



A quarterly community newsletter for the Chicago neighborhood of Galewood

**Welcome to the Galewood Gazette
community newsletter. Enjoy!**

“CHECK OUT” the Galewood-Mont Clare Branch Library

Chicago Public Library Galewood-Mont Clare Branch

6871 W Belden Ave. Chicago

Looking For Leprechauns!



**Wednesday March 13th
4 pm – 5 pm**

Ages 3 and up are welcome to join our St. Patrick's Day celebration as we listen to stories and make a St. Patrick's Day craft!

CPL tells us the Galewood-Mont Clare Branch Library isn't busy enough to improve: Let's make it busy!

By: The Galewood Residents Organization (GRO)

The Galewood-Mont Clare branch of the Chicago Public Library on Grand Avenue was shut down more than two years ago. A fraction of the collection was moved to a small room at the Rutherford Sayre Park Field House at 6871 W Belden Avenue. The field house is actually the location of Galewood's original library (1923), but the tiny space allotted to the current library, along with the lack of signage, condition of the building, and absence of weekend/evening hours, make it hard to find, hard to use, and unable to secure the resources and events offered by most neighborhood libraries.

In communications with the leaders of the Chicago Public Library, the Galewood Residents Organization has been told that libraries are allotted resources based on how much traffic they get. We understand that the original library closed for reasons outside everyone's control, but now we're depending on a tiny, hidden, poorly-appointed library to generate enough traffic to convince the city that improving our branch will be worth the time and money.

So we had a crazy idea...

Let's GENERATE the traffic!

This April, let's show the city (and ourselves) just how much traffic our library can have! In January the Galewood-Mont Clare branch had just 750 items loaned and the top branch had 15,000. For one month let's be the top circulating branch! For the month of April we encourage you to:

- 1. Visit the Galewood- Mont Clare Library, often, all month long!** It's open 10 am-6 pm M,T,W,Th and 9 am-5 pm on Fridays (closed weekends). If you work 9-5, it's tough to visit, but please find a time to stop in.

(“Check Out” continues on page 2)

Earth Day Clean-Up of Rutherford Sayre Park

**Saturday April 20, 2013
9:30 am – 12 pm**



Community members of all ages are invited. Clean-up will include helping pick up trash, plant flowers, spread mulch, and clean-up the community garden. Participants are asked to bring (if possible) rakes, brooms, and shovels.

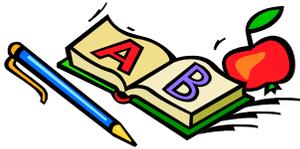
The event is hosted by the Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council and the Garden Club Galewood Mont Clare. For more information email garden_club_gm@sbcglobal.net.

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Call for Submissions: Pre-School Directory



The Galewood Gazette is interested in putting together a Preschool Directory for our next issue. Navigating the choices for preschools for the first time can be difficult. Our directory is to serve as a guide for our neighborhood parents. Parents and community members are encouraged to submit information about their favorite area preschool to be included in our directory. Preschools should be located in Chicago or the close surrounding suburbs (Oak Park, Elmwood Park, and River Forest).

Email galewoodgazette@att.net for more information.

Community Service Announcement

Pick up the POOP!



Please clean-up after your dogs when walking around Sayre School and our neighborhood. It has been a particular problem for the grounds surrounding Sayre School this winter. Thank You!

(**“Check Out”** continued from page 1)

2. **If you don't have a library card, get one.** Bring your whole family, you can apply for cards right at the library. Be sure to bring proper identification. Kids under 13 that can sign their name can get a card with a parent's approval.
http://www.chipublib.org/howto/library_card.php
3. **Check out books. LOTS of books.** With a valid card, you can check out 30 books at once (5 items with a new card). DO IT! Grab as many books as you wish (within those limits), and check 'em out! You've got 3 weeks to enjoy them, or bring them back the next day and get 30 more! If you're not comfortable with that, just check out one or two.
4. **Museum Passes.** Free entry to some of the best cultural institutions in the city with museum passes found at our library.
5. **Put in on Hold.** Almost every book in the entire CPL system can be requested, put on hold, and sent to the Galewood Mont Clare library for pick-up. No need to go to anywhere else.
6. **Be polite!** It's very important we don't break the law or make life miserable for the librarians or CPL, they're lovely people and we're trying to work together with them and show them how much we need them. Be respectful and follow the usual rules of the library! Even though we may be creating an unusual amount of work for them, our goal is to show them that our community stands behind the library (and their jobs!). Be patient with the librarians, allow extra time for checkout if they're busy, and offer to help in any way possible.
7. **Read!** The whole point of a better library is to get Galewood/Mont Clare reading. Even with our library's limited selection, we bet you can find some books you'll enjoy, and we hope you'll take the time to read a few.

Sure, this is a crazy idea. And even if this stunt gets as much attention as we're hoping, there are still many hurdles ahead. But we're hoping this peaceful, pro-active, and humorous plan will give CPL, the city, our alderman, and community activists undeniable proof that our community wants a better library, and that neighbors are willing to get involved.



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The Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare

By: Pat Schwandt

Lots of plans are being *plotted* out for our year of gardening in Galewood/Mont Clare. We will be doing some traveling and working in our community. Everyone is invited to our regular meetings but, if you really want to meet your neighbors, join our group! We want to share with you some of the events for the next few months.

Our first regular meeting this year will be a field trip to **The Plant** which is a vertical urban farm inside an old meat packing facility in the Back of the Yards area. We will be given a private tour to view this innovative way to grow food and spur economic development. The event is on Saturday, March 30th and begins at 12 noon and lasts one hour for a cost of \$10. If you are interested, want further information, and/or want to join a car pool, please RSVP to garden_club_gm@sbcglobal.net.

Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 20th, by joining the Garden Club and the Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council. We will be working to enhance our park area and get ready for a season of outdoor fun.

On May 18th we will be hosting an informative meeting about "Dealing with Invasive Weeds Organically" at *Berthold's Flora, Gift, and Garden Center* at 434 East Devon in Elk Grove Village. Wally will once again be the speaker; he always shares special tips to make our gardens grow.



Perhaps you have noticed and enjoyed the garden near the children's playground at Rutherford Sayre Park. That Community Garden is maintained by the Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare. Last year we had a group of 17 loyal members who worked for a week or two during the growing season to keep the garden watered, weeded, and tended. If you would like to participate in maintaining our Community Garden at Rutherford Sayre Park, please contact us at garden_club_gm@sbcglobal.net. You may get your hands a little dirty but it is for the beautification of your community.

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.

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A Community Member Taking Action: Reverend Tasha Brown

By: Molly Porter

Reverend Tasha Brown of Galewood Community Church has teamed up with Mothers In Charge to support Chicago-area families who have been affected by gun violence.



Reverend Brown and Shirley Chambers (right, foreground) at Galewood UCC. (Image by Nancy Stone, Chicago Tribune)

The mass shooting in Newtown last December shocked the nation and resulted in tremendous outpouring of sorrow and support for the affected families. The city of Chicago knows this shock and sorrow as well, but for us, it's more insidious - the result of a seemingly nonstop stream of gun-related deaths through large swaths of the city.

In Galewood, we are fortunate to have been relatively untouched by the gun violence that troubles our neighbors on the near West Side and further east into Austin. But we have a tremendous opportunity to help, especially now that Reverend Tasha Brown of Galewood UCC has launched a new chapter of *Mothers In Charge*, a national organization for violence prevention, education and intervention right here in our neighborhood.

Reverend Brown's involvement with Mothers in Charge began toward the end of 2012 - one of the most violent years in Chicago's recent history - when she met the organization's founder Dorothy Speight Johnson through a mutual friend. Reverend Brown then enlisted her friend Carolyn Champion - who lost her own son in a triple murder in 2011 - to lead the chapter as president. According to Reverend Brown, the group's top priorities are to educate and support teens and younger people. The long term focus of Mothers in Charge is to become "the voice for the voiceless," according to Brown, "to reach out and support the families - mothers in particular - of those lost every day in Chicago, but who are never reported in the media."

Almost immediately after the new chapter formed, the city was rocked by two high profile shooting deaths; those of *Shirley Chambers'* fourth and final child, and Hadiya Pendleton, who was killed while standing with friends at a Chicago park after taking her final exams.

In her role with Mothers in Charge, Reverend Brown has reached out to both families with offers of support. You can learn more about her work with *Shirley Chambers* in this *Chicago Tribune* article. As for Hadiya's family, she is waiting in the wings for the whirlwind to die down, but she told me, "when the family needs us, we'll be there."

(A Community Member Taking Action continues on page 5)

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(A Community Member Taking Action: Reverend Tasha Brown continued from page 4)

According to Brown, Hadiya's death serves as an unfortunate opportunity to raise consciousness: "Her life was beyond repute. When young men die, sometimes we're dismissive because we allow ourselves to say they brought it on themselves because of gang-banging or drug dealing. She was not involved in anything like that. Her life being untainted means this could happen to anyone. Even kids who go to good schools and perform at the inauguration can end up dead on the cold concrete in Chicago."

I asked Reverend Brown what she would like the community to know about gun violence in Chicago and what we can do to help Mothers In Charge. In her words: "I want for people to understand that it happens every day - both reported and unreported. Not everyone can help us by walking the streets or joining a picket line - we understand that. But you can lift your voice in a different way - by writing letters, or teaching advocacy."

She also stressed the importance of financial support, which can help working families in their time of grieving. Reverend Brown says "Imagine if Ms. Chambers had been able to take some time off after the death of her first child instead of having to go back to work within days of the funeral? Could her other children have been saved?"

Reverend Brown's vision for Mothers in Charge and Galewood UCC is that the church will serve as a safe-haven for young people. She plans to offer an afterschool program at the church and she wants to get the word out to Austin. The church has just received a grant to support youth activities and is recruiting for a youth director. When the program is off the ground, she encourages Galewood residents and neighbors to send over snacks or volunteer.

To learn more about Mothers in Charge and to get to know Galewood UCC, Reverend Brown encourages you to come to a Sunday service. The church has been growing thanks to her leadership and an outreach campaign launched last December. The Church is also holding its Annual Extravaganza on Saturday March 30 - and the entire community is invited to join in. You can also follow Mothers in Charge and Galewood UCC on Facebook.

Mothers In Charge Chicago III. Chapter

C/O Galewood Community Church UCC

1776 N Narragansett Avenue

Chicago II, 60639

Chapter Leaders:

Carolyn Champion, M.S. C.A.D.C

773-550-5591

Reverend Dr. Tasha M. Brown

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mothersinchargechicago@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/mothersinchargechicago

www.facebook.com/pages/Galewood-Community-Church-United-Church-of-Christ

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*A Business in Your Neighborhood: **Wonder Works***



By: Maureen Connell

Where can you escape the cold, escape the heat, escape the rain, and unleash your Answer: **Wonder Works!** We are lucky to live near this creative space. In its 6,400 square feet Wonder Works Children's Museum, located at 6445 W North Avenue, offers kids the opportunity to explore, build, create and perform. Designed for infants through eight year-olds, Wonder Works costs \$6 per person (age one and up) and yearly memberships start at \$85. I had a chance to chat with Jessica Taylor, the Wonder Works Education and Volunteer Coordinator. She shared information about events and upcoming changes at Wonder Works.

In addition to parent/child classes, field trips and birthday parties, Wonder Works hosts regularly occurring weekly events. You can participate in Paint Covered Wednesdays from 11 am until 4:30 pm, Thursday Music Time at 11:15 am, or Guided Art Activities each Friday from 11am until 4:30 pm. There are also a few upcoming special events. March 25th through 29th is Space Week and April 1st through 5th is Young Architect's Week. Visit their website for detailed information (<http://www.wonder-works.org>). There are also some changes in the works at Wonder Works. Jessica explained that they're looking to redo the outdoor space at the rear of the building. The plan is to make the garden larger and wheelchair accessible, and to add an outdoor eating area.

As a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, Wonder Works relies heavily on donations and volunteers. They are always accepting donations of puzzles, games, etc. and if they're unable to use the item they'll pass it on to another local organization. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Jessica at jtaylor@wonder-works.org. Hopefully with the support of the local community Wonder Works will be around for a long time!

The Real Estate Beat: Getting Your Home Ready to Sell

By: Robert Perlin

This is my first column for the Galewood Gazette. I am a Realtor® with Baird & Warner, Oak Park/River Forest, but my passion lies in Galewood. I have been a proud Galewood homeowner since 1999. It is very important to me to promote the area to others. Like you, I am very concerned about maintaining or increasing our property values.



The last few years have been tough on the entire real estate market, but I have some positive local trends to report. According to MRED® (Midwest Real Estate Data) January 2013 vs. January 2012, average sales price in the 60707 (Galewood and Elmwood Park) area is up 38.8%. Average market time is down from 204 days in January 2012 to 169 days in January 2013. Inventory (homes for sale) is down 39.1% this January as compared to January 2012, which means now may be a good time to consider selling your home (if you have been waiting).

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(Real Estate Beat: Getting your Home Ready to Sell continued from page 6)

If you are ready to sell your home, here are some tips to get it ready for the market that will help you get top dollar. Remember, “*First impressions are lasting impressions.*” This is especially true when it comes to selling your home (probably your most valuable asset). When you are preparing your home for sale, don’t think of it as fixing it up for someone else. What you are actually doing is trying to create the impression that yours is the “perfect” home. This list will help you focus on making your home attractive, clean, and well maintained.

1. The most important thing to do is clean and de-clutter. Less is more! This means getting rid of excess furniture, knickknacks, and pictures. Closets should be tidy and organized. Clear your kitchen counter and organize your cabinets or pantry. Your home will seem more spacious. With the personal items removed, people will be better able to imagine themselves living there. Remember, staging is not about how you live, but helping others to envision how they would live in your home.
2. Make small fixes. Inspect your home with a buyer’s eye and correct the flaws that are most obvious (if affordable) or can be relatively easily fixed.
3. Stay vigilant about maintenance. Outside, keep snow cleared or the lawn mowed. Inside, keep all rooms spotless and clutter-free. Remember, you want to outshine the competition.
4. Think about improving curb appeal. Many people decide whether or not to look at your house by its outside appearance. Because the exterior makes a strong first impression, make sure your landscaping is in excellent shape. Clean up the yard, repair damage to the lawn, trim bushes and trees, and plant some flowers.
5. Make exterior repairs. Repair cracked sidewalks and stairs, loose gutters, and peeling paint. These repairs may increase your sale price or decrease your market time.
6. Freshen the interior. Repair cracks. A new coat of paint is a low cost way to re-invigorate a tired or dingy looking room. Shampoo the carpet or replace it if it is worn out.
7. Spruce up the bathroom. It must be spotless (no mold or mildew) and free of clutter. Consider re-caulking the tub or shower to freshen the look. A new shower curtain and towels are inexpensive ways to update.
8. Pay attention to the basement, because buyers will. It must be clean, dry, and odor free. Invest in a de-humidifier and leave it running to keep the air fresh.
9. Clean, clean, clean! Wash the windows inside and out. Clean, dust, or launder all window treatments. Clean all ceiling fans and light fixtures to remove the cobwebs and dead bugs. If you’re not painting, wash all walls and wallpaper. Deep clean your kitchen and bathrooms.
10. Enlist another set of eyes. After you have completed steps 1-9, have a friend or Realtor® look at your home from a buyer’s perspective. Ask them for comments and suggestions. Someone with an outside perspective may notice shortcomings that you may have become used to.

With thoughtful planning and preparation, your home will most likely sell faster and for a better price.

Robert is a Real Estate Broker with Baird & Warner. It would be his pleasure to help you with any of your real estate needs. He welcomes your comments, questions or future column suggestions. You can reach Robert at 708. 697.5947, at robert.perlin@bairdwarner.com or through his website www.galewoodhomes.com.

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Greetings from Redeemer Church

By: Pastor Matt Stuhlmuller



Why do we need another church in our community? That's a question I'm often asked, and it's totally legitimate. I mean, the Galewood area already has several churches. So why another one? If we look at the gifts and strengths that each of these churches has, we realize that there is no single "right" way to do church. Each church has its own personality, so to speak, and is gifted at connecting with the wider community in a particular way. Working together, we can do an even better job at serving the wider community than if we were all trying to go at it alone.

So what's different about Redeemer Church? How are we positioned to serve the wider community in a unique way? We are a brand-new multigenerational, multiracial church community that has a heart and passion for connecting with 20/30somethings. As we see it, 20/30somethings are the missing generation in our churches; church attendance among this group is at an all-time low.

We're passionate about creating a place where 20/30somethings can learn more about Jesus and his radical message of love, form loving relationships with each other, ask honest questions, and work together to make our world a better place. Our worship services are filled with lively, current music. We have a number of Connection Groups that meet weekly to study the Bible, pray together, and share the joys and struggles of life. We also regularly put our faith into action through service opportunities.

Does any of this intrigue you? It is totally up to you and God, of course, but if you are interested in being part of something new, you can check us out at redeemerchicago.com. We would also love to meet you at one of our upcoming preview worship services (dates are listed on the website). All worship services include singing, a message, and communion, followed by coffee and snacks in our coffee bar.

We at Redeemer Church are excited to be planting roots in the Galewood community. This is a wonderful place to be. Thank you for the warm welcome you've already given us. We look forward to being your neighbor for many years to come.

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Someone You Should Know: Denise Szymczyk

By: Kelly Higgins-Turner

I wouldn't have suspected that it would be such a challenge to meet up with and interview Denise Szymczyk because she lives just across the street. But, when I first contacted her about making some time for me, she had only a few days free. When we finally narrowed down a date, there were unfortunate issues with one of her foster cats, and we needed to delay once again until issues with a critically ailing cat were resolved to her standards.

Some of you may already know Denise aka Magda, through Gypsy Cats, her non-for-profit cat rescue or by her involvement with dance. She has been living in the Galewood neighborhood since 1982. When Denise first moved in, there were no children living in the surrounding blocks. There were mostly seniors and empty nesters. She bought her home from a prominent judge for the city of Chicago, Judge Edward Healy. She has great photos of Judge Healy and Mayor Richard J. Daley enjoying cocktails at the bar in her basement.

Denise is a neighbor with many talents. She has been involved with cat rescue for over twenty years. This all started after she shared her breakfast with a stray cat one morning on her back deck. The next day, the same cat wandered into her house and began delivering kittens. Last year she was able to save and find homes for: twenty-one kittens, eight barn cats when a senior was unable to care for them, and she took into her home eight special needs cats. All of these animals would have otherwise been euthanized at shelters. Magda, her dance persona, coordinates fundraising activities throughout the year to support her efforts at Gypsy Cats and other animal rescues. The Halfa events she organizes involve dancing and costume vending. Last year with the cost of veterinarian bills exceeding \$10,000, food costing over \$6,000 and miscellaneous expenses being almost \$4,000 any support is helpful.

Magda began belly dancing about sixteen years ago. Her first class was taken at the Discovery Center to keep her busy and to have fun. While taking classes, she would go to different Arabic restaurants and clubs such as, Barbi Yanni, Ramiana, and Al Kahyam to enjoy the art of this traditional dance. It was at one of these clubs that she was approached by an owner about dancing regularly. This paid job gave her more exposure and led to her landing teaching positions, which she has been doing for about fourteen years. She works at many schools and community centers, and also teaches senior seated classes in yoga and tai-chi.

Denise is a community member who is truly doing a lot to better the world around her. The Garden Club of Galewood Mont Clare has asked her to be on the Garden Walk twice because the landscaping around her home is so appealing. Her animal whispering abilities inspire neighbors to call her first with questions they have about ill or odd animal issues. Her teaching and dance abilities are a true inspiration, and help build her students' self-esteem. She is truly one of the many neighbors whom make Galewood a great place to live.



Neighborhood Action: EZPawn Corp

By: Neal Wankoff

EZPawn Corp, subsidiary of publicly traded EZCorp, is seeking to open a pawn shop at 6432 W North Avenue. The shop would open in the shopping center owned by ABC Bank and other investors and be located between Advocate Health Center and a branch of ABC Bank. Hollywood Video was the last tenant to occupy the space. The pawn shop would be the fifth such store in a half mile stretch of North Avenue from Nagle to Melvina. Community opposition to the proposed store has been strong and residents of both Chicago and Oak Park are working together to block the development.

The store was first presented to the public at a 36th ward community meeting in July 2011. The attendees were overwhelmingly opposed to the idea. EZPawn then sent surveys to residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the store. The 70 surveys returned showed 69 residents did not want a pawn shop in that location.

EZPawn, not satisfied with their store being blocked, appealed to the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The case was heard during the ZBA's January 2013 meeting. More than 40 people from the area showed up on a cold Friday afternoon at City Council chambers to oppose the store. EZPawn and their allies presented their case to the ZBA. Led by zoning attorney Amy Kurson EZPawn argued pawn shops do not have a detrimental effect on a commercial district or produces more crime. The property owner wants a tenant for the space that has been vacant for several years and the rental agent claimed other businesses walked away from the location because there is not enough space for parking.

Led by Alderman Sposato residents of Galewood and Oak Park filed into seats normally used by aldermen during council sessions. A microphone was passed from person to person as each gave their reason why the store was not a good fit. The chair noted the comments as they were delivered. The testimony given was eloquent and succinct.

During Alderman Sposato's testimony one of the commissioners questioned whether he was the real alderman of the location. A memo from another government office was presented stating the new ward boundaries were now being enforced. The ZBA then asked if a letter from the new alderman was available. A letter from 29th Ward Alderman Graham was produced supporting the new store.

The Zoning Board of Appeals eventually approved the zoning change 3-1 and the City Council passed a resolution affirming the decision.

A campaign of calling Alderman Graham's office to register community complaints regarding her intervention resulted in the alderman calling a community meeting. Attended by over 200 people EZPawn and ABC Bank attempted to persuade the community the pawn shop would be a good addition to the community. The community again strongly rejected the store interrupting the speakers and making calls to take money out of ABC Bank.

(Neighborhood Action continues on page 11)

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North Avenue Business Association

The North Avenue Business Association Announces College Scholarship Deadline March 15

The North Avenue Business Association (NABA) is sponsoring its seventh annual scholarship for area graduating high school seniors, continuing their education as a business major or in a business related field. Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded. The deadline for applications is March 15.

Students applying must reside in the Village of Oak Park, River Forest and the Chicago neighborhoods of Galewood and parts of Austin. Chicago resident boundaries include Armitage (2000 N) to the north, Division (1200 N) to the south, Austin (6000 W) to the east and Harlem (7200 W) to the west.

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

NABA congratulates its 2012 Scholarship Award recipients. Galewood resident, Brianna Harris, graduated from Steinmetz Academic Centre. She was ranked seventh in her class, participated in the International Baccalaureate Program, was an exchange student, an accomplished track star, and volunteered at a food depository. She's attending DePaul University, majoring in business management; then she plans on training in Paris, in the art of Pastries.

Yazmin Alford, graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School. She was a member of student council, the Black Organization for Student Success Club, and performed her poetry in the Spoken Word Poetry Club. She's attending DePaul University, majoring in accounting and minoring in marketing.

For information about the North Avenue Business Association's scholarship program, please contact Debbie Fossey at Deborsh.Fossey@firstmerit.com or at 708.456.8843.

(Neighborhood Action continued from page 10)

Alderman Graham promised to not approve future businesses without receiving community input and promised to pray on the community's input that night. It is not known if Alderman Graham has changed her decision on the store.

A group of residents are continuing the fight against the store. Led by local attorney Larry Andolino an administrative complaint is being filed in the Cook County Circuit Court. The odds of winning are about even according to Mr. Andolino. The court is expected to render its decision 60 days after the suit is filed.



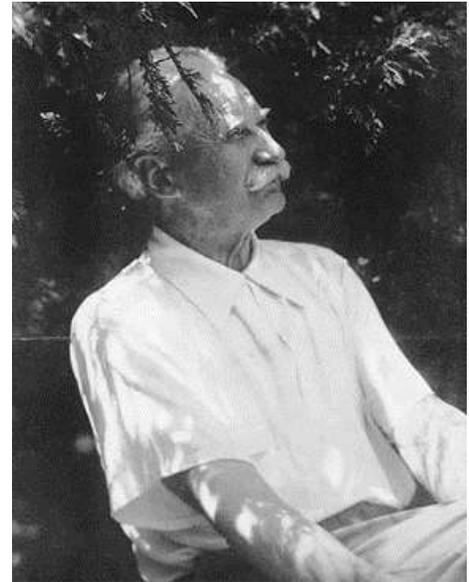
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Dedication of Recreation Grounds Occasion for a Gala Day in Suburb

By: Tom Drebenstedt

This was the header for a Chicago Tribune article on September 18, 1909. It announced the formal opening of our neighborhood parks, Sayre and Rutherford. At this time, the parks were two separate entities, one north of the railroad tracks and one south of it. Mont Clare was considered a far away suburb of Chicago; Grand Avenue streetcar service was still years away and automobiles were new contraptions.

The land along Belden Avenue and west of 68th Court (later Newcastle) was part of the Sayre homestead. The land east of 68th Court, where the present day field house and ball fields exist, was not parkland, still subdivided for residential development. The land south of the tracks from 69th Avenue (later Newland) east to 68th Avenue (later Oak Park) was part of Rutherford's holdings. The two parks were not physically connected; the Tribune reported that a road under the tracks was being contemplated.



Jens Jensen

What did this new park look like? According to a plan by landscape architect Jens Jensen (1860-1951), the north parcel was heavily planted at the perimeter, opening up to a clearing in the center. A series of winding walking paths provided contrast to the rigid street and railroad layout. The south parcel was much different. A gravel road parallel to the tracks connected Humboldt Avenue (later Palmer) to 68th Avenue. North of this path was a pond and south of it was a clearing. Again, dense plantings at the park perimeter blocked views of buildings and trains.

Who is Jensen? A Danish immigrant, who came to our city in the 1880s, became the dean of Prairie landscape architecture and a significant progressive reformer. Many people know Frank Lloyd Wright and Prairie School architecture, but less know of Jensen, his contemporary. Walk over to Taylor Park at Ridgeland and Division to see more of Jensen's work, or head over to Riis Park to see the restored lagoon inspired by him. Nearby Columbus Park may be his masterpiece. Interested in examining Jensen's ideas in greater detail? Contact the writer at chilstedt@sbcglobal.net to find out when he leads tours of Humboldt Park, both Jensen's laboratory and home.

The Galewood Gazette

The Galewood Gazette is a volunteer effort dedicated to inspiring neighborhood communication, involvement, and cooperation. We are always looking for ideas and input. The submission deadline for our next issue is **May 30, 2013**.

Thank You to our Spring 2013 Contributors: Tom, Wendy, Kelly, Neal, Maureen, Pat, Robert, Matt, and Bryan.

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