



MANOR NEWS

WINTER

2016

Traffic Study Results

Ald. Mell (33rd Ward) will host a public meeting on Thur., Jan. 26th, at 6:30 p.m., at Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

Officials from the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) will present the findings from the neighborhood traffic study, which involved traffic diverters at Manor and Wilson avenues, which were in place from Sept. 19th through Oct. 27th.

Need a Parkway Tree?

If you'd like to replace a missing tree on the public right-of-way in front of your property, you have two options:

1) Contact the City of Chicago's Bureau of Forestry by phoning 311. However, note that this free program often has a long waiting list.

2) Send an email to parks@ravenswoodmanor.com, requesting to be added to an upcoming community tree planting project, which is done in conjunction with the Openlands' TreeKeepers Program. These tree plantings, which generally take place twice a year, require the property owner to pay a portion of the cost of the tree (between \$50 and \$100).



Photo: City of Chicago

Common Questions

Ravenswood Manor Historic District

By Jim Peters



Q: Is Ravenswood Manor really a "Historic District?"

A: Yes, in 2008 the neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 520 buildings in the triangular-shaped historic district, which is bounded by: Sacramento Avenue, the North Branch of the Chicago River, and the alleys south of Lawrence and north of Montrose avenues.

Q: How can I learn more about the District?

A: The National Register nomination form and a graphic presentation on the district can be found on RMIA's web site, under the "Download Documents" section at ravenswoodmanor.com/themanor/centennialhomes. Elsewhere on the web site, under "The Manor," are several do-it-yourself neighborhood tours, which provide additional background on some of the historic district's most significant properties.

Q: What restrictions apply to properties in a National Register district?

A: None (unless you decide to take advantage of tax incentives). National Register listing does not require any review of local building permits, including alterations, demolition, new construction, etc. However, if a homeowner decides to

take advantage of one of the economic incentives available to National Register-listed properties, the owner must go through a review process with the State of Illinois.

Q: What economic incentives are available to property owners?

A: The most applicable incentive for Manor homeowners is the "Property Tax Assessment Freeze," which enables eligible owners undertaking a significant rehabilitation project to have their property's assessed value "frozen" at the pre-rehab level for an eight- to 12-year period. Surprisingly, only two residences in the Manor had utilized this incentive as of 2015.

The "Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit" applies to owners of income-producing properties in the Manor, such as an apartment building or commercial structure. This program enables a property owner to receive a 20% credit on their federal income taxes, based on the eligible expenses of a major rehabilitation project. *Important point:* in the case of both incentive programs, you must apply—and receive approval from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency—before undertaking any rehab work. (continued, Page 7)

Event Calendar

Community Meeting

Thur., Jan. 26th, 6:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

RMIA Board

2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House.

Horner Park Advisory Council

1st Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House.

CAPS-17th District, Beat 1724 (south of Wilson Avenue)

Wed., Jan. 18, and Wed., Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House

CAPS-17th District, Beat 1713 (north of Wilson Avenue)

Wed., Jan. 25, and Wed. Mar. 22, 6:30 p.m., North Park Campus Center, 5000 N. Spaulding Ave.



Notable Neighbors

Frank Newell: Eye Specialist

By Debra Desmond

Did you ever notice that Ravenswood Manor has an honorary street sign? Covering the two-block stretch of Sunnyside Avenue, between California and Francisco, the sign is named for Dr. Frank W. Newell (1916-98). Alderman Ed Burke presented the resolution to the Chicago City Council on Dec. 2, 1998, and 33rd Ward Ald. Dick Mell spoke at the sign's dedication.

Born in St. Paul, Minn., Frank Newell earned his bachelor's and medical degrees from Loyola University of Chicago, before receiving a master's degree in ophthalmology from the University of Minnesota. He served his residency in the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of Major as chief of ophthalmology prior to the European Invasion in 1944. Returning to the U.S., he joined the faculty at Northwestern University, before moving to the University of Chicago in 1953, where he served as the first chair of its Department of Ophthalmology (1970-81).

It was his wife, Marian Glennon, who brought Newell to the Manor. Marian's best friend as a child, Betsy Ross, had lived at 4225 N. Francisco Ave. and, as they rode bikes through the Manor, Marian always loved the distinctive red brick, Tudor-style house at 4500 N. Mozart Ave. In the early-1950s, as the couple started a family, Dr. Newell purchased the house—unbeknownst to his wife—which is where they subsequently raised their four children: Frank Jr., Susan (now O'Connell, of 4530 N. Mozart St.), Elizabeth (now Murphy), and David.

Dr. Newell always considered himself, above all, a teacher—and his office a clinic. He was open-minded, for the day, in hiring both female and African-American doctoral residents and he was a steadfast advocate for providing the highest standard of care, regardless



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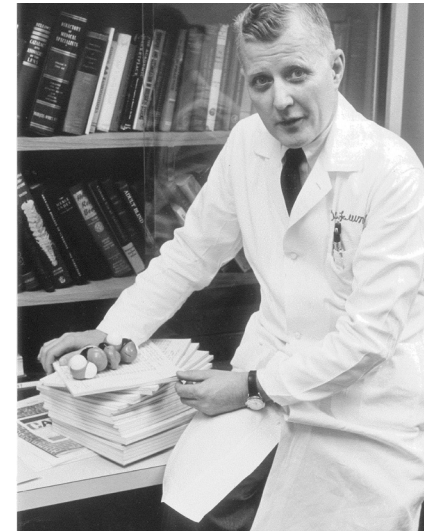
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Counter clockwise, from above:
Dr. Frank Newell in his University of Chicago office, he and his family on the front porch of their residence at Mozart and Sunnyside, the house today, and an honorary street sign at the corner. (Photos courtesy of the family.)

of a patient's socio-economic status. He also was an outspoken champion against public, government, and scientific apathy in the face of blinding diseases. Appearing before a Congressional committee in the 1960's, Dr. Newell testified that "the toll of blindness continues because of a lack of urgency and absence of programs to solve problems."

He served as president of virtually every major ophthalmological organization in the world, founding several of them, and was the longtime editor of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* (1965-1991). He also authored the standard textbook, *Ophthalmology: Principles and Concepts*.

Dr. Newell's career prevented much involvement in neighborhood issues, although there are numerous stories of him providing free consultation services for local residents at his home. Following his retirement in the mid-1980s, he did take an active stand against the installation of traffic circles in intersections throughout Ravenswood Manor, using his professional credibility to speak of the safety issues they would cause for fire trucks and ambulances.

In November 1998, at the age of 82, Dr. Newell passed away of a brain tumor. An obituary in the *New York Times* noted his global legacy as an eye specialist. Meanwhile, his local legacy is memorialized in the brown-colored, honorary street signs on Sunnyside Avenue.



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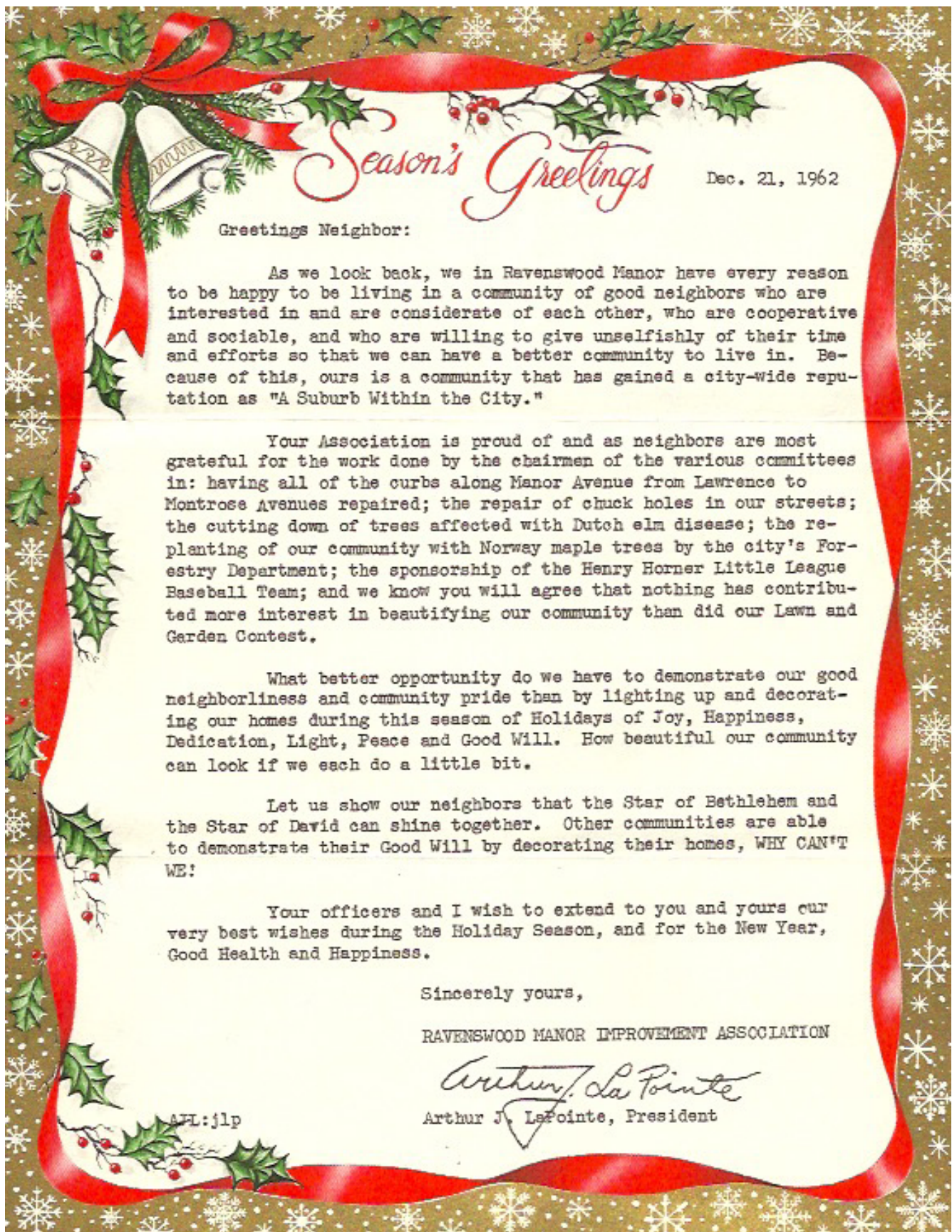


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This holiday letter was sent to Manor residents 54 years ago by RMLA president Arthur J. LaPointe (1902-85). In addition to urging residents to decorate their homes for the holidays, LaPointe notes some accomplishments from the past year, including the replacement of diseased elm trees with Norway maples, the repair of street "chuck holes," and the annual "Lawn and Garden Contest." Thanks to John O'Connell, who found this letter among items donated by a neighbor.

RMIA's Year in Review

The Annual Meeting of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association was held on Thursday, October 20th, at Horner Park Field House. In addition to board member elections and a discussion of the Traffic Diverter Test, RMIA President Athene Carras summarized the organization's accomplishments for 2016.

- **Centennial Plaques.** Property owners whose buildings were constructed in 1916 received folders that including forms for ordering a bronze "Centennial Home" plaque. This annual program began in 2014, during RMIA's Centennial Year.
- **District Signs.** A dozen new identification signs were installed at the street entrances into the neighborhood, in order to replace lost or deteriorated signs. Thanks to Steve Shanabruch for the new design and to Jim Peters for coordinating the installation.
- **Easter Egg Hunt.** This annual event, held on March 26th, was moved to Manor Park this year due to flooding issues in LaPointe Park. Thanks to Athene Carras for organizing.
- **Holiday Decorations.** RMIA maintains the eight steel "snowflakes" that adorn the neighborhood between Thanksgiving and Presidents Day. Thanks to Thomas Applegate and Jim Peters for coordinating the installation—and to Brian Basler for installing the wreath and lights on the gazebo in Manor Park.
- **Independence Bike Parade.** Thanks to Lisa Jamiolkowski and Cheryl McNally for organizing this event on June 25th, which included 100 neighborhood children, bikes and wagons, parents, and a truck from the Chicago Fire Department.
- **LaPointe Park.** A black aluminum fence was installed along the alley side of the park to replace a deteriorated wood stockade fence erected in 1994. This triangular-shaped park, which is located at Giddings and Manor, is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, but is maintained by RMIA through an agreement with the NeighborSpace program.
- **Manor Garage Sale.** This popular event continues to grow in size; more than 100 residents participated at this year's May 15th event— attracting thousands of shoppers. Thanks to Adrian Collins, Geoff Gieske, and Suzy Thomas for helping to organize the event.
- **Manor Garden Walk.** Thanks to Jeff Sell and his committee for organizing this event, which dates back to the early 1960s. It was held on July 24th and featured 35 gardens.
- **Manor Stories.** Another legacy of RMIA's Centennial celebrations in 2014 was a project that interviewed a dozen residents who had lived in the neighborhood at least 50 years. Those audiotaped oral histories have been edited into short "Manor Stories" focusing on: the Chicago River, streetcars and the L, historic businesses, and recreation and play. These recordings will be available in early 2017, via Sound Cloud, on the RMIA web site. Thanks to Jackie Klein and Linda Montalbano for their work on this project.

- **Quarterly Newsletter.** Four issues of *Manor News* were published and 1,100 copies were distributed to residences and businesses in the neighborhood. Thanks to our network of residents for delivering the newsletter and to the advertisers who help defray its printing costs.
- **Spring and Fall Socials.** Two social events were held this year at Finch Kitchen (formerly BreakRoom Brewery) on March 19th and November 12th. Thanks to Bill Termini for organizing them.
- **Welcome Wagon.** Postcards were sent to new Manor residents, welcoming them to the neighborhood and providing key information. These postcards were designed and are being distributed by Craig Pierson, chair of the RMIA Board's Membership Committee.
- **Zoning Committee.** This once-moribund committee has been reorganized to address growing concerns about redevelopment issues in the neighborhood. Other active board committees (and their chairs) include: Communications (Matt Lachey and Victoria Wiedel), Membership (Craig Pierson), Outreach (Alan Mueller), Safety (Joe Valentin), Social (open), Trees/Parks (Lorin Liberson), and Transportation (Bette Rosenstein).

In addition to the annual report, four current board members were elected to new two-year terms: Kathy Monk, Craig Pierson, Suzy Thomas, and Scott Wheeler. Three new board members were elected to two-year terms: Matt Lachey, Lorin Liberson, and Bette Rosenstein. (Board officers are listed on page 6).

If you have any questions—or would like to volunteer for one of these activities in 2017—please contact the RMIA President, Athene Carras, at president@ravenswoodmanor.com.

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Are you curious?

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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."

The RMIA officers are:

Athene Carras – President
Jim Peters – Vice President
Kathy Monk – Secretary
Suzy Thomas - Treasurer

Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com
Facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor
E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com
Mail: P.O. Box 25486, Chicago IL 60625



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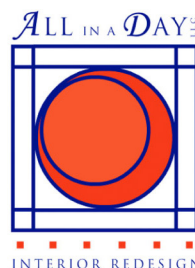


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Common Questions, continued

Q: What types of restrictions apply to these incentives?

A: In addition to the eligibility requirements—which are spelled out in the application—the rehabilitation work must meet the *U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. If the project does not meet these standards, the property owner will not be given the economic incentive.

Q: How can I learn more about these incentive programs?

A: Both programs are administered through the State of Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Its web site describes the programs in detail and gives property owners contact information. See <https://www.illinois.gov/ihpa/Preserve/Pages/Funding.aspx>.

Manor Calendar?



The 2017 “Chicago Bungalow Calendar” devotes most of its monthly photographs (10 of 12) to bungalows located in Ravenswood Manor.

The calendar was produced by the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeowners maintain, preserve, and adapt their Chicago Bungalows. To become a member, go to chicagobungalow.org.

The calendar is available for \$15 (not including shipping) at Etsy.com, under “Bungalow Stuff.” To order a copy, go to https://www.etsy.com/listing/493476817/2017-chicago-bungalow-calendar?ref=shop_home_active_1.

Little Free Library

By Kathy Monk



The Little Library installation crew (left to right): Dave Monk, Thomas Applegate, Mary Valentin, Dina Monk, Kathy Monk, Scott Wheeler, and Athene Carras.

With winter and darker days around the corner, a newly-installed “Little Free Library”—at the northwest corner of Eastwood and Francisco—provides neighbors with an opportunity to circulate books without having to leave the neighborhood.

The structure was installed in November by volunteers and RMIA board members, but it was donated by Nextdoor.com, a neighborhood private social network.

The concept of these little libraries is simple: Take a book, Leave a book. Books can range in interest and age group, but should be appropriate (you know what I mean). The library is small, so if you have a large number of books to donate, please do not leave them outside of the library. Instead, contact Open Books, <http://www.open-books.org/>

This new “little library” joins an earlier one at 4435 N. Sacramento.



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SUZY THOMAS

Membership Renewal Reminder

As former RMIA President Arthur LaPointe noted in his holiday letter of a half-century ago (see page 4), Ravenswood Manor is a strong community due to the collective efforts of its residents, as well as their neighborhood organization (founded in 1914).

The work of RMIA's many volunteers is described elsewhere in this newsletter. However, many of these projects wouldn't be possible without the financial support of our members. Thus, we strongly urge you to either renew your membership or to join us for the first time.

Our membership year began on November 1st and a membership letter and form were sent to all households a few weeks ago. But, if you've misplaced that letter, do not despair. There are three other ways to join RMIA:

1. Complete the membership form below and mail it to RMIA, P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.
2. Go to the "RMIA" tab on our web site (www.ravenswoodmanor.com/membership) and pay, either using PayPal or a credit card.
3. Use your Chase Bank or QuickPay account and reference the email: treasurer@ravenswoodmanor.com. NOTE: This method will save you the cost of postage or us the PayPal processing charges.

Finally, thank you for your support.

Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association: Membership Form

Pick Your Membership Level: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10

Additional donation of support for RMIA's work in the neighborhood: \$ _____

Membership is from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. Please make your membership payment payable to RMIA. Your personal information will be used only by RMIA for communications with you. RMIA will not sell or share your information.

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