



# MANOR NEWS

SPRING

2017

## Event Calendar

### Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., Apr. 15, 10 a.m., Ravenswood Manor Park, Eastwood and Manor

### Earth Day Cleanup

Sat., Apr. 22, 9 a.m. – noon, Buffalo, Horner, and Ravenswood Manor parks

### Semi-Annual Meeting

Mon., Apr. 17, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

### Manor Garage Sale

Sun., May 21, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Weekly and Monthly Events:

#### RMIA Board

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

#### Horner Park Advisory Council

1st Mondays of the month, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House

#### CAPS-17th District, Police

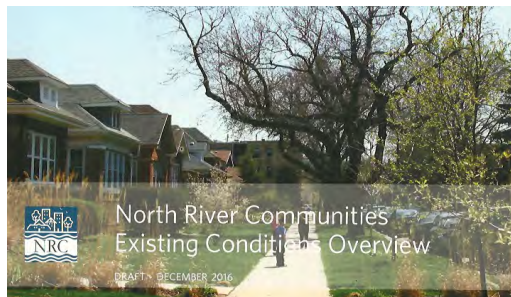
**Beat 1724** (south of Wilson Avenue)  
Wed., May 17, 6:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House

#### CAPS-17th District, Police

**Beat 1713** (north of Wilson Avenue)  
Wed., May 24, 6:30 p.m., North Park Campus Center, 5000 N. Spaulding Ave.



## Current Issues



Two current projects affecting Ravenswood Manor residents are the “North River Communities Plan” (boundary map, top left) and the Peoples Gas Main Replacement Project. Both will be topics at the RMLA Semi-Annual Meeting on April 17th. (Credit: Peoples Gas)

The RMIA’s Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, April 17th, in the Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave. At least two current issues are scheduled for discussion at this meeting:

### North River Communities Neighborhood Plan

In January, the “North River Communities Existing Conditions Report” was released for public review and comment. On February 22nd, a large public meeting was held at Roosevelt High School to receive community input on the draft document. Additional community presentations are being made throughout the study area, which is bounded by Bryn Mawr Avenue, the North Shore Channel, Montrose Avenue, and Cicero Avenue.

The 112-page report was prepared by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), in cooperation with the North River Commission and a steering committee of representatives from a dozen civic associations, including the RMIA, along with area businesses and institutions.

Among the issues and opportunities identified in the report are: Housing Affordability and Quality, the Lawrence Avenue corridor, Neighborhood Diversity, River/Parks/Trails, Stormwater and Flooding, and Transit-Oriented Development. CMAP project leader Brian Daly will attend the April 17th meeting, in order to hear from Ravenswood Manor residents and explore their visions for the future of the North River Communities area.

### Albany Park Gas Main Replacement Project

Beginning in late-March—and extending through August—Peoples Gas will be replacing gas mains and service lines in the Albany Park neighborhood, including Ravenswood Manor.

Several intersections along Sunnyside Avenue will be impacted, at California, Francisco, Manor, Mozart, and Richmond, as well as portions of alleys, and the intersection of Eastwood and Manor.

For more information, please see the “Infrastructure” section of Ald. Mell’s web site at [www.33rdward.org](http://www.33rdward.org) or contact her office at [ward33@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ward33@cityofchicago.org)



*Photo: Steve Shanabroch*

*Raised beds at Peterson Garden Project's Global Garden.*

## Time to Plant

There are two community gardens in our neighborhood—one small and one large.

The oldest community garden is located at the north end of LaPointe Park, at Manor and Giddings. It was established in 2000 and its raised bed features nine 4 x 7-foot garden plots. To reserve a plot, please send an email to [lapointegarden@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:lapointegarden@ravenswoodmanor.com). A \$25 annual fee is used to defray the costs of tiller rental, composting, etc.

The newer—and larger—community garden is the Global Gardens Urban Refugee Training Farm at 2954 W. Lawrence Ave., on the site of a former candy factory. Established in 2012, this one-acre garden is operated by the Peterson Garden Project to “improve access to fresh vegetables for newly-arrived refugee families and their urban neighbors.” Its 4 x 8-foot plots, when available, cost \$85/year. However, a recent check of the web site ([www.peterson.garden.org](http://www.peterson.garden.org)) says: “Garden Full/Waitlist Full.”

## Welles Park NaturePlace

A fundraising campaign is underway to help create a “natural” play area—for children of all ages—on the site of a former playground in Welles Park, along Montrose Avenue, just east of Western Avenue.

The project is being led by the Greening Committee of the Welles Park Advisory Council (WPAC), in cooperation with the Chicago Park District and the Friends of the Parks. The group has raised more than a third of its goal of \$30,000, which would be used to create the Welles Park NaturePlace. According to the WPAC’s web site, the natural play area would “serve as a wild place, full of hidden nooks, climbing challenges, and buzzing wildlife.”

To contribute to the campaign, visit the project’s crowdfunding site at [www.crowdrise.com/welles-park-natureplace](http://www.crowdrise.com/welles-park-natureplace) or send an email to [wellesparkac@gmail.com](mailto:wellesparkac@gmail.com).



*Photo: Welles Park Advisory Council*



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# Hop Into Spring



*Easter Egg Hunt participants sprint from the gate at the event in 2015 (left), while shoppers grab bargains at the annual Manor Garage Sale in 2016. (Credits: Jim Peters)*

Several neighborhood social activities are planned for the coming months, including:

**The Easter Egg Hunt** for young children will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15th. This annual event, sponsored by the RMIA, will be held in Ravenswood Manor Park. The plastic “eggs” include candy and the hunt also includes a “golden egg” that rewards the winner with a special prize. Note to parents: the hunt is over in less than five minutes, so please arrive early.

**Earth Day** will be celebrated from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 22nd, with volunteer clean-up crews in five neighborhood locations,

including Buffalo and Ravenswood Manor parks. No need to register, simply show up at one of the parks with your work gloves and rakes. These events are organized by the Horner Park Advisory Council’s Stewardship Committee.

**The Manor Garage Sale** will be held on Sunday, May 21st, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This annual event attracts thousands of shoppers who walk the streets and alleys of our neighborhood, visiting more than 100 sale locations. If you would like to participate as a seller, please sign up—by Monday, May 8th—at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com/manor-garagesalesignup/](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com/manor-garagesalesignup/). Late registrants will not be included in the Garage Sale map, which is produced by the RMIA.



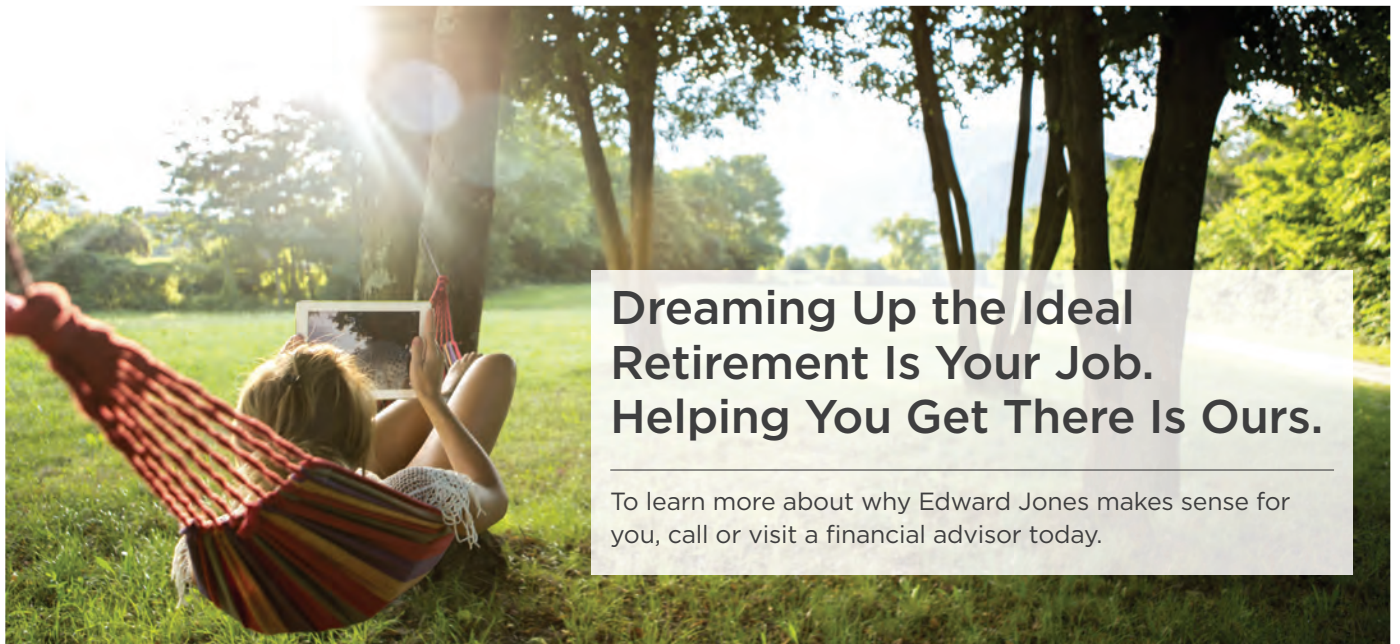


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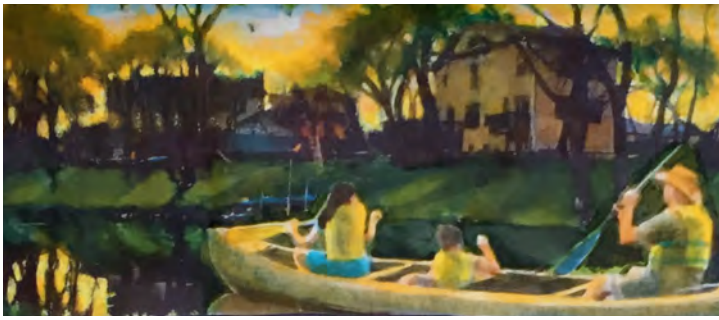
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One of four mural designs for the Wilson Avenue Bridge beautification project, which is scheduled to commence this summer. (Credit: JoAnne Conroy)

## Mosaic Morphs Into Mural

The Wilson Avenue Bridge beautification project, which was announced in the Winter 2015 issue of *Manor News*, has had a change of plans.

According to the Wilson Bridge Mural Committee, the original idea of four mosaic panels on the bridge's concrete approach walls has been abandoned, due to maintenance and safety concerns from the Chicago Department of Transportation.

As a result, the Committee has decided to execute the four original designs—by East Albany Park artist JoAnne Conroy—as painted murals. Work is expected to begin this summer and will be done by Conroy and Manor resident and muralist Thomas Melvin.

Project funding comes from the aldermen representing the two sides of the Chicago River, Ald. Deb Mell (33rd Ward) and Ald. Ameya Pawar (47th Ward), as well as the RMIA and donations from area residents. The nonprofit North River Commission has agreed to serve as a project partner.

If you have questions—or would like to donate to the mural project—please contact the mural committee at [info@wilsonbridgemural.com](mailto:info@wilsonbridgemural.com).

## Don't Be a Sap: Plant a Parkway Tree

The RMIA applied in March to participate in a tree-planting program for the neighborhood's public parkways, which is planned for this fall in conjunction with the Openlands' TreeKeepers Program. If you would like to participate—and have a tree planted in the public parkway in front of your property—please send an email to [trees@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:trees@ravenswoodmanor.com).

This volunteer program allows residents to only pay a small percentage of the cost of the tree planting (usually about \$100). However, the resident also must agree to water the tree during its first two seasons.

Thanks to Lorin Liberson and Linda Kagan for their work on this project.



Photo: City of Chicago

## 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 [pe-ters.e.james@gmail.com](mailto:pe-ters.e.james@gmail.com).



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PHOTO BY DAVID HAWK

## 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  
Suzy Thomas - Treasurer

Web site: [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com)  
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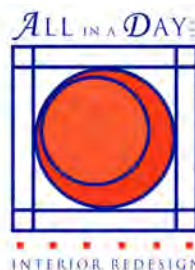


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# I Am Curious (Manor)

By Jim Peters

**Q:** A recent article in *Manor News* (Fall 2016) reported that a former professional baseball player, Fred Pfeffer, lived in the neighborhood in the 1930s. In light of the Chicago Cubs' recent World Series championship, are there any famous Cubs players who resided in the Manor?

**A:** Cubs third baseman Ransom "Randy" Jackson (1926 -) reportedly lived in the house at 2858 W. Wilson Ave. with his wife, Ruth, from 1952 to 1954. Longtime residents say they remember him riding the "L" to Wrigley Field on game days. Jackson's seasons playing for the Cubs were 1950-55 and 1959. He also played for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians.

Jackson recently coauthored "Handsome Ransom Jackson: Accidental Big Leaguer." The title alludes to a nickname he was given by a sportswriter early in his career. The subtitle refers to Jackson's contention that he was a better golfer and football player—two sports that paid much less, at the time, than baseball. Following Jackson's baseball retirement in 1959, he worked in the insurance business in Athens, Georgia, where he still resides.

Last year, Jackson was nominated by the *Chicago Tribune* for the "All-Time Chicago Baseball Team" (finishing behind Ron Santo at third base). A two-time All Star, Jackson hit at least 19 home runs in three consecutive seasons and finished his decade-long career—which was cut short by a serious injury—with a batting average of .261.

Another Cubs All-Star player, catcher Gabby Hartnett, also is rumored to have lived in the neighborhood while running a bowling alley in Skokie, although no Manor address has been confirmed. Hartnett played for the Cubs from 1920 to 1940. He died in Park Ridge in 1972.



Former Chicago Cubs ballplayer Ransom "Randy" Jackson resided at 2858 W. Wilson Ave. in the early 1950s.

For more information about other famous Manor residents, check out the self-guided tour, "Tall Tales and Colorful Characters," which can be found under the "History" tab of the Manor's web site ([www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com))

*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](mailto:peters.e.james@gmail.com)*

## 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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## Manor Details



*The decorative railing design of the Lawrence Avenue Bridge over the Chicago River dates to 1919—ten years after the founding of Ravenswood Manor.*

If you have a detail you'd like to submit for this new feature, please send it to [manordetails@gmail.com](mailto:manordetails@gmail.com).

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## Business Profile: Lena Rose

By Kathy Monk



After becoming sick from working in a nail salon, Jenny Duranski decided in late-2016 to open her own store in Ravenswood Manor, in order to provide one-stop shopping for healthy beauty and baby products.

Located on Manor Avenue, just north of the Francisco L station, Lena Rose Natural Beauty is the first and only

true green boutique in Chicago, according to Duranski. The store offers waxing, sugaring, facials, as well as natural products and gifts. It also hosts various roundtable events and master classes, where women-owned, local skincare vendors are able to talk about their various products. CPR classes also have been held, along with a regular story hour.

Look for the event calendar on the store's website and stop by to check out a wide range of vegan, non-toxic, organic local products for the whole family. Best of all, Lena Rose Natural Beauty donates 20% of its profits to a different local charity each month.

### Lena Rose Natural Beauty

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