



My Ravinia

RNA Offers Deepest Regrets to July 4 Shooting Victims And Sincere Thanks to Highland Park Service Providers

By Jeff Stern

The Ravinia Neighbors Association wishes to express its profound sorrow to the families of victims for the immeasurable losses they suffered on a day we all came together at a parade to celebrate our nation's founding, never anticipating the horror that would be thrust upon innocent bystanders and traumatize the entire community.

We consider ourselves fortunate that when even the unthinkable happens in Highland Park, our police, firefighter/paramedics and public works departments spring into action to meet the challenge. We also owe the staff at Highland Park Hospital our profound thanks for their response July 4 when their steady hands were most clearly needed.

As we learned from City Manager Ghida Neukirch and others under the direction of Mayor Nancy Rotering, many city staff members from all departments were in attendance at the parade, either because they were working at the event or were there to celebrate with their families and the community.

When the tragedy began to unfold, first responders rushed to the scene, including every Fire Department apparatus, which had been lined up along St. Johns to take part in the parade. Police secured the area and assumed command of the crime scene while Firefighter/Paramedics, CERT volunteers, staff and members of the

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Kimberly Stroz

Volunteerism 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.

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Construction Continues on Schedule for New Ravinia Fire Station

By Jeff Stern

As passersby can see, construction of the new Ravinia fire station is well under way. In an earlier newsletter we explained how seriously out of date the structure that had been built in 1929 was in fulfilling the needs of 21st Century firefighting and paramedic services, and the growing size of the equipment that had to operate from there.

The old house, while architecturally appealing to Ravinia neighbors, was cramped for the crews who had to live there, and difficult to maintain. Even with a major structural change that replaced two apparatus doors divided by a support column with unobstructed space and a single, extra-wide door, the size of modern apparatus made adjacent parking of an engine and ambulance increasingly problematic.

Taking those and other issues into account, it was determined that the site of the old fire station was still the most appropriate one for allowing the fastest running times to the areas being served. The result was a design that provides as many of the required up-to-date features as possible while still appearing to fit well into the neighborhood.

Since ground was broken on Burton Avenue in mid-May, construction has remained basically on schedule as of August 1 with the completion of foundation work, as Engine 32 and Ambulance 32 continue operating from temporary facilities across the street.

Currently visible through fencing around the construction site, walls in the foundation show the layout in the basement for a number of functions. One will be for a room for technology equipment, such as fire alarm and fire station alerting equipment relating to the dispatch of apparatus, along with phones and internet.

Another room will have exercise equipment for personnel to use when they are not undergoing training or engaged in other work-related activities. There will also be washrooms with showers in the basement, along with an elevator from the basement to the second floor, as required by the building code. Also required by code will be an emergency shelter on the first floor for crews to use during extreme weather events.



We look forward to reporting on future updates as construction continues. The new fire station, with the same 692 Burton address as the old one, is expected to be in service by the middle of next year. ■

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RNA Offers Deepest Regrets to July 4 Shooting Victims And Sincere Thanks to Highland Park Service Providers (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

public treated victims where they were struck and/or transported them to area hospitals.

Public Works professionals helped cordon off the area to prevent interference with rescue work and the crime scene so police could perform their investigative work effectively. Communications professionals worked to ensure accurate information was provided to the media and within the mutual aid community response system.

The staff at Highland Park Hospital deserves special thanks for its response to the emergency. Like other front-line professionals, they regularly train for extraordinary events. As July 4 began, there were some half dozen patients in the emergency department at the hospital, and the 21-bed ER was staffed by five nurses, two patient care technicians and one doctor.

By late morning that Monday some 30 nurses, 20 doctors and six surgeons had been called in to treat 26 of the most severely wounded victims. Others were taken to Glenbrook, Evanston and Lake Forest Hospitals, while those with minor injuries were treated in the waiting room of Highland Park Hospital to keep the ER available for those with greater need. For all who served that day, the RNA offers its most heartfelt thanks and the hope that another response of such magnitude will never again be needed in Highland Park or in any other neighborhood we might call home.

We tend to take it for granted that when the Police are called to handle a fender bender on an area roadway, or the Fire Department is needed to extinguish a fire at home or to come to the aid of an older person who may have fallen and injured themselves, an immediate response will be forthcoming from the appropriate agency.

What many don't realize is that our police and firefighter/paramedics constantly undergo training to prepare for emergencies well beyond a standard road or house call, and to address extraordinary situations like what Highland Park's service providers had to face on July 4 at the start of the city's traditional Independence Day Parade.

■



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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.” ■



980 Dean Avenue Notes

By Elliott Miller

Perched on the northern edge of the Cary Avenue ravine, near the corner of Dean Avenue and Cedar Street, there is a Craftsman-style house. Built by William Rogers Ruffner in 1906, a Chicago coffee and sugar importer, Ruffner named his house Ruffwood because it was located in the wooded setting he enjoyed. From his back porch and second-story balcony, Ruffner could see into the ravine and enjoy nature. Squirrels, chipmunks, and white-tail deer would scamper up the ravine to graze on the foliage in his yard.

A short walk from Ruffner's house to the Ravinia train station made it easy for him to commute to the office of Ruffner, McDowell and Burch Company in Chicago. Ruffner fit in with the many prosperous Chicago businessmen and professionals who enjoyed living in Ravinia in the early 1900s.

Ruffner was a very busy man. He directed a flourishing company and made periodic trips to his New York



Ruffwood, 980 Dean Avenue (Photograph by the author, August, 2022)

office and from there would sail to conduct business with coffee brokers in Brazil. Ruffner's New Orleans office handled sugar procurement.



W. R. Ruffner

William Rogers Ruffner was born in Chicago in 1872 and died in Highland Park, IL on Sept 2, 1934. He lived at the corner of Dean and Cedar in Highland Park. (Photo, Tea and Coffee Trade Journal, July, 1923, p. 59)

Ruffwood was built by William Rogers Ruffner in 1906, the same year he became the president of his firm, on five acres of land along the north side of the Cary Avenue Ravine at Dean Avenue. He owned the entire corner of Dean and Cedar. Ruffner built himself a resort, complete with tennis court, swimming pool, skating rink in winter, and gardens.

Private resorts were not uncommon in Highland Park in the early 1900s. Oscar Foreman, Nathan Leopold, Herman Loeb, Julius Rosenwald, and others had summer and weekend resorts in Highland Park.

Several lots were later subdivided along Cedar Street in what became known as Ruffner's Subdivision. The current property consists of one acre along the ravine. From Dean Avenue, the house is barely visible, concealed in a canopy of trees and green leaves. It is a hidden treasure.

Over the years, additions were built on the house and garages were added. Ruffwood had been on the market for sale for several years without a buyer. Over that time, the house has deteriorated and is now in poor condition. As of the writing of this article the house has not been sold and is off the real estate market. There is an unverified rumor that one of its neighbors may be interested in buying it with the intention of tearing it down for a swimming pool.

William Rogers Ruffner died in Highland Park on September 2, 1934. He obviously enjoyed living in the Ravinia community, and so do we.

(Continued on page 7)

980 Dean Avenue Notes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)



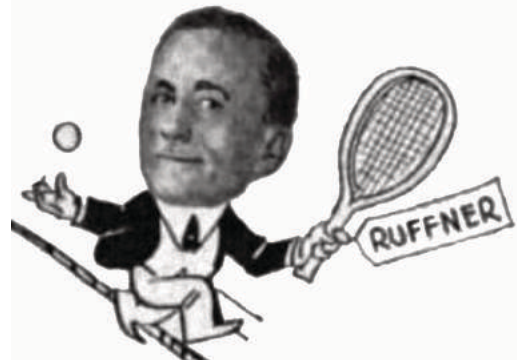
980 Dean Avenue as seen from the street (Photograph by the author, August, 2022)

The Blue Book of the Trade	The TEA & COFFEE TRADE JOURNAL	The Grocery Magazine De Luxe
COFFEE CLUB GIVES A PARTY		
John Blackburn and Phil Nelson the Guests— Golf Tourney to Follow—A Sketch of William R. Ruffner		
Staff Correspondence CHICAGO, July 6, 1925.		
<i>A Chicagoan in the Trade</i>		
<p>William R. Ruffner, of Ruffner, McDowell & Burch was born in Chicago, July 26, 1873, and has lived here all his life. He has been in the coffee business since 1890. He started as a broker with one of the larger coffee brokers then, and soon afterward went into the brokerage business for himself, continuing until 1897, when he went to Brazil for F. W. McLaughlin & Co. On his return he reentered the coffee-brokerage business under the firm name of W. R. Ruffner & Co. which later became Ruffner & Atwood, then Ruffner & McDowell, later Ruffner, McDowell & Burch.</p> <p>Mr. Ruffner is a member of the Chicago Athletic Association, Exmoor Country Club, and Chicago Coffee Club. He says that the business has changed from a coffee-brokerage business in Chicago to that of acting as general agents for foreign coffee concerns. Mr. Ruffner is married has three daughters, and lives in Highland Park, a suburb of Chicago, where he has a beautiful</p>		
	W. R. RUFFNER IN HIS GARDEN	
	<p>home with a little over five acres, a tennis court, swimming pool, skating rink in the winter, delightful gardens. His home, gardening, tennis, and golf represent his recreation.</p> <p><i>Chicago Trade News</i></p> <p>R. W. McCreery of the Western Grocer Mills, Marshalltown, Ia., was a visitor in Chicago last month.</p> <p>William Call of Ruffner, McDowell & Burch, is riding around in a brand new Studebaker.</p> <p>Harry Geissert of Louis J. Bright, New Orleans, was a visitor at the offices of W. T. & C. J. Callaghan and W. E. Waldschmidt.</p> <p>J. Cohen of the Continental Coffee Co. and his family recently returned from a week's trip to Detroit in his new automobile.</p>	

After hectic business days, William Ruffner enjoyed coming home to his Ruffwood on Dean Avenue. This article was published by the Tea and Coffee Trade Journal, July, 1925, p. 100. Ruffner is seen relaxing in Ruffwood, his Dean Avenue property.

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A 1920s Ruffner advertisement. In the years of printing telegraph systems that were used for long-distance communication, Ruffner would receive quotes on tea and coffee purchases under the Cable name Ruffwood.



A cartoon of Ruffner playing tennis. The American coffee and tea trade merchants had an active collegial and even jovial relationship in the early 20th Century. They were connected by their monthly trade magazine, The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal, which is poking fun at Ruffner and his tennis court.

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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. ■

Clavey Road Project Progresses Toward Finish Line

By Jeff Stern

There's good news for area residents and others who have been navigating the obstacle course that has allowed traffic to move along Clavey Road while that lifeline to Skokie Highway and points beyond has undergone major rehabilitation, along with sewer upgrades, for the past year and a half.

The first phase of the work, which consisted mainly of building a new bridge across the Skokie River and replacing an old water main with a new ductile iron main, was completed this spring. The second phase, which began this past June, has included new asphalt pavement and enlarged storm sewers to handle extra-heavy rain-falls.

The new phase will also provide a much-needed amenity enabling bicyclists to avoid trying their luck alongside fast-moving cars and trucks on the roadway, or sharing a sidewalk with joggers and other pedestrians as their only way to make a connection between Green Bay and destinations west of the highway. An 8-foot-wide multi-use asphalt pathway will allow both groups to make safe trips in either direction while looking out for others using the new facilities.

Construction is expected to be interrupted during the frigid winter months, and will resume in the spring, with the final touches of landscaping and other restoration efforts scheduled for completion by early fall of next year. ■



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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.

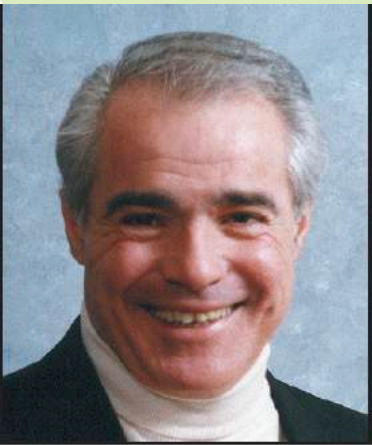
Maddie's business started by accident. When the pandemic began, and everyone had to quarantine, Maddie had no work, so she put food on her Instagram account, but more than usual. Then one of her family friends became incredibly bored ordering takeout, and paid Maddie to make her some home cooking. It 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. ■



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If you have questions, please contact Doug Purington: 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, October 11th**