



# MANOR NEWS

SPRING

2019

## Event Calendar

### RMIA Semi-Annual Meeting

Tues., April 9, 7 p.m., Horner Park Fieldhouse, 2741 W. Montrose Ave.

### Easter Egg Hunt

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

### Manor Garage Sale

Sun., May 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Manor Bash

Fri. and Sat., June 21-22, Ravenswood Manor Park

### Independence Bike Parade

Sat., June 29, 9:45 – 10:30 a.m., Buffalo Park, 4500 N. Manor Ave.

### Manor Garden Walk

Sun., July 28, 1-4 p.m., Ravenswood Manor Park

### Weekly and Monthly Events

#### RMIA Board

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

#### Horner Park Advisory Council

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

#### Horner Park Farmer's Market

Saturdays (starting June 8), 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Horner Park, California and Montrose

#### CAPS—17th District, Police Beat 1724 (south of Wilson)

3rd Tuesdays of most months, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House

#### CAPS—17th District, Police Beat 1713 (north of Wilson)

4th Tuesdays of most months, 7 p.m., North Park Campus Center, 5000 N. Spaulding Ave. (please confirm schedules at [www.chicagopolice.org/caps/district17](http://www.chicagopolice.org/caps/district17))



Scenes from prior spring events (clockwise, from top): egg hunters sprint from the starting line in 2015, a handmade sign from the Manor Garage Sale, and a golden egg winner from 2015. (Photos by Jim Peters)

## Hop Into Spring

As the permafrost thaws and the flower bulbs emerge, let's consider some upcoming neighborhood events.

On **Tuesday, April 9th**, at 7 p.m., the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association will hold its semi-annual membership meeting in the lower-level assembly room at the Horner Park Field House. The meeting's two primary agenda items will be: a presentation of the landscape design plans for LaPointe Park and a discussion of potential rehabilitation design guidelines, in the event the neighborhood decides to pursue local landmark district designation (see page 7).

Our annual "Run for the Eggs" will be held on **Saturday, April 20th**, at 10 a.m., in Ravenswood Manor Park. Children participating in the Easter Egg Hunt are divided into two age groups and the youngest get a little head start. Bring a basket for the hundreds of plastic eggs (with candy inside). The plastic eggs are collected after the hunt ends—for reuse next year. Please arrive early. The egg hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m.

The annual Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale will be held on **Sunday, May 19th**, starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. More than 120 households take part, with most of the activities occurring in the neighborhood's 15 alleyways. If you would like to register as a seller, please go to <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/garagesalesignup/>

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

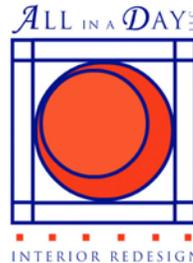
*Manor News* is delivered to residents and businesses by volunteer block captains. Past issues are available on our web site (see "Communications"). Editor: Jim Peters; Design and Layout: Steve Shanabruh; Advertising: Thomas Applegate.

## Self-Defense Class

A self-defense class will be available on Saturday, July 13th, through One Light Self Defense in Niles. The three-hour workshop will focus on simple techniques to release and run from attacks. Participants will learn avoidance tactics, self-defense misconceptions, and offensive/defensive techniques.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, July 13, from 12:30-3:30 p.m., at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr., Niles. The workshop is free of charge, but donations are accepted.

Go to the One Light website ([www.onelightselfdefense.com](http://www.onelightselfdefense.com)) to learn more about the class or contact Kathy Monk, via email, at [kathymonkbnp@gmail.com](mailto:kathymonkbnp@gmail.com).



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# Landmark Initiative Update

By Matt VanderZee

The Zoning Subcommittee of the RMIA continues to explore the local landmark designation process for Ravenswood Manor. To date, the subcommittee has met three times to determine what essential clarifications must be made in order to continue the neighborhood-wide discussion. As there have been varying interpretations of the implications for homeowners regarding restrictions, protections, and process changes, the Zoning Subcommittee has been tasked with seeking a path of clarity and full transparency in cooperation with the Commission on Chicago Landmarks.

As landmark designation would impact any part of a home that is publicly visible, all exterior elevation considerations will be addressed. In particular, the Zoning Subcommittee is working to clarify what, if any, changes can be made to the existing “Guidelines for Alterations to Historic Buildings and New Construction,” which currently govern the standards for rehabilitation for the City of Chicago.

Neighborhood residents have noted specific areas of concern, including visible additions and dormers, clay tile roofs, windows, and porches. Additional clarification will be sought regarding process changes with permitting, documentation, and fee schedules.

Next steps include defining and formalizing questions and clarifications in a precise format to submit to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. The Zoning Subcommittee hopes to make the submission within the next 60 days. The content of the response from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks will determine next steps in furthering the neighborhood-wide discussion.

Please note that the Zoning Subcommittee is currently in an exploratory phase and would welcome additional feedback. Please send comments, questions, or concerns to either the zoning committee ([landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com)) or to the website that’s been set up for feedback <http://bit.ly/RMIALDINFO>.

*VanderZee is a member of the RMIA Board and its Zoning Committee.*



*A block of American Four Square-style houses in Ravenswood Manor*

## Where Can I Find More Information?

**Background:** If you would like to learn more about the potential of a Chicago Landmark District for Ravenswood Manor, please check out <http://bit.ly/RMIALDINFO>. Click on the menu bar (three stacked lines) at top left. Here, you will find a copy of the Preliminary Landmark Report, as well as additional resources, including the handouts for the 21 block meetings held during Summer 2018. You also can find much of this same information on the Ravenswood Manor web site ([www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com)) under “Community: Landmark District.”

**Comments:** If you would like to provide your opinion—or a question—about the concept of a local landmark district, you have several options: 1) you can “submit a comment” at the RMIALDINFO site above, 2) you can send an email to [landmarkdistrict@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto: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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NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

June Bacon and Fred Popp: Beauty and the Banker

By Debra Desmond

[Most of the articles in this series of "Notable Neighbors" have focused on individuals who have had a positive impact in their community, such as: Lela Mueller and Bess Recoschewitz, who started a candy company in their Manor home; Abe Saperstein, who founded the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team; and Marian Wrobel, one of the city's first policewomen. This installment of "Notable Neighbors" depicts a sketchier tale and we apologize if any readers are offended by its content. But, nonetheless, it is part of the history of Ravenswood Manor. - Ed.]

In 1923, a Ravenswood Manor bungalow became the object of national interest, after newspaper and magazine articles described a 53-year-old disgraced local banker and the residential "palace" he had built for his singer-girlfriend.

Part of the fascination was the "secret tunnel" the married banker had constructed between the house and the garage, apparently to hide his comings and goings and to "avoid soiling" his girlfriend's satin shoes in inclement weather. One headline in the Indianapolis Star (June 17, 1923) described it as "The Infatuated Banker's Secret Tunnel to the Beauty's Bungalow."

The banker was Fred W. Popp (1870-1923), who had risen from a struggling mail carrier in the 1890s to the founder and president of the Logan Square Trust and Savings Bank, largely due to his wise investments in real estate in the Logan Square area, as it rapidly developed during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. The bank occupied a 1922 Neoclassical structure at the corner of Logan Boulevard and Milwaukee Avenue, while Popp resided nearby (3230 W. Belden Ave.), with his wife Mary E. (Wheeler) and their three children.

One of the bank's investments was a company in southern California and it was on a train trip to Los Angeles in the early 1920s where Popp met June Bacon, a singer and native of South Bend, Ind. Shortly thereafter, Popp purchased a corner lot in Ravenswood Manor, where built a one-story bungalow-style residence at 2814 W. Sunnyside Ave.

Bacon's friends later confirmed Popp's devotion to her in the form of jewelry, a lavish lifestyle, and the house itself, which the Chicago Daily Tribune reported was "the last word in architectural coquetry with its long, low lines, balconies, and its subterranean passage to the garage." Another article noted the house's Persian rugs, velvet drapes, grand piano, and maid service.

So, why did all of this capture the attention of the news media at the time?

In 1922, acting on reports from bank depositors, the state of Illinois had conducted an investigation of the Logan Square Trust and Savings Bank. Shortages of \$206,000 (\$3 million in current dollars) were uncovered and the bank president (Popp) faced charges of forgeries on a series of bank notes, while the bank's vice president (David Wiederman) was later indicted for other embezzling schemes.

Later, it was learned that Popp had paid off another boyfriend of Ms Bacon's, Frank Wozny, with a large sum of money in response to Ms Bacon's threats of a lawsuit against Popp for "alienation of affection." In addition, another woman, Claire Heilman, who was described as a masseuse and friend of both Bacon and Popp, had disappeared under mysterious circumstances.



This Logan Square bank (left) was founded by Fred Popp, whose embezzlement scheme and affair with singer June Bacon captured national headlines, nearly a century ago, in such newspapers as the Indianapolis Star (right).





The infamous Bacon-Popp "love nest" at the corner of Mozart and Sunnyside, prior to its demolition in 1995.

As for Popp, when questioned by banking officials, he justified these interactions with young ladies as time he had "sacrificed outside of business hours to provide advice to girls on various investments."

Facing these mounting legal and financial pressures, Popp apparently took his own life on March 9, 1923. He was found slumped over the wheel of his automobile, with a gunshot wound, near the Chicago-Cicero border.

Fred's widow, Mary, was described in a *Tribune* article as "a 52-year-old, plain, gray-haired woman wearing a sensible, durable wooly bathrobe who lied listlessly on a brilliant brass bed." Conversely, the *Tribune* described Bacon as "a fair-haired floozy who reclines gracefully on silken pillows of a chaise lounge in the luxurious boudoir of the Sunnyside 'Love Nest.'"

After Bacon vacated the house, soon after the newspaper articles, it was purchased by Dr. Louis C. and Madeline Johnston, who resided there with their three children (Louis, Paul, and Catherine) through the 1940s. In 1995, the house was demolished—and the tunnel apparently filled in—to make way for a new two-story brick residence.

*Desmond is a member of RMIA's Research Committee.*

## Manor Details



One of the Manor's original century-old silver maple trees

### Do-It-Yourself Walking Tours

Don't forget that walking tours are available on the RMIA web site.

**TOURS ON THE WEB SITE**  
([ravenswoodmanor.com/walking-tours](http://ravenswoodmanor.com/walking-tours)):

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



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## Need a Garden Space?

For those interested in a garden plot in the Peterson Garden, which is located on the north side of Lawrence at Manor Avenue, plots are being assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, please go to: [www.registration@peterson-garden.org](http://www.registration@peterson-garden.org)

## Manor News Ads

We are extremely grateful to the advertisers who help support the production of this newsletter. If you are interested in advertising, please contact Thomas Applegate at [thomasapplegate@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasapplegate@yahoo.com).

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## Wanted: *Manor News* Delivery Coordinator

In order to keep down the costs of our quarterly newsletter, *Manor News* is delivered by a group of neighborhood volunteers. However, we are looking for someone who is willing to coordinate the timely distribution of newsletters to these volunteers four times a year: in March, June, September, and December.

The tasks of the delivery coordinator are: email communications with volunteers, maintenance of delivery spreadsheets, newsletter pickup from printer, sorting newsletters into stacks for volunteers, and delivery of the newsletters to the volunteers.

If you are interested in this community service, please contact us at: [editor@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:editor@ravenswoodmanor.com).

Below is the list of residents who volunteer to get the newsletter to the following blocks of Ravenswood Manor. Our tremendous thanks to these “paper boys and girls.”

- Mary Jo Bitondo (4400-block Richmond)
- Lisa Brennan (4500-block Richmond)
- John Byrne (4500-block Mozart)
- Jan Carlson (4400-block Sacramento)
- Julia and Sophia Florek Carlson (2800/2900-blocks Giddings, 4700-block Manor)
- Adrian Collins (2700-block Agatite)
- John Dickinson (2900-block Wilson)
- Judy Davis Downey (4400-block Mozart)
- Sandy Dubois (4500-block Francisco)
- Rick Glick (4600-blocks of Francisco and Manor)
- Josh and Anna Harris (2900-block Leland)
- Jackie Klein (2700-block Sunnyside)
- Linda Montalbano (4400-block California)
- Rett Nelson (2700/2800-blocks of Wilson)
- Mary Newbold (4500-block California; 2700-block Windsor)
- Mary Prendergast (4600-block Sacramento)
- Hannah and Sophie Richter (2800-block of Leland)
- Eileen Schnepff (2900-block Eastwood)
- Jeff and Shelly Sell (2800-block Eastwood)
- Luisa Shortall (4700-block Sacramento)
- Fran Voegtle (4500-block Sacramento)
- Scott Wheeler (4400-block Manor, 2700-block Montrose)
- Cindy Zucker (4400-block Francisco)

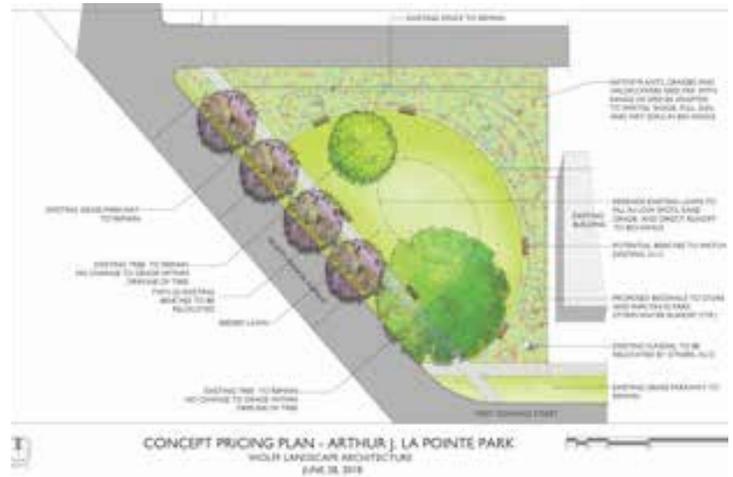


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Chicago, IL 60618



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.

## The Great LaPointe Park Makeover

By *Deb Robinett and Mina Marien*

As reported in the Winter 2018-19 *Manor News*, LaPointe Park, at Giddings and Manor avenues, is scheduled for a redesign. Based on input from residents, the RMIA has committed to making LaPointe Park a more beautiful green space for our community.

To learn more about this project, read below and visit our website at [bit.ly/lapointepark](http://bit.ly/lapointepark) to view plans, to register as a volunteer, and to donate.

**WHEN:** Mid-late April, 2019

### THE PLAN:

Flooding has been a worsening issue for this triangular-shaped park. Consequently, the first order of business will be to strip off the existing grass and to regrade the park. Christy Webber Landscapes will perform this heavy-duty work. Secondly, a large open grassy space will be created as a play area for young children. Third, native plant seeds will be planted around the perimeter of the lawn area. The existing garden plots will be eliminated, due to encroaching shade, underutilization, and necessary repairs.

### VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteers will be needed for some of the work. If you are interested in helping out, please register on our website listed above. We will add your name to our mailing list and we will reach out to you as the project begins.

### FUNDRAISING:

The first three steps described above (regrading, the open lawn, and the native plantings) are within RMIA’s budget for the project. However, we also hope to raise additional funds to allow us to put in “anchor plantings,” including a few substantial bushes, as well as ornamental shrubs and grasses at the north and south ends of the park. We are also soliciting contributions for park benches.

**PLEASE DONATE** at [bit.ly/lapointepark](http://bit.ly/lapointepark).

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



Volunteers at the Fall 2017 tree planting. (Photo by Thomas Applegate)

## Do You Need a Parkway Tree?

Over the past five years, thanks to the Openlands TreePlanters Grants Program, Manor residents have been able to plant more than 70 new trees in the public parkways lining the streets in our neighborhood.

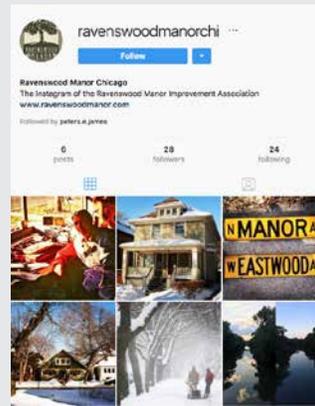
Once again, this coming Fall, we hope to replace some of the older trees that have been lost to storms, age, or insect damages. But we need neighborhood residents to help identify potential planting locations and to co-sponsor the tree plantings.

Openlands will provide the trees--at a greatly discounted cost to property owners of just \$100 (Senior Discounts available through the RMIA). Meanwhile, Openlands' TreeKeeper experts will guide local volunteers in the actual planting of the trees.

If you would like a tree planted in your parkway this coming Fall, please contact us at [trees@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:trees@ravenswoodmanor.com)

Another option is to contact the City of Chicago's Bureau of Forestry by phoning 311. This is a free program, but it often has a long waiting list.

## Follow Us...



A screenshot of RMIA's new Instagram page

In addition to the quarterly *Manor News*, there are several other ways to stay in touch with your 105-year-old neighborhood organization, the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA).

- The RMIA's web site, which can be found at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com), includes a list of upcoming events, information on current neighborhood projects, U.S. census information (from 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940), oral history recordings from longtime residents, do-it-yourself walking tours, previous newsletters, and the minutes from RMIA Board Meetings.
- More frequent community news updates are available, two or three times a month, through *RMIA Email Updates*. You can register for these updates through the RMIA web site at <http://ravenswoodmanor.com/contact/>
- You also can stay up to date—while communicating with your neighbors—through the RMIA Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor](http://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor).
- And, finally, if you'd like to see neighborhood photographs—both current and historical—you can follow our **new** Instagram feed at Ravenswood Manor Chicago ([ravenswoodmanorchi](https://www.instagram.com/ravenswoodmanorchi)). If you'd like to contribute a photo to the feed or be a regular contributor, please contact us at [editor@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:editor@ravenswoodmanor.com).

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