

Winter 2004



www.olmstedsociety.org

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

NewsLetter

2004 Housewalk to Explore Mapleside Road

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 23 – and the return of the Olmsted Society's biennial Housewalk.

This year's Housewalk features six homes along beautiful Maplewood Road. A quiet street that loops from Woodside Road west

to the Des Plaines River and back again, it is home to stately trees, beautiful gardens, and unique homes. It is the serene location of some of Riverside's most interesting homes.

Visitors from all over the Chicago area typically attend the Housewalk, which is the largest fund-raising event the Society holds. These funds are directed towards landscape and other restoration projects.

Tickets will go on sale in April at businesses throughout



Photo: Ted Smith

Seen from the river, one of the featured homes is the Boathouse at 246 Maplewood.

towards the Des Plaines River and back again, it is home to stately trees, beautiful gardens, and unique homes. It is the serene location of some of Riverside's most interesting homes.

Visitors from all over the Chi-

the Village. Tickets are \$35 (\$30 for Olmsted Society members).

For more information, or to volunteer to serve as a docent, call Constance Guardi at 708-447-2311.

Milwaukee art & garden tour slated for June 7

Join the Olmsted Society on Saturday, June 7, 2004, for a full day of art, gardens, and architecture in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The day-long bus trip include a visit to the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, the Charles Allis Art Museum and the Milwaukee Art Museum, featuring Santiago Calatrava's

Quadracci Pavilion.

The tour will include lunch at a Milwaukee restaurant. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the tour, write to the Olmsted Society Architecture Committee at PO Box 65, Riverside, IL 60546, email to flolmsted@aol.com or call Joe Cablk at 447-0017.



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The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2004

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 \$15.00 (tax-deductible) contribution.

Officers

President, Constance Guardi
Vice President, Paula Gagliano
Treasurer: Fred Kitch
Secretary: Ralph Harast

Committees

Architecture, Yvonne Lucero, Joe Cablk
Fall Festival, Amy Jacksic, Chandra Reynolds
Housewalk, Constance Guardi, Jim Reynolds, Lonnie Sacchi
Library, Jane Kunka
Long-Range Planning, Mark Shevitz
Membership, Joanna Beaumont
Newsletter, Geri Tauber
Tours/Education, Tony Pecelunas, Lonnie Sacchi, Ted Smith
Website, Scott Weiland

Honorary Directors

Mike & Nancy DeLise
Frances Higgins

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Letter From the President

In keeping with the purposes of the Olmsted Society, "to promote the welfare and progress of Riverside and of its citizens; to aid in the preservation of its cultural and physical heritage; to educate the citizens in the heritage of the village and in its problems and needs; and to support active historical study within the Village," we will undertake a long-term planning process to insure the fulfillment of our goals in the years to come.

Board member Mark Shevitz will head the committee to plan for the long term. I urge any member who has suggestions or who would like to serve on this committee to contact Mark at shevitz@ameritech.net.

Our next Housewalk is planned for Sunday, May 23 and will highlight a part of the Village that has never before been the subject of an Olmsted housewalk – Maplewood Road.

In the almost 30 years that the Olmsted Society has conducted housewalks, we have never featured homes so close to the river. The Des Plaines River is a presence throughout our village, but on one side of Maplewood Road residents can walk out of their back doors and in a few steps, put their feet into the river if they desire.

With the forest preserve on the opposite bank the setting is beautiful and has the feel of a rural setting – a meandering river through the woods. It has a resort

quality in that the some of the homes have coveted views of the water and woods. It will be an exciting Housewalk, and we hope to see all of you there!

Our Board of Directors has added new members, Cyril and Patti Friend and Jason and Holly Kinnan. We are looking forward to utilizing their talents to further the goals of the Society. Welcome!

Unfortunately, we also experienced a major loss from the

Board. John and MaryAnn Crayton have relocated to Indiana. In the years they served on the Board, they made a tremendous contribution to the Landscape Committee.

Through their untiring work, they helped to

restore the landscape throughout the public lands in Riverside.

Together with Casey Sullivan and many volunteers, they directed plantings and achieved a high degree of success in improving the landscape. They also initiated a program with the Riverside Brookfield High School Ecology Club to improve the landscape in the Zoo Woods and Waubansia Woods. Fifty students along with their sponsors Mike Koch-Weser and Dave Monti participated in the work days. We wish John and MaryAnn much success in their new endeavors.

Constance Guardi
President

thomasg7@ameritech.net

Mission Statement
...to promote the welfare and progress of Riverside and of its citizens; to aid in the preservation of its cultural and physical heritage; to educate the citizens in the heritage of the village and in its problems and needs; and to support active historical study within the Village

The Coonley Estate: A Labor of Love

When Dean and Ella Mae Eastman purchased their home at 281 Bloomingbank Road four years ago, they bought more than a house – they acquired a piece of history.

At the Olmsted Society's Annual Meeting on January 16, Dean recounted the couple's experiences restoring the public spaces of the Coonley Estate, the

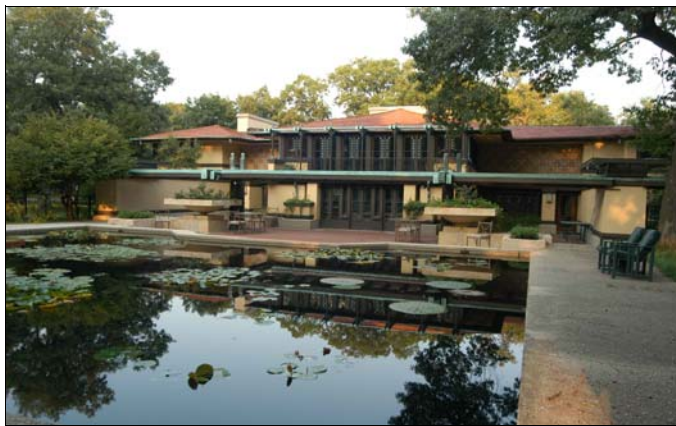
Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece that was divided into two homes in 1952.

"From the very beginning, this space exerted a tremendous feeling," said Dean. "We've tried to be extremely faithful to Wright's design and vision as we restored the house."

His talk, illustrated with before (historic) and after slides, demon-

strates the authenticity and attention to detail that the Eastmans have brought to the project.

Wright built the home in 1908 for Avery and Queene Ferry Coonley. The main rooms are all located on the upper level, and are beautifully sited to take advantage of the landscape and riverbank view.



A view of the reflecting pool and patio at the back of the house.



The interior evokes the open spaces and big sky of the Prairie.

2004 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 \$15-\$24 \$ _____
 Contributing Member \$25-\$49 \$ _____
 Patron Member \$50 and above \$ _____
 Gift Membership Add amount \$ _____
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.

- Architecture Education
- Fall Festival Housewalk
- Landscape Library
- Membership Newsletter
- Public Relations Tours
- Website

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FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY
OF RIVERSIDE

P.O. Box 65
Riverside, IL 60546

Calendar

Architecture Committee
Lecture on Bungalows
March 25, 2004
7:30 p.m.
Riverside Township Hall

Housewalk
May 23, 2004

Milwaukee Garden Tour
June 7, 2004

Riverside Bungalows Celebrated at Society Lecture

Attention all bungalow aficionados! The Olmsted Society Architecture Committee is presenting a special evening in celebration of the bungalow on Thursday, March 25, 2004 at Township Hall.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature a lecture by Joe Bigott, a local authority on this uniquely Chicago architectural style. Through the use of slides, he will ask the question: "Bungalows in Chicagoland – Is Riverside Special?"

According to the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative, bungalows account for nearly



one-third of all single-family homes in Chicago. Today, nearly a century after they were first built, they remain a

solid foundation for families and neighborhoods. However, evolving families and lifestyles pose new challenges – structures need to be updated or enlarged and some bungalows need more extensive work to preserve their unique architectural style.

Come learn how bungalows have contributed to Riverside. The program is open to all members, and refreshments will be served.