

The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

Summer 2006

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Get Involved!

Do you have a passion for this neighborhood? Is there some neighborhood issue you always thought would be rewarding to work on? Volunteer with the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association. It doesn't take a lot of time and you meet the nicest neighbors. Send an email to volunteer@ravenswoodmanor.com or call the RMIA voicemail at 312-409-3213.

Children's Parade

Residents of Ravenswood Manor will celebrate its Third Annual Independence Day Children's Parade at 11am, Saturday, July 1. Neighborhood children are invited to participate by decorating bikes, scooters, wagons and themselves.

This year RMIA and Merle's will award prizes for the following categories: the most original design, the most creative decorating and the best display of red, white and blue colors.

The parade will begin at 11am at Buffalo Park between Manor and California on Sunnyside. The children will then travel north up Manor to the north end of Manor Park in front of Merle's Coffee Shop. For the kids, Merle's and RMIA will provide mini hotdogs, chips, lemonade and red, white and blue cookies.

Participants interested in marching in this patriotic parade are asked to line up at 10:45am at Buffalo Park.

Any one interested in volunteering for this event should call Kathy Anderson or Diane Black. This project will involve planning the parade route, blocking alleys and streets, and directing traffic. Volunteers will be needed at 10:30am at Buffalo Park.

Upcoming CTA Artwork

The RMIA was invited by the CTA to participate in the *Arts in Transit Program* Advisory Panel as a community representative and worked to have input on the artwork selected for the Francisco Station. This panel included staff representatives from the CTA, the City's Public Art Program, artist representatives and additional community representatives from Greater Rockwell Organization and Horner Park West. Our board member participated in artist submission review meetings toward final artist recommendation; in the CTA Arts in Transit Program process, the final decision for the commission is approved by the CTA and the City's Public Art Program. Ultimately, the final selection of artwork recommended by the panel, with clear opposition voiced by our RMIA representative. The selected and approved artist for our station is Ellen Harvey of New York City. She has proposed a mosaic red oriental "carpet" to cover the entrance ramp to the historic station house. A color picture of the proposal is at rmia.org. Initial reaction to the selected artwork has been mixed. It is uncertain at this point if our community can influence the final design of the proposed artwork. Please tell us what you think as soon as possible! Forward comments to ctacomment@ravenswoodmanor.com

The CTA *Arts in Transit Program* is commissioning original artwork for permanent display at the reconstructed stations along the Brown Line. The CTA *Arts in Transit Program* operates in partnership with the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs' Public Art Program. To learn more, visit ctabrownline.com/artsintransit.



12th Season of Concerts at Ravenswood Manor Park

The Horner Park Advisory Council and the Chicago Park District kicks off their 12th season of free summer entertainment this year. A detailed schedule of performances is available at www.hornerpark.org. The free shows are partially sponsored by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association. Community participation and support are also welcomed.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Horner Park Advisory Council, 4530 N. Mozart, Chicago, IL 60625.

Most musical and theatrical shows will be presented at Ravenswood Manor Park, Eastwood and Francisco Avenues, near the Brown Line station. The July 23 event will be staged at Horner Park on Montrose and California Avenues.

To sign up for the amateur talent show or for more information about the weekend entertainment, contact the Horner Park Fieldhouse at 773-478-3499 or go to www.hornerpark.org.

Sunday, June 11

7 p.m. The Mike & Amy Finders Band,
(pronounced finn-ders)

Saturday, June 24

5-6:30 p.m. Ground Up Theatre
Shakespeare's "Tempest"

Sunday, June 25

5-6:30 p.m. Ground Up Theatre- Shakespeare's
"Tempest"
7-9 p.m. The Wandering Sons

Sunday, July 9

7-8 p.m. Jan Krist, Detroit-born guitarist and
singer
8-9 p.m. NYCO, Ted Atkatz, Dave Saenger,
Kells Nollenberger, and Devin Staples

Sunday, July 16

7-8 p.m. andi & i, "funked-up folk" from
Chicago with Andi and Al Tauber
8-9 p.m. The Teflons (Barbara Silverman, Gail
Tyler, Eugenia Elliott and Rick Veras)

Sunday, July 23

(These musical shows will be staged at Horner Park.)

7-8 p.m. Rod Picott
7-9 p.m. Casolando (Carlos Ortega, Charlie
Baran, Chuck Sansone, Dave
Hiltebrand)

Sunday, August 6

ManorBash is a line-up of entertainment

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Ground Up Theatre's
Shakespeare's "Tempest"
1:30-2:30 p.m. Kelly Pardekooper
3-4 p.m. Mighty Joe and the Regulars
4:30-5:30 p.m. JT and the Clouds
6-7 p.m. 12 Minute Saints
7:30-9 p.m. Kat Parsons

Sunday, August 13

7-8 p.m. Chicago Spelmanslag
8-9 p.m. Cooper, Nelson & Early

Sunday, August 20

7-8 p.m. Sass! (Sandy Andina & Susan Urban)
8-9 p.m. Lou & Peter Berryman

Sunday, August 27

7-9 p.m. Neighborhood Talent Show



“What’s Going on at Waters?”

Waters 8th Grade Students Campaign for Green Grass... and Get It!

Every year the Waters’ 8th Grade Class creates a Legacy Project. The goal of the project is to leave something behind for future students to enjoy. This year the 8th graders have outdone themselves. They decided to replace the asphalt surrounding the school with a grassy field.

The project had two primary drivers. First, months of research by the students determined that asphalt greatly lessens the amount of rainwater available to replenish the natural environment. Second, the students have a desire for a softer, safer, grassy field for playing. To accomplish their objective, they created an 8-minute video which they presented to the School Board and the Alderman’s Office. They also attended multiple meetings on the subject.

The School Board decided to grant the students their wish and give them that grass. Final landscape architectural plans are still in the making, but the project should start some time in August and be ready for the next school year.

Increased school-aged population

More students are expected to attend Waters in the fall due in part to the addition of a tuition-based PreK. Waters will be able to serve more than 45 new students next fall. The tuition-based PreK, which allows families to share a weekly spot this first year, is full with 30 families attending. The kindergarten has approximately 16 additional slots, most of whom are either members of WatersToday (a new group of parents, neighbors, and community members dedicated to the continuing betterment of Waters Elementary School), or those who have signed up at school events or coffees.

Waters is Awarded an HP Technology Grant

Waters is the only Chicago elementary school to receive a grant from Hewlett Packard for the 2006/07 school year. The grant was awarded for a project called, Eliminating E-Waste: Recycling Our Way to Global Citizenship. The project was developed by a team of five teachers, Ms. Vecchioni, Ms. Termini, Ms. Radnitzer, Ms. Ballasch and Ms. Connelly.

The project incorporates technology, science, math and art in a lesson that teaches environmental aware-

ness. Hewlett Packard is supporting the project by providing participating teachers with tablet PCs, digital cameras, projectors and professional development opportunities. More information about this grant can be found at: hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html.

Waters Becomes a Demonstration Center for Literacy Training

National Louis University has approached Waters School with an opportunity to become a Demonstration Center for Literacy Training this fall. This demonstration status will allow teachers from other schools to observe best teaching practices, and to utilize these in their own classrooms. It is an opportunity to see teaching and reading strategies in action.

Waters has two literacy specialists: one for primary grades K-3, and one for the upper grades 4-8. “Our primary staff has done an outstanding job of this and that is why National Louis University has selected us... not to mention the fact that all this fabulous work has not only improved our students’ learning but also given our staff a fresh perspective on teaching,” said Mrs. Titia Kipp, new principal for Waters.

Kids Summer Community Art Classes at Waters

This summer Waters Elementary School will host Abrakadoodle’s remarkable art program. The program is also planned to be offered as an after-school activity next fall. Each lesson introduces children to a new artist or technique. Students will have the opportunity to work with real artist’s materials and tools.

Classes are for ages 3-12 (in classes 3-5 6-8 and 9-12) as well as a Twoosy Class (20-36 months). Art themes include **Castles and Dragons** - a creative trip to medieval times, **Around the World** - take a colorful trip to foreign places, **Time Machine** - an exciting trip through the ages, **Do Your Chores** - new twist on doing everyday activities, **Icky, Slimy, Goopy** - all the textures kids love, and **Paint Me a Story** - combine books/art for imaginative fun.

For more information, call 773-314-7622 or download a registration form at <http://waterstoday.org/abrakadoodles.html>.



Business District Update

The Business District Committee is compiling the comments regarding the proposed Business District Development Plan prepared last year. A summary of those comments will be available in the fall newsletter and on the RMIA website.

The original plan document is a collection of ideas and has been useful in generating discussion within and about the neighborhood. The comment summary will provide additional insight into the overall attitude of the neighborhood regarding the future of commercial activity in the Manor.

A copy of the plan is available at the RMIA website. For more information, contact businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com for a PDF file by email. Additional comments are still welcome and can be sent either via email to the address above or to RMIA, PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.

Notably so far, many comments refer to safety and aesthetic concerns about the proposed eight new parking spaces at the north end of Ravenswood Manor Park. The concerns strongly outweighed any

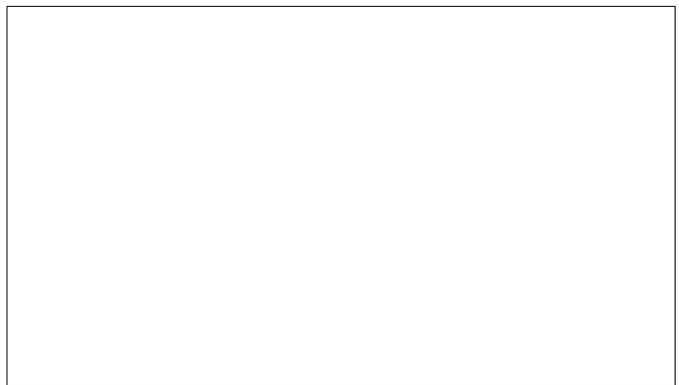
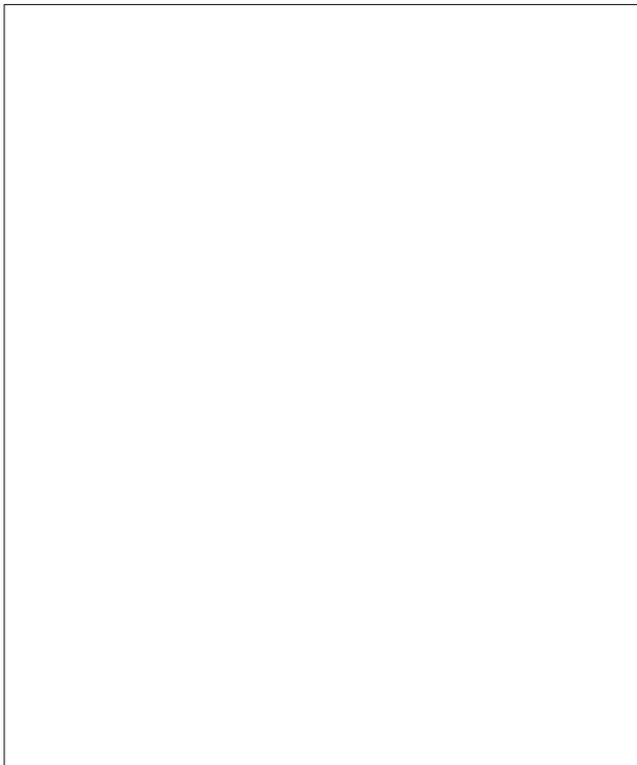
suggested benefit. The consensus thus far is that parking changes, such as those proposed in the plan, should not be pursued.

Other comments focus on the retail development along Montrose and Lawrence Avenues. There is a preference for locally owned businesses over outlets of national chains. At the same time, there is also concern about the negative effects caused by new and future condo developments on Lawrence Avenue, and to a lesser extent, on Montrose Avenue.

Regarding the area around the Francisco El station, comments so far fall into three main categories.

- The first group feels that retail around the station contributes to the quality of life in the Manor and would like to see improvements.
- The second group supports retail around the station, so long as there is no increase in traffic or reduction of park space at Manor Park in the form of new parking.
- The third group is tolerant of current businesses around the station, but does not consider them a positive part of the neighborhood, and does not want new business development at the El encouraged.

The Business District Committee meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 am at Kitchen Chicago, 4664 N. Manor Avenue. The committee serves as a liaison between local businesses and the RMIA, and works with the alderman's office to keep abreast of retail/condo development plans affecting the neighborhood. All Manor residents and business owners are invited to participate in this committee.



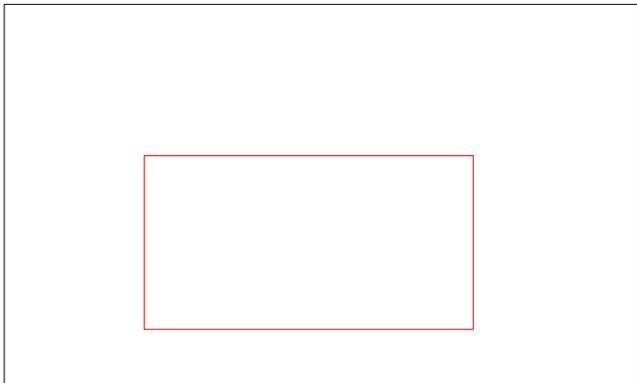


Ravenswood Manor Recycling Program

2006 marks the 19th 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.



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

