



# The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

# Autumn 2008

## mark your calendar

**Tuesday, October 28**  
RMIA Board Meeting  
7:30pm

**Tuesday, November 11**  
Book Club Meeting  
7:45pm



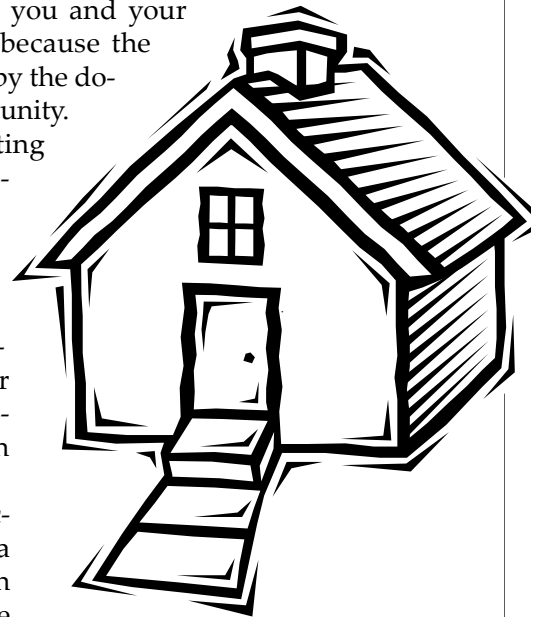
## Ravenswood Manor Community Membership Drive

Now is the time to renew your membership to the RMIA, or to join for the first time.

October marks the beginning of the annual membership drive. It is important for you and your neighbors to support the RMIA because the organization is wholly supported by the donations it receives from the community.

By signing up, you are supporting one of the oldest continuing neighborhood organizations in the city of Chicago. Membership dollars go toward a host of activities in that make the Manor a great place to live, including social events like the Winter Social and the 4th of July bike parade, and beautification efforts in the business district.

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



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# RMIA News Brief

## Be RMIA's Point Person

The RMIA is seeking volunteers for the position of Social Chair. The Social Chair is the RMIA Board's point person for organizing the neighborhood's traditional social events, including the winter social, the bike parade and the garage sale.

The Social Chair is a great opportunity to get involved in the community in a fun way, while meeting people in the neighborhood. The Social Committee gets all the credit for the RMIA's most enjoyable events.

If you care about your neighborhood and want to help build community amongst your neighbors, consider volunteering for Social Chair. For more information, contact us at [rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com).



## RMIA Annual Meeting

To be held on Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30pm at Horner Park fieldhouse. All Manor residents are encouraged to attend. Residents can learn about the Manor being designated as a historic district, as well as efforts underway to beautify the business district and revised proposals from the business committee.

Get the latest info on Ravenswood Manor happenings. The RMIA uses the question and answer time to gather input from the community on important issues and uses the input to help set the direction of the RMIA for the upcoming year.

The board has regular meetings on the second Monday of every month at 7:30pm, typically at Horner Park. Everyone from the neighborhood is welcome to attend.

Consider joining the RMIA board. Whether you are a long-time resident or new to the neighborhood, being involved as an RMIA board member is a great way to you're your neighbors and stay abreast of the events the community. If you are interested in joining the board, email [rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:rmiaboard@ravenswoodmanor.com) or simply come to a board meeting for more information.

## Book Club Update

If you like reading and love meeting 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. The meetings are usually held at Horner Park.

The book selected for the next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 11: "Ladies of Liberty" by Cokie Roberts

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 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. [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com)

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

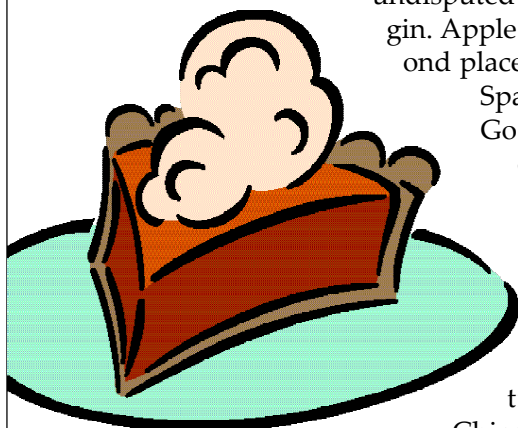
### Officers

- Adam Betzen ..... *President*
- Scott Wheeler ..... *Vice President*
- Chuck Renner ..... *Treasurer*
- Orysia Pokorni ..... *Secretary*



# Blueberry The Official Pie of Ravenswood Manor

Blueberry was voted the Official Pie of Ravenswood Manor. The Business District Committee hosted a pie-tasting event on September 14 to raise funds for the Francisco-Manor Garden Initiative. Despite a weekend of heavy rain, Manor residents braved the elements to sample five different flavors of pie and vote for their favorite. Blueberry was the undisputed winner by more than a 2:1 margin. Apple and Chocolate Pecan tied for second place.



Space for the event was donated by Go Get Your Smock! School and Studio at 4636 N. Francisco. The School offers adult and student classes for painting and drawing. Pies for the event were created by the Blue Sky Bakery & Café at 4749 N. Albany. Blue Sky is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization established to empower Chicago's homeless and at-risk youth

through job training experiences in cooking, baking, customer service and cash-handling.

The Francisco-Manor Garden Initiative seeks to create nine new parkway gardens near the Francisco El station. The plan proposes landscape timber borders around each of the gardens and "Holland Stone" pavers edging the walkways on Francisco. Sturdier plants would be installed at the corners of each garden to protect the interiors. Additionally, each garden would feature plantings of varied heights, densities and seasonal displays.

The plan also includes "notched out" areas of the new gardens along the adjacent sidewalks. These locations are for future park benches to provide new seating opportunities for neighborhood residents to enjoy the new gardens. Visit [rmia.org](http://rmia.org) to learn more about this initiative or to download the donation form. The RMIA is accepting donations towards Phase 1.

## For Sale By Owner

**Duneland Hideaway** bordering Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Secluded, wooded, landscaped with native perennial plants on .45 acres within walking distance of South Shore train, south of Porter Beach off Dunes Hwy 12. 1,708 square foot house, GFA, CA, WB, fireplace, 2 bed, 2 bath (one w/separate shower and two-person hot tub). 52 miles from Ravenswood Manor. Asking \$169K. View by appointment only. (773) 588-1455.

## Useful Local Numbers



Police Emergency  
911

City Services  
311

Police Non Emergency  
311

Chicago Police 17<sup>th</sup>  
District Station  
312-742-4410

Chicago Alternative  
Policing Strategy (CAPS)  
312-744-3774

Alderman Richard Mell  
773-418-8040

Recycling Resource Center  
773-821-1351

Graffiti Removal  
312-744-5000 or 311



## National Register Standing Tax Assessment Freeze Possible

On September 5, 2008, the National Park Service listed the Ravenswood Manor Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you would like to see the slideshow that was presented to the state board as part of the application, go to [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com). The Powerpoint presentation includes the history of how the Manor was built, images of the original ads the developer used to sell homes, and renderings of homes compared to how those homes look now in the neighborhood. A copy of the application will also be available on the RMIA website, which will include specific historical information about structures in the neighborhood.

The listing of the Ravenswood Manor Historic District was the result of an effort spearheaded by RMIA and its Historic Committee. The RMIA is especially appreciative of all the donors who were so generous and made it possible to pay for the application process. Without the support of neighbors, the effort would have never been possible.

The RMIA would also like to thank Granacki Historical Consultants, who worked with the RMIA to fill out and submit the nominating application.

The Boundaries of the District are between Sacramento Avenue, the North Branch of the Chicago River, and between the alleys South of Lawrence Ave. and North of Montrose Avenue.

As a result of this listing, an eight-year property tax assessment freeze may be available for owner-occupied single family homes, condominium buildings, or multi-family buildings, with a minimum investment of 25 percent of the property's market value, as determined by the County Assessor. Call the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) at (217) 782-4836 or visit [illinoishistory.gov](http://illinoishistory.gov) for more information. Preservation Easements, or legal agreements between property owners and Landmarks Illinois assigning the right to review and approve alterations, allows homeowners to claim a one-time IRS income tax deduction equal to the appraised value of that easement, for qualifying structures. Call Andrew Fisher, Landmarks Illinois, (312) 922-1742 or email [afisher@lpci.org](mailto:afisher@lpci.org) for more information. A dollar-to-dollar, federal rehabilitation tax credit is available for 20 percent of construction costs for both residential and commercial buildings. It may be used by the building's owner or sold to a tax credit investor. Call the IHPA at (217) 782-4836 or visit [illinoishistory.gov](http://illinoishistory.gov) for more information.

The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association also has a variety of grants available for purchasing and rehabbing a HCBA Certified Bungalow. See [chicagobungalow.org](http://chicagobungalow.org).

## Community Garden Season

The RMIA's Community Garden at LaPointe Park enjoyed another successful growing season this summer. Neighborhood gardeners harvested everything from carrots to habañeras in addition to a bumper crop of cherry tomatoes. Gardeners complained about too much rain at times and not enough rain at other times, but that is the case every summer.

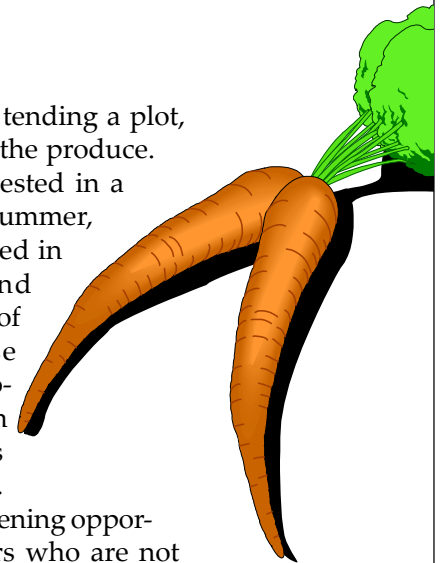
The Community Garden is sponsored by the RMIA in conjunction with NeighborSpace. Gardeners who sign up for a plot in the garden are responsible for planting and tending plots assigned to them for the summer. The gardeners who tend a plot get to pick the produce they grow.

If you did not plant in the garden, please do not pick other peoples' fruits and vegetables. A lot of time

and sweat goes into tending a plot, so please don't steal the produce.

If anyone is interested in a garden plot for next summer, or if you are interested in tending flowers and landscaping instead of vegetables, please contact the garden coordinator at [garden\\_coordinator@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:garden_coordinator@ravenswoodmanor.com).

There are lots of gardening opportunities for neighbors who are not afraid to get a little dirt under their nails.





## Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association 2009 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, 2008 through October 31, 2009. 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:*  
rmia.org

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NAME

---

ADDRESS

UNIT #

---

PHONE

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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(located at the Francisco "L" stop)

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# Green & Growing! 2008



Show your support for greenspace around the Manor with the purchase of this 2008 commemorative canvas tote; reusable for shopping, picnics and all kinds of weekly errands. Each purchase contributes 50% directly to the maintenance of our neighborhood's gardens. The cost is \$25 (plus shipping) and can be ordered online by visiting [cafepress.com/ManorShop](http://cafepress.com/ManorShop).

I'm a contributing sponsor of neighborhood greenspace  
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Jill is a resident of the Manor  
 - and is in the top 2% of  
 Realtors in Chicago.

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