



# The Manor News

Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter

## Winter 2009

### mark your calendar

Winter Social  
Sunday,  
March 29

Manor Book Club  
Meeting: Feb. 10  
and March 9

Garden Club  
Meetings: Feb. 16  
and March 16

## Annual Winter Social: Join Us!

Coming late as it does this year, it's really more of a winter-into-spring social or a springing-out-of-winter social. But technicalities aside, a Social it shall be. Please join us!

**SUNDAY MARCH 29TH 1:00 TO 4:00PM**

Horner Park Banquet Hall

**Come eat with us.** Sample from a fine spread of delicious hors d'ouvres from Merle's Coffee Shoppe and sweet treats from Blue Sky Bakery and Café.

**Open your pantry.** In past years we've run the Social as a potluck. This year we want you to open your pantry again for your neighbors, specifically those who depend on the Albany Park Food Pantry. Everyone is asked to bring two or three cans of food to help replenish our local food pantry.

**Help us host.** Volunteers needed to help set-up starting at 12:00 noon and to help with clean-up and delivery of collected food to Albany Park Food Pantry. Please leave a message with Michael Herman at 312-280-7838 to pledge your support for set-up, clean-up or delivery.

**Cake for the kids.** The annual cake walk will send a bunch of lucky kids home with treats this year. Bakers you know who you are. Thanks for your cakes and cupcakes for our kids.

**Got bags? Bring 'em!** We'll have a space set aside for several games of bean bag tossing. And the gym — with babysitters — will be open for the kids from 3-4 pm.

**And a community of care.** This year we'll use the Social to open a conversation about neighbors helping neighbors and you'll be able to sign-up for a new, neighborhood service posse. The idea is to make it easier for people who are glad to help with small projects to connect with each other and with neighbors who might need a little help in these challenging economic times.

So bring some cans, some cake, or bags. Come lend a hand, run around, and reconnect. Eat, drink and be merry. Spring is almost here.

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# Book Club Update

If you want to meet some new friends and read great books, then consider joining the Manor Book Club.

For two years, the club has been meeting, and we are always looking for new members. If you want to join the group, please email organizer Jen Betzen at manorbookclub@ravenswoodmanor.com to add your name to the email list. We can keep you up-to-date on our latest book selections, as well as other club news. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:45 to 8:45 pm at the Horner Park Fieldhouse. Just look for an RMIA sign on the door of the room where we are meeting.

If you would like to meet the group, please feel free to stop by a few moments before the discussion starts and have a cookie on us. You don't have to have read the book – just stop by and say hello. If you like, you can stay for the book discussion. We are a laid back group, so don't be embarrassed if you haven't finished (or haven't started) the book.

Our meeting schedule is as follows

- Tuesday, March 10
- Tuesday, April 14
- Tuesday, May 12

We hope to add some new faces to our group in 2009. Please come by!

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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. Printing by Sir Speedy.

### Officers

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



## The Manor Gets Green Neighbor

“Sustainable” and “Green” considerations are rapidly transforming everyday life in America. From energy efficiency, to food production, to recycling, opportunities abound for small changes to add up to a big difference. To promote awareness about some of these opportunities, the RMIA will host the first of several neighborhood events on Sunday, March 1 at 2 pm.

The Business District Committee invites residents to a private open house and tour of 2924 W. Wilson Avenue, the Manor’s first environmentally-friendly, single-family home. Developer Zach Maiorca of Green Door Development will give a guided tour that highlights the home’s “green” features. Designed in the traditional “American Four-Square” style, the home embodies not only sustainable building products but sustainable construction practices as well.

The event is free but space is limited. Residents who are interested in attending should RSVP by Friday, February 20 by email to [businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:businessdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com) or by mail c/o The RMIA, PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625. Residents interested in learning more about this home can visit [www.greendoordevelopment.com](http://www.greendoordevelopment.com).

## Garden Club Update

Manor Garden Club will be discussing Pioneer Gardens at the next meeting, to be held Monday, February 16 at 7:30 pm.

Nancy Schumm-Burgess, award winning photographer, historian, and author, will give a slide presentation exploring the history of the kitchen and home gardens. Pioneer women knew everything about flowers. Nancy will share the medicinal uses and wisdom passed down through generations.

On Monday, March 16, at 7:30 pm Andrew Lueck of Bartlett Tree Experts will speak about pest and disease diagnosis and treatment for woody plants.

Manor Garden Club meets at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Avenue.



## Green Tips for House Cleaning

With the winter wind ensuring that Manor residents have their windows closed up tightly, now is a good time to consider the indoor air quality of your home. Without natural or mechanical ventilation harmful fumes from cleaning products can become trapped inside your home and contribute to “sick building syndrome.” Residents who are interested in more “eco-friendly” ways to clean might want to add these books to their home library.

“Green Up Your Cleanup”

By Jill Potvin Schoff

This book contains recipes for all-purpose cleaners using natural ingredients.

“Squeaky Green: The Method Guide for Detoxing your Home”

By Eric Ryan and Adam Lowry

Written by the founders of the Method brand of cleaning products, this book gives advice on how to clean without toxic chemicals.



## Still Working to Improve Sidewalks near EL

The Business District Committee of the RMIA is working to improve the pedestrian environment around the Francisco El station. The recent economic downturn will delay some improvements the Committee has been seeking from the City. One such goal has been to install a curb cut and texture sidewalk from the north tip of Manor Park across to the east side of Manor to improve pedestrian mobility. The Committee has also sought to have all of the previously installed textured crosswalks repainted to improve pedestrian safety.

The Committee has been requesting installation of several new trees on the west side of Francisco. The City did install a new tree in front of 4638 North Francisco but its root system may conflict with underground services and the long-term viability of that location is unknown.

The Committee has proposed a bike shelter for the current bike pad on the west side of Manor at Manor Park. Similar to a bus shelter, a bike shelter is open on all sides but provides a roof canopy to protect bikes from rain. The intent is to encourage "bike-to-train" commuters by providing a sheltered location to secure their bikes during the day.

The Committee successfully identified a shelter manufacturer but ran into an impasse with the Chicago Department of Transportation. As the shelter would be located on their property, CDOT would not accept repair and maintenance of the structure in

perpetuity. There was a willingness on the part of CDOT to allow the structure if the neighborhood would enter into a legal agreement to maintain the shelter however the neighborhood has been unable thus far to create an appropriate program. The Chicago Transit Authority has federal funding to provide bike facilities if they are located on CTA property. However those funds are not available for shelters not located on CTA property.

Currently the City is discussing the purchase of the Warner Candies site on the north side of Lawrence Avenue at for a possible expansion of Ronan Park. The City is exploring the possibility of using Manor Avenue as the bike path connection from Ronan Park to Horner Park. Depending on the outcome of the proposed park expansion and bike route, the Committee may find new partners for creating the proposed shelter.

In addition to these City-sponsored initiatives, the Committee has also been promoting a community-based landscape initiative to install nine new parkway gardens around the intersection of Manor and Francisco. The total project has an estimated cost of approximately \$20,000 and the community has thus far contributed approximately one-third of the cost of Phase 1. Additional funding sources are being considered. More information about the Manor-Francisco Garden Initiative is available at the RMIA website, [www.rmia.org](http://www.rmia.org).

## 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 - LaPointe Park - Wilson-Manor Garden - Francisco-Manor Gardens



## 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



# Get Noticed

## Advertise in the Ravenswood Manor Community Newsletter.

For more information, please contact the Editor at PO Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625. [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com)



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