

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

April 2001



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Newsletter Online at www.ravenswoodmanor.com*

Garage Sale Sunday, May 20

Start pricing all those treasures! The 21st annual Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale will be here before we know it!

The Sale will be held Sunday, May 20 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm, rain or shine. The RMIA Garage Sale draws shoppers from all over the city with the number of

participants last year topping 100!

To participate in the Garage Sale:

- 1) sign-up at the semi-annual meeting. See you there.
- 2) Fill out the registration form in the newsletter (page 5) and mail it.
- 3) Leave a message on the

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In The Olden Days...

On any summer evening you can step away from the Francisco el stop and hear the sounds of children in the park sliding, running, and swinging toward the limbs of the trees which have framed Ravenswood Manor Park for over eighty years. It is a scene which makes the park appealing to visitors and all who live here.

It was a different scene in the 1910's when prospective residents of the Manor stepped off the el. The park was then occupied by the real estate office of W.E. Harmon, the developer of Ravenswood Manor. Behind his office was a yard surrounded by a decorative trellis and hedges which gave his development the air of an estate. It was an attractive centerpiece for the new development which was being filled in by middle class families escaping congested areas of the city.

In 1914, Harmon donated his office and the lot to the Ravenswood Manor/Gardens Park District. The park was maintained and funded by residents of Ravenswood Manor and Gardens. The office was

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RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 25 Featuring Alderman Mell

All Ravenswood Manor residents are invited to attend our neighborhood Semi-Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM at the Horner Park field house. It is a great way for both new and long time residents to get an

overview on the RMIA progress toward neighborhood plans and priorities. Alderman Richard Mell will be also be there to give an update on the state of the 33rd Ward and current plans. Hope to see you there! Brian Basler

Web Site Update

The RMIA web site is being updated on a regular basis. For up to date information on events and neighborhood activities go to www.ravenswoodmanor.com. Click the "Events" button to see a list of upcoming and past events. Click the "Click here to see pictures from the event!" button to see pictures from the winter social. Click the RMIA button in the main menu to access www.RMIA.org. This page includes copies of the newsletters. Read the latest there.

Scott P. Wheeler

Welcome to the “Safety Zone”

Starting with this newsletter, we will be updating the community on different neighborhood safety issues. Based on information from the monthly C.A.P.S. meetings (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy). For anyone interested in attending, these meetings are open to any resident who would like to express concern or gain information regarding crime and safety issues in the areas where they live. Residents who live north of Wilson avenue are in beat #1713 and the CAPS meeting is every fourth Thursday of the month as 7:00 P. M. at Hubbard School, 3244 W. Ainslie. Residents who live south of Wilson are in beat #1724 and that meeting is the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Horner Park in the upstairs lounge. A board member from the RMIA is normally present at each of these meetings.

For more information on safety issues or CAPS, you can call neighborhood relations at (312) 744-3774. Other numbers to keep in mind are: Major emergency: 911; Minor annoyance: 311. Residents may also file crime reports on the internet at [HTTP://www.cityofchicago.org/caps](http://www.cityofchicago.org/caps).

You may also want to notify the RMIA hotline (312) 409-3213 if you have a crime to report in the manor so we can keep track and report on any patterns or rashes

of crimes which may be occurring.

Beware - Speaking of crime rashes, some residents, especially senior citizens, have experienced strangers coming to their doors posing as city workers or solicitors with the intent of getting into the home and robbing them. No one is exempt, including businesses.

With the warmer weather approaching graffiti tends to be more frequent and the best defense is to get rid of it. If you see graffiti in the area call the RMIA hotline (312) 409-3213 to have it removed.

Remember - Clean neighborhoods reflect concern and this discourages crime.

Nancy Campbell.

Waters School Your Local Public School

Book Drive

It's official – the Waters School Book Drive is in full force! We are within reach of our goal and **we need your help!** Our goal is to present 100 books to Waters School this spring. Mr. Tomas Revollo, Principal of Waters School, has pinpointed books needed for the primary grades' classroom language arts program. For a \$10 tax-deductible donation you will help us purchase one book plus your name will appear on a specially inserted bookplate acknowledging your donation.

You can also give a book in someone else's name. What a great gift to give the school if you are an alumni of Waters School. Businesses contributing \$30 can insert a 2X3 1/2 - inch ad **free** of charge in the Greater Rockwell Organization newsletter (a \$15 value). The GRO newsletter goes to 1,000 households. Each book will become a permanent addition to a classroom library. A great way to help your community school get those reading scores up.

This is a shared effort by the RMIA and the GRO. **Giving is easy**, make your check payable to RMIA and mail it to: Greater Rockwell Organization, P.O. Box 25561, Chicago IL 60625-0561. Or drop it off at Manor Travel Service. Call Debbie at 509.1947 if you have questions.

Fine Arts Magnet Program

Waters was recently designated a Fine Arts Magnet School and, as such, received two new teachers who specialize in teaching art, drama, and music. Through the efforts of these new instructors, several students from Waters are participating in a youth theatre ensemble organized by the Lookingglass Theatre's Education and Outreach Program.

Book Fair

Waters School will be sponsoring a Book Fair (this is separate from the Book Drive). New books of all types. May 7th - 9th during school hours. May 9th the Book Fair will have evening hours from 6 - 9 PM. Perfect for holiday giving.

Debbie Montgomery

A Letter From Our President

I came across this poster recently and it reminded me a lot of what is special about Ravenswood Manor. Then I started thinking that I should take a few items on this list and make it a personal resolution to put them into practice this year. I hope you enjoy this too. Brian Basler

The full size color version is online at www.rmia.org/commun.html.



Karen Kerney/SCW Community ©SCW 1998
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Olden Days...

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used for meetings, voting, and other civic functions. The trellis was eventually taken down, and the park remained a quiet garden with several benches. In 1934 the park became part of the Chicago Park District and a perennial garden was added.

The office was removed in 1957, following the development of Horner Park. This opened up some space in the park which was soon put to use by local boys for games of football and baseball. The games did not go over so well with certain residents who preferred the park preserved as a garden. They would call upon the police to break up the ball games but the boys had a system to evade capture. As explained by one veteran, "one boy would yell 'Police!' and we would run through a gap in the shrubs along the alley, through the yards and go to Wilson". On other occasions Mrs. Pinhale, who lived on Leland Ave., would pick the boys up in her blue Chrysler and take them over to play in Horner Park. Plans were made to plant additional trees and hedges or install rock gardens to interrupt the games, but were not successful, as the park had been taken over by children. The Chicago Park district installed the first playground equipment in the early 1970's and the park became a place children and parents enjoy together.

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Parks and Streets

Why do the words spring and cleaning come to mind with the passing of winter? It should be one word, no hyphen SPRINGCLEANING. Come out April 21st to Manor Park and give a hand, get together with our neighbors we haven't seen most of the winter. Make a family day of it, the children can play at the park and even give a helping hand. Who said springcleaning couldn't be fun? Make new friends, any new neighbors come on down y'all. Hail, hail the gangs all here 9:00 am to 12 noon. Black tie optional.

Any Ravenswood Manor signs that are missing will hopefully be replaced by the time this article comes out. The tools and hardware needed to hang the signs are on order.

The Parks and Streets committee will be focusing on the gateways to Ravenswood Manor and some new plantings at Lapointe Park (Preserving the plantings that are dedicated).

- Lapointe Park - Our committee will be receiving a drawing from Mike Emerson of VOA Associates, VOA has designed Navy Pier, Bateman School Addition and is currently working on the River project at Horner Park.
- Gateways - With all of the cityscape going on with other neighborhoods, the committee is looking at the possibility of installing piers (decorative brick entrance pillars) at the gateways throughout the

Manor. Piers were on most of the corners in the Manor and had the names of the streets with flowers planted on the top. Piers can be viewed along Rockwell Ave. from Wilson to Montrose, to get an idea. These are a good example of what used to be in the Manor. If you are interested in any of the above contact the RMIA hotline (312) 409-3213 and the information will be passed along.

On a serious note, our neighborhood gets things done because neighbors get involved. Community groups work together. Park cleanup, summer concerts, new playground equipment, and the river project at Horner Park. Whether you contribute money, time or offer advice, it all counts towards a better neighborhood. The Chicago Park District, Horner Park Advisory Council, Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, State Representative John Fritchey, Congressman Rod Blagojevich and Alderman Mell and his staff have made all these things come together. Manor Park clean up on April 21, 9:00 am to 12 noon. Only three hours of one day out of 365, bring the kids.

Quote: "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Kahlil Gibran - The Prophet

Nicholas B. Acciari Chairman
Parks & Streets

Olden Days...

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The shape of the park as we know it today is largely the work of Manor residents on the Horner Park Advisory Board which was formed in 1989. The short stretch of Eastwood between Francisco and Manor was filled in to connect the two halves of the park and ease traffic. A new pergola, designed to resemble the original park trellis, was erected and is now used as for concerts. Recently, the board was given an award by the Friends of the Parks for its work on funding new playground equipment, and a black fence has been installed as the mark of our current mayor.

Today the park is more active than ever, 2001 marks the seventh season of concerts in the park and the fourth annual Manor Bash. The continued involvement of local residents in maintaining and preserving the park will ensure the enjoyment of residents for years to come.

The author wishes to thank John O'Connell and Anne Rozmin, Horner Park Advisory Board; Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District; Richard Bjorklund, Ravenswood-Lakeview Historical Society; Glenn Humphries, Chicago Public Library; and residents Elaine Robbins and John Byrne for help with this article.

Donovan Robin

Newsletter Help Needed

 re you creative? Do you want to serve your community and get the first look at the neighborhood's news? The RMIA is looking for someone to lay out this newsletter. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please leave a phone message at the RMIA hotline (312-409-3213). Thanks!

Manor Garden Club Calendar

 olunteer some time to your community this spring. It's fun and you'll meet your neighbors. Call 588.5674 or www.manorgardenclub.org.

Please join us for these events:
 Saturday, April 21 – 9:00 am – Noon
 Earth Day – Manor Park clean up
 (See Parks and Streets, Page 4)
 Saturday, May 19 – 10:00 am – sell-out
 Plant Sale – Buffalo Park
 Monday, May 21 – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
 Container Garden Workshop
 4451 N. Mozart – Garage
 Monday, June 18 – 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
 Meeting. Horner Park Field House
 Garden Walk Planning Session
 Sunday, July 1st – 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
 Manor Garden Walk
 Concert Manor Park 7:00 pm
 Upcoming projects:
 Manor Park Garden
 Sacramento box
 LaPointe Park.

Garage Sale - Saturday, May 2...

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RMIA voice mail at 312-409-3213. Indicate that you wish to participate in the Garage Sale. **Be sure** to give your **name**, **address** and **telephone number** so a Garage Sale packet can be provided for you.

The deadline for signing up is Thursday, May 10. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to offset the cost of promoting and advertising the sale. You may mail your donation along with your registration or give it when you sign up at the semi-annual meeting.

When you sign up you will receive garage sale tips, a large yellow Garage Sale sign, maps for shoppers and the required garage sale permit from the City of Chicago.

Also, the 33rd Ward will generously provide a bulk pick up on Monday, May 21 to remove any unsold items from the alleys. Good luck at this year's Garage Sale.

Kathy Monk

 ear the RMIA! Buy an RMIA t-shirt! (\$10 each Adult L-XL, Child 14-16) Call Mary Sheffield at 539-4746.

Registration for the Ravenswood Manor Neighborhood Garage Sale, May 20 (Deadline May 10)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

I wish to make a contribution of \$ _____ to
R.M.I.A. for Garage Sale expenses.

Please mail your registration to:

RMIA
P.O. Box 25486
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Local Numbers to Know

Police Emergency 911
 City Services 311
 Police Non-Emergency
 311

Chicago Police 17th District
 Station (312) 744-8346
 Alderman Richard
 Mell (773) 478-8040

RMIA Hotline
 (312) 409-3213
 Recycling Resource
 Center (773) 821-1351