

# Village View



The Voice of Roscoe Village Neighbors

## RVN Approves Groundbreaking Security Program

At a meeting on February 13, the board of Roscoe Village Neighbors voted to approve an innovative new security program for our neighborhood that will harness the latest technology to help keep Roscoe Village a safe place to live.

The vote was the first step toward establishing a unique system that will employ cloud-based cameras, strong advocacy, an emergency alert system and enhanced communications with residents. The project represents the twin goals of assisting police in Roscoe Village and discouraging crime from happening in the first place.

"Given the circumstances of urban living, including the decreasing number of police allocated to our neighborhood by City Hall, RVN is committed to helping residents and businesses take action to support law enforcement and deter crime in and around Roscoe Village," said RVN President David Kerber.

The centerpiece of the program will be the installation of up to 27 cameras at 13 locations along Roscoe Street. The 1080p night vision-equipped cameras will feed fully encrypted video footage into a cloud system that can be accessed by Chicago Police Department officials upon request.

The cameras will be accompanied by signage as well as a marketing campaign that spreads the word about the new system. In addition, residents and businesses can purchase cameras for their properties as part of the program or bridge devices that link existing cameras to the new RVN system.

"We anticipate that as participation in the camera program expands and police are able to leverage the modern technology that the program provides, Roscoe Village will become a safer place to live, work and play," said Jason Elster, RVN Neighborhood Watch Committee chair.



A sample sign noting the new security program to appear on Roscoe Street. RVN plans to start working with local business to begin the process of camera installation this spring. **RVN**

### *Roscoe Village History File*

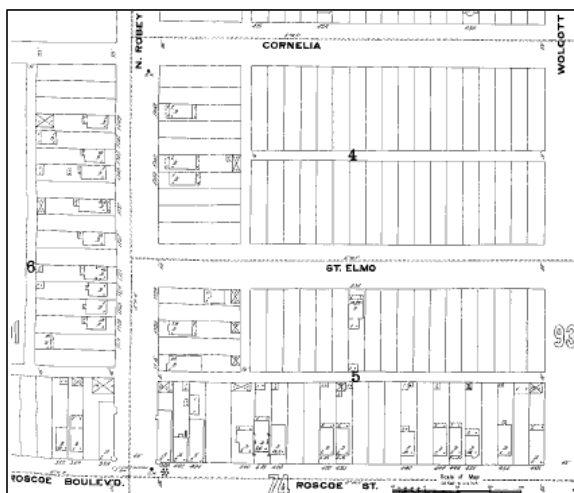
## Where Roscoe Village's Street Names Come From

Strolling around the area we know today as Roscoe Village, one begins to wonder: who was Roscoe, anyway? What about Belmont and Addison? Were Seeley and Hoyne the names of people who used to live in the area?

As it turns out, the answers are more complicated than you might think. Using the terrific sourcebook *Streetwise Chicago* by Don Hayner and Tom McNamee, we hereby present some answers:

**Roscoe St.:** Not named for a person, but for the tiny town of Roscoe, Pa. (population 848).

**Belmont Ave.:** Named for an 1861 Civil War battle in Belmont, Mo. led by General Ulysses S. Grant.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, circa 1894. **Chi. Pub. Lib.**

**Addison St.:** Named for the English doctor who discovered Addison's Disease.

**Ravenswood Ave.:** Said to be named for ravens flying out of woods that once lined this road.

**Western Ave.:** Once the western border of Chicago. (The border has since moved.)

**Damen Ave.:** Once called Robey Street, then renamed for Father Arnold Damen, who founded St. Ignatius High and Loyola University.

**Wolcott Ave.:** Dr. Alexander Wolcott married the daughter of Chicago forefather John Kinzie in Chicago's very first wedding.

See **STREET NAMES**, Page 3.

## Save These Dates: 2018 RVN Calendar

**Mar. 1 | New Neighbor Welcome Party** Hey, new residents: come meet your neighbors and learn all about Roscoe Village! 6:30-8:30PM, Commonwealth Tavern (2000 W. Roscoe)

**Mar. 10 | RVN 20th Annual Spring Brunch** Enjoy fabulous food and neighborly cheer; kids can meet Peter Cottontail! 9:30AM, Commonwealth Tavern (2000 W. Roscoe)

**Mar. 22 | RVN Men's Night** Take in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament and show your skills in a blackjack tournament. 6-11PM, Riverview Tavern (1958 W. Roscoe).

**Apr. 19 | RVN Ladies' Night Out** Gather with the ladies of Roscoe Village for a night of revelry. 7-10PM, location TBD.

**Apr. 21 | Spring Clean & Green Day** Pitch in to clean up our streets! 9AM-12PM, meet at Fellger Park for supplies, donuts (Damen & Belmont)

**May 5 | Talk Derby to Me Pub Crawl** Roll out the seersucker, bowties and big hats: it's derby (and mint julep) time. The party goes on all afternoon. 1-?PM, locations TBD.

**June 2 | 14th Annual Community Garage Sale** Join your neighbors in selling your stuff; over 30 sales throughout our area. 9AM-2PM, throughout Roscoe Village

**July 29 | Roscoe Village Garden Walk** Show off your green thumb and tour fabulous gardens. 12PM-6PM, throughout Roscoe Village

**Aug. 10-12 | Retro on Roscoe** Three awesome days of music, food and revelry. One of our neighborhood's best traditions! *Roscoe from Damen to Oakley*

**Oct. 21 | Roscoe Village Halloween Parade** March down Roscoe with the whole family in your costumes and trick-or-treat at local businesses! 2 PM, Roscoe Street

**Dec. 1-2 | RVCC/RVN Roscoe Village Winterfest** Enjoy a tree lighting along with shopping and holiday fun. *Roscoe Street*

**December | RVN Holiday Decorating Contest** Think your holiday flair takes top prize? See how it stacks up against the rest of Roscoe Village. *Throughout Roscoe Village*

## Western Ave. Redevelopment Study Released

With demolition of the crumbling overpass on Western Avenue complete, RVN has sought to help answer the question of what should come next for the important roadway.

Through its Zoning and Land Use Committee, RVN commissioned a study to determine how best to steer development along Western with the overpass gone and new opportunities for growth appearing. RVN held a community forum for input from affected neighbors and consulted with nearby business owners and local officials to help inform the study's conclusions.

The resulting document provides a comprehensive overview of Western Avenue development at present along with recommendations for future land use in the area. The study was conducted by the Lakota Group and Goodwin Williams Group; read it at <https://goo.gl/rrDdnL>.

## City Begins Pedestrian Chicago River Bridge

This fall, the City of Chicago broke ground on a bridge and pedestrian walkway that may change the way Roscoe Villagers view and use the Chicago River. Dubbed "312 RiverRun," the project is poised to connect parks along the riverfront from Horner Park to our own Clark Park. As a first step, the City is building the Riverview Bridge, which will rise 18 feet above the river and stretch for over 1,000 feet between Belmont Avenue and Addison Street. Once the bridge is complete—which planners claim will be by the end of 2018—cyclists and runners who enjoy traversing Clark Park will have a new, scenic option for recreation. Future phases of 312 RiverRun will extend pedestrian access along the river linking California and Horner parks.

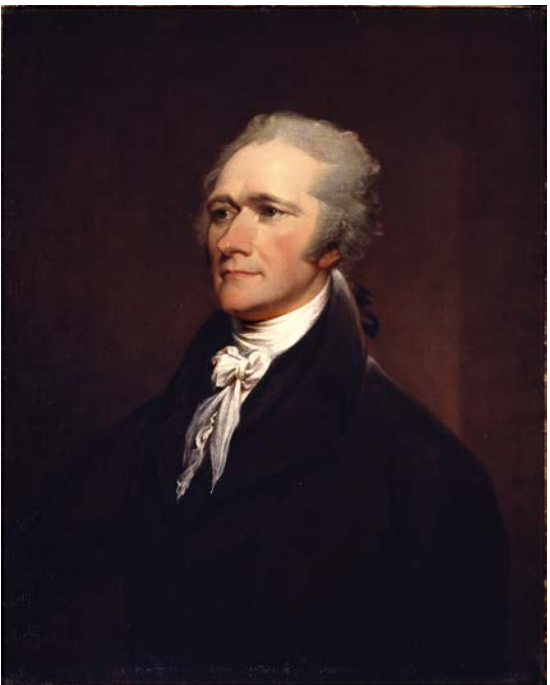


Rendering of the Riverview Bridge of 312 RiverRun.

## Street Names in Roscoe Village Bring History Home



Scotland's Melrose Abbey, namesake of Melrose St.



Alexander Hamilton: Founding Father and potential inspiration for Roscoe Village avenue name.

*Continued from Page 1*

**Seeley Ave.:** Once called Tyson Ave., Seeley was renamed for Adm. Amos Seeley, who in 1879 developed land around Seeley near Madison St.

**Hoyne Ave.:** Named for Thomas Hoyne, onetime U.S. Attorney who was elected Chicago mayor—but only for three months. Hoyne bested then-lawyer Abraham Lincoln in an 1853 criminal case against a mail thief.

**Hamilton Ave.:** Thought to be named for Richard Hamilton, most likely the first lawyer in Chicago back in 1831. But it may have been named for first U.S. Treasury and musical inspiration Secretary Alexander Hamilton instead.

**Leavitt St.:** David Leavitt was a New York banker who also served as trustee for the Illinois and Michigan Canal, saving the vital waterway connecting the Mississippi to the Great Lakes from financial ruin before construction was complete.

**Bell Ave.:** Named either for George Bell, lieutenant of a regiment of Illinois Volunteers in 1861, or Alexander Graham Bell, telephone inventor and namesake of Bell Elementary in North Center.

**Oakley Ave.:** Charles Oakley was also a trustee of the Illinois

and Michigan Canal; he traveled to New York and Europe to try to secure funds to build it.

**Claremont Ave.:** Although spelled slightly differently, this road was named for the first steamboat to be in public service: Robert Fulton's *Clermont*, which first traveled up the Hudson River in New York in 1807.

**Eddy St.:** Named for D.C. Eddy, a lawyer and banker who according to the Chicago History Museum laid out Lake View subdivision in 1888.

**Cornelia Ave.:** Named for Cornelia Dyer, whose grandfather subdivided this land and also served as Chicago mayor.

**Newport Ave.:** Once called St. Elmo St., Newport was named for the town of Newport, R.I.

**Henderson St.:** Likely named for A.H. Henderson, a developer who laid out the map of an area including this street closer to Lake Michigan.

**School St.:** There is a school on School St., though it's not in Roscoe Village; it's Hawthorne Scholastic Academy at School and Clifton, for which this road was named.

**Melrose St.:** Named for the Melrose Abbey in Scotland, a Gothic abbey built in 1146 and rumored to be home to a roving zombie priest.

## What is RVN? And How Can I Get Involved?



We're glad you asked! First, the basics: Roscoe Village Neighbors is a long-running 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to serving as an

advocate for you—the people of Roscoe Village. Our bylaws commit us to working with everyone in the neighborhood, promoting Roscoe Village as a place of business and providing a public forum, as well as speaking as a uniform voice for the community and promoting cooperations among neighbors.

Then there's the fun stuff. We put on nearly a dozen events each year to show our neighbors a good time and raising money for local causes, like the schools that educate our children. We put on a Village-wide garage sale, a garden walk, fun nights out, a spring clean-up event, and plenty more. See our **Calendar on Page 2**.

So how can you help? First, sign up to be an RVN member at [roscoevillage.org](http://roscoevillage.org). (It's only \$20 annually per family.) Second, be a volunteer. Our events don't work without the efforts of our neighbors. Pour beer at Retro on Roscoe, or help beautify the neighborhood at Clean & Green. Finally, have fun! Join us at our events. We can't wait to meet you!



## RVN Spring Events

### Hello Neighbor!

Did you move to **Roscoe Village** in the past 12 months? **WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU!!**

For a fantastic opportunity to meet people in your new neighborhood, please join us at the annual Roscoe Village Neighbors New Neighbor Welcoming Party.

Enjoy a drink, have a bite to eat.  
Meet other newcomers to Roscoe Village.  
Take a moment to learn about other great RVN events.  
Get the scoop on everything Roscoe Village from our board members.

So come join the fun:

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1st**  
6:30-8:30 pm @ Commonwealth Tavern

Need more information? Please e-mail us at [roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com)

*Hope you can make it!*



JOIN US FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



**AT COMMONWEALTH TAVERN**  
**MARCH 10, 2018 • 9:30AM**

**THE BRUNCH INCLUDES:**

CHILIQUILES, SMOKED POTATOES, SCRAMBLED EGGS, BACON, HAM, FRUIT & MORE BEVERAGES AND DESSERT

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS INCLUDING PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES WITH PETER COTTONTAIL

A GREAT TIME TO MEET NEW NEIGHBORS AND SPEND TIME WITH THE ONES YOU ALREADY KNOW AND LOVE  
BUILD-YOUR-OWN \$6 BLOODY MARY AND \$3 MIMOSA BARS (CASH BAR)



**REGISTER AT [WWW.ROSCOEVILLAGE.ORG](http://WWW.ROSCOEVILLAGE.ORG)**  
\* YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF RVN TO REGISTER

### Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

We welcome your feedback!

Feel free to drop us a line with notes about this issue, goings-on in Roscoe Village, and anything else that's on your mind about our neighborhood.

Write us at [roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com](mailto:roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



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2018-19

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