



# MANOR NEWS

SUMMER

2018

## Event Calendar

### Independence Bike Parade:

Sat., June 30, 9:45 a.m., Buffalo Park,  
4500 N. Manor Ave.

### Horner Park Brew Fest:

Fri., July 13, 6-10 p.m., Horner Park,  
2741 W. Montrose Ave.

### Manor Garden Walk:

Sun., July 22, 1-4 p.m., Ravenswood  
Manor Park, 4626 N. Manor Ave.

### Riverfront Festival:

Sat., Sept. 8, Horner Park,  
Montrose Avenue Bridge

### RMIA Annual Meeting:

Wed., Oct. 10, 7 p.m.,  
Horner Park Fieldhouse

### Weekly and Monthly Events

### Horner Park Farmer's Market:

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., California  
and Montrose

### Horner Park Advisory Council:

1st Mondays of the month  
(except August), 7 p.m., 2nd floor,  
Horner Park Fieldhouse

### RMIA Board:

2nd Mondays of the month, 7 p.m.,  
2nd Floor, Horner Park Fieldhouse  
(please confirm schedule at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com))

### CAPS—17th District, Police Beat 1724:

3rd Tuesdays of most months, 7 p.m.,  
Horner Park Fieldhouse (please confirm  
schedule at [www.chicagopolice.org/caps/district17](http://www.chicagopolice.org/caps/district17))

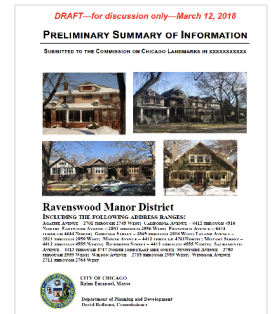
### Summer Concert Series:

Two Fridays a month, 7 p.m., Ravenswood  
Manor Park (see article on page 3)

## Block Meetings to Discuss Landmark Issue



*Consultant Terry Tatum (left) presents the results of a research study of Ravenswood Manor (right) at RMIA's Semi-Annual Meeting on April 2nd.*



The potential designation of Ravenswood Manor as a Chicago Landmark District was discussed April 2nd at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

The topic was a 57-page research report, entitled "Preliminary Summary of Information: Ravenswood Manor District," which was written by architectural historian Terry Tatum at the request of the RMIA Board. It is available at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com/landmark-district/](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com/landmark-district/).

On April 9th, at its regular monthly meeting, the RMIA Board agreed to facilitate block-by-block meetings throughout the neighborhood, in order to discuss the re-

port's preliminary findings, as well as the "pros and cons" of a potential local landmark district. These meetings will be held throughout May and June.

If you are unable to participate in your own block's meeting and would like to attend another one, please check out <http://bit.ly/RMIALDINFO>. Click on the menu bar at top left to find the list of block meetings. You'll also find other informational materials on this site.

If you have a question or comment about a potential local landmark district, please send an email to [landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com) or write a note to the RMIA Board at P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.

## Manor Avenue and Wilson Bridge Closures

The Chicago Department of Transportation will be closing the Wilson Avenue Bridge over the North Branch of the Chicago River from June 11th to July 23rd, in order to clean and replate ten steel beams that have deteriorated.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Department of Water Management has announced that a two-block section of Manor Avenue, between Eastwood and Leland avenues, will be closed temporarily later this summer (July or August) to permit the replacement of a large water main.

The closure of Manor Avenue will last approximately three weeks, but is not expected to affect the operation of CTA Brown Line trains, the Francisco L station, or pedestrian movement across the tracks.



*The RMIA's annual Easter Egg Hunt, which traditionally was held in LaPointe Park, was moved to Manor Park in 2017 due to flooding problems.*

## LaPointe Park Redesign

The RMIA's Parks and Parkways Committee is reviewing several design proposals for LaPointe Park, a triangular-shaped parcel located at the corner of Giddings and Manor avenues. The park's landscape plan is showing signs of wear, while periodic flooding has limited its use.

There will be a project update in the Fall issue of *Manor News*. On Wed., Oct. 10, at 7 p.m., there will a discussion of the redesign proposals at the RMIA's Annual Meeting in the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

LaPointe Park is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago, but it has been maintained by RMIA since 1977, when it was named for longtime resident Arthur J. LaPointe.

## Manor's Garden Party

This year's "Manor Garden Walk" will be held from **1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 22nd**. Visitors can pick up a list of participating gardens under the pergola in Ravenswood Manor Park, 4626 N. Manor Ave.

This year will mark the 61st anniversary of the first garden walk in 1957, which was started as a way to view the prize winners of the Manor Lawn and Garden Club Contest.

If you are interested in having your garden (front and/or rear) featured in this year's Garden Walk, please email Jeff Sell, the event's volunteer coordinator at: [jeffreysell@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreysell@gmail.com).



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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."

### RMIA Board

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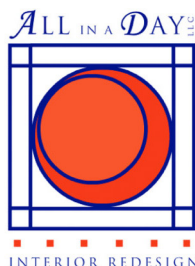
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E-mail: [board@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:board@ravenswoodmanor.com)

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

*Manor News* is delivered to residents and businesses by volunteer block captains. Past issues are available on our web site (see "Communications"). Editor: Jim Peters; Design and Layout: Steve Shanabruch; Advertising: Thomas Applegate.



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## Music and Theater in the Parks

The 24th season of the Summer Concert Series will include 13 events in our neighborhood parks, including free concerts, plays, and a movie. The series begins Friday, June 8, and concludes Saturday, Sept. 29.

The series is organized by the Horner Park Advisory Council, with the support of several sponsors, including the RMIA. There will be seven Friday night (and one Sunday night) concerts in Ravenswood Manor

Park, three Saturday afternoon theater performances (and one Saturday night concert and movie) in Horner Park, and one Saturday night concert in Sunken Gardens Park.

The events in quotes are plays or movies; all others are musical performers. Please mark your calendar with the following:

Fri., June 8, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Chris Waltz with Colby Maddox

Fri., June 22, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Horner Park Jazz Band

Fri., July 6, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Temperance Brass Quintet

Sun., July 8, 3 p.m., Manor Park – Narloch School Piano Recital

Sat., July 14, 7 p.m., Horner Park – Horner Fest, Hokulea Academy, and “Back to the Future”

Fri., July 20, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Generation

Sat., July 21, 1 p.m., Horner Park – Theater Hike: “Arabian Nights”

Fri., Aug. 3, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Lonesome Still

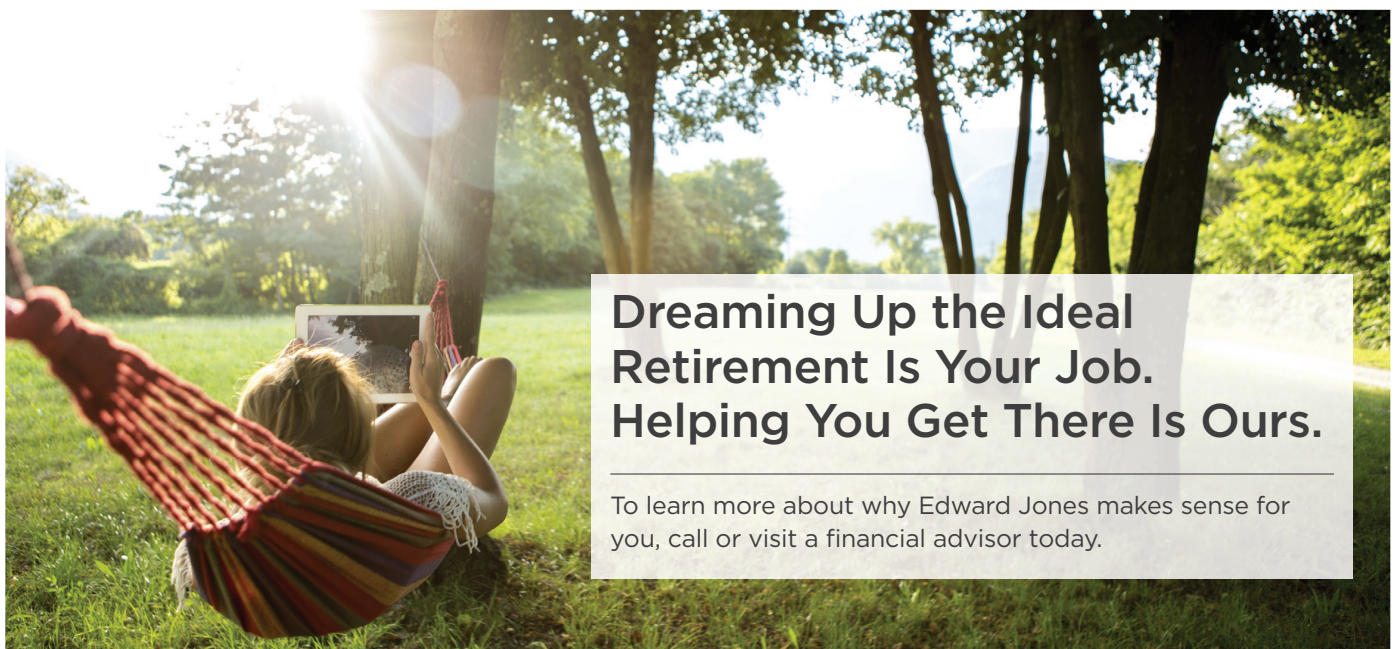
Fri., Aug. 17, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Windy City Bluegrass

Sat., Aug. 18, 1 p.m., Horner Park – Theater Hike: “The Importance of Being Earnest”

Sat., Aug. 18, 7 p.m., Sunken Gardens Park – David Bloom School of Jazz

Fri., Aug. 31, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Rokko Jans/Neighborhood Talent Show

Sat., Sept. 29, 1 p.m., Horner Park – Theater Hike: “Frankenstein”



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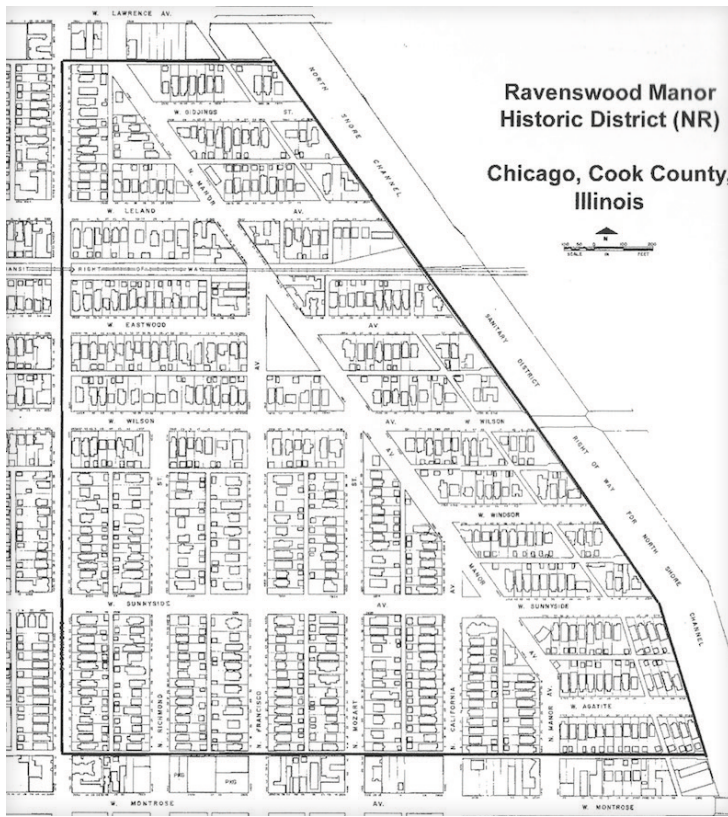
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Map of the existing National Register Historic District. The boundaries of a potential Chicago Landmark District would likely be similar.

## Common Questions Chicago Landmarks:

The following has been adapted from a document prepared by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD), entitled: "Questions and Answers for Owners of Proposed Chicago Landmarks." Please note: Ravenswood Manor has not been proposed as a Chicago Landmark District. It is simply a matter being discussed as a future possibility.

### Q: What are the restrictions on properties in Chicago Landmark Districts?

A: After a district is proposed for Chicago Landmark status by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (CCL)—and following its designation by the Chicago City Council—all building permit applications are evaluated to determine whether the work will affect what are called "significant historical and architectural features" of the proposed landmark district. Any work on these features must be approved by the CCL (through the staff of DPD's Historic Preservation Division).

Those significant features are defined by the CCL at the beginning of the designation process and are codified in the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council. [The preliminary research report for Ravenswood Manor identifies its "period of significance" as buildings constructed prior to 1933.] For most landmark districts, the significant features typically are the exterior building elevations visible from the public right-of-way, except regarding work involving demolition.

### Q: When is a building permit required and for what kind of work?

A: No additional City permits are required for buildings in Chicago Landmark Districts. The CCL simply reviews permits as part of the normal building permit process. Annually, the CCL reviews some 2,000 permits for Landmark properties, most of which are approved in one day. Routine maintenance work, such as painting, landscaping, and minor repairs, does not require a building permit.

Under the City's Rehabilitation Code, there is also a special historic preservation provision that allows for greater flexibility in applying the Building Code to designated landmarks in order to preserve significant features of such buildings. More information on getting a permit is available from the staff of DPD's Historic Preservation Division.

### Q: How does the CCL evaluate proposed changes to existing buildings or the design of new construction?

A: The CCL has established criteria to evaluate permit applications for both renovations and new construction. These criteria and the CCL's review procedures are published as part of the *Rules and Regulations of the Commission of Chicago Landmarks*. The basis for the criteria is the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings*. The CCL also has adopted policies regarding many aspects of rehabilitation work; these include those detailed in *Guidelines for Alterations to Historic Buildings and New Construction*, which is available from DPD's Historic Preservation staff.

### Q: Does the CCL have jurisdiction over zoning?

A: The CCL has no jurisdiction over zoning. It can, however, recommend reductions in the depth of required building setbacks in certain instances to ensure that the character of a landmark district is maintained.

### Q: How does landmark designation affect property values? Would landmark designation affect property taxes?

A: Both of the above are frequently asked questions. As far as the value of property is concerned, the factors affecting value are quite varied and depend on the individual property, its location, etc.; in the eyes of some buyers, landmark designation is regarded as an asset, and both real estate advertisements and real estate agents often tout this as a selling point. Studies on the effect of landmark district designation on property values have generally shown that it does not have a negative impact on property values. As far as real estate taxes are concerned, neither the valuation of property by the Cook County Assessor's Office nor the tax rate is affected directly by landmark designation.

### Q: What are the advantages of landmark designation?

A: Landmark status can enhance a building's prestige, increase the value of the property and help stabilize an entire neighborhood. There are also specific benefits available under federal, state, and local economic incentive programs. Additional information about these incentive programs is available from DPD's Historic Preservation staff.

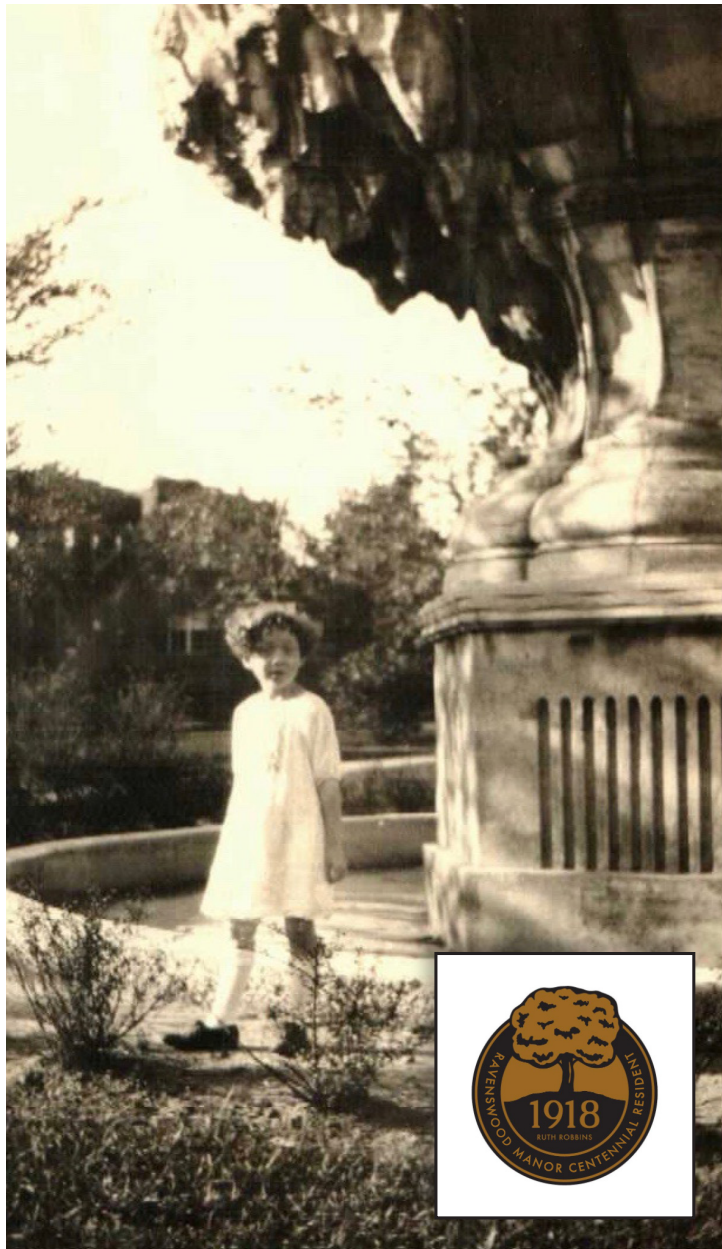


Photo courtesy of Ruth Robbins



Photo courtesy of Chuck Muscheller

RMLA's Research Committee presents Ruth Robbins (center) with a birthday cake and "Centennial Resident" certificate (inset). At left, Ruth in 1924, in front of the "Buffalo Fountain" in Buffalo Park, which was removed in 1941 due to deterioration.

## Centennial Resident Honored

Longtime Manor resident Ruth Robbins was presented on April 29th with a "Ravenswood Manor Centennial Resident" certificate by the RMIA Research Committee.

The award commemorates Ruth's 100th birthday on March 22. Ms Robbins has resided in Ravenswood Manor since 1924—in the same house in which she grew up.

Ms Robbins was among nine Manor residents who were interviewed in 2014 as part of RMIA's Centennial Oral History Project. Those interviews have been edited into a series of short recordings entitled "Manor Stories," which are available in the History section of the RMIA web site at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com/manor-stories](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com/manor-stories).

The Centennial Resident certificate was modeled on the design of the Centennial Home plaque, which adorns many of the century-old buildings in the Manor. Both were created by Steve Shanabruch, who creates the layout design of *Manor News*.



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## Independence Bike Parade

Ravenswood Manor's annual celebration of Independence Day is this traditional bike parade, where children ride their decorated bicycles, tricycles, wagons, and other vehicles along a three-block section of Manor Avenue—sometimes escorted by a Chicago Fire Department truck, as well as other celebrants.

This year's event will be held on **Saturday, June 30th**. Children and their parents should assemble at **9:45 a.m. at Buffalo Park**, 4500 N. Manor Ave. The parade will conclude, approximately at 10:30 a.m., at Ravenswood Manor Park, 4626 N. Manor Ave.

Our thanks to Lisa Jamiolkowski and Cheryl McNally for organizing this year's parade.

Teen or adult volunteers are needed to stop vehicular traffic at Manor and Wilson for the 10-15 minutes it takes for the parade to clear the intersection. Volunteers should arrive at Buffalo Park no later than 9:45 a.m. Please contact Cheryl (cherylmcnally@gmail.com) to let her know if you can help out.

A black and white advertisement for Supreme Beauty Parlor. It features a close-up of a woman's face wearing large, dark sunglasses. The sunglasses have the word 'Supreme' written on them in a stylized font. The background is dark, and the woman's hair is styled in a voluminous, dark bob. Text on the advertisement includes: 'HAIRCUTS AND COLOR! WOW!', 'NEW CLIENTS RECEIVE \$5 OFF!! WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD!', '2944 W. MONTROSE', '773-516-4497', 'SUPREMEBEAUTYPARLOR.COM', and 'LIMIT ONE PER PERSON'.

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## Board Members Wanted

Elections for new RMIA board members—and officers—will be held at 7 p.m., Wed., Oct. 10, at the RMIA's Annual Membership Meeting at the Horner Park Fieldhouse.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed to submit a slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in being nominated for the RMIA Board, please send an email to [board@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:board@ravenswoodmanor.com) or a letter to the RMIA Board, P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625. The deadline for nominations is August 31.



## Manor News Ads

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*Looking north along the Chicago River North Shore Channel (2015 photo).*

## Horner Park Riverfront to Open Sept. 8

Since 2014, the west bank of the Chicago River's North Branch Channel—between Montrose Avenue and Irving Park Road—has been closed to the public. The reason: the \$6.2 million “Horner Park Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project,” which involved the wholesale redesign, engineering, and regrading of a 2,600-foot-long, 14-acre section of Horner Park.

The project was managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in association with the Chicago Park District. Much of the engineering work was completely in early-2015, but the area has been fenced off since then to allow for the establishment of new plantings designed to prevent riverbank erosion, as well as the control of invasive species.

The riverfront restoration project is scheduled to open to the public on September 8th, with an “Riverfront Festival” event sponsored by the Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC). For more details, check the Facebook pages of RMIA or HPAC.



# Meeting Tomorrow

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## Coming in 2018

## Manor Details



*The entry of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence on Sunnyside Avenue.*

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## I Am Curious (Manor)

**Q:** Are there any neighborhood traditions or events that used to happen in Ravenswood Manor—but have since been forgotten?

**A:** During the 1920s, the RMIA's budget included \$6 for "cigars" at its annual meeting. During the 1930s and early '40s, former U.S. Army officer Oberlin Carter held "patriotic poetry readings" in his front yard at 2947 W. Wilson Ave. (see "Notable Neighbors" profile, Spring 2018 *Manor News*). During the 1960s, several Neighborhood Clean Up parades, which included antique automobiles, were held on Manor Avenue. And during the late-1980s and early '90s, neighborhood walks were encouraged on the first Thursdays of the month to promote public safety and community awareness.

Thanks to Brian Basler for the above question.



*A neighborhood "Clean Up" parade in 1965 heads south on Manor Avenue, at Leland Avenue. (Credit: Copelin Photography)*

## Are you curious?

If you have a Manor-related question, please send it to [curiousmanor@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:curiousmanor@ravenswoodmanor.com).

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