



The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter



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Published by
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 Improvement Association (RMIA)
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 Newsletter Online at
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RMIA Neighborhood Meeting

The RMIA Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30pm at Horner Park fieldhouse. All Manor residents are invited to attend. We will discuss and present the initial release of the Ravenswood Manor Business District Development Plan (*See story on this page*). The RMIA also uses the Q&A time to gather input from the community on important issues and uses the input to help set direction for the upcoming year.

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Manor Business District Project

Later this fall the Business District Committee will release a "Development Plan" for the commercial areas in, and around, the Manor. The Plan is the result of a nine-month study undertaken by a committee of volunteers. The study areas included Lawrence Avenue, Montrose Avenue and the Francisco "L" station businesses. By creating some recommendations for growth the RMIA hopes that future business development in the neighborhood can contribute to the quality of life in the Manor.

In addition to studying the types of businesses that might be a good fit for the Manor, the Plan also explored concepts to promote a pedestrian-friendly environment. These might include landscape and parkway planting, decorative streetlights and paving, and storefront enhancement programs. The concepts attempt to envision possible enhancements to the commercial

areas but are not by themselves funded projects. Future dialog with residents, the City, property owners and developers would be needed to refine and implement any of the concepts presented in the Plan.

Drawings depicting some of the proposed physical changes to the Business District will be on display at the RMIA semi-annual meeting on November 2. The Plan itself will become available on the Ravenswood Manor website this fall for anyone to download. A current draft version of the Plan has been circulated to a number of community organizations with the hope of getting their input for the final upcoming version.



RMIA News Brief

Flower Basket Program

Two beautiful hanging flower baskets adorned the light post at Manor Avenue and Montrose this summer. This pilot project of the RMIA successfully tested a new planter and bracket system. Throughout a very hot and dry summer these plants were drip irrigated on a daily basis. To add more planters throughout the neighborhood will require approval from the City. If approval is granted we will work towards adding more planters and create the care-taking plan.

RMIA Board Seeks Volunteers

Do you have a passion for this neighborhood? Is there some neighborhood issue you always thought would be rewarding to work on? Contact the RMIA. Call the voicemail at 312-409-3213 or send an email to rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com and we will contact you.

Useful Local Numbers

- Police Emergency 911
- City Services 311
- Police Non Emergency 311
- Chicago Police 17th District Station 312-744-8346
- Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) 312-744-3774
- Alderman Richard Mell 773-478-8040
- RMIA Voice Mail 312-409-3213
- Recycling Resource Center 773-821-1351
- Graffiti Removal 312-744-5000 or 311

National Register for the Manor?

This summer the RMIA initiated the application process for our neighborhood to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. This honorary designation will formally recognize the historic significance of our neighborhood. An additional benefit is a property tax assessment freeze incentive for rehabilitating single family, owner occupied residences. Unlike a Local Landmark District the National Register DOES NOT require owners to obtain prior approval to change their home's appearance. Further information can be found at the website www.illinois-history.gov.

This is a large undertaking but well worth the effort. If you are interested in contributing your time or talents to this, please email us at rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com

RMIA Member Welcome Packet

The neighborhood welcome packet is now available online at www.ravenswoodmanor.com. This document is a handy reference for all who live in the Manor.

Current RMIA Board Members

- Brian Basler, *President*
- Chuck Renner, *Vice President*
- Josh Silverman, *Treasurer*
- Diane Black
- Deb Bombka
- Geoff Gieske
- Bethann Hester
- Alan Mueller
- Melissa Patterson
- Kathy Price-Anderson
- David Rownd
- Gary Smith
- Don Valentin
- Eileen Valentin
- Scott Wheeler



Ravenswood Manor Recycling Program

2005 marks the 18th year Ravenswood Manor has been in the forefront of recycling in Chicago.



Because of our long tradition of environmental responsibility, the RMIA has provided an alternative to the City's Blue Bag program, and is offering a weekly, source-separated, alley pickup program that operates at 100% efficiency. This year's subscription program, in partnership with the not-for-profit Resource Center, is an

inexpensive way to save landfill space, protect the environment, boost the local economy, and preserve natural resources.

To sign up the Ravenswood Manor Recycling Program, at the cost of \$72 for the year, call the Resource Center at 773-821-1351 and request an application for service.

As in previous years, the Resource Center recycles the following items: glass bottles, all cans and aluminum, newspapers, high grade paper (catalogs, magazines, junk mail, office paper) low grade paper (brown envelopes, phone books, cereal boxes). Pickup for our neighborhood is on Monday morning.

RMIA's School Information Session

The Education committee has had an active start to the school year! On September 20, the RMIA sponsored a school information session. The event, held at Kitchen Chicago, was well attended by parents in the neighborhood interested in learning more about some of the Chicago area schools. Twelve schools were represented and presented by parents in the neighborhood. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to share important information as well as their insights about their child's school.

One of the speakers at the September 20 School Dessert was Mr. Tom Revollo, the Waters School principal. His discussion inspired many in the neighborhood to attend the annual Waters School open house and garden workday on October 1. Following the open house, there has been much enthusiasm within Ravenswood Manor and Ravenswood Gardens to work closer with Waters. A committee of interested neighbors has been formed. This effort was officially launched at the committee's first meeting on October 4. During the meeting many ideas and concerns were shared. To better effect change, the group divided into smaller sub-committees: curriculum, infrastructure, community outreach, and Friends of Waters/fundraising. It is never too late to join this active group. If you are interested, please e-mail: education@ravenswoodmanor.com.

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, 2005 – October 31, 2006

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 _____

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!