

The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Summer 2013

Mark Your Calendar

CAPS meetings
Beat 1713:
Thursday, September 26

RMIA Octoberfest
Saturday, September 28

RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 9

Halloween
Trick-or-Treating
Thursday, October 31

What's Inside

RMIA Octoberfest	2
City Beautiful Logo Contest	2
Centennial Volunteers	3
Garden Walk	4
New Beauty Salon	5
Curious Manor	6

City Beautiful: 100 Years of Ravenswood Manor

by Thomas Applegate

Ravenswood Manor is turning 100 years old in 2014. Many events are already being planned and organized for this exciting centennial year.

The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, founded in 1914, has formed a Centennial Steering Committee along with working committees to plan and implement events in 2014. (Your membership in the RMIA helps make all of this possible.)

The Centennial is a celebration for the Ravenswood Manor neighborhood, by its residents.

Ideas and input are welcome and encouraged as are involvement and energy. Getting involved provides a great way to work together with the common goal of celebrating and delighting in our wonderful and unique neighborhood. Check out the article page 3 on "Volunteering," where you will find opportunities to get involved with this historic event. A good way to get started is to talk to friends and neighbors on your block to see what they're interested in.

The celebration will begin in January with the announcement of **Centennial Homes**: houses that turn 100 years or older in 2014. The fun will continue with walking tours, a neighborhood-wide party during the summer, and lots of collecting and sharing of Ravenswood Manor history, local stories, and residents' photos and home movies.

To stay up to date on all of the exciting plans for the neighborhood this year, plan on attending the RMIA semi-annual member meeting on **Wednesday, October 9**. You can also make sure you're on the Centennial email list: Head over to ravenswoodmanor.com and click on the "Subscribe" tab to add your email to the list. And watch for news about the Centennial on the Ravenswood Manor Facebook page.



A decorative wood pergola, topped with ivy and flowers, once graced the north end of Manor Park (view looking south from L tracks). It was removed, due to deterioration, in the late 1930s. Photo courtesy of Chicago Park District Archives.



RMIA Octoberfest Sept. 28

by Bill Termini

Mark your calendars now for the RMIA's first Octoberfest on Saturday, September 28. Join us at the Montrose Saloon (at the corner of Richmond and Montrose) from 3 to 5 p.m. New owner Scott Hammond is generously supplying food, and liquid refreshment will be available for purchase in the newly renovated beer garden! Bring the whole family; children are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Welcome to the Manor News, a free neighborhood publication distributed by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association. Want to contribute an article or a photo? Interested in placing an advertisement for your business? Fundraiser? Event? Please submit by September 15 for the Fall issue of the *Manor News*. Any questions or comments, please contact newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

RM Centennial Logo: Request for Proposals

Are you a graphic designer, or do you know a graphic designer in the neighborhood? Ravenswood Manor's Centennial needs an eloquent logo to help publicize and celebrate this momentous event in 2014. Please spread the word about the logo design competition. It is open to all ages, and no special credentials are required to submit a design. The winning logo will serve as the identity for our year-long celebration!

The logo RFP with more information can be downloaded at: <http://db.tt/jwJECcw0>

Designs must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon Central Time, Friday, September 6, 2013. The winning design will be announced at the RMIA semi-annual meeting on **Wednesday, October 9, 2013**. Submit your design by email to the Centennial Steering Committee, c/o Gwen Ihnat: gwene66@gmail.com. Be sure to include in the email message the designer's contact information: name, address, email address, phone number, along with the design file attachment.



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Volunteering for the Ravenswood Manor Centennial 2014

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, one of Chicago's oldest community groups. We will all celebrate the Centennial with a year-long series of events and special projects for Ravenswood Manor residents, created and led by neighbors. It's time to get excited and get involved.

Volunteers are needed to share in the excitement and work of celebrating this landmark year. Why volunteer? It is a good way to engage with neighbors you know and ones you will get to know; you can see your own ideas come to fruition; and you can be part of what makes our neighborhood great: a true sense of community.

Below is a list of the committees working on the Centennial along with some examples of their events and projects. If you find a project that matches your interests from the areas listed below, please contact us to join a subcommittee or ask questions. We understand people are busy, so even if you pick just one activity, all efforts add up. Also, please spread the word to your neighbors about the Centennial and its many events. Thank you for your involvement and support!

Events: Put on a fun neighborhood-wide Centennial celebration, possibly a BBQ and street party in conjunction with the Independence Day Bike Parade

Communications: Inform the community about Centennial activities via email, RMIA website and newsletter, and Facebook

Research: Launch the "Curious Manor" project, a Q&A of facts about the Manor, modeled after WBEZ radio's "Curious City"

Centennial Homes: Create a Centennial Home certificate for owners of 100-year-old buildings, along with a plaque for homeowners to voluntarily purchase. Certify the first group of "Centennial Homes," to be announced in January 2014

Walking Tours: Conduct neighborhood walking tours for residents

History Station: Create a permanent marker/plaque/history station illustrating the history of Ravenswood Manor, possibly located at north end of Manor Park

Neighborhood History: Collect and share residents' photos, home movies, and stories

For more information about committees, download the flyer here: <http://db.tt/KNQrQ1NR>

We invite you to join us on a Centennial committee, and we look forward to a fun year of celebrations.

Steering Committee Co-chairs:

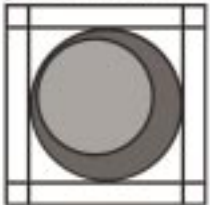
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Great Garden Walk

by Athene Carras

Fun was had by all at our Annual Garden Walk on Sunday, August 11; everyone came together to make it a success. Walkers had 22 beautiful gardens to stroll through, thanks to our gardeners' neighborliness and generosity. Sixty-three walkers checked in at LaPointe Park, and many more were reported in the gardens. Thank you to the check-in volunteers who welcomed the walkers and also collected over \$100 in donations to RMIA events. Jeff Sells helped me recruit gardeners, and he and Shelly Staat went above and beyond by hosting all of the gardeners for a post-event party at their home. Lots of positives were heard from the gardeners, along with plenty of great suggestions for next year. Also a big thank-you to all of our Manor neighbors that came out to walk the gardens.

Have you thought about joining in the fun of having your garden in the walk? Maybe you've participated in the past, or maybe you want to share all of your work with neighbors for the first time. Jeff and I would love to have a few more gardens participate next year, especially if we can get more clusters of



Linda & David's Garden by Sarah Reiser

neighbors. Gardens grouped together draw more walkers than solo gardens on a block or street, so talk to your neighbors about joining. Hope to see you next year for our centennial year garden walk!

RMIA Board

The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association has board meetings on the second Monday of every month (except during the summer) at the office of Urban Homes Real Estate at 4668 N. Manor, starting at 7:30 p.m.

President: Joe Cesario

Vice-President: Athene Carras

Secretary: Orysia Pokorni

Treasurer: Chuck Renner

Newsletter Editor: Gwen Ihnat

Board Members: Geoff Gieske, Kathy Monk, David Rownd, Gary Smith, Bill Termini, Scott Wheeler

If you have any questions or comments about the neighborhood, please feel free to follow up with any board member, email info@ravenswoodmanor.org, or find us on Facebook on the "Ravenswood Manor" page. We are always happy to hear from you!

To keep up to date on events, sign up for emails, and to renew or become an RMIA member, visit ravenswoodmanor.com

It's Time...

Have you registered your kids at Waters Elementary yet?
School starts August 26!

Call 773-534-5090
or visit waterselementary.org



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Supreme Beauty Parlor Lands in the Manor

by Kathy Monk

After working for hair salons in the Gold Coast and Logan Square, Cristina Chavez felt it was time to open her own business. She and Ross Wall, her operations manager, looked for a space in Logan Square, but couldn't find one they liked, plus the area was already saturated with salons. While walking their dog, they came upon the empty storefront at 4665 North Manor Avenue and exclaimed, "This is the spot for us!"

The partners designed a beautiful salon in mid-century modern style because, "things were made well then," Chavez states. Everything in Supreme Beauty Parlor is vintage, including the steel kitchen cabinets that fashion each of the hair cutting stations. When asked if business is good, Chavez gushes, "Yes! The landlord has been so great



and it's helpful to be located by the 'L', First Slice, and Manor Park. The neighborhood has been so helpful and wonderful."

Supreme Beauty Parlor also benefits Ravenswood Manor by hosting monthly events. In June it held a vintage jewelry sale; August saw a make-up and jewelry event; and Chavez is considering an Open House or Movie Night for September. The partners are always looking for neighbors with reasonably priced vintage records, clothing, or jewelry to feature. They invite neighbors to stop in to take a look at the shop, pick up a flyer listing upcoming events,

say "Hello," and, of course, get a haircut!

Supreme Beauty Parlor is located at 4665 North Manor (773-516-4497).



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Are You Curious Manor?

by Jim Peters

- 1) *"Was there really once a horse racing track in Ravenswood Manor?"*
- 2) *"Is it true that the Manor originally had its own park district—completely separate from the Chicago Park District?"*
- 3) *"Were actor Charlie Chaplin, Bears quarterback Sid Luckman, and Harlem Globetrotter founder Abe Saperstein all former Manor residents?"*

These are a just a few of the legends that are part of the century-long lore of our neighborhood. As part of next year's Manor Centennial Celebration, we plan to answer these and other neighborhood history queries in a year-long feature called "Curious Manor," modeled after WBEZ radio's *Curious City* series.

We encourage residents to submit their Manor-related questions to curiousmanor@ravenswoodmanor.com. These questions will then be researched and answered by a group of neighborhood historians.

Those interested in being a part of this research committee should contact Centennial Committee Co-Chair Thomas Applegate at thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.

As for the questions:

1) Yes. There was a dirt half-mile horse-trotting oval, known as "Jack Diamond's Race Track," in the area roughly bounded by California, Eastwood, Montrose, and Whipple streets. It operated between 1883 and 1900, and closed soon after its wooden grandstand burned down. The neighborhood was laid out for residential uses in 1909, and the neighborhood organization was founded in 1914.

2) Yes. The Ravenswood Manor-Gardens Park District operated from 1914 to 1934, when it was absorbed into the Chicago Park District. According to a *Chicago Daily News* article (May 18, 1939), Buffalo Park (at Manor and Sunnyside) was considered the "smallest park in Chicago...Its special function is to serve as a breathing space and a place for the neighbors to loll around in during the heat of the day or the cool of the evening."

3) Uncertain. The research committee is still checking local directories and other sources. Again, if you'd like to assist—or have more information—please contact us at one of the emails above.



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