



www.olmstedsociety.org

Architecture Committee Lecture Scheduled for May 22

The Architecture Committee of the Olmsted Society is pleased to sponsor a lecture by internationally recognized architect, Patrick Loughran on Tuesday, May 22nd at the Riverside Township Hall.

Loughran is an Associate Principle of Goettsch Partners and is responsible for the design and detailing of curtainwalls, skylights and canopy structures. His first book, *Falling Glass, Problems And Solutions In Contemporary Architecture* was described as "the architects bible on how to prevent glass from failing" by the New York Times and was listed as an "indispensable title" by Architecture Magazine. *Falling Glass* summarizes several years of research on glass

building enclosure problems and has been translated into German and Chinese.

In the fall of 2004, Loughran received a grant from the Graham Foundation to study the limitations and innovations of concrete, stone and masonry. His second book, *Failed Stone, Problems And Solutions With Concrete And Masonry* was published in the fall of 2006 and continues his research on building enclosure materials. Loughran is LEED certified, a Licensed Professional Engineer and Architect in the State of Illinois, the recipient of 1999 Francis J. Plym Traveling Fellowship and 2000 Young Architect Award from the American Institute of Architects.

2007 Preservation Awards Announced

For the first time in its history, the Olmsted Society has awarded an individual its prestigious Preservation Award. Sue Bartholomew, the long-time driving force behind the Riverside Historical Museum, received the award at the 2007 Annual Meeting in January.

"When you think of the person who has spent many hours preserving the written and photographic record of the Village of Riverside by cataloging and preserving the assets of the Riverside Historic Commission, you think of Sue," said Joe Cablk, chairman of the Architecture Committee. "When you think of the person who has made Riverside history and architecture come alive on the internet, which makes Riverside history available all around the world, you think of Sue. When you think of the person who has helped the Olmsted Society conduct research on dozens of Riverside structures featured on our recent housewalks, you think of Sue."

Three additional Awards were also presented to owners of outstanding Riverside homes. The **Thorncroft House**

283 Scottswood Road, also known as the Teacher's Residence at the Coonley Estate, at was built in 1913 by William Drummond. After years of neglect, current owners Sander Kaplan and Theresa Pelletier lovingly restored the exterior and interior to preserve its Prairie Style architecture.

The **John Palmer House** at 225 Longcommon Road was built for the inventor of the pneumatic tube for automobiles and bicycles tires in 1895 by architect Joseph Silsbee. Current owners James and Dian Gruber report

(Continued on page 3)



From left: Joe Cablk, Sue Bartholomew, and Jim Reynolds.

Letter From the President



www.olmstedsociety.org

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

Founded in 1968, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the original village plan, developed in 1868 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux. Membership is open to all interested individuals. Annual Membership is available for a \$25.00 (tax-deductible) contribution.

Officers

President, Jim Reynolds
Vice President, Ralph Harast
Treasurer: Theresa Pelletier
Secretary: Yvonne Lucero

Committees

Architecture, Tom Jacobs, Sander Kaplan
Fourth of July, Sander Kaplan
Landscape, Cindy Kellog, Holly Machina
Library, Jane Kunka
Long-Range Planning, Lonnie Sacchi
Membership, Joanna Beaumont
Newsletter, Ralph Harast
Tours/Education, Tony Pecelunas, Lonnie Sacchi, Ted Smith
Website, Kevin Hicks

Honorary Directors

Mike DeLise
Geri Tauber

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“April is the cruelest month,” T.S. Elliot opined, and this year I have to agree, not only because of the snow falling outside my window, but because of the protracted struggle against the establishment of a TIF in Riverside. One of our mandates, as members of this Society, is to preserve and nurture this Olmsted environment for the benefit of residents.

Most recently, at the request of our Village Manager, we were visited by the directors of the National Association of Olmsted Parks for a presentation. These folks were delightful and brought a different perspective, but were not as intimate with our

situation as your Olmsted Board members are.

It was disheartening to realize that they had been told changes to our Village were imminent. It was our distinct delight,

however, to hear them say, “first do no harm.”

It was suggested that a list of criteria be considered to use as a yardstick for future changes or re-development. The Olmsted Society is looking into what this may entail and how it may be used in our current situation. Although the Olmsted Society of Riverside is the pre-eminent, on-site authority of Olmsted’s only village, we welcome our association with NAOP as partners-in-kind.

I’m extremely pleased that our Architectural Lecture Series will be kicked-off by Patrick Loughran with his presentation “Falling Glass-Failed Stone” on Tuesday, May 22, 7p.m. at Township Hall. This is the first of a lecture series that will inform, entertain, and delight those in attendance, thanks to the efforts of Sander Kaplan and Tom Jacobs.

Our walking tours start again in May. Lonnie Sacchi, Tony Pecelunas, and Ted Smith assure us that this will

be a banner year. If you haven’t taken one of these tours, please avail yourself of the opportunity before we wrap them up in October. You will be surprised how much history you will learn. Tours depart on the last Sunday of each month from the Riverside Train Depot and last from 2–4 p.m.

Sander Kaplan has been planning a wonderful showing for the Society in the 4th of July Parade this year and one of the perks will be the free plants that will be given away to lucky ticket holders. Twice as many as last year will be distributed. All you need to do is take a ticket from one of the Olmsted members that will pass them out

as they walk the parade route. It’s really a lot of fun...don’t miss it!

As a first, this year, Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga has instituted a writing contest for our children designed to

engage and interest them in their environment and the special place that is Riverside. Children, after all, are our future and the main reason we are working so hard to preserve the treasure that Olmsted has given us.

Jane Kunka invites adults and children alike to visit the Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Library. We have a world-class collection at our fingertips and, with the relocation of the collection to a new position in the library, it will now be more accessible.

Addendum: April 27, 2007 When I wrote this letter it was before the election and we did not know what the results would be, but now the votes have been tallied and there was a resounding NO (80% No to 20% Yes) vote against the TIF. While it was a non-binding referendum, I believe our collective voices did speak loudly! I ask you all to monitor what our elected officials will do with this information.

*James D. Reynolds
President*

(Continued from page 1)

being surprised by an envelope in the mail that contained photographs of their entryway and foyer circa 1900.



Thorncraft House, Prairie Style

The documents showed that area was originally clad in oak paneling. They have reconstructed the oak paneling and beams to return the entryway and foyer to its original grandeur.



John F. Palmer House, Tudor Shingle



Allen House, Swiss Gothic

The **William T. Allen House** at 85 Riverside Road was built in 1869 by William LeBaron Jenny and is the current home of Lewis and Hayley Waddle. In 1915-1916, Allen's daughter Harriet Reed converted the home into a two flat, moving the carriage entrance, turning the stairs around, and stuccoing and "prairie-izing" the exterior. In 1969, the house was converted back to a single-family residence. Recently the stucco was removed, the clapboard repaired and repainted, and the prairie-style front porch was removed and replaced with a new porch that mimics the original design.

Society Mourns Nancy DeLise

On Thursday, April 26, 2007 we lost Nancy DeLise, an Emeritus Honorary Director of the Olmsted Society and a longtime activist for the Village of Riverside and the Filmore Center for Human Services.

About the only time one could be upset with Nancy is when she had to quit helping you in order to support another elsewhere.

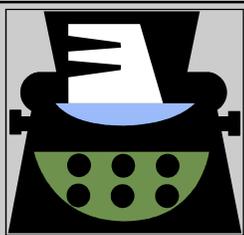


To say that she was adaptable, beautiful, cheerful, dependable, energetic, funny, et cetera does a disservice only in that it could never be exhaustive or complete. At the Memorial Celebration of her life her Pastor character-ized Nancy with three "F"s – not grades, but pneumonics for **Family, Fun and Faith**. Only the limitation of time could have kept him from finding a trio of laudables for the other 25 letters of the alphabet, or even adding **Friends, Forests and Functions**.

Her contribution to "Chili-in-the-swamp," predecessor to the Fall Festival, lives in memory. With less physical strength than most due to a chronic disease, she put to shame the everyday efforts of others. When she couldn't pull and dig in our parks she recruited and supported others who could. Several of our biannual Housewalks would have been less successful or even marginal without her industry. Her close friends and traveling companions in Illinois parks, extended weekends to adjacent states, or longer trips to Mexico or Central America for example, attest to her good humor, flexibility, adaptability and creativity in novel and stressful circumstances.

A minor scandal arose from the circumstances of her death, sudden and unexpected. A veritable firestorm of reaction and criticism of the initial, erroneous report of civil authority truncated the rumors. That will be quickly forgotten. But if a measure of immortality is how well and how many others remember an individual, Nancy DeLise rates among the **Great**.

Submitted by The Curious Scribe



Announcing "Reflections on Riverside" Student Writing Contest

The Olmsted Society invites all Riverside students to submit original "Reflections on Riverside" to our first annual student writing contest.

"Reflections on Riverside" encourages students to think about Riverside's natural spaces and express their ideas in writing. Poetry of any style or length is sought for the Elementary and Junior High School Competitions, while the High School Competition seeks essays of 150 to 500 words.

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

- \$ 25 to the winner from each participating Elementary school;
- \$ 50 to the winner of the Junior High Competition; and
- \$ 150 to the winner of the High School Competition.

Winning entries and runners-up shall be published in the Summer Edition of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society Newsletter.

All entries shall be published in a professionally-bound book to be maintained in the Olmsted Room of the Riverside Public Library. Entries must be post-marked by Friday, June 1, 2007.

For complete rules and official entry form, please phone (708) 442-1781 or e-mail aberdeen1@cocast.net.



FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY
OF RIVERSIDE

P.O. Box 65
Riverside, IL 60546

Calendar

Historic Walking Tours

May 27, north
June 24, south
July 29, north
August 26, south
September 30, north
October 28, south

All tours begin at 2:00pm at the
train station

2007 Membership Renewal

Membership is for the calendar year. If you haven't already renewed, please return this form with your check payable to: The Frederick Law Olmsted Society, P.O. Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546.

General Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25-\$49	\$ _____
Contributing Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50-\$99	\$ _____
Patron Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 and above	\$ _____
Gift Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Add amount</i>	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:			\$ _____

The Olmsted Society welcomes your participation in our ongoing activities. Put your talent and energy to good use by joining a committee.

Check off the committees that interest you. The chairman will contact you with more information.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education/Tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____