

## SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

### *Thank you to the Olmsted Society's Past Presidents!*

As part of **The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside's 50th Anniversary** celebration at our Annual Meeting in January, we honored the Society's past Presidents and their accomplishments:

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#### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FLOS PAST PRESIDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

##### 1968-70 - Robert Heidrich

1. Led the effort to establish the Olmsted society, with initial membership of 23 residents, and Mission Statement "To Promote, Preserve, Educate, and Encourage Citizen Participation in Activities Concerning Riverside's Heritage."
2. Spearheaded the drive to establish Riverside as a National Historic Landmark.
3. Launched the first Housewalk, Tours, and Lectures.
4. Wrote & published the Pamphlet "Riverside, A Village in a Park"

##### 1971 - George L. Wilson

1. First Chairperson of what was hoped would be an annual Olmsted Day in Riverside, which ran successfully for some years.
2. Continued all of Mr. Heidrich's initiatives, also a policy of all subsequent Presidents.

##### 1972-74 - William Miller

1. Established the first book donations of what became the Olmsted Collection at the Library.
2. Launched the Olmsted Society Newsletter.
3. Established and awarded an Olmsted Society Landscape Architecture Scholarship grant of \$500.
4. Led the Society's fight in opposing High-Rise Housing in Riverside Lawn.
5. Grew Society to 165 members.

##### 1975-76 - James Zidlicky Jr.

1. Spearheaded Society's participation in Riverside's Centennial celebration by running Village Fair and Old Timers Weekend.
2. Led drive whereby 1/3 of Village residents donated \$1075. to the U.S. Treasury to help alleviate the National Debt.

##### 1977-78 - Wendell Jisa Sr.

1. Established formal scheduled Walking Tours
2. Led efforts to open and staff the Riverside Historical Museum.

##### 1979 - Sandra Benetka

1. Greatly expanded the Olmsted book collection.
2. Oversaw preparation of formal tour docent training materials.
3. Chaired Housewalk.
4. Expanded membership to 264 members.

##### 1980-81 - Michael Gates

1. Initiated first FLOS attendance at Village Board meetings.
2. Established Landscape Workdays and "Chili in the Swamp" festival.
3. Donated \$1,500. for Village tree plantings.
4. Housewalk - "A Riverside Housewalk"

##### 1982-83 - John Kunka

1. Achieved formal tax exempt status for the Olmsted Society.
2. Established a research function, Long Range Planning, Goal setting, and resident planting input.
3. Grew the society to 500 members.
4. Housewalk - "Prairie on the River"

*Thank you to our Past Presidents!*

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FLOS PAST PRESIDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS:  
(Cont.)**

**1984-85 - John Kolar**

1. Donated a computer for Newsletter preparation & activities tracking.
2. Participated with Historical Commission in Village wide Archit. survey.
3. Provided cash awards for art & essay school contests.
4. Donated \$6,000. for parkway wood chip mulching.
5. Led opposition to Riverside Lawn Dike proposal.
6. Initiated FLOS Bd. visits to other Olmsted projects.

**1986 - Paul Marhoui**

1. Prepared and submitted plan for restoration of Swan Pond.
2. Successfully lobbied Village for Preservation Easement Program for protection of original Olmsted Lots.
3. Housewalk - "Wright Here in Riverside"

**1987-88 - Dr. Theodore Smith**

1. Received 85th ILL. Genl. Assy commendation for Riverside preservation work.
2. Obtained copy of J.S. Sargent Olmsted portrait from the Biltmore Estate.
3. Lobbied successfully for Village to not sell off lots in Harrington Park for commercial development.
4. Protested Village Bd. decision to suspend new plantings in village parks.
5. Participated in DesPlaines River study.
6. Housewalk - "Villae in Silvis".
7. Grew Society to 700 members.

**1989 - 91 - Dorothy Schroeder**

1. Landscape Advisory Commission created with FLOS input.
2. Supported adoption of Village Preservation Ordinance.
3. Formal dedication of the Library's Olmsted Collection.
4. Initiated Adopt-A-Tree Program in Cooperation with Village.
5. Housewalk Procedure Manual created.
6. Housewalk - "The Riverside Longcommon"

**1992-94 - Nancy DeLise**

1. Initiated 50/50 tree planting program with village.
2. Held \$2,000. prize contest for street most in need of new parkway plantings.
3. Monitored Village's Master Plan for improvements in five Parks.
4. Housewalk - "On the Banks of the DesPlaines"

**1995-97 - Jane Kunka**

1. Donated \$9,000. to Library for better displaying Olmsted collection.
2. Prepared Guide for self guided tours & arranged for Library & Museum Distr.
3. Donated funds for Nature Garden at Blythe Park school.
4. Lobbied for saving original Riverside cobblestone gutter in Harrington Park.
5. Housewalk - "Olmsted's Riverside, Then & Now".

*Thank you to our Past Presidents!*

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FLOS PAST PRESIDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS:  
(Cont.)**

**1998-20 - Lonnie Sacchi**

1. Donated \$2,500. for Township Hall Clock restoration.
2. Donated \$2,000. for Reading Garden at Central School.
3. Sponsored a Forestry Internship to assist Village Forester.
4. Established FLOS website.
5. Lobbied to place new North Water Tower in North Riverside.
6. Two Housewalks - "Riverside in the Jazz Age", and "Wright Around Riverside".

**2001-02 - Joseph Cablk**

1. Donated \$12,500. for plants & planting projects.
2. Offered \$10,500. matching grant to village for Landscape maintenance. Village turned down, citing budget constraints.
3. Conducted first Hauser student walking tour.
4. Donated \$5,000. for water tower restoration.
5. Housewalk - "Early Riverside, Restored, Renewed, Revealed".

**2003-05 - Constance Guardi**

1. Donated \$8,000. to village for plant materials.
2. Donated \$2,000. for Zoo & Waubensee Woods Mgmt.
3. Partnered with & awarded RB Ecology Club \$1,000. in Landscape Materials and for purchase of a weather station.
4. Participated in U.S. Corps of Engineers study on Hoffman Dam removal project.
5. Established Long Range Plan.
6. Held special tour for new residents.
7. Conducted member survey revealing goals should be Village & Landmark Preservation and proper zoning.
8. Housewalk - "Maplewood Rd; the River, the Road, the Rockefellers".

**2006-08 - James Reynolds**

1. Achieved Harrington Park official designation as a park by Village Board.
2. Donated \$5,000. towards new Library irrigation system.
3. Launched "Reflections on Riverside" school poetry contest with cash prizes.
4. Grew Olmsted collection to 720 volumes, of which 117 are rare.
5. Proposed "Green" approach to Village to save energy & costs.
6. Gave away 4th of July float native plants to parade goers.
7. Housewalks - "Riverside Rejuvenated" and "The Art and Crafts Influence on the House and Garden."

*Thank you to our Past Presidents!*

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**2009-11 - Kim Jacobs**

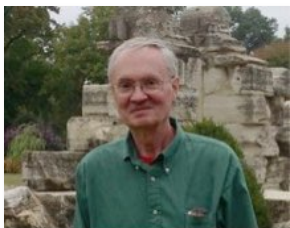
1. Spearheaded Arcade Building inclusion in Illinois list of most endangered buildings.
2. Initiated the Olmsted Spirit Award for community enhancement activities.
3. Initiated periodic FLOS open meetings.
4. Continued input to Hoffman Dam removal project.
5. Promoted improved community outreach with FLOS participation in Chamber of Commerce, car shows, cruise night, and farmers market.
6. Housewalk - "From Babson to Baltis".

**2012-14 - Dr. Timothy Ozga**

1. Launched "Frederick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design" (FRED) Symposium.
2. Established Facebook, Twitter and PayPal presence. Newsletter goes to mostly online.
3. Established Planters on Parade and Perennial Plant Divide Swap.
4. Donated \$2,000. for Village Park trees, Triangle Park Planting Initiative, and controlled burn supplies.
5. Joined "Visit Oak Park" and conducted special tours for CMAP, Concierge Day and the "Wright Ride".
6. FLOS named ILL. Invasive Species Volunteer of the Year.
7. Housewalks - "Homework" and "Sustainability, Then and Now".

**2015-17 - Robert Dixon**

1. Initiated and expanded HOPSTOP craft Beer festival with Riverside Foods.
2. Established Riverside as Designated Arboretum.
3. Inclusion In PBS Program "10 Towns That Changed America".
4. Participated in RBTv video (You Tube) documentary on Olmsted Society and Riverside.
5. Donated Eqpt. to Village to aid in Workdays & Plantings.
6. Participated In "Garlic Mustard Challenge" with the RB Day of service.
7. Special Walking tours for RAW and the "Wright Plus" housewalk.
8. Planted 25 of planned 50 trees in Indian Gardens as part of preliminary activity for FLOS 50th anniversary celebration in 2018. Also Golden Swan and Lifesize Olmsted portrait created for use in same.
9. Held special lectures & tours associated with Swan Pond restoration project.



Thank you to  
Jim Petrzilka &  
Connie Guardi  
and their  
committee for all  
of their planning  
efforts to make  
this such a  
wonderful event!







***Presidents message for the Spring Newsletter:***  
Olmsted Society President Cathy Maloney

Dear FLOS members,

Warmer weather at last! I am not a winter person, even though my horticulture friends tell me that “winter interest” is easily achieved in the garden. To me, about the only interesting thing in winter is a one-way ticket to Florida.

But then, the beauty of winter in Riverside is hard to miss. Streetlamps glowing through a soft snowfall. Ice-tipped branches sparkling in frosty dawn light. A red fox leaving tracks in the natural areas along the river.

Mr. Olmsted’s design for Riverside shines through all seasons.

The Olmsted Society also works year-round in stewardship of Riverside’s historic design. As we continue our Golden Anniversary this year, join us in our many activities; from lectures to landscape rejuvenation to poetry contests to community celebrations.

This year, the Olmsted Society Board is making plans for more special events in 2018 to mark our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are also looking ahead to 2019 to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> year marking Olmsted and Vaux’s General Plan for Riverside.

Interested in helping? Got ideas of how to spread the word about FLOS membership? Contact me at [president@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:president@olmstedsociety.org), or reach out to any Board member. We’d love to hear from you!

*Cathy*

## **Annual Meeting:**

The Olmsted Society's annual meeting was held on Friday January 19, 2018 at the Riverside Train Station, attended by a standing-room only crowd.

### **2018 marks the Frederick Law Olmsted Society's 50th Anniversary.**

Following reports by the President, Treasurer, and Committees, the election of Officers and Board members was held, and the following were elected:

#### **OFFICERS:**

President - Cathy Maloney

Vice President - Theresa Pelletier

Secretary - Janice O'Flaherty

Treasurer - Thomas Guardi

#### **RENEWING BOARD MEMBERS:**

Kim and Rob Dixon

Sander Kaplan/Theresa Pelletier

Linda and Rick La Belle

Sandie and Jim Petrzilka

#### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Dan and Olivia Murphy

Joanne Rogers



The Architecture Restoration Award was presented to the Village of Riverside for the restoration of the roof of the Riverside Train Depot. Ben Sells, President of Riverside, accepted the award.

The evening's Program was the narrated history of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society with the Presentation of the Past Presidents. There have been 21 Presidents in the past 50 years, and 12 were in attendance. *You can watch this portion of the meeting here:*  
**Celebration for the Past Presidents of FLOS**

Long-time Society members were honored with a special drawing where ten of those individuals received \$50 gift cards for Riverside Foods. Peter Boutsikakis of Riverside Foods drew the winning names. Peter generously donated 10 bottles of champagne that served as a door prize for those in attendance.

Capping off the evening, a toast was made for the Society's past accomplishments and to its future goals.



**Landscape Committee Special Report with  
Cindy Kellogg and Holly Machina  
2018 Landscape Workdays Schedule**

Please join us to help restore a landmark of Riverside!

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12pm:**  
**Indian Gardens (Scout Cabin area) &**  
**Patriots Park for the: *RB Day of Service***  
**Great Garlic Mustard Pull!**  
**And, we'll plant 25 trees!**

In 2018, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

The parks along **Riverside Road** & around **Indian Gardens** follow the meandering Des Plaines River. **Scottswood Common** & Longcommon Common, including **Big Ball Park**, serves as the backbone of Riverside's landscape architecture. Both were intended to be part of a green space stretching all the way to downtown Chicago. The triangle at **Longcommon & Downing** is one of the largest & most visible triangles in Riverside. **Harrington Park**, along Harlem Avenue, is the most recent green space to be designated as a Public Park.

Frederick Law Olmsted designed the parks in Riverside to provide changing vistas for both pedestrians & vehicles. His plan can be better realized by reducing shrub overgrowth, eliminating weeds & opening up the river view. Join us as we tame, and then maintain your public parks of Riverside.

All workdays are scheduled for **Saturdays from 9am-12pm**. Look for the Riverside Public Works dump truck. Come for an hour or three, whatever your schedule allows. Supervised children are welcome. Service hour credits are available. Bring your favorite work gloves & a water bottle. All other supplies & snacks will be provided.

## **Future Landscape Workdays:**

May 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Riverside Road – Weeding
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Big Ball Park – Mulching
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Big Ball Park – Mulching
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 12pm	Patriots Park – Weeding
Aug 11 <sup>th</sup> & mulching	9am – 12pm	Scottswood Commons – Weeding
Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> grasses & sedges	9am – 12pm	Riverside Road – Plant native
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> planting	9am – 12pm	Riverside Road – Rain date for
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> collecting	9am – 12pm	Riverside Road – Native seed
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weeding & mulching	9am – 12pm	Longcommon & Downing –

***Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside.***  
***To celebrate our Golden Jubilee, we have planted 25 of 50 trees, to honor Olmsted Society's founder, Robert Heidrich, during several workdays in 2017 & 25 more will be planted in 2018. The first 15 trees were planted at our workday on April 29, 2017 in Indian Gardens and another 10 trees were planted at our September 30th workday.***

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**March 17 was the first workday of the year with terrific success. We picked up 3 large bags of trash along Harlem Avenue in Harrington Park.**

Then our 8 volunteers cut invasive species on Harlem Avenue and three other beds in the park. Public Works chipped all the brush. Since it was St. Patrick's Day, we had green frosted cookies and our usual Doritos.







**Our Board member Sandie Petrzilka submitted this article to the** National Association for Olmsted Parks **for their Spring 2018 Field Notes issue.** Here is an advanced copy:

### ***Riverside, Illinois Olmsted Society Celebrates 50 years!***

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, formed by a group of concerned residents in 1968, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2018. In the past 50 years, the group has worked to protect, preserve, and promote Olmsted and Vaux's 1869 creation, the unique storybook village of Riverside, Illinois.

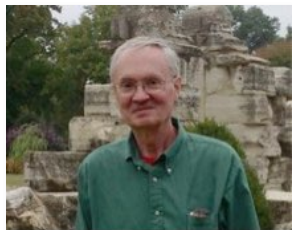
With its curvilinear roads, gas lamps, and historic architecture, Riverside was designed as a place of rest and rejuvenation from the stresses of modern urban living, and the Olmsted Society has been fearlessly working to keep it that way.

There have been 21 past Presidents of the Olmsted Society, and 12 of them were in attendance, and honored, at the Society's Kickoff Annual Meeting held on January 19. All 21 Presidents, their Officers, Boards and up to 700 members have left their legacies.

They obtained Riverside's National Historic Landmark designation; established volunteer Landscape Workdays; an educational Lecture Program; Tours that share the history, architecture, and landscape design; Housewalks that highlight the many famous architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan that have built Riverside homes; a Student Poetry Contest that focuses on the natural beauty of the Village; the acquisition of over 800 books for the Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Public Library.

In addition, Architecture Awards have been established for structures that are restored to their former glory; participation in the Village's 4th of July Parades; liaisons with the Chamber of Commerce, the Landscape Advisory Commission, Visit Oak Park, and the Village government; and special fund-raising events. **In honor of its 50th Anniversary, the Society is in the process of planting 50 trees, and other events that will take place throughout the year.**

Sandie Petrzilka  
Olmsted Society Media



Jim Petrzilka  
**2018 Walking Tours:**

*Experience Riverside with a walking tour as Frederick Law Olmsted designed the parks in Riverside to provide changing vistas for pedestrians.*



## **WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC RIVERSIDE**

### **2018 Is Our Golden Jubilee – Celebrate with a Tour!**

**Docent-led Walking Tours offered on the following Sundays:**

North Division Tours – May 27, July 29, September 23

South Division Tours – June 24, August 26, October 28

2-4 PM, \$20, \$15 for Seniors (62+) and Olmsted Society Members.

Meet at Riverside Train Station, east side of main platform.

**Special Custom Tours** available \$25+ per person based on requirements

Call 708-442-7675 or email [tours@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:tours@olmstedsociety.org)

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## ***Lecture Reports with Lois Kimmelman:***

***March 29, 7:00 p.m. Riverside Library  
How Zero Waste Can Become a Reality:***

Riverside Public Library and The Frederick  
Law Olmsted Society Present:

# How Zero Waste Can Become a Reality

**Thursday, March 29, 7 pm**  
**Great Room**

Stephanie Katsaros, an environmental advocate and president of Bright Beat, will talk about her work with municipalities, businesses, and other organizations to come up with strategies to conserve resources and reduce waste. She will show how it's possible to combine the excitement of music, sports, and cultural events with public enthusiasm for sustainability. Her lecture will include examples of her projects, from the Chicago Jazz Festival and the NFL Draft to Riverside's Hop Stop Craft Beer Festival.

A social entrepreneur, thought leader and business strategist, Stephanie founded Bright Beat in 2010 to raise consciousness and activate environmental stewardship and social responsibility across sectors.

Co-sponsored with the Frederick Law Olmsted Society





**[Watch past 2017 lectures here:](#)**

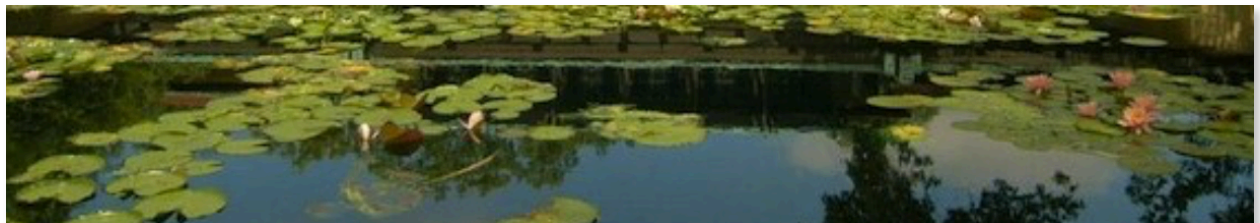
[Watch Restoring Wright Buildings here](#)

[Watch the Salt Creek Greenway & the Centennial Trail connections lecture:](#)

“We can reduce flooding by planting the native plants of Illinois, such as *Sorghastrum nutans* (Linnaeus) Nash (Poaceae) also known as ***Indian Grass***, shown here:



*The Olmsted Society sends its sympathies and condolences to Ella Mae Eastman on the passing of her husband, Dean Eastman, who passed away on March 4, 2018. Dean and Ella Mae have been long time supporters of the Olmsted Society. He will be greatly missed.*  
*Cathy Maloney*







## Membership Report - Linda LaBelle

### Olmsted Society's Membership Renewal Time:

To all of our dedicated members, thank you for your loyal support to the Olmsted Society of Riverside!

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Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. It's mission is guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work.

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a member. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, protecting the environment and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

Membership is open to all interested individuals for a \$35.00 tax-deductible contribution by check or you can pay online through this PayPal link:

## [Join or Renew Your Membership Here](#)

Or simply fill out the form included on the last page of this newsletter, and mail in to:

Olmsted Society  
PO Box 65  
Riverside, IL 60546

*Thank you for your continued support!!*

**Subscribe to our Newsletter by emailing us at:  
[newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org)**



The Frederick Law Olmsted  
Society of Riverside

P.O. Box 65  
Riverside, Illinois 60546

[www.olmstedsociety.org](http://www.olmstedsociety.org)

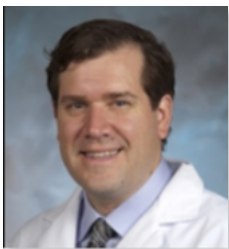
## **The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside Announces Theater Ticket Sales to Burnham's Dream**

Abby Randall, Architecture Committee Co-Chairman, is announcing ticket sales to the musical theater production of Burnham's Dream at the Theater Wit. Burnham's Dream: The White City celebrates architect Daniel Burnham and the people of Chicago who build the 1893 World's Fair Columbian Exposition twenty years after a Great Fire destroys much of the city.

**What:** **Burnham's Dream: The White City Musical**  
**When:** **June 29, 2018 at 7:30pm**  
**Where:** **Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont, Chicago**  
**Cost:** **Discounted Rate of \$35 per person**

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please send an email to [architecture@OlmstedSociety.org](mailto:architecture@OlmstedSociety.org) no later than April 15th for payment options and details.

We look forward to you joining us!



**Webmaster (Dr.) Tim Ozga**

**A Big Thank you to our Webmaster Tim Ozga, for all of his efforts in managing the web site and the emailed newsletters!**

## Join FLOS or Renew Your Membership here:

Or Just  
print  
and mail  
this  
form to:  
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60546

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE	
Founded in 1968, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the original plan for Riverside, which was developed in 1868 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux. Membership is open to all interested individuals, is for the current calendar year (January 1 through December 31), and is tax deductible. It includes your immediate family members living in your household. Please return this form with your check payable to the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546 or join online at <a href="http://www.olmstedsociety.org">www.olmstedsociety.org</a> .	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reliable Redbud</i> \$35-\$49 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hearty Hickory</i> \$50-\$124 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sugar Maple</i> \$125-\$249 (includes 2 historic walking tour tickets) \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mighty Oak</i> \$250+ (includes 4 historic walking tour tickets) \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation.	<b>COMMITTEES</b> Put your talent to work and your energy to good use by joining a committee! <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> F.R.E.D. <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Website

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a registered 501c3 organization. The Society is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come.

Its members are guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community, and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work.

The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, protecting the environment, and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

Check out our Social Media links for information on upcoming events:  
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