

# The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

## Autumn 2007

### Annual RMIA Membership Drive

October means that it is once again time for the annual RMIA membership drive. The RMIA is wholly supported by the donations it receives from its members. By signing up each year in one of the oldest continuing neighborhood organizations in the city of Chicago, members support the RMIA's programs and activities each year, from the Winter Social to Fourth of July Bike Parade.

The Manor is more than a collection of distinctive houses; it is a community of people that relies upon the support of its members. If you are proud of your neighborhood, then help continue the improvements by completing the membership form on *page three*, in this newsletter and sending it in today.

### RMIA Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 24

The RMIA Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24 at 7:30pm, at Horner Park fieldhouse. All Manor residents are encouraged to attend. The main topic at this year's meeting will be the Historic Designation Application Process and what that will mean for Manor residents.

Get the latest info on Ravenswood Manor happenings. The RMIA 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.

### RMIA Book Club Update

If you love reading and want to meet new people in the neighborhood, consider joining the Manor Book Club. The club meets once a month on the second Tuesday from 7:45 to 8:45pm. Usually the meetings are at Horner Park.

New members are always welcome to join in the fun. If you'd like more information or want the latest club news, please e-mail [manorbookclub@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:manorbookclub@ravenswoodmanor.com), or contact Jen at 588-8213.

The club has selected books for the upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday, November 13:** "And the Band Played On" by Randy Shulz
- **Tuesday, December 11:** "The Cloister Walk" by Kathleen Norris
- **Tuesday, January 8:** "A.D. 62: Pompeii" by Rebecca East

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# Volunteers Bring You the News

Every issue of *The Manor News* is brought to your doorstep by a core group of hardworking neighborhood volunteers. Four times per year these dedicated individuals battle the elements (including this summer's rain-related floods) to keep the community informed of the news and events affecting our neighborhood. If you know any of these volunteers, please take the time to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

The Captain of our distribution team is Michael Herman who recently took over for Richard Johnson. Richard retired from the post after years on the job and the neighborhood greatly appreciates all of his efforts on behalf of the community. Richard left big shoes to fill and the neighborhood is fortunate to have Michael to take over Richard's role.

Under the Captain's organization, the distribution team works block-by-block to physically deliver a copy of the newsletter to each household in the Manor. The team is comprised of the following resident volunteers:

Mary Jo Bitondo; Diane Black; John Byrne; Jan Carlson; Christopher Cole; Annette Danna; John Dickinson; Sandy DuBois; Josh & Anna Harris; Beth Ann Hester; Rachel Kraft; Pam Levine; Martin Luby; Rhett Nelson; Amy Newman; Phil Renaud; Eileen Schnepff; Tom Tryboski; Dan & Elaine Valentin; Frank Vesely; Fran Voegtle; Scott Wheeler; and Cindy Zucker.

The newsletter is also distributed through the following local businesses: Seattle Sutton's; Horner Park Field House (Front Desk); Senior Suites; Merle's; Manor Cleaners.

If you would like to be a community volunteer to assist with social events, committee work or other neighborhood opportunities, please visit the RMIA website at [www.rmia.org](http://www.rmia.org) and click on the "Want to Volunteer" link.

# A Few Good Leaders

Do you love your neighborhood? Do you want to see things improve? Are you social? Do you have something to say about the goings-on in the Manor? Maybe you should consider taking a position of the RMIA Board of Directors.

The RMIA is currently seeking individuals to fill open position in the Association. For anyone who cares about the Manor, this is a great way to get involved and meet your neighbors. There are openings for residents who want to take an active role in the RMIA and some openings for others who may have great ideas but less time to give.

The current head of the RMIA Social Committee, Eileen Rochford, is seeking a co-chair to work with her in planning the RMIA's social events. The Social Committee gets all the credit for the Winter Social, the Neighborhood Garage Sale and the Fourth-of-July Bike Parade. If you have enjoyed these events in the past, you might be the perfect person to help co-chair this committee, and you would get to work with Eileen.

The RMIA's current Secretary, Pam Matsch Levine, will be stepping down from that position. If you have always wanted to be a secretary, but type very slowly, this may be your chance. The person who volunteers for this position will be endowed with notoriety as an RMIA officer, but will not be required to type fast.

In addition, the RMIA is recruiting individuals who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. The board meets once a month ten months a year and is responsible for making decision on behalf of the association and the neighborhood. It's only a little bit of power but it's a lot of fun.

If you are interested in any of these position or would like to contribution your talents and energies to the RMIA in other ways, please contact us at [rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com) or 312-409-3213.

*The Manor News* is published by Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) as a service to our members. It contains news, information and other items of interest to those living and working in Ravenswood Manor. Please make submissions or comments to Editor at PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625 or call RMIA Hotline at 312.409.3213. [www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com)

## Officers

Adam Betzen ..... *President*  
Chuck Renner ..... *Vice President*  
Pamela Matsch Levine .... *Secretary*

*Design and layout of the Manor News by Rachel Kraft. Printing by Sir Speedy.*



## Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association 2008 Membership / Renewal Form

Residents of the "Manor" know just how truly unique this neighborhood is, and since 1914, the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association has been working to maintain our unique neighborhood. The RMIA is a volunteer organization that relies on both member support and deeply committed volunteers. This unique neighborhood is more than a collection of distinctive houses; it is a community of people, but the community relies upon the support of its members. Your involvement will help the RMIA continue these programs into the next year. Our annual memberships last from November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008. Please become a member or renewing your membership by returning this form today.

Please make checks payable to RMIA and mail this form to:

RMIA  
P.O. Box 25486  
Chicago, IL 60625

Want to Volunteer?

*Sign-up online:*  
[www.rmia.org](http://www.rmia.org)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\$10   \$25   \$50   \$75   \$100   \$ 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Waters Today

For all those seeking information about various school options or preparing to apply to schools, there are two important and helpful events to put on your calendar:

## 1) Northside Parents Network Chicago

**Northside Elementary and Preschool Fair:**

**Date:** Saturday, November 3, 2007

**Location:** Horner Park Fieldhouse

**Time:** 10am - 2pm

**Cost:** Free for members only

This is an adult only event. E-ticket required for admission. Please check the website for more information: [nnpnparents.org/schoolfair.asp](http://nnpnparents.org/schoolfair.asp)

## 2) RMIA School Information Dessert:

If you missed the NPN school fair or just want a more personal perspective on various schools from neighborhood parents, this is the perfect event for you. An overview of the application/decision procedures will be discussed by parents who have been through process. In addition, neighborhood parents will be on hand to discuss their child's school (both public and private). The event is a great opportunity to meet other parents in the neighborhood as well as learn a little more about the Chicago school environment.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 7

**Time:** 7 - 9pm

**Location:** Bloom Yoga, 4663 N. Rockwell

*Dessert and refreshments will be served.* Please e-mail for more information: [education@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:education@ravenswoodmanor.com)

## Waters Elementary Updates

With the start of school, it is no surprise there is much going on at Waters Elementary. Below are a few highlights of previous activities and future events:

### SPRING FUNDRAISER

A Successful "Last Hurrah" Waters hosted its first annual silent auction "The Last Hurrah" on June 8, 2007. The event was held at the DANKHaus and participants enjoyed food from local restaurants and sweeping views of the city at the sixth floor skyline deck. The event raised a net total of \$21,000. Some of the highlights of the event included a wine ring toss and a cash raffle of \$1,000.

Thank you to all who came to share in the fun and support Waters. All proceeds will help fund programs and needs at Waters School this year, starting with a new Math Program this fall.

## Summer Overview

**Spanish Immersion Camp:** This past summer, Waters Today in conjunction with Waters Elementary offered three sessions of a two-week Spanish Immersion camp for kids ages 4-7. The camp sessions were full within two days of opening registration. Nancy Beza (Waters' new Pre-K for All teacher) and an aide taught eight kids per session, completely in Spanish. After reading all the survey responses post-camp from the parents, the main request was for longer sessions next summer. One camper summed up the experience by saying, "of all the camps I did this summer, I only want to do Spanish Camp again."

**Global Explorers Summer Camp:** Over the course of two weeks, twenty-two children, ages 3-8, visited the world through crafts, storytelling, movement, music, and more. Passports in hand, children "flew" to a different country each day, collecting flag stamps and "money" from each destination. During the program, children explored ten different countries and cultures through various hands-on activities. Some projects included creating Brazilian Carnivale masks, learning a Maori haka, participating in a Chinese dragon dance, making Moroccan drums, dying Nigerian adire, breaking a Mexican piñata, telling Indian shadow puppet stories, painting Spanish tiles, decorating Haitian spirit bottles, and making Wampanoag pinch pots.

This program, like last year, will also serve as one of Waters' weekly afterschool programs, starting in October.

**Abrakadoodle Camp:** Two different options were available for an Abrakadoodle camp – a tot class held once a week for four weeks and a one week camp offered to children ages 3-8. Many houses in the area are filled with the beautiful artwork produced during these sessions. It is the hope that this program, like last year, will serve as one of Waters' weekly afterschool programs to start in October.

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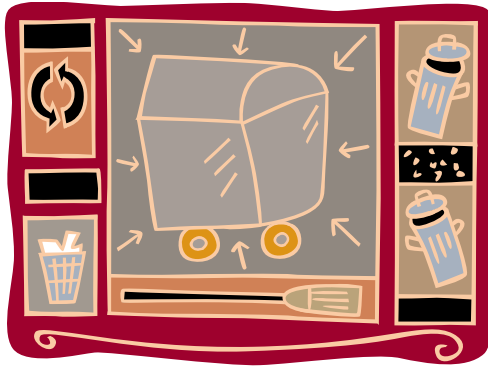
## Ravenswood Manor Recycling Program

2007 marks the 20th 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 its 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, call the Resource Center at 773-821-1351 and request and application for service.

As in previous years, the Resource Center recycles the following items:

g l a s s  
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.



## Historical District Update

The RMIA has retained Granacki Historical Consultants to complete our nominating application to get Ravenswood Manor listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. RMIA has undertaken a fundraising campaign this past summer in order to support the cost of a paid professional who is best suited to prepare the nominating application. We hope that the nominating application will be submitted by the end of 2007 and that a determination will be made on our application in early 2008.

The RMIA, especially the Historic Committee, would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this cause. Without the support of neighbors, this effort would have never been possible. The Historic Committee is still in need of donations to reach its fundraising goal. If you would like to support the Historic Committee, donations should be mailed to RMIA at PO Box 25486, Chicago, Illinois 60625. Checks should be made payable to the RMIA.

Thanks to everyone for their support for this effort and we look forward the realization of our goal to have the Manor listed on the National Register.

**COMMENTARY**

# My Fond Farewell to Affordable Milk and Deli

by Scott P. Wheeler

With the conversion of the White Hen Pantry into a 7-Eleven, my wife and I find ourselves scrambling for a new source of our lunch time staples, milk and sliced turkey. These perishable items need to be purchased in small quantities, a week's supply worked for us. The White Hen offered fresh sliced deli and sandwiches to help support a healthy lifestyle. The deli prices were about a dollar per pound less than comparable products at major grocery stores. As many of us know, the purchase of one pound of deli meat and/or cheese got you a gallon of milk for a price at least a dollar below market. With the introduction of the 7-Eleven, these deals are gone and we find ourselves searching for new sources for these perishable items.

Recent milk price increases are as high as 30 to 40 percent, but I find milk is regularly on sale at Walgreens and Jewel. Both these vendors have web

sites where the sale items can be viewed. Jewel's house brand "Jewel Milk" is \$3.29 per gallon and often on sale for 30 cents less, much lower than the \$3.69-\$4.29 we found at various stores on Montrose.

The deli is a trickier matter. Priced at record high levels, the lunchtime Turkey and Swiss sandwich is becoming an unaffordable luxury. Two good sources lie just outside our neighborhood. I find that the Aldi at 2431 W. Montrose offers a good selection. Owned by the same people who own Trader Joes, this no-frills store offers very low, everyday prices, often 30

*(continues on page 7)*



(WATERS, continued from page 4)

## Waters' Pre-K Programs

Waters offers both a tuition-based Pre-K as well as a Preschool for All Program. Both are taught by bilingual teachers and offer some Spanish enrichment. Both Pre-K classes are play based, where the children learn to problem solve and become self-confident through hands-on, meaningful experiences. Child must be age 3 by Sept. 1 and must be potty trained to be eligible for either program.

The tuition-based Pre-K, in its second year with Miss Flores, runs from 8am-6pm. As of early September, there are one or two spots still available. Call the school at 534-5090 if you are interested and ask for Miss Flores.

The new Preschool For All teacher, Nancy Beza, "has transformed the classroom and is loved by all her children. She is warm, energetic and creative," says Tracy Fisher, new Waters parent and CPS Pre-K teacher who won the Kohl-McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award this year.

## Upcoming Dates

**Crate and Barrel:** Waters Today will be hosting the second annual pre-holiday party at Crate and Barrel. This is a great opportunity to knock out some holiday shopping while socializing and raising money for a good cause. Crate and Barrel will provide hors'doeuvres, wine and beer.

**Date:** Thursday, November 15

**Time:** 6 to 8:30 pm

**Address:** 850 W. North Avenue

Last year, the event raised over \$8,000. The money was used for floor mats to make the floors safe on wet and snowy days and to support a new math program at Waters.

**Waters Today:** Next meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 8pm. All meetings will take place in the fieldhouse at the south end of the school grounds, every third Tuesday of the month.

**Waters School Community Meeting:** Every second Tuesday of the month.

**Tot Programs:** Tot Tuesdays will start at 9:30am on Tuesday, October 9th in the library. This is a free program for kids ages birth to 5 years. A long-time Wiggleworms teacher will be joining us for the first 25 minutes each week. Don't be late!

**School Tours:** School Tours will be held every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, in the library.

(FAREWELL, continued from page 6)

to 40 percent lower on fresh produce. Pre-packaged deli meats and cheeses are among the offerings. The other store many people might not consider is the Cermak Produce at 4234 N. Kedzie. I find this store boasts friendly personnel and very low prices on fresh meat and produce. Their deli counter offers an excellent selection. We tried the sliced turkey at \$2.99/lb which was great.

Macys thought no one would care if the name of the store and the type/quality of the merchandise was different, they were wrong. Ditto for the 7-Eleven. Sure, we'll occasionally cough up big money for the over-priced necessity, but, with careful planning, we will still enjoy an affordable lunch with an ice-cold, high-calcium, fat-free beverage.