



# Riverwoods

## VILLAGE VOICE

### One More Slice of Local History; The Beginning of Animal Welfare

By Irene Castle, founder of Orphans of the Storm animal shelter

If I am remembered a hundred years from now, I hope it will not be as a dancer or as a style leader, for customs change from generation to generation, and the exponents of fashion eventually become footnotes in a book on a shelf. No, I think if my life has any lasting value, it is in the career I entered in 1928, when Helen Swift and I opened "Orphans of the Storm."

*Our idea was a simple one. We were going to found a refuge for stray dogs, the mongrels that nobody wanted. We would bathe them, cure them, and make them available for adoption—making very sure they went only to good homes where they would be appreciated. We soon found that it was not going to be as simple as it sounded.*

First, there was the matter of a location. We scouted around and found a piece of property in Deerfield (Riverwoods), Illinois, which had an old kennel on it, and after a lot of hard work we managed to get it into usable shape. Each dog would have plenty of good food, warm bedding, and a large exercise yard to stretch his legs in. We had no running water, no electricity and no gas. We put a large coal stove in the center of the main building and managed to scrape enough money together to hire an old man to serve as caretaker and keep the fires burning.

The day we stood and looked at our completed handiwork was a proud one.

"What shall we call it?" Helen said.

I remembered an old play the Gish sisters had starred in. The name of the play was perfect for our purposes. "Let's call it 'Orphans

of the Storm,'" I said.

We knew we would have no trouble filling our refuge. From the first day, we were deluged with calls, not only from people who had read about our work in the papers, but from police stations around Chicago that were picking up strays by the dozen. We had no truck, so I was appointed official collector. People must have been startled to see a dozen mongrels riding in the backseat of my very lovely town car.

We started from the ground up. We both carried pails and shovels, cleaned yards, took temperatures, washed hundreds of dogs, and since we could not afford a full time veterinarian, learned to diagnose and treat a hundred different diseases. I answered mail, made speeches, and fell into bed at the end of everyday, thoroughly exhausted.

We had decided we would operate the first year on three thousand dollars and between us, we put that much into it. But from the first week we found that our little budget was far too small. One day I was pumping water

*continued on page 7*



All Riverwoods Board of Trustees and Plan Commission 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 8pm. Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 2, 16 and Mar. 2 and 16.

#### Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursday at 7:30pm. Jan. 7, Feb. 4 and Mar. 4.

#### GET INVOLVED IN RIVERWOODS

#### Village of Riverwoods Senior Program

Call Cheryl Hadley at 847-945-3990.

#### Theatre in the Woods

Call Sandy Sagan, producer at 847-945-0585.

#### Riverwoods Preservation Council

Laurie Breitkopf, president at 847-945-7034.  
www.riverwoodsrpc.org

#### Riverwoods Book Club

Contact June Melber at 847-940-7086, or email her at argos501@aol.com. Exercise your brain. The book club is free to all and meets at the Village Hall one Friday a month at 10am.

#### Riverwoods Residents Association

Call chairman John Hughes at 847-607-8402 to share your ideas or volunteer.

#### Plant Sale Committee

Call chairmen Margie Kaul at 847-945-5131 or Sheila Hollander at 847-945-4879.



RIVERWOODS  
VILLAGE VOICE

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.

Editor: Jackie Borchew  
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.

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 March/April Issue: February 15, 2009  
Send to:  
Editor  
Riverwoods Village Voice  
300 Portwine Road  
Riverwoods, IL 60015  
Jackie@borchew.com

## Village Board of Trustees Meeting Notes

*Summary of ordinances, resolutions, and non-routine matters considered by the Board of Trustees from the meeting minutes of October 20, November 3, 17 and December 1. Read the entirety of these minutes on the Village of Riverwoods website at [www.villageofriverwoods.com](http://www.villageofriverwoods.com)*

December 1

### POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno listed the department activity since the November 17, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting. There were two 911 hang ups, ten accidents, 17 alarms, one complaint about animals, 17 fire assists, four other agency assists, two burglaries, one child safety seat installation, two crime prevention notices, one criminal damage to property, three driving complaints, one DUI, two fraudulent activities, one juvenile problem, two vehicle or residential lockouts, nine motorist assists, one open burning, one parking complaint, 12 suspicious circumstances, one theft, eight case reports, one crime prevention notice, four consumption of alcohol and one well being check. There were 69 traffic stops with 38 citations issued to 32 persons. There were four consumption of alcohol by a minor arrests and one telephone threat arrest. There are eight houses currently on the House Watch list that are regularly checked.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste reported the call volume within the Village through November 30, 2009. There were three fire calls, 22 paramedic calls and ten other calls for a total of 35 calls in November. There were 434 fire department calls year to date.

### APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND TRANSFER TO POLICE, WATER AND SEWER FUNDS

Before the end of each fiscal year, as specified in the Village Appropriations Ordinance, and according to strict auditing standards, funds should be transferred from the Village's General Fund to replenish the Police, Water and Sewer Funds. The Board approved the transfer of \$190,000 from the General Fund to

the Sewer Fund, \$170,000 to the Water Fund and \$110,000 to the Police Fund.

### APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Svatik explained that the Board of Trustees approved the Appropriations Ordinance in March of this year and approved the Police budget at the last Board meeting. The amount of the tax levy is calculated by combining the total taxes minus the amount needed to meet Ordinance requirements. Village Attorney Jack Siegel explained that a Public Hearing was not required because the amount of the tax levy is less than five percent.

### BUILDING/ZONING

Trustee Graditor presented the Building Department Report. She stated the total construction value from November 1, 2008 thru November 30, 2008 was \$126,300, generating fees of \$7,079. There was one commercial remodel, one single family remodel, one home addition and miscellaneous other projects. The total construction value from November 1, 2009 through November 30, 2009 was \$50,800, which generated fees of \$1,054.

### DRAIN/SOLID WASTE/ENVIRONMENTAL

SWALCO puts forth a five-year plan update every four years. In 2004, it included a recommendation to include incineration as a possible means of solid waste disposal. The Lake County Board chose to delete that recommendation from the plan update. SWALCO's Executive Director believes land fills have capacity for only eight to ten years and wants to consider alternatives. In 2009, SWALCO put forth their plan update to investigate three alternatives including incineration, additional transfer stations and emerging technologies. The plan was adopted by the SWALCO Board and will go before the Lake County Board on December 8, 2009.

November 17

### URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

Village Forester Chuck Stewart discussed five bids that were received for the removal of diseased elms on Village right-of-way and Village property and for the pruning or removal of hazardous trees on Village right-of-way. He recommended awarding the contract to Trees R Us, who submitted the lowest total bid for the requested work. The Board approved the bid and added that it was not to exceed \$2,370.00.

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**PLAN COMMISSION REPORT ON  
THE FENCING ORDINANCE**

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Plan Commission Chairman David Niedelman stated that the Plan Commission has deliberated over four meetings and public hearings concerning a fencing ordinance. All meetings and public hearings were attended by the Board and many interested residents. Chairman Niedelman was comfortable in stating that everyone had the opportunity to speak. He stated that a big portion of the proposed draft Ordinance concerns deer fences. There was a lot of input from both sides of the issue and he believes the Commission did their best to come up with a fair compromise for the residents. He stated that not all residents would be happy because some wanted fences while others did not. Ch. Niedelman explained the Commission was driven by testimony from the DNR, which wants to see movement areas for deer. He noted many residents have spent a lot of money on their yards and feel there is a great sensitivity to protect the woodlands. Ch. Niedelman noted the Commissioners wanted the Board to strongly consider improving financial aid with respect to buckthorn and garlic mustard removal, and that the RPC also came up with a lot of strong suggestions to preserve the woodlands. Ch. Niedelman explained one of the big discussions concerned deer, specifically, culling the deer. This is an emotional issue and the Plan Commission believes every option should be looked at. He noted that a letter was written by the Riverwoods Environmental Committee which stated that the Plan Commission was not charged with considering the deer issue. Ch. Niedelman stated that was incorrect; however, culling deer was outside of the Plan Commission's charge.

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**POLICE REPORT**

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Chief Dayno listed the police activity since the November 3, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting. He explained there were two 911 hang ups, ten accidents, ten alarms, one assault, three complaints about animals, 15 fire department assists, five other agency assists, one child safety seat install, one dispute, two domestics, two driving complaints, one fingerprint, one found property, one juvenile problem, three vehicular or residential lock outs, one major crash assist, seven motorist assists, three open burning, four parking complaints, four suspicious circumstances, one theft, one threatening phone call, eight case reports

and one crime prevention notice. There were also 78 traffic stops with 47 citations issued to 40 people. There are currently nine houses on the House Watch list and are checked regularly.

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**2010 POLICE BUDGET**

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The Board approved the 2010 proposed Riverwoods Police Department Budget which is an increase of 1.5%.

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

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Assistant Chief Ugaste listed the call volume within the Village of Riverwoods through November 15, 2009. There were 12 paramedic calls and five other calls totaling 17 calls during the first half of the month and 416 calls for the year.

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**ORDINANCE FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE  
AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE SOLID WASTE  
AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY (SWALCO), IL.**

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The motion passed unanimously for a Second Reading and adoption of the Ordinance.

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**PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING FENCES**

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Although the Board stated they had no intention of passing any ordinance immediately, the topic alone drew quite a crowd and much discussion to this evening's Board Meeting. For all of the details please read the full account of comments and concerns of residents in the Board Notes on the Village website.

*November 3*

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**BUILDING/ZONING**

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Trustee Graditor mentioned there were no houses started in the Village in October 2008 or October 2009. The total construction value in 2008 was \$125,894 generating \$1583 in construction fees. The total construction value in 2009 was \$95,130 generating \$800 in fees.

*October 20*

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**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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The 2009 roadway maintenance project at Indian Trails and Hiawatha Woods construction is complete. The final plans, specifications and estimates were submitted to IDOT for the 2010 Roadway Maintenance project for Saunders Road (ARRA Stimulus). The current estimate is \$494,000. The Village is approved for up to \$331,000 in ARRA funds.

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**RIVERWOODS  
VILLAGE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

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**William D. Svatik**

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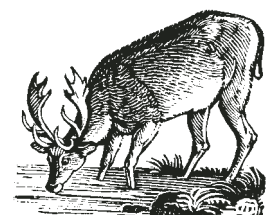
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The Army Corps of Engineers/Reservoir 27 project has been awarded in the amount of \$574,000.

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#### **POLICE REPORT**

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Commander Tyler reported that the Riverwoods Police Department along with the Lincolnshire Fire Protection District and the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District have started a Premise Alert Program in support of individuals living with disabilities or special needs as well as police and emergency medical personnel responding to calls at a related address.

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#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

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Assistant Chief Ugaste reported the call volume within the Village through October 15, 2009 included one fire call, four car accidents, 17 paramedic calls and four other calls for a total of 26 calls so far this month.

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#### **MIKE FORD APPOINTED AS NEW VILLAGE CLERK**

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The Board approved the appointment of Mike Ford to fill the position of Village Clerk left vacant by Nancy Morten. As Village Clerk, and under Illinois statute, Mr. Ford is “keeper of the records” and responsible for overseeing minute taking at each Board of Trustees meeting.

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#### **WOODLAND HEALTH STUDY**

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On behalf of the Riverwoods Preservation Council, Laurie Brietkopf thanked the Village for sharing the cost of the Woodland Health Study and reported on the findings. Phase I was to conduct an assessment of the status of the woodland environment and provide a baseline understanding of woodland health in Riverwoods. Phase II was to meet with professional arborists and ecologists to evaluate factors changing the character of the woodlands and to design management practices that will improve these factors. Ms. Brietkopf reminded the Board that a healthy woodland consists of four layers; canopy (tallest trees), subcanopy (lower layer of trees), shrubs and understory. The woodland health study revealed a stressed and disturbed woodland ecosystem. Lively discussion on where to go from here followed and will be continued through committee reports at the next meeting.

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#### **CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING**

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As the Village has for the past five years the Board has voted once again to give a grant of \$5,000 to the Center for Enriched Living.



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## **Potpourri from the Building Department**

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*By Russell Kraly, Director, Community Services*

It's the end of 2009 and it's snowing outside as I write this, winter has arrived! Hopefully spring will come early this New Year.

The Planning Commission finished drafting a new Fence Ordinance. It's now in front of the Village Board for their approval or revision of what the Planning Commission sent them. It was tabled until January 5th, 2010. By the time you read this, there will hopefully be a final version in place. The Planning Commission and the Village Board have heard lots of testimony as to what the residents would like to see in the new Ordinance. This was not an easy Ordinance to put together as there were many sides presented, and all with good arguments.

The Lake County wind Energy Commission has a preliminary draft of a new Ordinance for Wind Energy and a information booklet explaining the high-lights of wind energy systems. I will present these to the Planning Commission and the Village Board for informational purposes sometime in January. This will be the next issue for us to tackle.

The 2010 Census is around the corner. It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The Census data is used to distribute Congressional seats and to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to state and local governments. The Motor Fuel Tax funds we receive each year are based on our Village population. Contrary to the myths circulating, the Census information cannot be used by law-enforcement, taxing bodies, or the court system for jury duty. Strict laws protect the confidentiality of all respondents and the information they provide. The questionnaire is the shortest in history, only ten (10) questions! It should only take 10 minutes or less to complete. If you don't fill it out and mail it back, someone will come knocking at your door until they get the information that they need. Do your part, Be Counted!

These are the last days of 2009. I'm sure most people will be glad to see this year end. I can't think of many things that were great about this year. I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season and I wish 2010 will be a happier and more prosperous new year for all!

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## **SWALCO Opens Local Chemical Waste Collection Center**

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The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL (SWALCO) is pleased to announce the opening of its first satellite center for the collection of **household chemical waste**.

Residents of the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District can now drop-off their household chemical waste at:

**Fire Department Station 51  
115 Schelter Road, Lincolnshire, IL**

The Household Chemical Waste Satellite Collection Program is sponsored by the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District, the Village of Lincolnshire, and SWALCO

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for residents of the District. Chemical waste materials can be dropped off, **by appointment only**, at the Fire Station.

Please contact the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Department at **847-634-2512** to schedule your appointment or find out dates for upcoming collections.

**Items accepted are:**

- Aerosol Products
- Antifreeze
- Drain Cleaners
- Driveway Sealer
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs/CFL's
- Fungicides and Herbicides
- Garden and Lawn Chemicals
- Gasoline and Kerosene
- Hobby Chemicals
- Household Cleaners
- Household Batteries (lithium and rechargeable only)
- Insecticides and Pesticides
- Mercury (including thermometers and thermostats)
- Metal Polishes
- Motor Oil
- Oil-Based Paints, Paint Removers
- Varnishes and Thinners
- Personal Care Products (*Cosmetics, Skin Care Products, etc.*)
- Pool Chemicals
- Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications
  - People & Pet (NO DEA Controlled substances)
- Solvents
- Supplements and Vitamins

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## Police Report

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*By Police Chief Bruce Dayno*

Each year the Riverwoods Police Department conducts a Citizen Survey. Information from the survey will not only help us to determine how the department is performing, but it also provides worthwhile suggestions for improving our services to the community and to assist with setting goals for the future.

We understand that your contact with us may be very limited. Even if you have not had any contact with us, your perceptions and opinions are very important.

Please take a few moments to fill out our survey. Help us prioritize our tasks by telling us how important you believe the tasks are to the community. If you wish to make additional comments, observations, recommendations, or suggestions to improve our services, feel free to write them on the survey. You may remain anonymous, but if you would like to be contacted in reference to a specific concern, please include your name and a daytime telephone number. I will personally review all of the responses. Results will be published in the next Village Voice and on the Village website at [www.riverwoods-il.net](http://www.riverwoods-il.net).

Please return the survey to the Riverwoods Police Department, 300 Portwine Road, at your earliest convenience. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

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## Winter Reminders from Our Fire District

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*By Assistant Fire Chief Rob Ugaste*

Just a friendly reminder from the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District that we need your help during the winter months. Icy streets that are hard for you to travel in a car are even harder for our large vehicles to deal with. In emergencies, time is often an important factor so please help us to avoid unnecessary delays by keeping your streets plowed and salted.

We also need your help in keeping the fire hydrants visible. Snow covered hydrants can be very challenging to find, especially at night. This is actually a year round issue as quite a bit of time has passed since some of the fire hydrants were installed and in many instances the forest has grown back and obscured them. Please cut away brush or limbs that may be hiding your fire hydrant. It's a small thing to ask that can make a big difference if your house is on fire.

Lastly, there are many services we provide other than firefighting and Paramedics. There are CPR and AED classes available, car seat installation by appointment, home fire inspections upon request, and the ever popular Lifeline Program. Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Station 51 (115 Schelter Road in Lincolnshire) is now a SWALCO drop off site for household hazardous waste every other Saturday morning. Just call 847-634-2512 and schedule an appointment.

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## Uganda Book Friends; *Helping to Promote Literacy*

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The Riverwoods Montessori School is collecting books to send to the Victoria Montessori School in Entebbe, Uganda.

Christine Kijange, the Director of the Victoria Montessori School came to the USA for her internship, and in 2001 founded the School in Uganda. Christine, the recipient of the American Montessori Society's "Ursula Thrush Peace Seed Grant," continues to work forming "Peace Clubs" in the school, in addition to helping educate refugee orphans from Northern Uganda (Uganda is a small African country, in East Africa located on Lake Victoria, next to Kenya.) This cause is very dear to Riverwood's Montessori founders Carolyn and Tony Kam-bich's heart as they have been involved in the Victoria School from its beginning.

If you would like to help in this cause, The Riverwoods Montessori School will be collecting books through February 14, 2010. All books should be pre-school and elementary level for children 2 -12 years of age. Reference books and story books are needed, preferably hard-cover and in good condition. Books may be brought or delivered to:

Riverwoods Montessori School  
3140 Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015

Please visit the following websites for further information and photos: [www.vmontessori.com](http://www.vmontessori.com) or [www.montessori-schools.com](http://www.montessori-schools.com) (click on Montessori Outreach/Africa). If you have any questions, please call 847-945-7582.

## Another Technique in Woodland Restoration: Prescribed Burning

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is one of many voices in our region that recognizes the impact humans can have, for good or ill, on our natural environment: “Whether you own one acre or one thousand, the decisions you make and the actions you take regarding your property affect the nonhuman species that reside or visit there. . . How you manage that land while it is in your care will have an impact long after you are gone.”

Our Village recognizes the importance of our woodlands in the Woodland Protection Ordinance and currently offers residents matching programs for invasive plant removal and reforestation, to help us restore balance to the natural environment in which we reside. Another tool which is recommended and used by local land managers such as the Chicago Wilderness Consortium and the Lake County Forest Preserve, but is not yet part of the Riverwoods tool kit, is prescribed or controlled burning. As we go to press, an ordinance pertaining to this technique is being considered by the Riverwoods Board of Trustees.

Unlike fall leaf burning, which is a simple cleanup mechanism used by homeowners, a prescribed burn offers numerous benefits including efficient invasive removal, nutritional recycling and increased seed production by native flora. This is not a method to be used by novices or lawn care companies. It should only be used by trained professionals, properly permitted by the EPA and local authorities, as part of a comprehensive natural landscaping plan. When done correctly, in a limited area with wind speed and direction taken into consideration, prescribed burning is safe and has minimal impact on adjacent neighbors.

One resident on Blackthorn who already had utilized mechanical methods of invasive removal on buckthorn, garlic mustard and aggressive green ash, is attempting to further restore his woodland using prescribed burning. He retained Tallgrass Restoration to conduct the burn, one of the companies listed on the USDA website at [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov). Tallgrass applied in early November for Village approval of the prescribed burn, but unfortunately approval was not given before weather conditions made the burn an impossibility this year. The optimal time for sowing a native seed mix following a burn is in the fall, so the delay will not allow the seed mix to be sowed this year. We look forward to following the resident’s journey towards a more balanced, diverse and attractive landscape, and we will share the information with other interested residents.

RIVERWOODS PRESERVATION COUNCIL  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to support the RPC in its efforts to preserve Riverwoods! Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of :

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached my employer’s matching contribution form.

Please make your check payable to Riverwoods Preservation Council, P.O. Box 122, Deerfield, IL 60015

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My Biggest Concern about Riverwoods: \_\_\_\_\_

The RPC is an independent resident volunteer-run non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you.

## Brentwood Bites

By Lynn Bruch, RN., MSN  
Director of Clinical Relations, Brentwood North Healthcare

### Follow-Up Care after Hospitalization

Make sure you talk to your doctor about any care you may need after a hospital visit, including how to take new and old medications and when to make follow-up appointments.

People who receive clear instructions at the time of discharge can cut down on health-care costs, because they are less likely to visit the emergency room or be readmitted to the hospital for after care.

Source; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

### Are You Spending Too Much on Prescription Medications?

People often equate price with quality, believing that a higher price gets you a superior product. In the case of prescription drugs, however, that belief could be leading you to spend more money the necessary.

As a healthcare consumer, here are important things for you to know about generic drugs:

A generic drug is chemically identical to its brand-name counter part, but typically costs much less.

Consumers save \$8 to \$10 billion dollars a year when they purchase generic drugs. In 2007, the average brand-name prescription cost 119.00, while the average generic cost just over \$34.00.

Many health insurance plans pay greater percentage of the cost of a generic drug than a non-generic drug.

About 75% of all brand-name drugs have a generic equivalent. As top-selling brand-name drugs lose their patent more and more generic will become available.



You can find out if a medication has a generic and how much you could save if you switched to a generic version by linking onto Food and Drug Administrations “ Electronic Orange Book” at [www.fda.gov/cder/ob](http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob) and [www.drug.com](http://www.drug.com), or ask your pharmacist.

Most doctors are receptive to patients who ask for generics. If a generic is not available, there may be an alternative medication in the same class of drugs that is available in generic form.

Sources: *The National Association of Chain Drug Stores; U.S. Food and Drug Administration*

### Keep the Conversation Moving

If meeting new people pumps up your stress level, learn to listen carefully and ask questions (like who, where, what, when, and how) to make conversation easier.

This will take the pressure off yourself to come up with clever responses and make the other person feel like you're genuinely interested in what they're saying.

Source: *Good-bye to shy*, by Leil Lowndes, McGraw Hill Publishers

*Brentwood North Healthcare & Rehabilitation Centre is a JCAHO accredited sub acute facility located on 16 residential acres in Riverwoods, IL. Brentwood has been serving many of the area's surgeon's, specifically neurological, orthopedic and cardiovascular, and are committed to providing the highest level of nursing and rehabilitative care. For more information contact Lynn Bruch at 847-947-9111 or at [lbruch@brentwoodhealthcare.net](mailto:lbruch@brentwoodhealthcare.net)*

### One More Serving of History; continued from the front cover

form the well to wash the feed dishes, when, with a galumph, the well went dry. We consulted a well digger, who shook his head while holding a pipe, as though he was taking its pulse. It was thoroughly exhausted. We need a much deeper well. And deep wells took money and lots of it.

We went to see Mrs. Robert R. McCormick, who loved animals dearly and was our president for thirteen years, until she died. She agreed to go fifty-fifty on our improvements. But 50 percent of a fortune is still a fortune, and I stripped myself raw to sink a new well.

Another problem came up. Timid animals kept getting away from us and bounding after the owners who had left them. The cars would disappear and the dogs would be loose in the countryside. It took Helen and me hours to track them down.

One evening after a five hour chase, Helen and I crawled back to the refuge, clutching a frisky stray who thought this was the greatest of fun. We locked him in and collapsed.

“What we need is a fence,” Helen said, when she finally got wind enough to talk.

“Fences cost money,” I said. “Lots of money.”

“Do you want to spend the rest of your life catching the same dogs over and over again?” She asked.

I thought it over. I mortgaged my soul. We fenced in five of our ten acres.

It soon became more complicated than ever. We had a sort of lease plan at “Orphans of the Storm.” No person who

took a dog into his home, from the refuge, owned it outright. They could keep it as long as they gave it the kind of home we approved of, but the minute they broke any of our stringent rules, we took it back.

This led to the investigation of cruelty reports, and, finally, I became a policewoman. This was the only way I could find out what was going on. If you go to somebody's front door and say, “I'm here to investigate a report that you chain your dog in the basement,” they invariably say, “Just a minute.” By the time you are finally admitted you find the dog occupying an unaccustomed place of honor in the middle of the davenport.

I got smart early on and approached the house from the rear so I could see what was going on.

As I look back, I wonder how I ever had the patience or stamina to fight cruelty to animals in the first place. It has never been a popular cause and I made a lot of enemies defending animals—people who wrote anonymous threatening letters to me, politicians who had been using dog pounds as convenient places to put political henchmen who had been promised jobs, jokesters who found it easy to exercise their wit by making light of what I was doing.

In all fairness, a lot of the opposition came from well-meaning people who had nothing against me personally. They argued against what I was doing, not on any moral grounds but because there were so many other worth-while things that needed doing.

“Why don't you campaign against cruelty to children?” They insisted. “Why don't you organize a charity to feed the poor starving people of Chicago or work with a missionary society for overseas relief?”

I always told them the same thing. The poor of the world have a thousand eloquent voices to speak for them besides tongues of their own. Orphans and mistreated children are popular causes, with powerful organizations to protect their welfare and wealthy donors to rush to their defense. The relief of people oppressed by famine, flood, or disaster is the objective of scores of organizations with well trained workers and millions of dollars at their disposal all over the world.

But the voice speaking out in defense of the starved cow or the mongrel abandoned to scavenge for existence has always been a very small voice indeed. I don't know why, but humane work seems to lend itself to more ridicule than all of the other sincere causes. Newspaper make fun of the person who speaks out against cruelty to animals—with silly captions and ludicrous photographs. It takes a world of dignity and deep rooted compassion to survive the kidding. But the person who succeeds emerges with his self-respect vastly fortified.

*The above is taken from Irene Castle Enzinger's autobiography, Castles in the Air, published by Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., copyright 1958.*



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**Riverwoods Village Voice**

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AUTO



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**Riverwoods Book Club**

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*By June Melber*

The book club is starting 2010 off with the following selections:

Jan. 15, **Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi, this is the "one book- one zipcode" selection for this year. Watch local library bulletins and newspapers for news about discussions, and where the film version of the book will screen.

Feb. 19, **Narrow Dog to Indian River** by Terry Darlington. A septuagenarian couple decide to take a canal barge down the Intercoastal Waterway from Virginia to the Gulf of Mexico, accompanied by their dog (a whippet).

Mar. 19, **Shanghai Girls** by Lisa See. The latest best-seller from this popular author.

One of our book club regulars recommended an online book seller that does not charge shipping or tax, and their profits are used to fund literacy programs worldwide. Better World Books.com, sells new and used books, the website is well organized, and the selections range from kids books to text books.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and intellectually stimulating new year. As always, you're invited to join us for conversation and refreshments.

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**Riverwoods Residents Association**

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Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA) forms a support network within our Village. RRA is made up of volunteer residents who care about making their community the very best it can be. Membership is \$25 per family and includes two vehicle stickers. Mail your check to RRA, P.O. Box 341, Deerfield, IL 60015.

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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Please include me as an RRA member.

Name

Email

Phone

Address

# of extra stickers at \$5 each

Amount Enclosed

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