

## The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

#### Mark Your Calendar

Doggie Egg Hunt & Bonnet Parade in Horner Park: Apr 12

"Where was the A&P" Tour: reg. Apr 19; tour May 10

Easter Egg Hunt in LaPointe Park: Apr 19

RMIA Open House: Apr 23

Manor Garage Sale: May 18

"Gems of the Manor" Tour: reg. May 10, tour May 31

"History, Mysteries, Tall Tales, & Colorful Characters" Tour: reg. May 31; tour Jun 21

Centennial Bash: Jun 28 Noon: 4th of July Bike Parade 1-9pm: Live entertainment (see schedule page 3)

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Spring 2014



#### **RMIA Spring Open House**

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30pm

Urban Homes, 4668 North Manor Ave.

Come one, come all, to the Spring Open

House for all residents of the Manor. The spring and fall Open Houses are a great opportunity for you to meet your neighbors, explore issues of importance to you, talk to your volunteer board, and especially in 2014 find out about all of the fun events and projects going on.

#### **Centennial Homes**

by Joe Cesario

As part of our celebration of the Centennial, Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association developed the Centennial Homes project to recognize the 100 year old houses in our neighborhood. The project is a great complement to our designation as a National Register Historic District in 2008, and these homes contribute to the historical character and beauty of the Manor. Certificates will be



mailed this month with ordering information for the bronze Centennial Homes plaque. Come summertime you should start seeing these beautiful plaques popping up all over the Manor.

In this first year of the project, we are certifying all of the houses



built from 1909 through 1914, and in each subsequent year RMIA will welcome a new set of 100 year old houses into the group of Centennial Homes. The most frequent question asked is, "How did you determine the build year of the houses?" The good news for the project team is that the build years were already professionally determined back in 2008. Our Centennial Home designations use the build years included in the Historic District application, which relied on the

City of Chicago permitting records. For current information about the project, check out the Centennial Homes page on the RMIA website: ravenswoodmanor.com/themanor/centennialhomes/

Welcome to the Manor News, a free neighborhood publication distributed by the RMIA. Want to contribute an article or a photo? Interested in placing an advertisement for your business? Fundraiser? Event? Please submit by June 15 for the Summer issue of the Manor News. Questions or comments: newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.

#### Winter 2014 ~ Page 2

#### **Harmon's Model Homes**

by Jim Peters

On February 15th, accompanied by a fresh snow-

fall, neighborhood residents Athene Carras and Jim Peters led a tour of the neighborhood's original 15 "model homes."



The hous-

es were built in 1909-11 by the Wm. E. Harmon Co. to promote its new Ravenswood Manor subdivision. Most of the model homes were concentrated along Eastwood, Francisco, and Wilson, within blocks of the "L" station and Harmon's real estate office in current-day Manor Park.

Newspaper ads promoted the Manor as the "First Suburb Beautiful of the New Chicago," a reference to the newly-enacted Chicago Plan of 1909, whose citywide goals envisioned a "City Beautiful." While the model home designs varied, at least half were the American Four Square style. However, the final model home, built in 1911, was a Bungalow, a style rapidly growing in popularity among budget-conscious homebuyers.

A copy of the "Harmon Model Home Tour" is available, as a PDF, on the web site of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association. Other neighborhood walking tours, which are being sponsored by RMIA in conjunction with its 100th anniversary, will include: "Gems of the Manor," "Where Was the A&P," "Tall Tales and Colorful Characters," and "Candlelite Interiors." •

#### A History Timeline for Ravenswood Manor

compiled by Centennial Research & Tours Committee

**1891:** Jack Diamond's Race Track closes, after its grandstand burns down. The half-mile "sulky track's" paddock had been located near current site of Buffalo Park.

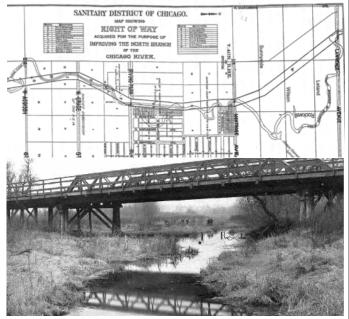
**1893:** Northwest Land Association purchases 640 acres west of Western Avenue, between Lawrence and Irving Park, much of which had been part of the Charles Macalester Farm.

**1904-07:** Sanitary District of Chicago creates a 2.2-mile channel, between Belmont and Lawrence (bridge in photo), eliminating what had been a meandering course for the Chicago River.

**1907:** Francisco "L" station opens on Dec. 14th on the extended Ravenswood Branch of the Northwestern Elevated Railroad.

**1908:** Wm. E. Harmon & Co. purchases 80 acres west of the Chicago River from the Northwest Land Association, plats the Ravenswood Manor subdivision, and installs streets, sidewalks, and utilities.

1909: Harmon constructs ten "model homes,"



including a real estate sales office at 4516 N. Francisco, and begins selling house lots for \$690-\$990. Full-page advertisements appear in the Chicago Sunday Tribune.

1914: Ravenswood Manor-Gardens Cmty Club organized due to "desire of residents to enforce property restrictions and community improvements." Incorporates Oct. 3 in Harmon's real estate office. Ravenswood Manor-Gardens Park District is created to purchase land from Harmon for neighborhood parks. First meeting held Oct. 30 at residence 4525 N. Sacramento. Residents protest Illinois Stone Co. plan to lease river edge land north of Lawrence from sanitary district for storage yard and shipping depot.

**1915:** Park district acquires Manor Park, along with the former real estate office, which becomes a community meeting space known as "Manor House."

**1916:** Name of neighborhood group changes to Ravenswood Manor-Gardens Improvement Association (RMGIA)....Buffalo Park is acquired by park district.

**1917:** Charles J. Nilson, a local contractor, is hired to create cement fountain for Buffalo Park, featuring buffalo heads and decorative benches.

**1920:** Developer's deed restrictions expire. Apartment buildings constructed in vicinity of "L" station.

**1920s:** Chicago River purportedly becomes a route for bootleggers during the Prohibition era. •



#### **Walking Tours**

Wow, we are excited by learning more about Ravenswood Manor and taking the free walking tours. Sign ups for the first tour took 63 minutes. Sign ups for the 2nd tour took 3 minutes--amazing! Thanks for everyone's enthusiasm. The team has added a second Gems tour on May 31. Please check website, facebook, and June Manor News for more tours this summer. More info at: ravenswoodmanor.com/centennial/walking-tours/.

May 10, 10:00am – Where was the A&P? – Ravenswood Manor has had a varied commercial past. This tour will reveal the histories of the different businesses that have occupied the retail spaces adjacent to the Francisco L stop and the courtyard buildings. You'll be amazed. Registration begins Saturday April 19, 10am.

May 31, 10:00am - Gems of the Manor - This tour covers 13 structures identified as having citywide "significance" by the City of Chicago's Chicago Historic Resources Survey (1996). This is the tour of the best of the best. Registration begins Saturday May 10, 10am.

June 21, 10:00am– Histories, Mysteries, Tall Tales and Colorful Characters – This is the tour that brings the human interest stories to light. The famous people who lived here, the speakeasy past, the vision of the developer and other tales of the Manor. Registration begins Saturday May 31, 10am.

## Spring into LaPointe Park and Community Gardening

LaPointe Park is an open pub-

lic space managed by the RMIA and neighborhood volunteers, located at the north end of the Manor at Giddings. It's a great place to be outside with kids and neighbors in the summer.

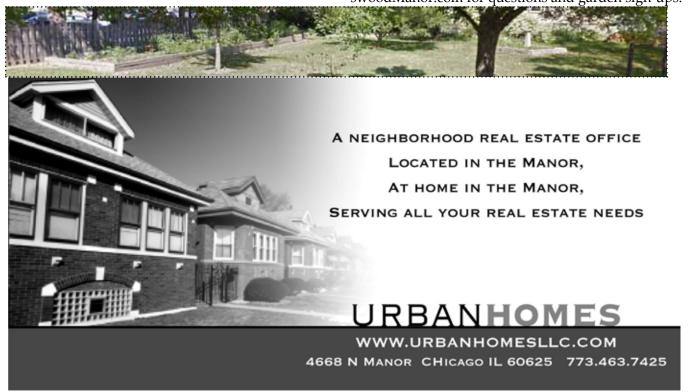


Sign-up for one of our 4'x7' community garden plots. and grow yourself some fresh veggies, help maintain ornamental beds, trees and fences, or just bring the kids out to play in the park. Garden plot assignments are made now, through early April, depending on weather. Assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis, and cost \$25/plot for the season. Visit http://ravenswoodmanor.com/community/community-garden/, or see the back side of the La Pointe Park sign for more about the community garden, community project days, and how to join LaPointe Park Friends email group for the latest park news.

**Subscribe:** LaPointeParkFriends+subscribe@googlegroups.com

**Info:** ravenswoodmanor.com/community/community-garden/

**Contact:** Michael Herman at LaPointePark@Raven-swoodManor.com for questions and garden sign-ups. •





#### Horner Park Summer Program Signup

Chicago Park District Summer Program and Day Camp signup for Horner Park opens online on Tuesday, April 8 (www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks/Horner-Park/), and in-person registration opens on Monday, April 14. This is the time for you to check out all the great offerings our neighborhood parks have to offer, including sports and activities for neighbors of all ages-- and of course our great new Wood Shop in the Horner Park fieldhouse!

### Stewardship of Our Parks

Many Ravenswood Manor residents use our local

parks, including Ravenswood Manor Park, Buffalo Park, and of course, Horner Park. But did you know that all of our parks need some local TLC each year? The Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) Stewardship Committee seeks volunteers to help keep our parks clean and green.



On **Saturday**, **April 26**, **9am-noon**, Friends of the Parks will stage its 25th annual **Earth Day** Parks & Preserves Clean Up. There are plans to have sites open that day at all of our neighborhood parks, and the captains can sure use a little help! Activities that day may include litter pick up, leaf raking, tree mulching, new FIBAR in the playlot, graffiti removal, and basic gardening. A limited supply of T-shirts will be available for the volunteers.

On **Saturday, May 10, 9am-noon**, Friends of the River will produce their annual **River Day**. Although activities at Horner will be limited due to the riverbank restoration, there will still be volunteers needed that day, especially at Jacob and Sunken Garden Parks.

All during the summer, especially in the midst of drought, our trees need watering. The Stewardship Committee is looking for committed individuals who can help water the trees during the summer.

We'd like to see all of our neighborhood parks "adopted," to ensure that clean up and general stewardship efforts take place at least seasonally. Stewardship can also mean spreading the word not to litter, or picking up trash as you walk through the park.

Those interested in helping the HPAC Stewardship Committee should go to the Horner Park website, www.hornerpark.org, to learn more, or contact committee chair John O'Connell at: johnroconnell4530@gmail.com. •

#### Manor Park Summer Concerts

The Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) is once again producing a series of nine free evenings of open air entertainment in Ravenswood



Manor Park for the Summer of 2014. Neighbors young and old are invited bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnics to our little park to enjoy live performances. The lineup includes theater and dance as well as a wide range of live music. Be sure not to miss this year's special hula clinic! You can lend your support with a donation to the Concert Series either on hornerpark. org or by mailing a check made out to Horner Park Concert Series to 4530 N. Mozart Street, Chicago, IL 60625. All events are paid for by contributions from neighbors and local organizations; paid ad space is available in the concert booklet distributed at every event. For more information email lead organizer John O'Connell at: johnroconnell4530@gmail.com. •

## Doggie Egg Hunt & Spring Bonnet Parade in Horner Park

Come on out and parade your pup's swanky duds and swift sniffer at the annual Horner Park Doggie Spring Bonnet Parade & Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12. Cost is \$10 per dog. For an additional fee get you best friend's



portrait taken with the Easter Bunny! Pet related vendors and services will have informational booths set up at this family-friendly event. Please note that all dogs must be leashed. •



#### Throw us a bone!

Help build a dream dog park at California and Irving Park.

E-Mail: info@hornerparkdogpark.org

Website: hornerparkdogpark.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HornerParkDogPark



#### **Centennial Volunteers**

Volunteers are needed now to share in the excitement and work of celebrating this landmark year. Why volunteer? It is a good way to engage with neighbors you know and ones you will get to know, you can see your own ideas come to fruition, and you can be part of what makes our neighborhood great: a true sense of community. Two Centennial projects are included here, and for a current list of volunteer needs, see the Volunteer page on the RMIA website: RavenswoodManor.com/support/volunteer/ and also: facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor.

#### Centennial Bash

The Bash is **Saturday June 28** based in Manor Park.

- Food trucks volunteer working with Victoria Wiedel, recruit food trucks and assist day of event
- Family activities volunteers, work with lead Julia Smith
- Bike parade volunteers, work with lead Athene Carras, help publicize the bike parade, coordinate Fire Department trucks, recruit traffic control volunteers, and post parade snacks
- Volunteer coordinator for day of event management, recruit day of volunteers for support roles

#### **Oral History Project**

- Project leader to organize efforts underway
- Interviewers
- Audio and/or video recording and editing

To volunteer, or find out more about a particular position, send an email to Thomas Applegate, Centennial CoChair: **thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.** •

#### Centennial Bash Performers

#### Saturday, June 28 Ravenswood Manor Park

We are going to have fun all day long at our big Centennial Bash, starting at noon with the annual Independence Bike Parade. The afternoon will be full of activities for the entire family. Today, the team is excited to announce our performers, and for videos and additional band



info, go to the Centennial Bash page at the RMIA website: ravenswoodmanor.com/centennial/centennialbash/

1:00 - 2:00pm CircEsteem: Youth circus including clowning, juggling, stilt-walking, ball-walking, unicycling, gym wheel and acrobatics. circesteem.org

**2:00 - 3:00pm Pushing Chain**: This duo plays roots and Americana music, original songs and covers of classic artists like Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, and Nina Simone. www.pushingchain.com

**3:15 - 5:00pm Gizzae**: Their brand of reggae is always backed with strong guitar solos and riffing, and ambient vibes from the dual keyboardists. www. gizzae.com

**5:15 – 7:15pm Mad Bread**: This string band plays a unique mixture of bluegrass, rock, folk and blues. The band blends traditional instruments with modern songwriting. It's all about having a good time. www. madbreadband.com.

7:30-9:15pm Dave Specter Blues: Specter incorporates elements of bluesmen like T-Bone Walker, Magic Sam, and Otis Rush in his work. 5 time Critic's Choice in The Chicago Reader. www.davespecter.com. •



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#### **T-Shirts Round 2**

Maybe it was the interminable winter, maybe the late arrival of the last Manor News, or maybe just an oversight. No matter the reason, we have heard from many of you who missed out on ordering our Cen-

tennial t-shirts.

Now with winter coming to an end, it's time to get geared up for summer, so we are offering a second round



of t-shirt ordering. The design is by Manor resident and graphic designer Steve Shanabruch. T-shirts are \$15, come in men's, women's and children's sizes, 100% cotton, blue, and printed front and back. The order deadline is Wednesday, May 28th, and t-shirts will be available in second half of June. Order online securely through PayPal or use the order form below to mail in a check. For all t-shirt information and to order online with PayPal, go to the RMIA website: ravenswoodmanor.com/support/tshirts/.

Thank you to everyone who ordered t-shirts thereby supporting Centennial events and projects. We will be looking for you around the Manor showing off your neighborhood pride. •

#### Neighborhood Garage Sale

Dust off those treasures moldering away in basement or attic and haul 'em out for some sunshine!

Sunday, May 18, 10am-4pm is our annual Ravenswood Manor Neighborhood Garage Sale. This is one of the oldest and most popular neighborhoodwide events in the city of



Chicago and a fun and fruitful way for residents to do some spring cleaning. People come from far and wide to shop the goods assembled by more than a hundred households in one of Chicago's most desirable neighborhoods. Signup to participate online at ravenswoodmanor.com/garagesale/. •

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt in LaPointe Park

Saturday, April 19 at 10am in LaPointe Park. After a long winter's hibernation, we look forward to seeing everyone for the first social event of the year. Young residents of the Manor are invited to come out for the annual RMIA Easter Egg Hunt in LaPointe Park at Manor and Giddings. Hidden throughout the park will be colored plastic Easter eggs



filled with candy, so bring along your Easter basket! •

#### Centennial Spirit! Order Form for T-Shirts

Size/Style	Children	Men	Women
# of XSmall		NA	NA
# of Small			
# of Medium			
# of Large			
# of XLarge			
# of 2XLarge	NA		
Total t-shirts	#	X \$15 =	\$

Order online and pay with any credit card, safe and secure, with PayPal at: ravenswoodmanor.com/support/tshirts/

T-shirts are \$15 each, blue 100% cotton, heavyweight, and printed on front and back.

<u>Order deadline is May 28th</u>, and t-shirts will be available in mid late June.

#### **Order Contact Information**

Name		
Address.		
-mail		

Make checks payable to: RMIA

Please mail form to: RMIA P.O. Box 25486 Chicago IL 60625 All proceeds support RMIA Centennial events and projects



## "Hey, what's that construction fence up for in Horner Park?"

Inquiring neighbors want to know what the story is

with the construction fence that's gone up on the east side of Horner Park, and the Horner Park Advisory Council answers: that fence is the first visual indicator that work is progressing on US Army Corps



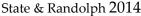
of Engineers' riverbank restoration project. To learn more about the project that hopes to restore habitat for several species of native wildlife, visit hornerpark.org/hornerpark-riverfront-redevlopment-project/ •



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#### Manor News

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#### Manor Historic Photo Project

We are looking for historic photos of Ravenswood Manor. As part of the celebration of our 100th anniversary, the Manor Centennial's Research/Tour Committee hopes to assemble a "virtual scrapbook" tracing the neighborhood's history through personal photographs. But we need your help.

Some of the photos we've collected are featured here. They represent a cross section of people and activities, ranging from a horse-drawn wagon crossing the Montrose Bridge in the 1890s to a group of kids playing pickup hockey—nearly a century later—on a homemade ice rink.

If you have any historic photos you'd like to

share, you can send electronically scanned images to **historicphotos@ravenswoodmanor.com**, along with a brief description and, where applicable, a photo source or credit. If you're unable to scan these photos yourself, we'd be happy to do so on your behalf. Please contact Jim Peters at **jpeters52@sbcglobal.net** to arrange a visit.

If you don't have any historic photographs, but you would like to find some, try contacting the family members of your building's previous owners. They often will have old scrapbooks they might be willing to share and/or scan. A key to finding previous residents is to check old U.S. census records. In some cases, some of the then-younger family members—or their descendants—might still be available. The Centennial Research/Tour

Committee also hopes to finalize a comprehensive spreadsheet of Ravenswood Manor census records by the end of this year. But you also can check out these records for yourself—1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 are all available on line—through Ancestry.com or the U.S. Census Bureau.•



This 1917 photo was likely taken from atop the commercial/residential building at 4636 N. Francisco. It looks southeast across Manor Park, showing several then-new residences on Eastwood (the current buildings along Manor haven't yet been constructed). Also visible, in the foreground, is the park's original pergola, which was razed a decade later. (Photocopy courtesy of Adrian Collins)



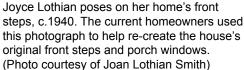
A horse-drawn wagon crosses the Chicago River on the old Montrose Avenue bridge, c.1898.



Ruth Robbins poses, in 1924, next to the "Buffalo Fountain" in present-day Buffalo Park. The decorative concrete fountain, which featured carvings of buffalo heads, was taken down in 1941 due to deterioration. (Photo courtesy of Ruth Robbins)









Adrian Collins rides her bicycle along Eastwood, between Francisco and Manor, 1950s. This section of street was closed in the early-1990s to create more park space. (Photos courtesy of Adrian Collins)



Neighborhood kids play hockey on a homemade ice rink in the side yard of a house during the winter of 1990-91. In addition to "old" photographs, neighborhood researchers also are looking for photos from recent decades. (Photo courtesy of the O'Connell family)



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Adrian Collins and her friends play around a water fountain in Manor Park, just south of the "L" crossing at Manor and Francisco, 1950s. Note the old crossing gates, train warning signs, and Coca Cola sign in front of what is now First Slice. (Photo courtesy of Adrian Collins)

Send us your historic photographs!: historicphotos@ravenswoodmanor.com



#### **Are You Curious, Manor?**

- Q. What really happened to William E. Harmon's proposed Motor Boat Colony for Ravenswood Manor? Did it run out of money or run into opposition?
- Q. How did the RMIA celebrate the 50th anniversary of the neighborhood?
- Q. What are the signature efforts and accomplishments of the RMIA on behalf of the neighborhood for each decade?
- Q. Are there any quaint neighborhood traditions or event that used to happen—but have since been forgotten? §

The answers to last issue's "Are You Curious, Manor?" questions follow:

- Q. What do the words Ardmore, Irving, Juniper, Keystone, and Longbeach have in common—in relation to Ravenswood Manor?
- A. They were the names of the telephone exchanges used in the neighborhood. The first two digits of your phone number were the first two letters of the word; for instance: Ardmore was "27-"; Irving was "47-"; etc.
- Q. What do the words Jamot, Fairfield, Humboldt, Potwyne, and Vilas have in common?
- A. They were the former names of streets that ran through Ravenswood Manor. Jamot was the former name for the 2000-2200 blocks of Eastwood (east of the Manor). Fairfield was

the name for the 4400-4500 blocks of Manor, as well as the section of the roadway, south of Montrose, that extended into the former Bach brickyards. Humboldt Avenue was the name of the 4000-4400 blocks of Richmond, just south of the Manor. Potwyne Place was the former name for the 2600-2700 blocks of Agatite. And Vilas Place was the former name for the 2100-2200 blocks of Windsor Avenue (east of the Manor).

- Q. Which well-known 1960s music group had a band member who grew up in Ravenswood Manor?
- A. The parents of Carl Giammarese, the lead singer of The Buckinghams, lived at 2737 N. Sacramento during the 1960s and '70s. The Buckinghams had five Top 20 hit songs in 1967, including "Kind of a Drag."

Answers in next issue. Or check the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association Facebook page

Do you have a question, something that you have always heard and wondered if it was true? Send your curiosity and any Manor-related questions to:

**curiousmanor@ravenswoodmanor.com**Questions will be researched and answered by a group of neighborhood historians. •

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#### **Safety & Service Contacts**

- 911 Emergency
- 311 City Services: Graffiti Removal, Non Emergency Police, Water and sewer, streets and sanitation, trees, parkway
   17th District Station Chicago Police
   4650 North Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60630. t: 312-742-4410
- Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS).
   e: CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org; t: 312-744-3774
- 33rd Ward Alderman Deb Mell www.33rdward.org or www.facebook. com/33rdWardDeb; e: alderman@33rdward. org; t: 773-478-8040; 3649 N Kedzie, Chicago IL 60618; Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm; Weds 5-7pm; 1st Sat each month 9am-12pm
- RMIA Board: Joe Cesario, President; Athene Carras, Vice President; Orysia Pokorni, Secretary; Chuck Renner, Treasurer. Members: Geoff Gieske, Rick Glick, Kathy Monk, Jim Peters, Sarah Reiser, David Rownd, Bill Termini, and Scott Wheeler. board@ravenswoodmanor.com

#### **Support Our Community**

Just a few of the ways you can support your neighborhood association:

- Volunteer to help with the Centennial Bash on June 28 & other events
- Renew or start your **RMIA Membership**
- Buy t-shirts and commemorative prints
- Submit photos & stories
- Take out an ad in the Manor News: 4 issues/year \$350 1/3 page, \$300 1/4 page, \$225 biz card

volunteer@ravenswoodmanor.com newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com



#### The Manor News

Thanks to the many neighbor volunteers who help bring *The Manor News* to your doorstep each season—and please thank our advertisers with your patronage. *The Manor News* is published quarterly by the RMIA for Ravenswood Manor residents.

The RMIA's purpose, per its bylaws, is to promote the welfare of the community in respect to the maintenance and improvement of the physical appearance of the private and public property; the compliance with the laws as applicable to private and public property; the maintenance of facilities with respect to the safety, health and welfare of its residents.

Please send comments and contributions to: Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, Newsletter, PO Box 25486, Chicago IL 60625, or newsletter@ravenswoodmanor.com.