

VILLAGE
GOVERNMENT

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 7:30pm. December 2, 16, January 6, 20 and February 3 and 17.

Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursday at 7:30pm. December 4, January 2 and February 5.

GET INVOLVED
IN RIVERWOODS

Village of Riverwoods

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Plant Sale Committee

Margie Kaul
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Riverwoods

VILLAGE VOICE



Riverwoods Celebrates Halloween!

Once again Riverwoods residents of all ages came out for what must be our favorite holiday here in Riverwoods; Halloween!

An unusually warm October day not only brought out more party-goers, but also brought the entire celebration outdoors this year. The grounds of Village Hall were transformed into a magical realm of costumed characters and super heroes.

Along the path through the Village garden a magician entertained the children and parents with card tricks while waiting their turn to board Bob Gand's hootnanny hayride, a musical horse-drawn hay ride that has

become a hit of this Halloween party.

And that hootnanny hay ride can make a trick-or-treater pretty hungry. So naturally there would be a team of friendly witches serving up 40 extra-large pizzas and hundreds of hot dogs as they moved and grooved to the tunes of our DJ, Ed. The music was a new addition this year, and one that added energy and fun to an already great party. Even our Mayor was caught demonstrating a few dance moves of his own.

And if all of that wasn't enough, the s'more station kept children busy melting marshmallows around a small fire as others ventured around the biggest bonfire we have ever attempted. No worries though because the fire trucks and police car were close by for children to explore.

There was popcorn for all and goody bags of candy for every child. No one went home hungry.

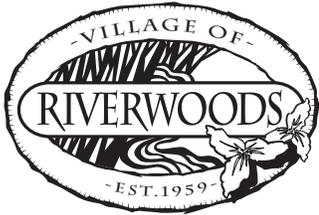
Lake County animal control warden Renee and her daughter Kayla were back for a second year with their collection of exotic reptiles. It's not everyday that you get the opportunity to pet a python snake!

All in all, it was another great Halloween for the Village of Riverwoods. Thanks goes to a team of

volunteers who showed up and made it all happen. We hope that if you didn't make it this year, you will next because we have some big surprises in store!



more photos on page 11



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. 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 January/February 2014 issue: December 20, 2014.

Send to:
Editor
Riverwoods Village Voice
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Riverwoods, IL 60015
Jackie@borchew.com

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings!

Just a quick update on some of the things happening in the Village.

First, as many of you are aware, the owner of the property on the southeast corner of Deerfield Road and Milwaukee Road had presented the Village with a proposal for developing the corner. As discussed more fully in an article following the Board Notes on page 7 in this newsletter, the review process has gone on for several years. In the last six months, the owner has finally had a chance to appear before first the Plan Commission and subsequently the Board of Trustees. Many of you attended these meetings and voiced your feelings about the proposal.

At the Board of Trustees' meeting on Tuesday, November 4, the Board voted to deny the owner's request for development assistance. As mentioned above, there is an article later in this newsletter that describes the specifics and procedure in more detail. The article is both instructive as to the process and a reminder of the various things the Plan Commission and Board of Trustees had to consider when making their respective decisions. I urge you all to read the article.

On a lighter note, the Village Halloween party held on October 25 was a big hit. While the sunny day with 70-degree temperatures played a role in the success of the party, most of the credit has to go to Jackie Borchew and her volunteers who did a ton of work. Somehow, Jackie and her crew keep finding ways to make the party better each year. Despite the work, I think they had a great time, too.

On behalf of the children of Riverwoods, from eight months to 80, thanks to everyone who helped.

John Norris
Mayor of Riverwoods

**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 August 19, September 2, 16 and October 7. Read the entirety of these minutes or view the video of the actual Board of Trustee meetings on the Village of Riverwoods website at www.villageofriverwoods.com.

October 7

POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno provided the Board with the Police Department activity since the September 16, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. The complete Police Report is available on the Village website under Board of Trustees.

Chief Dayno noted that there was one burglary on Forest Glen where someone broke a basement window. It was apparent someone tried to make entry.

**VISITORS WISHING TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD**

Eight residents shared their thoughts about the proposal for the corner of Deerfield Road and Milwaukee Road. The consensus was that they would be disappointed if the entryway to the Village was a gas station with a convenience store and a McDonald's restaurant. They do not believe the tax benefit to the Village would be worth allowing these types of uses at that corner. The Meadowlake homeowner's association board had submitted a petition against the proposal.

Mayor Norris stated that the Board is listening to everything before making a decision. He understands many residents are against the proposed development.

NEW BUSINESS

Boy Scouts and Bat Houses – Trustee Chamberlain was approached by a prospective Eagle Scout about a possible bat house project. Tristan Faro, a resident of Juneberry, is a junior at Deerfield High School and is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout. He proposes building bat houses as his Eagle project. The bat houses would be installed on Village property, at no cost to the Village. He would work with the Village Forester on the actual locations. Materials are being donated by Home Depot.

Hazardous Ash Tree Removal – Resident Art Bess explained that a number of trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer are close to public and private roadways and have created dangerous situations. He suggested shifting the matching funds of 50% of the cost, up to \$1000, from the removal of buckthorn to the removal of the ash trees that have been marked by the Village Forester.

Trustee Chamberlain stated that the Village does not have a tree fund. She explained that the current cost-share programs are provided as incentives for things residents are not required to do while hazardous tree removal is required. Trustee Jamerson indicated that, based on the numbers of potential ash trees in the Village that might be affected, which were provided by the Forester, the cost could be almost \$1 million over three years. Trustee Chamberlain would prefer to focus the Village's assistance on those with a hardship. The Trustees briefly discussed the difficulties in determining hardship cases. Trustee Chamberlain suggested looking into how other municipalities measure hardship. Mayor Norris suggested Trustee Chamberlain come up with a proposal.

Village IT Project: Proposal for moving most IT services to cloud-based servers – Trustee Baumann presented a proposal to transfer the IT data to a cloud-based server. His recommendation is to authorize a request for an appropriation rather than an exact amount. The costs proposed are based on a worst-case scenario and would also include training. Based on the estimated savings, the Village would recoup the cost of the transition in one year.

Trustee Baumann would also recommend developing detailed instructions for every function such as updating the webpage, creating a webpage for a Board meeting, uploading Board videos, etc. The cost for the IT professional would be approximately \$10,000 based on an hourly rate.

Trustee Jamerson moved to authorize up to \$40,000 to transition to a cloud-based system. The Board voted in favor.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sewer/Solid Waste/Roads/Bike Bath – Trustee O'Donnell noted that lake County is patching Deerfield Parkway west of the Village.

Police/Building/Zoning – Trustee Jamerson provided the building report for September. The Village will look at electric aggregation shortly,

as the contract will expire in August of 2015. The Village residents have saved more than \$1 million on energy services under the current program.

Woodlands/Budget and Operations – Trustee Chamberlain stated that she has received budget input from most of the trustees. Mayor Norris and Trustee Chamberlain attended the DBR Chamber Golf Outing and Trustee Chamberlain won the putting contest and gave the \$100 Bobby's prize to the Village.

September 16

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Contact with owners of 340 Portwine – Mayor Norris has been in contact with the owners of the home next to Village Hall. They are supportive of the idea of turning the 320 Portwine into parking and open space. They requested the Village not put up a solid fence, but to screen with vegetation instead, which the Mayor said the Village was amenable to.

Village Hall Renovation Plans – Mayor Norris indicated that the plans for renovation of the Village Hall are at a stage where the Village can go out for more accurate quotes. The Mayor met with consultants provided by RPC regarding green infrastructure to discuss how to be environmentally sound, but also fiscally responsible.

Budget to Date – Mayor Norris noted Trustee Chamberlain has provided copies of the budget report through the month of August to the Trustees so that they can work on their portion of the budget for next year. He indicated the Village is 18% ahead on revenues and 18.5% below what the Village expected in expenditures.

DISCUSSION OF TERRACO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Village Attorney Huvad reported that the Plan Commission finalized their report. Mr. Huvad explained that the process for getting a Special Use approved includes a hearing before the Plan Commission. The hearings were held in May, July and August. The Plan Commission did not recommend one of the Text Amendments. They did recommend the second Text Amendment on a 4-1 vote. They also recommended the granting of a Special

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Use. [See also a discussion of the Plan Commission report on page 5 for more complete information of the Text Amendments.] The Board can accept the recommendations, make changes to the recommendations or reject the recommendations. Mayor Norris then stated that no decision would be made at this meeting. He stated that Terraco would be allowed to make their entire presentation before any questions would be allowed from the residents.

Scott Gendell, principal and managing partner for Terraco introduced Dan Wander from Terraco; Frank Ross and Paul Williams of True North; Jeff Miller and Sue Connolly, franchisee's of McDonald's; Kevin Lewis, engineer; Elizabeth Stack from McDonald's corporate; Mark Nosky, architect with Stuart Nosky Architects; and Bill Woodward, traffic consultant.

Mr. Gendell provided a brief history on the Terraco property on the corner of Milwaukee and Deerfield Roads. They purchased the property four years ago and have worked with Village staff, the Plan Commission and the Board for two years to come up with plans they thought were viable.

He stated that two of the challenges in finding tenants were the small population density to the east and the size of the property. Over the four-year period, Terraco tried to market the property to approximately one thousand various tenants. Mr. Gendell explained they want to improve the intersection and make it aesthetically pleasing, so it fits in with the feel of Riverwoods. Mr. Gendell came up with the River's Edge theme as this corner is the edge of the Village and the edge of the Des Plaines River. He stated that their proposed project would not solve every issue that has come up but that it would provide an aesthetically pleasing development.

Mr. Nosky showed the drawings of the proposed buildings. He stated that the façade will be comprised of masonry and cultured stone and have a strong cornice and canopy, creating a more contemporary appearance. There will be common materials throughout the project, but the buildings will have their own character. There will be parking along the front and side of the building.

Mr. Ross explained their normal prototype includes a lot of EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems), often called synthetic stucco. They felt that masonry and stone had more character and would better fit Riverwoods as would the extensive green space they included in their plans.

Mr. Lewis discussed the site plan as it relates to traffic, grading and the existing site conditions. He explained how they would handle the regulatory flood plain, stormwater detention, logical access into and out of the site from Milwaukee and Deerfield Roads as well as traffic movement throughout the site. Mr. Lewis had met with representatives from the Lake County Department of Transportation who indicated they have a plan to extend the bike path beyond Milwaukee Avenue. He incorporated the design for the bike path within the development plan so it would be interconnected.

Mr. Williams discussed the proposed landscape plan, which includes mostly native plantings, a natural looking retaining wall, a pond, and bio-swales that will all contribute to a naturalistic softening of the property.

Mr. Woodward discussed the traffic impact study for the development. He explained that the site will have three access points including a full access from Deerfield Road and restricted, right in, right out access ways on Deerfield and Milwaukee. The road improvements Terraco will add are a new eastbound left turn lane into the Federal Life property, a right turn lane onto eastbound Deerfield Road from Milwaukee Avenue and a widening of Deerfield Road to provide a westbound turn lane into the development. Mr. Woodward stated that the two proposed uses, the Shell gas station and McDonald's, rely heavily on pass-by traffic, and, therefore, the development will not add a lot of new traffic to the roads.

Trustee Jamerson asked if there was a traffic study that included the existing McDonald's traffic. Mr. Woodward indicated they did not do a specific traffic study with the existing McDonald's. Ms. Stack explained that they anticipated an increase in traffic during the breakfast period.

Trustee Chamberlain indicated that the Village's consultants made specific requests, some of which were not addressed. She noted that the proposed landscape plan does not have specific plantings and there is no maintenance plan. Mr. Williams indicated they would provide any details needed. Mr. Gendell explained they will work within the Village Ordinances on a maintenance plan. Their standard practice is to maintain the landscape in a first-class fashion and replace dead plantings as necessary.

Trustee Baumann asked about the impact on traffic southbound on Milwaukee and turning east on Deerfield. Mr. Woodward explained that the left turn lane provides 600 feet of storage and backs up daily. When asked about the anticipated increase in traffic, Mr. Woodward stated that the proposed plan would add 22 additional vehicles during the morning peak hour and 24 additional vehicles during the evening peak hour which is a minimal increase. Mr. Woodward indicated that Terraco's assertion that there was minimal impact to the traffic resulting from the proposed development is a subjective opinion rather than a quantitative measure. Trustee Baumann summarized that, according to the traffic study data, the development would increase the queue length by 20% over the projected queue length without the development. Trustee O'Donnell questioned how many turning arrows would a vehicle need to wait through during the peak periods. Mr. Woodward explained that the addition of this traffic may require vehicles to wait two additional cycles.

Trustee Ford asked if the westbound traffic would back up Deerfield Road. Mr. Woodward explained they are providing a dedicated turn lane for vehicles turning left from Deerfield Road onto the site.

Mr. Gendell stated that there is not a single plan that would not increase traffic at this intersection.

Village Engineer Pat Glenn indicated he had reviewed the plan and concurred that Terraco was using generally accepted methods and analysis in their traffic study. Mr. Glenn explained that the Deerfield Road issues will not improve until after the regional improvements are implemented. From a stormwater perspective, the County Ordinances force the proposed improvements and he agrees with Terraco's calculations in that regard. The east 100 feet of the property is owned by the Village. Terraco is proposing an underground stormwater detention under that section and he is not comfortable having that on Village property. However, the applicant seemed amenable to establishing a SSA to collect funds for maintenance which would also create an annual reminder for the Board to visit the possible need for funds. Mr. Glenn also stated his suggestion for shifting the eastern building and its parking spaces in order to remove what he felt was a safety issue in the current plan.

A majority of residents expressed concern about the development because it could have a negative impact on traffic and may not meet the needs of Riverwoods residents. The residents expressed concern as the proposed uses are not upscale and should not be the gateway to the Village. Residents also expressed concern about having the McDonald's drive-through open 24 hours. One resident suggested that the Village send out a survey about what residents would like to see at the intersection. Another resident expressed concern about cyclist safety, as the bike path would be extended through the development. Residents were also concerned about the noise and the impact it would have on the value of their homes.

One resident heard the same concerns about a new McDonald's coming to Winnetka when he lived in that Village. He stated that none of the negatives seemed to materialize. He believes that McDonald's is a good corporate citizen. Another resident noted that although a gas station and a McDonald's may not be the ideal uses for this corner, it is better than having an empty lot in the Village.

PORTWINE ROAD PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Mr. Glenn discussed the re-stripping of Portwine Road. He has solicited quotes as the project is less than \$20,000. The lowest quote was for \$16,600. Mr. Glenn noted \$20,000 has been appropriated through the MFT.

The Board voted to execute the contract in an amount not to exceed \$16,600.

September 2

PLAN COMMISSION REPORT

Plan Commission Chairman David Niedelman indicated that the Plan Commission's official report has not yet been reviewed by the commissioners, and therefore, has not been approved and sent to the Board. However, he wanted to informally explain the process and the voting, as he will not be able to attend the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Ch. Niedelman explained there were two parts to the Terraco petition: the Terraco proposal itself, which passed with conditions and the Text Amendment to subdivide the property, which was denied. One of the larger conditions is that the petitioner needs to provide a landscape maintenance program.

There was a lot of discussion about water detention. The petitioner initially wanted to use the Village outlot. Mr. Glenn did not feel the Village should allow anyone to utilize Village property and then have to deal with the maintenance. The Commission suggested that the Board could create a Special Service Area that would bring an annual tickler before the Board to determine whether money needs to be collected for maintenance. Trustee Baumann questioned who would decide how much money needs to be collected. Mr. Huvad explained that the levy would be set by the Village. Ch. Niedelman indicated that the Commission did not anticipate the need for a levy for a number of years, but that the Commission wanted to find a mechanism that would work and also act as a reminder.

Ch. Niedelman explained there was a very extensive discussion on traffic, a lot of which was driven by input from for the residents of Meadowlake. He indicated a number of Meadowlake residents expressed concern about the development making the traffic worse. Both Terraco's and Mr. Glenn's traffic studies showed that the proposed project would have no impact on Meadowlake traffic. Mayor Norris asked that both studies be included in the Commission's report.

Lastly, Ch. Niedelman explained that the proposed Text Amendment to subdivide the property/building was denied because, in the opinion of the commissioners, the request was purely a process to financially benefit the petitioner. The petitioner declined the condominium option, a mechanism already in place that would achieve their intended goal, as being too much work.

Mayor Norris noted that this is strictly a zoning petition and is completely separate from possible TIF funding.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Dayno provided the Board with the Police Department activity since the August 19, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. The complete Police Report is available on the Village website under Board of Trustees.

Chief Dayno discussed the Department's new Community Service activity under which the department's certified crime prevention officer will come to a home or business and conduct a security survey of the property.

On August 31, 2014, the department responded to a report of a suspicious person who had offered two teenagers a ride and also asked the teenagers where the local school bus stop was. The department sent out an alert to neighboring towns and received a response from a nearby town that had a similar incident. Chief Dayno sent out a residential alert on this.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Orphans of the Storm – Mayor Norris noted that Orphans of the Storm has put in a request for a new well. Village Engineer Pat Glenn explained that they requested a well between 200 – 400 feet deep, which is not considered a deep well. Mayor Norris does not see an issue with the request. Mr. Glenn indicated that the County requested a letter from the Village stating it is allowable.

Motor Fuel Tax – Mayor Norris has received a letter from the State that they are providing additional funding for the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) program.

320 Portwine – Mayor Norris stated that the Village has signed the contract to buy the property immediately north of the Village Hall. The Village forester and Mr. Glenn have both looked at the property and agree that it will accommodate a parking lot without impacting trees.

They went through the property and it is adequate for the temporary Village Hall. If needed, the Board will be able to utilize a conference room at Wolters Kluwer for meetings. The construction time will be shortened because the existing Village Hall will be completely vacant during construction, which is tentatively scheduled to start in April. The design drawings will be sent out for projected costs as soon as they are completed.

BURR OAK TRAIL SSA #30

Village Attorney Bruce Huvad stated that the Special Service Area being established for Burr Oak Trail includes eight properties. The possible maximum annual levy would be \$15,000 per year with an escalation of the greater of 5% per year or the percentage increase in the CPI. Mr. Huvad does not believe the residents have an immediate project in mind.

Tom Magill, a resident of Burr Oak Trail, explained that the residents have met for the past 15 months to address the issue of funding the future road rehabilitation. The funding for road repairs is currently voluntary. The SSA would allow funds to be assessed and collected on a mandatory basis. Mr. Magill believes there would be unanimous support among the eight families.

PORTWINE ROAD RESTRIPIING

Village Engineer Pat Glenn explained that the fall program will include restriping Portwine Road and resurfacing Calvin Court, Farner Court and Strenger Lane. He split these two projects for two reasons: 1) IDOT's MFT rules allow municipalities to do certain basic maintenance without going through the entire pre-approval process; and 2) He would like to fast track the striping to get it done before winter due to temperature requirements for thermal plastic pavement marking. The estimated striping work is about \$14,000. Mr. Glenn is requesting \$20,000 as an appropriation.

Trustee Baumann moved to approve the Resolution for Portwine Road restriping in an amount not to exceed \$20,000. The Board voted in favor.

VILLAGE TO ASSIST RESIDENTS WITH LANDSCAPING COSTS ALONG DEERFIELD ROAD BIKE PATH

Village Engineer Pat Glenn explained that, as previously discussed, because the Village is not spending money on the construction and phase-two design for the Deerfield Road bike path, funds may be freed up to help residents with the landscaping that will be impacted by the project. The County will start negotiating right-of-way with the property owners and asked Mr. Glenn what the Village might do. Mr. Glenn believes this is not an obligation on behalf of the Village beyond what the Board has already considered doing. Rather, it makes known the Village's intent to assist the residents. Mr. Glenn believes this can be handled as an extension of the current forestry program where it would be a reimbursement/cost-share program with the residents. The details will need to be worked out, but it will probably be easier to assess the actual impact on residents' properties once the project moves forward.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police/Building/Zoning – Trustee Jamerson presented the building report for the month of August. The complete report is available on the Village of Riverwoods website under Board of Trustee Notes.

Woodlands/Finance – Trustee Chamberlain met with the Village Forester. The hazardous tree survey is complete and letters will be going out to residents that have pink ink dots on their trees. The Trustees discussed whether, in the future, it may be better to have the letters go out before the survey begins. And, the possibility of having the forester put door hangers containing information on a residents' door if a hazardous tree is found on their property. The letters will include information about the meaning of the dots and the reason for the survey.

August 19

POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno provided the Board with the Police Department activity since the August 5, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. The complete Police Report is available on the Village website under Board of Trustees.

Chief Dayno stated there was one arrest for a domestic battery between two family members at a residence in the Village.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Use of Village Property at Portwine and Chianti – Mayor Norris explained that the Trustees discussed the possibility of selling the property across the street from the Village Hall. The report from the RPC's-sponsored study of the property did not specify the location of the valuable species that were found. The RPC is considering splitting the cost with the Village of another detailed study that would identify and mark the location of the valuable plants.

In addition, the high quality wetlands need to be delineated in

order to be able to subdivide the parcels for sale. Mayor Norris believes there will be at least two valuable lots on the 7-1/2 acre property. Trustee Baumann suggested having the Village engineer map out the wetlands prior to the independent study, to minimize the area to be studied. Trustee Jamerson asked if the Village would have the ability to restrict the areas that could be developed. Mr. Huvad replied that there are already restrictions as relates to the wetlands and additional restrictions could be added to the sales contract.

Bannockburn BBQ Challenge – Mayor Norris indicated that the Bannockburn BBQ Challenge was a success. He thanked Chief Dayno and his wife as well as David Niedelman for their assistance. Lake Bluff won the competition.

Recommendations concerning additional consultants for Native Planting and Landscape Design – Mayor Norris spoke with Trustee Chamberlain and Village Forester Chuck Stewart about hiring additional consultants as Urban Forest Management does not handle shrubs and ground layer plants, or landscape design. Village personnel would work directly with the other consultant, thereby not incurring an additional management fee from the Forester. Trustee Chamberlain added there would be a very clear division of what would be handled by Mr. Stewart and what would be handled by the new consultant.

Terraco Update

By John Norris, Mayor of Riverwoods

On November 4, 2014, the Board of Trustees voted not to provide TIF assistance to the owner/developer of the property on the southeast corner of the intersection of Deerfield Road and Milwaukee Road. The owner subsequently withdrew its zoning application. During the process we sometimes heard a question about “why is this even being considered”? Why? Because “Due Process” and the rights of all concerned required that we do so.

I. Background

Terraco, Inc. is the lead developer for a joint venture interested in developing the vacant parcel where Riverwood Inn restaurant was located, at the southeast corner of Deerfield Road and Milwaukee Road.

Terraco bought the parcel in 2010 and initiated meetings with the Village about the site. The Village sought retail uses that both a) would pay sales tax and b) seemed to fill a void: grocery and specialty food stores (Trader Joe’s) were high on our list. Terraco appeared at some Board meetings over the next few years to discuss its efforts.

The site costs for infrastructure at this location are high because 40% of the land is floodplain, which limits construction or necessitates underground storage vaults. Most users require at least one full access point – if access is restricted to a right-in/right-out only on Milwaukee Ave., the site is un-

desirable for retail use. Accessing the site requires expensive, new turn lanes to comply with lake County highway standards. The cost of street improvements is high relative to the amount of buildable land.

All of these factors led the Board to include the site in a TIF district established in 2013, with the idea of being able to direct public investment in a manner that promotes our goals.

Terraco said that the site was too small for grocery stores and that upscale restaurants did not like the site. Chase Bank and a day-care school for 200 kids had expressed interest in the site, but the bank went away for its own reasons, and the school seemed a poor choice to combine on a site with other uses.

Eventually Terraco concluded its best prospects were a financially strong company that operated gas stations and a McDonald’s restaurant. Terraco said that the high site costs made it imperative to find tenants profitable enough to support the cost of development.

In late 2013, the Board learned the nature of the proposed uses. Concern about these uses prompted the Board to deliberate over several meetings about purchasing the land. After much discussion, and input from several consultants, the Board decided not to purchase the land. It was believed that the community would not support an expenditure (proposed at \$1.8 million) to acquire land that we could not easily develop or resell.

The possibility of re-locating the Village Hall to this site, rather than the proposed renovation of Village Hall, was part of the discussion. Among factors reviewed were, being in the flood plain; the cost of the site; the extraordinary site costs mentioned above; plus the costs of new construction over renovation. These factors persuaded most trustees that the site was not the best choice for Village Hall.

II. Zoning Hearings

Terraco applied last March for zoning approval and began submitting financial information to the Village’s TIF consultant to build a case that TIF assistance was warranted for their proposal. The Village never committed to any approval in advance – it advised Terraco to consult the Village ordinances and look to the relevant standards.

As a property owner, Terraco has the right to submit its application. The process is designed to afford all applicants due process and the opportunity to be heard. The process also allows the public to be heard. The proposal included a Shell gas station with a convenience store, a building with a McDonald’s restaurant with dual drive-through lanes, and a third building slated for office use.

The cost presented for the proposal was \$7.6 million. Terraco would have to fund all of this cost though loans or equity. Terraco asked the Village for a TIF redevelopment agreement under which Terraco would be reimbursed for \$1.5 million of TIF-eligible costs out of future taxes.

After hearings before the Plan Commission, the proposal moved to the Board of Trustees, which heard presentations by Terraco and comments from the public on October 7, October 21, and November 4. At the Board meeting on Novem-

ber 4, the Village Board voted to deny the developer's request for TIF assistance. Each of the trustees articulated their reasons for his or her vote. To re-state those reasons here would take too much space; please see the record of proceedings on the Village web site if you want to learn more. Suffice it to say each trustee gave good reasons for his or her vote.

III. Village Goals

Village goals sometimes conflict. More development means more revenue but; it also means more traffic. This public testimony from many residents made it abundantly clear that they are feeling overwhelmed by the traffic on Deerfield Road. Residents also want development that adheres to the character of the Village. The last comment leads in many directions. One resident said a Chipotle restaurant would have been fine. Some would like a nice coffee shop or bookstore. Many residents said that the Terraco uses were not right for our Village and they volunteered to find more suitable uses.

Residents do not like a drive-through option, but the Panera restaurant has asked about constructing a drive-through at their current facility at Colonial Court/Shoppes. Another decision will have to be made.

Retail uses that can pay to offset the costs of development will need to generate traffic. Some suggested that all traffic only enter or leave on Milwaukee, but that will limit the site. An office building will add to peak morning and evening traffic.

Others suggested that, to offset the commercial development proposed in Buffalo Grove at the northwest corner of the intersection, the Village should create a green belt, and not approve anything that adds traffic.

This is an opportunity for us to re-visit what the goals of the Village are and should be, as well as how the community might accomplish them. The Village's current sound financial health cannot be taken for granted, and we have other goals to consider as well. The residents who took time to express their views at the recent hearings have contributed to renewing a much-needed discussion about our land-use and community goals.

Police Services That You May Not Be Aware of

By Police Chief Bruce Dayno

Child Safety Seat Installation – Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14.

Correctly used child safety seats are extremely effective, reducing the risk of death by as much as 71%, but nearly 73% of child restraints are not installed or used correctly.

Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPS) can ensure your child's seat is installed correctly. CPS Technicians put their knowledge to work through a variety of activities, including child safety seat checks where parents and caregivers receive education and hands-on assistance with the proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts.

Call Officer Al Maciareillo at 847-945-1130 ext. 231 for

an appointment to have your seat checked or receive installation assistance by a National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technician.

Emergency Telephone Notification System – The Village of Riverwoods contracts with the Blackboard Connect service for emergency resident notification. With this service, the Village is able to send personalized voice messages and email alerts to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as boil order alerts, missing persons, and road closures.

As a resident or business, you can opt-in to emergency messages, non-emergency messages or both. The information supplied will be sent to the Blackboard Connect system. If you have an unlisted telephone number, or if you have not previously signed up to be on the system, you may not be in our database.

The system will only be used for emergencies and exigent circumstances. We know that your personal information is important; all usage of your personal information will be in compliance with the Village Privacy Policy.

To register, or for more information, go to www.riverwoods-il.net and click on the Village-To-Resident Notification System link. If you don't have internet access or would like assistance, call the Police Department Records Section at 847-945-1130 between 8:30a.m. and 1:30p.m. M-F.

Crime Prevention – Our Crime Prevention Officer is available for presentations to residents and businesses on topics including, but not limited to, Bullying, Stranger Danger, Traffic Safety, Internet Safety, Identity Theft, Personal Safety and Workplace Violence. For Riverwoods residents he can perform a home security survey, which will provide an assessment of security safeguards and risks that he observes at the residence. He will provide the homeowner with guidance on how to correct safety deficiencies using crime prevention and environmental design. For further information, contact Officer Al Maciareillo at 847-945-1130 ext. 231

Riverwoods Floodplains

By Patrick Glenn, Village Engineer

Do you reside in a floodplain? While we do have some floodplains in Riverwoods, they are generally limited to two areas of the Village. FEMA floodplain maps and information are available at the Village Hall. Please come in during regular office hours and see if you are affected. We would like to remind you that flood insurance is mandatory if building in the floodplain and using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan. Come in and our Building Department Staff will be happy to help you with this information. The Village Engineer can also help you get Elevation Certificates. They already have information on file for some areas of the Village, and for a nominal fee will be able to help you get one for your property if needed. They are also available to see if they can help you come to some solutions if you have flooding problems. Please call the Building Department if you have any questions at 847-945-3990.

Winter Safety Tips

By Battalion Chief Duane Christensen

Here are a few safety tips to consider as winter approaches.

Fireplace Safety– Please be careful when operating your fireplace. Have the chimney cleaned, inspected and remember to open the flu.

Space Heaters– Use caution when operating space heaters, follow the manufacturer's instructions and keep all combustible items at least three feet away.

Ice Safety– The lakes and ponds of the area will soon be freezing over. As a general rule one to two inches of any type of ice is unsafe and under no conditions should retention ponds be considered safe. Do not go on the ice to retrieve a pet, you may fall through. There are several websites that offer much more in-depth information about ice safety.

Keep Fire Hydrants Visible– If it is at all possible please try to keep snow from piling up near or on a fire hydrant so they are easily accessible in an emergency.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors– As always, make sure you have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.



Book Club News

By June Melber

Want to know what the first Thanksgiving was really like? Join us in November for a discussion of **Mayflower** by Nathaniel Philbrick. The Pilgrims, the Indians, the North American frontier in the 1600's, and what was already a complicated political and diplomatic situation. It's written in a style that reads like a novel, but it's all true!

Our December pick is Maya Angelou's **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**. We will also be discussing book selections for 2015 at this meeting.

For dates and times, contact June Melber at 847-940-7086, or argos501@aol.com, or call the Village Hall. The book club is free for all and refreshments are served.

VILLAGE REMINDERS

Village Curfew – The Village Curfew Ordinance, which affects youths under the age of 18, is 11:00p.m. during the week and 12:00a.m. for Holidays, Fridays and Saturdays. This conforms to state statute.

Overnight Parking – No overnight parking is allowed on any Village street, from 3-6:00a.m. No parking is allowed on Thorngate streets after dark.



Orphans of the Storm Receives 100 Women Who Care Award

Orphans of the Storm was a proud recipient of the 100 Women Who Care award this past summer. If you haven't heard about the 100 Women Who Care, you may be interested to know that it is a group of one hundred women strong who meet four times a year to make a collective impact on a local charity. Each member pledges \$100 at each of the four meetings and when that gets combined with the donations of the other members, one collective donation of over \$10,000 is created for a member-nominated charity during each meeting. The \$10,000+ is to be put towards a project that will truly make a difference.

Orphans of the Storm has identified it's project for the \$11,800 award. Most Riverwoods residents do know of the shelter and it's huge number of animals that are helped to a second chance in life each year, but what most are probably not aware is that seven acres of this shelter's property have never been developed. This seven-acre wooded parcel is one of the largest untouched piece of woodland property remaining in the Village of Riverwoods. And here, among the beautiful old oaks, the groves of trillium and the native shrubs is where Orphans of the Storm plans to put the award dollars to work creating the Woodland Trails Project.

The Woodland Trails Project is a series of nature trails that will be created with the native trees and shrubs being saved, the invasives being removed, and beautiful nature trails contouring through the wooded space. Here volunteers will be able to get shelter dogs out of their kennels to enjoy the scents, fresh air and freedom to explore.

Our Village Forester, Chuck Stewart commented that once the buckthorn is removed, the dormant seed bank will explode.

Watch for updates on the woodland Trails Project, and also think about checking out the 100 Women Who Care (the north suburban chapter of course). Guests are always welcome. The meetings take place at Philly G's in Vernon Hills. Learn more at www.100womenwhocarenc.com



Green Corner



Please Recycle Your Winter Holiday Decorations

Riverwoods Preservation Council

The Winter Holidays are just around the corner, inspiring us to decorate our homes. However, once the holidays are over it can be another story. Now what do I do with the decorations I no longer want? Here are a few suggestions.

Live Christmas Trees

LakeShore Recycling Systems – LakeShore Recycling Systems will pick up your spent live tree curbside on your usual scheduled pickup date January 1 through January 25, 2015. The only requirement is that the tree should be free of all decorations and lights. LakeShore will take the live trees they collect to a composting site.

Lake Country Forest Preserve District – The Lake Country Forest Preserve District also accepts live trees free of decorations and lights at selected sites throughout Lake County. The Forest Preserve uses these trees for composting, maintaining trails, or in some cases submerging whole trees into ponds to provide habitat for aquatic animals. Check the Lake County Forest Preserve Publication, “Horizons”, or the Home Page of their website, www.lcfd.org for dates and drop off locations.

Artificial Trees, Ornaments and Roping

Goodwill Industries – Goodwill Industries gladly accepts artificial trees, ornaments or roping. They only request that the items be saleable. The Goodwill Store closest to Riverwoods is located at 4131 Dundee Road, Northbrook. (Near the intersection of Dundee and Saunders Roads.) Phone 847-291-4194 for more information.

Burned Out Holiday Lights

LakeShore Recycling Systems – LakeShore Recycling Systems will take burned out holiday lights as part of its curbside electronics pick up service for Riverwoods residents on your first scheduled pick up day of each month. Lights should be in a separate box next to the recycle bin.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE RPC

The RPC would like to involve more people throughout the Village in local ecological issues. We have sponsored interesting programs and events, such as a water management panel, shoe and eyeglass recycling, installation of a rain garden at the police station, and a native plant lecture at Red’s Garden Center. The RPC, a nongovernmental, resident-run environmental organization, is seeking directors and others interested in Riverwoods’ ecological matters. To learn more, please contact the RPC at riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net.

RPC 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.

Join at a level of \$100 or more and receive a 10% discount on most plants sold each spring by the RRA Plant Sale Committee.

Please make your check payable to the Riverwoods Preservation Council, P.O. Box 122, Deerfield, IL 60015. The RPC is an independent, resident-run, volunteer-run, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Find the Riverwoods Preservation Council on Facebook at www.riverwoodsrpc.org, and at riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net.

RRA - Join and Make a Difference in Riverwoods

Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA) forms a support network within our Village. Membership is \$25 per family and includes two vehicle stickers. Mail your check to RRA, P.O. Box 341, Deerfield, IL 60015. For more information contact Jill Kaplan at jedma1@yahoo.com or call her directly at 847-945-0062.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

of extra stickers at \$5 each _____

Amount Enclosed _____





Riverwoods Village Voice

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60015-3898

847-945-3990

Fax: 847-945-4059

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Happy Holidays to All!
- *The Village of Riverwoods*

