

Ravinia Neighbors Association

## 2008 Board Members

Don Miller, President  
Eve Tarm, Vice President  
Doug Purington, Publicity Director  
Jeff Stern, Recording Secretary  
Ken Temkin, Treasurer

### Board Members at large:

Nan Harris  
Lynne Jungman  
Nancy Rotering  
Stacey Tarpey

## Committee Members

### Advertising,

Al Richman

### Archivist,

Jeff Stern

### Business District,

Eve Tarm, Chair

Dwayne Douglas

David Baum

Don Miller

Doug Purington

Dave Wigodner

### Environment,

Harold Rafson

### Earth Day Festival,

Amy Lohmolder

### Membership,

Nan Harris

### Newsletter:

#### Editor,

Lynne Jungman

#### Proof reader:

Carol Levenson

#### Editing:

Eve Tarm

### Railroad Trainmaster,

Jeff Stern

### Webmaster,

Kelly Huegel

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

# My Ravinia

## CELEBRATE HIGHLAND PARK'S EARTH DAY AND SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL AT JENS JENSEN PARK



Ravinia Neighbors Association

By Amy Lohmolder

On Saturday, May 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Ravinia Neighbors Association will play host to the Highland Park Earth Festival—an Earth Day celebration and sustainability festival which takes place at Jens Jensen Park and the surrounding Ravinia Business District. Within a festive environment to include food, music, games and other fun activities, residents of Highland Park will have the opportunity to learn about current sustainable practices—green lifestyle options—that contribute to the health of our planet, and in turn, our own health and well being.

The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with a pre-festival cleanup at Snyder Park, followed by a pre-festival bike ride at 10:40 a.m., starting from the Highland Park train station. Also at 10:40 a.m., smaller children are encouraged to do the shorter 'junior ride' starting at Beech Avenue and the Green Bay Trail. There is more than one reward for arriving on a bike. Besides the fresh air, exercise and the beauty of the Green Bay

Trail, riders will earn two raffle tickets for a drawing that includes—what else—a bike! In fact, everyone arriving at the festival “motor-less” or by public transit will get two chances to win not only the bike, but a variety of other raffle prizes. (Those arriving by car will get a single ticket.)

The festival will open at 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors will present a wide range of information, products and services that aid in more sustainable ways of living, including healthier food options that will be offered as free samples, and for sale in larger portions. Highland Park school children are also invited to exhibit and share what they know of environmentalism via any projects their classes may choose to present. A speaker series at the train station will include mini-lectures by the Botanic Garden, Sierra Club and Becker Architects. Other activities at the festival will include story time with Paddy Lynn, crafts with At Home Party Adventures, nature-focused activities complements of the Botanic Garden, tours at May T. Watts Park and (people-powered!) bicycle rickshaw rides.

The goal of the Earth Day Festival is to encourage green consciousness and to provide information and creative ideas that children and adults can use. Good practices do not have to be difficult or dramatically altering of one's lifestyle. It often only takes an awareness of how small, consistent efforts can contribute significantly to the sustainability of our natural environment. That, after all, is our responsibility as stewards of planet Earth. Hopefully, this festival will stimulate such awareness in a fun and supportive environment and provide a “bag”—reusable, of course—of green ideas and healthy habits.

Please join your neighbors at this event. Those able to lend a hand and play a role in this community event are encouraged to volunteer. For volunteer opportunities, and also for additional information on schedules and activities, visit [www.hpearthfestival.org](http://www.hpearthfestival.org) or call Amy Lohmolder at 847-433-4875.



# Ravinia Area Cleaners: Clothing Themselves in "Green"

By Peg Laemle

On a Sunday morning walk along Roger Williams last year, I saw a huge machine being delivered to Joy Cleaners. In the month following, a sign appeared at Joy Cleaners advertising "Organic Cleaning". Being interested in things "organic" as well as sustainability, I wanted to learn more about this method and so did a little research.

A somewhat sweet smelling chemical called perc (Perchloroethylene) is the cleaning solution used by most dry cleaners in the United States and in this area. It is not considered environmentally friendly and is regulated as a hazardous waste by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.state.il.us/small-business/perc/>). This does not mean that all dry cleaners using perc are causing danger to themselves, the environment or their customers. It means that these dry cleaners must take great care using it and disposing of its by products. Perc is the current industry standard for cleaning clothes.

We now have three dry cleaners in Highland Park advertising themselves as organic cleaners and two of them are on Roger Williams. The new Satec EazyClean machine I saw being installed at Joy Cleaners does not use perc, but hydrocarbons, to clean fabrics. The owner's son, John Shim, says that this machine produces no hazardous waste and provides consistent, reliable dry cleaning of clothes. Operating this machine does not require EPA monitoring.

Mr. Kim, who owns Wayne's Cleaners on Roger Williams, continues to provide the traditional perc dry cleaning, but now also offers wet cleaning on a machine manufactured by EMC. This machine has programmable settings based on most garment types.

It uses a non-toxic soap to clean. Clothes come out slightly damp, allowing them to be tension stretched while steam pressed. Mr. Kim can use his wet cleaning machine on most types of clothing, depending on customer choice. He considers wet cleaning to be the most environmentally safe cleaning method.

Lake City Cleaners on First Street uses a Solvair machine, which uses special biodegradable cleansing liquid to clean, and liquid CO2 to dry clothes. Because the machine uses no heat or tumbling, owner Victor Seyedin believes it provides the best size retention and least fabric wear, particularly important for finer heirloom or expensive clothing. He is considering offering re-usable or biodegradable garment bags to be even more environmentally sustainable.

Each business owner, of course, believes his cleaning process to be the best. I did not discuss with these cleaners the effects of dry cleaning on one's health, or compare costs of one method versus another. Having done these interviews, however, I will be a wiser shopper and be certain to air out any perc-cleaned garments.

Online information discussing various cleaning methods include:

<http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/realmoney/articles/drycleaning.cfm>

<http://www.ucsus.org/publications/greentips/do-green-dry-cleaners-exist.html>

<http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/214336>  
(you may need to register to use site)

<http://www.consciouschoice.com/2001/cc1407/greenercleaners1407.html>



**Introducing all the insurance companies who offer more discounts than Farmers.**

**No one offers more discounts!**

With all kinds of ways to save on your policy, the choice for auto insurance in Highland Park couldn't be easier. Call now to find out more about our new lower rates.



**MICHAEL A. MAIONE, CLU, DUTCF**  
359 Roger Williams Avenue  
Highland Park  
(647) 433-4880  
[www.farmersage.it.com/maione](http://www.farmersage.it.com/maione)



**FARMERS**

**Anthony R. Licata**  
Attorney at Law

**Real Estate and  
Private Equity**

**Shelsky & Froelich**  
Attorneys at Law  
Putting Innovation to Work™

Shelsky & Froelich, Ltd.  
111 E. Wacker Drive  
Suite 2800  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel 312 836 4028

## Business Reports:

### AROUND THE BUSINESS CORNER

By Lynne Jungman

It's springtime in Ravinia and on Roger Williams. The formerly forlorn storefronts are blooming again as new businesses are opening their doors. And it is encouraging to see that many are headed by women entrepreneurs with plenty of drive and savvy.

Aimee Krupp, a Ravinia resident and mother is one of those. She owns and operates *PRINCIPESSA*, a baby and children's boutique, which opened last October at 453 Roger Williams. Anyone who has babies and children or an acquaintance with little people will be pleased with this bright consignment/retail shop and its carefully selected assortment of babyware, children's clothing and charming gift items.

Aimee left the corporate world after becoming a mother. Having always loved fashion and good quality clothing, she wanted to dress her daughter nicely. Aimee soon discovered that e-Bay was a great vehicle for getting quality baby and children's wear items without breaking the bank. Soon she began an in-home business on e-Bay of buying and selling for herself and others. It was quite successful and as business grew a decision to open a shop was an easy one, and also the location was perfect for its proximity to her home and daughter's grade school.

As a community-minded and environmentally attuned person, she combines new merchandise with consignment clothing. Aimee is exacting in the consigned items that she accepts: meticulously clean, with no signs of wear and names known for quality and style. These then can be offered at markedly reduced prices and everyone wins. Friends who had said to her that they could not see themselves buying "used clothing" are now avid customers.

Check out the line of previously worn—usually once or not at all!—bar mitzvah party dresses. New merchandise is chosen with a similarly discriminating eye. A new line designed by Madonna is expected soon.

Local women artists supply some of the gift items. Handmade bracelets and hair bows should catch the eye of young girls and shoppers looking for a special present. A local photographer's work is on display with supersize photographs of children that are so fresh and natural you want one of your own child.

*PRINCIPESSA* is off to a running start and Aimee is here for the long run. Please stop in and browse. It is a good bet you will be delighted and find something for some special little one in your life. 453 Roger Williams Ave. 847.926.0500, [www.principessaboutique.com](http://www.principessaboutique.com)

Within every mother, grandmother, sister, aunt resides a sophisticated lady ready to step out and glow. All she needs then to do, walking along Roger Williams, is step into *JILL ALBERTS*, the office and retail space for this jewelry designer, and envision herself wearing one of Jill's exquisite pieces.

This new business owner at 469 Roger Williams is a Ravinia mother and resident who had worked from her home and created a thriving company. Increased demand for her stunning creations encouraged a move to her present space. Success had already been assured once Jill's original pieces, carried in stores like Henri Bendel, Nieman's and Bergdorf's, caught the eye of celebrities such

as Julia Roberts, Sarah Jessica Parker et al. bestowing on her the bon mots "designer to the stars." Predictably, fashion magazines such as Vogue and Elle took note.

Jill's previous professional background would not have necessarily augured her present career. She was in academia, teaching American and political history at DePaul University, but her growing up years suggested this eventual detour. She loved going to flea markets and antique shops with her mother, also an artist, and was drawn to old jewelry pieces and developed a discerning eye. She began making jewelry as a hobby, incorporating old pieces in updated styling, taking on a chic, urban cachet. Initially friends and acquaintances wanted her to make pieces for them and her pastime turned into a business. Jill found her true passion.

Now working exclusively in design, Jill partners with jewelry manufacturers to make the pieces, and she painstakingly oversees each step to make sure the finished work is perfectly true to her concept. Many can be viewed on her website at [www.jillalberts.com](http://www.jillalberts.com), or drop by her Roger Williams business, which is now open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. In the planning is a June event to introduce this jewel of a shop.

*Jill Alberts*, 469 Roger Williams, Highland Park, IL, 847.681.1630

### Benvenuti!

Ravinia will have a new restaurant, *TRATTORIA VALLE D'ITRIA*, opening in mid-April. The new owner is Giovanni Chirulli with cousins and business partners Maria Giallanza and MaryAnn Carioscia. Each brings a surprising array of talent that should assure success for this Italian restaurant at 581 Roger Williams.

Giovanni, whose family lived in the beautiful Itria Valley in the Puglia region in southeastern Italy, came to the United States in 1991 and began his formal culinary training. He is a graduate of the well respected Kendall College, School of Culinary Art. But he has been in the restaurant and hotel industry since his teen years, learning all aspects of the business and rising to principal chef. For five years he worked in food operations on the Princess Cruise Line of "Love Boat" fame. More recently he has worked for local restaurants in Highwood and Highland Park before venturing out to open his own. He believes he has found an ideal spot and ideal partners.

Maria grew up in the Ravinia area and knows its character and clientele. She cut her work teeth in her father's shoe repair shop and her mother's dressmaking shop on Roger Williams. She also acquired many of her food and customer service skills from working for ten years at Sunset Foods. Maria is a graduate of Barat College and brings business acumen honed by seventeen years in property management and design.

MaryAnn received her bachelor's degree at DePaul University and her graduate degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She owned a successful catering business for five years and brings to the table her talents in marketing and advertising along with brio. This is a formidable family affair.

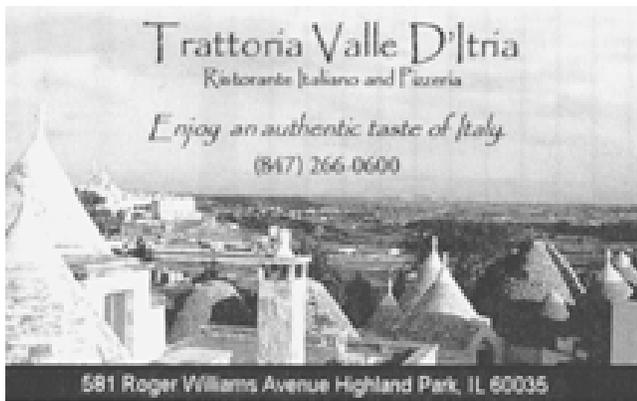
Their vision for the restaurant is a warm, welcoming interior with continued on page 5

## Business Reports:

a pristine kitchen, attentive service, excellent Italian food that will feature some dishes that reflect the cuisine of Giovanni's native Puglia and that may be new to some palates and lovers of Italian food. Look for the Puglia pasta of choice, orecchiette, in creative presentations then sip caffè con panna with a Torta Frutti del Bosco. The Adriatic coast is not so far away after all.

Outside seating and service will be available in the summer months along with picnic baskets for the Ravinia Festival crowd. Carryout menus and a front dolce counter will be part of the array of services. Moreover, all this comes with the wonderful Italian character of warmth and enthusiasm and passion for good food.

Per favore vorrei prenotare un tavolo!  
*Trattoria Valle D'Itria*, 581 Roger Williams, Highland Park.  
847.266.0600



### SPLASH ON THE PAINT

You can do your Jackson Pollock or stay in the lines. *SUNSHINE CRAFT* offers your child or the child in you a creative way to spend some time. Debbie and Don Colby have moved into this newly decorated space, formerly the home of the Custom Framer.

The owners are green conscious and provide non-toxic, odor-free paints and glaze which you can apply to a huge variety of Pottery you take home immediately. Other crafts include Tie Dye Shirts, Sand Art and Glow in the Dark Painting, under blacklights. They offer full service birthday party packages and other events. Go in for a visit and check out their programs.

477 Roger Williams, Highland Park. 847.537.4877.  
www.sunshinecraft.com

Or if your tastes run more to developing your body as a work of art then look into *ESSENCE PILATES* and start work on strengthening your core and get that toned look before summer. Marilee Papale, who also has studios in Chicago and Deerfield, has opened at 455 Roger Williams. www.essencepilates.com

A new restaurant, *Abigail's American Bistro*, will be opening this summer on the corner of Roger Williams and St Johns Avenue. This space is having an entirely new renovation and the interior will be comfortable and sophisticated; an elegant rusticity carried out in old brick, rich wood, zinc, polished concrete and soft lighting. Michael Paulsen, the new owner, is partial to local sustainable food and seasonable products and his creative menu reflects this. He even extends this concept into the bar with seasonal fruit based vodkas and mostly domestic wines. Prices will be modest. Abigail's will be a welcome addition to the increasing restaurant presence in Ravinia. Welcome!



## Contact Me Anytime!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Susan Garrett".

**State Senator Susan Garrett**

29th District  
425 N. Sheridan Road  
Highwood, IL 60040  
847-433-2002  
ilsenate29@sbcglobal.net

## Committee Reports:

By Jeff Stern,

The Ravinia Neighbors Association continues to take an active role in maintaining and improving the historic Ravinia Metra station that has served our community for almost 120 years. The station was renovated back in the 1980's when a group of area commuters and business owners recognized that without major improvements the deteriorating wooden structure might end up demolished and replaced by a utilitarian brick box. The result was an outpouring of effort and investment that allowed Ravinia to retain and enhance the centerpiece of its historic charm. This effort left the station in excellent condition and the oldest active facility of its kind on the North Shore.

With the pride that comes from having such an elegant building as part of our heritage, the RNA adopted the station as a community project to watch over and help maintain. To highlight the historic nature of the station, the RNA sought out historic photos of the community to display on its walls with the help of the City of Highland Park and the Custom Framer, who continue to support our efforts.

The four framed photos and a painting were mounted some time ago in the waiting room walls, now joined by a fifth photo that has as its subject the post World War I development of land east of St Johns around Woodland and Oakland Avenues. The photo shows the real estate office for the RaviniaWoods development and a vintage car parked nearby and in the lower part a piece of track from the old North Shore electric line.

In the past year, the City has done some restorative work, including floor resurfacing. With the support of the Park District and the Ravinia Garden Club a four-sided kiosk was constructed and now stands at the south of the station providing information of interest to the community.

## A New Look Coming Your Way

The internet has become a way of life. Today we can find practically anything at the touch of our fingertips. People search for restaurants, other people, directions and more. The internet provides a wealth of knowledge without leaving the comfort of our homes.

The Ravinia Neighbors Association realizes that having information about local businesses and services at your fingertips is a great asset to the community, whether you're a resident or guest. The website, [www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org), is going through a facelift to bring a more functional site to your fingertips. The new look will be live by mid to late May.

What changes can you expect? A little bit of everything, from colors to the new layout and added features. The word that comes to mind to describe the color scheme and layout is soothing. The goal is to make the site a reference tool on the web. Residents and guests are going to want to come back again and again because the information is useful and easy to navigate. A new feature that is currently up and running and will move to the new site is the forum. It is a great tool to share your thoughts about happenings in the community.

Don't forget to check out the new site. It may become your new best friend on the web.

### RNA INTRODUCES WEB FORUM

The RNA has introduced a new way to discuss issues related to the Ravinia area; it is the RNA Web Forum. The Forum can be accessed at: <http://www.ravinianeighbors.org>, or from on several links found on the RNA website page. The Forum is accessible from anywhere and open to everyone.

A web forum, sometimes called a discussion board, is a place where users can view, or comment on, various topics. Topics are typically grouped under general categories and any user can initiate a new topic at any time. Because a forum preserves entire threads, you will never miss any part of a discussion: it is all right there.

Viewing or reading the contents of the forum can be accomplished by anyone. However, to participate, post a topic or reply in a thread, you must register as a member of the forum. Registration is free and does not obligate you to anything. Even participants who are not RNA members can register. We would of course like you to become a member. Take a few minutes to take our new forum for a spin.



MANNY MARCZAK  
(847) 681 1700  
555 ROGER WILLIAMS#1  
HIGHLAND PARK  
a060505@allstate.com

I can help you cover the bases:  
home, auto, life, commercial.  
Call me today to learn more.



Subject to availability and qualifications. Insurance offered only with select companies. Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Indemnity Company, Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, an Allstate Life Insurance Company, Fort Worth, TX. ©2007 Allstate Insurance Company.



Happi Sushi Japanese Restaurant

561 Roger Williams Ave. Highland Park

Dine In  
Carry Out  
Delivery  
Catering

Tel: (847) 432-1516  
Fax: (847) 432-1666

# The Sound of Home

By Amelia Levin

For some, the mark of summer means that slight burning sensation when you're standing in direct sunlight, or that nighttime breeze that feels warmer even after sundown. For others it's the smell of freshly cut grass or the sound of the kids playing outside.

For me, it's all these things. But, growing up, there were more telling signs that summer had arrived: sitting on the back porch of my childhood home and through the woods, hearing "test, test, test" on the microphone and the sounds of an orchestra practicing. It was seeing the pink parking passes on our kitchen table. It was the emergence of dusty blankets and lawn chairs from the basement. But most of all, it was noticing my mom's extra bop in her step, her beaming smile, her rosier cheeks, her voice that sounded more and more like a cheery song. I knew that summer was here because the Ravinia Festival season had opened.

Growing up I thought Ravinia was a pretty cool place. You could chill out on comfy blankets, eat some good food, listen to some cool tunes. Sometimes, when I was a wee thing, I played air violin to Tchaikovsky. My first job at age 14 consisted of ringing up sandwiches and pouring Coke at the old Gazebo. For me Ravinia meant summer work and good fun. But for my mother, Karen, it was her passion, pure happiness.

Our family of four always had to stake out "our place" on the lawn in front of the pavilion. So my dad and I, blanket and chairs in tow, camped out in the beating sun at the front gates, waiting for the doors to open. Then we'd literally run with the rest of the dedicated few to mark our special spot.

The Ravinia ritual continued through the night. Dinner was promptly at 6:30 p.m. My mom, a recipe developer, would make sandwiches and salads that put gourmet carry-out food to shame. Later, just before the intermission rush, we'd head over to the Carousel for ice cream or giant Dove bars from the cart. Then

we'd stroll around the lawn, admire the sculptures and check out the gift shop.

I don't remember when it happened, but the Ravinia Festival became less important to me. I had other interests. Sometimes, though, I'd go with my mom on her after-dinner festival destination. She, of course, had bought her supply of lawn tickets on opening day so as not to miss a single performance. Armed with her favorite viewing tool—a well-used pair of Minolta binoculars—Mom would find a good viewing spot on the railing and watch the performance. I think that she was reliving her years as a "band-aid" - in the words of Cameron Crowe - back in her native L.A., days when she had long, super-blond hair and rocked out to Mick Jagger and the Stones.

My mom became a familiar face at the Festival, known by the gate keepers, ushers, even the police officers who strolled the lawn. Once in a while she hosted popular picnic parties so her friends could share in the fun.

When I went off to college, I was into other things and forgot about Ravinia. Now back in Chicago, something changed. I started looking forward to Sunday visits at my parents' that included the walks over to the festival in the summer, strapping on my mom's old binoculars and not feeling like a dork anymore.

I went to one of my mom's picnic parties and danced the night away to the Gypsy Kings. Last year I organized my own Ravinia picnics with friends, relaxing over bottles of pinot and gourmet mom-food.

Now I live in the urban jungle where the sounds of sirens and car horns block out chirping birds and rustling leaves. But I still know when it's truly summertime. I hear the "test—test," and the sounds of bands warming up. I see my mother's beaming smile and the picnic chairs.

And I am home.  
(Karen Levin celebrated her 10th year of not having missed a single Ravinia Festival performance.)



**Ravinia Plumbing Heating & Appliance Co., Inc.**

595 Roger Williams Ave., Highland Park

www.RaviniaPlumbing.com      Ph: (847) 432-5561  
info@RaviniaPlumbing.com      Fax: (847) 432-5561



- Plumbing Service & Repairs
- Hot Water & Forced Air Heating
- Air Conditioning Sales & Service
- Sewer & Drain, Service & Repairs
- Appliance Service
- Bathroom Remodeling

**Voted "Best Plumber on the Northshore" by Northshore Magazine**

Since 1928

Ravinia Neighbors Association  
P.O. Box 804  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-0804

Printed on recycled paper



The next Ravinia Neighbors Association Board meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3rd from 2:45 to 3:00 pm at the RNA booth in Jens Jensen Park on Roger Williams Avenue. All are welcome to attend; bring your suggestions and concerns or just listen in and perhaps get more involved.

## Join your Neighbors — Add your Voice!

The Ravinia Neighbors Association (RNA) is the only neighborhood organization on Chicago's North Shore. Over its 10 years of existence, the RNA activities have included:

- Keeping Ravinia and its improvement needs in front of City Council and its commissions
- Initiating TIF project to improve street-scape in Roger Williams' business zone
- Having interface with developers regarding design issues in business district
- Encouraging store front beautification
- Preventing the erection of antenna clusters and cell towers near Ravinia School and Brown Park
- Helping to bring about Gateway Park
- Providing framework for Jens Jensen Park restoration initiative
- Presenters of Earth Day Festival 2008



Please become part of our ongoing endeavors!!

Yes, I want to become a member or renew membership in the RNA. Mail in to join, renew or extend membership)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: membership: \$20 one year; \$35 two years; \$50 three years

Mail check together with this form to:

Ravinia Neighbors Association, P.O. Box 804, Highland Park, Il. 60035

You can also join online at our Web site: [www.ravinianeighbors.org](http://www.ravinianeighbors.org) and make payment by credit card using Paypal.

If you have already renewed, we will credit you accordingly.

Questions: Don Miller: [donaldjmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donaldjmiller@comcast.net) or

Doug Purington: [doug.purington@att.net](mailto:doug.purington@att.net).