



MANOR NEWS

FALL

2016

Event Calendar

RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting

Tues., Oct. 11th, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave. (Speakers: Ill. Rep. Ann Williams and Brian Daly, CMAP; see pg. 7 for details.)

Fall Social

Sat., Nov. 12th, 2-5 p.m., The Finch Kitchen, 2925 W. Montrose Ave.

Weekly and Monthly Events:

Walk the Manor

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Farmer's Market

Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Horner Park, California and Montrose.

RMIA Board

2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House

Horner Park Advisory Council

1st Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House

CAPS-Beat 1724

(south of Wilson) Meetings
3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House

CAPS-Beat 1713

(north of Wilson) Meetings
4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Magnuson Campus Center, North Park University, 5000 N. Spaulding Ave.

Follow RMIA on Facebook for the most up-to-date information:
[facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)

Sept. 19 – Nov. 19

Manor-Wilson Traffic Diverter Test

In mid-September, the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) is scheduled to initiate a two-month demonstration for a pair of “temporary traffic diverters” at the five-way intersection of Manor, Mozart, and Wilson. The test is part of a study to address long-standing safety concerns caused by cut-through vehicular traffic on Manor Avenue.

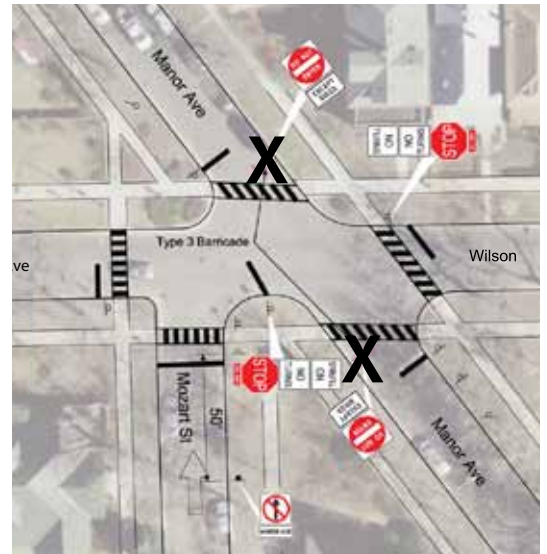
The goal of the temporary diverter and traffic study is to gain information—through traffic volumes, speed counts, and travel times—of what would happen if Manor Avenue no longer served as a continuous through street. During the study period, two-way traffic on Manor will be directed, by temporary traffic barricades and signage, to turn either east or west at Wilson Avenue (see map). These barricades would also prohibit people who are driving east-west on Wilson Avenue from turning onto Manor Avenue.

Automated traffic counters will be installed at more than a dozen locations throughout Ravenswood Manor and adjoining neighborhoods, including along Albany, California, Francisco, Manor, Mozart, Rockwell, Sacramento, and Wilson, to gather data on motor vehicle volumes, speeds, and turning movements. CDOT and the Alderman’s office will also collect neighborhood feedback on the diverter and its impact to traffic safety and mobility, access to neighborhood destinations such as parks, transit, and commercial corridors, and impacts to walking and bicycling in the neighborhood.

Following the test period, in early-2017, CDOT will present the results of the study to the community, including traffic speeds, volumes, and vehicular turning movements, and a summary of the feedback received.

A longstanding issue

For decades, vehicular traffic along Manor Avenue, as well as Wilson Avenue and other streets,



Temporary barricades are proposed for two locations—“X” on map—as part of a two-month traffic diversion test.

has been an ongoing safety concern for residents. In the early 1990s, a series of community meetings were held to discuss possible solutions, including the redirection or closing of various streets. However, due to conflicting views and a lack of comprehensive traffic data, no decision was reached at that time.

Recently, as part of a trend citywide, bicycle traffic has been increasing along Manor Avenue, which serves as a connector between Horner Park to the south and Ronan and River parks to the north. (Due to the close proximity of residences to the Chicago River, there is no space for bicycle paths along the river edge.)

As reported in the Summer 2016 issue of *Manor News*, CDOT has worked for the past two years with Aldermen Mell’s Office and the 33rd Ward’s Transportation Action Committee (TAC) on a neighborhood traffic study. One result of that effort, a draft “Manor Greenway” plan, was presented by CDOT on June 15th (*continued on page 7*)

Business Profile

Brü Coffeeworks

By Kathy Monk



Cory Creighton has roasted coffee as a hobby for more than a decade, during which time he fantasized about being able to sell his roasted beans one day. When he opened Brü Coffeeworks earlier this year—in the newly renovated building at the southwest corner of Lawrence and Sacramento—his dream was finally realized.

Cory and his wife Rebecca, who handles Brü's social media, have lived near Leland

and Sacramento, two blocks south of their new business, for 11 years. "We wanted to be part of the new face of the building," Creighton said, "and we wanted to spearhead new businesses" in the area.

Brü Coffeeworks will initially serve as a roastery and sales outlet for single-origin beans and brewing equipment. It is technically not a café, although cups of cold and hot coffee are sold during business hours. In the near future, Creighton said, he will sell t-shirts, hats, and local food items, such as cookies and granola.

Customers have already taken advantage of free delivery of Brü Coffeeworks' roasted coffee, which is available through its website. Neighbors also might recognize Brü from the Saturday Horner Park Farmers Market, where Creighton has been a vendor for the last two summers.

This coming fall, Creighton will sell tickets for classes and demonstrations on such topics as brewing techniques and home roasting tips. He said he "wants to be the neighborhood roaster and roasted coffee supplier."

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I Am Curious (Manor)

Q: New “historic district” signs were installed earlier this year at entrances into the neighborhood. Has Ravenswood Manor always had identification signs?

A: In the late-1970s, a set of signs—depicting a raven and the words “Ravenswood Manor”—were installed on decorative brackets projecting from streetlights posts. The raven image also was used on security (“We Call Police”) decals posted on the doors of many Manor residences.

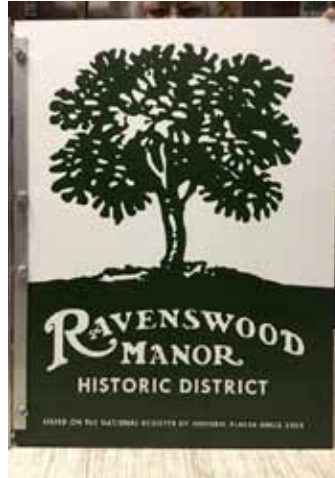
These “raven signs” were replaced in the mid-1980s with signs featuring “Ravenswood Manor” set amid interlocking borders. When those signs began to deteriorate in the late-1990s, they were replaced with signs featuring Arts & Crafts lettering on a dark green background.

After the neighborhood was listed in 2008 on the National Register of Historic Places, new signs were installed. The new design featured a large tree, which had become part of RMIA’s logo in the previous decade. Unfortunately, those signs proved less durable (or, perhaps, more desirable for collectors) and many quickly disappeared.

They were replaced in Spring 2016 by vertical signs side-mounted to light posts, using more secure brackets. These signs feature a tree, as well as the same typeface used in 1910-11 Chicago Tribune advertisements for the Ravenswood Manor and Ravenswood Gardens subdivisions.

Thanks to former RMIA President John Friedman for the use of his historic sign collection for this article.

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



Over the past 40 years, five different signs (clockwise, from top left) have marked the entrances into Ravenswood Manor.

Do-It-Yourself Walking Tours

Don't forget that 2014's walking tours are still 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.



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A Half Century of Garden Walks

By Jeffery Sell



As chair of this year's Manor Garden Walk, my volunteers and I were eager to learn more about the history of the event. We completed a quick internet search and discovered two archived articles from the *Chicago Tribune* covering the event. They described two very different experiences over a period of 33 years.

Lawn and Garden Walk: 1966

The first article described the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association's annual

"Lawn and Garden Walk" of 1966. To be considered for the walk, interested participants were required to submit an entry form for one of four categories. The Garden Club of Illinois then selected the first, second, and third place winners from each category. Those 12 gardens (and lawns), along with the two "grand prize winning" gardens from the previous year, were featured in the walk.

The grand prize for best large garden in 1966 went to 4524 N. Francisco Ave., while the best small garden was located at 2825 W. Leland Ave. One of the photos accompanying the article showed a very well-dressed garden chairman in his suit, tie, and fedora hat examining some prized roses. The other photo, which was taken in an award-winning backyard garden, showed the homeowner and event co-chair both wearing beautiful long dresses and discussing the finer points of the garden.

Garden Walk: 1999

The second *Tribune* article we found described the Manor Garden Club's annual Garden Walk of 1999. That year, 45 gardens were included in the walk and attracted over 350 visitors. The article characterizes Ravenswood Manor as a "laboratory of urban gardening ideas" and goes on to say that they "have photographed the best-looking ones and the sharpest ideas on the walk and showcased them so the many Chicago-area gardeners who couldn't do the tour themselves can see what's cooking in the lab."

The *Tribune* article goes on to describe several of the gardens in detail, including the design concepts, plant materials, and various garden elements that were shared by various homeowners. While some of the gardener's names were used, no addresses or photos were included.

Garden Walk: 2016

This year's garden walk was held on Sunday, July 24th—50 years after the first article that we found. Unfortunately, this year's chairman did not wear a suit, tie, or fedora. However, there were a few dresses observed, including one worn by my seven-year-old daughter.



Photo: © Orlando Pashazadeh

Summer flowers were at their peak for this year's Manor Garden Walk, which featured 35 gardens. For more photos, check out Orlando Pashazadeh's July 25th post on the Ravenswood Manor Facebook page—or go to his professional sites on Instagram or Facebook.

The walk was co-sponsored by the RMIA and the Manor Garden Club. Thirty five amazing gardens were included and over 100 people braved the very hot weather to tour the gardens. Our thanks to Orlando Pashazadeh, who braved the heat to photograph as many of the gardens as he could during the day. Some of his photos are posted on the Ravenswood Manor Facebook page. And, finally, a special thanks to volunteers Carly Moeller, Cindy Zucker, Athene Carras, Thomas Applegate, and Shelly Staat.

Moving forward, it is our intent to continue researching the history of the garden walk and see what other interesting facts and stories that we can uncover. Such things as: What year did it start? What do the award-winning gardens from 1966 look like today? And were any posters used for advertising the walk?

If you have any information on former Garden Walks—or know where we can find any—please email me at jeffreysell@gmail.com.

Notable Neighbors

Fred Pfeffer: 19th Century Ball Player

By Jim Peters



Fred Pfeffer (upper right) was a key member of the Chicago White Stockings championship teams in the mid-1880s. At right: baseball cards depict Pfeffer as a member of teams in Louisville and Chicago, where he was one of the last ballplayers not to use a fielding glove.

Nathaniel Frederick “Fred” Pfeffer (1860-1932) played 16 years of professional baseball—11 seasons with Chicago’s National League team, the White Stockings (which are now the Cubs).

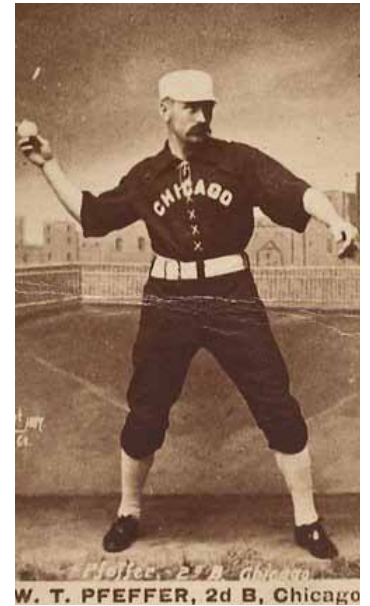
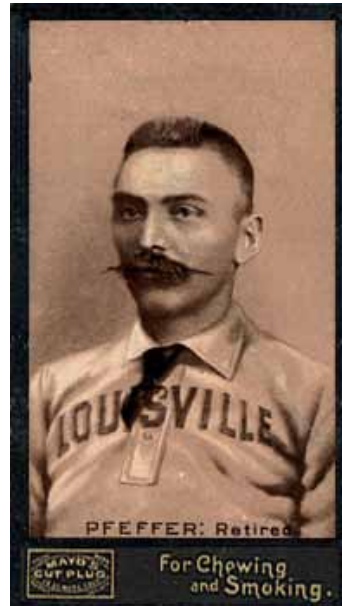
Pfeffer was a defensive wizard and one of the best second basemen of the 1890s: “mercury quick and acrobatic,” one sportswriter called him. He also was one of the last ballplayers not to wear a baseball glove, earning the nickname “Dandelion” for his prowess at fielding hard hit ground balls—e.g., “dandelion killers”—with his bare hands.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Pfeffer joined the White Stockings in 1883, becoming a member of its “stone wall infield” and helping the team win league championships in 1885 and 1886. Only a .255 career hitter, he clubbed 24 home runs in 1884—second in the league—due to the friendly dimensions of the team’s ballpark, Lake Front Park, at the southeast corner of Michigan and Randolph (current-day Millennium Park).

In 1889, Pfeffer authored one of the first baseball books, *Scientific Ball*, which provided instructions on defensive play and base running strategies. Following his retirement as a ball player in 1897, he briefly coached at the University of Wisconsin and a Three-I League team in Decatur, Ill. In 1911, he opened Pfeffer’s Theatre Coast Buffet at 22 S. State St., which became one of the most popular Loop watering holes for Chicago sportsmen—particularly in the German community due to Pfeffer’s fluency in that language.

After Pfeffer was forced out of the bar business by Prohibition, he became a press box guard at several Chicago racetracks. Sometime in the 1920s, Pfeffer and his wife, Ida, moved to 2928 W. Wilson Ave. in Ravenswood Manor, where, according to the 1930 census, they shared the residence with a boarder, Robert Woods.

Pfeffer died in 1932, at age 72, of heart disease. His obituary in the *Chicago Tribune* reported that his “widow is left in destitute circumstances” and noted that his former friends were making funeral arrangements. Pfeffer is buried in All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Ill.



After retiring as a ballplayer and bar owner, Pfeffer moved to this residence at 2928 W. Wilson Ave., where he died in 1932.

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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."

The RMIA officers are:

Athene Carras – President
Jim Peters – Vice President
Kathy Monk – Secretary
Rick Glick - Treasurer

Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com
Facebook.com/[ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)
E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com
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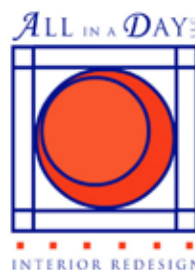


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Diverter, continued

at a meeting in the Horner Park Field House attended by more than 100 residents.

Several traffic-calming techniques were proposed for Manor Avenue, along with improved pedestrian crossings for Lawrence, Manor, Montrose, and Wilson. There also was a supplemental presentation on a proposed “temporary traffic diverter” for the intersection of Manor and Wilson and a plan to measure impacts on the neighborhood.

Based on the public comments from the June 15th meeting, as well as those received by Alderman Mell’s office and posted on various social media sites, CDOT made several adjustments, including a shorter period for the diverter test (from three to two months) and additional locations for traffic counting equipment. In addition, the RMIA Board reviewed the Manor Greenway proposal at two of its monthly meetings, culminating in a 6-4 vote to support the test of the traffic diverters.

We need to try something

“This is truly a neighborhood traffic study,” says CDOT Assistant Director of Transportation Planning Mike Amsden, who notes that the diverter test offers one possible solution to longstanding complaints about traffic and pedestrian safety. “If it works, great,” Amsden says. “If not, we’ll learn from it and be able to make more informed decisions based on clear data and community feedback.”

To learn more about the Manor Greenway project and the traffic diverter test, please go to the project page of the 33rd Ward’s website at: <http://www.33rdward.org/our-community/manor-ave-greenway-project>.

If you have a question about either of these projects, please call the 33rd Ward Office at 773-478-8040 and speak to Jeff Sobczyk. You also can email your comments, concerns, suggestions, or support to manorgreenway@gmail.com.

Looking for your input Neighborhood Plan Underway

Preliminary findings of the “North River Communities Neighborhood Plan” will be presented at the RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 11th, at the Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

The speaker will be Brian Daly of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. CMAP is preparing the plan in association with the North River Commission (NRC).

The plan covers the North River neighborhoods of Albany Park, North Park, Mayfair, North Mayfair, and Ravenswood Manor—an area roughly bounded by the Edens Expressway (I-94) on the west, the Chicago River on the east, Bryn Mawr Avenue on the north, and Montrose Avenue on the south.

The goal is to work with the area’s community organizations, businesses, residents, and public agencies to develop a plan that “builds on the area’s valuable assets, as well as its past and current planning efforts, to help guide and strengthen the North River communities in the decades ahead.”

An initial meeting of the community steering committee—which includes a representative of RMIA—was held this spring, followed by a series of stakeholder interviews. Initial findings of an “Existing Conditions Report” were presented to the committee in July, when community surveys were distributed.

The completed surveys are due back from businesses and residents in mid-September. If you would like to complete a survey, please go to north-river-plan.metroquest.com or call Duka Dubovic at the NRC offices at 312-860-8543.



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SUZY THOMAS

New Ownership for Summit Property



A view of the Summit Industries property from the Lawrence Avenue bridge, looking west.

The longtime industrial property at 2901-41 W. Lawrence Ave.—commonly referred to as Summit Industries—is currently under contract for purchase by Meeting Tomorrow, a national company that provides technology products and services for meetings and events.

Pending completion of the purchase, the largest building on the site, which fronts on the Chicago River, will be rehabilitated for use as Meeting Tomorrow's new headquarters, said company president Mark Aistrope, who also is a resident of Ravenswood Manor. Currently located in Chicago's Ravenswood Industrial Corridor, Meeting Tomorrow has 60 employees and has been on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing private companies.

Aistrope is currently investigating options for the remainder of the 1.23-acre site, which includes an apartment building, a gravel parking lot, and a warehouse building. He says he plans to work with Alderman Mell and the RMIA to ensure that any future redevelopment plans are compatible with the community, while also serving as a more attractive gateway into the Albany Park and Ravenswood Manor communities.

History of the site

The brick-and-terra-cotta building fronting the river has a colorful history, dating to its construction in 1922. Listed on city building permits as a garage, it was the site of a prominent police seizure of 50 “cartons” of illegal beer in December 1926, during Prohibition.

All four individuals who were arrested at the warehouse—and charged with impersonating federal agents—were prominent members of the so-called North Side Gang. All suffered violent fates. Vincent “The Schemer” Drucci was killed a year later by a police detective. Brothers Frank and Pete Gusenberg both died in 1929 in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. And George “Bugs” Moran—who had narrowly escaped the Massacre—died in prison in 1957, following a series of arrests.

According to a 1928 directory, the building housed the Northwest Sales Company, while the brick structure across the alley was an auto repair garage. In 1954, both buildings became the home to Kritzer Radiant Coil, which manufactured heating units. In 1959, that company moved to suburban Batavia, following numerous complaints by the RMIA to city zoning officials about excessive noise.

The next occupant, Osgood Displays, manufactured convention materials and operated here until Summit Industries moved in during the 1980s. Summit, which manufactures diagnostic radiographic equipment, plans to relocate to a suburban site later this year.



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