



# My Ravinia

## Ravinia School is About to Undergo Big Changes

*This expansive view of Ravinia School was rendered by Walter Sobol working under architect John Van Bergen in 1937.*



*By Elliott Miller*

Not very long ago Ravinia School was destined for closure. In 2015 there was even an appraisal done of the property in preparation for sale to developers. Thanks to concerns expressed by the neighborhood, that didn't happen. Now, since the 2022 School District 112 referendum has passed, Ravinia School is about to undergo some major changes that will bring our beloved school into the 21st century. This article is an overview of these changes.

Since Ravinia School will undergo major architectural changes, and the school is eligible to be in the National Register of historic places due to its historical and architectural significance, it is necessary to conduct a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) as mandated by the state. This involves documenting the current state of the building before construction, which is called a recordation. Because of my knowledge of Ravinia School's history, I was invited to participate in the HABS recordation process. The HABS project is headed by Susan Benjamin, of Benjamin Historic Certifications, LLC, along with Deb Marie Carey. As a part of the recordation process the school district will be creating projects that will involve members of the Ravinia School community--the students, teachers, and alumni. These projects may include historical and architectural presentations, poster exhibits, and murals.

We have met with Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Superintendent of District 112, and Courtney Nordstrom, Ravinia School Principal. They are very enthusiastic about the project and excited about the future of the school and are working hard to make the renovation project a success.

### A Brief Architectural History of Ravinia School

Long before there was a Ravinia School, a log cabin served as a school. It was located a short distance south of what is now Lincoln Avenue in the neighborhood of Glencoe Avenue. This seems to be the first school in the area before the School District was organized.

The school district, which was to become District 108, was organized about 1860, and a new school house was built at Green Bay Road and Roger Williams Avenue. It was a one-room frame building called South School, with one teacher for the whole school.

As the population of Ravinia grew, a larger schoolhouse was needed. So at the corner of Dean and Baldwin a two-room schoolhouse was built in 1897. The construction of Ravinia School is complicated because it was built over a long period of time. The original Ravinia School was a two-room school house at the corner of Dean and Baldwin superseding the one-room school at the corner of Roger Williams and Green Bay Road.

In 1913, an addition was constructed by the noted Chicago architectural firm Pond and Pond to accommodate the growing population of Ravinia. The 1897 building was remodeled into the Ravinia Community House. Community activities such as plays, dances, etc. were held there.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**RAVINIA NEIGHBORS  
ASSOCIATION**

**GOVERNING BOARD:**

Noah Plotkin, President  
Michael Stroz, Vice President  
Doug Purington, Publicity/Membership Dir.  
Michael Babian, Treasurer  
Beth Grey, Recording Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

Ed Kugler  
Jeff Levin  
Amanda McBee  
Shruthi Potocek  
Jeff Stern  
Brett Tolpin

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

Jeff Stern, Archivist, Transportation  
Specialist  
Doug Purington, Newsletter Ad Sales and  
Webmaster for [www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Kimberly Stroz

Save the date and save your treasures.

The RNA is considering holding a community garage sale on Saturday August 6 (rain date August 7). More details to follow but please contact us if interested in participating.

**V**olunteerism is an essential piece in keeping the Ravinia Neighbors Association healthy and strong.

Consider getting involved.

Attend a meeting, visit the RNA event booth or watch the website and newsletter for ways your involvement can strengthen RNA and your neighborhood.

**WELCOME, NEW RAVINIA DISTRICT BUSINESS!**

VINTAGE RESCUE, 473 Roger Williams Avenue

## Long Awaited Completion Expected in Late July for Extensive Clavey Road and Sewer Project

By Jeff Stern

It's been a bumpy three years, but there's a bright light at the end of the construction tunnel for the revitalized artery connecting the Ravinia community with the highway that allows express travel to Chicago, and a roadway to every place else north and west. By the end of July you'll be able to enjoy a smooth drive on Clavey between Green Bay and Skokie Highway or make use of a combined walkway and bike path separate from the roadway between the same two points.

The project has included the replacement and widening of the Clavey Road Bridge, just over a mile of new storm sewer, just less than a mile of new water main, and a bit more of new Fiber Optic. The entire length of Clavey between U.S. 41 and Green Bay Road was reconstructed, and a new eight-foot shared use bike path was created adjacent to the eastbound lane for vehicles. In addition, 99 new trees were planted along the length of the project.

With the shared use path now separated from the roadway, cyclists will no longer need to be concerned about making a false move that could send them into the path of a car or truck, and it should give drivers a similar sense of security. The existing roadway alignment will



Separate bike and pedestrian path south of roadway replace former sidewalk. (Photo credit: Jeff Stern)



Two lanes separate vehicles heading different directions at Green Bay (Photo credit: Jeff Stern)

remain the same, with only slight deviations in limited areas, such as approaches to the new bridge across the Skokie River and a couple of left turn lanes allowing eastbound drivers safer access to side streets, Fink Park and a synagogue.

On the hill approaching Green Bay Road, the east-bound lane of Clavey will continue to expand to two lanes at Hastings Avenue, as it has in the past, with the right lane marked for vehicles to turn south on to Green Bay. The other lane is reserved for those turning north or continuing east on to Blackstone Place.

The Ciorba Group Inc., Consulting Engineers, has been overseeing the entirety of the Clavey Road construction project, which is being financed by \$5,032,120 or about 53 percent through Federal funding, supplemented by \$4,476,192, or about 47 percent from local sources. ■

## Ravinia School is About to Undergo Big Changes (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

In the 1920s, continued population growth warranted more additions by Pond and Pond, and Prairie-school architect and associate of Frank Lloyd Wright and Highland Park resident John Van Bergen. The 1897 building was demolished and the present Ravinia School Auditorium/gym was built by Van Bergen.

The architects, all noted for their fine work, made great effort to continue the Arts and Crafts style of the early 1900s. In the end, a sweeping vista can be seen when viewed from the front of the building. The interior layout of the building, such as the multiple floor levels, present challenges, especially in regard to accessibility. If we want to keep the school, some changes like this are needed.



*Irving Pond of Pond & Pond*



*John Van Beraen*



*A 1920s Ravinia School classroom by Pond and Pond, who thought school rooms should be made comfortable by including fireplaces like the living rooms in most houses had at that time.*

### Upcoming Renovations Planned for Ravinia School

- Out of concern for security, the main entrance will be moved to the tower door with a security vestibule and adjacent administration offices. The double stairs will be replaced with a conference room. It is unfortunate to lose such a defining element of Ravinia's architecture but security concerns are paramount.



*Proposed front elevation and existing front facade (inset). The front door will be moved to the tower entrance. The existing front door and the double main entrance stairs are going away to be replaced by a conference room.*

- A new kindergarten/first grade wing will be added to the south-west front of the school
- A new kitchen and serving area will be added to the east of Millennium Hall.
- Some changes will make the school compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which protects the right to access of individuals with disabilities. Under Title II of this law, public schools are covered as one of America's prominent public entities. Since they are covered by the ADA, schools must adhere to basic ADA requirements. Ramps will be installed and an elevator will be added to the northeast corner of the building.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## New Fire House in Ravinia Meets Every Aspect of Firefighter/Paramedic Training and Service Needs

By Jeff Stern

The new fire house for Highland Park's Engine 32 clearly fulfills the requirements of a new generation of firefighting to meet the more challenging demands of modern times. Without expanding beyond the property lines of the quaint, 90+-year-old fire station it replaces, the new facility has all the bells, whistles and sirens a 21st Century fire house can be expected to have. Construction, which began in May last year, was scheduled for completion in April. Led by Mayor Nancy Rotering, Fire Chief Joe Schrage and other officials, opening of the new house allows the crews of Engine 32 and Ambulance 32 to move their apparatus back across Burton Ave. from temporary quarters in Brown Park.

Different in many ways from its predecessor, which was opened in December 1929, the new house has the same address -692 Burton -- that the old house was given under the numbering system that was finalized in 1952. From there the contrasts with the old structure only grow sharper, most noticeably for drivers of the apparatus. They will now have separate 14-foot-wide doors to guide the engine and ambulance through instead of the single door which both had to use in the old house after folding in a side mirror to avoid scraping the one on the other apparatus that had to be parked closely alongside.

Another big change can be seen in the personal accommodations for the crews that are on 24-hour shifts. Instead of the common bunk room that was provided for the original all-male crew, private rooms and separate locker rooms are now available for male and female firefighter/paramedics who may be assigned there. Also, on the second floor are kitchen and dining areas, which had been in close proximity on the first level of the old house, along with space suitable for relaxing when not attending to other chores.

To keep personnel in the best condition possible physically, the new station's basement has a room with exercise equipment of various kinds that can be used when the crews are not undergoing training or other work-related activities. It will also have washrooms with showers and an elevator from the basement to the second floor, as required by the building code. Also called for by code is an emergency shelter on the first floor for crews to use during extreme weather events that provides immediate access to the apparatus.

The first floor has also been provided with a muster room, where crews can gather at the start of their work shift to learn about situations that might affect their operations that day, such as work on a water main that could shut down certain fire hydrants, etc.

Commenting on the overall benefit the new fire house brings to Ravinia and the rest of Highland Park, Chief Schrage said "Fire Department personnel are very excited to occupy this state of the art facility that will serve the community for many years to come. The Fire Department is and always will be about the people it serves. We are grateful to the citizens of Highland Park for their investment in the Department." ■



14-foot-wide doors assure quick, safe movement in and out for apparatus. (Photo credit: Jeff Stern)



Second floor includes kitchen, locker, laundry and individual bunk rooms. (Photo credit: Jeff Stern)

## Pamela's Physical Therapy Banks on Keeping Folks Fit

By Jeff Stern

Proper exercise has been viewed as the pathway to a healthy heart and the functioning of other parts for those hoping to extend their lives well into retirement. Getting that far should actually start early in childhood, according to Pamela Tomlinson, who opened her PT Squared Physical Therapy enterprise on Roger Williams Ave. this past winter.

Like many entrepreneurs, Pamela determined early on to operate her own shop one day after gaining experience in physical therapy working over several years for a nationwide business that was founded for that purpose. You could say she banked on that background to prepare for the role of being her own boss and tailoring her therapy regimens to meet the individual needs of her clients.



The PT2 symbol she uses for a trademark comes from Pamela having the same initials as Physical Therapy: hence, PT2 or PT squared.

(Photo credit: Jeff Stern)

Recognizing the value of physical fitness in maintaining good health, she worked for a time in Chicago, and built relationships with physicians whose patients came from throughout the area and included children with orthopedic issues. During this period she met and married her husband David, a commercial real estate investor from Bloomfield, Michigan, and became the parents of daughters Sutton, who is now 6, and

Harper, 4.

Settling with her family in the Highlands area of Highland Park and maintaining contact with clients she had worked with there and in other communities, Pamela felt the time had come to make good on her determination to be out on her own in the physical therapy field. When she found that a former single-floor bank building on Roger Williams Avenue was available, she scouted it out and could visualize her dream coming true.

The process of purchasing the property for her physical therapy establishment was not an easy one for Pamela. While a number of storefronts in the Ravinia Business District await occupancy, the city tends to favor retail shops or restaurants that generate more income. Having had to put in a new floor and upgrade other features of the building, however, she feels her investment has been worthwhile, and that her business is a worthy asset to the community. ■



### North Shore Massage & Bodywork, LLC

Jessie Shastal, Owner/LMT/BCTMB

1811 St Johns Ave, Suite 203

Highland Park, IL 60035

(847)-505-3005

northshoremassageandbodywork  
@gmail.com

## Ravinia School is About to Undergo Big Changes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

- Three stories will be combined into two. Remarkably, the third story floor in the core (center) of the school will be removed and the second and third floors will be combined into one two-story level.
- The current library will be moved from its current location to the new two-story central core of the school, and the original “Tree House” library will become an “Art/Maker Loft.” The beams and trusses that characterize the original architectural style will be retained.
- Corridors will be color-coded to help students identify the grades. ■

*(Fe)*  
**The Male Room**  
 and more

412 SHERIDAN ROAD HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035 847.432.6253  
[www.personalizedgiftsforeveryone.com](http://www.personalizedgiftsforeveryone.com)

PERSONALIZED GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS.  
 GRADUATIONS, WEDDINGS, BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, BIRTHDAYS.  
 LUGGAGE, TRAVEL ACCESSORIES, COLLEGIATE, AND MORE!  
 MONOGRAMMED OR ENGRAVED.

**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

**Just Sold in Ravinia!**

848 Broadview Ave.  
 3 Bed | 2.5 Ba | \$531k

**Ravinia Native**

Nobody knows the North Shore & Ravinia like Carolyn Cerf.

**Carolyn CERF**

847.525.8245 | [carolyn.cerf@cbrealty.com](mailto:carolyn.cerf@cbrealty.com) | [www.carolyncerf.com](http://www.carolyncerf.com)

Lasting Silk Flower Creations by Trissy! View all offerings on myEtsy.com page: TrissysSilkFlowers.



Contact me directly at trissy1@comcast.net to purchase your arrangement and ask about shipping.



## FIELD VIOLIN WORKSHOP

Since 1980

451 Roger Williams Avenue  
Highland Park  
847/433.8522

Violinmaking Repair Restoration  
in the European Tradition

Rentals & Accessories

Fine Bow Rehairing

Store Hours

Wed. - Fri. 9:30 - 6:00  
Sat. & Tues. is best to call first  
Closed Sun. & Mon.

Certified violin-maker & professional musician, Gerry Field, has 40 years experience working with violins. Having studied many aspects of the violin, ranging from sound improvement to perfect bow rehairing, with renowned & respected restorers & violin-makers, he is highly qualified to work with you & your violin, viola or cello.

Integrity is of foremost importance to us.  
All work is guaranteed.

got vintage?

antiques. collectibles. accessories. excellent junk

Vintage Rescue  
473 Roger Williams  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
224-507-3766



## Vintage Rescue

By Izzy Tolpin

Are you looking for a cool store that's a bit out of the box? Vintage Rescue is just around the corner! When I walked into the store, I was amazed at the variety of vintage that rested on the shelves. Before doing the interview for this article, I procrastinated and wandered around the store in search of some cool jewelry. It just drew me in! I found so much of what owner Faye calls "excellent junk" on my search that I had to take a step back and try to focus on the task at hand. When I finally did start the interview, it was just as interesting as the store.

Vintage Rescue opened in Ravinia on February 1st of this year, upon which it received a warm welcome from the community. However, that wasn't the first time owners Faye and Richard Rosenberg opened a store of this kind. They were lawyers by trade and also ran a vintage store called Antiques Etcetera. They moved the store to Ravinia so they could be closer to home. Now retired, both Faye and Richard can now focus on their passion for antiques.

Becoming a unique store in the neighborhood was easy for them. Any type of vintage you can think of lies within Vintage Rescue. From clothes to cameras, everything is a best seller. However, the music is a specialty. Many kids from Highland Park High School come in to look at vinyl records. But if you're looking to spice things up Vintage Rescue also sells Galena Canning products, which contain sauces and dips. Sometimes, people come in just to buy those delicious dips.

Even though from the outside Vintage Rescue might seem small, I assure you the inside is a different story. There is a kids' room with vintage toys, books and kids' vintage clothes. I could spend hours on end reading the many volumes of Archie Comics stocked on the shelves. However, if books aren't your style, you can search the room of vintage fashion, which has every type of clothing you can think of, plus purses and accessories.

I highly recommend that you stop by. Vintage is so much fun and good for the environment. On top of that, the store atmosphere is super welcoming. When I asked



(Photo credit: Jeff Stern)

Faye who her ideal customer was, she said anyone who takes joy in looking at everything. It's clear that the Rosenbergs put their hearts and souls into their business. They are open Wednesday through Saturday 10-5, and will be open some Sundays in the summer. ■

An advertisement for Jeff Cohen Photography. The background is yellow. At the top left is the logo "jeffcohen PHOTOGRAPHY" in blue and black. To the right is a QR code. Below the logo and QR code are two rows of three headshots each. The first row shows a woman with blonde hair, a man with a beard, and a woman with dark hair. The second row shows a woman with long brown hair, a man with white hair, and a woman with long brown hair. Below the headshots is the text: "A PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR SUCCESS. BOOK YOURS TODAY! 847.347.2509".

A North Shore Tradition for over 30 years

ORDER ONLINE - [Pieros4Pizza.com](http://Pieros4Pizza.com)



Highland Park (Ravinia)  
647 Roger Williams  
(847) 433-7795

Fast Hot Delivery

Highland Park, Deerfield, Glencoe,  
Highwood & Winnetka



**RAVINIA**  
DISTRICT

CALL  
US  
FOR  
CATERING



**RAVINIA**  
BREWING + CO  
BEER. TACOS. FULL BAR.

**VOTED BEST BEER GARDEN  
ON THE NORTH SHORE**

582 ROGER WILLIAMS, HIGHLAND PARK

## The Ravinia School Murals and the Courageous Woman Artist Who Made Them

By Elliott Miller

Has anyone noticed two murals on either side of the main entrance of Ravinia School? Many Ravinia School families have passed by them, but few have paid them much attention. Who created them and why? This story focuses on an 80-year-old Ravinia School feature that was created by a courageous woman, disabled by polio, named Mildred Waltrip.



Mildred Maltrid, artist, illustrator, Lithographer, Muralist, photo ca. 1962

Mildred Kathleen Waltrip began life in humble circumstances. She was born in 1911 in Nebo, Kentucky, named for the Biblical Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land. Nebo has a total area of 0.25 square miles located in coal-mining country. According to the 2000 census, there were 220 people and 67 families residing in the town.

Mildred's father, Walter Waltrip, was a bookkeeper for a coal company. Her mother was Coralee, and her younger brothers were Lewis and Claude. By 1920, the family had moved to Chicago in search of a better life; where Mildred attended Chicago Public Schools. She was accepted to the school of the Art Institute of Chicago where she excelled in artistic composition.

While an art student at the Art Institute and at Northwestern University, Mildred studied under László Moholy-Nagy, a Hungarian painter of the Bauhaus school; and Ukrainian/American avant-garde artist, sculptor, and graphic artist Alexander Archipenko, noted for his Cubism.

When she graduated, in 1934, Mildred was one of five students to be awarded a scholarship – a \$2,000 foreign travel fellowship which she used to study in Europe for one year. In Paris she studied art under well-known artist Fernand Leger, credited as a forerunner of Pop Art.



Mildred Waltrip's "Claude," probably of Mildred's younger brother Claude, original lithograph, 1935. Collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mildred was first hired as a Designer/commercial artist for Marshall Field & Co. department store in Chicago. She worked in the advertising department from 1936 to 1937, where she illustrated books for customers, entitled "How to Buy Intelligently."

Mildred then embarked on a career as a free-lance artist; however, the US was in the midst of an economic crisis -- the Great Depression. At the height of the depression in 1933, 24.9% of the nation's total work force, 12,830,000 people, were unemployed. The Works Project Administration (WPA) was a federal project established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR)

*(Continued on page 12)*

## The Ravinia School Murals and the Courageous Woman Artist Who Made Them (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 11)*

Depression. These included jobs for tens of thousands of artists, musicians, actors, dancers, writers, photographers, painters, and sculptors. Asked why the government should provide jobs for unemployed artists, New Deal administrator Harry Hopkins replied, "Hell, they've got to eat just like other people."

During the depression, many artists were hired to paint murals in public places. Why murals?

In May, 1933, President Roosevelt was approached by an old classmate and professional artist named George Biddle. Biddle was a muralist and portrait painter. He was instrumental in the development of Federal arts programs during the Depression.

Biddle had long admired the Mexican government for paying artists "plumbers' wages" to paint murals on government buildings expressing Mexican ideals. Perhaps the President should consider something similar in the United States?



Mildred Waltrip: Brookfield Zoo Information poster, silkscreen, Federal Art Project, WPA, 1938.

Government art programs rescued artists from poverty and despair. But they also served a larger purpose -- to give all Americans access to art and culture. New Deal artists brought theater, music, and dance to every corner of the nation and created hundreds of thousands of paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture. Their work continues to adorn public buildings throughout the country.

included Cook County Hospital, the Chicago Park Administration Building, the Merchandise Mart, Hatch School in Oak Park, and Ravinia Elementary School. Sadly, many FAP murals have been destroyed due to demolitions or renovations to the buildings in which they were located. Of her Illinois murals, only Mildred's Hatch School and Ravinia School murals have survived.

Mildred Waltrip was hired by the WPA in 1936 to paint a set of large murals in a hallway at Hatch School in Oak Park, IL. She suffered from the crippling disease polio, wore leg braces, and needed special scaffolding to complete her murals. It's hard to imagine Mildred trying to paint a large mural while attached to scaffolding by her leg braces, and somehow managing her artist's paints and brushes.



This is a detail of Mildred's mural at the Hatch School, Oak Park, IL, mural, entitled "American Characters." This 1938 mural is in the typical social-realist style that was common in the works of the FAP artists. It was described as "... the epic dynamism of the American spirit, in a flat, angular, slightly cubist style." (Source: "The American Government Is Searching For Its Own Lost Art" <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/federal-artists-project>)

Mildred's FAP mural commissions in Chicago included the works at Congress and Sherman hotels, and Henrici's Restaurant, and for the WPA's Art project they

*(Continued on page 13)*

## The Ravinia School Murals and the Courageous Woman Artist Who Made Them (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 12)



Mildred Waltrip: Scene, Chicago Park District, gouache on paper.



Mildred's poster for the Art Institute of Chicago's 49th Annual Exhibition of American Paintings and Sculpture, 1937, silkscreen.

Following is the "Living New Deal Project" description of Ravinia School's murals: The pair of murals in Ravinia School main entrance, painted in oil on canvas, entitled "Robin Hood," was completed in 1940 under the WPA Federal Art Project (WPA-FAP) program.

Her Ravinia murals are described as follows: Mildred Waltrip painted the two-panel, oil-on-canvas mural "Robin Hood" (each panel measuring 5'3" x 6'11") in 1940 for the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project.

Mildred became a graphic designer completing many posters for the Brookfield Zoo and other national locations and events. Posters may be made to persuade, inform, notify, or simply to be appreciated for their artistic merits. Mildred's posters tended to be promotional in purpose.

A silkscreen printing technique previously used only for commercial purposes was used to create posters by FAP artists.

Mildred's hobbies included gardening and a love of outdoor life. She had a large repertoire of what she called "hillbilly songs" that she learned in Kentucky while visiting her grandparents. ■



Ravinia Elementary School's front entrance is at the top of the stairs where Mildred Waltrip's murals were hung.

## 2023 Ravinia Farmers Market Opens June 7 for 45th Season in Highland Park

By Ed Kugler

Local Vendors, Live Music and Giveaways will Highlight Market's Opening Day

The Ravinia Farmers Market (RFM) opens for its 45th continuous season from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7 at Jens Jensen Park in Highland Park, with some vendors open for early shoppers starting at 7 a.m. Opening day will include more than 20 new and returning vendors and live music, as well as the season's first Customer Appreciation Day, with organic and natural product giveaways and more. Market attendees can also win community-provided prizes. The weekly "Spin to Win Taste-A-Thon" continues, serving as a fundraiser for the RFM.

Most vendors offer only products they have grown or produced themselves, and come from farms and locations within about 150 miles of the RFM. In addition, the Ravinia market is one of only a few farmers markets in the Chicago area featuring local, organic produce grown directly by North Shore vendors.

Now, for a little history: In 1978, Joe Palminteri founded and managed the RFM for the first 30 years. On opening day, Ed Kugler was an organic sprout farmer selling 10 different varieties, sprout salads with cashew dressing, and organic bakery goods at the market, and continued until 1981. After Joe passed the baton, Lydia Davis managed the market for the next 10 years. Then, in 2017, Ed became the Manager, and has continued to this day.

"Since 2018 the Ravinia Neighbors Association ([www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org)) has generously served as the Host Sponsor of the RFM, which allows the weekly event to have non-profit status. This alliance reinforces our mission to bring together the community in the Ravinia District," Kugler noted. "We also continue to work with the Park District, along with the City of Highland Park, as our other main municipal sponsors," he added. It is Kugler's company, Taste Marketing, that manages the RFM.

In 2023, the popular Friends of the Ravinia Farmers Market membership program will provide opportunities to our attendees to get involved in the Market and learn about the vendors and producers. The Market is

also now accepting business sponsorships for this year's season. Additional details are available on the RFM website: ([www.raviniafarmersmarket.com](http://www.raviniafarmersmarket.com)).

Live music continues this year, as "Jazzman" Jeff Justman returns from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. most weeks. Since 2016, the North Shore-based acoustic musician has offered market-goers live entertainment in pass-the-hat style. Regular music performances from additional local artists are scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. each week on the market grounds. Weekly performances are sponsored by the Highland Park Community Foundation and Life Rhythms ([www.LifeRhythms.com](http://www.LifeRhythms.com)).

"Here's to the amazing Ravinia Farmers Market on its 45th anniversary!" Kugler said. "Enjoy our weekly small business outside mall offerings right here in Highland Park!"

Check out the website during the month of May for any updated 2023 vendors, music scheduling and any other information concerning this year's market operations. [www.raviniafarmersmarket.com](http://www.raviniafarmersmarket.com) ■



If you are interested in locally grown organic vegetables, come to our garden in Highland Park!

Highland Park High School students have been involved with this garden for over 13 years

# Organic Teaching Garden

[www.OrganicTeachGardenHP.org](http://www.OrganicTeachGardenHP.org)

We facilitate hands-on learning of organic gardening techniques

**NEIGHBORHOOD-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE THAT PROMOTES SELF-SUSTAINED FOOD CONSUMPTION.**

Ed Kugler • (847) 579-9080 • [Ed@EddieKugler.com](mailto:Ed@EddieKugler.com)



# June 7th through October 23th, 2023 Wednesdays 7am to 1pm

Jens Jenson Park • 46 Roger Williams Ave • Highland Park, IL 60035

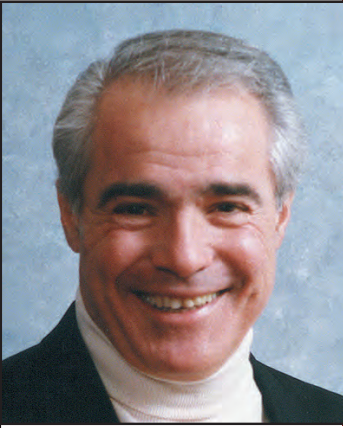
The Ravinia Farmers Market supports the viability of a local agricultural economy, which fosters the stewardship of our land and goodwill in our community by: providing a place for farmers and artisans to sell their goods directly to consumers; educating consumers on the benefits of better nutrition; creating a family friendly atmosphere amid a vibrant gathering place that builds community spirit; and promoting economic development by drawing people to local business.

Presented by



Sponsors





# Community starts with neighbors who care.

J A Palminteri Ins Agcy Inc  
Joe Palminteri, Agent  
475 Roger Williams Ave  
Highland Park, IL 60035  
Bus: 847-432-5570

## That's what our town is made of.

State Farm® has a long heritage of helping out in the community. That's why I'm proud to support Ravinia Neighbor's Association. Get to a better State®.



1201196

State Farm, Bloomington, IL



# The Name To Trust In Your Home

Serving our customers in the North Shore for 95 years.

### Services

- Plumbing
- Sewers and drains
- Sumps and back up pumps
- Heating and cooling
- Electrical

*"Ravinia has been our go to plumbing, heating and electrical contractor for years. While maintaining our systems in 'excellent' condition, their professionals have identified and corrected issues destined to become future problems saving us both time and expense. We recommend Ravinia frequently."*

PL05600666



- 24/7/365 emergency service
- Licensed and insured
- Major credit cards accepted/Financing available
- Discounts, extended warranties and expedited service through our Home Care Club
- The North Shore's most trusted name for plumbing, sewer, heating and cooling, and electrical service
- 9-time winner of the Carrier Corp. President's Award

Family Owned Since 1928



**RAVINIA PLUMBING,  
SEWER, HEATING  
& ELECTRIC**

**847-579-5556**  
**RaviniaPlumbing.com**



## Chunky Scone Finds Warm Welcome and Early Following in Ravinia

By Amanda McBee

Oscar Narváez opened the Chunky Scone in Ravinia on April 17, delighting residents and passersby with his vegan-baked confections. Since opening, Chunky Scone has entertained Ravinia residents, cyclists, day trippers from the city – even opera singers. All love the vegan treats at this delightful storefront!

Recently, Ravinia residents Amanda and Freddy McBee sat down with Oscar to learn more about his vegan baking journey and his path to opening the Chunky Scone in their community.

In welcoming Oscar to Ravinia, they asked about what led him to start a vegan bakery, and how long he had been baking vegan. He said, “I started out of necessity. When I became vegan in 2011, not much was available. I started doing tons of tests in my kitchen, scones were the first recipe I tried, and I was able to get it down to a science.

“From there I started making scones every Sunday for myself and my family. During a family dinner, one of the ladies shared that she was doing a holiday market in the Pilsen neighborhood in Chicago and asked if I would like to be a pastry vendor there. She wanted to know if I was interested in selling my scones. I hesitated at the beginning but said I would give it a try.

The holiday market in Pilsen was at St. Paul’s Church, on West 22nd Place. “I brought 100 scones to the market, and quickly sold out,” Oscar said. “I was shocked at first, since the scones were vegan, and I was in a Mexican community where scones were less familiar. This is how my journey began. From there, people kept asking me to bake for events, and I experienced more organic growth. I didn’t necessarily want to go this route, but one market led to another and another, and I started having a following.

“I did tons of markets, pop ups, farmers markets,” Oscar added. “All this success pushed me towards this [the bakery]. People at the markets kept asking me if I had a storefront. I found this location in Ravinia, and that was it.” As to why he chose Ravinia for his bakery, Oscar said, “The space was available, and I liked the rent. It was a bakery before, and some things were already here,

especially the type of floor, which is a specific requirement for bakeries.”

Commenting on his success since opening the Chunky Scone, Oscar said, “We are building a following in Ravinia with the locals. For example, Manuel makes coffee. He lives in Highland Park, follows me on social media, and came in asking if we would sell his coffee. Ros is another customer who also lives nearby. I would say my customer mix is 60% Ravinia or other Highland Park locals, and 40% people from other suburbs or Chicago, who have been coming for a while and are now loyal customers.

“We also see Ravinia concertgoers, cyclists, even a baritone who performed in Don Giovanni at Ravinia and is vegan. He brought his wife and loved that there was a vegan option in the neighborhood.” Asked for his hopes for the bakery in the years ahead, he said, “I would love to grow the bakery more, and hopefully expand to additional locations. I’ve expanded my product set and am selling items in the front. These items have to be made with love and care. If you love what you make, and people like it, it will sell on its own. That’s my philosophy.”

In regard to his decision to choose Ravinia as a place to open his bakery, Oscar said, “I’d like to give a big thank you to the Ravinia neighborhood for the welcoming arms. It’s been really nice to feel the love.” ■



## Twigs and Cotton Offers a Milieu of Women's Wear and Home Furnishings

By Jeff Stern

Ravinia's small-town atmosphere has long been a draw for up-and-coming businesswomen looking to make a splash with items appealing to sophisticated consumers. Anne Connors is a fitness trainer with a studio on Judson Avenue who also collects clothing and other items she buys in thrift stores and those which spark her interest at rummage and estate sales.

As she accumulated more of these items, she began to feel her taste in clothes, jewelry and unusual home furnishings was likely to be shared by others in the community where she had already developed friendships with many of her fitness training clients. With her eye for bargains and practically in-born salesmanship, she felt she could make a business out of what had merely been her pastime.

A native of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Anne became acquainted with our area as a student at Barat College in Lake Forest. Although she met her husband Curt in Kalamazoo, they ultimately settled in the Sunset Park neighborhood right here in Highland Park, where they raised four children.

Anne's growing fondness for Ravinia and its wide variety of small shops led her and business partner Evelyn Neu to jump at the chance to become the street's newest entrepreneurs when the storefront at 453 Roger Williams became available June 1st. Seeing no need to make structural changes or even add fixtures, they were ready for a soft opening just two weeks later.

Theirs is a shop full of "anything for a house," as Anne puts it. Besides home décor, at Twigs and Cotton you can find handbags and jewelry as well as upscale men's, women's and children's clothing. Treat yourself to a visit.

What began as a business gamble has already proven worthwhile, as Anne's new-found friends, fitness training clients, and others happy to find new places with interesting merchandise to offer flock to the shop. Twigs and Cotton also takes items on consignment, which can be arranged with Anne at the shop.



With business hours geared to accommodate just about anyone's schedule, Twigs and Cotton will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 to 8 on Thursdays, and 11 to 4 on Sundays. It will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Anne has already registered Twigs and Cotton with the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to supporting charity drives and other community enrichment events that may be held in the Ravinia area. ■

## Maddie Makes Food Her Language of Love

*Izzy Toplin*

Are you looking for something new and exciting for lunch or dinner? Maddie Yastrow opened a grab and go gourmet market in early August at 597 Roger Williams Avenue. Maddie's Market specializes in salad bowls, grain salads, all different types of humus, soups, take-and-bake meals, pasta and much more!



She gets her ingredients locally. There are loads of options for people who are gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian. There are also snack foods like chips, crackers and granola, plus desserts from various bakeries. On top of having a market, Maddie works with private clients and caters all kinds of events.

Maddie's business started by accident. When the pandemic began, and everyone had to quarantine, Maddie had no work, so she put food on her Instagram account, but more than usual. Then one of her family friends became incredibly bored ordering takeout, and paid Maddie to make her some home cooking. It all spread from there. People throughout the community began paying Maddie to make food for them and their families. Her offerings got so popular she sold her salads at Sally's Nuts, and they flew off the shelves like hotcakes.

If you think this is just any old market, you would be wrong. Maddie herself has been on "food TV" and has cooked ever since she was little. For a few years Maddie was a producer of restaurant review shows like Check Please, Chicago's Best, and America's Best Bites. She has traveled all over the country to work with top chefs. She has gone the extra mile, working at every level of the food industry, from catering and hospitality to making various kinds of salads.

To Maddie, food is her love language. When I asked why she started this market, she said, "I want to feed my people." Originally, Maddie was going to open her market a little after the 4th of July, but after the parade tragedy she said, "It didn't feel right." So instead of stocking the shelves, Maddie fed first responders. She and her friends took a wagon of food downtown and fed everyone from the FBI to the firefighters. This makes me even more excited to try her food because it's clear to me that each dish she makes is made with a whole lot of love.

I highly recommend a visit. Opening hours are from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Maddie is currently working on a permanent website.

She can be reached at 847-431-0029. ■



RAVINIA NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 1123  
HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035-1123

E: [rna@ravinianeighbors.org](mailto:rna@ravinianeighbors.org)  
W: [www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org)  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ravinianeighbors>

Please deliver to:

## BECOME PART OF THE RNA'S CONTINUING EFFORTS

YES, I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RNA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is our membership fee (circle one):  
\$20 one year; \$35 two years; \$50 three years

Please mail a check, along with this form to:

RNA, P.O. Box 1123, Highland Park, IL 60035

You can also join at: [www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org) and pay by credit card using PayPal.

If you have questions, please contact Doug Purington: [doug.purington@att.net](mailto:doug.purington@att.net).

Regular RNA meetings are normally held on the first or second Tuesday of every month.

**Our next meeting is to be in-person as well as virtual via conference call  
on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**