



Riverwoods

VILLAGE VOICE

A Little Background as Our Village Turns 50

By Riverwoods Preservation Council

"When I first moved to Riverwoods on May 15, 1950, I thought I had landed in Paradise." That's the first sentence of Barbara Zimmer's *Memories of Riverwoods and Surrounding Area* (1991). Without a doubt many current residents feel the same way.

Early Days. When Mrs. Zimmer moved to Riverwoods, it was a very different place. The Zimmers purchased land on Sherry Lane in 1946 at \$1,000 per acre. That had been the price of land in the area for the prior 20 years, and would remain the price for the next ten years or so. They chose Edward Humrich to build their house. One of the first houses in Riverwoods was the small white clapboard house owned by the Herrmanns, still standing near the northwest corner of Portwine and Deerfield Roads. In the 1950's, it was considered large. Neighbors used to refer to it as "the big white house." When it was built, it was reached via Riverwoods Road and down Portwine

Photo by Riverwoods resident Sue Auerbach



Road, both of which were dirt roads at the time. Deerfield Road didn't exist west of Sanders. Deerfield Road was extended to Milwaukee Avenue in the 1930's. Riverwoods Road and Portwine Road were gravel roads as late as the late 1950's.

Early settlers were generally self-sufficient, and opposed to government services or interference. They had their own wells and septic fields. Some constructed their homes using timber from their own lots. Their roads were privately owned. The fire department was a volunteer organization. The county sheriff provided police protection.

Farmers along Milwaukee Avenue used to come to Riverwoods in the winter, on sleds across the Des Plaines River. They would chop down trees for firewood.

At the time the Zimmers moved to the area, the elementary school serving properties west of Portwine was a one-room schoolhouse on Milwaukee Avenue, with eight grades in one room. (The building is part of the Sale Barn group of buildings on Milwaukee Avenue between Deerfield and Lake Cook Roads.) The high school was about 15 miles away.

In the 1950's, Massasauga rattlesnakes were common, growing up to about 3 feet long. Rattlesnake hunts were common. The area was informally named "Rattlesnake Gulch." As development spread west from Deerfield, realtors were concerned about the adverse publicity of rattlesnakes. Residents didn't mind, since they preferred to maintain the rural character of the area. Children were known to have thrown rattlesnake skins into trees to discourage purchasers.

When, in the 1950's, some residents decided that the dirt roads filled with potholes were insufficient for the community, old-timers objected. They felt that adding gravel to roads would facilitate traffic and interfere with the privacy of the area.

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 8p.m. March 18, April 1, 15, and May 6 and 20.

Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursday at 7:30p.m. April 3 and May 1.

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.

Riverwoods Preservation Council

Call Joan Becker, chairman at 847-374-8122.

Riverwoods Book Club

Exercise your brain. The book club is free to all and meets at the Village Hall one Friday a month, at 10a.m.

Riverwoods Residents Association

Next RRA meeting April 16, at 7:30p.m. Riverwoods Family Day is June 1. To volunteer call Heidi Bess at 847-948-5288.

Plant Sale Committee

Plant Sale/Community Day is May 17. Call chairmen Margie Kaul at 847-945-5131 or Sheila Hollander at 847-945-4879.

Arts&Riverwoods

Call Leslie Ames, chairman, at 847-948-9003.

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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
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.

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 May/June issue:
April 15, 2008
Send to:
Editor
Riverwoods Village Voice
300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015
jackie@borchew.com

Property Values In Riverwoods

There is great concern in our community and throughout the country as to the condition of the real estate market. The National Association of Realtors recently announced that 2006 was the 5th best year in real estate. Despite this fact, 2007 was the first year in recent history that home values declined.

Property values in Riverwoods however, are still among the highest in the nation, I thought a few hard facts would be of interest to everyone in our community as to what home values have been and currently are. Below is a comparison of sales for existing homes for the past 9 years:

Year	Average List Price	Average Sales Price	% of L.P. to S.P.	Average Market Time	Number of Homes Closed
1999	\$530,704	\$500,313	94%	86 days	69
2000	557,118	532,536	96%	61 days	58
2001	691,139	660,139	96%	140 days	58
2002	675,365	638,032	94%	67 days	58
2003	739,717	690,725	93%	163 days	58
2004	883,126	829,990	94%	107 days	51
2005	967,964	913,750	94%	130 days	65
2006	991,324	936,516	94%	126 days	49
2007	940,585	864,129	92%	130 days	34

The average sales price in Riverwoods has gone up 73% since 1999, but dropped 8% in 2007 as compared with 2006. The number of home sales closed per year has dropped from an average of about 56 homes to 34 homes. This drop has left a number of homes unsold or taken off the market.

All the reports predict a slow market for 2008 despite the low interest rates. A turnaround is not expected until 2009. In the meantime, homes are still selling if they are priced right.

As of February 12, 2008, for the year 2008, there were 41 homes on the market with an average market time of 207 days and an average list price of 1,213,464. Seven homes listed under contract and one home closed.

Historically, in my 50 years in the real estate business, when the market finally turns around, home values rise rapidly.

Sincerely,

William S. Kaplan, Mayor



Photo by Riverwoods resident Ho Min Lim

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 November 20, December 4 and 18, and January 8 and 22. Read the entirety of these minutes on the Village of Riverwoods website: www.villageofriverwoods.com

January 22

POLICE REPORT

65 traffic citations were written since January 8.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste reported 47 calls in the month of January: 17 were fire calls, 5 were car accident calls, 21 were paramedic calls and 4 were other. Total calls to the fire department for the first three weeks of the new year were 47.

RIVERWOODS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Village of Riverwoods was established April 3, 1959. A committee will be formed to gather histories from residents and plan a 50th anniversary celebration.

AT&T

An ordinance, Ordinance Implementing Cable and Video Service Provider Fees and Public, Educational, and Governmental Access Fees, was passed allowing for At&T Cable and Video Access Fees. A second ordinance, Ordinance Implementing Cable and Video Service Customer Protection Standards, was also passed.

January 8

NORTHBROOK WATER

Village Engineer Pat Glenn reported the Northbrook water main extension is substantially complete. We are waiting for Commonwealth Edison to put in electricity for a meter.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Weinstein reported that there were 114 traffic citations issued since the last meeting. There were 7 case reports and 1 traffic accident since the beginning of the year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste reported there were 39 calls so far in the month of January: 6 were fire calls, 5 were car accidents, 23 were paramedic calls and 5 were other. The total for 2007 was 502 calls. There were 121 fire calls, 42 car accidents, 275 requests for paramedics and 64 others.

BUILDING PERMITS

According to building permits issued, the total value of building in the Village for 2006 was \$17,041,166 compared to \$9,910,766 in 2007.

December 18

POLICE REPORT

There were 71 traffic citations since the last meeting. There were 403 case reports and 233 traffic accidents written since the beginning of the year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There were 19 calls so far for the month of December: 2 were fire calls, 2 were car accident calls, 13 were paramedic calls and 2 were others.

December 4

TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

The Board adopted the Village of Riverwoods Tax Levy Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2007.

THORNMEADOW SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

A bid of \$84,500 by Berger Excavations was approved for the Thornmeadow sewer improvements. This is the same contractor doing the Northbrook water main.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Weinstein reported that 93 traffic citations were issued since the last meeting. There have been 383 case reports and 214 traffic accidents written since the beginning of the year.

NEW POLICE VEHICLES

The Board approved the purchase of two new police vehicles, a Dodge Durango and a Ford Crown Victoria.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

There were 34 calls in the month of November: 11 were fire calls, 2 were car accident calls, 18 were paramedic and 3 were other. Total call for the year to date were 463.

SENIOR AND DISABLED CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION

The board moved to renew our Senior and Disabled Citizen Transportation Certificates for a yearly expenditure of \$2,500. Vouchers are available for reduced cab fares for the seniors and disabled with 303 Taxi Company.

November 20

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE VILLAGE

Village Engineer Pat Glenn recommended a bid by Sidwell, the company that did our last aerial photography in 2005, be approved. The photography is valuable in enforcing our Woodland Ordinance. Sidwell's proposal of \$13,865 was ap-
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proved by the board. The photography will be done in the spring of 2008.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Weinstein reported to the board that 81 traffic citations were issued since the last meeting. There were 367 case reports and 207 traffic accidents written since the beginning of the year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste stated there were 15 calls so far for the month of November: 4 were fire calls, 1 was a car accident call, 9 were paramedic calls, and 1 was an other.

The Fire department is providing Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazardous Materials Training to the Riverwoods Police Department.

BIKE PATH

Funding for the bike path on Deerfield Road from Saunders to Wilmot has been approved. The cost is over \$2.1M and construction will begin in the spring.

TRAFFIC PAX

A contract with TrafficPax, Inc to operate a Photo Enforcement System in the Village was approved.

SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE

The board passed an ordinance authorizing the sale of personal property owned by the Village. A 2000 Ford Ranger will be sold at auction at the Lake County Fairgrounds in December.

VILLAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Riverwoods Police Chief Weinstein Announces Retirement

By Police Chief Morris Weinstein

I announced the following at the recent Village Board Meeting:

It is with mixed emotions that I announce my upcoming retirement. I recall that when I was interviewed for this position, it was asked if I would stay for five years. It has been more than six years of the most rewarding employment of my life.

I have previously discussed my intentions with the Mayor and Mr. Huvad. I will gladly stay to assist in selecting and then briefly assisting my successor.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Board, Village employees and consultants for making these years great. Most of all I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the tremendous residents of this great community.

Riverwoods Searches for A New Police Chief

By William S. Kaplan, Mayor

Morris Weinstein, our current and only police chief has announced that he is ready to retire. "Morry" has been Police Chief of since September 20, 2001 and is responsible for organizing the Riverwoods Police Department, which officially came into being October 31, 2001.

Chief Weinstein is an amazing man. His charismatic personality has endeared him to the Village residents, his Department and the Village Board.

When the Village started the police department in 2001, we had a consultant who helped us go through an extensive search for a police chief. There were a number of qualified candidates who applied for the job, but most were unhappy when they were told the "Chief" would have to be a "Working Chief." Chief Weinstein was our unanimous choice. He did not disappoint us. He has been everything we had hoped for and more. He is an excellent manager, leader, and administrator. He was responsible for obtaining over \$800,000 in grants for the Village that we never would have gotten without his expertise.

Chief Weinstein is not only a large man in stature, but he is a man large in ability. His large shoes will be hard to fill.

Chief Weinstein has graciously agreed to stay on and help us in our search for a new "Working Chief." When the time comes that his replacement is finally selected, and he leaves us for a life of leisure, he will be sorely missed.

Riverwoods Eco-Study - Help

By Riverwoods Preservation Council

The Riverwoods Preservation Council is embarking on a new adventure . . . and we need your help!

We are looking for property to study the health of our woodlands. How healthy are our trees? Are invasives taking over? Is habitat for our wildlife surviving? What is the future of the woodlands that make Riverwoods so distinct? Hard to believe that such an important study has never been done, but true!

Many of you enthusiastically volunteered your properties when we applied for a state grant last February. (Thanks so much!) Well, no grants were awarded to anyone. So we're trying again.

We've decided to do our study, whether or not we get a grant. We'll be starting as soon as the weather gets a bit warmer. Professionals will guide us, so that we do this correctly and the results will be valid.

Here's how you can help: If you have wooded areas on your property and would be willing to have them studied during the growing season, please contact us at: riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net or 847-374-1786.

Taxes are Done - Have Some Fun

Come have some fun with RRA

The Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA) will hold its next meeting on April 16, at 7p.m. at the Village Hall. Wine and cheese will be served.

Save the Date! Riverwoods Family Day will be held June 1st. A committee is being formed to plan all of the details of a day full of swimming, relays, races and a barbecue for all. If you would like to get involved call Heidi Bess at 847-948-5288 or email her at thosebesses@comcast.net.

“Movie in the Woods”

This ain't no “Midsummer Night's Dream!” This is a “reel” Hollywood first run flick to be shown camp/picnic style in the “5 acre wood” across from the Village Hall sometime in July. The RRA needs a film production crew to set the premier date and select the cast of characters. Positions to fill are:

1. Producer - contact movie crew.
2. Director - site coordinator.
3. Grill master - grill locater & cook.
4. PR - media hype & street signs.

All the players will aid in choosing the film to be run. This should be a great way for the whole family to spend a lazy hazy summer evening in the woods. Audition to Nancy Morten at 847-945-3990.

Plant Sale - Community Day Saturday, May 17

*Come to Riverwoods Community Day!
12 noon at Village Hall*

- Roadway clean up**
- Pick up your pre-ordered plants**
- Pick up some additional**
- Learn about bike safety**
- Learn about fire safety**
- Meet a new friend from Orphans of the Storm**
- Enjoy barbecue and meet your neighbors**

This event is free and all residents are invited



The Village of Riverwoods is Turning 50!

1959 — 2009

We are looking for some original residents that may have some stories and experiences to share with us. We are also looking to put together a “50th” committee to plan a Village Celebration for this momentous occasion.

If you have any ideas, or would like to get more involved with your community's 50th birthday, call Nancy at the Village of Riverwoods to volunteer: 847-945-3990.



Monday through Friday, we will call you. A friendly scheduled call will be made at a time convenient to you. Residents who live alone, or have health problems, please contact Nancy Morten at 847-945-3990 to set this up.

Help Shape Lake County's Future

In a democracy, citizens are owners of their government and with ownership comes influence. Citizens can influence the goals and strategies that drive how and where Lake County will focus its resources by sharing their thoughts and views at a Lake County Community Forum.

Lake County will use the input to identify the most critical challenges facing our region, determine the County's role in addressing those issues, and develop a long-term plan. The County's goal is to listen and deliberate issues among residents with diverse interests, backgrounds and perspectives, so we can develop results that matter to citizens.

There are five Community Forums on five separate dates/five separate locations, each beginning at 7p.m. Preceding the forum is an open house beginning at 6p.m., where you can learn about County services and programs from health and transportation to where to go for help and property information. To locate the most convenient forum for you, contact Lake County Communications at 847-377-2550 or visit www.co.lake.il.us.

Americans Rank Direct Deposit Their Top Money Management Tool

Still, approximately 1 in 3 don't use it, including nearly 10.5 million Social Security recipients

Washington, D.C. – (Feb. 6, 2008) Americans say direct deposit tops both ATM cards and checkbooks as their most important tool for managing personal finances.

"Americans clearly believe the reliability and safety of direct deposit helps them better manage their money," said Judith R. Tillman, Commissioner of Treasury's Financial Management Service. "Direct deposit is far more convenient and reliable. Without having to make a trip to the bank, your money is there for you when you need to pay bills or manage household finances. Still, too many senior citizens and others don't take advantage of direct deposit and instead rely on paper checks for their Social Security and other federal benefit payments – and as a result, they miss out on the money management advantages of direct deposit and also leave themselves vulnerable to financial crimes."

The Go Direct campaign, sponsored by Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks, aims to motivate people who receive federal benefit checks to use direct deposit. Current benefit recipients can easily sign up for direct deposit of their Social Security or other federal benefits for free by calling Go Direct at 800-333-1795 or visiting www.GoDirect.org.

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and roadways, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system, including open ditches, is discharged untreated into the waterbodies and groundwater we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.

- Clean up spilled automotive fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought-resistant and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
- During home repair and improvement projects, use hazardous substances (paint, solvents and cleaners) in the smallest amount possible, and follow the directions on the label. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills. Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through the household hazardous waste collection program sponsored by SWALCO.
- Only drain your pool when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years).
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil and antifreeze can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the septic system.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Remember to share good habits with your neighbors! Make your home the solution to stormwater pollution! To learn more about how you can protect your environment, visit the US Environmental Protection Agency at epa.gov.

"It's important to know that many of us early settlers came to Riverwoods for the trees, for the space, and for the freedom." (Jane Ware Davenport, from *A Village Remembered: Riverwoods after 25 Years*, 1984)

There was small game in the woods, too, including mink, muskrat, weasels, badgers, foxes and skunks. Deer were rarely seen, but became more visible with development. Riverwoods was so heavily wooded that some homes were built by their owners from the timber cut down on their lots.

As late as the 1960's, the woods were so thick that sometimes residents would get temporarily lost in their own woods. As late as the early 1990's, areas of Riverwoods south of Deerfield were "solid with trillium" in the spring, "covered white, almost like snow." From the beginning, Riverwoods was a self-reliant community.

As deer became more prevalent, some residents considered changing the name of the town from Riverwoods to Deer Grove. Most residents continued to prefer the name "Riverwoods," and so the name stuck.

Since those early days, Riverwoods has continued to change. "In spite of the conscientious efforts of George Herrmann [1888 – 1980] and other conservationists of the area, however, some of Riverwoods' most beautiful and exception flowers have disappeared or become very rare. There was a time when cranes hatched their families in a cottonwood grove south of Ringland Road, when there were many natural springs in the woods ringed with marsh marigolds, when folks could – and some unfortunately would – pick a whole armful of yellow lady's slipper, not protected by law. The cardinal flower, the red columbine and gentians are especially prized in the fall and the bloodroot and hepatica are among the first signs of spring. These, however, are becoming more and more infrequent. But the trillium continues in its abundance to make the woods a very special place each spring. And villagers should probably be excused if, in their admiration and pride, they refer to Riverwoods as "the trillium capital of the world."

As for the birds, there was a time when the Herrmanns had scores of wren houses scattered about their property, all occupied by home-loving tenants. Now the wrens are much less frequent and it is a rare occurrence when a bluebird, another former denizen, is sighted. Almost lost for the woodland are two other favorites, the tanagers and the woodcocks. However, there are still enough rare and ordinary birds, year-round and summertime and migration time, to make the place a bird-watchers delight." (Dorothy Wright, from *A Village Remembered: Riverwoods after 25 Years*, 1984)

One thing about Rivewoods has not changed: the passion of its residents.

"Becoming involved in the affairs of the Village [in 1960] was like accidentally stepping into a gang fight. Half of the residents wanted the right to own and keep unlimited numbers of horses and ride wherever they chose. The other half screamed bloody murder about the intrusion of horses on their property and the thoughtlessness of horse owners in general. Half of the town wanted sewers, the other half didn't need sewers and didn't want to urbanize the community by their installation, thus making it easier for developers to change the character of the community by building on smaller parcels of land. ...

At first, I thought all of this bickering and chaos was

caused by people living in the woods for too long a period. But, after several years of being subjected to packed, acrimonious board meetings, contested elections and referendums over these matters, I came to realize that everyone has the same special intense interest and feeling about their community. Riverwoods is a hidden glen in an ever-encroaching jungle of a commercialized metropolitan area. People who live in Riverwoods are instinctively individualistic. They are creative, and react strongly against the planned development of their community by government agencies. Riverwoods residents find peace and enjoyment in going it alone among the God-given gift of the trees and nature that is uniquely Riverwoods." (Alfred Lewis, from *A Village Remembered: Riverwoods after 25 Years*, 1984) (Compiled from materials provided by Linda Dunn.)

In the Kitchen with Gale Gand

By Gale Gand

I've been teaching an after school kids cooking club at Caruso Middle School lately and having the best time. The first 15 kids that signed up are a great mix of girls and boys from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. They all have way more cooking skills than I anticipated and seem to know a lot about good ingredients. I was worried I'd have to show them the basics but their parents took care of that so we get to do a lot. Every week they take home what they made to share with their families. Here's a recipe for pear tarts with cream cheese and cranberries to try from the class. And rest assured, if a 6th grader can make this, so can you!

HAND-FORMED PEAR AND CRANBERRY TARTLETS

Makes 4 individual tartlets

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed overnight in the refrigerator
4 teaspoons cream cheese
4 teaspoons dried cranberries
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
2 ripe Bartlett pears, peeled, halved, cored, and cut into 8 wedges each

Heat the oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Use a knife to cut the puff pastry sheet into 4 squares. Place 1 teaspoon of cream cheese in the center of each of the puff pastry squares. Sprinkle on dried cranberries.

Combine the sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle the about 1 teaspoons cinnamon sugar over the cream cheese on each pastry square. Place 3 pear wedges on top of the cream cheese, two leaning away from the center and one in the center. (you will have a few extra wedges left at the end to snack on) Sprinkle each set of pears with another teaspoon of the cinnamon sugar.

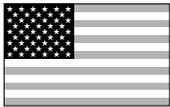
Use your hands to gather the puff pastry up around the pear slices and press it onto the pears to bundle them snugly in the dough. (It won't look pretty at this point, but will look beautiful once it bakes and puffs up.) Bake until golden brown on the edges, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool before serving.

Riverwoods Village voice

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AUTO



Dear Plant Ladies

By Sheila Hollander and Margie Kaul

I've heard some rumors about a Plant Sale / Riverwoods Community Day. What's that about?

It's all about community. On May 16 and 17th people can pick up pre-ordered plants and purchase any additional plants that may be available at our annual plant sale. (By the way, the plant sale newsletter and plant catalog will reach you in mid April. We're offering lots of shrubs and trees, as well as the usual ferns, grasses and perennials. Many are native plants.) Also, planned for Saturday is village clean-up, a barbecue and some special first-time festivities for everyone to join in at Village Hall.

Wait a second. Did you say trees?

Yes. We're offering a 1-3/4" Swamp White Oak, which is a pretty good size tree. Also native for Riverwoods.

And how do I help clean-up the Village?

It's easy. Saturday, May 17, is also Roadway Clean Up Day, so if you want to volunteer, call Carol Magnuson at 847-945-9455. Carol will tell you how you can help clean up the village roadways.

What about food? I love a barbecue?

Yes, of course there will be food. Would we ever not

have our wonderful barbecue? Every resident is invited to the Village Hall for lunch.

Okay. So far we have Clean Up Day, Plant Sale pick up and a barbecue. What else?

You ask all the right questions. We're also going to have some very sweet dogs on site that are available for adoption from Orphans of the Storm animal shelter. The RPC will be on hand with extra copies of their wonderful new book, "In Our Own Backyard," and of course we'll have lots of tips on planting.

And what else?

How about bike safety tips by the police department and fire safety tips from the fire department. All kids will get helmets. Ride your bikes over and make it a day.

And what else?

You never know. There could be some more surprises. But the best of all, beside those beautiful perennial and native plants, shrubs and trees we're offering, is the opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors. This is truly a Community Event.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Margie Kaul at 847-945-5131.

