

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Winter 2023 Newsletter

Our Mission

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. Its members are guided by Olmsted's 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.

Upcoming Events

1/19/24: 7 PM at the Riverside Township Hall

- [Annual Public Meeting](#)
- [Presentation](#): *The Natural Beauty That Surrounds Us: Inspiring Adventure, Gratitude & Love* by Valerie Jisa

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Nominations for Olmsted Society Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee selected these candidates for the 2024 Olmsted Society Board of Directors who were slated at the December meeting and will be presented for election at the Annual Public Meeting January 19th, 2024.

Officers

The Committee slated officers for one-year terms:

- President: Dan Murphy*
- Vice-President: Jim Petrzilka**
- Secretary: Susan Worthington**
- Treasurer: Kim Freeark**

* Eligible for two more terms

** No longer eligible beyond 2024

Renewing Directors

The Committee also endorsed the Renewing Directors for three year-terms:

- Cindy Kellogg
- Linda & Rick LaBelle
- Dan Murphy
- Joanne Rogers

New Directors

The Committee selected one new Director† for three-year terms:

- Jennifer Godinez
- Steve Holtzman

† Shared position

The 2023 Nominating Committee included Min Enger, Constance Guardi, Lisa Lambros, Mary Plunkett, and Erin Wieland.

Annual Public Meeting

Friday, January 19, 2024, at 7 PM at the Riverside Township Hall

To kick off 2024, we will host our Annual Public Meeting at 7:00 PM on Friday, January 19 at the Riverside Township Hall. All are welcome.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Valerie Jisa will present *The Natural Beauty That Surrounds Us: Inspiring Adventure, Gratitude & Love*.

There will be a Membership Table where you can join the Olmsted Society or pay your annual dues.

Refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you!



Annual Public Meeting Presentation

The Natural Beauty That Surrounds Us: Inspiring Adventure, Gratitude & Love

Friday, January 19, 2024, at the Riverside Township Hall following the Annual Public Meeting



Valerie M. Jisa is a Riverside resident who hails from the great state of Texas. She is an avid nature enthusiast, self-taught birder, and self-taught nature photographer.

Jisa is a top-contributing member of the [Riverside Nature Network](#) (RNN) on Facebook where she shares and chronicles her daily nature sightings with the rest of the community. She has led numerous bird walks in town and has become a true documenter of the natural beauty that surrounds us.

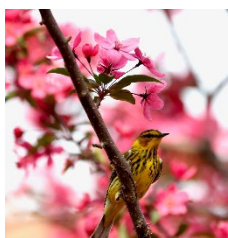
Please come and enjoy Valerie's profound love and expanding knowledge of nature through a presentation of her photography at the Olmsted Society's Annual Public meeting. The results of her daily photographic walks will not disappoint.

Artist's Statement

"During the gloomier and isolating days of the 2020 Pandemic, with three small children at home, I started to escape to the wooded areas of Riverside to help ease my natural restlessness and calm myself.

My love and awareness for Riverside's wildlife and beauty expanded one day when, during one of my daily adventure walks, I came across a bird I never noticed before. I posted a photo of the bird on RNN and learned I had seen a rare Black-throated Blue Warbler. It was **the** bird that deepened my new-found love and curiosity for other bird species in town.

That is when I started noticing everything around me. All the animals. All the sounds. All the changing colors in the trees. All the different textures. All the different heights in the trees. All the nests. All the different **kinds** of nests. All the knob holes in the trees. All the changes in the landscape from one storm or season to the next. All the little clues and evidence left behind from critters of all shapes and sizes. For three years, my daily walks have become a personal ritual and a meditation of sorts."



Photos courtesy of Valerie Jisa

2023 Olmsted Society Preservation Award

Owners' Efforts at the Mundy House Recognized

The 2023 Frederick Law Olmsted Society Preservation Award is presented to Thomas and Kelly Begani for their work on the Norris H. Mundy House. Designed in 1868 by William LeBaron Jenny, the Mundy House is one of the oldest homes in Riverside.

This award recognizes the Begani's complete restoration of this beautiful and historic home, undertaken over ten years, saving it from destruction and preserving it for generations to come.





Tributes & Trees Program

Linda LaBelle & Sandie Petrzilka

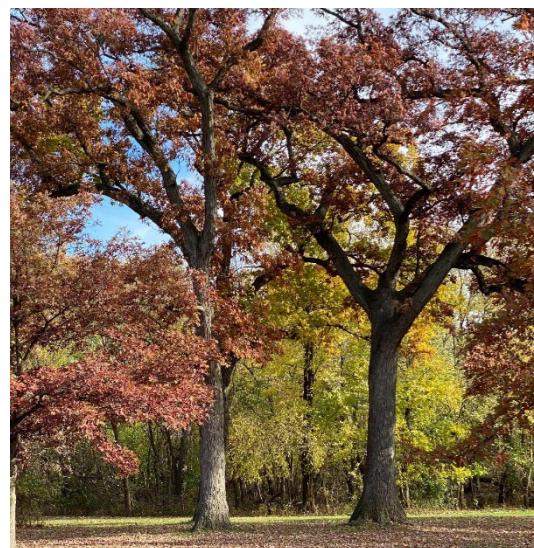
Tributes & Trees Co-Chairs

Thanks to generous donations received this year, our Village Forester and Landscape Workday Co-Chairs will be able to fulfill some of their “wish list” items to prepare for 2024 – including the purchase of an Arbor Day tree. All funds raised are spent on Riverside landscape.

To acknowledge someone you care about by making a Tributes & Trees donation, visit our website to [donate to Tributes & Trees](#) or contact tributes@olmstedsociety.org.

Tributes & Trees Remembers

- In memory of **Thomas Guardi's sister**
 - *Our sympathy on the loss of Tom's sister*
Donors: Sandie and Jim Petrzilka
- In memory of **Carolyn Huson**
 - *In honor of your many years of maintaining the Longcommon*
Donor: Cindy Kellogg
 - *Riverside's Guardian Angel of Longcommon Park*
Donors: Sandie and Jim Petrzilka
 - *Thank you for keeping Riverside beautiful. The Lady of Longcommon forever.*
Donors: Cathy and Mike Maloney
- In memory of **Sarah Palen**
 - *With Sincerest Sympathy*
Donors: Tom and Connie Guardi
- In memory of **JoAnne Kosey**
 - *May a new tree to be planted in Riverside to grow strong and true in JoAnne's memory*
Donors: Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga and Dr. Timothy Ozga
 - *With sympathy*
Donors: Thomas and Constance Guardi
- In memory of **Vita Pennington**
 - *Our sympathy*
Donors: Thomas and Constance Guardi
- In memory of **Mary T. Doody**
 - *With kindest thoughts*
Donors: Connie and Tom Guardi





2023 Year in Review



Hop Stop

Hop Stop 2023 was once again held at the Riverside Train Station and Guthrie Park on another perfect late September afternoon. 643 tickets were sold. 30 volunteers made the event run smoothly. 23 purveyors of beer, cider, mead, and spirits were on hand to pour. The event was generously supported by eight corporate sponsors.



Walking Tours

The Olmsted Society's 2023 Walking Tour season was very successful. Our six regularly scheduled and seven special tours informed and delighted a total of 170 people, including groups from *France and Italy*. Some friendly Riverside homeowners invited tour groups for a closer look at and even *inside* their homes!



Olmsted Overlook

On Saturday, April 29 FLOS Board members, along with Riverside Village Board members and Village Forester, Mike Collins, gathered for a ribbon cutting at the bench gifted by the village to the *Olmsted Overlook*. The Overlook is a grove of native trees planted in 2022 by FLOS to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Olmsted's birth.



Vintage Baseball

Beautiful weather marked the third annual Vintage Baseball Game last May. Young and old watched the Chicago Salmon defeat the Blue Island Brewmasters 7 to 5 in a match played with 1860's rules, equipment, and uniforms. The team's manager, Ellie "Boss Lady" Carlson also wore Victorian era attire.



Landscape Workdays

FLOS held 13 workdays at 12 locations in Riverside parks and public land. Efforts included removal of invasive plant species, planting native trees, grasses, and sedges, and collecting native plant seeds for next year. For Arbor Day, FLOS purchased and planted a Burr Oak tree in the triangle at Longcommon & Kent Roads.



Outside the Box Presentation

In October, FLOS and Riverside Art Center hosted a presentation in conjunction with the *Outside the Box* art center exhibit. Co-curators Michelangelo Sabatino and Kim Freeark, photographer Wiil Quam, and WTTW producer Geoffrey Baer spoke, along with several Riverside homeowners.

And More...

- In September, the Olmsted Board read a letter to the Riverside Village Board asking for reconsideration of the planned disc golf course in the historic greenways along the river. The issue is pending.



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. Subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at: newsletter@olmstedsociety.org

Check out our online resources for information on upcoming events:

 facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

 instagram.com/riverside.flos

 olmstedsociety.org

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a member. Membership is open to all interested individuals for a minimum \$35.00 tax-deductible contribution by check or you can subscribe or renew online:

[FLOS Membership Renewal Form](#)

If you prefer to use a check, print, and mail the form below:

Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside
PO Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546

Thank you for your continued support!

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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE	
<p>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. The town was developed in 1868 by Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his business partner Calvert Vaux.</p> <p>Membership is open to all interested individuals for the current calendar year (Jan. 1 - Dec. 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, IL 60546 or join online at www.olmstedsociety.org and select the Membership tab.</p>	
<p>MEMBERSHIP:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reliable Redbud</i> \$35-\$49 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hearty Hickory</i> \$50-\$124 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sugar Maple</i> \$125-\$249 \$ _____ (includes 2 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mighty Oak</i> \$250 + \$ _____ (includes 4 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p>COMMITTEES:</p> <p><i>Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee!</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Tours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hop Stop</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade Float</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Workdays</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation</p>