



# MANOR NEWS

## Dear Ravenswood Manor neighbors,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided as a board to publish the spring/summer 2020 *Manor News* as a digital-only product. Though receiving the print issues is a great tradition that we will resume in the autumn, the health of our distribution team is the most important thing right now.

As we figure out how to negotiate this turbulent time, we hope that everyone in the community is staying safe. We're all seeing wonderful examples of neighbors checking in on and helping each other. Please note that Alderman Rodriguez's office has created a Web page with useful resources. Whether you're in need of help or want to figure out how to help others, please visit <https://33rdward.org/covid-19-resources/>.

We thank everyone for being so understanding when we needed to cancel the RMIA semi-annual meeting this spring. We are here to answer any questions you have in lieu of meeting in person. As things change day to day, we will make decisions about upcoming summer events. Please see page 8 for details about receiving timely updates.

During a time of crisis, community bonds make a difference, and our little corner of Chicago is a special place to be. Take care of yourselves, and we look forward to gathering together soon.

Sincerely,  
The RMIA Board



*Manor resident Michelle Cahoon is a regular volunteer at a local food bank. The RMIA has decided to donate funds earmarked for the canceled Easter Egg Hunt and Independence Day Bike Parade to groups helping neighbors in need.*

## Summer Concerts and Other Happenings

In the Fall/Winter issue of *Manor News*, John O'Connell, longtime chair of the Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC) Summer Concert Committee, announced that he planned to resign. After 25 years of bringing concerts, plays, and festivals to Ravenswood Manor, Horner, and Sunken Gardens parks, O'Connell felt it was time to pass on the torch. Neighbors answered his call, and a committee of volunteers, chaired by Jay Lyon, will fortunately continue the favorite summertime tradition.

The RMIA thanks John O'Connell for devoting so much time and energy to bring free entertainment to the neighborhood over the years, including more than 260 concerts, Horner-Fest, and several Manor Bashes. Due to health regulations, the 2020 concert lineup is being discussed at time of press, but possible dates appear on page 7.

### Cancelled Events

Thank you to everyone's understanding as we canceled the Easter Egg Hunt this spring and rescheduled the Manor Garage Sale. At this time, we are also canceling the Independence Day Bike Parade. Though we know this will be

disappointing to the neighborhood's children, their safety comes first.

In addition to the Summer Concert Series, the following two events are still on our schedule for now:

### Manor Garden Walk

As of now, a tour of neighborhood garden walks is still scheduled to take place on **Sun., July 26th, from 1 p.m.-4p.m.** Event organizers are considering social distancing guidelines and will make decisions closer to the date. 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).

### Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale

The annual Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale has been rescheduled for **Sun., Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to 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/garage-salesignup/>.

## Event Calendar

*Please note that these are current dates on the day of publication. As things change, we will be posting updates on the RMIA Facebook page as well as sending out email updates.*

**Manor Garden Walk:** Sun., Jul. 26, 1 p.m – 4 p.m.

**Manor Garage Sale:** Sun., Sept. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### *Weekly and Monthly Events*

**Horner Park Farmer's Market:** Saturdays from Jun. 6 – Oct. 3, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Horner Park

**Summer Concert Series:** see full calendar on page 7

**Horner Park Advisory Council:** 1st Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 2nd floor, Horner Park Fieldhouse (please confirm schedule at [www.hornerpark.org](http://www.hornerpark.org))

**RMIA Board:** 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m., 2nd Floor, Horner Park Field House (please confirm schedule at [www.ravenswoodmanor.com](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com))

**CAPS—17th District, Police Beats 1724 and 1713:** 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Horner Park Fieldhouse (please see note on page 3)

## About RMIA

*Manor News* is published twice a year 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**

Bette Rosenstein – President	Rob Lott
Suzu Thomas – Vice President	Kathy Monk
Mina Marien – Secretary	Alan Mueller
Craig Pierson – Treasurer	Cynthia Mueller
Tony Armour	Jim Peters
Magdalen D'Alessio	Deb Robinett
Tom Eul	Gary Smith
Brinda Gupta	Matt VanderZee
Patrick Johnson	
Michael Leff	

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

Facebook.com/[ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)

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: Brinda Gupta; Design and Layout: Steve Shanabruh; Advertising: Brinda Gupta and Michael Leff.

## Join us...



...and take \$5  
off your first  
appointment

**Supreme**  
Beauty Parlor

2944 W Montrose • 773-516-4497  
[supremebeautyparlor@gmail.com](mailto:supremebeautyparlor@gmail.com)



The RMIA would  
like to thank  
the Manor's own  
"Snow Angel,"  
Tom Bougher,  
for making winter  
easier for all our  
neighbors.

## Neighborhood CAPS Meetings

There is now a single CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting for the whole of Ravenswood Manor! These combined (beats 1713 & 1724) meetings are conducted by CAPS officer Jerry Zanders and give neighbors the opportunity to hear success stories as well as what steps are being taken to fight crime, express concerns and ideas, and become familiar with the beat officers. Officer Zanders said the 17th District police welcome and appreciate the public's involvement, communication, and assistance. Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For now, meetings will be held on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. RSVP in order to attend at CAPS.017District@chicagopolice.org.

## Zoning Subcommittee and Landmark Designation

Over the winter, the Zoning Subcommittee of the RMIA resumed the dialogue about local landmark designation and its possible effects on the neighborhood. Over the last few months, the changing of the 33rd Ward Alderman's Office and its staff slowed talks, but the subcommittee resumed direct communication with the office before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Alderman Rodriguez's staff had made a commitment to help the Zoning Subcommittee during the process of exploration. On the agenda will be discussing design guidelines and appropriate next steps. Due to a shifting of priorities due to COVID-19, the Zoning Subcommittee will likely unfortunately need to table discussion for awhile. Any updates will be sent to the community through email, social media, and the RMIA website.



# Meeting Tomorrow

ANY TIME. ANY PLACE. NATIONWIDE AUDIO VISUAL.



**we're hiring!** [meetingtomorrow.com/careers](http://meetingtomorrow.com/careers)



[www.jillpeetsaponaro.com](http://www.jillpeetsaponaro.com)

*PS* **Jill Peet Saponaro**  
Simplicity Makes a Moving Difference

(773) 687-5152 DIRECT

(773) 562-4006 CELL

[jillpeet.saponaro@cbexchange.com](mailto:jillpeet.saponaro@cbexchange.com)

**Jill lives and has worked in the Manor for the last 25 years - and is in the top 2% of Realtors in Chicago**

**#lovewhereyoulive**



## NOTABLE NEIGHBORS

# Arthur and Kittie LaPointe: Aviator, Dancer, Community Leaders

By Jim Peters

*The recent landscaping work at Arthur J. LaPointe Park (Manor and Giddings) has generated several questions, including: Who was Arthur LaPointe, why was this tiny triangular park named for him, and is he related to Kittie LaPointe, who was the founder and longtime operator of the Le Ballet Petit School of Dance at 4630 N. Francisco Ave.?*

**Arthur J. LaPointe (1902-85)** grew up in North Chicago and Kankakee, Ill., the son of Canadian immigrants. While still a teenager during World War I, he joined a pilot training program where he learned to fly Curtiss JN-4 (“Jenny”) biplanes. Following the war, he opened a radio repair shop on the southwest side of Chicago, not far from the Chicago Air Park (current-day Midway Airport). During his free time, Arthur flew as a “barnstorming” pilot and, according to a biography by one of his children, he survived at least nine “crack-ups” (crashes).

Arthur also ran a skywriting advertising business as well as amateur air shows (circuses), which included such aerial daredevil stunts as individuals walking along the wings of a biplane. According to Arthur, one of his favorite “wing-walkers” was a young dancer named **Kittie Vadis (1915-2013)**, whom he married in 1938.

Arthur began teaching mechanical drawing at Fenger High School in the early 1930s, before starting an aviation program at Calumet High School, where he also taught flying classes. Meanwhile, Kittie had gained fame as a professional ballerina and choreographer throughout the Midwest, including performances at the Civic Opera House and at the Century of Progress International Exposition in 1933-34.

During World War II, Arthur took a leave of absence from the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to help transform Navy Pier into a flight school for the Civil Aeronautics Authority (the current day Federal Aviation Administration). This program helped train an estimated 10,000 naval aviation machinist mates for war service. Following WWII, LaPointe was named CPS’ supervisor of aviation training, setting up shops at Chicago Vocational, Dunbar, Lane, Tilden, and Washburne high schools. These training schools helped meet the growing demand for machinists at aviation factories throughout the Chicago region.



*The triangular park at the corner of Giddings and Manor was named in honor of LaPointe in 1986, the year after his death. (Easter Egg Hunt photo, 2014)*



*Arthur LaPointe (left in 1972) met his wife Kittie (right, c.1935) performing air shows. Top photo: One of the airplane crashes Arthur survived as a pilot. (Photos courtesy of Ravenswood-Lake View Historical Association.)*

### A Move to the Manor

A daughter, Janice, was born in 1942, followed by Suzanne, Arthur J. “Bud,” and Julie. In 1950, the growing LaPointe family bought a house at 2940 W. Eastwood Ave., after considering a move to suburban Lombard, and Arthur and Kittie quickly became active in the community.

In 1954, Kittie began giving dance lessons in her basement for neighborhood children. Ten years later, due to the growing demand, she created the Le Ballet Petit Parents Guild and moved to a former drugstore at the corner of Eastwood and Francisco. Arthur helped build the scenery and props for dance recitals, while Kittie also served on the board of the Chicago Ballet Guild.

Meanwhile, Arthur joined the board of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, becoming its president in 1955, during a somewhat turbulent time in the Manor. Among the issues that the RMIA contested (and defeated) during this period were: a proposed highway along the west bank of the Chicago River; the widening of Wilson Avenue, between Western and Kimball; a proposed furnace manufacturer at 2901 W. Lawrence Ave.; the closing of the Francisco ‘L’ station; and the proposed rezoning of a large portion of the neighborhood for multi-family housing.



*Clockwise, from top left: The storefront of Arthur's car radio shop on Archer Avenue; Kittie and Arthur in the early-1980s; and the current-day LBP School of Dance, which was founded by Kittie in the basement of their home in the 2900-block of Eastwood Avenue. (Photos courtesy of Ravenswood-Lake View Historical Association and Jim Peters)*

Arthur coined the term “A suburb within the city” to help promote the neighborhood as a desirable alternative to the suburban flight. Along with other RMIA board members, he initiated an annual garden walk and the redesign of Ravenswood Manor Park. He also chaired the aviation committee of the Northwest Federation of Improvement Clubs, where he successfully lobbied for the creation of safety and noise corridors around O’Hare Airport, and was an early vice president of the North River Commission.

In 1968, Arthur retired from the Chicago Public Schools, as director of vocational training. In 1972, he was named “Man of the Year” by RMIA and, in 1986, a year after his death, the open space at the corner of Giddings and Manor was redesigned and named in his honor. Kittie finally retired from Le Ballet Petit in 1991—after 37 years—passing away in 2013 at age 97.

In a 2014 oral history interview, longtime Manor residents Don and Eileen Valentin fondly recalled their many conversations with Arthur and Kittie LaPointe. “They were very proper people,” Don said, while noting the incredible contributions that both of them had made to the neighborhood.

## PREVIOUS “NOTABLE NEIGHBOR” ARTICLES

The following profiles of notable residents of Ravenswood Manor can be found in back issues of *Manor News* on the RMIA web site ([www.ravenswoodmanor.com/communications/themanornews](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com/communications/themanornews))

- Marian Wrobel: Policewoman (Spring 2016)
- Michael J. Ahern: Capone’s Attorney (Summer 2016)
- Fred Pfeffer: 19th Century Ball Player (Fall 2016)
- Frank Newell: Eye Specialist (Winter 2016)
- Abe Saperstein: Harlem Globetrotters (Summer 2017)
- Lela Mueller and Bess Recoschewitz: Candy Makers (Fall 2017)
- Oberlin Carter: Figure in Military Scandal (Spring 2018)
- June Bacon and Fred Popp: Beauty and the Banker (Spring 2019)



## Save Our Ashes

The RMIA campaign to save many of our 99 Ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer wrapped up in April. For **much** more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/save-our-ashes>.

Last fall we negotiated a substantial price reduction for interested homeowners to inoculate their Ash trees. The RMIA is delighted to report that through a combination of generous donations from our wonderful neighbors and a contribution from the RMIA we have collected enough money to be able to inoculate the ash trees in the neighborhood in June. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

All of the inoculated trees will receive a new tag once the process is completed. Thanks also to neighbors Lorin Liberson and Deb Robnett who helped make this happen.



From left: This winter, members of the RMIA tied informational cards to affected trees throughout the neighborhood; ash trees in LaPointe Park.

**Investing is about more than money.**

At Edward Jones, we stop to ask you the question: *"What's important to you?"* Without that insight and a real understanding of your goals, investing holds little meaning.

---

Contact your Edward Jones financial advisor for a one-on-one appointment to discuss what's really important: *your goals.*

**Andrew B Gardner**  
Financial Advisor  
4339 W Irving Park Rd  
Chicago, IL 60641  
773-777-7727

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**<sup>®</sup>  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



## Summer Concert Calendar

The 26th season of the Summer Concert Series is organized by the Horner Park Advisory Council, with the support of several sponsors, including the RMIA. Contact Jay Lyon at [jay@lyoncommunications.com](mailto:jay@lyoncommunications.com) to receive concert email updates. These are the dates the committee is currently considering.

Fri., June 26, 7 p.m., Manor Park — Old Town School of Folk Music presents Lush Budgett

Fri., July 10, 7 p.m., Manor Park — Great Moments in Vinyl

Fri., July 24, 7 p.m., Manor Park — ~Nois

Fri., July 26, 7 p.m., Manor Park — Narloch School Piano Recital

Fri., August 7, 7 p.m., Manor Park — Neptune's Core / Lifeguard

Sat., August 8, 7 p.m., Jacob Park — TBD

Sat., August 15, 7 p.m., Sunken Gardens Park — TBD

Fri., August 21, 7 p.m., Manor Park — Generation

Donations to the Summer Concert Series are welcome and can be made at [www.hornerpark.org/donate/](http://www.hornerpark.org/donate/).



The sign for Ruby Cleaners has been a landmark at the southwest corner of Ravenswood Manor for years.

## Developing Ruby Cleaners

A notable landmark to those who frequent Horner Park, Ruby Cleaner's future is under close watch. The proposed plan is to completely remodel the land, on the edge of California and Montrose, into affordable housing. The building would be torn down, and re-built to account for the environmental remediation necessary due to the site as a dry cleaning business. Jae Choi Kim, the owner, wishes to pay homage to her late father, who had a dream of making the neighborhood an affordable reality for others.

Kim plans on selling the land to MVAH, a developer based in Ohio, which presented its proposal to the neighborhood at a meeting on December 16th, 2019. Approximately 150 neighbors attended the meeting, along with Ald. Rossana Rodriguez and her staff. Attendees brought up concerns, including the cost of affordable housing, the development company slated to handle this, and the actual size of each unit. Due to these concerns, MVAH made adjustments to its plan.

In October 2019, MVAH submitted a funding application to the City of Chicago. According to project representative Hume An, a Senior Vice President of Development from MVAH, the city did not award funding for the project. The developer is deciding on next steps as of press time.

For more information, please visit <https://northrivercommission.org/horner-park-lofts/>, which features the original and revised proposals and meeting notes.

# Ravenswood



## Animal Hospital

We Love to Care!

• Wellness Care	• Surgery
• Pharmacy	• Digital X-ray
• Acupuncture	• Chiropractic
• Internal Medicine	• Laser Therapy
• Dental Care	• Diagnostics

**Call today for an appointment!**  
**773-539-7387**

2752 W. Montrose Ave, Chicago, 60618  
Free Parking for Clients



## Follow Us...

In addition to the semi-annual 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 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 Instagram feed at Ravenswood Manor Chicago ([ravenswoodmanorchicago](https://www.instagram.com/ravenswoodmanorchicago)). If you'd like to contribute a photo to the feed or be a regular contributor, please contact us a editor@ravenswoodmanor.com.

## See graffiti; Report graffiti

A recent increase in the number of street tags (graffiti) in Ravenswood Manor and adjacent neighborhoods has caused property owners to be extra-diligent in spotting and removing these tags from their buildings and garages.

In some cases, graffiti is the work of vandals who want to see their "tags" in a public place. In other cases, however, the graffiti is related to street gangs who are either marking their territory or challenging rival gangs. In either instance, experts note, it is important to remove the graffiti as soon as possible. As one gang member was quoted on a police web site: "Most guys do it just to let other people know that it's our neighborhood." The longer it stays up, the gang member noted, the longer the territory is marked.

For instance, the neighborhood history panel in Ravenswood Manor Park recently was defaced with a spray paint tag. It was removed several days later by volunteers, but only after a resident alerted the RMIA to its presence in the park.

In order to keep our parks and other public spaces safe, please help us spot and remove any graffiti as soon as possible. If the graffiti is located in a public space, please send an email to [info@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:info@ravenswoodmanor.com). In all cases of graffiti, you can file a police report, either by using the CHI311 web app or by going on line to [www.secure.coplogic.com](http://www.secure.coplogic.com).



**RICHARD H. FRYE**  
remodeling contractor, inc.

3608 W. Wrightwood Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60647  
(773) 718-0151

[Dick@RHFinc.net](mailto:Dick@RHFinc.net)  
[www.RHFinc.net](http://www.RHFinc.net)



**KANTER TEAM** REAL ESTATE

Your Neighborhood Real Estate Experts

*Relationships Matter*

773.945.0144 | [kanterteam.com](http://kanterteam.com)  
[kanterteam@dreamtown.com](mailto:kanterteam@dreamtown.com)

**dreamtown**

