



MANOR NEWS

FALL

2014

Event Calendar

RMIA Semi Annual Member Open House
Wednesday, October 1, 7:30 pm at Horner Park Fieldhouse.

Walking Tours

Go to the RMIA walking tours page on our website for more information.

Tall Tales and Colorful Characters

Saturday, September 20, 10 am. Sign-up began at 10 am August 30 at eventbrite.

Manor Noir

Saturday, November 1, 7 pm. Sign-up begins at 7 pm October 11 at eventbrite.

Candelite Interiors

Saturday, December 6, 7 pm. Due to space constraints, this tour is limited to "RMIA Centennial Members." (To join, see RMIA website ravenswoodmanor.com/membership)

Midnight Circus at Welles Park

Benefiting Horner Park Dog Friendly Area
Friday, October 17 at 7 pm
Saturday, October 18 at 2 pm and 5 pm
Sunday, October 19 at 1 pm and 4 pm

More Pictures Inside!



Manor Bash Recap

By Thomas Applegate and Kathy Monk



T-Shirt, Check. Helmet, Check. Streamers, Check. (Photo: Dave Monk of Brave New Pictures)

We certainly throw a great party in Ravenswood Manor. Thank you to everyone who planned, implemented, and ultimately came out and enjoyed our big Centennial Bash on June 28th in Manor Park. The following numbers give a sense of the scale of the undertaking and its success:

- Over the entire weekend, Friday to Sunday, performances included one Polynesian Arts troupe complete with three fire dances, four folk, bluegrass, reggae, and blues bands, one circus act, and one theater company—for a total of 12 hours of entertainment and a total audience of 1,025 people.
- Ninety children joined the annual Independence Bike Parade to kick off the Bash on Saturday. Throughout the day many more kids got their faces painted, jumped around in the bounce house, learned circus tricks, and played mini golf.
- The \$2 Chicago hot dog stand resulted in three trips to the store and 400 hot dogs sold. Four food trucks parked for six hours. And we expect that 0 cans of silly string were purchased.
- Eight of your neighbors planned the Bash, and 38 more neighbors volunteered to put on the Bash for 800 households in the Manor.
- One hundred and ninety three Bash photos were taken by neighborhood resident Dave Monk and were posted to the RMIA facebook page. Resident Alan Shortall took one massive group photo and the bike parade video is 4:52 long.
- Sixty nine RMIA Centennial Members (\$100 each) helped fund the Bash, along with another 96 RMIA members, who each contributed between \$10 to \$50. Thank you!

One more thing: If you enjoy the summer music program in Manor Park, please help make it happen again next year by joining the Horner Park Advisory Council's Summer Concert team. Contact John O'Connell for more information at: johnroconnell4530@gmail.com

Manor Garden Club Looking for New Members

By Anne Rozynin

Do you stop to weed while taking out the garbage and then, an hour later, realize you've lost track of time? Do you get excited when you find a new plant nursery? Do you think gardening is more fun than housework? Well, you are cordially invited to the **September 15th Manor Garden Club meeting at 7:30 pm at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Ave.** Our speaker will be Nicole McDavid, urban gardener, who will present ways to preserve all that great produce you've either grown or bought at the Farmers' Market.

Not sure what to expect at a garden club meeting? Well, we don't speak Latin, we don't wear big hats and gloves, and we are your neighbors. We do have refreshments, share news pertinent to the neighborhood, talk about past and upcoming projects, and generally have a good time. MGC focuses on all aspects of gardening, including vegetables, perennials, trees, native plants, and whatever other gardening topics in which our members are interested.

We've toured the garden on top of City Hall, Anderson Japanese Garden in Rockford, Northwind Perennials in Burlington, Wisconsin, and The Plant in Bridgeport. We hold the Spring Plant Sale every year and have a wreath-making workshop before Christmas. We also organized the mass volunteer parkway tree planting last November and are working with the RMIA and Openlands to do another planting this fall.

MGC welcomes all gardeners, whether novice or experienced. There is no residency requirement; if you have a garden-loving friend who doesn't live in the Manor, please pass this invitation on to them. Membership is \$20.00 yearly. Our meetings are open to the public, so if you'd like to check it out, feel free to stop in. Meetings start with the speaker. You can also check us out on our Facebook page.

Centennial Tree Planting



Volunteers plant a tree in the parkway on Manor.

Good news for bringing more trees back to our neighborhood. After the success of last year's volunteer effort, RMIA and Manor Garden Club will apply for another tree planting day in partnership with Openlands and our homeowners. Trees planted will be known as Centennial Trees in honor of RMIA's centennial year and will be planted this fall or spring 2015. Plans are in development, but we need to identify a minimum of 20 spots for trees on the parkways as soon as possible. Homeowners commit to help on the tree planting day and to water and weed their tree(s) on their parkway.

Manor neighbors who are interested in participating in this opportunity to beautify our neighborhood should send their name, address, and email to manorgarden_trees@comcast.net. Please include a description of where to plant your tree(s) in your parkway and how many you need. Deadline for inclusion is Friday, September 19th.

Manor News Ads

New volunteers have jumped in to produce our quarterly *Manor News*, beginning with this issue. One priority is to bring in advertisers to support the newsletter. We would appreciate any leads that you have for businesses that serve our residents, especially where you have a personal contact we can follow up with. Send contact information to Thomas Applegate at: thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.

Rates: 1 Year / 4 issues

Large: 7.75" W x 3.25" H: \$350

Medium: 3.75" W x 3.25" H: \$300

Small: 3.37" W x 2.00" H: \$240

Advertisers benefits include two posts on the RMIA facebook page and listing as a sponsor on the RMIA website and in the email updates sidebar.

Our newsletter team: Jim Peters - Editor, Steve Shanabru - Layout, Joe Cesario - Distribution.



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Manor Census Info



1920 census taker (Photo: U.S. Census Bureau)

The results of four different U.S. censuses—from 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940—are now available to residents of Ravenswood Manor on the RMIA's web site: ravenswoodmanor.com/census.

We encourage residents to go on-line and learn about the previous occupants of their houses, condos, and apartments. These early censuses list family members, their occupations, and—beginning in 1930—the values of the property. In addition to being fascinating history, the census also can provide research leads (from the descendants of previous occupants) for locating building blueprints, family photographs, and oral history.

Please note that, because of privacy laws, the U.S. Bureau of the Census only issues these historic records at least 70 years after a census is conducted. The next release will be the 1950 census in 2022.

The Ravenswood Manor Centennial Research Committee's observations from the historic censuses include:

Number of Residents: Only 18 households (74 total residents) existed in 1910, one year after the Ravenswood Manor subdivision was created. By 1920, however, there were 368 households (1,428 residents) and, in 1930, this figure had doubled to 744 households (2,698 residents). In 1940, following the Great Depression, the numbers had dropped slightly to 739 (2,546 residents).

Family Size: The largest average family size was 4.1 persons in 1910. This dropped to 3.9 in 1920, 3.6 in 1930, and 3.4 in 1940.

Foreign Born: The greatest percentage of foreign-born "heads of households"—26%—occurred in 1920. That figure dropped to 20% in 1930 and 16% in 1940. The 1930 census notes the following countries of the neighborhood's foreign-born population: Germany (29%), Sweden (17%), Russia (12%), Canada (9%), Austria (5%), England (4%), Denmark and Norway (3% each), Scotland (2%); other (13%).

Occupations: The neighborhood was a mix of "white collar" and "blue collar" occupations in its early years. Although professions have changed greatly since 1930, that census showed the following occupations: sales (18%), office (13%), municipal/utility (11%), financial/legal, manufacturing, and trade/building (10% each), service (9%), self-employed (7%), printing (4%), engineering/science and arts (3% each), medical (2%).

Rental/Home Ownership: This information is not available for 1910 and 1920. However, the 1930 census showed 37% of the households as rental units and, following the Depression, this figure had risen to 45% in 1940.

Housing Prices: Again, this information is only available for 1930 and 1940, but it clearly shows the impact of the Depression. Monthly rental rates fell from an average of \$200 (1930) to \$130 (1940), while the average home value—as reported by homeowners—plummeted from \$80,000 to \$23,000.

Many thanks to Jackie Klein for her dedicated work in assembling this historic census information. We hope you enjoy your own research.

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Manor Bash! (Credit: Alan Shortall Photography. Link to zoomable photo: http://www.alanshortall.com/RMIA/RMIA_3.html)



Bash day arrives.



Gizzae Reggae.

Manor Bash Photos: Dave Monk of Brave New Pictures



Bash Smile



Tasty Cool



Happy Bash



Art Faces



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I Am Curious (Manor)

By Jim Peters



Q: What was the purpose of the concrete containers that still exist on the alley side of a few properties in Ravenswood Manor (above)?

A: These “cement boxes” were built to hold the spent ashes from the coal-burning furnaces that heated most of the early residences in the Manor. A homeowner would dump their furnace ashes in the top of the boxes and city garbage collectors would unload them through 18” x 18” doors at the bottom of the cans, facing the alley.

As coal furnaces were converted to natural gas during the 1960s, the City required that the cement boxes be demolished by the homeowner. But officials did not enforce that requirement.

“Once the surviving boxes were no longer used for ashes,” remembers area resident Chuck Betzold, “residents began using them as a regular garbage can. They would stuff garbage through the top, many times so tightly that the poor garbage men had a hard time removing the garbage through the lower door.”

“Over the years many of the metal doors became misaligned and the boxes were a haven for alley rats.” As a result, the following trash collection routine developed, according to Betzold, whose uncle worked for the City: “One garbage man would open the lower door while his partner would get ready to swing his coal shovel in anticipation of the exiting rats.”

In 1948, the City began issuing galvanized garbage cans to homeowners to discourage them from emptying their garbage into the cement boxes. Most homeowners began removing the cement boxes, although a few still can be found along neighborhood alleys, where some residents still use them—as compost bins.

Thanks to David Pott for submitting this question.

Next issue’s question, courtesy of Harmeen Ahuja: Which movies have been filmed in the Manor?

Volunteers Needed



Manor Easter Egg Hunt.

Neighborhood is important, and our’s thrives through residents who find a way to participate. The RMIA depends on volunteers like you to put on our events, keep up communications, and lead through board service. Now is a great time to step forward, join your neighbors, and help out. Here are current volunteer needs. Look for more information on the RMIA website: ravenswoodmanor.com.

Social Events: Select a fun annual RMIA event that you would like to help organize. Easter Egg Hunt, Garage Sale, Independence Bike Parade, Garden Walk, OktoberFest.

Board of Directors: The RMIA Board represents the interests of our community to the city, businesses, and other organizations. It meets monthly, September – June, on the 2nd Monday.

33rd Ward Transportation Action Committee: Alderman Mell established this monthly working group to address pedestrian, cycling, and car concerns, and the Committee is looking at Manor from Lawrence to Montrose as a potential project. Meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Communications: Help keep everyone informed through our website, facebook, emails and newsletter distribution. We especially need a couple of wordpress-capable volunteers to build out the RMIA website.

Contact Thomas Applegate to help out: thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.

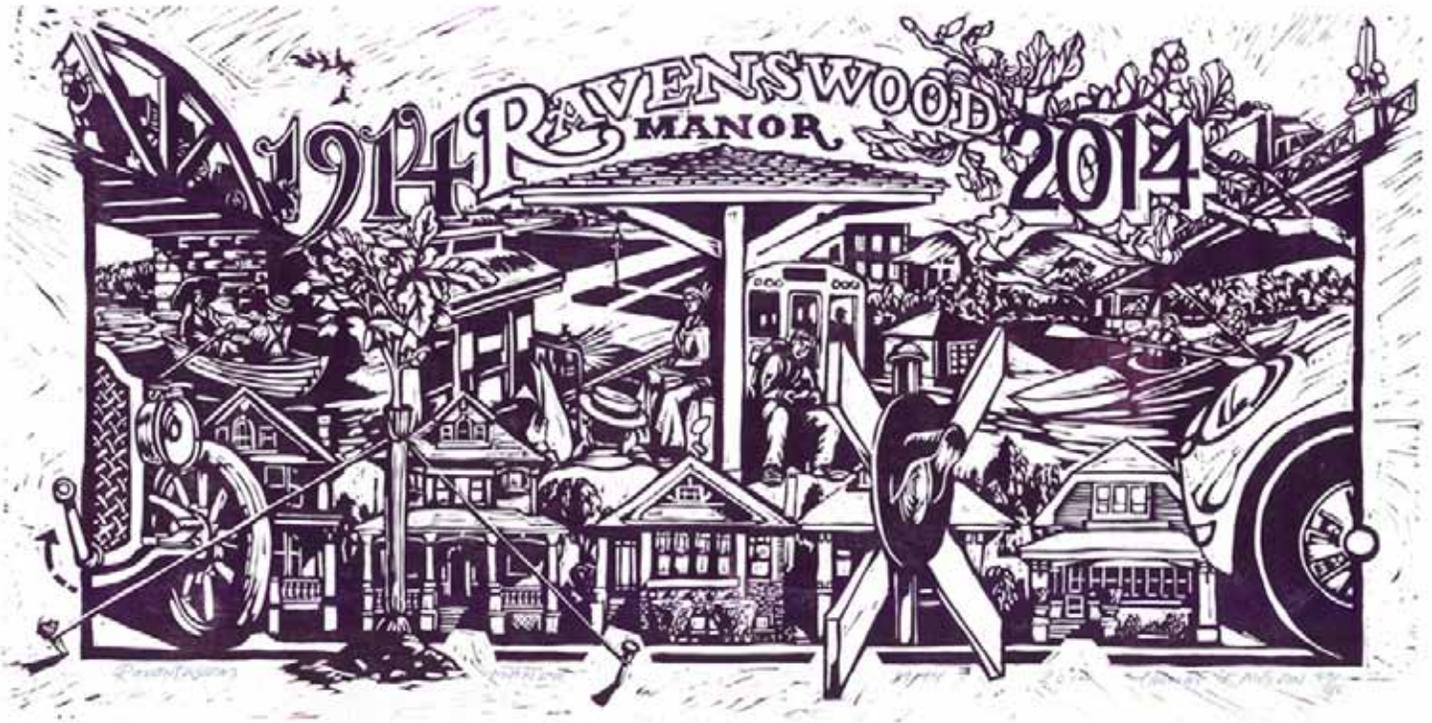


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Commemorative Prints by Thomas Melvin



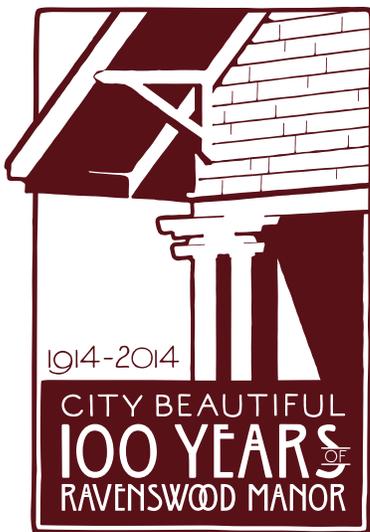
As part of our Centennial celebrations, Ravenswood Manor artist Thomas Melvin created this wonderful, hand blocked, print that is 36" wide by 20" tall. Three versions are available:

- 1) a single dark coffee color version, ready for framing, \$100
- 2) a hand colored version in which Tom adds colors to the print, \$160
- 3) a hand shaded version using the same coffee color as a wash to add dimension and interest to the print, \$160

This artwork is a limited edition of 80 prints, numbered and signed by the artist. Tom and RMIA are partnering to support the Centennial and to create an enduring keepsake for your home or office. Tom is generously donating his time in creating the piece, the artwork itself, and the proceeds from sales of the work.

Order your's here: <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/support/artwork/>

Centennial Logo Prints Available



The official Centennial logo is available as a high quality 11" x 17" print, suitable for framing. This print can be framed, with or without a mat, and suggestions on framing will accompany each print.

Cost and Delivery:

Cost is \$20. Prints will be available for pick up or delivery by volunteers to your home. Arrangements will be made by email.

Order your's here: <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/support/artwork/>



Do-It-Yourself Walking Tours



Would you like to know more about the history of our neighborhood? As part of this year's Centennial celebrations, the RMIA has sponsored a series of walking tours focusing on various aspects of the community's 100-year-old history. The tours have been held monthly and will wrap up by year's end (see "Event Calendar," pg. 1).

However, if you weren't able to make it to one of these tours, you are in luck. Each of the tours will be posted on the RMIA web site, along with a self-guided walking tour map.

The first tours to be featured on the web site are:

- **Harmon's Model Homes**, which features the 11 original residences that were built in 1909-11 by developer William E. Harmon to help promote his Ravenswood Manor subdivision.
- **Gems of the Manor**, which lists the dozen local properties that were identified as "highly significant" in 1993 by the City of Chicago's Historic Resources Survey, due to their history and architecture.

Other self-guided tours will be added later this year. Thanks to the local residents who researched and led these tours, including: Athene Carras, Adrian Collins, Debra Desmond, Jackie Klein, Denise Morris, Mary Prendergast, and Jim Peters.

Manor Details



Entrance canopy on Sunnyside.

If you have a detail you'd like to submit for this new feature, please send it to manordetails@gmail.com.

About RMIA

"Manor News" is published quarterly by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association.

Established in 1914, the RMIA is a neighborhood association run entirely by volunteers. We hold monthly board of directors meetings, stage various social events and special projects, and maintain communication channels through our web site, e-mail alerts, and newsletter. Your annual RMIA membership helps to support all of this work.

The RMIA Mission Statement is: "To promote the welfare of the community in respect to the maintenance and improvement of the physical appearance of the private and public property; the compliance with the laws as applicable to private and public property; the maintenance of facilities with respect to the safety, health, and welfare of its residents."

Please contact the RMIA board if you have any questions or suggestions.

Joe Cesario – President
Athene Carras – Vice President
Orysia Pokorni – Secretary
Chuck Renner - Treasurer

Our contacts are:

Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com

Facebook.com/[ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)

E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com

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our volunteers
and members
for a great
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