



# The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

## Winter 2008

### mark your calendar

**Winter Social**  
*Sunday, March 9*

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
*Saturday, March 15*

**Manor Garden Club**  
*Monday, March 17*

**Garage Sale**  
*Sunday, May 18*

## RMIA Winter Social Potluck

**Sunday, March 9**

The annual RMIA Winter Social Potluck will be held Sunday, March 9 from noon to 2:30 pm at the Horner Park Field House. Cure your family's cabin fever by joining your neighbors for lunch and fun activities aimed at entertaining the kids.

The RMIA will provide pasta, salad and beverages. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share with your neighbors. Try your luck at the raffle and you could walk away with a great prize. And as always, the kids will vie to take home a cake at the annual cake walk event. In order to give away as many cakes as possible, please donate a kid-friendly cake if your children would like to participate.

Parents can take a break, relax and eat lunch because the RMIA will provide volunteers to supervise the children during the activities. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to come for a relaxing afternoon to catch up with neighbors, eat some lunch and have lots of fun.

Hope to see you there!

## Easter Bunny Visit

RMIA will host the Annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 15.

The Hunt will begin at 10 am at Merle's Coffee House, 4642 N. Fransisco. All neighborhood children ages 10 and under are welcome to hunt for eggs on the back patio of Merle's. The Easter Bunny will also make a surprise visit.

Eggs and prizes are provided by the RMIA, and the goodie bags, donuts and juice are provided by Merle's.



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# Winter Snow Removal

Snow and ice on sidewalks make it difficult to get around in the winter. Help keep Ravenswood Manor safe by remembering to shovel the sidewalk along all of your property. With everyone shoveling the walk in front of their house, the Manor will be much safer when snow falls.

Chicago's Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance (0-8-180) requires that everyone "shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk..." and to use salt or sand if the ice is stubborn.

It's a common misconception that attempting to remove snow and ice renders property owners liable. The State stepped in to clarify with the Illinois Snow and Ice Removal Act (P.A. 86-1324.) (745 ILCS 75/1) which explains that anyone making a good faith effort to remove snow and ice "...shall not be liable for any personal injuries allegedly caused by the snowy or icy condition of the sidewalk..."

Thank you to everyone for being a good neighbor and helping to keep the Manor safe for pedestrians.

# Manor Book Club

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

The books selected for the next meetings are as follows:

**Tuesday, March 11:** "Crossing California"  
by Adam Langer

**Tuesday, April 8:** "Throw Like a Girl: Stories"  
by Jean Thompson

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 or contact Jen at 588-8213.

# Keeping the Manor Safe

Getting the facts about reported crime in the neighborhood is as simple as logging onto a couple of websites, as well as interacting with Chicago Police officers at CAPS meetings.

The interactive site, [chicago.everyblock.com](http://chicago.everyblock.com), allows users to search for crime reports by zip code and address. So whether you live in the 60618 or the 60625 zip code, you can find out what is going on in the neighborhood.

In addition, the website allows users to see what business and liquor licenses have been applied for and lists fun facts like where movies are being filmed around the city.

The Chicago Police Department also has a similar website residents can use to track crime at [gis.chicagopolice.org](http://gis.chicagopolice.org).

Residents who would like to take a more active role can also attend Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings.

Meetings are held on a regular basis, at least once a quarter, and allow residents to meet neighbors and the officers assigned to the Manor beat.

The Manor is divided into two beats that have separate CAPS meetings. To find out what beat you live in and when the next meeting is, call 311, or visit [cityofchicago.org](http://cityofchicago.org) and link to the police department website.

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*  
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Pamela Matsch Levine .... *Secretary*

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



# A Market or Restaurant Could Benefit Residents

A "Neighborhood Opinion Survey" prepared by the Business District Committee was included with the RMIA's membership material mailed to the community during the fall. The Committee wanted to document residents' attitudes about potential future retailers operating in the existing storefronts around the Francisco station and in the new and planned storefronts in the condo buildings at the intersections of Lawrence and Sacramento and Manor. The Committee's intention was to use the community feedback to outreach to local landlords, leasing agents, developers, current business owners and potential new business owners to encourage them to pursue new retailers consistent with neighborhood preferences.

More than one out of every seven households in the Manor responded to the survey. (see page 4) All respondents had a very high appreciation for existing neighborhood qualities including convenient El access and tree-lined streets. The survey included sev-

eral pre-selected business types that respondents were asked if they would support. The survey also included the opportunity for respondents to "write in" a business that they felt would enhance their quality of life. The results are summarized in the adjacent table.

When given the opportunity to describe their favorite shopping experience there was a clear allegiance to the neighborhoods just east of the River. Many respondents cited Rockwell Crossing and Lincoln Square as favorite places and specifically mentioned Selmarie, Mertz, Timeless Toys, The Book Cellar, The Cheese Stands Alone, Rockwell's and Ruff

Haus. Andy's Fruit Ranch (Kedzie), Lutz's Bakery (Montrose) and Harvest Time (Lawrence) were also cited as nearby favorite businesses.

Some respondents also used the opportunity to express negative preferences. Four respondents were against any new business with alcohol sales. One respondent was against any new business of any type. One respondent summarized their preferences by stating, "Please, not another cell phone outlet, dollar store, currency exchange, or branch bank."

The Business District Committee wishes to thank all the residents who took the time to complete and return their Neighborhood Opinion Survey. The results provide a useful guideline to discuss with local landlords, developers and future tenants. The Business District Committee would also especially like to thank the nearly 50 respondents who provided their email addresses to make themselves available should the Committee need additional resident feedback in the future. If you would like to add your email address to the informal community "sounding board" on this issue, please contact the Committee at [businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com). You can also write the Committee c/o The RMIA, PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.



## 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
RMIA Voice Mail .....	312-409-3213
Recycling Resource Center .....	773-821-1351
Graffiti Removal .....	312-744-5000 or 311



# Neighborhood Opinion Survey

## Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, Business District Committee

Total households responding 129  
 Total households in Manor 871  
 Percentage of response 14.81% (1 of every 7)

### Q: Which of the following new businesses might you support if it opened within the neighborhood?

Description	Votes	Percentage
Specialty, exotic or upscale grocery	94	25.13%
Prepared family food dinner/carry out	77	20.59%
Wine store/wine bar	73	19.52%
Music/language lessons	48	12.83%
Gardening supplies/classes	41	10.96%
Sports/bike/recreation equipment	36	9.63%
None of the above	5	1.34%
Totals	374	100.00%

### Q: What new business do you think would benefit your lifestyle the most if it opened within the neighborhood?

Description	Times mentioned	Comments
Full service restaurant	20	Rockwell's and Selmarie usually cited as good examples
High quality grocery market	19	"It should focus on upscale tenants not on liquor and cigarettes," "A grocery with decent basics and upscale treats," "I miss the White Hen and really need a store with everyday items that I could walk to," Fox & Obel and Southport Grocery cited as examples
Book store (new and used)	9	
Coffee shop	9	"open later than 2pm," "Plenty of seating" "Cafe with WiFi access"
Bagel/bakery	6	
Cards/gifts	4	
Health food/organic food	4	
Wine store	4	
Pub/tavern	3	
Clothing store	2	
Fish/seafood retailer	2	
Florist/fine art	2	
Fresh fruit/vegetables	2	
Meat/butcher	2	
Performing arts	2	
Sandwich/deli	2	
Records/music	2	
Starbucks	2	
Thai/Chinese food	2	
Trader Joes	2	
Others	1 mention each:	Antiques/home furnishings, Art/craft supplies, cigar store, computer store, convenience store, fitness/gym, "Green" dry cleaners, Gymnastic lessons, Hardware store, Hot dogs, Nail Spa, Pilates/massage, portrait studio, Sushi bar, Video store, Whole Foods
Against any new business	1	



## Buffalo Park Update

The Horner Park Advisory Council wrapped up its fundraising for the Buffalo Park seating area earlier this year, and is now engaged in seeing the project constructed.

Committee Chair John O'Connell reports that over the summer, two meetings were held with the Chicago Park District's Capital Construction Department, reviewing optional plans. At a recent Horner Park Advisory Council meeting, members in attendance reviewed these optional plans, to decide on the basic materials and layout of the improvement. Oversized

flat boulders and informal pavers will most likely be used in the final construction.

The Horner Park Advisory Council has raised over \$40,000 for this project, including \$20,000 from Alderman Mell's 33rd Ward Office. The Park District has pledged that they will complete construction and planting drawings in the next few weeks for further review by the Council. Look for copies of these plans soon on the Horner Park Website, [hornerpark.org](http://hornerpark.org).

HPAC is confident that once approved, the project will move forward and be completed in 2008.

## Sculpture Park and Healing Garden Planned for Lawrence-River Site

The North River Commission (NRC) is leading a community-wide effort to build a sculpture park and a healing garden on a small grassy parcel near Lawrence and Francisco avenues along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

"This park and garden will provide the community places for gathering and for private reflection," said project partner Mark McKernin, Chair of the Art Department at Northeastern Illinois University. "It will help make Albany Park a destination neighborhood."

The park will feature a rotating display of sculptures, some created by local artists, which will pay tribute to the community's multi-ethnic heritage, which has seen many immigrant groups settling in the area at different times over the years.

The community can become involved in all aspects of the project, from design to planning to maintaining the garden. "We want people to share their ideas. Will we include a children's garden? A senior garden? It's up to the community to decide," said McKernin.

NRC will hold several community meetings, at which residents will be asked to comment on the project, and a landscape architect which NRC is hiring will incorporate those suggestions into the final design. The first community meeting will be held this summer and will be open to all residents. Volunteer opportunities at the garden will continue throughout the year.

The project, scheduled to break ground in early 2008, is part of North River Commission's Arts and Culture initiative, supported by the Local Initiatives

Support Corporation/Chicago and funded through a grant from the Joyce Foundation. Some of NRC's community partners on this project include Cambodian Association of Illinois, North Park University, Northeastern Illinois University and Lawrence Hall Youth Services, who will help develop and maintain the park and garden.

If you are interested in volunteering on this or other projects please contact Rebecca Rico at (773) 478-0202 x10. More information about the Sculpture Park and Healing Garden is available online at [northrivercommission.org](http://northrivercommission.org).



## Ballet Spring Show

Le Ballet Petit would like to invite the community to attend its full length spring ballet "Coppelia."

Showtimes are Saturday and Sunday April 12 and 13. Both shows begin at 2 pm at St. Scholastica Theater.

Le Ballet Petit is a not-for-profit dance school which has been run by volunteers in Ravenswood Manor since 1954. For group sales and all other information, please call (773) 463-3385.





# Waters Update

## PreKs are Filling Up for Next Year at Waters

With both All-Day Tuition-based and the 2.5 hour PreK for All Programs running at Waters, the school is being visited by many prospective preschool parents. On Thursday, Nov, 15th, Waters School Tour was completely full in the library. After the tour, the Tuition-Based PreK filled its final spot for 2008-09. The waiting list for the PreK for All Program has been growing since the beginning of the school year to. If you are interested in either one of these programs, please come in and fill out an application.

## Waters Full Day Kindergarten

The Board of Chicago Public Schools provides FREE HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN in all magnet-cluster and neighborhood schools. It has always provided a free half-day.

Many schools can offer full day kindergarten by using discretionary funds to pay for the rest of the day, which is what Waters has been doing. Discretionary funds are based on the number of students enrolled in the school and their economic status. With the changing socioeconomic population at Waters, those funds are decreasing every year. As it stands now, Waters will not have the funds to offer full day kindergarten in 2008-2009.

A recent survey showed the majority want full day and are willing to make the necessary donation for the program, which will be about \$1,500-\$1,600 per spot. We are planning to use corporate matching funds, extra parental donations and grants to help cover any families who need help.

Look to our website: [waterstoday.org](http://waterstoday.org) for updates.

## Waters Gets a Face Lift

A budget agreement between Alderman Gene Schulner and the Board of Chicago Public Schools has led to the school getting a new first floor hallway, new energy-efficient lights and a completely new campus green outside.

## Waters' Annual Silent Auction

Save Friday, May 9! Waters will be holding their second annual Silent Auction at the Dankhaus. If you have any items or services you would like to donate, please contact us at: [infowaterstoday.org](mailto:infowaterstoday.org)

## Sun Times 2007 ISAT Report Card

Waters School Ranked Among the Top 50 Elementary Neighborhood Schools! Schools were ranked by 2007 Math and Reading. Waters ranked No. 46 out of about 450 in the city for elementary neighborhood schools!

## Waters Second Annual Crate and Barrel Fundraiser

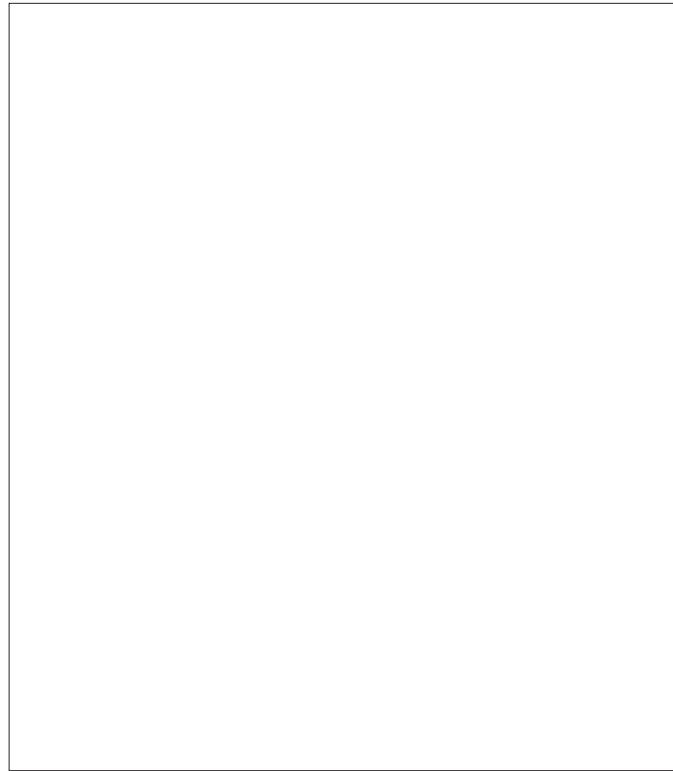
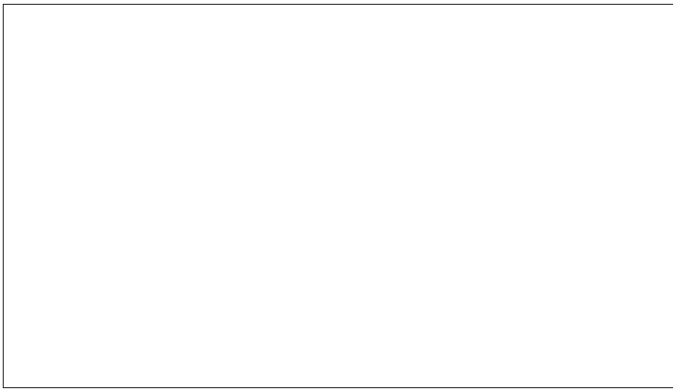
On Thursday, November 15th, WatersToday held its Second Annual Event at the Crate and Barrel at North and Clybourn. About 130 people attended and about \$10,000 was raised for all-school programs.

## SelMarie Café Serves Waters' Organic Sun Choke Soup!

Waters School's Pete Leki and additional parents hurried to harvest what they could of the organic Jerusalem artichokes growing in Waters School Garden before frost set in. Bulbs were given to Chris Stoye, head chef at SelMarie, and the owners as a way to show off our local school and its garden foods. The SunChoke Soup was served as a special in January.

## Local School Council Elections

The Chicago Public Elementary Schools will be holding elections for the Local School Councils on April 17. Further information and application forms are available on the CPS website at: [cps.k12.il.us](http://cps.k12.il.us). Application forms must be turned in to the school by March 12, 2008.



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