

The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Spring 2007

Semi-Annual Meeting

The RMIA semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse. Twice a year the RMIA invites everyone from the community to attend a meeting to discuss the initiatives of the RMIA and the concerns of the community.

At the semi-annual meeting this spring, the RMIA will focus on a discussion of the current efforts to designate the Ravenswood Manor neighborhood as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The application process for the historic designation has been spearheaded by a core group of spirited volunteers. However, completing the full application process will likely require the assistance of a consultant with expertise in this process.

Placing the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places could lead to significant tax breaks for property owners in the community. The semi-annual will be an opportunity for volunteers to learn

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RMIA Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 31
9:30 a.m.**

Meet at Merle's Coffee Shop

Come join the annual RMIA Egg Hunt!
Sign-up in advance at Merle's Coffee Shop!

Children age 10 and under are welcome to hunt for eggs on the back patio at Merle's. The Easter Bunny will make a surprise visit!

Eggs and prizes provided by RMIA.
Goodie bags, donuts and juice provided by Merle's.



See you there!



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Mark Your Calendars for the Garage Sale

The annual Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale is scheduled for Sunday, May 20. The sign-up deadline is May 9!

It's time to clean out your garage, attic, basement and closets and make some money. Spring cleaning is right around the corner and the Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale is the perfect opportunity to unload all of those extra items. Just sign-up and prepare your items for sale -- the RMIA will handle all of the other garage sale details for you.

To sign-up, just mail in the attached coupon. You can send your sign-up form to the RMIA at P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625 or send your name, address and email to garagesale@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Garage Sale packets, including permits, signs and maps will be distributed to all participants

the Friday before the sale. The RMIA will place ads in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Reader, Chicago Sun-Times and the Pioneer Press the week preceding the sale. Ads will run Wednesday through Sunday.

The RMIA is also seeking volunteers to help coordinate the garage sale. Please email us at garagesale@ravenswoodmanor.com to let us know if you are able to volunteer to distribute packets to participants



2007 RAVENSWOOD MANOR GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION

(Registration Deadline—May 9)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

UNIT # _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I wish to make a contribution of \$ _____ to RMIA for garage sale expenses.

Please mail your registration to:
RMIA Garage Sale, P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625

Participants in advance of the sale and to help with coordination and details the morning of the sale. Thank you for the help as this is a huge endeavor and we would not be able to do it without the many volunteers from the Manor.

Please include a donation with your registration as the prints advertising, maps and permits are paid for by the RMIA. Thank you in advance for your donation. Anyone seeking more information can call the RMIA at (312) 409-3213 or email garagesale@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Let's hope our weather is good and our sales are high. It's going to be another great garage sale in the Manor.

The Manor News is published by Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) as a service to our members. It contains news, information and other items of interest to those living and working in Ravenswood Manor. Please make submissions or comments to Editor at PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625 or call RMIA Hotline at 312.409.3213. www.ravenswoodmanor.com

Officers

Adam Betzen *President*
Chuck Renner *Vice President*
Pamela Matsch Levine *Secretary*
Tracy Ring *Treasurer*

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Help Keep the Manor Safe

According to Alderman Mell's office, there was a strong arm burglary incident reported to the police the 19th district (east of the Chicago River). At about 7:30pm on February 16, 2007 in the 2600 block of west Wilson, a woman was "jumped" from behind. No arrests have been made, and the three suspects are described as Hispanic or black men wearing dark clothing with hoods.

Between November 2006 and March 2007, there were three reported break-ins onto private property. One incident was a garage that was broken into in November 2006 in the 2800 block of west Eastwood, and a suspect was arrested. Another incident of a home break-in was reported on February 26, 2007 in the 2800 block of west Eastwood.

No additional information is available on this incident. The third break-in was in the 4500 block of Richmond on February 10, 2007. In that case, personal property was stolen and the owners were not home at the time.

If any other incidents have occurred, it is strongly suggested that the victims file police reports. The 17th district police station, which patrols the Ravenswood Manor and Albany park areas, is located on Pulaski at Wilson.

While these incidents have occurred in a short time span, it is not believed that they are related. Nor do the police believe these break-ins and the reported strong arm burglary are related to the incident on Lawrence and Troy in which a 12-year-old boy with possible ties

to the Latin Kings was killed. The boy lived near Lincoln and Foster.

When informed of these incidents, Alderman Mell asked the 17th district police to increase visibility in the area. The Alderman and police also suggest that residents who see something that does not look right or feel right to call 911. To help prevent home break-ins, alarm systems are encouraged and at a minimum alarm signage can be used as a deterrent. Also, door clubs can be an effective tool in preventing forced entries. If you know of neighbor that is on vacation, don't let their papers or mail pile up or the snow to accumulate. These are clear signs that someone may not be home and the property therefore becomes an easy target for a break-in.

Community Garden

Even though the last remnants of winter are still lingering in the shadows, it's not too soon to begin thinking about tomatoes for the Community Garden. Last year, the RMIA started a Community Garden at LaPointe Park. Now that the garden has had a year to work out its kinks and growing pains, gardeners are looking forward to a full growing season in 2007. The community garden has a limited amount of space for aspiring farmers, so neighbors are encouraged to sign up early to secure their plot.

This year, there are plans to upgrade and improve the garden over last year. We hope to install a permanent edging around the garden to create the necessary raised bed for growing vegetables. Also,

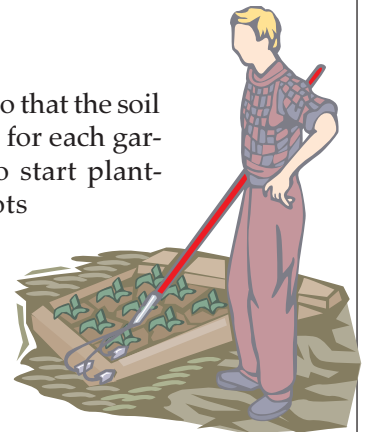
if we can round up a few volunteers with shovels, we will bring the water spigot closer to the garden, so gardeners won't need to haul watering cans across the park. Last years garden got a late start after trying to overcome some regulatory hurdles for starting a new, growing initiative. Now that the garden coordinator is a year older and a little wiser, we plan to get ready early in the spring.

Gardeners who sign up will be assigned a plot to tend and cultivate. Besides a little labor in the summer sun, gardeners are only asked to pay a small fee, \$25 for RMIA members and \$35 for non-members, to offset some of the costs of running the garden. The entire garden will be turned over and tilled prior to the planting

season so that the soil is ready for each gardener to start planting. Plots will be approximately four feet wide and

six feet long, and gardeners can take an entire plot or share with a friend if they prefer. Plots will be ready for planting sometime in mid-May, weather permitting.

If anyone is interested or wants more information, contact Adam Betzen at gardencordinator@ravenswoodmanor.com or (312) 409-3213.





Manor Concert Series Enters Thirteenth Season



The Ravenswood Manor Park Summer Concert Series opens its thirteenth exciting season of free concerts with The Corn Fed Girls and the Maggie, Pierce and EJ Band starting Sunday evening, June 10 at 7pm. Also, coming back this year will be the GroundUp Theatre Company and their new production of William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, presented on the evenings of Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24 at 5:30pm. The regular 7pm show on June 24 will follow.

July will see shows at Manor Park on the 8th, and the 29th. There will be a movie shown at Horner Park on Saturday evening, July 21, and there will be concerts at Horner Park on Sunday, July 22 (see below for details).

The Ninth Annual ManorBash on August 5 is the season highlight, with acts starting at noon (*Taming of the Shrew*) and other acts following through 9pm that night. Kid games and a raffle will be held. Three more shows round out the season, on August 12, 19, and the Traditional Neighborhood Talent Show on August 26. A complete schedule will soon be posted on the Horner Park website, www.hornerpark.org.

Donations to the Manor Park Concert Series can be sent payable to the Horner Park Advisory Council c/o 4530 N. Mozart, Chicago, IL 60625. Contributions go to paying the artists and supporting activities of HPAC. Donations are still being accepted.

Date	Day	Time	Artist	Location
6/10	Sunday	7:00pm	The Corn Fed Girls Maggie, Pierce, and EJ Band	Ravenswood Manor Park
6/23	Saturday	5:30pm	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Ravenswood Manor Park
6/24	Sunday	5:30pm	<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Ravenswood Manor Park
6/24	Sunday	7:00pm	TBA	Ravenswood Manor Park
7/8	Sunday	7:00pm	Cooper/Nelson/Early Curtis & Loretta	Ravenswood Manor Park
7/21	Saturday	7:00pm	Movie TBA	Horner Park
7/22	Sunday	7:00pm	TBA	Horner Park
7/29	Sunday	7:00pm	TBA	Ravenswood Manor Park
8/5	Sunday	12:00pm	ManorBash, TBA	Ravenswood Manor Park
8/12	Sunday	7:00pm	Small Potatoes Swing Blvd.	Ravenswood Manor Park
8/19	Sunday	7:00pm	Ariane Lydon Sass!	Ravenswood Manor Park
8/26	Sunday	7:00pm	Talent Show	Ravenswood Manor Park



RMIA Book Club Update

Looking for some great books to read this summer? Then join the RMIA Book Club.

The club is open to all Manor residents who would like to discuss books in a fun and friendly environment. New members are welcome! The club meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7:45 to 8:45pm at the Horner Park Field House.

At the Tuesday, April 10 meeting, the club will be discussing "You Must Remember This" by Joyce Carol Oates.

For further book updates, or for questions or comments, please contact organizer Jen Betzen at manorbookclub@ravenswoodmanor.com or 588-8213.

Galter Discount for RMIA Members

Did you know that the Galter Life Center offers discounts to RMIA members? Galter, which is affiliated with Swedish Covenant Hospital, is a full-service health and workout facility offering progressive fitness, exercise, rehabilitation and wellness programs to the whole family and is located near the intersection of Foster and Francisco. Currently, RMIA members can save hundreds of dollars a year on their Galter membership, in addition to savings on initiation fees. For more information about Galter, call (773) 878-9936 or go to www.galterlifecenter.org.

Horner Park Advisory Council Sponsors Earth & River Day

Friends of the Parks is asking all neighbors to come out and do a little Spring Cleaning at our local parks. As part of the 18th Annual **Friends of the Parks'** Parks and Preserve Clean Up, there will be clean up sites at Horner Park and Ravenswood Manor Park, on Saturday morning, April 21 from 9am to noon.

Anyone interested in helping to spruce up our neighborhood parks is asked to come out that morning. Bring rakes, wheel barrows and we will pick up litter, move mulch and tend the gardens. More information may be found on www.fotp.org, or call (773) 463-8166.

In addition, **Friends of the River** is sponsoring their annual River Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 12 at Horner Park. Please meet at 9am near Montrose to help clean up our river. Volunteers can call the above number for more information.



Buffalo Park Fundraising Continues

The Horner Park Advisory Council continues its fundraising efforts for the improved seating area in Buffalo Park through this spring. Already, more than 90 households and seven businesses have made donations to this project. The plans for the park envision a natural bench area, reminiscent of the "council rings" built earlier in Columbus and Lincoln Parks by Jens Jensen and Alfred Caldwell.

A commitment has been made by Alderman Mell's office to help pay for this improvement, offering to match, up to \$20,000, any funds contributed by our neighborhood residents. HPAC is close, but not near that figure yet. Donations are still being accepted, payable to the Horner Park Advisory Council at 4530 N. Mozart, Chicago, IL 60625. Once fundraising has been completed, a list of donors will be posted on the Horner Park Website.

Final plans still need to be approved by the Chicago Park District. We are hopeful that construction will commence later in 2007. More information can be found on the Horner Park Website, www.hornerpark.org.

The Horner Park Advisory Council is grateful to all who have made a gift to this project.



(Continued from page 1)

more about the potential tax breaks in more detail.

Find out how you can help make this process possible and how it will affect your property. Come to the annual meeting to find out about the RMIA's other exciting initiatives. Don't miss the meeting on April 18, 2007.

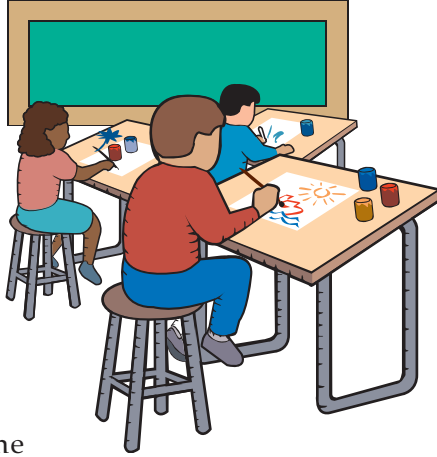


Upcoming Events for Waters Elementary

Summer Camp

As a follow up to last summer's very successful Abakadoodle camp, Waters will be hosting at least four weeks of camp this coming summer. The tentative details are as follows:

- **Abakadoodle Art Camp:** The weeks of July 23 and July 30 from 9:00am -1:00pm
- **Global Explorers Camp:** The weeks of August 6 and August 13 from 9:00am -1:00pm
- **Parent-Art Class:** During these four weeks there will also be a once-a-week Parent-Tot Art class from 10:00am - 10:45am



- **Spanish Immersion Camp:** We are also planning a two week Spanish Immersion Camp for 3-7 year olds

Details on all of these camps will be available soon. Check the Waterstoday.org website for further details.

Garden Work

Starting April 11, there will be a garden work time every Wednesday evening from 6:00pm until dusk. Everyone is encouraged to participate, even the kids!

Waters Today Parent Teacher Co-Op Meeting

The next meeting of this group is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30pm in the Waters Library.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

The first ever Waters Silent Auction Fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 2. Stay tuned for more details.

Winter Social Recap

The RMIA Winter Social on Sunday, March 4 was a great success this year. The event was moved from a Saturday evening to a Sunday afternoon this year and attendance was a record high, with more than 150 of us present! The event organizers were delighted to see so many neighbors. The kids had a wonderful time playing in the gym and running around after being cooped up during our hard winter. And it was so nice to catch up with friends after being cut-off during the cold months. Thanks to all of our neighbors for bringing so many delicious appetizers and desserts. Thanks also for the cake walk donations which were beautiful and delicious!

We were very fortunate to have our Winter Social raffle supported by many local merchants and businesses. We would like to especially thank Merle's Coffee Shop for its extremely generous support. Merle's provided a \$250 grand prize birthday party for one lucky Manor child. We are so grateful for Merle's continued support of RMIA events.

John Byrne of Baird Warner Realty also made a generous donation toward the purchase of raffle

prizes again this year and we are grateful for his continued support of RMIA events.

We would like to thank all of our many donors for their generous support of the RMIA including:

- Go get your Smock (adult and child classes)
- Le Ballet Petit Studio
- Jo Kick Tae Kwon Do
- Merle's Coffee Shop
- Family Portrait from local artist, Barbara Yonan
- Dr. Kathleen Morris, Chiropractor
- Merz Apothecary
- Café Neo
- Nail Avenue
- Café Selmarie
- Bloom Yoga

The Winter Social is not possible without the generosity of the many RMIA donors and we appreciate their support. Congratulations to all of the Winter Social raffle winners.