



MANOR NEWS

FALL/
WINTER

2020



From left: Alderman Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez and staff hand out information and answer questions at a summer event; State Representative Jaime Andrade addresses concerns about neighborhood safety at the RMIA annual membership meeting, held online.

Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) was held on October 19 at 7 p.m., in a virtual format due to current restrictions. This was the RMIA's 106th annual membership meeting, dating back to the organization's founding in 1914.

The RMIA had arranged for the following officials to join the meeting to discuss recent safety concerns:

- State Senator Sara Feigenholtz
- State Representative Ann Williams
- State Representative Jaime Andrade
- Alderman Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33rd Ward)
- Commander Ronald A. Pontecore Jr. (17th District, CPD)

The community had been given the opportunity to submit questions before the meeting and were able to pose additional questions during the meeting. Alderman Rodriguez-Sanchez shared the news that a camera has been installed at California Ave./Montrose Ave. and provided additional details about area initiatives, such as the work of gang investigation units, tactical units, and street outreach and violence interruption workers.

Representative Andrade continued the discussion by sharing his opinion that the area needed more police staffing. He and Alderman Rodriguez-Sanchez shared information about funding from the city and county, pointing out that community pressure on the mayor to allocate resources to the 17th District might be helpful. Commander Pontecore provided several tips for community members to keep safe and engaged,

such as installing doorbell cameras, sharing important camera footage with the CAPS office, and, of course, calling 911 if an incident needs immediate attention.

All the officials reflected on the effectiveness of the community coming together these last few weeks. They are optimistic about state, county, city, and neighborhood officials collaborating on safety moving forward.

Board Elections

Participants in the meeting also elected the following Board members for an additional two-year term on the RMIA Board: Tony Armour, Craig Pierson, Deb Robinett, Bette Rosenstein, Gary Smith, and Matt VanderZee. Patrick Johnson was elected for an additional one-year term

The following RMIA members were elected for an initial two-year term on the RMIA Board: Doug Farr, Andrea Gatewood, Matt McClintock, Dan Pylman, Betty Roggenkamp, Carol Schlensker, and Bob Wolf.

The following Board members were elected for a one-year term as officers: Bette Rosenstein (President), Rob Lott (Vice President), Mina Marien (Secretary), and Craig Pierson (Treasurer).

We thank our retiring Board members Athene Carras, Thomas Eul, Kathy Monk, and Suzy Thomas.

Thanks, also, to the RMIA Nominating Committee for its work in developing the slate of Board candidates. The committee members are Robin Armour, Mina Marien (chair), Jim Peters, Betty Roggenkamp, and Gail Wolf.



The Garden Walk went virtual this year, with entries such as this one from Joanna Mallers impressing neighbors from afar.

Year in Review

The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA) 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. 3), the RMIA undertook the following activities in the past year.

Holiday Lights

With some of the neighborhood's longstanding snowflake decorations facing retirement, the RMIA purchased new sunburst-style holiday lights. Hanging from the pergola in Manor Park, the festive lights are visible from the Francisco "L" stop. Thank you to Patrick Johnson for planning this décor and to Brian Basler for installing a wreath to complete the design.

Centennial Plaques

Manor property owners whose buildings were constructed in 2020 will receive forms this autumn for ordering a bronze "Centennial Home" plaque. The Centennial Home plaque program began during RMIA's Centennial Year in 2014.

Communications Committee

The communications committee continued publishing the Manor News twice a year. This year's spring/summer publication date coincided with the start of Chicago's shut-down measures, so the *Manor News* went virtual for just one issue, archived on the ravenswoodmanor.com site. The committee also distributes news via e-mail "blasts" and updates the RMIA Facebook and Instagram pages.

Community Relations Committee

This committee coordinated activities with other organizations, including the Horner Park Advisory Council, and business districts along Francisco, Manor, Montrose, and Lawrence.

Safety Committee

This year, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) consolidated the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings for beats 1713 and 1724, which cover all of the neighborhood. Members of the safety

committee were present at these regular meetings, which are open to the public. The RMIA has also been in communication with Ald. Rodriguez-Sanchez's office as well as state legislators about the recent uptick in violence (see p. 1).

Transportation Committee

This committee participates in the monthly 33rd Ward Transportation Action Committee (TAC) and monitors other transportation-related issues, including the CTA Francisco station and street/bridge closures.

Zoning Committee

RMIA's zoning committee participated in several conversations with community members and city officials about possible new developments to the neighborhood, including proposed residential buildings on the site of Ruby Cleaners and the space adjacent to the 7-11, neither of which is slated to move forward at this time. Zoning committee members offer input about the proposals and continue to communicate updates to the neighborhood.

Special Events Committee

Spring and summer traditions such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Independence Bike Parade, and Garage Sale had to be canceled this year out of concern for people's safety. The RMIA donated a portion of the special events fund to local food pantries helping the community through this difficult time.

Summer Concerts

A group of volunteers, led by committee chair Jay Lyon, took over for former chair John O'Connell, as he stepped down from his 25-year tenure. The new committee had set their first schedule, including a concert sponsored by the RMIA, when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated cancelling all events. Lyon reports that they hope to preserve as much of the schedule as possible when planning the 2021 season.

Virtual Garden Walk

Though other events had to be cancelled, the neighborhood's gardeners were still able to share the results of their hard work this year when the Garden Walk went virtual. Participants submitted photos of their landscaping, which were published on the RMIA Facebook page on July 26.



New holiday lights on the pergola welcome visitors to Manor Park.



A musical truck salutes the graduates of 2020.

Graduate Celebration

The class of 2020 had to forego many year-end milestones. To celebrate their achievements, the RMIA sponsored a fire truck, complete with photographer and DJ, to drive the streets of the Manor on June 7. Graduates' names were announced as the truck reached their homes, and they were able to pose for photos with their loved ones. Thank you to Patrick Johnson, Brett and Judy Downey, Joe Valentin, DJ Luca Shortall, and announcer Ira Bodenstein for making the event come together and for Zachariah Belsky for donating his truck and his time as driver.

Parks Committee

Last fall, the RMIA planted trees in conjunction with the Openlands Treeplanting Program. Approximately 20 homeowners participated, and a volunteer neighbor workforce put them in the ground, adding to the more than 100 trees already planted in partnership with Openlands.

Over the winter, the RMIA campaign, "Save Our Ashes," to save many of the neighborhood's ash trees from the emerald ash borer was completed. The community stepped up with donations of over \$10,000, and the RMIA paid the difference in order to inoculate ninety-nine trees in June. This inoculation will last for three years. Thank you to Lorin Liberson for spearheading this effort, and also for everyone's support.

The renovation of LaPointe Park continued this year. Overseeding to thicken up the grass, filling in the swale area that had been a problem 'pond' this past year, and reapplying native plant seed around the perimeter of the park were completed. The park was regularly used this summer as a safe place to gather for many!

RICHARD H. FRYE
remodeling contractor, inc.

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

Dick@RHFinet.net
www.RHFinet.net

Ravenswood

Animal Hospital

We Love to Care!

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

Call today for an appointment!
773-539-7387

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

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 <i>President</i>	Magdalen D'Alessio	Jim Peters
Rob Lott <i>Vice President</i>	Doug Farr	Dan Pylman
Mina Marien <i>Secretary</i>	Andrea Gatewood	Deb Robinett
Craig Pierson <i>Treasurer</i>	Brinda Gupta	Betty Roggenkamp
Tony Armour	Patrick Johnson	Gary Smith
	Matt McClintock	Carol Schlensker
	Alan Mueller	Matt VanderZee
	Cynthia Mueller	Bob Wolf

Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com
Facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor
E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com

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 Shanabruch

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 begins on November 1st. A membership letter will be sent to all households. 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. Please provide a street and email address if using Chase Quick Pay.

Finally, thank you for your continued support.

Bette Rosenstein, President, RMIA (Oct. 2019 –)

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, 2020 to October 31, 2021. 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.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail 1 _____ E-mail 2 _____

KANTER TEAM REAL ESTATE

Your Neighborhood Real Estate Experts

Relationships Matter

773.945.0144 | kanterteam.com
kanterteam@dreamtown.com

dreamtown

BOARD OF REALTORS LUXURY REAL ESTATE

yelp FIVE STAR PROFESSIONAL by Chicago Magazine

Google ★★★★★