



A quarterly community newsletter for the Chicago neighborhood of Galewood

Our Winter 2012 Issue

As we enter another Galewood winter it's time to stay warm, celebrate the holiday season with family and friends, and ring in 2013. Stay safe, bundle up, and take care of each other.



to you and all your family and friends

In this issue you will discover a hidden gem of a local business, find out about the history of Horwath's, learn about our neighborhood groups and schools, and read 36th Ward news from Alderman Sposato. For more information about our Galewood neighborhood be sure to visit www.galewood.net or join the Galewood Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/galewoodneighborhood>.

Galewood Residents Organization (GRO)

By: Neal Wankoff

The Galewood Residents Organization ended the year with its 3rd annual Community Potluck at Redeemer Church on North Avenue. A fun evening of food, laughter, and conversation was had by over fifty people in the beautifully remodeled church. Pastor Matthew Stuhlmuller spoke about the meaning of Christmas and Neal Wankoff spoke about Hanukah. Neal and Tom Drebenstadt talked about GRO's 2012 accomplishments. Here are some of GRO's highlights:

- Held a Meet and Greet with nine candidates participating in the March 2012 primary. Seventy five community members met with the candidates.
- Brought together more than 30 people at our Spring Social held at the newly opened Caffe Italia on Harlem Ave.
- Maintained a list of LSC candidates for our neighborhood CPS schools on Galewood.net providing a single location for candidate information.
- Created a "community information card" that was distributed to 500 households.
- Coordinated two public talks at the West Belmont Public Library – "The ABCs of CPS" and "Save Money on Your Energy Bills".
- Organized a BYO Summer Picnic at Rutherford Sayre Park that was attended by 30 people.
- Planned a Community-Wide Yard Sale in September.
- Posted 250 articles on Galewood.net with 25,000 individual page views and increased membership of the Galewood Neighborhood Facebook page to almost 400!
- Contributed feature articles and GRO updates to each issue of the Galewood Gazette newsletter.

We look forward to another successful year in 2013 but we can't do it alone. We need you! We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm. Join us in our effort to keep Galewood and Montclare beautiful, safe, and wonderful places to live.

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The Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare

By: Pat Schwandt

Wintertime for a gardener is a time to reflect and plan. That is exactly what the members of The Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare are doing now.

This fall we spent time cleaning up the Community Garden at Rutherford Sayre Park, sharing photos of our successes in our individual gardens, and learning how to make holiday decorations using natural items with the help of Robert from Robert's Floral Design Studio.



Now as we look out our windows we can once again see the "bones" of our yards and gardens as we see the branches and stems stripped bare of flowers and leaves. We can use our reflections to plan for the coming year. As members of the Garden Club we get a little help from our friends in doing this planning.

Our Garden Club starts off the year with a Members-Only-Potluck where we can discuss some of these ideas and visit with fellow community members. We are planning our meetings for the coming year for the last Saturday of the month. Field trips are being arranged, including a trip to "The Plant" which is a facility where hydroponics is the method of cultivation. These trips may give us some ideas for thinking differently about our own gardens.

Join us to meet others in our community who like to work in and talk about gardens. Contact the Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare for more information - garden_club_gm@sbcglobal.net.

Rutherford Sayre Park Winter Classes Registration

6871 W Belden Ave Chicago, IL



Register for winter classes now at Rutherford Sayre Park. There are classes for all ages. Art classes include adult crafts and jewelry making, children's' arts & crafts and ceramic wheel throw, and tots music classes. Sports classes include gymnastics, basketball, dodge ball, and floor hockey for kids, adult weightlifting, and golf for seniors.

Classes begin in January. For a complete list of classes call Rutherford Sayre Park at 312.746.5368 or register online at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Galewood/Montclare Caregiver

Caregiver with over 25 years of experience. Very reliable and dependable. Has car and insurance. Will help with daily chores, shopping, housecleaning, non-medical, medication reminders, dressing, bathing, and cooking.

Experienced in Alzheimer's, diabetes, stroke, cardiac, and all medical situations. Galewood/Montclare area, but will travel. Please call Debbie at 773-818-3808.

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What about Horwath's?

By: Tom Drebenstedt

There was a recent posting on www.galewood.net about remembering Horwath's at Harlem and Cortland where Staples' parking lot is now. It was a restaurant from 1931 until 2003, with its own interesting history. But was the building constructed for that purpose?

No. It was a converted model home for a development that never took place. Home builder Mills & Sons purchased land at the edge of the city at the end of

World War One, announcing it as Green Fields. This development ran along Harlem from Armitage south to North Avenue. These half acre lots would have had California style bungalows built on them, and as the brochure boasted "an attractive home, fresh air, chickens, and orchards make life worth living". The model home with its edible gardens, grape arbor, chicken coop, garage and gazebo was to be raffled off. It was completely furnished and worth \$11,000 - or \$162,000 in today's money. Prospective buyers might have asked how to get there. They were to take the Grand Avenue streetcar to Harlem and walk south, or look for the builder's car which would chauffeur them to the site.

John Mills was one of Chicago's largest home builders in the early 20th century. He wintered in southern California and met with other developers and architects that were active in Pasadena. This led to a Los Angeles architect designing his Elmwood Park project. Bungalows were part of the Arts and Crafts movement that began in the late 1890s as a rejection of the Victorian style. The movement emphasized everyday beauty in simpler objects, honoring the work of craftsmen, embracing the natural world, and using the colors of nature.

The California influences of extensive outdoor sleeping porches and wood construction were a few of the factors in this style losing favor in Chicago. There are only a few examples of these houses in the northwestern corner of Galewood. At the end of World War One, the Chicago Bungalow movement took off and flourished over the next decade. These bungalows were simpler, sat on smaller lots, and were constructed of brick. They housed the explosive growth of the middle class into homes reflecting Arts & Crafts principles -minus the open air sleeping porches which are less important in this climate. Mills & Sons took advantage of this movement when they built 1,600 Chicago Bungalows in Elmwood Park during the mid-1920s in lieu of the Green Fields development.

Thanks to Galewooder Russ Parker for his assistance and conversations.





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A Business in Your Neighborhood: Gorny Guitars

By: Maureen Connell

You might miss Bob Gorny's business if you're not involved in the music world or in-the-know in Galewood. There's no big storefront or neon sign on North or Harlem avenues, but Gorny Guitars is a longtime neighborhood business worth knowing about.

For over 35 years, Bob Gorny has been repairing guitars and building custom guitars. He's lived in Galewood even longer, since the late '60s. With a talent for 3-D sculpting and a background in tool and die machinery, Bob started building guitars at his friend, Rob Gurka's, suggestion. Rob owns Perry's Music in Villa Park. Bob had helped Rob fix some guitars and it was clear that Bob had a knack for repairing and crafting. After starting out with electric guitars, Bob eventually started making acoustic guitars as well. He found a special niche in the market when he combined his talents with the precise work of using machines to help him build. The machines helped make the whole process more economical and resulted in a superior product. Bob also gained notoriety among musicians when he went to live music shows and brought a guitar along to show the band. That, coupled with some positive press, Bob was able to turn Gorny Guitars into a full time business. Bob worked out of local workshops for a long time, but now he repairs and builds the guitars at home, by appointment only. Bob lives with his 90 year-old mother, who is also very talented. For over 30 years she's been crafting beautiful beaded jewelry.

Over the years Bob has worked with famous musicians including Buddy Guy, the Smashing Pumpkins, Emmylou Harris and Jeff Beck.

Bob also works with local musicians, putting anywhere from 50 to 90 hours into building a single custom guitar. Galewood resident, Phil Barrile - musician, producer and owner of the Eden Music Group, is one of Bob's clients.

The only guitar in my house is a blow up guitar "played" by my three year old. If my son ever turns out to be a true musician I just might be bothering Bob one of these years. Until then, I'll be incredibly impressed by the beautiful craftsmanship displayed on his website (www.gornyguitars.com) and the inspiring tunes played at the hands of his clients.



Photographs courtesy of Bob Gorny

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Photograph by Bryan Bedell

Sayre Language Academy

By: Michelle Pitts-Onochie

Sayre Family and Friends Organization recently held their annual Family Reading Night on November 29th. This family fun event offered tons of educational amusement with word games, journal and book marker crafts, book swapping, upper grade live poetry jam as well as a musical treat from local musician, Shannon Sherman who had students dancing to words. Middle Grades were hard at work completing some awesome Science Fair Projects meanwhile tryouts for Sayre Language's Basketball teams have just ended and we are looking forward to a season of comradery and fun. Students prepared this past week for their annual Winter Assembly, held on December 21st.

Sayre Language Academy

1850 N Newland Ave
Chicago 773.534.3351

School website:
<http://sayre.cps.k12.il.us/>

Sayre Family and Friends
Organization website:
www.sayreffo.org

Ballet Légere

This year marks the 28th Annual production of Ballet Légere performance of "The Nutcracker Ballet". The production was held at Dominican University Performing Arts Center Lund Auditorium. While Ballet Légere Dance Centre is in River Forest their office for Nutcracker Productions is here in Galewood located at 2128 North Newland Avenue. Inquiries and ticket information for future performances can be obtained by calling 773.237.1874.



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

Winter Meeting Dates:

February 6

BEAT 2513

Armitage to North Ave

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

Amundsen Park

6200 W Bloomingdale Ave at 6:30 pm

Winter Meeting Dates:

January 22, March 26

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Josephine Locke Elementary School

Locke Elementary School at 2828 N Oak Park Ave (Diversy and Oak Park Ave), is a Montclare CPS neighborhood school serving students from pre-k to 8th grade. In addition to being just up the street from Galewood did you know that Locke School is one of only a few CPS schools to offer an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program for its middle school students (6th-8th grade)? Locke's IB program is in partnership with Steinmetz College Prep which continues this IB Program for grades 9th - 10th then transitions to a Diploma Program for 11th and 12th grades.



The mission of the Steinmetz IB program and Locke's IB Middle Year Program (MYP) is to promote the education of the whole person, emphasizing intellectual, personal, emotional and social growth through all domains of knowledge. By focusing on a combination of knowledge, skills, independent critical and creative thought and international-mindedness, the IB promotes the idea of educating the whole person for a life of active, responsible citizenship.

The IB MYP program offers students a variety of benefits, including:

- Focus on interdisciplinary units and concept-based learning
- Meaningful, real-world connections
- Alignment with international standards of excellence in 143 countries worldwide
- Emphasis on community service, hands-on projects and inquiry-based learning.

This fall the IB program at Locke provided many opportunities outside the classroom for students such as:

- IB movie nights that discussed themes of Community and Environment
- IB Flea Market – student volunteers organized hundreds of donated items to the community
- IB Career Day – 12 professionals from all over Illinois presented career information to the students
- Emergency Donation Drive - IB students organized a donation drive for victims of Hurricane Sandy
- Green Initiatives - Locke partnered with Joey Feinstein and "Climate Steps", a local non-profit organization who works with Chicago youth to help green their world

This spring Locke will participate in the Climate Steps 5K Walk in downtown Chicago to raise awareness of the environment. The largest CPS school team of walkers/runners/fundraisers will receive grants toward environmental projects and solar panels. All students, parents, teachers, and community members are encouraged to be a part of the Locke team for the Climate Steps 5K and help Locke compete to receive solar panels for the school.

If you would like more information about the IB program at Locke Elementary School contact Brad Parker, IB-MYP Coordinator at bjparker3@cps.edu.

For more information about Steinmetz's IB Program contact Katherine Doyle, IB-MYP Coordinator at ksshin@cps.edu or Nancyanne Ferrarini, IB Diploma Program Coordinator at nferrarini@cps.edu.

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Dear Neighbor,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! At this time of year our lives are often overwhelmed with work, shopping, and all the things that make this an enjoyable time and it is often hard to remember those around us. As we move into the snowy winter months many seniors can use a hand clearing driveways and sidewalks. I encourage you to take the time after the next snow storm to check up on your friends and neighbors and lend a hand where it is needed.

Cook County Board of Review Assessment Appeal:

On Wednesday December 19th, 2012 the Cook County Board of Review opened property assessment appeals for Jefferson Township. From December 19th through January 17th homeowners can apply to lower their property assessments with the Cook County Board of Review. Please be advised, that the Board of Review will not accept any assessment appeals for a property located in Jefferson Township after the filing period has ended.

January 17th, 2013 is the last date to file an appeal with the Cook County Board of Review for Jefferson Township.

For those who would like assistance in filing their appeal I will be offering an Assessment Appeal Workshop on **January 10th, 2013 at 6pm, Locke School 2828 N Oak Park Ave.** The Cook County Board of Review will have staff on hand to explain the process.

CTA Changes:

On December 16th, 2012 the CTA officially implemented several service changes that are aimed at improving service and reducing congestion on buses and trains around the city. Service improvements were made on a number of local routes. Routes with increased service include: 65 Grand Ave, 72 North, 73 Armitage, 74 Fullerton, 76 Diversey, and 77 Belmont. The #90N North Harlem is one of the discontinued lines due to duplicated service or low-ridership. The #90N service is duplicated by Pace route #423.

36th Ward Remap Update:

For most of this year we have been discussing the ward map for the City of Chicago. There still is no consensus agreement on when the new boundaries will fully be in effect and many Aldermen are currently serving several communities at the same time. As your Alderman I am not up for re-election until 2015. Until then, I will continue to serve the people that elected me to be their representative. I encourage you to continue to contact the 36th Ward Community Service Office at 773.836.0036 or info@aldermansposato.com for any of your service requests.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Sposato, 36th Ward Alderman

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