



Riverwoods

VILLAGE VOICE



Reduce Your Stormwater "Footprint" with Rain Gardens

By Gewalt Hamilton Associates

When we consider flooding and drainage issues in Riverwoods, we often focus on large floods and rising rivers, bringing water from the far points of the watershed to the village. However, the fact is that most drainage problems in the village, particularly the day-to-day nuisance issues, are created by runoff that originates in our own neighborhood, or even our own yards.

Much of Riverwoods was developed at a time when stormwater management mostly meant getting water away from the house and preferably off the property. Even in the more recently developed parts of the village, the stormwater management systems are designed to reduce the rate of stormwater runoff, with a modest reduction in pollutants and none in

volume. Many properties in the village are inundated even after modest rainstorms, and it can be difficult to permit, fund, and construct ever-larger ditches and storm sewers to accommodate the flow.

An alternative approach that is becoming more widespread is the use of excavated native and wetland planting areas to capture and absorb runoff near its source. These "rain gardens" not only reduce the volume of runoff that has to be accommodated downstream, but also help contain some of the pollutants that might otherwise be washed into local waterways. The idea is that if enough of us micro-manage stormwater at the downspout, we will all benefit from cleaner, more manageable flows in our ditches, streams, and rivers.

Each location should be considered carefully, but a typical rain garden might consist of an area from 100 to 400 square feet excavated to a depth of 18-24 inches, with the excavated soil piled along the downhill side to create an upland planting area and help contain water in the garden. The excavation is partially filled with a porous stone layer at the bottom and a clean sand/soil mix near the top, a few inches lower than the adjacent ground to temporarily store water. The top layer is planted with native grasses, sedges, rushes, and flowering species. Once established, the thick, deep root systems of these plants absorb the water in the garden and promote the infiltration of water into the ground below.

Village officials and staff have been working to develop a program to encourage installation of rain gardens in Riverwoods. We have submitted an application for a \$25,000

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. 6, 20, Feb. 3, 17 and Mar. 3 and 17.

Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursday at 7:30pm.
Jan. 8, Feb. 5 and Mar. 5.

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 Rich Koomjian, chairman at 847-374-1786.
www.riverwoodsrpc.org

Riverwoods Book Club

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

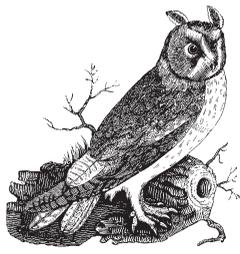
Next RRA meeting is planned for January 12, 2009 at 7:30pm at Village Hall. Call chairman John Hughes at 847-607-8402 to share your ideas or volunteer.

Plant Sale Committee

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

Arts&Riverwoods

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



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 Mar./Apr. Issue:
February 15, 2008

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

Property Values In Riverwoods

At this time of economic upheaval, there is great concern in our community and throughout the country as to the condition of the real estate market. 2007 was the first year, in recent history that home values declined.

Property values in Riverwoods are still among the highest in the nation, however, 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 10 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	912,468	864,129	95%	130 days	34
2008	1,012,365	952,370	94%	258 days	26

The average sales price in Riverwoods has gone up, but the number of sales is down and the average market time is way up.

There are currently 73 homes on the market and about 50 others that were taken off the market when they didn't sell. Normally, there have been about 50 homes for sale at any given time over the past 10 years.

The percent of selling price to list price is very deceiving, because it represents the last list price that attracted an offer. The Multiple Listing Service does not show the substantial price reductions that were necessary in today's market to get the offer. A more detailed analysis shows that the per cent of original list price to actual sale price is currently 85% as compared with the 94% reported in the Multiple Listing Service.

With the high inventory currently available it is certainly a buyer's market, but seller's must keep in mind that even though they may need to sell their home at a lower price than they would have gotten in 2005 or 2006 if they are buying a new home they will probably save more on the home they are buying than they will be loosing on the home they sell. Moreover, as the government pumps more money into the economy to fight the current recession, I believe the whole economy will become inflationary. This will certainly drive home prices upward.

People will always need a place to live and Riverwoods is one of the most outstanding communities on the North Shore. Historically, in my 50 years in the real estate business, when the market finally turns around, home values rise rapidly. Owning property in Riverwoods will always be a good investment both financially and as to life style. As we all know, Riverwoods is a great place to live.

Sincerely,

William S. Kaplan,
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 November 18, November 4 and October 21. Read the entirety of these minutes on the Village of Riverwoods website: www.villageofriverwoods.com

November 18

POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno reported to the Board that 89 traffic citations were issued since the last meeting. That is a 6.4 daily average. There were 373 case reports and 367 traffic accidents written since the beginning of the year.

Chief Dayno commented that there have been items stolen from cars parked in driveways. This is a warning to keep your car doors locked.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste stated that there were 18 calls so far in the month of November; 8 were fire calls, 1 was a car accident call, 8 were paramedic calls and 1 was other.

VILLAGE WATER

President Kaplan reported that in eight months we have saved over \$100K in the cost of our water.

REBATE ON NATURAL GAS

The Board adopted an Ordinance Directing a Rebate of Taxes Collected on the Sale of Natural Gas within the village for the 2008-2009 Heating Season.

POLICE RADIO RECEIVER

The Board approved \$3,800 to be used towards a radio receiver that is to be placed at Discover and will improve our police radio communications.

POLICE SQUAD CAR

The Board approved \$20,667 for the Police Department to purchase a 2009 Crown Victoria Police Squad Car.

November 4

POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno reported that 112 traffic citations were issued since the last meeting. This is an 8 daily average.

MAILBOXES

The Board adopted an Ordinance Concerning Mailboxes and Other Improvements Located in Street Easements and Rights of Way.

CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING

The Board approved a request for a donation of 5K to the Center for Enriched Living.

VILLAGE HALL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

A bid of \$12,666 from Meridian was approved to fix and widen asphalt areas of the Village parking lot. Also a bid of \$1,500 was approved for RJ Blacktop Seal Coating to seal coat and stripe the entire lot.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Trustee Graditor told the Board that so far this year we have given out permits for four single family residences with a value of \$3,650,000. At this time last year we had permits for five homes with a value of \$5,990,000. So far this year we have given out permits for three home additions with a value of \$673,000. At this time last year we had permits for four home additions with a value of \$597,000. So far this year we have given out permits for nine remodels with a value of \$561,000. At this time last year we had given out permits for eight home remodels with a value of \$708,000. So far this year the construction value is \$7,932,733 generating fees of \$85,661 compared to last year's value of \$10,270,930 and generating fees of \$90,986.

TREES WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Trustee Graditor stated that January through November of this year 139 trees have been removed; 130 have been replaced. The total remediation fees collected are \$67,782.

October 21

SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TEST

The Board approved to pay \$4,420 to M.E. Simpson to conduct a sanitary sewer smoke test in the Village. Notification door tags will go out to residents before the test begins.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Dayno reported that 91 traffic citations were issued since the last meeting. That is a 6.5 daily average.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Assistant Chief Ugaste stated that the fire department has received the approval of two grants. The first is for \$156K for the purchase of air packs. This is the gear that firefighters wear into fires. This state of the art gear is expensive at about \$5K for each pack. The second grant is for a piece of equipment that will help with the identification of unknown hazardous materials. It is a nice piece of equipment to have, and we will be happy to share it with other departments when needed.

POLICE IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEMS

The Board approved the purchase of three Kustom Signal in-car video cameras with a wireless download system for \$26,995. These three cameras, good for evidence, quality control and resident complaints will automatically transfer data from the vehicle to the police department server. These video cameras will replace out dated VHS systems now in use.

Police Report

By Police Chief Bruce Dayno

When responding to emergency calls, time is of the essence. Please help the police and fire departments. When an **emergency vehicle**, displaying lights and or siren is approaching, vehicles must pull to the right and stop. Road associations should ensure that emergency vehicles can get into subdivisions by **keeping streets clear** of snow and ice.

Please check and ensure that your **street address** is clearly visible from both directions. Emergency personnel may lose valuable time trying to determine the actual addresses. Turning the front light on or flashing will also help identify your house.



HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM

Riverwoods Police Officers check vacant houses while our residents are out-of-town. If you wish to utilize this free service, please call the Police Department 847-945-1130 before your departure. We will ask a few pertinent questions and complete a house watch form.

You may also download a house watch form on the Public Safety page on the Village website; www.villageofriverwoods.com, under "forms", and mail or drop it off at the police station.

Annual Police Survey In this Village Voice issue you will find the annual Police Survey. This survey only helps the Police Department serve you better. Please take a moment to fill it out and either mail it in or drop it off at the Police Department.

April 7 is Election Day

With the holidays upon us, it's hard to believe that local elections are right around the corner. On April 7, elections will be held for Mayor or Village President, School Boards, Library Boards, Park Boards, and Township Government offices. You can run for office and make a difference in your community! As hard-working families struggle due to the economic crisis, it is more important than ever to have fiscally responsible leaders in our communities.

The polling places are open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#281 Vernon - Chevy Chase

#299 Vernon - Laura Sprague

#300 Vernon - Riverwoods Village Hall

#430 West Deerfield - Riverwoods Village Hall

The 2009 Village of Riverwoods Election Process is Underway

On Saturday, December 13, the Nominating Committee of the Riverwoods Caucus held interviews with all prospective candidates (applicants) for the upcoming 2009 Village positions. The meeting was advertised village-wide and open to all Village residents. At the conclusion of the interviewing process the committee met and made their selection for nomination. The nominees are: John Norris for the position of Mayor; Bill Svatik, Cheryl Chamberlain, and Rich Koomjian for the trustee positions; and Nancy Morten for the position of Village Clerk.

TOWN HALL CAUCUS MEETING

On January 12, 2009, at 7:30p.m. in Village Hall, all residents who are registered voters, are invited as the Riverwoods Caucus Party elects its candidates from among the Nominating Committee selections and any other eligible candidates whose names may be placed in nomination from the floor.

Our Caucus System - How It Works

By Cheryl Chamberlain, Chair 2006-2007

Riverwoods Caucus Nominating Committee

The caucus process is a part of the election system used by smaller towns as an alternative to conducting a primary election for local offices. While the process itself is run locally, much of the basic structure and timing is governed by state law.

How does the caucus begin?

In Riverwoods, the process begins when the Caucus Advisory Council selects a nominating committee. The Council selects one member from each of the geographic areas in Riverwoods: one member who is retired or retiring from office as an elected official, one member of either the Plan Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals, one member of the RRA, and three members at large. Once the committee is formed, the committee then selects its own officers.

What does the Nominating Committee do?

The Nominating Committee has two major functions. First, it identifies issues that are relevant to Riverwoods residents for the upcoming election. Those issues become part of a questionnaire given to prospective candidates for office. Second, the committee seeks qualified candidates for the open positions, and then interviews them to determine the best applicants for those positions. At all times, the

committee members are encouraged to seek input and ideas from their Riverwoods neighbors.

How does the Nominating Committee work?

The Nominating Committee begins its work (within the constraints of state law and caucus party bylaws) by establishing a schedule and then notifying residents of important dates. In past years, the committee has mailed a postcard to all residents listing the election date, candidate application deadline date, candidate interview date, and town meeting date. The Nominating Committee also holds several meetings to prepare a questionnaire of important Riverwoods issues which is made available to prospective candidates. After giving the candidates time to complete the questionnaire, the Nominating Committee holds interviews for prospective candidates. This interview process is open to the public, and anyone may ask to be interviewed. While generally sparsely attended, this is actually the best opportunity for residents to learn about prospective candidates. At the close of the interviews, the Nominating Committee meets to make their selections for nomination to the offices open for election.

How does the Caucus Town Meeting work?

Candidates are actually selected at the Caucus Town Meeting. This is an open meeting of the Riverwoods Caucus Party which is held on a particular Monday in January as specified by state law. Riverwoods residents who are registered voters may declare themselves members of the party. However, only those who make this declaration by signing an affidavit are allowed to vote. The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of setting procedures for the meeting, presiding over the meeting, and nominating the persons selected from the interview process.

At this meeting, the Nominating Committee nominates the prospective candidates selected through the interview process. Any eligible Caucus Party members may also make a nomination from the floor. For this reason, the Nominating Committee does not know in advance of the meeting the actual identity or number of nominated candidates for election. This inability to identify nominated candidates in advance makes proxy and absentee voting impractical. In recent years, the Nominating Committee has allowed for speeches, but no rule requires them. These speeches are often limited to a few minutes in an effort to keep the meeting within manageable time limits. At the conclusion of the meeting, Caucus Party members vote and candidates for election are declared. After candidates have been selected, the candidates' names are placed on the ballot.

Can a defeated candidate still run in the election?

Candidates who participated in the caucus process and were defeated are not eligible to have their names placed on the ballot. However, persons who did not participate can seek election by petitioning to have his/her name put on the ballot and running as a part of another political party. The number of signatures required on the petition is determined by a percentage of those who voted in the previous election.



**RRA Holds Annual Meeting —
Selects Jill Kaplan as
“Citizen of the Year”**

The Riverwoods Residents Association held its annual meeting this past December 11. As you know, the RRA was founded as a community watchdog group to oversee and support the village government back in the 1950's. Over the years it has grown into a true community club, enlisting all residents to support year-round activities which benefit all as well as the health and well being of our Village of Riverwoods.

Topping the agenda at this year's annual meeting was the presentation of the "Citizen of the Year" award. This year Jill Kaplan received the honor for her continuous and outstanding support of the village. Her long time dedication as RRA treasurer shows that she understands what it takes to make a village strong, the support of its residents.

Also at this meeting, the Plant Sale committee made a report and request for funding, which was approved to continue and improve the on-going village garden. The Family Day committee was congratulated on the success of last summer's event at Tennaqua Swim and Tennis Club. (We hope to go back to Tennaqua in 2009 for another great fun filled day). A slate of candidates was also voted on to fill positions for 2009. John Hughes will be the new president; Jill Kaplan will stay on as treasurer; Nicki Norris will fill the position of secretary; Sandy Sagan will continue as membership director;

The next RRA meeting will be Jan. 12, 2009 at 7:30pm.

Join RRA today. Membership is \$25 per family and includes two vehicle stickers. Mail your check to RRA, P.O. Box 341, Deerfield, IL 60015.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Email

Phone

Address

of extra stickers at \$5 each

Amount Enclosed

Village Now Accepting Household Fluorescent Lamps

By Pete Adrian, Recycling Coordinator SWALCO

In partnership with SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County), the Village of Riverwoods is now collecting household CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) and other fluorescent lamps (up to 4 feet in length) from Village residents.

Broken lamps will not be accepted.

Drop off at:

Riverwoods Village Hall

300 Portwine Rd.

Monday to Friday 9:00am–1:00pm

FLORESCENT LAMP FAQ'S

What's in a fluorescent lamp and why should I recycle them? Fluorescent lamps contain a very small amount of liquid and evaporated mercury sealed within the glass tubing. A single four foot fluorescent tube contains from 5 to 50 milligrams of mercury. CFL's contain an average of 4 milligrams - about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury - an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of a fluorescent lamp; it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use. Mercury vapors are released when a lamp breaks. Mercury is toxic to the human central nervous system. Each year, an estimated 600 million fluorescent lamps are disposed of in U.S. landfills amounting to 30,000 pounds of mercury waste. Recycling of the lamp components is the recommended method of disposal by the Environmental Protection Agency and helps to minimize exposure to mercury, greatly reduce the mercury dilemma and create a much safer environment.

What happens to the fluorescent lamps that you drop off at the Village? The lamps are transported to SWALCO where they are then transferred to a US EPA regulated facility to be processed. The lamps are recycled in machines designed to safely break down the lamp and then separate the glass, metal, and mercury. Once the glass is clean of the mercury it can be reused as well as the metal and mercury.

What should I do if I break a fluorescent lamp in my home? Guidance on proper methods of handling broken fluorescent lamps is available from the US EPA and from many state agencies and local health and environmental authorities. The EPA guidelines can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm>. Small numbers of broken lamps typically do not present a hazard to human health or the environment, provided the area is adequately ventilated and proper cleanup procedures are used.

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

By US EPA

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!

Living With Wildlife

If you live in Lake County, you've probably seen deer, fox, coyotes and other wildlife in close proximity to your home. Due to the loss of habitat by development, some wildlife can be seen within residential communities.

People can coexist with wildlife peacefully. The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center and the Lake County Forest Preserves recommend the following ways for residents to avoid problems with coyotes, foxes as well as other wildlife:

- Do not encourage wildlife to come in or near your home by feeding them.
- Keep pet food and water dishes inside, especially at night to avoid problems with raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes and coyotes.
- Supervise pets and children when outdoors and keep dogs leashed when not in a fenced yard. Allow cats and small dogs outside only under strict supervision.
- If possible, do not keep garbage cans outside. Or, use sturdy cans and keep the lids securely fastened.
- If you are walking your dog on a leash and are approached by a coyote, you should restrain your dog, and scare away the coyote by yelling and waving your arms over your head.

Feeding Wild Animals. One of the activities that can cause problems with wildlife is feeding them. Feeding wild animals teaches them that if they risk coming close to people and houses, they will be rewarded. This can lead to aggressive behavior once their natural fear of people is lost and makes them more likely to be a nuisance - potentially putting both people and the animals at risk. Also, the foods given to wildlife are often unhealthy for the animals (e.g., white bread). Never feed wildlife, even the ducks and geese in the park.

Coyotes. Coyotes are the largest wild predator in the Chicago region and serve a vital role in the balance of our



local ecosystems. They help maintain the populations of many small mammals including mice and rabbits. They also feed on deer and Canada goose eggs. Coyotes shy away from humans, however, they have been known to infrequently prey upon pets, particularly cats and small dogs. During the coyote mating and rearing seasons, coyotes may see dogs in their territory as a potential threat. If you walk your dog in an open space area, it is particularly important to keep your dog on a leash no longer than 5 feet. Do not let your dog approach a coyote, and keep in mind that a coyote approaching you or observing you is not typically a sign of aggression. Often the coyote is just curious. Simply shouting and waving your arms will scare it off and will reinforce its natural fear of people.

For more information, contact the Lake County Health Department's Animal Control program at: 847-949-9925. Also visit the Lake County Forest Preserves' Web site at: www.LCFPD.org. For more information on coexisting with Illinois wildlife, visit: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/wildlife/about.cfm>.

Rain Gardens; *continued from the front cover.*



A typical rain garden might consist of an area from 100 to 400 square feet excavated to a depth of 18-24 inches, with the excavated soil piled along the downhill side to create an upland planting area and help contain water in the garden.

matching fund-grant from the Lake County Watershed Management Board, and over the winter we will be working to develop a cost-share program to encourage rain garden installation in as many locations as possible. As the program develops, information will be made available through the Village Voice and the Village website for those who would like to participate. Tell a neighbor!

In the mean time, there are many resources on the internet about rain gardens and other "green" stormwater approaches. In particular, we suggest visiting www.for-wild.org, www.chicagowilderness.org, <http://greenvalues.cnt.org/landscapes>, or www.prairienursery.com.

Woodland Protection and Woodchip Application

By Kirsten Stewart, Urban Forest Management

The residents of the Village of Riverwoods recognize that their woodlands represent a unique and valuable asset for the community. The Woodland Protection Ordinance, Tree Preservation Ordinance and the Development Ordinance all help to protect this asset.

To this end, the issue of woodchip application as it relates to woodland health and compliance with the Village's Ordinances has become a topic of discussion.

Woodchips used for mulching landscape plants provided many benefits including regulating soil temperature and moisture, adding organic matter to the soil through decomposition and creating a protective barrier from mechanical damage such as lawn mowing activities. (Woodchip mulch applied around trees should never be piled against tree trunks and should resemble a "doughnut" shape rather than a "volcano" shape.) Woodchip mulch can also be used to define walking paths. For optimum effectiveness, woodchips used in these applications should only be applied to a maximum depth of 3". Woodchips applied too thickly across large areas of the woodland floor can have serious negative impacts on woodland health.

The woodlands have three primary vegetative components. These are the canopy trees, the understory trees and shrubs, and the ground plane plants. Each of these components rely on the natural addition of this organic matter to the woodland floor. This organic matter consists of leaves, twigs, limbs and other plant parts. Leaves represent the largest volume of organic matter. They also decompose in the least amount of time. The twigs and limbs represent a small percentage of the volume of organic material. They also take many years to decompose.

The composition of a truck load of woodchips is just the opposite of the organic matter that is naturally deposited on the woodland floor every year. A truck load of woodchips is over 90% wood and less than 10% leaf matter. The heavy application of woodchips to the woodland floor will kill a significant number of the ground plane herbaceous plants. The heavy application of woodchips to the woodland floor will also keep soil moisture levels too high for too long. These high soil moisture levels will clog the spaces between the soil particles and preclude the natural exchange of gasses that are critical for plant roots to survive. Woodchips piled against the trunks of trees and other woody plants will encourage decay in the trunk and result in trunk damage from soil insects and small mammals. If woodchips are continuously wet, their slow decomposition will become much slower so the negative impacts will persist for many years.

It is important that excess amounts of woodchips are removed from the woodland floor. The method used for the removal of the woodchips must not cause further damage to the woodland.



Lake County Launches New and Improved Website

Lake County launched its new website - www.lake-countyil.gov - on Tuesday, November 18. For the first time, Lake County residents had the ability to watch a County Board meeting live from their computer or portable device. Video-streaming is just one of three exciting, new E-Gov applications on the new site. Anyone connected to the internet can watch live and archived County Board meetings and other videos about county services and programs. Other new features on www.lakecounttyil.gov are:

Map It! Close to Home - Enter your address and find your elected officials, schools, polling places, police and fire stations, and more close to your home.

Request a Service - Report a pot hole on a county road, submit a complaint about a restaurant, and request other services.

The site allows users to interact with county government, access services on-line, and find information easily using "I WANT TO..." and "County Services A to Z," or through information portals for residents, business, and visitors.

Check it out at www.lakecounttyil.gov

Riverwoods Book Club

By June Melber

There's nothing like curling up with a good book on a cold, snowy day with a cup of cocoa — or night with a glass of wine. And, there's nothing like meeting with friends to discuss it over coffee and cake. We invite you to participate in the former and the latter. The Riverwoods Book Club selections for winter are:

Jan. 23 **Mrs. Kimble** By Jennifer Haigh

Feb. 20 **The Friday Night Knitting Club** By Kate Jacobs

Mar. 27 **Out Stealing Horses** By Per Petterson

All meetings are at 10am the Village Hall. All meetings are free, and all meetings include refreshments. All you have to do is read, talk, and eat. Join us!

Theatre in the Woods

The Little Mermaid and the Prince

By Mary Emerson

Estonian House's cozy wooden building set in beautiful snowy woods provided the backdrop for Theatre in the Woods children's play, "The Little Mermaid and the Prince," adapted from the story by Hans Christian Anderson. More than 100 excited parents and children escaped the wintry weather on Sunday, December 7 by attending the interactive children's play which tells the story of the love of Despina and the Prince which triumphs over many obstacles to arrive at a happy ending. Children in the audience added to the fun by singing, blowing bubbles, and joining the actors on stage to play various roles. After the performance, the young audience was invited to meet the actors, ask questions, and explore the set and props.



Mandy Habel-Ramsey made her successful Theatre in the Woods directorial debut joined by children's theatre performers Joe Dybdal, Nicole Guini, Kathy Howski, and Charlie Ramsey. For more information, call 847-914-0109.



Testing Our Spiritual Reflexes

By Jerry Gore, MD, *The Center for Holistic Medicine*

The economy and the news are creating quite a stir in all of our lives.

I have spoken to so many people who are stressed and unhappy. My own life and the life of our center have been greatly affected. Given all our training, experience and aspirations, how are we to approach a time like this? How are we to view these seemingly random events that affect so many of us and our loved ones?

Think of it this way. You go to the doctor and he or she takes out the little hammer and taps on you knee. Why? Because the doctor is testing your reflex. Is everything connected properly? Is there life in that nervous system? Do your limbs move in response to the tap in the right place? Is everything in order?

Now think of it this way. Spirit comes along and brings these challenges into our personal and collective lives. How do we respond? Are we helpless victims, depressed, hopeless, confused, unsupported, overwhelmed, lost and looking for someone to blame? Or do we react with ingenuity, determination, support, love, creativity and a sense of faith.

Here come the challenges and how do we react. What do we do and say? What comes out of us? Now is the time that we find out what is really important to us - what makes us tick so to speak. Who do we really love and care about and how do we support them. What are our real values? What really fulfills us and gives our lives a sense of purpose and meaning? What are we willing to do to help our purpose in life and those we are close to? Now is the time my friends. It's time to choose the marriage over the job, the children over TV, family intimacy over meaningless distractions, good health habits over quick fixes, work that fulfills and develops your potential over a stagnant or rotting situation.

These days of winter when the external light is dimming and the external entrapments of our lives are being taken away from us, look inside as your internal light reveals itself. Your unique soul is crying for expression, longing to love, give, serve, develop, connect and fulfill its reason for being alive. Make that call, send that letter, take that walk, keep that resolution, give that hug, utter that prayer, and let us respond to this time of challenge and change with our spiritual reflexes intact.

EMERGENCY CHECK UP

The police will check on any senior/disabled person during the inclement weather (really hot or really cold days). Please call Nancy at 847-945-3990 to give your phone number and address for this service.

Summer Dreaming — Winter Composting

Although it's only January, does the winter already seem to have gone on too long? Are you already dreaming about your summer garden? If so, then composting with worms is an easy winter project that will benefit not only your summer garden but the greater environment as well.

Why worms? Worms can spin flax into gold . . . so to speak. If you feed your daily vegetable scraps and your shredded paper to hungry red wiggler worms, by summer your garden will have spectacular, nutritious vermicompost (that's worm poop in lay terms) and you will have kept numerous bags of garbage out of the waste stream.

Just as soil bacteria feed on the grass, clipped by your mulching mower, or as the soil fungi eat the leaves and twigs on the forest floor and break them down into micro-nutrients, your worms can eat your vegetable waste and transform it into food for your garden or houseplants.

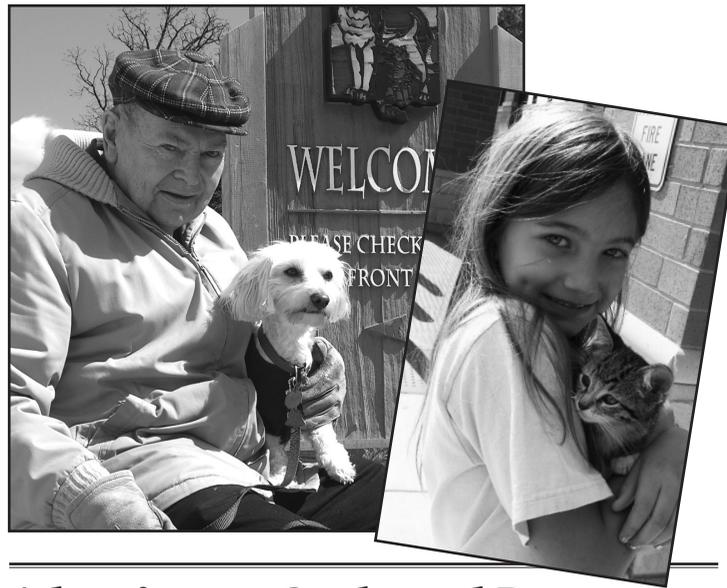
To get started, all you need is a pound or two of red wiggler worms, available from bait shops and websites. An easy worm home uses two plastic containers that stack, one inside the other, plus one lid. Drill the lid, body and floor of the upper container with air holes to provide oxygen for the worms. Put bedding, like straw or shredded paper, lightly moistened, in the bin and add the worms. The bottom container will hold excess moisture which drips from the holes in the floor of the top bin.

Feed your worms weekly (no meat, bones or onions) and add dry bedding to maintain the moisture of a wrung-out sponge. Keeping a proper moisture level will involve a little trial and error. Too little and the worms can actually dry out; too much will encourage the growth of damaging anaerobic bacteria. Properly kept, there is no odor. So, you can house your worms in a closet, the basement, or any place that maintains a temperature between 45 and 80 degrees. In summer, separate the worms from the compost. (A pair of rubber kitchen gloves is great for the squeamish.) The compost can be added directly to the garden or diluted with water for compost tea which is wonderful for houseplants. Then, begin the process again.

*To learn more, check out **Worms Eat My Garbage** by Mary Appelhof or visit the Shedd Aquarium website at www.sheddaquarium.org/worm_composting.html for a beautiful, illustrated and very detailed explanation.*

The Riverwoods Preservation Council's mission is to preserve a sound balance of plants, animals and development in Riverwoods. You've assisted us by your donations, by volunteering your time, by attending our events, and by your kind words of encouragement. Keep up to date with the RPC events at www.riverwoodsrpc.org or [send us your email address](mailto:riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net)

[dress and we'll keep you informed. riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net](mailto:riverwoodsrpc@comcast.net)). If you would like to be a member of the RPC. Mail your check for \$100 to: RPC, P.O. Box 122, Deerfield, IL 60015



Adopting an Orphaned Pet is a Great Investment Today

By Jackie Borchew

This is the story of a special cat called Moe. Upon his arrival to the shelter in February of 2007 Moe was diagnosed as a carrier of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). This virus, which shows up as a depressed immune system in a cat, is not well understood by the general public. So cats that are infected are often considered unadoptable when in reality, they can live out a normal life span with a low risk of ever infecting another cat. This is best achieved with a high protein diet and aggressive treatment of secondary infections.

Because of Moe's unique and gentle personality, volunteer Alan took a keen interest in him and took the time to do his own research on FIV. Alan decided to adopt Moe this past May. Moe has proved to be a loving and trusting companion and recently Alan added a second (non FIV) cat to the household with no problems.

During these uncertain economic times the adoption of a pet from Orphans of the Storm animal shelter is one investment that you can feel confident in. The \$60 adoption fee has dividends that will compound daily in love, faithfulness and companionship. In addition, your new best friend can ease stress and divert your mind from your problems. If a dog, he or she can get you out of the house and keep you active. The value of this life long companion will outlast many other investments you make today.

Please choose to support the work of Orphans with the stray and abandoned pets this holiday season, and if you find that you have the room in your heart and your home, then please come and add a wonderful loving companion to your life. Now, more than ever, we need your support and these pets need a second chance in life.

In the Kitchen with Gale Gand

By Gale Gand

I was at a yoga class this winter when I ran into a Riverwoods neighbor who begged me to write a recipe for something light. She said, "I feel stuffed after the holidays! Could you do something lighter than usual?" For pastry chef that's one of the more daunting tasks. It's easy to make things taste great using my "fab four", butter, sugar, flour and eggs. But try to give them a day off and I start to get chef's block, like writer's block only...well you get it. I have a new book I wrote on brunch (That's the name of the book, too) that comes out in mid-April, my favorite new meal so here's a sneak preview of a recipe out of there.

Oven Roasted Pear and Rhubarb with Crunchy Almond Topping

Makes 4-6 servings

4 medium pears, ripe but firm
4 stalks rhubarb, trimmed and washed (8-10 ounce bag of frozen is OK too)
1 cup orange juice
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons light-bodied red wine (Beaujolais would be perfect)
1 cup light brown sugar
1 vanilla bean, split and scraped (optional)
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Crunchy Almond Topping

3/4 cup sliced almonds
1/4 cup sugar
1 large egg white

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Quarter the fruit and remove all seeds and pits. Do not peel. Cut the rhubarb into 1 inch sections. In a bowl combine the orange juice, honey, wine, brown sugar, vanilla bean, corn starch, and cinnamon. Add the fruit and toss to coat. Pour into a casserole or gratin dish and bake until tender, about 25 to 30 minutes. When the fruit is done, remove it and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Meanwhile, toss the almonds and sugar together, then add the egg white and mix well to lightly coat. Lightly grease a baking sheet and spread the almond mixture on it. Bake the almonds, turning them with a spatula every 5 minutes, until golden brown and caramelized, about 10-12 minutes. Serve the fruit warm or at room temperature, with the almonds sprinkled on top.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor - Village Voice,

On behalf of our residents who frequently walk the roads in our village, I wish to point out a safety hazard and offer a solution.

Most of the time when autos pass pedestrians from behind they do so without any warning to the walkers. If autos are moving only four or five miles per hour they make virtually no audible noise and most walkers will not know they are there until they are a few feet away.

As long as pedestrians keep to the side of the road they are relatively safe but the fact is that our roads have a multitude of holes and cracks. To avoid them walkers move toward the center area and into the path used by autos. They should of course look behind them first, but it's easy to forget.

To avoid the hazard I would encourage all drivers to give a short little beep on their horns if they are passing walkers from the rear. It could avoid a serious injury.

Best wishes!

John Anderson

Giving Back and Inspiring Others

Part of the Sprague School Curriculum

The first grade curriculum at Laura B. Sprague School extends beyond academic skill development. One such example includes a recent social science unit of study for Mrs. Sue Vani's first graders. Students are challenged to make a difference by contributing to their community in a unique way. On November 6th, Mrs. Vani, first grader Kirsten Kendler, second grader Zoe Warren and kindergartener Ellie Warren, as well as a Trinity International University student observing at Sprague that same day, volunteered for a special haircut. Each of them had 8" to 10" of their hair cut at Sprague School for a special cause. All five generously donated their long locks to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a campaign in partnership with the American Cancer Society that encourages people to share their healthy hair to create free, real-hair wigs for women battling cancer. Their efforts have not only made a difference for cancer patients, but also inspired first grader Caroline Baldan to donate her hair to the same cause.

Laura B. Sprague School is part of Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103, an award winning elementary district serving approximately 1,700 students from early childhood through eighth grade. For more information about Sprague School, contact Principal Christy Adler at 847-945-6665.

Riverwoods Village Voice

300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, Illinois
60015-3898
847-945-3990
Fax: 847-945-4059
VillageofRiverwoods.com

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Riverwoods to Celebrate 50 Years!

Save the date . . .

The Village of Riverwoods 50th Anniversary Party will be October 4, 2009.

Lynn Dorfman is looking for information, pictures, pamphlets, old periodicals, etc. for the 50th anniversary. Please contact Lynn at 847-459-8626 if you have any interesting or historical items to share.

Also, Dave Kaufman has volunteered to help with one or more time capsules to celebrate the Village's 50th anniversary. The time capsules may be put together at the next Family Day to get everyone involved.

Any residents wishing to help plan the celebration are welcome. Please call Cheryl at 847-945-3990.



Sandy Sagan, Jill Kaplan and Cheryl Chamberlain have a laugh at a recent RRA meeting. Do you have any fun shots from a past Village Halloween Party, Clean Up Day, Plant Sale? How about a past Arts and Riverwoods reception? If so, send them to Lynn Dorfman for the 50th party.

R i v e r w o o d s P o l i c e S u r v e y

Each year the Riverwoods Police Department will ask residents and businesses to complete a survey to assist us in evaluating our performance and to set goals for the future. Your observations and comments have been and continue to be very important to us. It should take approximately 5 minutes to complete the survey. Thank you in advance for your participation. If you wish to be contacted, reference your survey. Insert your name and phone number: _____

1. How many times have you had contact with Riverwoods Police Department in the past year?

- 0 times 1-3 times 4-6 times 7 or more

2. If you have had contact, what was it for?

- Crime Victim Motor Vehicle Crash Witness
 House Watch Other Service Traffic (violation/warning)
 Other (please specify) _____

Please circle the number that best describes your rating of the following.

	Excellent			Good			Fair			Poor	No Opinion
3. Competence of officer(s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. Demeanor of officer(s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. Fairness of officer(s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. Courtesy of officer(s)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. Traffic Enforcement in the Village	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. Police Visibility in the Village	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. Police Visibility in your neighborhood	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
10. Overall Services provided by Police	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Please rate the following by checking the appropriate box.

- | | Low | Moderate | High | No Opinion |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 11. Your concern about becoming a victim of a lesser crime (i.e. vandalism, theft, damage to property in Riverwoods). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Your concern about becoming a victim of a serious crime (i.e. burglary, robbery, sexual assault) in Riverwoods. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighborhood at night? | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Safe | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Safe | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Safe | <input type="checkbox"/> No Opinion |
| 14. How long have you lived in Riverwoods? _____(years) | | | | |
| 15. What type of building do you occupy? | <input type="checkbox"/> Single family | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | | |
| 16. Please indicate whether the person completing the survey is: | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | | |
| 17. Have you been a victim of a crime in the past 5 years? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| 18. If answer 17 is yes, was it in Riverwoods? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| 19. Did you report the crime to a police department?
If no, why? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |

20. If you saw a suspicious person in Riverwoods, what number would you call? _____

21. So that we can provide better police service to the entire community, please help us identify your neighborhood. Please list the nearest intersection to your home/business _____

22. Please rate your opinion of the following tasks:

	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	No Opinion
A. Providing 24 hour patrol services to community				
B. Discouraging crime in general				
C. Notifying citizens of potential for criminal activity				
D. Responding to and investigating property crimes (i.e. vandalism, theft, etc.)				
E. Responding to crimes in progress or that have Just occurred				
F. Enforcing Zoneing ordinances				
G. Investigating burglaries				
H. Discouraging the sale of tobacco to minors				
I. Visible traffic enforcement				
J. Enforcing handicap parking violations				
K. Reduction of traffic crashes				
L. Enforcing Drunk driving laws				
M. Enforcing water usage ordinances				
N. Enforcing dog and cat ordinances				
O. Mediating neighborhood/family disputes				
P. Investigating local illegal drug activity				
Q. Arresting individuals who use drugs				
R. Noise ordinance enforcement				
S. Enforcing curfew regulations				
T. Enforcing solicitor ordinance				
U. Reducing consumption of alcohol by minors and unsupervised parties				
V. Enforcing tree preservation ordinances				

23. Please indicate where you get information about what is taking place in Riverwoods. (Choose all that apply)

- A. Daily Herald B. Deerfield Review C. Chicago Tribune
 D. Village News Letter E. Chicago Sun Times F. Other _____

24. Please list the most significant values or characteristics a Riverwoods Police Officer should possess: _____

25. Do you think completing the survey is worthwhile, if no why? _____

26. Additional Comments (please continue on separate sheet if necessary): _____

Please return completed survey to Riverwoods Police Department, 300 Portwine Road, Thank you.