



# MANOR NEWS

SPRING /  
SUMMER

2024

## EVENT CALENDAR

Save the Dates for these  
Key Upcoming Events!!

- **May 19:** Ravenswood Manor Garage Sale (10am - 4pm)
- **June 14:** First HPAC Summer Concert of the Season (7pm at Manor Park including a celebration of Alan Mueller! See inside for subsequent concert dates.)
- **July 28:** Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk (1pm- 4pm)
- **August 24:** Manor Bash Celebrating 110 Years (All day!)

(Continued on page 2)

## Join the RMIA Today

For anyone who might have forgotten just how special Ravenswood Manor is.... SPRINGTIME has arrived to remind us.

Just as reliably as the flowers blooming every year, the RMIA continues to do its thing: organizing fun neighborhood events (see: the Garden Walk, Garage Sale, etc.), keeping up parks, and making capital improvements.

But it all requires your support via membership donations to make it happen.

Please consider joining and together, we can #BeautifyTheManor.

Scan the QR Code below to join or donate:



## Reviving Tradition, The Manor Bash Will Return In August – RMIA Calls For Volunteers, Donors, Neighborhood Revelers

By: John O'Connell



A scene from the 1996 Manor Bash. (photo courtesy of John O'Connell)

On Saturday, August 24, 2024, The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association will revive a storied neighborhood tradition: The Manor Bash, a free, community-led, neighborhood block party that promises a full day and evening of games, music, and activities, all centered around our beloved Ravenswood Manor Park.

The Manor Bash was last produced in 2014 in honor of the RMIA's 100th Anniversary, and the Horner Park Advisory Council's (HPAC) 25th Anniversary. But that wasn't the first Manor Bash; its history goes back much further.

### Building On Tradition

In the early 90s, the city removed a section of Eastwood Avenue between Francisco Avenue

and Manor Avenue, uniting two pieces of land to form what we now know as Ravenswood Manor Park. Around this time the Manor Park pergola was also constructed. And in 1995, the HPAC launched the Ravenswood Manor Park Concert Series. The inaugural season featured six Sunday evening concerts including Rokko Jans and June Shellene, the Horner Park Jazz Band, folk artists, Scandinavian fare by Chicago Spelmanslag, and the first Neighborhood Talent Show.

In 1996, organizers decided to push the envelope a bit more: there would be a concert in the park on an August afternoon "just like old times," but this time it would feature some classic Rock and Roll plus free hotdogs, chips and lemonade provided by the Park District, and impromptu sum-

## About the RMIA

*Manor News* is published twice a year by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA). Hard copies are distributed by hand to households and businesses throughout the neighborhood and a digital version is available at [ravenswoodmanor.com](http://ravenswoodmanor.com).

Established in 1914, the RMIA is now a 501(c)(3) 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 Members

Amanda Aslam  
Shannon Condon  
Daniel Craig  
Danielle Defoe  
Doug Farr  
Tony Greif – Treasurer  
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Jane Kindra  
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Carol McLaughlin

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Cynthia Mueller  
Deborah Robinett  
Betty Roggenkamp  
Bette Rosenstein  
Gary Smith  
Matt VanderZee



### Event calendar, continued

#### 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:

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](http://ravenswoodmanor.com/events) or by scanning the QR Code below:



### Manor Bash, continued

mer games and sports. Organizers closed a section of Francisco Avenue and set up a volleyball net. Suddenly, it was more than just a casual concert in the park, Manor Bash was a live-music block party in Manor Park. The neighborhood came out and showed up!

Bands included both Jeez Louize and The Slate whose bassist David Newell grew up on Mozart Ave., and guitarist Jimmy Ile hailed from Eastwood Ave. The two had met as children playing in Ravenswood Manor Park; now as adults they were back performing for neighbors new and old. The party started at 3pm on Saturday, August 6, 1996 and kept rocking past 8 pm when the Slate closed its encore with a rousing rendition of “Train Keep Rollin’!

A similar Manor Bash took place in 1999, and then in 2000, an expanded committee decided to go big, closing down all three streets – Manor, Eastwood and Francisco – to expand the festival and direct the day towards kid activities: crafts, games, and a raffle!



A scene from the 2007 Manor Bash. (photo courtesy of John O’Connell)

It truly became an organic effort, as each member of the committee provided various activities needed for the day: basketball hoops, volleyball net, badminton set, street hockey, bags, and minigolf, along with kid crafts, a huge pile of chalk, and face painting. From 2000 to 2007, we sampled different attractions such as a climbing wall, bounce house, fire truck, and police equestrian. For a few years the CPD threw in hotdogs, burgers and swag. In all those years, the streets were closed, and, to encourage the kids to come, play outdoors, and stay at the Bash, there was always a free raffle late in the afternoon with items such as footballs and frisbees.

By 2008 however, producing a full day event became a lot of work. Organizers decided the Manor Bash would take a hiatus for a few years, so they could focus on producing shows in Horner and Sunken Gardens Parks, along with full seasons of concerts at Ravenswood Manor Park.

Then in 2014, RMIA approached HPAC, seeking to revive Manor Bash for the two complementary organizations’ common anniversaries. With a reconstituted committee, an amazing weekend was present starting on Friday, June 27 with an overflow crowd witnessing the Hokulea Polynesian Dancers, followed on Saturday June 28 with a full day of Manor Bash! There were five acts that day, including Circ Esteem, Gizzae and the Dave Specter Blues Band. For the first time at a Bash, food trucks were engaged.





A scene from the 2014 Manor Bash. (photo courtesy of John O'Connell)

This year on August 24, Manor Bash promises to be another special day of fun and magic in Ravenswood Manor. Expected acts include the Le Ballet Petite Dance Recital and The Red Roses.

**Get Involved**

To make this special day a reality, the RMIA and HPAC need community members to join in the effort.

They are seeking donations from both individuals and local businesses in the form of goods, activities, and financial contributions, or all three. Volunteers are also needed both in preparation for the Bash and on the day of the event.

To volunteer sign up here: [bit.ly/VolunteerRMIA](http://bit.ly/VolunteerRMIA)

Further questions or offers of in-kind goods and services can be directed by email to:

[president@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:president@ravenswoodmanor.com)

Finally, if you haven't yet become a member of the RMIA (or renewed your membership) now's the time to do so at our membership page:

[www.ravenswoodmanor.com/membership](http://www.ravenswoodmanor.com/membership)

Don't miss the best little party of the summer in the Manor. Come to the Manor Bash!

# Meeting Tomorrow



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



# Holidays in the Manor

## Looking Back on the Pergola Lighting – December 8, 2023

Neighbors gathered for our annual lighting of the Ravenswood Manor Park Pergola with dancing from LBP Dancers, Dovetail Dancers, and the Chicago Chorus Girl Project and singing from our local neighborhood carolers. We also were treated with a visit from Rudolph and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate to kick off the holiday season.



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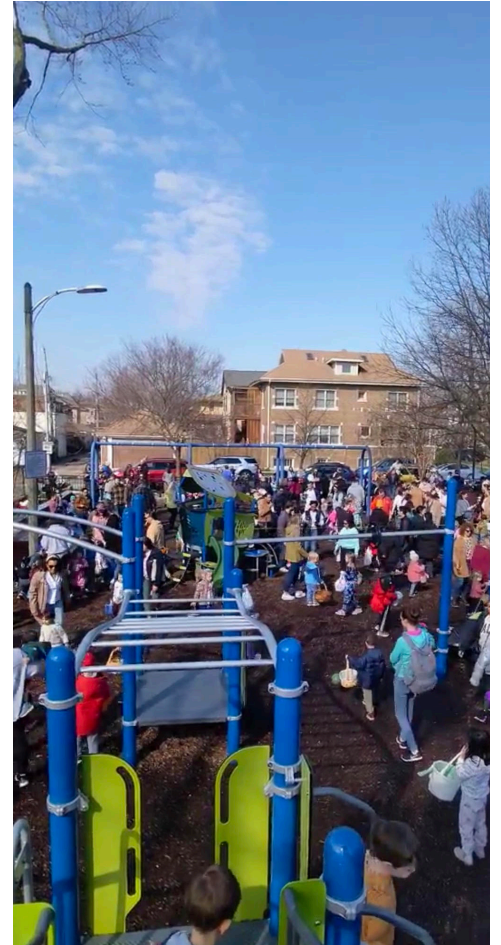


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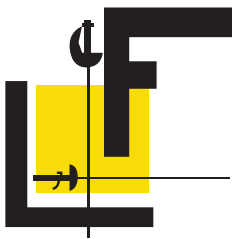
### Looking Back on the Easter Egg Hunt – March 30, 2024

Families and friends flocked to Ravenswood Manor Park on March 30th for a day of egg-citement and fun at the annual egg hunt! The sun was shining, and the park was buzzing with energy as children dashed through the park, eager to find the nearly 1,500 eggs scattered throughout the area. Fun fact: this is believed to be the 20th year that the RMIA put on this event. This year, the egg hunting space was expanded a bit. But, not to be deterred, the little egg hunters still worked quickly and so the egg hunt itself again only lasted a couple of minutes. A special bunny made an appearance under the pergola after the egg hunt, and posed for pictures with families. The new Nothing Bundt Cakes store in Andersonville also provided delicious samples for all to enjoy. The RMIA is hoping to add more eggs next year for the event. Thanks to all neighbors who attended!



## Lincoln Square Fencing

An established fencing club  
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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.  
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Visit: [LincolnSquareFencing.com/programs](https://LincolnSquareFencing.com/programs) | Contact: [Info@LincolnSquareFencing.com](mailto:Info@LincolnSquareFencing.com)



Looking Back on the RMIA Semi Annual Meeting - April 25, 2024

The RMIA hosted its spring semi-annual meeting at Waters Elementary School on Thursday, April 25, 2024. There was a full agenda with multiple speakers and a thrilling raffle at the end.

First, the Chicago Police Department 17th District's Officers Miro and Parks gave a presentation featuring tips and pointers on how to protect yourself and your home from becoming victims of crimes such as burglary, robbery, and carjacking.

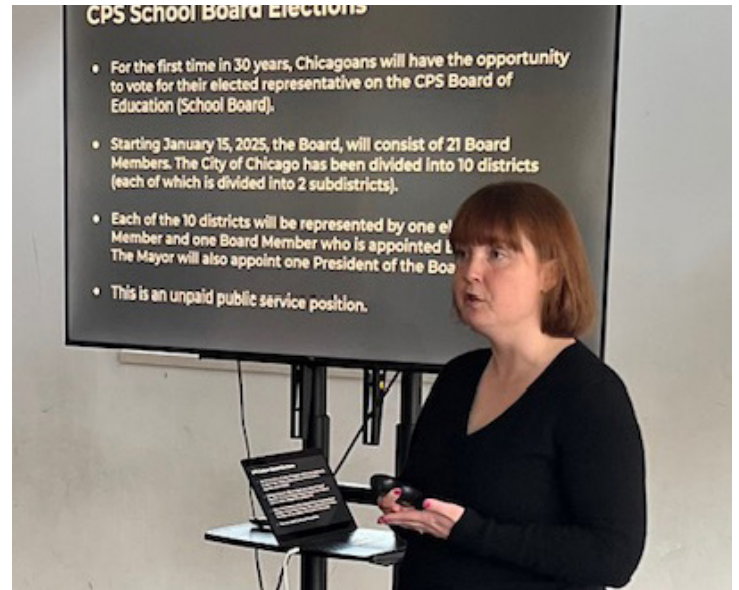


Members. The City of Chicago has been divided into 10 districts (each of which is divided into 2 subdistricts) and Ravenswood Manor falls within the borders of School Board District 2.

RMIA President Mina Marien then gave a wide-ranging overview of the association's recent activities and top priorities going forward. She and her fellow board members have been very busy, and have a lot more fun stuff in store for the months ahead (see: this newsletter pp. 1-12).

Then Kate Doyle, first vice president of the Greater Rockwell Organization provided a primer on how, for the first time in 30 years, Chicagoans will soon have the opportunity to vote for their elected representative on the CPS Board of Education (School Board). The election will be held this November and starting January 15, 2025, the Board will consist of 21 Board

Members. Finally, the audience heard from 33rd Ward Alder Rossana Rodriguez and Cat Sharp, chief of staff to 40th Ward Alder Andre Vasquez, both of whom provided updates on upcoming events and services provided by the alders' offices in partnership with various community organizations.



Trust Deb Hess with Your Nest.

As a lifelong Chicagoan with over 33 years of deep-rooted real estate experience, I am proud to serve our Ravenswood Manor community. My dedication to providing unmatched insights and strategic guidance has propelled my career sales across Chicagoland to exceed \$850 million. Living and working in the Ravenswood Manor area, I was honored to be named The Top Neighborhood Producer in 2023 by The Chicago Association of Realtors. Over the past two years alone, my team and I have successfully facilitated dozens of local home sales, enhancing our neighborhood one family at a time.

Discover why your neighbors trust me with their real estate needs. Scan the QR code below to listen to their experiences and learn how I can help you achieve your property goals.



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## One Hundred Years and Counting: RMIA's Centennial Home Initiative

By Betty Roggenkamp

Celebrate Ravenswood Manor's rich history and architectural beauty with the Centennial Homes project, launched during the neighborhood's 2014 celebration of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association's Centennial anniversary. This project recognizes 100-year-old houses and buildings that contribute to our historical character.

In 2008, Ravenswood Manor was designated a National Register Historic District, making the Centennial Homes project a fitting complement to our neighborhood's new status. Each year, the RMIA welcomes a new set of 100-year-old houses into the fold of Centennial Homes.

In the year houses turn 100, homeowners receive a letter and certificate from the RMIA acknowledging their building's milestone. They also receive information about ordering a bronze plaque to celebrate this rec-



ognition. While getting a plaque is optional, it's a wonderful way to showcase your home's history and contribute to the charm of our neighborhood.

The beautiful bronze plaques were designed by former Manor resident Steve Shanabroch. The RMIA project team facilitated the design and selected the foundry to produce these plaques. Bronze Memorial Co. in Broadview is ready to hear from interested homeowners.

If your house qualifies and you have not heard from the RMIA, or

if you previously heard but were not ready to order a plaque, please reach out to [board@ravenswoodmanor.com](mailto:board@ravenswoodmanor.com) for assistance.

For more information, including mounting instructions, visit the Centennial Homes section of the RMIA website: <https://ravenswoodmanor.com/centennialhomes/>



# Longtime RMIA Board Member Alan Mueller to be Honored

By Jim Peters



Alan Mueller outside The Friendship Center Food Pantry on Lawrence Avenue, where he volunteers

In 1972, when Alan Mueller was still in his early-20s, his neighborhood barber, Dominick Puzzo, convinced him to seek (and win) election to the board of the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association (RMIA). Last October, after nearly a half-century of service (he did take one short break due to a job conflict), Alan finally retired from the RMIA Board—but only because he had moved out of the neighborhood.

Although no detailed records exist, it is believed that Alan's length of RMIA board service is a record. For his work on the board, as well as his other community service, Alan will be honored at a special ceremony on Friday, June 14th, prior to this year's inaugural summer concert performance in Ravenswood Manor Park.

"Alan has been a stalwart volunteer," says former RMIA Board President Athene Carras, who served on the board with Alan during the 2010s. "He showed up for every event to pitch in with set up and tear down. He was the master of board by-laws and history. And he had the endearing habit of replying, when you asked him how he was, 'If I was any better, I'd be you.'"

Alan moved to Ravenswood Manor in 1964, at age 14, with his parents, Bessie and George. He attended high school at the now-defunct North

Park Academy and was graduated from North Park College, where he worked on the school newspaper.

Alan's professional career has included writing and sales stints at the City News Bureau, the National Association of Realtors, Beltone Electronics, and Cumberland Air Transport—from where he retired in 2017.

In addition to his RMIA Board service, Alan has been: a charter (and current) member of the Horner Park Advisory Board, a member of the Ravenswood Manor Garden Club, a liaison to the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS), and a volunteer at the Friendship Center Food Pantry. Alan also has utilized his high school wrestling experience to serve as an assistant wrestling coach the past 20 years, first at Gordon Tech (now DePaul Prep), then Von Steuben High School, and now Lane Tech College Prep.

When asked about his favorite hobbies, he quickly says: "I follow minor league baseball. One of my favorite teams is the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, in Appleton, Wis., which is the High-A affiliate of Milwaukee Brewers." But why not a Chicago baseball team?

"When I was in grade school, living in Uptown," Alan recalls, "the Cubs would have afternoon day games and [their telecasts] would knock off





Alan Mueller (third from right) helps plant a parkway tree, as part of a TreeKeepers event in Ravenswood Manor.



Alan Mueller reads a newspaper prior to an early meeting, c.1994, of the Horner Park Advisory Council

‘Garfield Goose and Friends’ on Channel 9-WGN. So I didn’t like the Cubs. And the White Sox were on the South Side.” So, instead, he began to follow the Milwaukee Braves and, after they moved to Atlanta, the Milwaukee Brewers.

In reflecting on the past 50 years in Ravenswood Manor, Alan notes that “traffic issues have always been a big issue.” But he also remembers that another huge issue in the 1970s, when he first joined the RMIA board, was crime. “That’s when street gangs first began to form,” Alan recalls. “And, of course, they are back again.”

One of the unique things that any RMIA board member will remember about Alan is how he always brought a snack or treat to share at the monthly board meetings. Alan explains this tradition quite simply: “Whenever I thought of saying something stupid, I’d put a cookie in my mouth.”

As for his time on the RMIA Board, Alan says: “I’ve enjoyed it. It’s always a learning experience and I have worked with a lot of great people.” He also shares this advice to current and future board members: “Try to be patient and cooperative. Don’t dig in your heels on an issue. And try to listen.”



## New Tax Status...

## Same Amazing Neighborhood Services!!

- The Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association is now a 501(c)(3)
- That means your membership and other donations are now tax-deductible to the fullest extent of tax law.
- Please reach out to: treasurer <at> ravenwoodmanor.com with any questions on RMIA’s tax status and associated documentation.



# Summer Concert Series Returns

By Jay Lyon

It's time for the Horner Park Advisory Council's John O'Connell Summer Concert Series – so dust off your lawn chair or blanket, bring out the cooler, and mark your calendar with all the dates for another round of stellar acts for 2024!

All shows will be on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in Ravenswood Manor Park except where indicated.

**June 14:** Los Gallos, a terrific Tex-Mex band kicks off the season.

**June 28:** Local favorite Phil Angotti plays music from his critically acclaimed 2023 album "Once Around Again," as well as some Beatles favorites.

**July 12:** Jon Langford and Sally Timms team up to electrify the crowd.

**July 14 (Sunday, 2 p.m.):** The Narloch Piano Recital gives a chance to check out some of the best local talent.

**July 26:** Pravda Records Night showcases two artists on the roster for the local label that was just named best in Chicago in the 2023 Reader poll, with Steve Dawson and The Handcuffs providing a formidable 1-2 punch at this year's Horner Park show.

**July 28 (Sunday):** The Horner Park Jazz Band performs Sunday Jazz in Manor Park immediately following the Ravenswood Manor Garden Walk.



**August 9:** Kristina Cottone and Bird x Butterfly give us a night of soulful performances.

**September 6:** Gielito Lindo performs mariachi favorites at our season finale Jacob Park show, sponsored by the Old Town School of Folk Music.

**But wait there's more:** The Horner Park Advisory Council will be providing the entertainment all day and night at the Manor Bash on **Saturday, August 24:**

- LBP School of Dance takes the stage with their annual recital;
- The New Cats bring bluegrass to the park in a set that's sure to have you clicking your heels; and
- The Red Roses play hits from the '90s to today, with something for everyone.

The Horner Park Advisory Council raises the funds to hold these shows solely through household subscribers and business sponsors; HPAC receives no other financial support. If you'd like to contribute to the cause (and get your name in the program guide that's handed out at shows and distributed far and wide throughout all summer long), you can use the code below to make a donation. Be sure to mention it's for the concert series!



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# What's that smell?

- If you think that funky odor might be coming from the river or our neighborhood pumping station, call it in to 1800-332-DUMP or visit mwrdd.org.
- Odor reports help MWRD improve its systems and fix problems, so don't hold back.



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Jill Peet Saponaro been a resident in Ravenswood Manor for more then 30 years. She brings to her clients her 30 + years of experience in the field of real estate. She has also won top producer awards at the Chicago Association of Realtors and has consistently been in the top 2% of realtor's in the city.



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# ANNUAL RAVENSWOOD MANOR GARAGE

# SALE

**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 19**  
10am-4pm



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