Celebrating success at McDonald's



Smiles were in abundance earlier this week at the McDonald's at Archer and Rutherford, as owners and invited guests celebrated the completion of the restaurant's renovation. Among those taking part in the ribbon cutting at the front counter are (from left) company mascot Grimace, Alana Dakajos, John James Dakajos, Debbie Dakajos, 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares and attorney John Sullivan. The Dakajos family has owned and operated the McDonald's unit since it was built in 1966 by the late Christ Dakajos. His son, John James Dakajos, started working there at age 8, "when we were just burgers, fries, shakes and pies," he told the Southwest News-Herald at the ribbon cutting. Dakajos and his wife, Debbie, have owned and operated the restaurant since 1990--one of several McDonald's they have. The restaurant on Archer employs about 75 people, Dakajos said, as he praised Tabares and other city agencies--most notably the Department of Streets and Sanitation--for helping make the eight-week interior facelift go smoothly. Others at the celebration included restaurant manager Clarissa Bramwell and Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce President Mary Ellen Brown. - *Photo by Tim Hadac*