2004 Housewalk raises record funds

The Olmsted Society’s 2004 Housewalk, “Maplewood Road: The Road, the River, the Rockefellers” played to a sold-out crowd, in spite of questionable weather reports and a Des Plaines River that was dangerously close to flood stage.

Fortunately, the storms stayed away, the river stayed within its banks, and record crowds enjoyed a beautiful day. A total of 500 tickets were printed, yet nearly 600 people visited the seven featured structures on May 23.

“We quickly produced extra tickets for sale at the two ticket tables at either end of Maplewood Road,” said housewalk co-chair and Olmsted Society president Constance Guardi. “Nobody was turned away!”

Added co-chair Jim Reynolds, “Because we were able to keep expenses to a minimum, most of the total $18,491 we earned in ticket sales can go directly to Riverside landscape projects. This makes our 2004 housewalk one of the most profitable the society has ever held,” he said.

Member survey mailed in August

Watch your mailboxes. In August, the Olmsted Society’s Long Range Goals and Planning Committee mailed a survey to all Society members.

“The survey is a part of the Society’s periodic re-examination of both our role in the community and the views of our members,” explained committee chair Mark Shevitz. “Your feedback will allow us to better plan for future initiatives.”

The survey has two sections: one that asks your opinion about issues in the Village of Riverside, and another that seeks your views on the Society and the role it should play in the Village.

For example, the survey asks members to identify the issues that are most important to them from a list that includes the public school system, property taxes, maintenance of parks and other public spaces, the Village government, the business districts, teardowns, and Riverside’s landmark status.

It also asks members to describe the type of preservation society they prefer, such as a community group devoted to gardens, an educational organization, with lectures on local landscape and architectural styles, plus walking tours, housewalks, etc., a volunteer organization focused on projects.

(Continued on page 2)
The Riverside Brookfield High School Ecology Club completed their planting project outside of the school, and thanked us for contributing the plant materials for the work. Thanks to John Kolar for his efforts in guiding the students throughout the project. The Ecology Club has also done extensive work in the Zoo Woods under John’s direction.

The only down side to report this summer has been the failure of the parties involved to reach closure on former Forester Casey Sullivan’s case with the Village. A decision from the Arbitrator will not be forthcoming until the briefs by the opposing sides are presented September 3rd. One of the side effects of this situation has been uncertainty surrounding the Village’s policy for donations from the Society. Confusion reigns; are we only allowed to donate money or can we donate plants and trees as we have in the past? Is there a written policy or procedure for donations? We haven’t seen one.

Spring and summer have been kind to our society. The Housewalk was a huge success, thanks to the Homeowners, House Captains, volunteers and everyone who attended. I’d like to extend a special thank you to Lonnie Sacchi and Jim Reynolds for spearheading the planning and preparation for the Housewalk.

Joe Cablk ran a delightful trip to Milwaukee in June on behalf of the Architecture Committee. If you were unable to attend the trip, I would recommend that you make a visit on your own to see the new art museum and the Villa Terrace. The museum is a magnificent work of art and the Villa Terrace is the most beautiful Italian garden outside of Italy. Thanks, Joe, it was a great trip.

We are winners! The judges of the 4th of July parade bestowed the Patriot Award upon our parade entry. Thanks to Joe Cablk for his effort on this project. Our thanks also go to the Riverside Recreation Department for their excellent work in organizing and executing the 4th of July activities.

Survey (Continued from page 1)

Olmsted Society by completing and returning your survey.”

Return your survey by August 20 to: Olmsted Survey, 340 Olmsted Road, Riverside, IL 60546.

If you’ve misplaced your copy and would like another, please call Geri Tauber at 708-447-0726.

The Long Range Goals and Planning Committee includes members Ralph Harast, Jason Kinnan, Lonnie Sacchi, Ted Smith, and Geri Tauber.
Top left: John D. Rockefeller (Ted Smith) delighted the crowds with tales of life with daughter Edith (Marguerite Durkin), shown on the right purchasing lemonade from a child’s stand on Maplewood Road. Below: Mark Chaney accepts his homeowner’s gift while housewalk co-chairs Lonnie Sacchi, Jim Reynolds, and Constance Guardi look on.

Booties were the name of the game—they kept the homeowners’ floors spotless, and offered a brief opportunity to rest in between houses.

Top: Homeowners Gail Crossman and Jeff Baron share a laugh at the “crash and burn” party for volunteers, held after the housewalk at the Township Hall. Bottom: Irene Bakos with Lonnie Sacchi.
Co-Chairs
Constance Guardi, Jim Reynolds, Lonnie Sacchi

Administration:
Tom Guardi, Chandra Reynolds

Research:
Jane & John Kunka

Crash and Burn Party:
Karen Graham (Chair), Marcia & Vincent Capone, Alice & Bob Stake, Marguerite Durkin

Tickets:
Joanna Beaumont, Fred Kitch, Patty Migliore, Margo Rodriguez, Jimmy & Maribeth Tacola

Graphics:
Jenny Kolinski, Geri Tauber, Amy Jacksic

Traffic:
Cyril Friend

Police Auxiliary:
Chet Grenda

Refreshments:
Dave Moreau

Co-Chairs
Nancy & Joe Dvorak
Lynn Flannery
Colleen & Randy Kadlec
Joanne McGovern
Annette Palumbo
Deb Pike
Heather & Tim Poell
Linda Saindon
Ruth Julian
Jim Schraidt
Jean Sussman
Scuff Gross
Laurel Lambert Schmidt

House Captains: Valerie Cablk and Nancy Peters

Docs:
Judy Compton
Laura Durkin
Linda Flanagan
Dennis & Martine Gary
Sheila Gentile
Sue Graham
Jim Harrington
Tanya Icent
Linda & Larry Korbus
Yvonne Lucero
Eric Peters
Cindi Robson
Jim Sobosan

230 Maplewood
Homeowners: Caroline & Joe Tecson
House Captains: Nancy & Mike DeLise
Docs:
Arlene Augustinas
Nel Brennan
Marilyn Cardelli
Barbara Cowell
Elise George
Krista Harms
Martha Heine
Judy Janczewski
Kim & Frank Kelderman
Helga & John Mendoza
Rita Morrissey
Dan Murphy
Char Pankros
Steve Patras
Sylvia & Wayne Penn
Frank Petrovec
Sanlee Radigan
Florence Swanson
Donna & Jim Woodrow
Candy Vazquez
Robert Zymm

260 Maplewood
Homeowner: John Mulhern
House Captain: Joe Cablk
Docs:
Joe Bergmann
Peg Blasage
Dorothy & Bill Jansky
Christine Jeffries
Ann & Steve Kubiczy
Walter Lukitch
Carolyn McNally
Janet Meyers
Jackie Paine
Christine & Duane Stroud
Marianne Twyman

250 Maplewood
Home Captain: Rob Wilson-Black
Docs:
Vera Borysek
Jan Hapgood
Sandi Spilotro
Ramona Suffern
Mike Velko
Carrie Watkiss

273 Maplewood
Homeowner: Irene Bakos
House Captain: Ralph Harast
Docs:
Kathy Billingham
Ann Blaa
James Brennan
Howard Feldman
Diane & Denny Harris
Richard Julian
Jason Kinnan
Vicki Klimkiewicz
Lorraine Kocanda
Maryann Lanan
Roseann & Steve Marshall
Dorothy & Mark Sikora

280 Maplewood
Homeowners: Janine & Jim Chesrown
House Captains: Courtenay & Ed Erb
Docs:
Linda Bednar
Dorothy Calek
Cathy Foran
Megan Foran

Maria Hawk
Karen Iny
Irene Kaval
Julie Keehn
Jacqui Lurie
Cathy & Tony Nie
Leslie Onesto
Alyson Scanlon
Maripat & Bill Scanlon
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The Board of Directors of the Olmsted Society has approved a plan by the Architecture Committee to present restoration awards at the Society’s annual meeting for outstanding works of restoration within the Village.

One or more awards may be made each year (or none, if there are no recipients deemed suitable). The recipients will be selected by a majority vote of the Architecture Committee. Most of the awards will be for architectural restoration, but awards may also be given for outstanding efforts by individuals, groups, or governmental organizations in the interest of preserving or restoring the landmark Village of Riverside.

Criteria for the awards are as follows:

Restoration work shall preserve and reinforce the integrity and original character of a Riverside structure, which represents one of the historic architectural styles of the village. Restoration work shall, in general, follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Particular attention should be paid to the use of materials, details, and stylistic features that match the original building. Replacement of missing architectural features should be based on historical evidence, not conjecture.

Awards will be given for restoration of original structures only. There shall be no awards for new building or attic additions, regardless of their quality. The goal of the Society is to preserve the historic character of the Village, not to encourage the increase of building volume or mass. For the same reason, no awards shall be given for new garages, auxiliary buildings, or garden structure that all reduce the green space of Riverside property.

Awards may be given for partial restoration, such as an unusual roof, entryway or windows. If work is in progress, award shall be deferred until completion.

The following architectural styles are represented in the Village of Riverside by many fine examples. All of these, if sensitively restored, would be acceptable for recognition: Victorian, Swiss Gothic, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Stick, Shingle, queen Anne, Beaux Arts, Tudor Revival, Green Revival, Prairie School, American Four Square, Bungalow, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, Romanesque Revival, Georgian Revival, Art Deco, Art Moderne, and International.

Nominations for the Restoration Awards can be made by any member. To make a nomination, please send a letter describing the structure and the type of restoration completed, including timing of restoration, to the Olmsted Society Architecture Committee, PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546. To be considered for the 2005 Annual Meeting, nominations must be received by November 15, 2004.

**RB Ecology Club Thanks Olmsted Society**

Following is a letter from RB High School Ecology Club executive director Kate Kenahan to Olmsted Society president Constance Guardi:

“On behalf of the Riverside-Brookfield High School Ecology Club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Olmsted Society for recognizing our environmental activism. We all enjoyed the pizza party and were honored to receive the Olmsted Landscaping Restoration Award. Thank you for taking the time to come and present this award to us in person. We greatly appreciated your presence and presentation.

“On May 20, we employed the generous monetary portion of the Award towards landscaping the front lawn of RB. We planted over 500 indigenous perennial plants in flower beds in front of the school. These plants not only represent a more eco-friendly environment than grass or exotic plant species, but in the words of a classmate, they also ‘make our school more welcoming.’

“The day of the planting was sunny and brisk, and many other

(Continued on page 6)
students joined the Ecoclub in the
fun of planting all of the little per-
ennials. With the expert guidance of
Mr. John Kolar, we created a more
diverse environment for our ecosys-
tem and community. Thanks espe-
cially to Mr. Kolar for his time and
effort over the years. His guided
nature walks represent major high-
lights even among our other great
Ecoclub activities.

“Again, the RB Ecology Club of
2004 thanks the Society for giving
us the distinction of the Landscape
Restoration Award, and for providing
us with the expert guidance of
Mr. Kolar.”

Docents needed for walking
tours of Riverside

If you’ve always wanted to learn
more about the Village, consider
becoming an Olmsted Society tour
guide. Every summer, the Olmsted
Society offers walking tours of the
Village, guided by Society mem-
bers. The two-hour tours, held on

(Continued from page 5)
the last Sunday of the month from
May through October, begin at the
Train Depot. Alternating tours fo-
cus on Riverside north and south of
the train tracks.

If you would like more informa-
tion on becoming a docent, contact
Lonnie Sacchi at 708-442-0845. Or
attend an upcoming tour and see
for yourself! A list of upcoming
tour dates is in the calendar, above.

Lecture on Coonley Estate
Restoration

On Thursday, October 21, the Ar-
chitecture Committee will sponsor
a public lecture on the restoration
of the Coonley Estate. Current
owner Ella Mae Eastman will dis-
cuss the ups and downs of the four-
year project to restore the home,
and will offer personal insights on
what it’s like to live in an original
Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece.

The lecture will be held in the
Township Hall, and will begin at
7:30 p.m.