



MANOR NEWS

WINTER

2018-19

Event Calendar

33rd Ward Aldermanic Forum

Wed., Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Bateman Elementary, 4220 N. Richmond St.

Mayoral Candidate Forum

Tues., Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Roosevelt High School, 3436 W. Wilson Ave.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m., Ravenswood Manor Park, 4626 N. Manor Ave.

Weekly and Monthly Events

RMIA Board

2nd Mondays of the month, 7 p.m., 2nd floor, Horner Park Field House, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

Horner Park Advisory Council

1st Mondays of the month, 7 p.m., 2nd floor, Horner Park Field House

CAPS—17th District, Police Beat 1724

3rd Tuesdays of most months, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House (please confirm schedule at www.chicagopolice.org/caps/district17)



The RMIA Annual Meeting featured a panel discussion of residents from four existing Chicago Landmark Districts (from left): Caroline Harney, Jackson Park Highlands Association; Joanne Fehn, Villa Improvement League; Paul Dickman, Wicker Park Committee; and Paddy Lauber, Logan Square Preservation. (Photo by Kathy Monk)

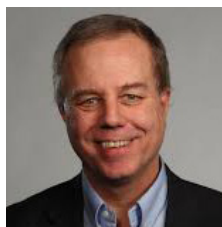
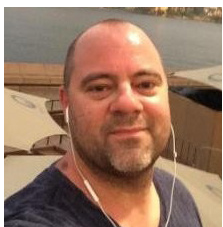
Annual Meeting Report

The 105th annual meeting of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) was held on October 9th in the Horner Park Field House. More than 100 persons were in attendance.

Four existing RMIA Board members were elected to new two-year terms, while eight new RMIA Board members were elected to two-year terms. Three members of the Executive Board were elected to one-year terms. The names of the entire Board can be found on page 2.

Because of the ongoing discussion regarding a potential Chicago Landmark designation for Ravenswood Manor, the majority of the annual meeting was dedicated to a panel discussion featuring residents from four existing local landmark districts.

Representatives from Jackson Park Highlands, Logan Boulevard, the Villa, and Wicker Park were available to answer questions posed by RMIA President Athene Carras, as well as audience members. A summary of the discussion can be found in the Oct. 9, 2018 meeting minutes (which were approved by the RMIA Board on November 12th). These are available on the RMIA web site (www.ravenswoodmanor.com), under the tabs “About the RMIA” and “RMIA Meeting Minutes.”



Meet the Candidates

The 33rd Ward Aldermanic Forum will be held on Wednesday, January 30th, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of Bateman Elementary School, 4220 N. Richmond St. (please use the Sacramento Avenue entrance).

The four announced aldermanic candidates for the 33rd Ward have been invited: incumbent Alderman Deb Mell and challengers Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, Katie Sieracki, and Joel Zawko. The moderator for the forum will be Eric Zorn, a columnist with the *Chicago Tribune*.

The forum is being sponsored by eight of the neighborhood organizations within the 33rd Ward, including the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association.

Left, top row: Deb Mell, Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez, and Katie Sieracki
Left, bottom row: Joel Zawko and Moderator Eric Zorn

BUSINESS PROFILE

Twisted Hippo to Open



The Twisted Hippo Taproom and Eatery is expected to open in late-January at 2925 W. Montrose Ave., in a space formerly occupied by BreakRoom Brewing and Finch's Kitchen.

The goal of Twisted Hippo, which is stated on the super graphics outside the main entrance, is to “embrace your strange” by creating an environment that is “about much more than just good beer.” In a nod to the offbeat, the brewery’s logo features Pinksworth T. Hippoford; aka, Pinky the twisted hippo.

The taproom will offer a bar menu for wine drinkers, cocktail drinkers, and non-drinkers, in addition to a wide range of beers (“beer is a drink not a dare,” the owners say). The food menu will accommodate a multitude of dietary needs, including vegetarians, vegans, gluten-free eaters, and folks with food allergies.

The owners, Marilee and Karl Rutherford, have been brewing on a small scale for awhile, but this is their first taproom. They live nearby and say they hope the venue will become a destination for neighborhood events and gatherings. For more information, including hours of operations, go to www.twistedhippo.com.

Interested in Self Defense?

RMIA Board member Kathy Monk is organizing a self-defense class, which will be taught by an expert in self-defense training. The single, three-hour session will be held in late-spring 2019. Please look for details in the Spring issue of *Manor News* and on the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association’s Facebook page.

Listen to Manor Stories

A series of short recordings featuring the memories of long-time Manor residents can be found on the RMIA web site at www.ravenswoodmanor.com/manor-stories.

The recordings were condensed from oral history interviews conducted by the RMIA Research Committee in 2014.

Left: An unidentified couple in front of the Community House in Manor Park, which was razed in 1957.



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

Athene Carras – President	Mina Marien
Suzy Thomas – Vice President	Alan Mueller
Kathy Monk – Secretary	Jim Peters
Craig Pierson – Treasurer	Deb Robinett
Tony Armour	Bette Rosenstein
Tom Eul	Gary Smith
Brinda Gupta	Joe Valentin
Patrick Johnson	Matt VanderZee
Michael Leff	Lisa Washburn
Elizabeth Lynch	Victoria Wiedel

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

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 Shanabruh; Advertising: Thomas Applegate.

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Design Guidelines Task Force

Last summer, a series of block meetings were held throughout Ravenswood Manor to discuss the potential of a Chicago Landmark District designation for the neighborhood. (See Fall 2018 *Manor News* and <http://bit.ly/RMIALDINFO>.)

One of the main questions raised by residents at these block meetings was how a potential landmark designation would impact the types of exterior alterations a property owner might want to make to their buildings—especially rooftop additions to the Manor’s many one-story bungalow-style residences.

Following the block meetings, the RMIA Board asked its Zoning Committee to consider this topic. To ensure broad representation throughout the neighborhood, the Committee was expanded to 25 members, including the residents who had volunteered during the block meetings.

The Committee held meetings in August and October, where various types of residential additions were reviewed. The Committee will continue to meet over the next few months, with the goal of presenting some initial findings to residents at the RMIA’s Semi-Annual Meeting in Spring 2019.

In the meantime, if you have any comments: 1) you can “submit a comment” at the RMIALDINFO site above, 2) you can send an email to landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com, or 3) you can send a written note to the RMIA Board at P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.

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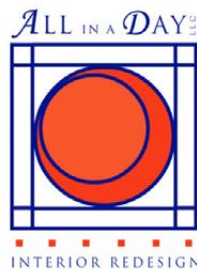


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Map of the garden locations on last summer's Manor Garden Walk

RMIA's Year in Review

The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association is one of the oldest neighborhood organizations in the city of Chicago, dating to 1914. In accordance with the organization's mission statement (see p. 2), the RMIA undertook the following activities in 2018.

CENTENNIAL PLAQUES

Manor property owners whose buildings were constructed in 1918 were given forms for ordering a bronze "Centennial Home" plaque. Forms for houses built in 1919 will go out in early-2019. (The Centennial Home plaque program began during RMIA's Centennial Year in 2014 and covered houses built 1909-14.)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee members finalized the re-design of the RMIA's web site (www.ravenswoodmanor.com), issued a twice-monthly e-mail "blast," published and distributed a quarterly, eight-page newsletter to every household in the Manor, and maintained the RMIA Facebook page. (Committee Chair Victoria Wiedel)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee coordinated activities with other organizations, including the Horner Park Advisory Council, business districts along Francisco, Manor, Montrose, and Lawrence, and sponsors of the upcoming 33rd Ward Aldermanic Forum (see article, p. 1).

EASTER EGG HUNT

This year's Race for the Eggs was held on Saturday, April 1st, and attracted 100 children and their parents to Manor Park. Thanks to Thomas Applegate and Athene Carras for organizing this event.

GARAGE SALE

This annual event, which continues to grow in size, attracted thousands of bargain shoppers to Manor streets and alleyways on Sunday, May 20th. Thanks to RMIA Vice President Suzy Thomas and Social Events Committee Chair Brinda Gupta for helping to organize the event—which involved more than 100 participating garages—and to Ald. Mell's 33rd Ward office and the Chicago Police Department for assisting with traffic management.

GARDEN WALK

Thanks to Jeff Sell, Shelly Staat, and the Manor Garden Club for organizing this event, whose origins date to 1957. This year's garden walk on Sunday, July 22nd, featured 20 gardens and nearly 200 attendees.

HISTORY PANEL

A new "history station" was installed in September on the back of the information kiosk in Ravenswood Manor Park. The panel describes the neighborhood's origins in 1909, as well as some of the events that have taken place over the decades. Thanks to the RMIA's Research Committee (Jackie Klein, chair) and the Horner Park Advisory Council for their assistance on this project, and thanks to Thomas Applegate and David Pott for installation services.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

RMIA maintains and funds the installation of the illuminated "snowflakes" that surround Buffalo and Manor parks over the holiday season. Unfortunately, due to electrical problems and newly-installed streetlight poles, only half of the eight snowflakes are operational this year. Thanks, also, to Brian Basler for installing the holiday wreath and lights on the gazebo in Ravenswood Manor Park.

INDEPENDENCE BIKE PARADE

Thanks to Lisa Jamiolkowski and Cheryl McNally for organizing this event on June 30th, which attracted more than 100 children and their parents for a four-block-long parade along Manor Avenue. Free paletas were handed out at the parade's terminus in Manor Park. Thanks, also, to the Chicago Fire Department for leading the parade with a fire engine and for the numerous volunteers that helped with traffic control.

LANDMARK DISTRICT REPORT

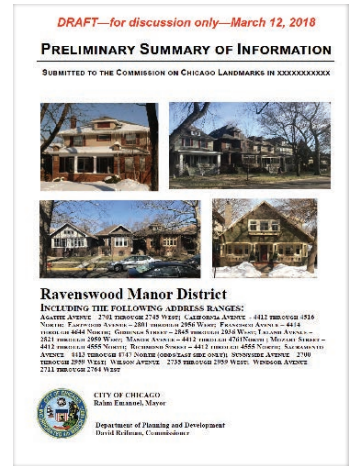
Last year, the RMIA commissioned an architectural historian to prepare a report on the significance of Ravenswood Manor as a potential local landmark district. After the 47-page report was issued in April, the RMIA sponsored a series of 19 block meetings during the summer to discuss the findings of the report, as well as the potential implications of a landmark district (see *Manor News*, Fall 2018). The matter has been referred to the RMIA's Zoning Committee for further discussion (see below).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This five-member group submitted the slate of potential RMIA Board members for election at the Annual Meeting on October 9th. (Committee Chair Mina Marien)



Bronze plaques, which are purchased by property owners, show the construction dates of 100-year-old buildings in the Manor.



From left: the new history panel in Manor Park, a holiday “snowflake” and a district sign, and the cover of the research report for Ravenswood Manor.

PARKS AND PARKWAYS COMMITTEE

This committee maintains the plantings along the east entrance ramp to the Francisco “L” station, coordinates biennial tree plantings in the public parkways, and is working on improvement plans to LaPointe Park at Giddings and Manor; see story, page 7. (Committee Chair Deb Robinett; former chair Lorin Liberson)

SAFETY COMMITTEE

This committee monitors CAPS meetings held by the Chicago Police Department (see Calendar, p. 1) and coordinates responses to safety issues with Ald. Mell’s 33rd Ward office. (Committee Chair Joe Valentin)

SUMMER CONCERTS

The RMIA sponsored one of the Friday night summer concerts held in Ravenswood Manor Park, which are organized by the Horner Park Advisory Council.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

This committee participates in the monthly 33rd Ward Transportation Action Committee (TAC) and monitors other transportation-re-

lated issues, including the CTA Francisco station and street/bridge closures. (Committee Chair Bette Rosenstein)

WELCOME WAGON

Postcards are sent to new Manor residents, welcoming them to the neighborhood and providing key information, including links to the RMIA web site and Facebook page. (Membership Committee Chair Craig Pierson).

ZONING COMMITTEE

The Current Projects subcommittee monitors requests for zoning variances and assists, where requested by Ald. Mell’s office, in scheduling neighborhood meetings to discuss new projects. This fall, the full (25 member) committee began discussion of potential design guidelines for building additions, as a follow up to this summer’s block meeting discussions regarding a potential local landmark district; see article, p. 3. (Committee Chair Jim Peters)

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the above activities—or in serving on any of the RMIA’s Committees—please send an email to president@ravenswoodmanor.com.



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Cover of a new plan for an area of Albany Park that includes Ravenswood Manor

Neighborhood Plan Adopted

A new plan for the Albany Park area, which includes Ravenswood Manor, was approved by the North River Commission (NRC) Board on November 13th. Entitled “North River Communities Neighborhood Plan,” the document is available for viewing or downloading at <http://bit.ly/NRC-CMAP-plan>.

The plan was prepared by the NRC and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and guided by a community steering committee, which included a representative of the RMIA. Stakeholder interviews, business and resident surveys, and an Existing Conditions Report took place in 2016-17 (see *Manor News*, Fall 2016), while the final document was drafted this year.

Chapter headings of the plan include: Neighborhood Diversity; Lawrence Avenue; Housing Affordability, Choices, and Quality; Transit Oriented Development; Community Safety; Stormwater and Flooding; and Rivers, Parks and Trails.

The plan covers 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. Ravenswood Manor is located at the east edge of the planning area.



Dormer on early (c.1910) house in the 4500-block of Sacramento Avenue

Do-It-Yourself Walking Tours

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

TOURS ON THE WEB SITE
(ravenswoodmanor.com/walking-tours):

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



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SUZY THOMAS

Let’s Get to LaPointe: Raising Funds for Its Improvement

By Deborah Robinett and Mina Marien

The RMIA’s Parks and Parkways Committee has been working on plans to refurbish Arthur J. LaPointe Park at the corner of Manor and Giddings avenues (see *Manor News*, Summer 2017).

After seeking and receiving input from local neighbors, the committee asked multiple landscape designers to submit plans that would resolve the park’s standing water issues, while also leaving space for young children to engage in open play.

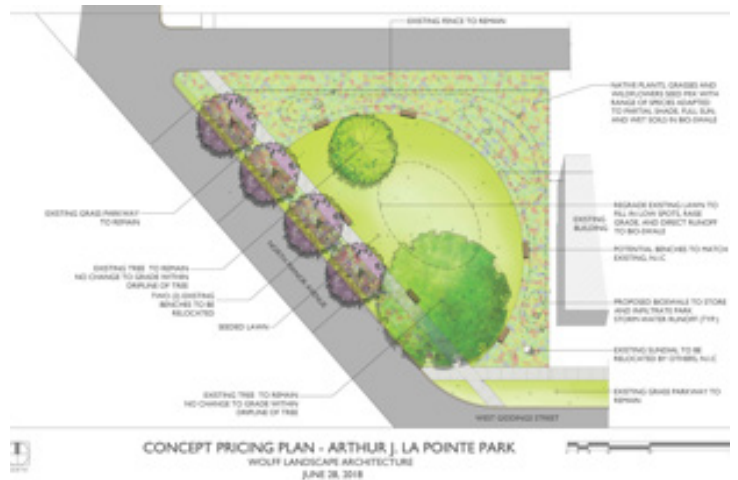
At the RMIA Board’s September 2018 meeting, the committee presented its preferred plan by Wolff Landscape Architecture, and it was unanimously approved. This plan, designed by Ravenswood Manor neighbor Ted Wolff, includes: regrading the park, relocating the sundial, removing underutilized garden planter beds, and planting pollinator-friendly native plants. The design centers around a semi-circular lawn area designed for family play.

The plan also called for the removal of the park’s ailing trees, which took place on Nov. 27th, in collaboration with NeighborSpace, the nonprofit organization that leases the triangular-shaped park from its owners, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.


The committee has launched a fund-raising campaign to support the cost of park benches and other items that fall outside of the general landscaping budget, which RMIA has agreed to fund. To facilitate these donations, the Committee has started a Go Fund Me page at <https://tinyurl.com/LaPointeFund>.

In the coming months, the committee will be seeking volunteers for spring planting and garden maintenance. Interested individuals can contact laponitepark@ravenswoodmanor.com to sign up.

Marien and Robinett are members of the RMIA Board and its Parks and Parkways Committee.



Construction is expected to start in mid-2019 on a new landscape design for LaPointe Park that will feature “pollinator-friendly native plants” and a lawn play area.



Meeting Tomorrow

is proud to make the Manor our new home!

Coming in 2018

Membership Renewal Reminder

Ravenswood Manor remains a strong community due to the collective efforts of its residents, as well as to its neighborhood organization—one of the oldest in Chicago (founded in 1914).

The efforts of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association's many volunteers are described elsewhere in this newsletter. However, many of these projects wouldn't be possible without the financial support of our members. Thus, we strongly urge you to either renew your membership or to join us for the first time.

Our membership year began on November 1st and a membership renewal form recently was sent to all of the households in the neighborhood. But, if you've misplaced that letter, do not despair. There are three other ways to join RMIA:

1. Complete the membership form below and mail it to RMIA, P.O. Box 25486, Chicago, IL 60625.
2. Go to the "RMIA" tab on our web site (www.ravenswoodmanor.com/membership) and pay, either using PayPal or a credit card.
3. Use your Chase Bank or QuickPay account and reference the email: treasurer@ravenswoodmanor.com. NOTE: This method will save you the cost of postage or us the PayPal processing charges.

Finally, thank you for your continued support.



Athene Carras, President, RMIA

Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association: Membership Form

Pick Your Membership Level: \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10

Please return form to:
RMIA
P.O. Box 25486
Chicago IL 60625

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

Membership is from November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019. Please make your membership payment payable to RMIA. Your personal information will be used only by RMIA for communications with you. RMIA will not sell or share your information.

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

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