



The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Summer 2011

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Are You Board?

RMIA needs new members to join the board in the Fall. Join us on second Mondays, starting on September 12th.

Got News?

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

Submit by January 8th for Winter 2012, delivered in early February.

Send to newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Garden Walk goes South... *in a good way!* Sunday, June 26th, 2-4pm

Celebrate the beauty of summer at the RMIA Garden Walk. Join us Sunday June 26th from 2 - 4 pm for a peek into your neighbors' gardens. This year we will be featuring gardens located south of Wilson Ave. Maps of the participating gardens will be available at Buffalo Park. The RMIA (and a number of neighborhood gardeners) look forward to seeing you there.

Children's Parade Needs Volunteers Sunday July 3rd, 10am (gathering)

The great annual tradition of the children's bicycle parade continues this year on Sunday July 3rd. Gathering and line up begins at 10am at Buffalo Park. The parade will begin at **10:30am** heading North on Manor and ending at Manor Park. Bicycles, scooters and wagons are welcome. Decorating is encouraged. Let your imagination run wild.

Parade Stewards are necessary to secure the route, block cross streets and direct traffic. The RMIA is seeking volunteers -- and parents, that means you! If you can help, please email us at volunteers@ravenswoodmanor.com. Without volunteers, this parade goes nowhere!

Own a Piece of Manor History... *bidding now open!*

New Ravenswood Manor signage, noting our designation as an historic neighborhood, was completed in May. Now there are ten of the old-style signs available for auction. Six are actually brand new. The others have been weathered to a more, er... "historical" look. All are now available for sale to the highest bidders. One will also go to the RMIA archives at Sulzer Library.

If you want one of these Manor artifacts for yourself, or perhaps for an old friend who's moved away, now is your chance. Send a check with your best offer for its value to RMIA, postmarked not later than July 31st. The ten largest checks will win the auction, with top bidders given a choice between new and historically weathered signs, until supplies of one run out. Winners will be notified in August with sign distribution details. Checks for losing bids will be shredded, uncashed.

HPAC Free Summer Concerts

For sixteen years, the Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) has been bringing neighbors together with free summer concerts.

All summer long, and just down the street there's an evening of fun awaiting you and your family. The series started on Sunday night June 12, in Ravenswood Manor Park with the Highland Park Pops (Big Band). It runs through Friday nights in July on Horner Park Hill and wraps up on Sundays in August.

That's two free evenings each month (three in August) of great musical acts, including folk, jazz, rock, with a bonus movie night (*The Karate Kid*) after the concert on July 8th.

Show your support for your neighborhood's premier event! Your tax-deductible subscription of \$30, \$50 or more, payable to the Horner Park Advisory Council (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit), will help us present a full season of free, live entertainment all summer long.

Sunday, June 12th, in Ravenswood Manor Park
Highland Park Pops (Big Band) at 7PM

Friday, June 24th, in Ravenswood Manor Park
Marlon St. John (Folk/Rock) at 7PM

Friday, July 8th, at Horner Park
Adams and Wabash (Country) at 7PM
The Karate Kid (Movie) at 9PM

Friday, July 22nd, at Horner Park
Mirror the Second (Rock) at 7PM

Friday, July 22nd, at Horner Park
Bright White (Rock) at 8PM

Sunday, August 7th in Ravenswood Manor Park
Bossa Tres (Latin) at 7PM

Sunday, August 21st, in Ravenswood Manor
Midwest Young Artists (Classical) at 7PM
Matt Campbell/Friends (Rock) at 8PM

Sunday, August 28th, in Ravenswood Manor Park
June Shellene (Pop/Rock) at 7PM

Photos Wanted for Newsletter!

Send your own cool views, snowy or any other sort of interesting pictures, of neighborhood places or events to newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

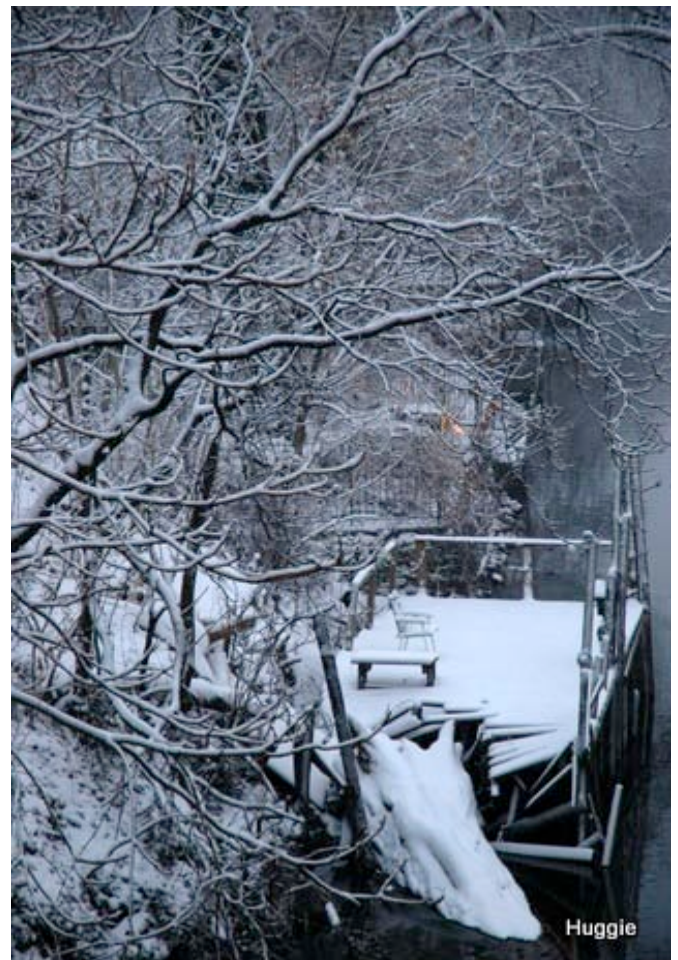
Manor Park Tree Project Needs Support

HPAC and RMIA are collaborating on a project to plant as many as eight new trees in and around Ravenswood Manor Park. Most of these would replace trees taken down in the last year, completing the parkways along Francisco and Manor, plus one tree inside the Park.

Following the Buffalo Park process used in 1992, the current plan relies on neighborhood donations to buy the trees and direct community involvement in the planting. We'll get a more interesting mix of trees than what the city would normally plant for us and be able to involve neighborhood kids in the planting.

Half of the estimated cost of \$2,000 has already been raised through a grant from Openlands. The next step is matching that with neighborhood donations. Watch for more news by email this summer and/or attend the next HPAC meeting on Monday, July 11th, in Manor Park at 7:30. Donations can be made to Horner Park Advisory Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, at HornerPark.org.

A Cool View for Hot Days



Thanks to Sandra Dolezil (huggie).

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 at these locations. Email Sarah Putrim for more info, at putrim@sbcglobal.net. Upcoming hosts are:

June: Silver 4439 N. Francisco

July: Brennan 4507 N Richmond

August: Martinez 4442 N Francisco

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 on Sacramento near Lawrence. It's a friendly thing to do, you can do it with kids, and it's part of what makes our neighborhood great. Please call (312) 280-7838 or email newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com or if you can help.

Thanks to RMIA Volunteers

Thanks to Annette D'Anna, Josh and Anna Harris, Jan Carlson, John Byrne, Matt Campbell, Rett Nelson, Phil Renaud 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. Send comments and contributions 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

The next RMIA Board meeting is Monday, September 12th. All are invited to attend.

Merle's closes. Now what?

The writing had been on the wall and in the windows for several months, but Merle's Coffee Shoppe finally closed on April 30 (after once again catering our Winter Social and hosting our Annual Easter Egg Hunt). Owner Jeff Scoughton said, "Many thanks to our customers who supported Merle's to our closing day and many RMIA events for the last seven years."

When asked what's next for him, Jeff said, "We are trying to keep the catering business alive." In the short term, he's also seeking bookkeeping work, "with 29 years of experience doing my own bookkeeping, for all the businesses I've owned, I can adapt to any business using Quickbooks." Keep in touch at cater.now@hotmail.com.

As for the buildings, owner Andrew Lawrence says both will be lost to foreclosure. "The bank will most likely auction them off in September. The neighborhood should know about this because historically foreclosures drive the values of the nearby buildings down. Also, FOUR vacant commercial units on one block does not reflect well for the 'business district.'"

That said, some neighbors are already thinking about new uses for the buildings. If you want to join other neighbors interested in the future of the buildings, let RMIA know so that potential new owners and users can get connected.

Gas Mower Needed for LaPointe Park

The volunteers who cut the grass at LaPointe Park need a gas lawnmower to do the job right. It doesn't need to be new or fancy, but it does need to be in good working order. Please email lapointepark@gmail.com, if you have one you can donate – or if you want to help mow! Thank you!



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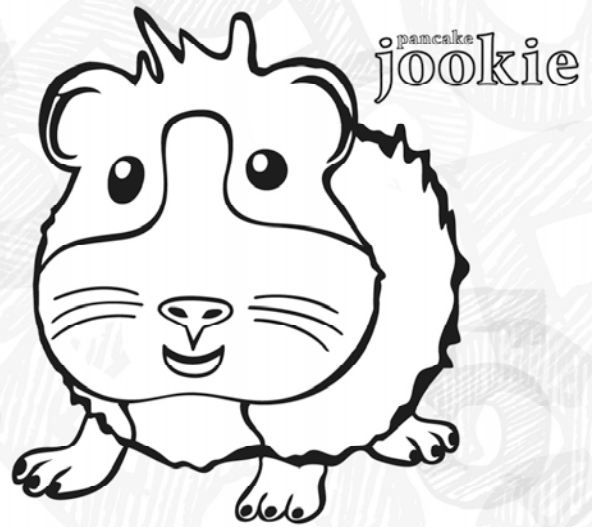
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Join jookie as we celebrate our 5th birthday. Log on to the jookie blog to keep up with our fun summer events. Or pick up your copy of the 2011 jookie catalog at our favorite neighborhood grill Rockwell's! Next up:

Saturday, July 9: "jookie is art" Open House - join us for the unveiling of our newest art offering and drop in to color your own "pancake jookie"

Saturday, August 13: "jookie is joy" Birthday Party - join us for live music, delicious cupcakes, a photo booth and fun giveaways. Don't miss out on your chance to win a family session and a 20 page album, a \$1700 value: download a copy of "pancake jookie" from our blog to color, decorate and snap photos of in your favorite locations. It's a photo contest for big kids and little kids alike - all are welcome to enter!

Follow along with us on Facebook!



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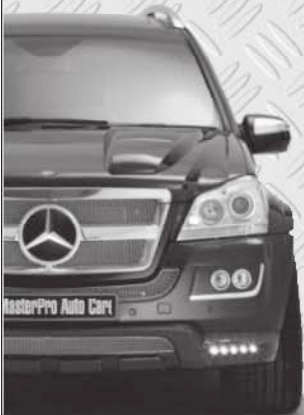
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Ronan Park News:

Sculpture garden blooms

Have you noticed anything new during your morning jog through Ronan Park? Last month the North River Commission and its partners installed three sculptures in Ronan Park, just north of Lawrence, west of the river. The installation is just the first sign that the new community-planned Multicultural Sculpture Park and Healing Garden will be constructed soon!

Community members will be involved in all aspects of the garden from creating sculpture pieces, physically building garden beds and maintaining them, to participating on programming and maintenance committees, and securing resources.

Everyone is encouraged to participate on a committee or volunteer your time in the gardens, and we also ask that you help the North River Commission build the garden by donating today. Please mail your tax-deductible donation to 3403 W. Lawrence Ave, Suite 201 Chicago, IL 60613. For more information, visit www.NorthRiverCommission.org or contact Rebecca at rrico@northrivercommission.org and (773) 478-0202 x117.



Architectural rendering of Multicultural Sculpture and Healing Garden to be built in Ronan Park. See details under Programs/Arts&Culture at the NRC website.

Free concerts continue at Ronan

Mark your calendars and update those smart phones the 3rd Annual Concert Series in Ronan Park is back on Thursday July 14th & Thursday July 28th, from 6:30-8:30pm!

Bring your family and friends to enjoy live music amidst the new sculpture in the Multicultural Sculpture Park and Healing Garden in Ronan Park (north of Lawrence Ave east of the Chicago River). Music will include reggae, traditional Mexican, and blue grass. Visit www.NorthRiverCommission.org for details.

The future of Neighborhood News and Connecting?

What are the issues and opportunities for the future of neighborhood news and communication? We've had a paper newsletter for as long as anyone can remember. Now we have websites and email, Twitter and Facebook, and more (see back page).

How do all of these things fit together? What is (are) the best way(s) forward? Would you be interested in working with a group of neighbors to connect more people and invite more news sharing? If you have ideas, interests or energy related to this, please email newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

If we find sufficient interest, we'll call a meeting for later this summer, talk through new ideas, and be able to deliver interests, recommendations and requests, to the RMIA board in September.

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Inviting Neighborly Exchanges

We'd like to add a new feature, starting in our next issue, for acknowledgements and recommendations. Mail to RMIA or email your contributions to newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Maybe there is somebody on your block who's done something great and deserves a bit of recognition. We want to hear about those folks, like the mystery snow-plowing guy in our last issue. Let's give credit where it's due, for simple but important contributions that make the Manor a great neighborhood.

And, if you have a great baby sitter, cleaning person, plumber, electrician, music teacher, band, tutor, construction company that you are very happy with, handyman, roofer, chef, party organizer, interesting books, plays, musicals, send them along (with their permission). If you are looking for some service or help, forward those interests, too. Email to newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

The Manor Online: Community Sites

Here are some places where Manor folk are connecting online, plus a few other sites that may be of interest:

RavenswoodManor.com – the official RMIA website events, membership, payments, newsletter archives, and more. You can also join the RMIA email list.

ManorNeighbors.com – an open forum for neighbors to read and share events, requests, offers, news and more. About 150 members signed up, so far.

Facebook.com – if you're a Facebook member, you can join the Ravenswood Manor group there, also about 170 members, so far.

EveryBlock.com – put in our zip code and see news, crime, sales, and other info aggregated and mapped.

OhSoWe.com – a few neighbors have started a group at this Chicago-based neighborhood networking site.

HornerPark.org – Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) concerts, meetings, and other projects.

RonanParkTrail.com – trail news for neighbors and volunteers. New volunteer steward needed now!

33rdWard.org – Alderman Richard Mell's website has CAPS meeting dates, CTA, traffic and weather alerts, community orgs and events, and other information.



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