



MANOR NEWS

SUMMER

2023

EVENT CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:

- **April 25:**
Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association ("RMIA") Semi-Annual Meeting. Hear from our two Alders, Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez & Andre Vasquez. – 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
(Waters Elementary – enter the Garden Annex from the patio)
- **May 8:**
RMIA Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
(Tuta Theatre – 4670 N. Manor Ave.)
- **May 13:**
River Day – volunteer @ Horner Park
– 9:00 a.m. – noon
- **May 21:**
Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale, 10-4.
Sign-up @ bit.ly/RMgaragesalesignup

(Continued on page 2)

Join the RMIA Today – Expand Membership & Improve The Manor

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, keep up parks, etc.) thanks to membership donations. We have big plans for 2023 and community support is critical. Please consider joining — for as little as \$10 — and together, we can #BeautifyTheManor. Scan the QR Code below to join or donate:



Ravenswood Manor Park: The “Crown Jewel” of the Manor

By: John O'Connell



Celebrating no Eastwood in 1990

We all have many reasons to find Ravenswood Manor an exceptional neighborhood. For many of us — myself included — Ravenswood Manor Park symbolizes what makes the area great.

The Park is the geographic center of Ravenswood Manor, a stone's throw from the CTA's Francisco “L” stop. It hosts an attractive and safe playground, making it inviting for family neighborhood activities and events. The Park's pergola anchors concerts, birthday parties, the holiday lighting ceremony, Easter egg hunts, and more.

Yet the Park didn't just happen by accident (or perhaps in one way, as you will see, it did.) Like any precious asset, volunteers have thoroughly cared for and maintained it over the decades.

Here is where I do not “bury the lede.”

The Horner Park Advisory Council (HPAC), whose mission includes Ravenswood Manor Park, has a Stewardship Committee that needs help from our neighbors. We are seeking a new generation of volunteer stewards who can adopt the Park and help us keep it clean, green, and watered. I hope that by presenting a short Park history, we can recruit and inspire our successors.

Ravenswood Manor Park was originally the site of developer William Harmon's sales office when he began selling lots in the early 20th Century. When the streets were poured, Eastwood was paved between Manor and Francisco, bisecting the Park into north (triangle) and south

(Continued on page 3)

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."

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Summer Events, continued

Weekly and Monthly Events:

- Horner Park Farmers' Market – every Saturday from June 4 through a date TBD in October from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 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.

More detail and a full list of events (often with sign-up links where applicable) can be found on the RMIA's website at ravenswoodmanor.com/events or by scanning the QR Code below:



2023 Summer Concert Series!

Don't miss the Horner Park Advisory Council's Summer Concert Series! Sponsored by the RMIA and now named in honor of longtime Concert Committee Chair and Manor Park steward John O'Connell, the community concert series returns with another stellar round of acts for 2023. Shows are held all summer long, all for free! Here is this year's lineup:

- 6/16/23 **Gabe Kuchan & Nate Wilson (Manor Park 7-9)**
- 6/30/23 **Frank Catalano (Manor Park 7-9)**
- 7/14/23 **Delmark Records Blues in the Park (Horner Park 7-9)**
- 7/16/23 **Narloch Piano Recital (Manor Park 2-4 p.m.)**
- 7/28/23 **Nathan Graham (Manor Park 7-9)**
- 8/11/23 **LBP School of Dance Recital (Manor Park 7-9)**
- 8/13/23 **Horner Park Jazz Band (Manor Park 2-4 p.m.)**
- 8/25/23 **Red Roses (Manor Park 7-9)**
- 9/8/23 **Luciano Antonio Duo (Jacob Park 7-9)**

Artists include local talent (Gabe Kuchan & Nate Wilson, sponsored by RMIA), Grammy-winning jazz saxophonist Frank Catalano, a special blues review show commemorating the 70th anniversary of local label Delmark Records, Nathan Graham's exciting brand of Americana music, a terrific variety of cover performances from Red Roses, and the sounds of Brazil from Luciano Antonio Duo.

Amazing local talent will also be on display at the Narloch Piano Recital and the LBP School of Dance show, as well as the return of the Horner Park Jazz Band for a special Sunday jazz in the park performance!

But the concert series can't happen without your help. It is completely self-funded, and each year HPAC counts on the generosity of neighbors and local businesses.

If you haven't subscribed, there are two easy ways to do it:

- **Pay by VENMO!** @Horner-Park; 4-digit account confirmation: 7360. Be sure to note "Concerts" so your donation is marked for the Summer Concert Series.
- **To pay by check,** send your contribution to the Horner Park Advisory Council, c/o 4506 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Make sure to include how you would like to be listed in the Program Book that's distributed at the shows.

WANT TO HELP AT A SHOW?

Contact Concert Series Chair Jay Lyon
(jay@lyoncommunications.com).

See you at the shows!

Ravenswood Manor Park: The “Crown Jewel” of the Manor, continued

(trapezoid) portions. By 1934, land ownership was transferred to the Chicago Park District (CPD). The sales office was razed in 1956, and by the late 1960s, the first generation of play equipment was installed, scattered through the south portion.

On Thanksgiving morning in 1988, my 3-year-old son was severely injured when he fell from a broken swing and smashed his face into the swing's support pipe. About that same time, aided by a Kellogg Foundation grant, the Chicago Park District embarked on a citywide effort to establish park advisory councils. In January of 1989, I walked into the Horner PAC formation meeting, planning to vent about unsafe equipment and my son's accident. Instead, I walked out of that meeting as the Treasurer of the new Horner Park Advisory Council.

Together with our first President, Anne Rozmin, we incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our first task was to advise the Park District on a proposed new layout of Manor Park, following the latest “Soft Surface” program they had created using safer equipment placed inside raised wood-chip enclosures. With the newly-designed playground on the south near the alley, we saw an opportunity to enlarge the Park by removing Eastwood (which at that time bisected the current park) and joining the north and south ends.



Brand New Pergola

After some positive civic engagement and input, we met with then-alderman Pat O'Connor. Amazingly, within just a few months, his resolution deeding the surface of Eastwood to the CPD passed City Council. Within weeks, by the summer of 1989, Eastwood was gone, the curbs and sidewalks connected, bollards installed, and Ravenswood Manor Park was doubled in size. (Evidence of the former Eastwood is obvious with the remaining streetlight in the mid-

Meeting Tomorrow



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Manor Park 1990 Celebration

dle of the Park; the bollards eventually wore out and were removed four years ago.)

By 1991, the new playground equipment had been installed, and we then turned former Eastwood into a lawn and garden area. We recruited local resident Scott Freres to design a pergola, to serve as the entertainment hub for a proposed concert series. HPAC raised over \$6,000 towards the construction of the pergola, and with final blueprints from CPD, it was built in 1992. HPAC obtained 3 antique street light heads that used to adorn Oak Park, and these were installed to ring the newly created picnic area. The Ravenswood Manor Park Summer Concert Series began in 1994 and continues to this day, now managed by Jay Lyon. For many years there was a “ManorBash” in Manor Park and the surrounding streets, celebrating our neighborhood’s vibrancy and culture.

In and around Manor Park (and Buffalo Park — another story), gardens, trees, and planters have been installed by HPAC over the years, most notably the Francisco branch path, created as an Eagle Scout project by young neighbor Jake Peters. Annual Earth Day park clean-ups began in the early 90s and



View of Eastwood from the swings

are still organized each year. Playground equipment has been replaced twice since the first redwood iteration, most recently about 6 years ago.

As we move forward, Ravenswood Manor Park will continue to need care and attention. This is where YOU come in.

Please consider joining the Horner Park Advisory Council to help keep Ravenswood Manor Park clean and green. We especially need help watering the gardens and trees during drought periods. We have the equipment and can provide training and support. What we need is desire.

As Manor Park’s principal steward, I am responsible for much of its upkeep and maintenance, especially watering. But folks, I can’t do this forever.

If your interest has been stirred by this short history, and you can see yourself as a part of this vital effort, please contact me at johnroconnell4530@gmail.com, or attend an HPAC meeting, held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at Horner field house. As I hope I’ve shown, we get things done.

Ravenswood Manor Park will only remain our Crown Jewel with a bit of TLC. So come out and get involved!





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“Hidden” Eggs & Excited Kids

The Manor Egg Hunt

By: Matthew McClintock

As always, hundreds of children turned out for the 21st annual Ravenswood Manor egg hunt on April 8. RMIA members and volunteers “hid” thousands of candy-filled eggs in the Manor Park playground. When the air horn – acquired hastily the morning of – sounded at precisely 10:00, the hunt was on! Less than a minute of intense chaos later, the hunt was over.

Happy children then spent the next hour sorting through and eating candy. The playground and the entire park was packed, and fun was had by all. No casualties. Check out some of the pictures if you missed it, and we’ll see you for the 22nd next year!



Chocolate Bunny Winner!



30 Seconds of Mayhem



Getting Ready To Go

New In-stream Habitats, Coming Soon To The Chicago River Just North of Ravenswood Manor

By: Rob Lott



Rendering of proposed additions courtesy of Urban Rivers

Over the last few years, the banks of the Chicago River where they meet the North Shore Channel have benefited from the comprehensive restoration of native plant species. Regular River Park visitors can now observe cycles of growth, flowering, natural withering, and eventually the regrowth of local flora from season to season, year after year.

Soon those visitors will be able to watch that process unfold in new ways in a new spot: right in the middle of the river.

The North River Commission with its partners The Chicago Park District and a non-profit named Urban Rivers recently received a \$340,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish new in-stream habitats in the area. Organizers will embed and grow native wetland plants on floating platforms anchored near the confluence of the river and channel. They hope to complete most of the work this summer, although permitting and manufacturing delays may push it to Spring and Summer of 2024.

The project represents the latest step in a series of recent investments aimed at bringing new life and native species to the river ecosystem. This includes the nearby dam deconstruction and the removal of invasive plant species along the riverbanks. For the most part however, those efforts “stop short at the water’s edge,” said Phil Nicodemus, Head of Biology with Urban Rivers.

“If you’ve ever seen a more natural river, there’s tons of trees that have fallen in, creeks flowing, wetlands and floodplains, and those all harbor habitat that’s critical to the health of the river itself,” Nicodemus said.

That’s not the case with the Chicago River which for more than a century has been shaped in part by human intervention, residential development and industrial growth. Such trends have undermined the natural ecosystem and prevented local plant and animal life from thriving. “We see our floating wetlands as a way to correct at least some part of that issue.”

The project’s potential benefits extend beyond simply returning native species to the area. “The plants will help clean the river by taking in pollutants, and will provide food and reproductive structures that will help fish and the aquatic bugs they eat find shelter and reproduce,” Nicodemus explained. “Given that this area of the river handles a lot of flood waters, (sparing people’s basements) this kind of intervention is necessary as our wetlands rise and fall with the level of the river, protecting plant diversity by allowing each species to maintain the level of water they’re comfortable with.”

This is not the first project of its kind developed by Urban Rivers. The non-profit was the driving force behind the Wild Mile, a similar set of floating wetlands installed in the North Branch Canal of the Chicago River, a man-made channel along the east side of Goose Island between Chicago Ave. and North Ave. Since those wetlands have been put in place, organizers have seen an increase in density and diversity of plants and animals including beavers, muskrats, herons, snapping turtles, and state threatened fish. They hope the River Park project will lead to similar, observable biodiversity.

Local residents and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in the multi-day installation effort, planting the modules and anchoring them to river bed. Once the beds are installed Urban Rivers will provide kayaks and instruction on an ongoing basis with the intention of helping people get out on the water to remove invasive or weedy species, collect trash, and make wildlife observations.

The grant also funds a position at the Chicago Park District that will help “maintain the gardens and programming around them,” Nicodemus said. The work aims to complement educational and recreational services already underway as part of the Park District’s River Lab.

2022-2023 Ravenswood Manor

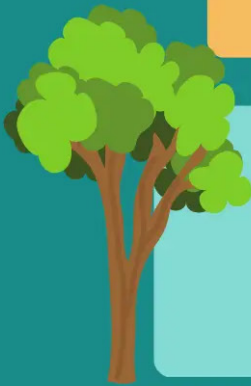
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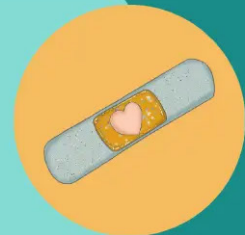
Thank you, Neighbors!

We're only a few thousand \$\$ short of our 2023 fundraising goal. Thank you to all who have already donated! Can you help us get over the finish line?



Inoculation happens every 3 years

Ongoing protection of our Ash tree canopy requires inoculation every three years. Our trees are due this spring (2023)



More information and how to donate:

Protecting our ash trees will cost \$12,348. That's approximately \$125/tree. Visit bit.ly/ashesrm for LOTS more info (including ways to donate) or scan the QR code. Consider supporting today!



QUESTIONS? TEXT OR EMAIL LORIN LIBERSON
708.227.7905
LORINMLIBERSON@GMAIL.COM



Ravenswood Manor tree planting!



To keep the Manor's tree canopy as green as ever, we encourage neighbors to plant new trees in their residential parkways and parks to replace ones that have been lost to wind and weather, sewer, water and gas repairs, pests, and old age.

Thankfully neighbors have stepped forward and over the last decade have planted more than 100 trees through the Openlands Tree Project. We offer this opportunity once again for Fall 2023. The tree cost is \$100, which includes the tree and the planting. Seniors pay less.

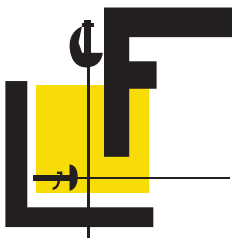
If you want to sign up for a tree, send an email to trees@ravenswoodmanor.com with your address and how many trees you would like. We will

respond with information and more details. Please note that the type of tree is left up to Openlands. There are other options – discussed separately below – but Openlands is a relatively affordable & fast way to get a tree or trees added to your parkway.

Also, if you are hoping to plant a tree in the same space where you previously lost one, Openlands recommends the ground be allowed to rest and heal for two years before planting a new tree in that same location (though one could be planted nearby). Accordingly, if you recently lost a tree and the stump remains, contact the City through 311 or the CHI311 App to have the stump removed – that way the ground can begin to heal.

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Fencing is a fast-paced dynamic sport that enhances both your physical and mental fitness. Lincoln Square Fencing has both recreational and competitive programs:

- **MUSKETEERS (ages 7-9)** - This program makes sure the kids have fun while learning healthy habits and lifelong enjoyment of sport!
- **YOUNG ADULT (ages 10-18)** - The Young Adult program focuses on long-term development and progressive skill acquisition to prepare for competition and even coaching.
- **ADULT (Recreational or Beginner)** - Our Adult classes allow busy professionals to enjoy a new sport, and develop their fitness at their own pace.
- **SUMMER CAMPS (ages 7-18)** - Summer Camps are week-long sessions with each week open to all levels of experience.

Six weeks of summer fun running from July 10 - Aug 18, 2023

Curious about this sport? Sign up for a free class (all equipment is provided!)

Visit: LincolnSquareFencing.com/programs | Contact: Info@LincolnSquareFencing.com

2023 Ravenswood Manor Parkway Tree Planting

Applications are OPEN

We have the opportunity to once again spruce up our tree canopy as we partner with the Openlands Tree Grant Program. We hope to replace some of the older trees that have been lost to storms, age, or insect damage, and also add trees to open parkways. Through this program, we have planted more than 100 trees since 2013.

Homeowners, if you would like a tree planted in your parkway this coming Fall, please contact us at trees@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Or, if you observe an open spot in a public parkway that could use a tree, please let us know.





What You Need to Know:

1. Contact us at trees@ravenswoodmanor.com soon, but **BEFORE July 15**.
2. Cost is \$100. (RMIA will cover half the cost for seniors). This includes the delivery of the tree and the installation. The Openlands team of TreeKeepers supervises volunteers with the planting. We hope you can be a part of the volunteer group, but that is not necessary.
3. Agree to be home on the day of planting, if at all possible. If you cannot be home, the planting team will need access to water.

4. We need 20 trees to be eligible for Openlands to manage and oversee this project. If we meet this minimum, a date will be assigned for the planting.

5. The planting will take place on a **Saturday** in late September, October or early November. Once our project is approved by Openlands, we will receive our planting date.

For more information about Planting Day with Openlands and TreeKeepers, go to Openlands Planting Day page with FAQ.

Tree care recommendations from Openlands for those homeowners that receive a tree on their parkway. See their Taking care of trees page.



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Past planting days

Thank you to everyone who has helped replace our lost trees and beautify our community. The Tree Planting Project succeeds through the efforts of so many, including:

- Partners with Openlands and Tree Keepers volunteers
- Anne Rozmin, Lorin Liberson, Linda Kagan and Deb Robinett – past project leads
- Ravenswood Manor homeowners who pay for and care for trees on their parkways
- Residents who volunteer their time to dig, plant and mulch the new trees
- Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, Manor Garden Club, Horner Park Advisory Council, and
- 33rd Ward Alderman Rodriquez and City of Chicago Bureau of Forestry

Fall 2019 planting day was October 12, 19 trees planted, RMIA contributed \$100 to assist homeowners

Spring 2019 planting, 6 trees at the south end of Manor Park along the alley by Horner Park Advisory Council and Openlands.

Fall 2017 planting day was September 23, 21 trees planted. RMIA contributed \$600 to assist homeowners.

Fall 2015 planting day was October 10th, 20 trees planted. RMIA contributed \$1000 to assist homeowners.

Fall 2014 planting day was November 15th, 14 trees planted. RMIA contributed \$700 to assist homeowners.

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Need a Parkway Tree?

Three Options

City of Chicago (311 / CHI311 App)

Request a tree with the city Department of Streets and Sanitation, Bureau of Forestry.

PRO: free & MAY be able to request a certain kind of tree

CON: will likely take 1-2 years to get your tree (ward office may be able to expedite)

Openlands Tree Program

Get a tree through the Openlands Tree Program (explained separately)

PRO: only \$100, (\$50 for seniors), neighbors help plant your tree with trained TreeKeepers; you can get it installed this fall

CON: Openlands usually determines the best tree for your parkway

Purchase & Plant Yourself

Purchase a tree and plant it on your own (or pay the nursery to install it).

PRO: you can choose the type of tree you want & get it installed quickly

CON: will probably be \$700+ for the tree and installation



Neighbors Seeking to Connect the Over-50 Crowd in Ravenswood Manor

By: Holly Birnbaum

A group of Ravenswood Manor neighbors is hoping to organize a Ravenswood Manor chapter of The Village Chicago -- a community network of friendship, engagement and services for people over 50, with vetted volunteers of all ages.

The Village supports all aspects of wellbeing on a local level through social engagement, an extensive, fully-vetted services and referral network, lifelong learning, events, health and fitness, volunteering, intergenerational relationships, work, and purpose. The chapter would seek to deepen connections between neighbors & enhance the quality of life here and in surrounding communities.

Stay tuned for details about an informative gathering where you can meet local community organizers, members of The Village Chicago, and learn more about how you can be a part of this vital national and local movement. Visit www.thevillagechicago.org for more information about The Village.

For an update on the local informational meeting being planned, send an email to kegerer@comcast.net.



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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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