



# The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

## Autumn 2004



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## Upcoming Community Events

### New Art School in the Manor

By Diane Sutliff

The *Go Get Your Smock!* School of Art opened October 5 at 4636 N. Francisco, next door to Le Ballet Petit. The studio offers classes for beginning and more experienced artists at all age levels.

A Manor resident for 15 years, School Director Diane Sutliff, has taught art at both the elementary and early childhood school levels. She also developed an early childhood art program for Chicago Public Schools. In 2002-2003, *Go Get Your Smock!* instructors were serving 1200 children each week in Head Start classrooms across the city.

"I really enjoy helping children and adults realize that they CAN draw," says Diane. "Learning to draw is much like learning to read. Readers first learn letters and sound. Artists learn lines and shapes. Readers combine sounds to make words. Artists combine lines and shapes to make recognizable objects. Anyone can learn to read. Anyone can learn to draw. The emphasis at the *Go Get Your Smock!* school is to help artists find their own unique drawing style.

Classes are ongoing throughout the school year, and students can register at any time. Class size is

limited to 10, and students are grouped by age: pre-school, 5-6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years, teens and adults. More information about the school can be found at [www.gogetyoursmock.com](http://www.gogetyoursmock.com), or drop by the studio for a brochure.

### RMIA Annual Meeting

The RMIA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28 at 7:30pm at the Horner Park fieldhouse 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room. All Manor residents are invited to attend and participate in a neighborhood Q&A session. It is helpful to the RMIA to gather our neighbors' ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year. We will also be voting on and welcoming new Board Member Volunteers.





## RMIA Education Committee News

The RMIA Education Committee has put together three Education Coffees in the last two years to give parents the opportunity to share a wide variety of information about local schools. In order for us to continue these and produce other community events, the Committee needs members! We welcome new ideas and resources. Please contact [education@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:education@ravenswoodmanor.com) or Hollis Russinof at 773-463-4420.

**Northside Parents Network School Fairs**  
<http://www.northsideparents.org>

Now in their fifth year, NPN's school fairs provide an opportunity for parents to gain information and applications about lots of different schools in one morning. Pick up printed information and speak to the school representatives.

**Northside Preschool Fair**  
*Saturday, November 13*  
 10am-1pm, 10-11am Members Only  
 70 Schools, 100 Silent Auction Items,  
 Speaker Forums  
 St. Andrew Gym  
 1710 West Addison Street

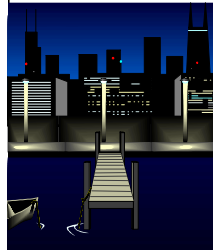
**Northwest Elementary and Preschool Fair**  
*Saturday, December 4*  
 10am-Noon  
 30 schools  
 Merrimac Park Gym  
 6343 W. Irving Park Road  
 (near Narragansett)

Fairs are FREE and OPEN to the public. A ticket is required, which can be obtained at <http://www.northsideparents.org/rsvpschoolfair.asp>. Although an RSVP is not required, we ask parents to respond in order to help gauge attendance.

## River Docks Update

One year ago the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District resurrected a long standing dispute over the rights of riverfront homeowners to have docks in front of their homes on the river. This dispute has now landed in court.

As a result of the counter-suit filed by legal representation for the Ravenswood River Neighbors Association (RRNA) against the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's 2003 Eviction Suit, the home owners along the river from Lawrence to Montrose were able to still enjoy their use this summer of the riverbanks and access to their boats, docks, decks, patios and other contested "structures" threatened by the suit.



Behind the scenes activities were taking place while things appeared "normal" on the riverfront. All the lawsuits involving these homeowners and the District have been consolidated and moved to Chancery Court where responses have been filed and received by all parties, as well as a round of amendments to the suit and counter-suits. Up to this point, the process followed has been pretty typical of litigation of this sort.

Both parties are currently involved in the "discovery" phase of the suits during which they examine the documents and take depositions of the potential witnesses that they will be using if the case goes to trial.

The RRNA will be having its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00pm and members are being asked to mark their calendars for that date. Details will follow closer to the meeting.

## New Offerings at Merle's

Merle's is now serving a full breakfast menu featuring eggs cooked to order, omelets, pancakes and french toast.

With the holidays just around the corner Merle's offers catering services for your home and office gatherings. Also during the season they will be featuring handmade gifts, cookie baskets, candy boxes, desserts and more for your gift giving. They will be having a "Holiday Open House" just before Thanksgiving. Date and time will be posted at the shoppe.

Jeffrey S. who runs Merle's stated, "Thank you to our customers and neighbors for your kind words and support. We are going strong and looking forward to the 2004 Holiday Season!"



# RMIA News Brief

## Summer Flower Basket Program Launch

If you liked the holiday lighted snowflakes that the RMIA bought to decorate our streets, you'll love our vision for the summer! There are beautiful hanging flower baskets on the downtown avenues of Chicago. Imagine flowers in full bloom hanging from the street lights near every intersection. While we can't afford the Michigan Avenue program of flowers, there may be a way to economically run this program ourselves.



Two hanging flower baskets adorn lamp post in Decorah, Iowa

The RMIA Board has researched how a small town in Iowa has "grown" a successful flower basket program. However, there are a number of details to be worked out to launch this program. For instance, keeping the flowers healthy in the hot weather necessitates watering the plants every day. The Iowa town's cost effective solution involves hiring students to water the baskets using a basic golf cart with a water tank mounted on back. Another item to be worked out is where we can store the watering cart when it is not in use.

We hope to figure out the solutions to these and other details this fall. We will need some additional help with this. If you want to be part of the group that makes this happen or if you have suggestions, call the RMIA at 312-409-3213 or email us at [rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com).

## 2004-05 RMIA Board Members

The RMIA is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for vote at the Annual Meeting on October 28; Cathy Anderson, Chuck Renner, and Melisa Patterson. Returning Board members are Deb Bombka, Brian Basler, Julie Faude, Julie Gelfond, Geoff Gieske, Alan Mueller, Hollis Russinoff, Shalini Agrawal, Diane Black, David Rownd, Josh Silverman, Gary Smith, Don Valentin, Eileen Valentin and Scott Wheeler.

The entire RMIA Board is looking forward to an exciting year of meeting the needs of the community. Special projects include adding hanging flower planters, pursuing Historic district designation for Ravenswood Manor, reissuing Welcome Packet, and [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com) website redesign.

## Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association Membership / Renewal

The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association is a volunteer organization, which attempts to make our neighborhood a special place. Please consider becoming a member or renewing today by filling out this membership form. Your donation will play an important role in the ongoing improvement of our neighborhood!

Membership Year: November 1, 2004 – October 31, 2005  
Please make checks payable to RMIA and mail to:  
RMIA Membership, P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Donate \$30 or more and get a FREE Ravenswood Manor t-shirt, while supplies last! Circle desired size: M L XL XXL

Have you moved into the neighborhood within the past year?  
Yes No

What Ravenswood Manor issues and/or activities are most important to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer? Yes! The best way to contact me is: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support and suggestions!