

# Ranch Triangle Newsletter

## March 2020

*The mission of the Ranch Triangle Community Conservation Association is to advocate for and on behalf of its residents to improve and sustain a high quality of city life. RANCH seeks to fulfill its mission by supporting responsible development, improving the environment, fostering a thoughtful discussion and resolution of community issues, as well as involvement in charitable and community-building activities.*

### Ranch Triangle Annual Meeting

The Ranch Triangle Community Conservation Association's 2020 annual meeting is set for Sunday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m. at Vinci's, 1732 N. Halsted. Please join us as we come together as a community and catch up on neighborhood happenings.

### Armitage Street Festival May 29-31

Ranch Triangle will co-host the Armitage Street Festival on May 30, June 1 and 2. The Armitage Festival will take place on Armitage Avenue from Sheffield to Seminary. The events feature music, food, games, and family activities.

### Planter Boxes Ready for Your Ads

Advertise your business on one of the 11 planter boxes that stretch along Armitage and Halsted Streets. To sponsor one of the planter boxes, contact David Lissner at [dinechi@aol.com](mailto:dinechi@aol.com). Your business will be recognized with signs on both ends of the

planter box.



Alderman Brian Hopkins and Ranch Triangle President, David Lissner show off planter box.

## Report from Green BRanch Committee

Late last year the Ranch Triangle's board set up an environmental committee to work on greening and environmental issues in the neighborhood. Now called the *Green BRanch Committee*, the group works to *educate*, *engage* and *activate* Ranch Triangle residents, and all residents along the North Branch, on sustainability issues impacting our community and city. To that end, several events have been scheduled.

### Calendar of Ranch Triangle's 2020 Environmental Events

**Saturday, March 21, 2020 Spring Clean-up Day** – This is a day to take a walk on your block, in your alley, along Armitage, Halsted or Clybourn with a plastic bag to pick up all the litter that has collected over the winter. Help keep Ranch Triangle clean

**Saturday, April 18, 2020 Earth Day Parks Clean Up Day** – Check out your neighborhood park, Adams, Trebes, Oz or Lincoln Park to join the park cleanup activity

**Friday, April 24, 2020 Arbor Day** – Tree planting TBD

**Saturday, May 16, 2020 River Clean Up Day** – Join Ranch Triangle at the southeast corner where North Avenue intersects with the Chicago River as we clean up the small green park and riverbank.

## Ways to Recycle Kitchen Organic Waste

Food scraps that get thrown into the garbage will end up in landfills where they release methane, a strong greenhouse gas. Composting is a great option for all of us living in the city, so before you throw out last week's leftovers or produce that has gone bad, check out how two Ranch Triangle residents handle their food waste:

### How Ivy Tzur and Alex Dzakovic recycle organic waste

While Ivy cooks in her kitchen, she collects her food scraps in a bowl in the sink which she then stores in the freezer. Once the bowl fills up, she brings it down to her alley and places it in a compost bin that is used by members of her 16-unit complex. Every week this bin gets picked up, and the food scraps are taken to a commercial composting facility. Chicago residents can select from several compost pick-up companies and sign up as individual households, or as a shared service with neighbors. Compost pick-up services cost vary depending on bin size and frequency of pickups.

Alex Dzakovic is composting in his backyard in a commercially available 42 gal tumber bin. All plant based unprocessed kitchen scraps are roughly shredded by hand or scissors before placing them into the bin. Processed food and table scraps are not suitable for this type of composting, will attract rodents and cannot be processed this way. The tumbler was initially "primed" with a few handfuls of organic composting soil in order to have a balanced mix of microbes and is turned a few times every time new material is added to favor an aerobic milieu. During the warmer summer months this system allows decomposition to garden soil within a few weeks which is then used continuously as available around the yard. Garden scraps and leaves in fall are also processed this way but decompose significantly slower over the winter months.

### Additional resources

**Worm composting:** Worm composting is also a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose your food scraps and create a rich nutrient soil. More info here on how to get started: <https://www.chicagorecyclingcoalition.org/composting-vermicomposting.html>

**Drop off at farmers markets:** If you don't have a backyard and using a pick-up service doesn't appeal to you, you can drop off your food scraps at several Chicago area farmers markets for a small fee. One of the closest drop off sites for our neighborhood is at the **Green City Market**. Chicago's Green City Market offers an organic collection site every other Saturday (through April) at the Notebaert Museum

Saturday Market. For the low fee of \$3, you bring your organic waste and deposit it in their organic bins. It is then hauled away to create a healthy compost for soil enrichment. Go to <https://www.greencitymarket.org/programs/program.asp?id=12> for details.

More info here: <https://zerowastechicago.com/compost/drop-off>

**Pick up services:** There are several groups that pick up the organic waste. Google to find the one that works for you.

**Alley Bins:** Block bins provide locked and coded bins that are picked up on a regular basis. For more info go to <https://www.blockbins.com/about>

## General Iron Cited by City for Pollution

The Chicago Tribune featured a front-page article on the continuing pollution from General Iron, and the city's new efforts to issue citations for these illegal actions. City health inspectors issued 5 pollution citations to General Iron in a recent two-month period. Read the article at

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/environment/ct-general-iron-emission-violations-20200211-wt6mkmmvvrh3ffegk2webqigvi-story.html>

Regarding General Iron, it is very important to continue to report all excessive noise, smell, air pollution incidents to the City of Chicago

- File a complaint on the City's Chi311 app or call 311 with any potential environmental violation.
- Notify the Illinois EPA

## Ranch Triangle Board Meeting Schedule

You are invited to attend Ranch's board meetings to learn about the issues concerning the Ranch Triangle community. All board meetings are held at Adams Park, 1919 N. Seminary. Board meetings for 2020 are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month: March 11 and April 8, 2020 at 7:15 p.m.



## Green City Indoor Market: Saturdays Through April



**The Green City Market** is held indoors every Saturday at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon in Lincoln Park). The indoor market is open from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. every Saturday through April.

## Old Town School of Music

The Old Town School of Music hosts music classes for kids and adults. Also, the school presents a year-long schedule of fine concerts. For a complete schedule go to [www.oldtownschool.org](http://www.oldtownschool.org)

## New Businesses

**Alderman Michele Smith reported that 70 new businesses opened in the Ward in 2019**, including retail, restaurants, coffee shops, hair and nail salons, fitness centers and 3 new childcare centers.

- Allbirds
- Dearborn Denim
- Heartbreak Hill Running
- Lively
- Mejuri Jewelry
- Parachute



- WineStyr
  - Villa Verde Oil
- 
- Ali Baba Donor
  - Cafe Bonne Sante
  - Cafecito
  - D Cuisine
  - Ella's BBQ
  - Graze
  - Hops & Curds
  - Equinox
  - Galit Restaurant
- Herb & Alchemy Coffee Shop
  - Kaathis
  - Mundano
  - Rangoli-Indian Cuisine
  - Real Good Stuff Co.
  - Side by Side Pet Nutrition
- Takito Street
  - Philz Coffee
  - Urban Nomads
  - Xian Dynasty
  - Velvet Taco
  - Blowout Junkie
  - Kohler Waters Spa
  - 4 new fitness studios

### Other News from 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman Michele Smith

Alderman Michele Smith hosts Ward Nights the first Monday of each month. **The next Ward Night is set for Monday, March 2 from 5 to 7 p.m.**

To get important updates on the 43<sup>rd</sup> Ward, go to the alderman's webpage and subscribe to her newsletter at [www.ward43.org](http://www.ward43.org)

You can also email a question or request at [www.yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:www.yourvoice@ward43.org)

### Other Contact Information

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Brian Hopkins, 1400 N. Ashland, 312.643.2299, [www.aldermanhopkins.com](http://www.aldermanhopkins.com)**

**5<sup>th</sup> District Illinois State Senator, Patricia Van Pelt, 1016 W. Jackson, 312.888.9191, <http://senatorvanpelt.com/contact-us>**

**5<sup>th</sup> District Illinois State Representative**

**U.S. Representative Mike Quigley, 3223 N. Sheffield, 773.267.5926 [www.quigley.house.gov](http://www.quigley.house.gov)**

**18<sup>th</sup> District Police Department, Daniel O'Shea, Commander, 1160 N. Larrabee, 312.742.5870, <https://home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/18th-district-near-north/>**