



The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Autumn 2009



Mark Your Calendar

Manor Garden Club
Monday, October 19

RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 21

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RMIA Membership Drive Begins

The RMIA's annual Membership Drive is underway. Now is the time to renew your membership, or perhaps become a member for the first time.

The RMIA is one of the oldest continuing neighborhood organizations in the city of Chicago. Your membership dollars go toward hosting a number of activities that make the Manor a great place to live. The RMIA hosts social events like the winter social, the 4th of July bicycle parade, as well as the successful May garage sale, and also is spearheading beautification efforts in the business district. Your donation also helps to pay for the printing of the newsletter you are now reading!

The RMIA relies on the support of neighbors. It is an organization that is wholly supported by donations it receives from the community. If you are proud of your neighborhood and would like to contribute to keep the traditions of the Manor going, then please complete the Membership Form found inside this newsletter and mail it in today. Thank you for your support.

Community Garden Completes it's Fourth Year

Despite a rainy summer, the RMIA Community Garden at LaPointe Park had another fruitful year. Cherry tomatoes and herbs seemed to be the most successful crops this year with the cool summer in Chicago this year. Despite having to share a few tomatoes with the squirrels, everyone was able to pick some produce.

This was the fourth year the RMIA has sponsored the Community Garden at LaPointe Park. The garden provides the opportunity for people from the Manor to be responsible for a plot to tend for the season. The garden organizers till the garden and prepare the soil and the gardeners bring their own seeds and plants and then water and weed until harvest. With all the rain, however, there was less watering in the garden this year.

Garden plots are assigned on a first come, first serve basis, with priority given to gardeners from the prior year. In the past two years, demand for plots has exceeded supply, so if you are interested in a plot reserve your space early. For more information about the garden, email the Garden Coordinator at gardencoordinator@ravenswoodmanor.com.



RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting Set for Oct. 21

The RMIA semi-annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21 at 7:30pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse. Twice a year the RMIA invites everyone from the community to attend a meeting to discuss the initiatives of the RMIA and the concerns of the community.



This year, State Rep. John Fritchey (D-11th District) will be speaking and taking questions from the audience. He is interested in hearing from residents who are concerned about their property taxes and have questions about the state funding of public schools. He would also like to hear residents' feelings on efforts to repeal the Cook County sales tax and opinions on the possibility of having video poker in the county.

Fritchey has recently announced he is running for the County Board seat that Forrest Claypool is vacating. Fritchey is currently unopposed. He would like to meet those who live in the Manor to find out what matters most to you and your neighbors.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the meeting.

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Manor Garden Club to Meet

The Manor Garden Club will be hosting a meeting on Monday, October 19, at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Avenue. The meeting starts at 7:30pm with a presentation, refreshments and a raffle.

The topic will be "Arranging with Everlastings." Mari Mackenbach, longtime gardener and horticulturist, will discuss how to use dried plant materials you may have, and how to collect and dry flowers and other roadside treasures. She will also tell us how to freshen arrangements we have. Mari will demonstrate how to make a fresh flower wreath that will dry and last for years. Remember, you can also find information about the Manor Garden Club on Facebook.

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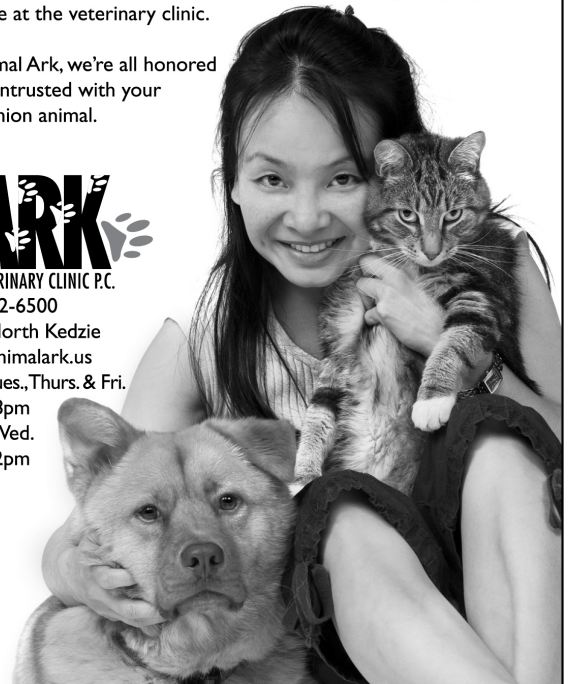
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Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

8am - 8pm

Sat. & Wed.

8am - 2pm



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

Design and layout of the Manor News by Rachel Kraft.

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Manor Businesses Change with Times

The signs of economic change can be seen everywhere. While posted "for rent" signs are visible all over town, the Manor has several business success stories to crow about. Two familiar businesses leave for bigger opportunities and two new businesses open their doors in the neighborhood.

A fixture on Francisco Avenue since 2004, the **Go Get Your Smock! School of Art** has moved from a studio based program to an after-school program conducted on site at a variety of Chicago elementary schools including nearby Waters Elementary School. While on Francisco, GGYS provided art instruction for children, teens and adults. Beginning earlier this fall GGYS is now making an impact in multiple communities through its partnership with Chicago Public Schools.

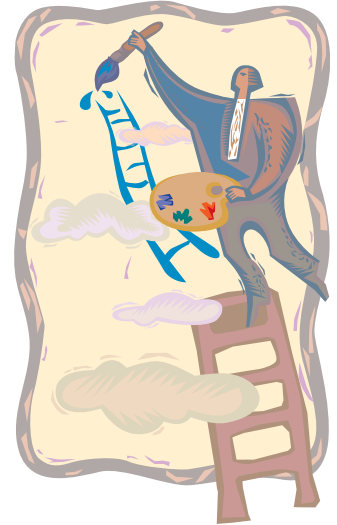
Just up the street, **Kitchen Chicago** has recently left their Manor Avenue facility for hugely expanded space at 324 N. Leavitt Street. Kitchen Chicago provides a fully equipped, commercially licensed shared-use kitchen allowing its tenant-entrepreneurs to test menus, train staff, develop food products as well as produce the specialty foods currently sold in cafes, restaurants, markets and grocers throughout the Chicagoland area. Residents may remember when some of these delicious food items were available at KC's own café operated at the Manor facility back in 2005. The café was eventually closed as the floor space was needed for additional storage to support KC's rapidly expanding tenant list. With the opening of the Leavitt Street facility, KC has greater kitchen space and also now has a dramatic, two-story high, 2,000 square foot event space for rent to the general public.

While GGYS and KC are now gone, two new businesses opened in the Manor. **Iron Cycles** opened a corner storefront at 2860 W. Montrose Avenue and then recently moved further west to 3136 W. Montrose. Iron Cycles is a full-service bicycle shop. They can service and sell all types of cycles including children's bikes, full-fledged triathlon bikes, road racing and mountain bikes. Iron Cycles' business goal is to operate a shop that is welcoming to its patrons. The owners want to encourage lifestyles built around cycling to promote personal health and the betterment of the environment.

Also relatively new to the neighborhood is the office of **Urban Homes** at 4668 N. Manor Avenue.

Urban Homes, a residential real estate office, opened in 2008 to share its real estate knowledge and professional experience with clients through a combination of innovative marketing practices, cutting edge technologies, and skillful negotiations. They believe their well-trained real estate experts can provide a very high level of personal service.

As signs of economic change continue to develop, it is reassuring evidence that the Manor is home to some good news.



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Manor Francisco Garden Update

In the spring of 2008, the Business District Committee proposed a landscape plan for nine new parkway gardens at the intersection of Manor and Francisco. Implementation was based on a three-phase installation. The first phase was budgeted at approximately \$7,500. Fundraising efforts began in the summer of 2008 but were temporarily suspended later that year due to the sudden downturn in the



economy. The fundraising efforts have remained frozen for most of 2009 but the Committee is planning to revisit the overall plan, the implementation strategy and the fundraising goals over the

coming winter. To date, more than \$1,800 has been raised towards the first phase.

The key first step of the overall landscape plan was the replacement of the existing sidewalks in the area. The Alderman's office provided assistance with this effort however inadequate drainage necessitated that some of the new sidewalks had to be re-worked. Again, through the involvement of the Alderman's office, those corrections have been made.

As part of the pedestrian improvements to the area, the Committee has also tried to create a new pedestrian textured crosswalk from the north tip of Manor Park to the east side of Manor Avenue. The Committee has also advocated repainting the existing textured crosswalks.

The scope of the 2008 landscape plan includes installing landscape timbers around the perimeters of each of the nine garden areas. The timbers would not project more than six inches above the ground in most locations so they would not be obstacles to swinging car doors. They would allow the interior of the planting beds to be leveled with new, high quality soil without covering the existing tree trunks with additional soil. In addition to the timber borders, the walkways on Francisco would be edged with "Holland Stone" pavers to provide more width for pedestrian movement between the curb and the sidewalk.

The plan calls for larger, sturdier plants to be installed near the corners of each garden to define the borders and protect the interior planting beds. To avoid a visually monotonous appearance, the plan calls for a variety of other plants to weave through the interior of each garden. These secondary plants would vary in height, density and seasonal display to provide a softer, more organic overall character to the gardens.

The landscape plan also includes "notched out" areas in the center of each of the new gardens along the adjacent sidewalk. These are the locations of future park benches to provide new seating opportunities for our residents to enjoy the new gardens. Currently there is no City funding to provide park benches but that will be the focus of future community efforts.

The plan was created by Landscape Designer, Marisa Gora of Kemora Landscape Designs who donated her time. Any resident with questions regarding the proposed gardens can contact the Business District Committee at businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com or care of the RMIA, PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.



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Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association 2010 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, 2009 through October 31, 2010. Please become a member or renewing your membership by returning this form today.

Please mail this form to:
RMIA
P.O. Box 25486
Chicago, IL 60625

Want to Volunteer?
Then sign-up online:
www.rmia.org

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ UNIT # _____

PHONE _____

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\$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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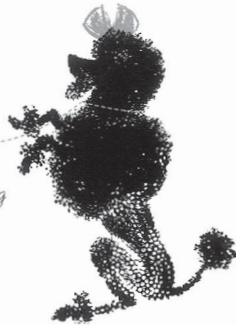


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