

# Mount Greenwood

## Local Redevelopment Corporation

Volume 9 Issue 3

May/June 2007

## MOUNT GREENWOOD TURNS 100

Here's a brief history that we believe to be (pretty much) embellishment free.

In 1877, while surveying for the railroad, George Waite, determined that the elevation and lush greenery in this area made it an ideal final resting place for the dearly beloved. Mount Greenwood Cemetery was born. City folks could travel by carriage or accompany a coffin on the 'funeral train' to the cemetery stop (111th and Sacramento). After the coffin was unloaded to a horse drawn wagon, mourners would follow it to the gravesite.

Restaurants, saloons, boarding rooms, and even a greyhound racing track sprang up to meet the needs of weary travelers. These hospitality related businesses were only meant to help distract mourners from their pain and restore their spirit before the long trek back to the city.

Well, the staunch Protestants to the east in the Morgan Park community deemed the alcohol consumption and some of the behavior that was reported to go on as 'immoral'. They considered plans to clean up this 'wild', unincorporated territory.

Mount Greenwood residents and merchants had a plan of their own. They realized that the best (and maybe only) way to ensure that Mount Greenwood could continue to provide comfort to funeral goers (and on occasion to some other men, reported to be visiting from neighboring areas-even Morgan Park) was to create a legal entity.

Thus, in September 1907, residents voted to incorporate the Village of Mount Greenwood. (It wasn't until 1927 that we were annexed to the City of Chicago.)

And so, 100 years later, we celebrate the people and spirit of Mount Greenwood. We are a community rooted in hospitality, accustomed to welcoming new friends, providing healthy diversions from the troubles of the day, and pulling together to find sensible solutions for the common good.

### Mark your calendar for the Anniversary Extravaganza!

**September 8 and 9 – 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.**  
**Mt. Greenwood Park – 3721 W. 111th St**

Monday, May 7 – 7 p.m.  
Community organizational meeting at the Mount Greenwood Park.

To discuss sponsorship of this event,  
contact Mary Kiedrow at 773-881-0622.

## What's Coming Up?

- May 5** Cinco de Mayo – See you at LaFiesta
- May 7** 100th Anniversary Community meeting Mt. Greenwood Park 7 p.m.
- May 13** Happy Mother's Day
- May 17** CAPS – Mt. Greenwood Park 7 p.m.
- May 28** Memorial Day
- June 4** 100th Anniversary meeting - Mt. Greenwood Park 7 p.m.
- June 17** Happy Father's Day
- June 21** CAPS – Mt. Greenwood Park 7 p.m.

## Our mission

is to direct the course of *future growth* and *redevelopment* in our business districts in order to *maintain* and *improve* the economic vitality necessary to provide the community with a *stable social* and *business environment*.

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# MONOPOLY RULES!

Our 11th Annual Tournament was a great success thanks to a wide variety of support. Thanks to all who paid and played. Please help us continue to thank our sponsors by mentioning their support of the tournament when you visit their establishments. Tournament proceeds enhance LRC services, including providing this free newsletter and a neighborhood Business Directory.



## 2007 MONOPOLY SPONSORS

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## CORNERS CORNER

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### **NWC 111th & Kedzie**

The April 16 meeting of the Mount Greenwood Civic Association was well attended by residents anxious for information on delays and an anticipated timetable for construction of the much anticipated Signature Development.

Terraco, Inc. representatives discussed multiple steps involved in the process, including acquisition of public and private land, obtaining approval of local elected officials, community groups, zoning and design committees, and ultimately the City of Chicago. Alderman Rugai provided a history of the project. Dan Klaiber, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), outlined the City approval process.

Currently, negotiations between the City and Terraco for vacation of a portion of Sawyer and relocation of the east/west alley are underway. In conjunction with this negotiated sale, the City is investigating the possibility of completing infrastructure improvements prior to the sale/transfer of property. A 'best case scenario', meaning a quick resolution on price and no major permit or construction snafus, suggested construction could begin Spring/Summer 2008.

Design issues were clarified pertaining to traffic flow. Residents learned that two houses at 11040 and 44 were scheduled for demolition the week of April 16. Mr. Bean assured neighbors that concerns about tenants in a third house would be addressed swiftly.

### **West of NWC**

The 1997 Camiros Plan, 1999 American Planning Association Workshop, and quite frankly, most residents and business owners, all strongly encouraged new development to continue along 111th St. between Sawyer and Spaulding.

The Local Redevelopment Corp. (LRC) began assembling this 22,000 s/f parcel in 1997. The final property was acquired December 2005. Between the LRC and Terraco, all but one building have been demolished, making this site prime for development.

### **NEC 111th & Pulaski**

Clarification—The LRC was under contract at one time to purchase this site, but did not close, and does not own the property.



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Chicago, Illinois 60655

## INSIDE

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## Smiles & Frowns

**Smiles** - Hint - Spam can be discouraged by simply clicking DELETE without opening unsolicited mail. Reading and then clicking 'unsubscribe' or 'opt—out' actually informs the sender that yours is a good address and may actually contribute to increased spam, while increasing the chance of catching a virus.

**Frowns** - Neighbors complained recently at a public forum that garbage, razor wire, and a ramshackle garage still grace a prime commercial property on 111th St. more than two years after this used car lot closed its doors. (The LRC is contacting the current owners again and has asked Ald. Rugai to ensure city codes and regulations are enforced here.)



Civic meeting – Douglas Bean and Paul Kolpac update residents on status of Walgreens project.



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COMMENTS ENCOURAGED

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