



The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Spring 2011

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Summer Dates

Garden Walk
Sunday, June 26th

Kids' Bike Parade
Sunday, July 3rd

Got News?

Submit by June 8th for Summer 2011, delivered last week of June.

Submit by September 15th for Fall 2011 issue, delivered early October.

Send to newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Please Join Us...

RMIA Children's Egg Hunt – Saturday April 23rd

Merle's Coffee Shoppe will host once again. Meet out front at 9:30am. We'll line the kids up by height and send three waves of egg hunters to scour Merle's back patio for pastel-colored goodies. BYOB(asket).

RMIA Spring Community Meeting – Wednesday, April 27th Special Guest: John Cullerton, Illinois Senate President

Please join us for an evening with Senator John J. Cullerton, Illinois Senate President, who will talk about current issues, what's happening in Springfield and here in our district, and take questions from Manor residents. Horner Park Fieldhouse, Wednesday, April 27th at 7:30pm.

HPAC Summer Concert Series – Starts Sunday, June 12th

The Horner Park Advisory Council, with the Chicago Park District, presents its 17th Summer Concert Series! The free concerts start Sunday June 12th in Ravenswood Manor Park, move to Horner Park in July, and come back to Manor Park in August.

An eclectic mix of music will be presented as part of this wonderful tradition featuring two great neighborhood parks and many talented local artists. Confirmed acts include the Highland Park Pops, Marlon St. John and Friends, a youth string quartet, the RMIA board's own Matt Campbell, and a Latin Music Night presented with help from the Old Town School of Folk Music. Movie Night will feature "The Karate Kid" on July 8th.

Contributions are still needed and sponsorships still are available! More about donating and volunteering at www.hornerpark.org or contact committee chair John O'Connell at (773) 612-7887.

New Signs: Historic Neighborhood

In 2008, Ravenswood Manor was designated as an historic neighborhood and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In January, RMIA installed new signs around the Manor to reflect this distinction. A couple of the new signs were claimed by blizzard winds, but will be replaced soon.

Thanks to Gary Smith, David Rownd, Gwen Ihnat, Geoff Geiske, Frank Theimer, and Michael Herman for their contributions.

Newsletter Delivery Needed

One of the things that make our community unique, in the middle of this great big city, is this little newsletter. Four times a year we write up our news, print it up, and a couple dozen volunteers run around and put it on everybody's doorstep.

We need one of those volunteers now, for a route near Montrose and Manor. It's a friendly thing to do, you can do it with kids, and it's part of what makes our neighborhood great. Please email newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com or call (312) 280-7838 if you can help.

Thanks to RMIA Volunteers

Thanks to Eileen Schnepff, Christopher Cole, Sandy DuBois, Judy Davis Downey, Beth Ann Hester, Jeff and Shelly Sell, and all the other volunteers who help produce and deliver *The Manor News*. Please thank our advertisers with your patronage!

The Manor News is published quarterly for Manor residents by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA), Michael Herman, editor. Submissions and comments to Newsletter, PO Box 25486, Chicago IL 60625 or newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com

RMIA Officers for 2010-2011

David Rownd, President
Joe Cesario, Vice President
Chuck Renner, Treasurer
Orysia Pokorny, Secretary

Mystery Snow Plow Guy

Thanks to Holly Birnbaum, who reported this recently at ManorNeighbors.com:

We've lived on Richmond a few doors south of Sunnyside since 1985... and the whole time we've been here this has never been solved:


There's a mystery guy who's been plowing the sidewalks all throughout the neighborhood, not just on our block! He rides in an ATV fitted with a plow, and boy do we appreciate him!

Last December, the Trib published a letter I wrote thanking the mystery plower. Now, I've finally flagged the guy down. He owns a building on Montrose between Sacramento and Richmond, where he lives on the first floor. His name is Tom... *[It doesn't seem very sporting of us to totally give him away here. --ed.]*

We dropped off a little thank-you in an envelope for the guy! He's quite dedicated to clearing the sidewalks, and is out there at the crack of dawn. BRAVO. We LOVE this guy!



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AMOS J. COFFMAN, JR., LTD.
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Chicago, Illinois 60625

Downtown Office
155 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 620
Chicago, IL 60601

Neighborhood Food Drive

Each month, a different Manor family puts a bin out on their porch for neighbor families and friends fill with food donations. Then the host family delivers it to the Albany Park Food Pantry. Anyone can donate canned food items, diapers too, at these sites. Email Sarah Putrim for more info, at putrim@sbcglobal.net. Upcoming hosts are:

April: Beutler 4439 Mozart

May: Schnepff 4513 N. Sacramento

June: Silver 4439 N. Francisco

Bi-Monthly CAPS Meetings

Ravenswood Manor straddles two police beats, both of which host community policing meetings, now bi-monthly, in even numbered months.

North of Wilson, Beat 1713 meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, at the North Park College Magnuson Center, 5008 N. Kedzie Avenue, 7-8pm, on April 28th and June 23rd.

South of Wilson, Beat 1724 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at the Horner Park Field House, 7-8pm, on April 19th and June 21st.

Hurricanes Hit Winter Social

Thanks to everyone who attended the RMIA Winter Social on Sunday, March 13th at Luther Memorial Church. About sixty residents came out to meet and greet neighbors old and new.

Social Chair Athene Carras did a great job of putting the event together, enlisting the skills of Jeff and Andrew from the Manor's own Merle's Coffee Shoppe. The "Mardi Gras" menu featured chicken and sausage jumbalya, grilled vegetables, macaroni and cheese, fresh beneights, and tasty hurricanes!

Thanks to the volunteers who helped set-up and decorate, watched the kids, and brought the music! We hope to see more of you at upcoming events!

Thanks to Matt Campbell for this report.

Community Gardeners and Leaders Needed in LaPointe Park

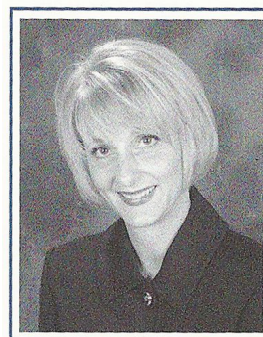
LaPointe Park is the open public space managed by the RMIA and neighborhood volunteers, at the north end of the Manor. Here are some of the ways to get involved this year...

- **Leaders** - join the group that manages park maintenance, improvement -- and invitation.
- **Gardeners** - if you just want to have some fun designing, pruning, and planting together.
- **Community Garden Coordinator(s)** are needed to manage the community garden plots
- **Vegetable Gardeners** who want to sign up to grow in one of our community garden plots.

Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy gardening in the park – or bring water and lemonade for the people digging and pruning!

There are 18 community garden plots available, each roughly 4x6 feet. The cost is \$25 per plot. Assignments will be made in April, with priority given to returning gardeners who reply by April 20th. New gardeners will be allocated plots in the order their requests are received. If we run out of plots, we'll start waiting list.

Email LaPointePark@gmail.com to be added to our new email list, so we can send you park and gardens news and updates. No email? Call (312) 280-7838.



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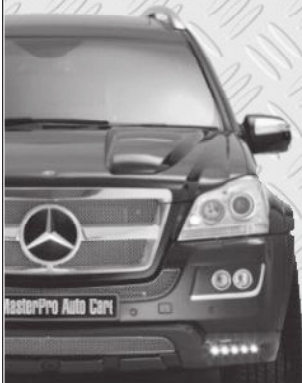
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Spring Gardening Tips

The outdoor gardening season is finally arriving in Chicago. Here are some things you can do now to prepare and update your garden:

- Cut back ornamental grasses in late March to early April, or when you see new growth at the base. Be careful not to cut any of the new growth in the process.
- Trees and shrubs that do not bloom in spring can be pruned now. Remove dead or crossed branches, and shape as needed. Spring bloomers (e.g., forsythia) should be pruned after blooming.
- Some plants with shallow crowns, like heuchera, can heave out of the ground over winter if we have frost and thaw cycles. Gently press the plants back in to the ground to protect the roots.
- Clear away fallen leaves or leaf mulch covering plants over the winter. Wet leaf debris can harbor pests and disease. Pull mulch back from perennial plant crowns as weather warms.
- Avoid walking in your garden when the soil is wet. This causes compaction, which makes it harder for roots to spread and nutrients to be taken up.
- When the forsythia blooms, uncover rose bushes if they have been mounded up with mulch or soil. Spring is the best time for pruning roses. Cut out broken or darkened canes and dead tips.
- April is a good time to plant, divide, or move perennials. Water all new or transplanted perennials well, and keep an eye on their watering needs to help them adjust to their new home.
- Last year's organic mulch can be worked in to the soil. Wood chips should not be worked in because they rob your soil of nitrogen. Compost added to the soil will improve fertility and drainage.

Manor Garden Club Meetings

The April MCG meeting will feature a presentation on "Eating Local...Growing Food in your Home Garden," by Mark Lyons, garden consultant at Green Thumb at Your Service. It happens Monday, April 18th, 7:30pm, at Luther Memorial Church, Wilson at Campbell (use Campbell side entrance).

The May meeting, Monday, May 18th, also at Luther Memorial, will feature an overview of the Chicago Master Gardeners Program offered by the University of Illinois Extension.

Manor Garden Club Annual Plant Sale – Saturday, May 14th

Don't miss the Manor Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale, on Saturday, May 14th, at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 West Wilson Ave. starting at 10am.

Are you looking for those special herbs or heirloom tomatoes that cost so much at the store? Interested in growing your own fresh, pesticide-free salads? Do you like to get container plantings that are unusual -- and fresh from the greenhouse? Do you appreciate knowledgeable salespeople?

This sale offers a variety of annuals, herbs, vegetables, hanging baskets, ferns and some spring perennials, selected by garden club members based on what does best in their own gardens and containers.

Club members love to help new gardeners get started and more experienced gardeners branch out!

Gardening Tips, continued...

- When you have completed your planting, apply fresh mulch around the plants, keeping it a few inches away from stems to avoid disease. Then sit back and enjoy your efforts and your freshly manicured garden.

Thanks to Mary V. Pendergast, garden consultant and coach, Manor Garden Club member, and author of a blog called "How Does Your Garden Grow?" at www.mvpgardens.blogspot.com.

Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale Sunday, May 15th

It's time to clean out your garage, attic, basement and closets – and turn your extra stuff into extra money.

The Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale is Sunday, May 15th. Sellers are asked to register not later than May 9th. For more information and online registration, visit www.ravenswoodmanor.com – or use the mail-in form below.

The RMIA pays for permits and advertises this popular neighborhood sale event in local newspapers and websites. Garage sale participants are asked to contribute a minimum \$15 to help cover these costs.

Volunteers are needed to help coordinate the big event. Please email us at garagesale@ravenswoodmanor.com if you'd like to help with various tasks before the sale or the morning of the sale. Contribute an hour or a day -- we cannot organize the garage sale without volunteers from the Manor.

Thank you in advance for your participation, registration, and contribution.

GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION: *Due May 9th!*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE : _____

EMAIL: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED: \$15 \$25 \$35 \$ _____

*Please make checks payable to RMIA and mail to
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Neighborhood Photos Wanted!

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