

MANOR NEWS

SPRING

2015

Hunting Eggs and Deals

After a long winter's hibernation, it's time to come out for the first social events of the year in Ravenswood Manor.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 4th

Young residents are invited to attend the annual RMIA Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place at LaPointe Park, at Giddings and Manor avenues. Colored plastic Easter eggs—filled with candy—will be hidden throughout the park. So bring along your Easter basket and, please, arrive before 10 a.m. The event ends as soon as all the eggs are found, which usually takes just a few minutes.



Neighborhood Garage Sale, Sunday, May 17th

Dust off those treasures moldering away in the basement, attic, or garage—and haul them out for some sunshine. This is one of the oldest and most-popular garage sales in the city, attracting thousands of visitors who come to view the clothes, toys, and other goods set out by more than 100 Manor households. If you would like to sign up to participate, visit www.ravenswoodmanor.com/garagesale/.

Q&A: Manor Historic District

By Jim Peters



In 2008, following a nomination process directed by the RMIA, Ravenswood Manor was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 520 buildings in the triangular-shaped historic district, whose boundaries are: Sacramento Avenue, the North Branch of the Chicago River, and the alleys south of Lawrence and north of Montrose avenues.

With construction season approaching, here are answers to some of the most-frequently asked questions regarding the historic district.

Q: What types of restrictions are there in a National Register district?

A: The simple answer: None. Unlike local landmark districts, which are designated by the City of Chicago, National Register listing does not require any review of local building permits, including alterations, demolition, new construction, etc. However, if a homeowner decides to take advantage of one of the economic incentives available to National Register-listed properties, the owner must go through a review process with the State of Illinois.

Q: What are the economic incentives available to property owners in the Ravenswood Manor National Register Historic District?

A: There are two primary incentives. The most applicable one for Manor homeowners is the "Property Tax Assessment Freeze," which enables eligible owners undertaking a significant rehabilitation project to have their property's assessed value "frozen" at the pre-rehab level for an eight- to 12-year period. The other incentive, the "Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit," applies to owners of income-producing properties, such as an apartment building or commercial structure. This program enables a property owner to receive a 20% credit on their federal income taxes, as related to the eligible expenses of a major rehabilitation project. Important point: in the case of both incentive programs, you must apply—and receive an approval—*before* undertaking any rehab work.

Q: What types of restrictions apply to these incentives?

A: In addition to the eligibility requirements—which are spelled out in the application process—all of the rehabilitation work must meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. If the project does not meet these standards, the property owner will not be given the economic incentive (i.e., property tax freeze or federal income tax credit).

Q: How can I learn more about these economic incentive programs?

A: Both programs are administered through the State of Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Its web site describes the programs in detail and gives property owners contact information. See <https://www.illinois.gov/ihpa/Preserve/Pages/Funding.aspx>. (continued on pg 2)

Event Calendar

Easter Egg Hunt: Sat., April 4th, 10 a.m., La Pointe Park, Giddings and Manor.

CAPS-Beat 1724 (south of Wilson) Meetings: Wed., Mar. 18th, Apr. 15th, and May 20th, 6:30 p.m., 4650 N. Pulaski

CAPS-Beat 1713 (north of Wilson) Meeting: Wed., Mar. 25th, Apr. 22nd, and May 27th

RMIA Semi-Annual Open House: Wed., April 22nd, 7:30 p.m., "50 Shades of Green," location TBD.

Garage Sale: Sun., May 17th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Horner Park West Spring General Meeting: Wed., May 20th, 7:30 p.m., "Economic Development," Horner Park.

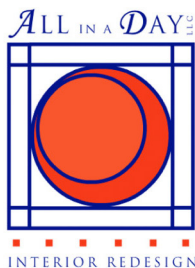
Farmer's Market: Sat., June 6th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Horner Park

Independence Bike Parade: Sat., June 27th, 10 a.m., meet in Buffalo Park, California, Manor, and Sunnyside

Mini Manor Bash: Sat., June 27th, 5 – 9 p.m., Manor Park, Eastwood and Manor

OktoberFest: Sat., Sept. 19th, TBD

RMIA Semi-Annual Open House: Wed., Oct. 21st, 7:30 p.m., TBD



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Q&A: Manor Historic District (cont.)

Q. How can I learn more about Ravenswood Manor's National Register Historic District?

A. The National Register nomination form and a graphic presentation on the district can be found on RMIA's web site, under the "Download Documents" section at ravenswoodmanor.com/the-manor/centennialhomes. Elsewhere on the web site, under "The Manor," are several do-it-yourself neighborhood tours, which provide additional background on some of the historic district's most significant properties.

Taking Root

Tree plantings north of Wilson

Do you need a tree to replace one that's been lost on the parkway in front of your house? Applications are being taken now for new tree plantings in our neighborhood, which is an effort being coordinated by the Manor Garden Club, the RMIA, and Openlands' TreeKeepers program.



Photo: Thomas Applegate

Last fall, 20 new trees were planted on the streets south of Wilson Avenue. This spring, plantings will be focused north of Wilson. In honor of RMIA's 100th year anniversary, these will be known as "Centennial Trees." The RMIA Board has agreed to pay half of the cost of each tree; the other half will be paid for by the homeowner, who also agrees to help out on the tree planting day and to water and weed the tree(s) on their parkway. The Spring tree planting date has not yet been scheduled, but will likely be on a Saturday in late-April.

Manor neighbors—north of Wilson Avenue—who are interested in purchasing a tree for their parkway should send their name, address, and email to manorgarden_trees@comcast.net. Please include a description of the tree location and how many you need. The application deadline is April 1st. Find out more at <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/tree-planting-project/>

I Am Curious (Manor)

Q: Is it true that an expressway once was proposed to run through Ravenswood Manor?

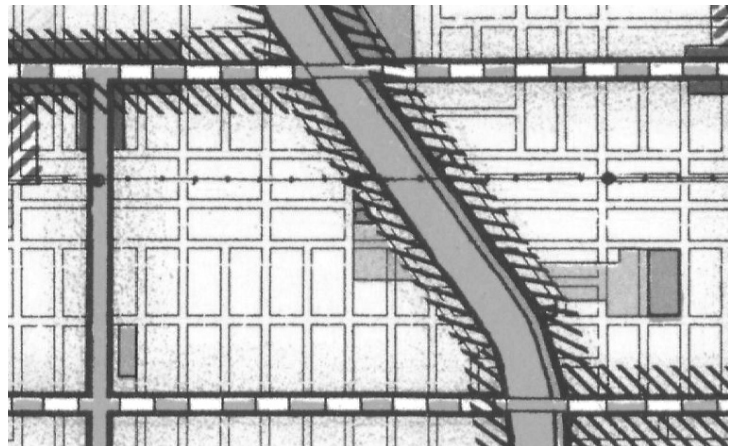
A: Strangely enough, that story is true. As part of the Chicago Plan Commission's Comprehensive City Plan map of 1946, a proposed new expressway route was shown along the North Branch of the Chicago River, stretching south from the intersection of Devon Avenue and McCormick Boulevard to Diversey Boulevard, where it would have connected to the Northwest Expressway (now Interstate 90/Kennedy Expressway).

According to news articles of the time, the expressway would have taken one of two different routes. The most prominent ran along the west side of the North Branch Channel and would have replaced most of the houses in the Manor between the river and Manor Avenue, before crossing to the east side of the river at Irving Park and back to the west side at Belmont. The second solution called for building the expressway over the river itself on an elevated bridge structure.

As you might imagine, the proposed expressway route was strongly opposed by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, along with other neighborhood groups. In 1962, after the newly-formed North River Commission strongly opposed the project, it soon vanished from city transportation planning documents.

Are you curious?

If you have a Manor-related question you'd like to see answered, please address it to the Manor News editor at peters.e.james@gmail.com.



Map detail from the 1946 Chicago comprehensive plan, showing a proposed expressway route along the west bank of the Chicago River through Ravenswood Manor. Lawrence Avenue is at the top of the map; Montrose Avenue along the bottom.

Crime? Traffic? Development?

Are you concerned about neighborhood issues? If so, then consider joining one of the working committees of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association.

In a new outreach effort, the RMIA Board is inviting non-Board members to participate in its working committees, as a way to help guide neighborhood policies. The committees are: Business Outreach and Education, Communications, Membership, Safety, Social Events, Transportation, and Zoning.

Time requirements are minimal, since much of the committee work can be done through emails or, as needed, through face-to-face meetings. If you have an interest in helping out on any of these topics, please contact Athene Carras, RMIA's president, at athenecarras@gmail.com.



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Tales of the Manor

Last year, as part of our Centennial celebrations, a neighborhood research committee conducted interviews with nine longtime Manor residents. The audio recordings of those interviews are now available on the RMIA web site at <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/stories/>.

The committee first identified residents who had at least a 50-year connection to Ravenswood Manor (e.g., one resident has lived here since 1924). The interviews, each 40 minutes in length, were then recorded on equipment loaned to RMIA from StoryCorps, a national organization. As a result, each of the recordings is now on file at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

The subjects of the interviews were: siblings Peg and John Byrne, Adrian Collins, Dick Lanyon, siblings Beth Newell Murphy and Susan Newell O'Connell, Ruth Robbins, and spouses Don and Eileen Valentin. Many thanks to the interview subjects for their participation, as well as to the volunteer interviewers, Jackie Klein and Jim Peters.



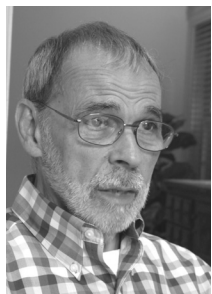
Peg Byrne



John Byrne



Adrian Collins



Dick Lanyon



Beth Newell Murphy



Susan Newell O'Connell



Ruth Robbins



Don Valentin



Eileen Valentin



Left: neighborhood residents in front of the former real estate office building in Manor Park, which was demolished in 1957. Right: Adrian Collins mother, Marian Wrobel, in front of 2910 W. Eastwood, 1953. Wrobel was one of the city's earliest policewomen. Below right: Adrian and her father under the drugstore sign at the corner of Francisco and Eastwood. Photos courtesy of Adrian Collins.



Left: Ruth Robbins, in front of the since-demolished fountain in Buffalo Park, 1924. Below: Robbins in Buffalo Park, 2014. Photos courtesy of Ruth Robbins.





Dick Lanyon's parents, Dick and Nell Lanyon, in front of their residence at 2847 W. Giddings St. in 1954, holding their first grandson, Andrew Ginzel. The Lawrence Avenue Bridge and North Branch Pumping Station are in the background. Photo courtesy of Dick Lanyon.



Left: Dick Lanyon (5) and his siblings, Ellen (15), right, and Harriet (13), left, in c.1942. Ellen, who became a nationally-renown painter and printmaker, passed away in 2013. Right: Dick Lanyon, age 11, painting basement pipes at his family's residence at 2847 W. Giddings St. in 1948. Photos courtesy of Dick Lanyon.



Candlelight Tour



Photo: Thomas Applegate

The final tour of Ravenswood Manor's Centennial year celebrations, "Candlelight Interiors," took place on Saturday, December 6th. RMLA Centennial Members were invited to tour the interiors of six Manor residences, ranging from an original "Model Home" (built 1909) and apartment unit (1915) to several Craftsman-style bungalows (1913-20) and a large "Manor House" (1922). Our thanks to the residents who opened their homes during the holiday season: Ira Bodenstein and Julia Smith, Rick and Meredith Glick, Nancy and Tom Melvin, Craig Pierson and Scott Manary, Steve and Stephanie Shanabruch, and Sean and Victoria Wiedel.

Tips for Homeowners

A series of spring seminars for homeowners has been scheduled by the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA). Here are the topics, dates/times, and locations:

Big Ideas for Small Kitchen Spaces, HCBA staff: Tues., March 31st, 6:30 p.m., Welles Park field house, 2333 W. Sunnyside.

Reducing Flooding Risks, Ryan Wilson, Elevate Energy/CNT's Rain Ready: Tues., April 14th, 6 p.m., Jefferson Park Library, 5363 W. Lawrence Ave,

Basement Flooding: Understanding Sewers, David St. Pierre, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago: Wed., April 22nd, 6 p.m., Austin-Irving Library, 6100 W. Irving Park Road.

Window Repair, Julie Liska, Liska Architects: Tues., May 12th, 6:30 p.m., Indian Boundary Park field house, 2500 W. Lunt Ave.

Curb Appeal (gardening), Prairie Godmothers: Tues., May 26th, 6:30 p.m., Portage Park Senior Center, 4100 N. Long Ave.

Working with an Architect, AIA-Chicago: Wed., June 3rd, 6 p.m., Mayfair Library, 4400 W. Lawrence Ave.

Expanding Basement Space, Julie Liska, Liska Architects: Thur., June 4th, 6 p.m., Jefferson Park Library, 5363 W. Lawrence Ave.

Vintage Masonry Repair, Mario Machnicki, Marion Restoration: Mon., June 15th, 6 p.m., Budlong Woods Library, 5630 N. Lincoln Ave.

To register for these free seminars, go to chicagobungalow.org or call 312-675-0300, ext. 10.

Do-it-Yourself Hawks Pub Crawl



Manor residents celebrate the June 24, 2013, Blackhawks' Stanley Cup win at Monti's Bar.

As the National Hockey League enters its long playoff season, consider organizing your friends and neighbors for a "Hawks Pub Crawl," utilizing some of our area's bars and restaurants. Below are a few sample itineraries, each of them grouped according to the three periods of a hockey game—the idea being that you can walk to the next location during the breaks between periods.

Manor Crawl: Start with dinner at Golden Crust Pizza, 4620 N. Kedzie. Then, following the first period, move on to Templestowe Pub, 3135 W. Montrose. Finish the game at the Montrose Saloon, 2933 W. Montrose.

Gardens Crawl: Start at the Rockwell Grill, 4632 N. Rockwell; move on to Time Out Sports Bar, 4641 N. Rockwell; and finish (with a Philly cheese steak) at Monti's, 4757 N. Talman.

Lincoln Square Crawl: Start at Lincoln Square Lanes, 4874 N. Lincoln (consider pre-game bowling and/or food), then head south on Lincoln to Carola's Hansa Clipper, 4659 N. Lincoln, and finish at Ricochet's 4644 N. Lincoln or Daily Bar & Grill 4650 N. Lincoln.

Obviously, there are dozens of other variations, especially if you utilize the "L" to start and finish your crawl near the Western, Irving Park, or Southport stations. One final tip: Consider a non-Saturday night game to avoid the biggest crowds. Go Hawks.



About RMIA

"Manor News" is published quarterly by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association.

Established in 1914, the RMIA is a neighborhood association run entirely by volunteers. We hold monthly board of directors meetings, stage various social events and special projects, and maintain communication channels through our web site, e-mail alerts, and newsletter. Your annual RMIA membership helps to support all of this work.

The RMIA Mission Statement is: "To promote the welfare of the community in respect to the maintenance and improvement of the physical appearance of the private and public property; the compliance with the laws as applicable to private and public property; the maintenance of facilities with respect to the safety, health, and welfare of its residents."

Please contact the RMIA board if you have any questions or suggestions:

Athene Carras – President

Jim Peters – Vice President

Kathy Monk – Secretary

Rick Glick - Treasurer

Our contacts are:

Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com

Facebook.com/[ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)

E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com

Mail: P.O. Box 25486, Chicago IL 60625



New CAPS Meeting Times

Ravenswood Manor is divided into two different police beats, as part of the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy—or CAPS—program. Neighbors are invited to attend these CAPS meetings, which have newly-announced dates, times, and locations.

Police Beat 1713, which covers the area **north of Wilson Avenue**, is now part of the 10 Sector Beat Meeting, which takes place at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Mayfair Church, 5020 N. Pulaski Rd.

Police Beat 1724, which covers the area **south of Wilson Avenue**, is now part of the 20 Sector Beat Meeting, which takes place at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the 17th Police District's Community Room, 4650 N. Pulaski Rd.

For more information, please visit <https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath/Communities/Districts/District17/Events>.

Wanted: Court Advocates

By Kathy Monk

The 17th District Court Advocacy program plays an important role in making our neighborhood safer. It requires more than good police work to make a neighborhood safe. It also takes the police, the community, and city agencies—all working together—to really make a difference.

With input gathered at police beat meetings or from community residents, the Court Advocacy subcommittees, working with the Chicago Police Department, help identify and track cases of interest to the community. Volunteers then attend court dates associated with those cases. It's as simple as that. An example of a current case requiring Court Advocacy volunteers is the infamous recent machete attack at the Kedzie Brown Line stop.

The presence of Court Advocacy volunteers sends a strong message to the defendant, the judge, and all the other interested parties in the criminal justice system, which is: The community cares about the outcome of a case and is willing to devote its time and energy to monitoring the workings of the judicial system.

Court advocacy is a way to show support for victims and solidarity against crime in our community. For information about Court Advocacy, contact the 17th District CAPS office at 312-742-4588 or CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org

Do-It-Yourself Walking Tours

Don't forget that last year's walking tours are now available on the RMIA web site, along with a walking map.

Tours currently on the web site:

- Harmon's Model Homes
- Gems of the Manor
- Heart of the Manor

Visit <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/walking-tours/> for more information.

Manor News Ads

Bringing in advertisers to support the newsletter is a big priority. We would appreciate any leads that you have for businesses that serve our residents, especially where you have a personal contact we can follow up with. Send contact information to Thomas Applegate at: thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.

Rates: 1 Year / 4 issues

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Our newsletter team: Jim Peters - Editor, Steve Shanabruch - Layout, Joe Cesario - Distribution.



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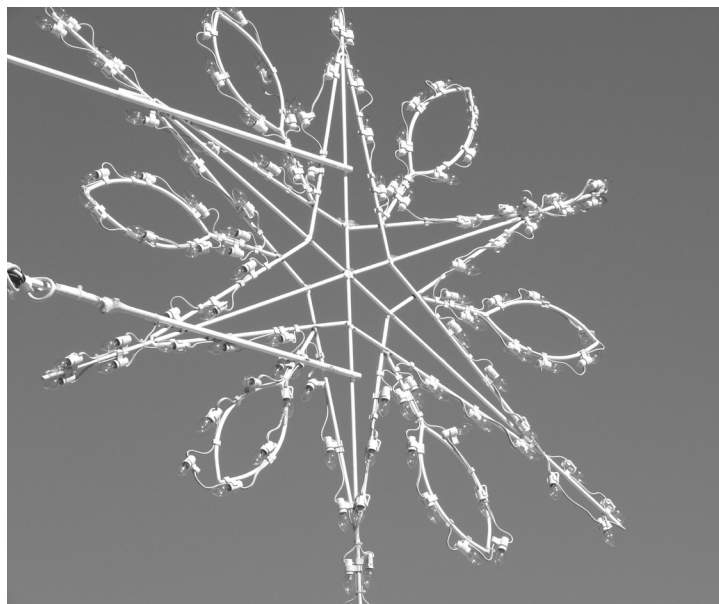
Ravenswood Manor is a strong community due to the collective and cumulative efforts of residents and their association over the past century plus. Thank you to you and all of our neighbors for their support. One of the many wonderful things about Ravenswood Manor is that we don't just work and party once a century, we make the best of every year, so RMIA looks forward to a busy and fun 2015 serving our community.

RMIA relies on your membership support each year in order to produce the following services for you:

- Fun for all at annual events: Easter Egg Hunt, Garage Sale, Garden Walk, 4th of July Bike Parade, and OktoberFest
- Representation of community interests and safety concerns with 33rd Ward Alderman Mell, City of Chicago departments, Police, Fire, Park District, neighboring associations, local schools, local businesses, and media
- Investment in Waters Elementary and support of the Waters Today organization
- Maintenance and programming in our parks and parkways, including principal responsibility for upkeep of LaPointe Park and our community garden there, and sponsorship of HPAC's summer concert series in Ravenswood Manor Park
- Partnering with homeowners and Manor Garden Club for tree planting
- Communication with residents through printed *Manor News*, email newsletter, special notice emails, mailings, flyers, Facebook, and our website at www.ravenswoodmanor.com

The membership year starts on November 1st, and we ask you to complete the membership form below or go to our membership page on the website: ravenswoodmanor.com/membership. Thank you for your support.

Manor Details



Lightpole snowflake, sponsored and installed during the holiday season by RMIA.

If you have a detail you'd like to submit for this new feature, please send it to manordetails@gmail.com.



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Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association: Membership Form

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Additional donation of support for RMIA's work in the neighborhood: \$ _____

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Online: to become a member or renew, go to the Membership page on the RMIA site ravenswoodmanor.com/membership/