



# Riverwoods

## VILLAGE VOICE

## Riverwoods, a Unique Ecosystem

By The Riverwoods Preservation Committee

### What we have.

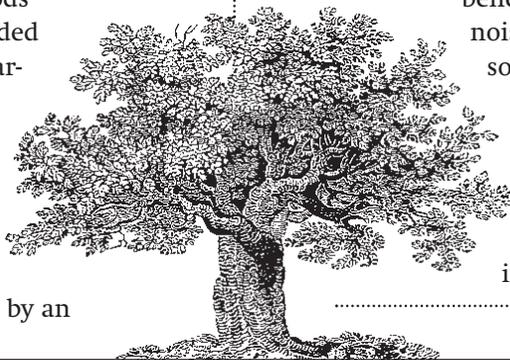
Riverwoods is special. Our woodlands are a complex ecosystem of native, interdependent plant species which foster the active growth of oaks and other forest trees, as well as a variety of wildlife. This ecosystem consists of the canopy, the understory, and the plants of the forest floor. Each element has characteristic species. For example, ground plants include trillium, wild geranium, grasses, sedges and native vines such as Virginia creeper, while the understory includes ironwood, blue beech, hawthorn, eastern redbud and smaller trees and shrubs. The canopy is dominated by American basswood, ash, sugar maple, silver maple, black cherry, hickory, elm, hackberry, eastern cottonwood and oak species, but also includes black locust, white pine, walnut, and willow trees.

In addition to its unique natural environment, Riverwoods is known for its ambience, the "feel" of the community that arises in large measure from the special connection the residents feel to the natural surroundings and the community as a whole. Unfortunately, the Riverwoods environment is being degraded and fragmented, creating barriers to wildlife, and reducing the ability of the woodlands to regenerate more desirable species. The causes include the proliferation of non-native, invasive plant species, over-browsing by an

increased deer population, insect threats such as the gypsy moth, Asian Long-horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer, and stress caused by changes in the water table. We residents are perhaps the single greatest cause of woodland deterioration, as we replace natural growth and beneficial leaf and tree litter with buildings, pavement and large, cultivated areas such as turf grass lawns.

### What's in it for me?

We all benefit from the fact that much of Riverwoods is a woodland ecosystem. The woodlands minimize flooding by absorbing rainwater and snowmelt, thereby reducing the volume and rate of water runoff much more effectively than turf grass and cultivated areas. They also reduce erosion from water runoff. In addition, woodlands filter water pollutants from stormwater, cleaning and recharging the underground aquifer (from which many of our residents derive household water) and providing this area with cleaner recreational waterways. Similarly, the trees help clean our air, absorbing a variety of pollutants including the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. Another benefit is the reduction of noise pollution by baffling sound transmission from nearby roads. Finally, our woods provide nesting areas for birds and other wildlife, which in turn assist in control of insects. In all of these



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Riverwoods Board and Committee meetings are held at the Village Hall unless otherwise specified and are open to the public; residents are encouraged to attend.

**Riverwoods Village Board:**  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8p.m. Jan. 17. Make a note that the board meetings of Feb. 7 and 21 will be held at 6p.m.

**Riverwoods Plan Commission:**  
1st Thursday, at 7:30p.m. Feb. 9.

## TO GET INVOLVED IN RIVERWOODS

**Village of Riverwoods Senior Program** Call Nancy Morten at (847)945-3990.

**Theatre in the Woods**  
Call Sandy Sagan, producer at (847)945-0585. **I Think I Can**, an interactive children's play about gaining self-confidence, will be presented Sunday, February 12 at the Estonian House. Performances at 2:00 and 4:00pm.

**RRA** (Riverwoods Residents Association) Become a 2006 member for \$20. Receive an auto sticker, support and be a voice in your community. Mail \$20 to RRA, c/o Village of Riverwoods, 300 Portwine Road, Riverwoods, IL.

Meetings are held at the Riverwoods Village Hall. Contact RRA president, Richard Small for more information.

**Family Programs** Call Jodi Kahn at (847)236-1632.

**Plant Sale Committee.** Call chairmen Margie Kaul, at (847)945-5131 or Sheila Hollander at (847)945-4879.

**The Riverwoods Preservation Committee**  
Call Greg Mancuso, chairman at (847)945-7034.

**Arts&Riverwoods** Call Leslie Ames, chairman, at (847)948-9003.



# Village Board of Trustees Meeting Notes

Summary of ordinances, resolutions, and non-routine motions approved by the Board of Directors from meeting minutes November 1, October 25 and September 20.

## DEPUTY CLERK APPOINTED

Russell Kraly has been appointed Deputy Clerk of the Village.

## MARINE WEEK PROCLAIMED

The week of November 6 has been proclaimed MarineWeek.

## SNOW REMOVAL

The Village Board approved D&M Enterprises for 1 year with 5% increase for the Village's snow plowing and salting contract for 2005/2006.

## RIVERWOODS SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The work for paving the Riverwoods sidewalk has been re-assigned from Gus Paving to Chicagoland Paving due to problems Gus Paving had securing a bond. Chicagoland Paving has agreed to do the work for the same price.

## PERSONAL SURPLUS PROPERTY OWNED BY VILLAGE

The sale of surplus personal property owned by the Village has been approved.

## PRIMECO SETTLEMENT PAID

An approved payment of \$32,348.37 was made as part of the Prime Co. Settlement

## VILLAGE HALL IRRIGATION SYSTEM

The Board of Trustees authorized spending \$12,440 for Village Hall irrigation system. An additional \$2000 has been authorized to connect the system to Lake Michigan water.



## Riverwoods Book Club

Resolve for the New Year to try something new ... like the Riverwoods Book Club. The first meeting of the New Year is Friday, January 20, 2006 at 10:00am at the Village Hall conference room. Our book for January is Bee Season by Myla Goldberg. Refreshments are served and it's free! For more information, please call June Melber at (847) 940-7086

## Natural Flu Prevention

The doctors at The Center for Holistic Medicine in Riverwoods have ways to help you prevent the flu and to help diagnose and treat mercury toxicity. These things have been in the news lately and we have professionals to help diagnose and treat these worrisome conditions in a natural way. Call us if you have questions at 847-236-1701

## Senior News

By Nancy Morten

### New Rewards Card Member News

- Liberty All Private Car Service will give all Rewards card members \$.50 off each way to ORD<MDW or the LOOP. Their phone number is (847) 279-0799. Call and check out their low rates.

- Thank You to Quiznos Subs Riverwoods for participating in our Bingo prize program. The winners will enjoy their gift certificates.

- Upcoming events; Tax help, Medicare Part D information, AARP 55 and Alive Driving Program.

Please call Nancy at (847) 945-3990 with any other ideas and topics you would like this year.

## It's 11:00 p.m.— Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

The curfew ordinance, which affects youths under the age of 17, is 11p.m. during the week and 12a.m. Holidays, Friday and Saturday. It conforms to state statute.

## Read the News First on the Village Website

All information contained in this newsletter as well as other pertinent Village information is available on the Village of Riverwoods website. Read it first at: [www.villageofriverwoods.com](http://www.villageofriverwoods.com)



### Riverwoods Village Voice

is published bimonthly by the Village of Riverwoods. The purpose is to provide a communication forum and information for residents. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the mayor or members of the Board of Trustees.

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Village Board Meeting Minutes taken by:  
Debbie Limer

Any resident wishing to become a newsletter staff volunteer please call the Village Hall at (847)945-3990 and leave your name and phone number.

# The Police Report

By Chief Morris Weinstein

Thanks to everyone that responded to our survey. We value your input. As always feel free to contact Riverwoods Police Department with any concerns.

If you see a suspicious person in your area the correct number to call is (847)945-1820. If you are ever in doubt you can always call 911. Please make sure your house address is visible from the street (from both directions). This will assist emergency personnel in helping you.

The Riverwoods Police Department has been awarded a Mini-Grant Alcohol Program grant. The award will provide funding for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) / Alcohol enforcement equipment, personnel costs for supplemental enforcement, and related ancillary expenses. The grant is administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation. The anticipated grant funds are approximately \$17,000.

The primary focus is on enforcing impaired driving laws, with a secondary emphasis on speed and occupant restraint violations. Riverwoods Police Department has consistently maintained a high level of DUI enforcement. Utilizing a hire back program, Riverwoods Police Department has completed two of a total eight enforcement campaigns during a twelve month period.

Riverwoods Police Department hopes to increase the public awareness and compliance to traffic safety laws. Traffic crashes account for many injuries, deaths, and damages to property. Traffic enforcement has a dramatic, positive effect on traffic safety and the reduction of crashes.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year.



## Fire Department News

By Firefighter Scott Vaughn

The Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Department would like to remind residents of the ever present efforts of some groups to solicit funds in the name of fire service organizations when, in reality, an extremely small percentage of funds collected ever make it to the assumed beneficiary. Although there are numerous groups that engage in this practice, we have discovered in our fire district a phone solicitation followed by a mailed "pledge card" from the Association for Disabled Firefighters (ADF). According to the Better Business Bureau, since 2001 the ADF has been charged with deceptive practices by the Attorney General offices in Arizona, Oregon, and North Dakota. Among the

specific charges were "falsely representing that contributions would go to a charitable purpose, when in fact only 0.7% of the total collected funds went for charitable purposes".

The Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Department does not solicit money from its residents, either by telephone or mailers. In the past, off-duty firefighters have collected funds for charitable organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the New York Firefighters Widows and Children's Fund but these solicitations have always been in person (fill the boot drives) and in uniform so as to be easily recognized.

The LRFD cannot always confirm the validity of groups soliciting funds related to the fire service. It is recommended that for information on such groups residents contact the Better Business Bureau at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) or (703) 276-0100.

## Riverwoods Forestry Program Update

By Kirsten Stewart

As we anticipate the arrival of spring, it is time to begin planning for another season of forestry activities. The Village forestry program includes tree protection and preservation, woodland management, gypsy moth control, diseased elm tree removal, and dangerous tree identification and removal.



### Tree Protection and Preservation

Village Ordinance 03-6-7, as amended, provides for the Preservation of Protected Trees. A protected tree is any tree 2" in caliper or greater. The removal of any protected tree, whether for construction or other purposes, requires the issuance of a permit from the Village. In order to receive a tree removal permit, a Tree Removal Permit Application form must be fully completed and approved by the Village Forester. The Tree Removal Permit Application form and instruction sheet are available at the Village Hall and on the Village web site. The removal of live, healthy protected trees must be mitigated unless they are dead, diseased, dangerous, within the foot print of a principal building on a lot which had not previously been improved with buildings of any kind, or are removed for good forestry practices. All trees to be removed must be listed on the application form and must be clearly marked in the field prior to the review by the Village Forester. If the trees to be removed are exempt from mitigation, then there will be no fee for the review of the permit application or for the permit. Trees can be mitigated by planting new trees and / or by pay-

ing a fee as calculated by the Village Forester. Permit fees are as listed in the Village of Riverwoods Annual Fee Ordinance.

### **Woodland Protection**

Village Ordinance 02-2-2 regulates the removal of protected woodland. A protected woodland is a contiguous area, containing a stand of deciduous trees whose total combined canopy covers an area of ten thousand (10,000) square feet or more, and generally consisting of the canopy, understory, and ground plane elements characteristic of the Riverwoods Woodland.

Existing protected woodlands may not be removed and they may only be impacted as defined in the ordinance. Applicants for a site development permit must delineate the existing woodlands on the site and follow all of the applicable sections of the Village of Riverwoods Site Development Requirements publication. This publication is available at the Village Hall and on the Village web site.

### **Woodland Management**

The Village encourages residents to actively manage the woodlands on their property. To assist in this effort, the Village has developed and implemented a program where qualified residents can be reimbursed for a portion of the cost to manage their woodlands. The three woodland improvement activities that may qualify for this reimbursement are the removal of buckthorn, the removal of garlic mustard, and the planting of selected species of native trees. Detailed requirements and application packets are available at the Village Hall.

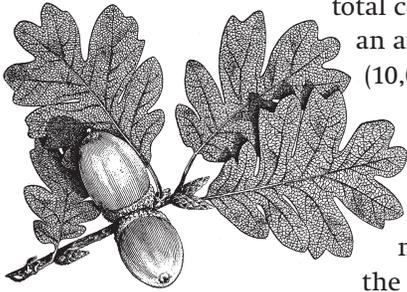
Residents that apply for reimbursement should:

Provide all information required in the application packet.

Submit a separate application for buckthorn removal, garlic mustard removal, and tree planting.

Make sure that the cost per acre for buckthorn removal and garlic mustard removal that they submit are consistent with the cost per acre prices that the Village paid for the areas that the Village has previously bid out. These bid costs are provided in the packet. Some contractors have attempted to charge residents very high prices for these activities. Applications with cost per acre prices that are not consistent with established prices will be rejected and permit application fees will be returned to the applicant.

Make sure that the application is for woodland improvement and not for landscape enhancements. Applications that are determined to be for landscape enhancements will be rejected and the permit application fee returned to the applicant.



Remove all buckthorn on the property (this is a one time reimbursement).

Remove the buckthorn stumps or have an initial stump treatment by a licensed applicator with Garlon and one re-sprout treatment by a licensed applicator with Garlon.

Remove all garlic mustard on the property mechanically without the use of herbicides. Garlic mustard removals can begin in May and must be complete by July 15th each year before the plants go to seed. Applications will not be accepted after July 1st each year. Reimbursements for garlic mustard removal will not be made for more than two consecutive years.

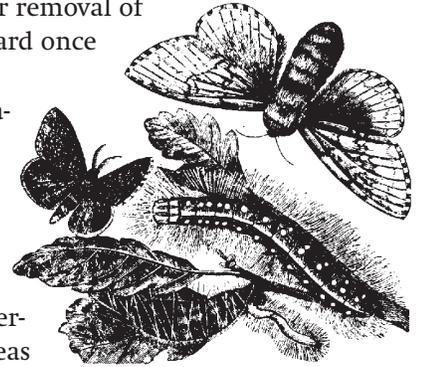
Continue their regular removal of buckthorn and garlic mustard once Village has assisted in the removal of the large populations of these invasive plants.

### **Gypsy Moth Control**

In 2004, the Village experienced large populations of gypsy moths in several neighborhoods. These areas were sprayed during the spring of 2005. It appears that the combination of this effort and the weather of the past season have combined to greatly reduce the problem. The Village has had no confirmed reports of gypsy moths from residents. The Village Forester has investigated a few reported sightings by residents, but none were gypsy moths. Inspections of the areas affected last year have also not identified new gypsy moths or gypsy moth egg masses. Residents are encouraged to monitor their property, especially in the areas that were problems in 2004 and report any suspicious insects or egg masses. If residents are contracting tree pruning or other tree care work on their property during the year, they should request that their tree contractor be on the lookout for gypsy moth egg masses, larvae, or adults; depending on the time of the year that they are doing the work.

### **Diseased Elm Tree Removal**

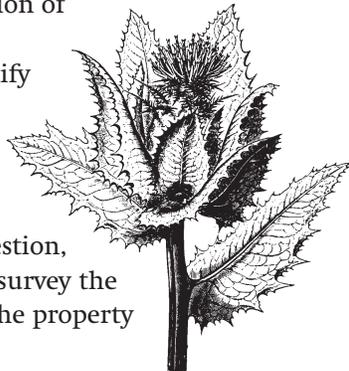
The Village Forester conducts an annual survey for trees with Dutch elm disease. Trees that are identified with Dutch elm disease are marked with a red paint spot and noted for the general location on individual lots. Property owners with diseased elm trees on their property are notified by letter from the Village that they have a diseased tree or trees and that the diseased tree(s) must be removed within a specified time. Not all property corners are clearly identified with markers. Best efforts are made to determine the proper location of diseased trees. If a resident receives a notification letter and feels that the tree is not on their property, then they should contact the neigh-



bor who the believe owns the property with the diseased tree and verify with that owner who owns the tree. If this can- not be done, then the owner that questions the location of the tree should contact the Village and the Village will notify the adjacent property owner. In the event that the ownership of the diseased tree cannot be determined without a survey of the property(s) in question, then the Village Engineer will survey the lots to determine ownership. The property owner that owns the diseased tree will be responsible for the removal of the diseased tree and the cost of the survey. Property owners that have their contractor remove the diseased tree must apply for a tree removal permit so that the Village has an accurate permit record of all tree removals. There will be no fee for this permit. Property owners that do not remove their diseased tree will receive a second notice. The Village will remove diseased trees that are not removed by the property owner and the expense of this process with be the responsibility of the property owner and the cost will be billed to the property owner. It is not necessary to grind out the stumps of the diseased trees, however, no wood from the tree can be retained for firewood.

### Dangerous Trees

The Village Forester conducts an annual survey for trees that are dangerous to the roadways in the Village. Trees that are dangerous to both Village owned roads and privately owned roads are identified. Trees that are identified as dangerous and that must be removed are marked with a red paint spot. Trees that have dangerous limbs and that must be pruned are marked with a green paint spot. Trees that are on private property adjacent to Village owned roads or that are along private roads are noted for the general location on individual lots. Property owners with dangerous trees or trees with dangerous limbs on their property are notified by letter from the Village that they have a dangerous tree or trees and that the dangerous tree(s) must be removed or pruned within a specified time. Not all property corners are clearly identified with markers. Best efforts are made to determine the proper location of dangerous trees. If a resident receives a notification letter and feels that the tree is not on their property, then they should contact the neighbor who the believe owns the property with the dangerous tree and verify with that owner who owns the tree. If this cannot be done, then the owner that questions the location of the tree should contact the Village and the Village will notify the adjacent property owner. In the event that the ownership of the dangerous tree cannot be determined without a survey of the property(s) in question, then the Village Engineer will survey the lots to determine ownership. The property



owner that owns the dangerous tree will be responsible for the removal or pruning of the dangerous tree and the cost of the survey. Property owners that have their contractor remove the dangerous tree(s) must apply for a tree removal permit so that the Village has an accurate permit record of all tree removals. There will be no fee for this permit.

Property owners that do not remove or prune their dangerous tree(s) will receive a second notice. The Village will remove or prune the dangerous tree(s) that are not removed or pruned by the property owner and the expense of this process with be the responsibility of the property owner and the cost will be billed to the property owner.



## Theatre in the Woods

# Theatre in the Woods

By Jeri Solomon and Sandy Sagan

When you think you've had as much winter as you can take, bring the kids to Theatre in the Woods fun production of **I Think I Can** by Kathryn Schultz Miller and Barry Miller, music by Bruce Bowdon. **I Think I Can**, an interactive children's play about gaining self-confidence, allows the audience members to participate in the story. The play is directed by Jeri Solomon and produced by Sandy Sagan. The four-member cast will take on several roles each: Becky Watkins, Professor, Buggy, Schmuggles, Cuddles, Fireman Beesley, Bobby McDonald, Mrs. Willoughby and Ellen Peters.

Using their imaginations, children in the audience will become deep-sea fish, firefighters and zoo animals. They'll even get to vote for President of the World! The production lasts about 40 minutes and is suitable for children three years old and up.

Two performances will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 2:00p.m. and 4:00p.m. at Estonian House on Estonian Lane in Riverwoods, just east of Milwaukee Avenue and 1/4 mile north of Deerfield Road. Tickets are \$5.00 each at the door and \$3.00 each for groups of 20 or more. For further information phone (847)914-0109.

# Woodland Animals in the Winter

By the Riverwoods Preservation Committee

Animal species have two general approaches to winter: migration and adaptation.

Birds migrate by flying south. Some mammals and fish migrate to warmer climates. Even insects migrate.



Some butterflies and moths fly great distances. The Monarch butterfly spends the summer in the northern US and Canada and the winter in Mexico.

Other insects, such as earthworms, termites and Japanese beetles, migrate by burrowing deeply into the soil to escape the frozen surface.

Many animals adapt to winter. Some grow thicker coats of fur to keep warm. Some, such as squirrels, mice and beavers, accumulate food in the fall to be eaten later. Others, such as rabbits and deer, continue to forage for leaves, twigs and bark to eat. And some, such as foxes, change diet from fruits and insects in the summer to rodents in the winter.

Animals adapt to winter by seeking shelter in places that can provide warmth, from an accumulation of leaves or a hole in a fallen tree to the attic of a house.

Some animals, such as skunks, woodchucks, raccoons, chipmunks and some squirrels, adapt to winter by reducing their need for food by slowing their metabolism through hibernation. In some cases, the animal's heart rate can drop by 95% and their body temperature can be reduced by more than 50%. If the ambient temperature drops too low, the hibernating animal will begin shivering to generate heat. Skunks, raccoons and some chipmunks are relatively light hibernators, and awaken periodically to forage for food. Cold-blooded animals such as snakes, frogs and turtles, cannot generate heat to keep warm during the winter and become dormant. Many insects also spend the winter dormant.

## Care of Woodland Birds in the Winter

Birds need food and water during the winter. Many birds that winter in Riverwoods survive on the seeds produced in late fall by native grasses and wildflowers. A winter bird feeding station supplements the diminishing supply of seeds birds find in developed areas.

Place several bird feeders at different heights, to accommodate different species of birds. Some birds, such as sparrows and pigeons, feed on the ground. Others, such as finches, chickadees and cardinals, prefer raised feeders.

Some birds will flock to rigid feeders, while other smaller and more agile birds prefer free-hanging feeders that sway in the breeze. Of course, it is important to place bird feeders so access is difficult for squirrels, and away

from windows that may be a collision hazard for birds.

Keep feeders clean and free of wet seed. It will spoil, and birds will avoid the feeder.

Not all seeds are attractive to all birds. Sunflower seed is favored by a wide variety of birds, such as cardinals, blue jays, goldfinches, woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches. Birds prefer sunflower seeds with a high oil content are preferred to the soft-shelled low-oil sunflower seeds people consume.

Cardinals, chickadees and some woodpeckers also like safflower seeds. One advantage of safflower seed is that it does not appeal to squirrels.

In general, it is best to avoid seed mixes, since they usually contain fillers that do not appeal to most birds and because not all seeds in the mix will appeal to all birds.

It is important to be consistent in feeding birds. Birds will circulate through an area, feeding at a variety of places including bird feeders. If you are inconsistent in keeping bird feed available in your feeder, birds will not become accustomed to it and will not visit it routinely.

Even more helpful than keeping a bird feeder full is planting seed-bearing plants on which birds will feed throughout the winter. Native flowers, such as coneflowers, will keep seedheads through the winter, attracting goldfinches. Some species of Viburnums bear large amounts of berries that will provide food for birds during the winter. Plants that do not provide food but that provide shelter, such as dense evergreens, are also valuable to birds during winter months.

Don't forget water for birds. Ice and snow may not provide sufficient moisture for survival. Birds can't rely on winter run-off from sidewalks and roads, since the water is usually heavily contaminated with salt. One approach is to put out a large container of water daily. Another is to employ a heated birdbath. Whatever approach you use, consistency is a key to attracting birds to your property.

Information on birds and other animals is available through the National Audubon Society, the Illinois Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and many public libraries and on the Web.

*The Riverwoods Preservation Committee is open to any interested resident of the Village. There are no dues. Meetings are held monthly at the Village Hall. Meetings are scheduled for January 11, February 16, March 16, April 11, May 11 and June 14, at 7:30pm. If you would like to participate in the RPC, simply show up at a meeting. If you would like to be on the RPC's email distribution, please send an email to [gjmancuso@comcast.net](mailto:gjmancuso@comcast.net), [beck2750@yahoo.com](mailto:beck2750@yahoo.com), or [tonirey@comcast.net](mailto:tonirey@comcast.net).*



## Riverwoods, A Unique Ecosystem

*continued from the front cover*

ways, our diverse woodland ecology protects and improves our overall quality of life.

There are economic benefits, as well. Property values tend to be higher for wooded lots, since the supply of wooded properties has been declining while demand for such property has been increasing. Preserving or re-establishing a natural landscape provides significant savings of time and money. Natural landscaping utilizes less water and hardy native plants, once established, require little care. Because they have adapted to local conditions over thousands of years, they generally require no fertilizer or pesticides, little or no irrigation, no weekly mowing, and little or no weeding. Pollution is reduced because use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and of fuel-burning equipment such as lawn mowers is reduced.

Finally, native plants provide biodiversity and wonderful visual appeal. They grow in a variety of shapes and textures, from rigidly columnar to gracefully spreading and vary in height from a few inches to more than eight feet for some grasses. They exhibit numerous colors and shades, ranging from greens to blues to silver, and including multiple variegated species, and flower at different times of the year. Some have colorful seed pods, or provide changing seasonal colors, and some, such as prairie grasses, remain upright throughout the year, swaying in the breeze, even during the bleak winter months.

As a homeowner in Riverwoods, one of the few areas that retains many of its original natural features, we are each entrusted with a precious resource. In effect, we are each stewards of the land we inhabit.

### It's easier than you think

When preserving or restoring the natural landscape, the first and most important thing to remember is to do no harm. Before diving into a project, get expert advice. This is particularly important in dealing with woodlands.

### Construction

Home construction and remodeling can be particularly hazardous to trees. It is important to protect any trees in the area before beginning a construction project. Most

important is to thoroughly prune them several months in advance of the work, and to protect the trunk and roots from damage by construction equipment. Tree roots are very shallow, so even shallow trenching can seriously injure or kill a tree. In Riverwoods, with its heavy clay, tree roots are typically only 8 inches to 10 inches deep.

Trees react strongly to injury, but the reaction is slow to appear. Tree injury is generally not apparent for three to five years after the injury. By the time trees show injury, significant decline in health has occurred. In addition, tree roots extend well beyond the branch tips – up to two or three times the overall branch spread of a tree. That means that even minor construction activity well beyond the extent of the tree's branches can injure tree roots.

Soil compaction sufficient to kill a tree can occur through a one-time event, such as moving a heavy vehicle across tree roots, or a series of seemingly insignificant events, such as periodic disturbance of the soil layer around a tree.

### Salt and De-icers

Preservation issues dictate many aspects of Riverwoods life, and use of road salt is a primary example. Icy streets, driveways and sidewalks are dangerous, and as a result, most communities choose to apply de-icing salt. But de-icing salt (typically sodium chloride), which reaches plant-life through snow melt runoff and traffic spray, is poisonous to plants and animals, erodes concrete and corrodes aluminum and other metals.

While all vegetation is susceptible to injury from exposure to salt, some species are particularly vulnerable. Here is a chart showing plant species particularly at risk of salt injury:

Category of Plant	Species
DECIDUOUS TREES	HICKORY, SUGAR MAPLE, RED MAPLE
EVERGREEN TREES	WHITE PINE, HEMLOCK, NORWAY SPRUCE, FIRS
SHRUBS	DOGWOOD, REDBUD, HAWTHORN, SPIREA
GRASSES	KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, RED FESCUE

Material	Use	Cost	Environmental Impact
SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT)	To +15 °F	Low	HIGHLY TOXIC
CALCIUM CHLORIDE	To -25 °F	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TOXICITY
UREA	To +25 °F	MEDIUM-HIGH	MEDIUM TOXICITY
MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE	To -15 °F	MEDIUM	MEDIUM TO LOW TOXICITY
CALCIUM MAGNESIUM ACETATE	To +25 °F	VERY HIGH	LOW TOXICITY
SAND	FOR TRACTION ONLY	VERY LOW	NO TOXICITY
KITTY LITTER	FOR TRACTION ONLY BUT GETS GOOEY AND MESSY WHEN WET	VERY LOW	NO TOXICITY

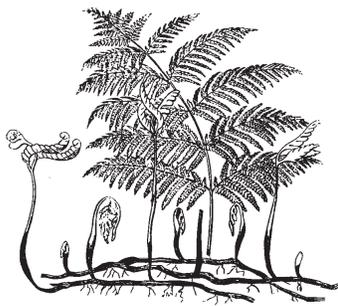
Damage to plant life is exhibited in a number of ways. Salt deposited on small branches and buds causes desiccation and burn, and on evergreens, deposited salt causes browning or yellowing of needles. Salt that migrates into the soil and groundwater creates a toxic solution that poisons plants through their root systems. Even minimal salt induced plant poisoning is noticeable in browning along leaf edges, stunted growth, fewer and smaller leaves, and flower and fruit reduction in the following growing season. Heavy concentrations of salt will kill even large plants.

Alternative de-icers are available. They include calcium chloride, calcium magnesium acetate, urea, and sand. See the comparison chart on the bottom of page 8.

Toxicity is a function not only of the type of material used, but also the amount. The recommended application for rock salt is a handful per square yard treated. Using more salt will not speed the melting process. The recommended application for calcium chloride is less – about a handful for every three square yards.

#### Usage Guidelines

- Reduce the amount of chloride-containing salt used by mixing it with sand.
- Clear snow before applying a de-icer, to increase effectiveness and reduce usage.
- Avoid putting salt-laden snow on top of the root zones of plants.
- Protect especially sensitive species from damage from salt spray by using barrier fences (e.g., of burlap) to shield them.
- Alter drainage patterns to avoid accumulation of salt run off near plants.
- Check the list of salt tolerant trees and shrubs (e.g., the Morton Arboretum Tree and Shrub Handbook). Select those plants for trouble spots.
- Apply pelletized gypsum on grass and plants near sidewalks and driveways to neutralize the effects of salt.
- Consider the impact on animals. Animals that walk on areas that have been de-iced are prone to dry, chapped and irritated paws. The pain may cause them to lick their paws, ingesting the de-icer. It is best to wash your pet's paws when it comes in from outside.



## Ask the Plant Ladies

Dear Plant Ladies,

Because I look out my window and see very little that's green, I am wondering what I should be doing now to make things wonderful for the next growing season, whenever it may be, hopefully in a mild and draught free spring. So I have a few questions for you.

Basically, what do I do about my trees? Do I call an arborist? What is an arborist? A person who lives in an arbor? Should I prune? How often should I prune and how do I know if I'm doing it right? How often should I prune?

Signed,  
I Love my Trees.

Dear "I Love my Trees,"

An arborist is a person who takes care of trees. A Tree Health Care Technician would be a good definition because a knowledgeable arborist will know and practice proper pruning procedures the same as a physician will be aware of new medical procedures. A skilled arborist must have knowledge of the various tree species and their specific problems, the basic functions of root systems, and knowledge of tree climbing, rope and knot usage.

Good tree trimming must accomplish the following:

1. Eliminate weak branch unions by removal or cabling/bracing.
2. Sterilize trimming tools so any infectious disease will not be spread. Climbing spikes should NEVER be used on a living tree for this reason.
3. Remove conflicting branches because one or both branches may die due to rubbing.
4. Make proper cuts which do not injure either the branch bark ridge or the branch collar of the tree. Flush cuts and stub cuts will lead to problems such as decay, cracks, insects and disease problems and hazard trees.
5. Remove broken, diseased, dead, or hazardous branches. This prevents rotting, inhibits diseases and insects, maintains safety and extends the life of a tree.
6. Maintain human and property safety.

As a general rule, trees should be trimmed about every five years. Some guidelines include the following:

Elm and Oaks—Winter  
Evergreens—Summer  
Deciduous (Maple, Ash, Willow, etc.)— All year

Avoid anyone who recommends "Tree Topping" which diminishes a tree's size but promotes decay and disease, and stimulates weak branch growth. Do not use pruning-wound paints which can lead to structural and health complications.

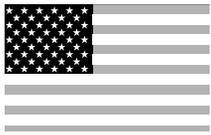
Sincerely,  
The Plant Ladies (Margie Kaul & Sheila Hollander)

## Riverwoods Village Voice

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### Send in Those Letters!!

Letters from residents and Riverwoods homeowners' associations are invited and encouraged. Preferred length: approximately 250 words or less, typed preferred. All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters may be printed, space permitting, but may be edited for grammar, clarity and length. If controversial topics are addressed, the editor will seek opposing viewpoints for balance.

#### **Deadline for the Mar/April Issue:**

Feb. 15, 2005

#### **Send to:**

Editor  
Riverwoods Village Voice  
300 Portwine Road  
Riverwoods, IL 60015  
elizsherman@sbcglobal.net

## Riverwoods Residents Association News

### A Howling Success

*By Sherry Kaplan*

This year's Village of Riverwoods Halloween Party was a great success. Approximately 350 children attended and received goodie bags, hot dogs and cider. The horse drawn hay wagon as always was loads of fun as was the spook walk and great decorations. June Melber, was our scary story lady and our mystery Bunny was again on the scene. This year we had two new treats. Bob Gand and Rebecca Nixon from the Village music store provided music and songs for the hayride and Al Solomon and Marguerite Welter were in charge of the huge bon fire where marshmallows could be roasted and songs could be sung.

Many thanks to all those who made this Halloween the best ever. NorthSide Community Bank provided the hotdogs, buns and cider, Mike Corn and Al Solomon provided the candy, and the many warm-

hearted and wonderful volunteers including our Mayor and Police chief, helped prepare and serve the food. The Village play group including Heidi Smithson, Jill Kaplan, Kim Norwesh and others, provided the decorations and set up the party. What a wonderful place we live in where we can all band together to provide an event that is so much fun for so many children.

Thank you all so so much. Hope to see you all there again next year.

### Arts & Riverwoods

*By: Sherry H. Kaplan*

Arts & Riverwoods is looking for someone who would like to be the vice-chairman of the event. The position would best be suited for someone with event-planning experience. If interested, please contact Leslie Ames (847) 948-9003.