



# MANOR NEWS

FALL /  
WINTER2022 /  
2023

## EVENT CALENDAR

### Upcoming Events:

- **October 1 - 30:**  
RMIA Hallowalk & Raffle – add your decorated house to the RMIA's interactive map and get entered in the Halloween raffle. Register at [bit.ly/hallowalk](https://bit.ly/hallowalk) by October 31.
- **October 18:**  
17th District (Police) CAPS ("CAPS") Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- **October 19:**  
RMIA Annual Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- **October 31:**  
Halloween in the Manor!
- **November 2:**  
Horner Park Advisory Council ("HPAC") Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- **November 14:**  
RMIA Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- **November 15:**  
CAPS Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

## Join the RMIA Today

The RMIA is run exclusively by volunteers and can only organize neighborhood events (e.g., the Garden Walk, Garage Sale, etc.) and make neighborhood improvements (e.g., the new neighborhood signs) thanks to membership donations. We have big plans for 2023 and community support is the key to achieving our goals. Please consider joining — for as little as \$10 — and together, we can #BeautifulTheManor. Scan the QR Code below to join or donate:



## Manor Happenings

The RMIA has been busy since the last edition of the Manor News! Over the summer the RMIA has sponsored and supported numerous neighborhood events and improvements.



### Concert Series All Summer

It was amazing to have the concert series back in full swing. From Fortunate Sons to Hokule'a, it just feels right to have capacity crowds at Manor Park, neighbors getting together on blankets and lawn chairs, and the sound of music wafting over the neighborhood.

RMIA is one of the largest sponsors of the series, and this year HPAC – the organization that organizes the series – is going to have a small deficit (for the first time in years). Please consider donating to help ensure that this amazing tradition will continue next summer: <https://bit.ly/manorconcerts> or by scanning the QR code.



## About the 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

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### Fall and Winter Events, continued

#### • December 7:

HPAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • December 10:

Ravenswood Manor Park Holiday

Lighting Ceremony – 5:00 p.m. at Manor Park.

Free hot cocoa and snacks and / BYO picnic.

#### • December 12:

RMIA Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • December 20:

CAPS Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

#### • December 10 - 31:

RMIA Holiday Light Stroll – add your decorated house to the RMIA's interactive map and get entered in the Holiday raffle.

#### • January 4:

HPAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • January 9:

RMIA Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • January 17:

CAPS Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

#### • February 1:

HPAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • February 13:

RMIA Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

#### • February 21:

CAPS Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

### Weekly and Monthly Events:

– RMIA Board Meetings – 2nd Monday of the month  
(except for July and August) at 7:00 p.m.

– Horner Park Advisory Council Meetings  
– 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

– 17th District (police) CAPS meetings  
– 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

A list of events with sign-up links can be found on the RMIA's website at [ravenswoodmanor.com/events/](http://ravenswoodmanor.com/events/) or by scanning the QR Code below:





### Manor Happenings, continued



### Garden Walk July 24

The Ravenswood Manor Garden Club's Garden Walk was lovely as usual. Lots of beautiful gardens and an amazing opportunity to meet new neighbors. Thanks to everyone who organized, participated, and attended!



### Summer Kids Bicycle Parade June 18

Dozens of neighborhood children were escorted up Manor Ave from Buffalo Park to Manor Park by a Fire Truck. All were looking festive with decorated bikes and helmets. The parade ended with popsicles compliments of the RMIA in Manor Park. The weather was perfect and it was a great way to kick off the first weekend of Summer Break!



### LaPointe Park Rededication Ceremony June 11

Neighbors gathered on June 11 – after an earlier attempt was washed out by rain – to celebrate the rededication of LaPointe Park after four years of renovations by the RMIA Parks Committee. Highlights included a trumpet performance, remarks and ribbon-cutting by Suzanne Wodka, Arthur



LaPointe's daughter, words of gratitude for the many donors and volunteers, and a ceremonial wildflower seed toss by neighborhood children. Thanks to Cory at Brü Coffeeworks and Andrew at Somethin' Sweet Donuts for donating refreshments to help mark the special occasion and co-chairs, Debbie Robinett and Mina Marien, for putting the event together.





LaPointe Park has become a cherished neighborhood gathering spot — just as we'd hoped. Please consider scanning the QR Code to support the park's ongoing redesign and upkeep. We are improving the park every year, and even small donations help make that possible.



#### Garage Sale May 15

The garage sale was back to its old (pre-Covid) date! As usual, thousands of bargain-hunting shoppers descended on Manor streets and alleyways for the 2022 RMIA Garage Sale. Well over 100 households participated in what continues to be one of the largest and most anticipated neighborhood garage sales on Chicago's north side.



#### RMIA Egg Hunt April 16

The annual RMIA Egg Hunt at Manor Park was as fun and wild – and fast – as usual. At 10 a.m. sharp, hundreds of neighborhood children with baskets descended upon over 1500 eggs filled with goodies. It took approximately 90 seconds for all of the eggs to be collected – pretty much par for the course!



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# Don't Miss The RMIA Annual Meeting – October 19

Don't miss the RMIA's annual meeting on October 19 at 7:00 p.m. Vote on new and returning RMIA Board candidates and learn about the new ECPS Ordinance (including how it can help with violence in our community and how you can get involved). The Board members – new and returning – who are up for election are:

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION:

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <b>Bette Rosenstein</b> | • <b>Doug Farr</b>       |
| • <b>Betty Roggenkamp</b> | • <b>Gary Smith</b>      |
| • <b>Carol McLaughlin</b> | • <b>Matt McClintock</b> |
| • <b>Deborah Robinett</b> | • <b>Matt VanderZee</b>  |

## NEW NEIGHBORS RUNNING:

### • **Alison MacDonald:**

Alison is a 15-year Ravenswood Manor resident with three energetic elementary school aged children. Her family has happily participated in many of the kid-friendly RMIA-led activities and events over the years. She is an involved parent and a marketing communications consultant and has contributed her time and skills to Waters Elementary School over the years, most recently as a Local School Council parent member and previously as a WatersToday board member. She is grateful to live in such a wonderful community and would love the opportunity to serve on the RMIA board.

### • **Daniel Craig**

Daniel moved to Ravenswood Manor with his wife in 2016. They are raising their family, and love that their four-year-old has a group of older and younger kids on their block and hope this group will grow even closer in the years to come. They were drawn to Ravenswood Manor because of its reputation as a close-knit community in the middle of all the city. Dan is good at project planning, management, and fundraising, and he even knows how to use Excel pretty well for being a lawyer. He wants to serve on the RMIA to contribute to the work of preserving the wonderful character of the neighborhood while keeping it welcoming for newcomers.

### • **Danielle Defoe**

Danielle has been a Ravenswood Manor resident since 2020 along with her partner and dog. She loves the neighborhood and the established, close-knit community and plans to live in the area for many years to come. She volunteers at several different animal rescue organizations and Refugee Community Connection – an organization that is helping resettle refugees in the Chicagoland area. She also enjoys gardening and growing food, and in her day job is a Business Risk Intelligence Analyst for AbbVie Pharmaceuticals. She wants to be more involved with goings on of the neighborhood, improvement efforts, and will bring much-needed event planning experience to the board.

### • **Matt Muench**

Matt has been a Ravenswood Manor resident since January 2022 along with his wife (he lived in Lincoln Square for 10 of the last 12 years). He loves Ravenswood Manor for its history, architecture, friendly neighbors, and how long people stay in the neighborhood. He is the Chief Impact Officer for P33 Chicago, a business-led nonprofit founded in 2019 to grow Chicago's technology economy in a way that benefits all Chicagoans. Matt is interested in serving on the Board to help keep it a wonderful neighborhood, respectful of the history and the long-time residents, and welcoming for new arrivals.

### • **Robb Judd**

Robb has lived in Ravenswood Manor for 5 years and his wife, Emily, has lived here over 9 years. He immediately fell in love with the neighborhood (and Emily) when they started dating. Robb and Emily now have a 3 year old son, Will. Robb works in the design and construction industry as a physical accessibility (ADA) consultant which combines his engineering background with his passion for civil rights. His hobbies include woodworking, pickleball, and home renovations / improvements. He is excited to get more involved in maintaining and improving our neighborhood for all its residents by joining the RMIA board.

Craig Pierson (who did a fantastic job as treasurer for many years), Robert Wolf, Daniel Plyman, Andrea Gatewood, and Tony Armour are "retiring" from the RMIA. We thank them all for their efforts over the years! Bette Rosenstein is running for re-election to the board, but is stepping down as President. We greatly appreciate the hard work that Bette has put into the role and all the things that the RMIA has accomplished under her leadership.

## BOARD MEMBERS RUNNING FOR OFFICER ROLES FOR 2022-2023 TERM:

- **Mina Marien – President (was Secretary)**
- **Matthew McClintock – Vice President**
- **Rob Lott – Secretary (was Vice President)**
- **Tony Grief – Treasurer (was already Treasurer)**

Details for signing up to attend this virtual meeting are on the RMIA's website at [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com) or scan the following QR Code:



Finally, even if you are not on the Board, you can support the RMIA's efforts to beautify and improve Ravenswood Manor by renewing your membership and / or serving on a committee (you do not have to be on the board to serve on a committee!). This year we would love help with website redesign and redevelopment, planning special events, and social media – but we welcome anyone who wants to be involved on any committee (parks, safety, etc.). Contact [info@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:info@ravenswoodmanor.com) if interested.






SAVE OUR ASHES

## 2022-2023 Ravenswood Manor ASH TREE FUNDRAISING!



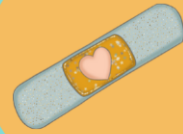
### Thank you, Neighbors!

In 2020, we raised enough funds to protect all 99 of our parkway Ash trees from the devastating Emerald Ash Borer!



### Inoculation happens every 3 years

Ongoing protection of our Ash tree canopy requires inoculation every three years. This means our trees are due in the Spring of 2023



### More information and how to donate:

Protection of our ash trees will cost \$12,348. That's approximately \$125/tree. Visit [bit.ly/ashesrm](https://bit.ly/ashesrm) for LOTS more info (including ways to donate) or scan the QR code.



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## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT:

# Abdul Qaiyum, Manor Neighbor, Pharmacist, and Chairman, Merz Apothecary

By: Renata Jasinski Laszuk

Abdul Qaiyum believes in divine intervention. If not for it, he might never have purchased the original Merz Apothecary a month before it was scheduled to close or moved it to its present location in Lincoln Square, where it flourished.

I met Abdul and his wife Rita at the alley gate between our Ravenswood Manor homes, and they graciously invited me to their kitchen to chat.

"I was born in India (after the partition, the family moved to Pakistan)," Abdul tells me, "and my mother would give us herbs for any little problems. So I knew that there was this way to take care of yourself. But I didn't know what to do with it. So I went to pharmacy school. I came here to study the Western ways and thought I was going to learn something."

At 18 years old, Abdul came to study at the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy. After graduating, he began working at St. Joseph Hospital on



The Shops at Merz



Rita and Abdul Qaiyum

North Lake Shore Drive. That is where he met Rita – a nurse and now his wife of 51 years – at a pharmacy orientation session in 1969.

It was through Rita's family that Abdul was introduced to Merz Apothecary.

George (Rita's brother) came to Abdul, knowing he was a pharmacist, and said, "There's a store this guy wants to sell." That store was Merz Apothecary.

Merz had been founded in 1875, just four years after the Great Chicago Fire, by Peter Merz, a pharmacist of Swiss descent. It started on Little Fort Road (the 2900 block of Lincoln Avenue) and catered to the European families who had expanded north after the fire. Not only was Merz a place to find herbal remedies and natural medicines, but it also served as a gathering place. The store remained family-owned and operated for three generations until Ralph Merz, retiring with no heir to run the business, considered selling or closing.





Original Merz apothecary jars

By this time, Abdul had soured on the practice of Western pharmacy.

"I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to be happy and wanted to feel fulfilled. But I knew, as a pharmacist, I wouldn't feel like that. You worked all these goofy hours, weekends, and holidays, filling prescriptions from a big bottle to a little bottle. I was struggling. I was like a fish out of water."

When Abdul walked into Merz Apothecary, he felt the opposite.

"It was nothing like I had pictured. Just a little shop, but very unique. They had all these herb jars everywhere — all those bottles you now see behind the register. And it was just an amazing feeling place."

Abdul says he didn't use his head. Would the neighborhood accept him, a non-German pharmacist? It made no logical sense, but he decided to take a chance. Not only did Abdul buy the business, but he bought the building as well and came home to surprise Rita, who was pregnant with the first of the couple's three sons.

What did Rita say to that? "Okay, why not?"

So in 1972, 26-year-old Indian-born Abdul Qaiyum became the owner of Merz Apothecary three weeks before it was to go out of business. Abdul's timing could not have been better.

Apothecaries were traditionally the first place Europeans turned to for natural remedies — often before visiting the doctor. That had not historically been the case in the U.S., but after the big pharma-fueled '50s and '60s, American consumers began seeking alternative medicines. Merz was perfectly positioned to meet that need.

After ten years in Lakeview, the business was doing so well that it outgrew its location.

Abdul learned of available property in Lincoln Square, another German neighborhood where Merz might thrive. The building needed work, but if Abdul was willing, it could be his. Abdul put in a bid without even looking at the property, and two days later, Merz had its new home in Lincoln Square.

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They gutted the building and hired an Austrian architect, Peter Wachter, to design the new store.

"I've never been to Vienna; I've never been to Austria. But I asked Peter if he could build me something that would look like in Vienna, one hundred years back in time." And he did. Rita discovered the original tin ceiling and chose the store's color palette. In 1982, the new Merz Apothecary opened for business.

After their eldest son (and now Merz president) Anthony launched Smallflower.com — Merz's online retail store — and, with brother Jeffrey, SmallflowerTV — Merz's online video presence — Merz now shares its products with the world. The addition of the Q Brother's "guys goods" store completed the "Shops at Merz."

Ravenswood Manor became home to the Qaiyums in 2015. They had raised their three sons, Anthony (TQ), Gregory (GQ), and Jeffrey (JQ) — GQ and JQ are the performers collectively known as the Q Brothers — in Edgebrook. Later, two of their sons settled in the Ravenswood neighborhood.

Abdul and Rita were looking to move to downsize and be closer to their sons and grandchildren. When they explored Ravenswood Manor and saw the brick bungalow they now live in, they fell in love.

Today, Rita sometimes helps with packaging products for Smallflower.com. Abdul helps behind the counter during the holiday rush — Merz always has a pharmacist behind the counter — and makes SmallflowerTV Tik Tok videos that have generated over 100,000 views.

In one of his videos, Abdul says, "If you work hard with good intentions, good things come back to you." And a little divine intervention doesn't hurt.

Scan the QR code below to see Abdul pick his top ten Merz products:



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# Supporting Small Business – & (Many Female) Entrepreneurs – in Ravenswood Manor

By: Matt McClintock, Renata JasinskiLaszuk, and Mina Marien

The flourishing business district around the Francisco Brown Line stop – one of the most picturesque El stops in the city – has a huge impact on our small neighborhood, and we have some brave entrepreneurs, many of whom are female, to thank for it.

Whether it's enjoying a bite on the patio at First Slice Pie Cafe, grabbing one of their dinners to go, taking children to ballet lessons at Le Ballet Petit, getting relaxed and rejuvenated at the spa or salon, or shopping at the new PandaPops & Collectables, we all benefit from the amenities that "downtown" Ravenswood Manor has to offer.



Interestingly, several of the longest-standing businesses – First Slice Pie Cafe and Le Ballet Petit – were founded by women. Mary Ellen Diaz founded First Slice as a self-funding charity to provide meals for the homeless and needy. Neighborhood icon Kitty LaPointe founded Le Ballet Petit in 1954, and her legacy has been carried on for years by Ida Velez and others.

Those – together with SWWB, LTD (an architecture firm focused on school projects next to the ballet studio) and the Margaret Byrne law offices have been fixtures for years.







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Several of the more recent additions are also female-owned. Kelli Komar – a mom and holistic skincare professional – founded The Everly Spa (4667 N. Manor) in 2020. Kelli takes a “different approach” to skincare, providing Botox alternative deep tissue facial massages and other holistic skin treatments.

“I try to naturally address the root cause of skin issues – often lymphatic issues or other imbalances – and limit chemicals” Kelli tells the Manor News. “I have loved getting to know neighbors, and hope to

one day expand to provide an even more full-service spa to the neighborhood.” <https://pocketsuite.io/book/the-everly-spa>

Next door to Kelli’s business, Jennifer Mendoza recently founded Flourish Hair & Beauty in the old Manor Cleaners space. Flourish provides an array of beauty services from hair and makeup to skin care and teeth whitening. <https://www.flourishhairbeauty.com/>



Across the street – and breaking the trend of female-owned businesses – Kevin Gerena and Jose Velez just opened Panda Pops & Collectibles (4668 N. Manor Ave.) in August. Lifelong collectors and pop-culture enthusiasts, the store is packed with vinyl Funko POP! Figures and other collectibles — such as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles figurines. They aren’t without female influences in-house though. Their Socials and Operations Coordinator, Sabrina, helped them find the location on Manor, and they describe her as “at the heart of life” in the business.

As new commercial spaces open up, we hope to continue making Ravenswood Manor a hospitable place for local businesses. Maybe someday we too will have our own bottle shop like the one that opened recently next to Rockwell’s or perhaps a convenience store like Black’s Drugstore, which used to be where Le Ballet Petit is now. And who knows, maybe the next booming business in Ravenswood Manor will be yours.



North Park Church Cooperative Preschool is a play-based preschool that offers authentic experiences for children to learn about themselves, their peers and their world! NPCCP programming runs September-May and offers three classes:

- **Young 3’s Class-** Tuesday/Thursday 9:00am-11:15am  
Students must turn 3-years-old between September 2nd and December 31st
- **Preschool 3’s Class-** Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00am-11:15am  
Students must be 3-years-old by September 1st
- **Preschool 4’s Class-** Monday-Thursday 12:30pm-3:15pm  
Students must be 4-years-old by September 1st

For more information, please email the Preschool Director and visit our Preschool Webpage:

Email: [preschool@npcovenant.org](mailto:preschool@npcovenant.org)

Webpage: <http://www.npcovenant.org/npcpp/>





Long-time Manor resident, architect Doug Farr FAIA, has co-curated the ENERGY REVOLUTION exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Center. Doug has arranged an exclusive curator's tour on Tuesday October 18th from 4-5pm. The Chicago Architecture Center is located at 111 East Wacker. Admission is \$9 with the code EVESENTME (payable at the door). RSVP at [bit.ly/energysignup](https://bit.ly/energysignup) or by scanning the QR Code below.



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Her heart and home both lie in the Ravenswood Manor area, where she frequently helps both buyers and sellers achieve impressive results. **Scan the QR code** to hear what your neighbors say about working with Deb and her team!



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