a summer/back-to-school Fun Fest on Saturday September 10th from 10 am - 2 pm on the west lawn of the church. The Fun Fest will include games, food, and free school supplies. The Galewood Community Church is located at 1776 N Narragansett Avenue. For more information call 773-889-2191.

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Galewood block parties-a yearly tradition!

By: Molly Porter

Summer is the season for block parties in Galewood, and this year was no exception. On August 6th alone, 4 blocks in east Galewood were partying late into the evening. While this makes getting around closed streets more difficult, it's a temporary inconvenience compared to the camaraderie and neighborhood pride a block party builds. Planning a block party can seem like a daunting task, but getting an early start and following the tips below can help make your party a success.



Tips:

- Late spring is not too early to begin making plans for a block party in August (the most popular month).
- Get your permit from Alderman Sposato as soon as you have determined a date. He will also help you arrange for a visit from the fire department and obtain a time slot for the free bounce house. Also ask about street cleaning the day before the party!
- Most block parties are led by one or two people on the block. If you're the leader, ask for help! People want to participate, but don't always have time to seek you out. Ask people to volunteer to lead one of the following activities: grilling, kids' activities, set up, cleaning, music, games, etc.
- A note about bounce houses: the free one from the city gets hot inside, and is not always available on the date you want. If you collect money from your block, consider renting a bounce house for a full day, especially if there are a lot of kids on your block. A bounce house can be rented for as low as \$100.
- Collect donations from members of your block. Most blocks ask for \$15 to \$20. This money goes to pay for food to grill and party favors for the kids, as well as ice and a bounce house or DJ, if desired.
- Also ask families to donate a box of pop, juice or water to be kept centrally on the block for thirsty partygoers. Send someone to buy ice the morning of the party at Jefferson Ice. Ten large bags will keep drinks cold all day.
- Block the ends of your street at 9 am on the day of the party. Riding bikes and scooters in the street all day is a highlight of the party for kids of all ages!
- Ambitious party planners with plenty of lead time can ask local businesses for donations in exchange for free advertising at the party. Donated items can be used for prizes or a raffle at the end of the day.
- If you have a lot of older kids and young adults on the block, a pickup game of basketball in the middle of the street is always fun and no cost if someone has a portable basketball hoop.

If your block has not had a party in awhile, don't be intimidated! Get a couple of neighbors together and start talking about ways to make it happen. A fun time will be had by all, and the kids will remember it forever. If you have more tips for block parties, post them on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/galewoodneighborhood.

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Community Photos



*Block Party photographs courtesy of M. Porter
Mosaic photographs courtesy of T. Drebenstedt, C. Tarnoff, and J. Salen*



More pictures of the 8/20/11 Mosaic Community Day can be found on flickr thanks to Bryan Bedell.
Click on link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/2strokebuzz/6063829040/in/set-72157627355400993>

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Chicago Police District 25

Business Beat Meetings

By: Wendy Tannenbaum

Chicago businesses located in District 25 are invited to attend the District's Business Beat Meetings. Businesses are encouraged to attend these meetings to learn about new and ongoing efforts to eliminate crime.

Meetings provide the business owner the opportunity to share concerns with the police officers at the 25th District and discuss solutions.

The 25th District holds their Business Beat Meetings on the third Thursday, every odd numbered month, at 11:30 am, in the 25th District auditorium, located at 5555 W Grand Avenue (at Central). Lunch is served.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 15th.

For more information, please contact Officer Cynthia Flores, the 25th District's Police business Liaison, at 312-746-5090 or e-mail CAPS025District@chicagopolice.org.

CAPS Schedule

Be active in our community and attend a meeting.

For CAPS information

call 312-744-2277

or e-mail

CAPS025district@chicagopolice.org

BEAT 2512

Diversey to Armitage

1st Wed. of **every other even** month

Shriners Hospital for Children

2211 N Oak Park Ave at 7 pm

Fall Meeting Dates:

October 5, December 7

Facilitator: Ronald Saks

BEAT 2513

Armitage to North Ave

4th Tues. of **every other odd** month

Amundsen Park

6200 W Bloomingdale Ave at 6:30 pm

Fall Meeting Dates:

September 27, November 22

Facilitator: Donald Glover

Co Facilitator: Tanya Briggs



Information



The Galewood Gazette is a volunteer collaborative effort between area residents. The purpose is to inspire neighborhood communication and cooperation. We are always looking for ideas and input. If you would like to be a part of the Gazette group or if you have comments or questions please e-mail galewoodgazette@att.net.

Thank you to everyone that makes the Gazette happen.

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