

# The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

*Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan*

Spring 2024 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*

- 3/26: [First Landscape Workday at Indian Gardens](#)
- 3/28: [Hidden Gems Road Trip: Along the Des Plaines River](#)
- 4/10: [Spongy Moths & Cicadas: Facts & Fallacies](#)
- 5/14: [A History of Chicagoland in Maps](#)
- 5/26: [Walking Tour \(North\) at Riverside Train Station](#)

This newsletter is produced quarterly for Olmsted Society members. Please also check our social media and website for timely updates:

 [facebook.com/RiversideFLOS](https://facebook.com/RiversideFLOS)

 [instagram.com/riverside.flos](https://instagram.com/riverside.flos)

 [olmstedsociety.org](https://olmstedsociety.org)

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Coming to a green space near you! Join us in making Riverside grow and thrive.  
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## President's Letter



Dan Murphy

*Olmsted Society Board President*

First, I am honored to be elected the Olmsted Society Board President. The mission and work of the organization are both exciting and meaningful to me. I am grateful to the members of the Board for their confidence and support in electing me to this role.

By way of an introduction, I have lived in Riverside for almost 24 years with my wife Olivia, and daughters, Amanda and Kristen. We are only in our second Riverside home, so I know that makes us “newcomers.” Before joining the Olmsted Society, I was active in the St. Mary Parish and School Technology Committees. I also co-founded, and continue to co-moderate, the Riverside Exchange community email discussion group.

I joined the Olmsted Society in 2018 and since 2019, I have served as the newsletter editor and presentations chair. I will continue to coordinate the presentations for the Olmsted Society, but will happily hand over the newsletter to Cathy Maloney. I attended Loyola University Chicago as an undergraduate and earned a Master's in Learning Sciences from Northwestern University. For most of my career, I have worked in learning technology, supporting distance corporate training or higher education. Currently, I am the Director of Online Learning Technologies at Northwestern's School of Professional Studies. I was born and raised in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, which set my expectations for what a neighborhood should be; tree-lined streets, distinctive architecture and a strong sense of community – all of these I have found in Riverside.

To be clear; the Olmsted Society supports outdoor recreation in our village parks. These activities are consistent with Olmsted's vision for Riverside and they're good for the participants, spectators, and the community as a whole. However, we did take a public stance on the plans to develop a Disc Golf course on a narrow strip of park land that connects the Scout Cabin area to the athletic fields at Indian Gardens along Fairbank Road. Our concern is that active recreation like Disc Golf in this narrow space is not compatible with the more passive forms of recreation, like walking and birding, that also take place there. It's important to note that the discs, which are heavier and more rigid than Frisbees, are thrown hundreds of feet. At a Village Board meeting last fall, former Olmsted Society Board president Yvonne Lucero read a letter on behalf of the Olmsted Society advocating that the Disc Golf course be located near existing athletic fields, so there would be better separation between disc golfers and walkers and birders. So, we're not taking a simplistic “not in my backyard” view of this. Rather, we're saying “no discs in the back of my head, please.”

With the return of Spring, we will resume our long-standing warm weather programs. The first Landscape Work Day will take place this Saturday, March 16 from 9 AM to Noon at Indian Gardens near the Scout Cabin. Our guided walking tours will begin Sunday, May 26 and continue through October on the last Sunday of each month. A vintage baseball game with Riverside's “home team,” the Chicago Salmon, will be played on August 4. This year, we will have a “VIP section” at the game – the VIPs, in this case, are families who recently moved to Riverside. We have other plans for 2024 in the works that we will announce in the coming months.



## *Olmsted Society Board Election Results*

### New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting in January, two new directors were elected to the Olmsted Society Board: Jennifer Godinez and Steve Holtzman.

### Olmsted Society Board Officers for 2024

Also at the January Annual Meeting, the officers for the Olmsted Society Board of Directors were elected for the 2024 calendar year. They are:

- President: Dan Murphy (new)
- Vice-President: Jim Petrzilka (new)
- Secretary: Susan Worthington (returning)
- Treasurer: Kim Freeark (returning)

#### **Renewing Board Members:**

- Cindy Kellogg
- Linda & Rick La Belle
- Dan Murphy
- Jim & Sandie Petrzilka
- Joanne Rogers

#### **New Board Members:**

- Jennifer Godinez
- Steve Holtzman

#### **One Year Renewing Board Member:**

- Matt Rogina



## *Awards Presented at the Annual Public Meeting*

### Preservation Award Presented to Thomas and Kelly Begani



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.

### Spirit Award Presented to Robert Dixon

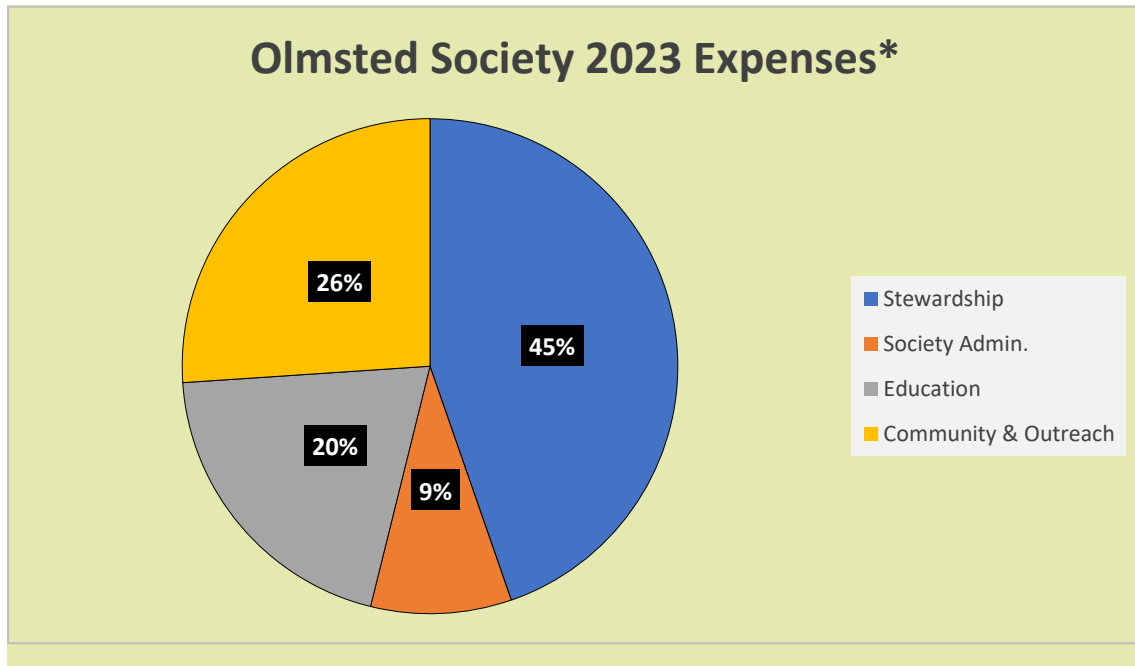


Robert (Rob) Dixon received the 2023 Frederick Law Olmsted Society Spirit Award. Rob served on the Olmsted Society Board for many years, including a term as its president. Involved in many of the Society's activities, Rob also imagined and launched the very popular HopStop celebration. In partnership with Riverside Foods and other local groups, HopStop has become a "must-do" Fall event, attracting Riverside families and groups from around Chicagoland. Rob's leadership in all of the early years of this event required tireless hours of work and coordination. Rob and his wife, Kimberly, recently retired from the Olmsted Society Board, but they continue to support the cause!



## 2023: Where your dollars go

The Olmsted Society is pleased to report on another year where your contributions have greatly enhanced the environment of Riverside. Below are some examples of where your membership and donation dollars go.



\* Net of HopStop expenses, 2023 expenses approximated \$25,000.



- **Stewardship (45%)** includes: volunteer time and donations to Landscape Workdays, Olmsted Overlook, Library, and the Architecture Award. Includes equipment and trees purchased for the Village.
- **Education (20%)** includes: presentations, walking tours, and website updates.
- **Community Outreach (26%)** includes: such popular events as Vintage Baseball, Fourth of July, newsletter and more.
- **Administration (9%)**: The Olmsted Society Board is 100% volunteer. Our administration expenses include insurance (about \$2,000 in 2023) and office supplies (about \$350).





## Advocacy for Olmsted Design and GreenWay

The Olmsted Society Board offered this statement to the Riverside Village Board of Trustees at their meeting on September 7, 2023:

“The Frederick Law Olmsted Society appreciates the considerable work that the Parks and Recreation Department has done to plan a disc golf course. We know they (and you) are committed to offering Riverside residents enjoyable opportunities to play and interact with our unique environment. Community enrichment through nature is part of Frederick Law Olmsted's philosophy of design. We do have several concerns about the siting of the disc golf course (not the game itself, but the proposed site).



Proposed disc golf site includes greenway between Scout Cabin and Indian Gardens ballfield. Shown here with Scouts' tents and cars parked for baseball games.

Our concerns include:

**The proposed greenway/woods site co-mingles active recreation with other, more passive recreation** (walking, birding, etc.). Olmsted prescribed a clear separation of active and passive recreation. FLOS would like to suggest that Parks and Rec, along with the Village Board, consider alternative locations (e.g. existing sports fields) which already have amenities (e.g. off-street parking, port-a-potties, clearly marked boundaries).

**Safety issues:** With co-mingled active and passive sports, the likelihood of accidents appears to be much higher.

**Pending master plan/user projections:** We understand that Parks and Rec plans a village-wide survey and master plan for Riverside beginning in 2024. This is a welcome opportunity for all residents to identify priorities; additionally, prospective user data for multiple activities can be better measured. We ask that you consider these ideas, and that the plans for disc golf at the proposed site be deferred until Parks and Recreation completes its village-wide survey and master plan.”

**Update:** As of this writing, there are still plans to include three disc golf holes in the greenway between Scout Cabin and the baseball parking lot.

If you have thoughts or comments on this issue, please send an email to [newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org), or contact the Village Board of Trustees at [VillageTrustees@riverside.il.us](mailto:VillageTrustees@riverside.il.us).



## *Walking Tours of Historic Riverside*

Let Us Share Our Hometown Pride with You!

### **Historic Walking Tours are back for 2024!**

The entire village of Riverside, Illinois was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970, and for good reason; it is one of the most beautiful, relaxing, and liveable places anywhere, and a must-see destination for visitors from around the world. They are attracted by its flowing landscape, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, America's first and most famous Landscape Architect; its more than 150 years of rich architectural history, with homes by famous architects like Frank Lloyd Wright, William LeBaron Jenney, and Howard Van Doren Shaw; and its fascinating, sometimes notorious, residents down through the years.

We are happy to report the full resumption of monthly Olmsted Society tours, with requests for reservations required via our website ([tours@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:tours@olmstedsociety.org)) and with payment via PayPal only.

These **two-hour tours depart at 2:00 PM from the main Riverside Train station**, south side of BNSF RR tracks, east side of platform, located at Bloomingbank Road at Riverside Road. These are \$25 per person (\$20 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members).

We also offer customized, special tours, on request, and at any time, for our local, out of town, and international visitors. These are normally \$30 per person and require a pre-arranged deposit.

What better way to celebrate years of Olmsted's legacy than to take a walking tour of Riverside, America's first planned suburb and a national historic site?

Today, this magical place of lush landscaping, curving streets, gas lamps, and charming parks still fulfills Olmsted's dream. It has since inspired architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan to create some of their most beautiful works. Over 70 landmarked structures representing over 150 years of American architecture dot the village.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside invites you to experience this very special American place. A place with a hidden history that may surprise you.

The regularly scheduled Sunday afternoon tour dates for 2024 are:

Date	Tour Area
May 26	North Division
June 30	South Division
July 28	North Division
August 31	South Division
September 29	North Division
October 27	South Division

Special customized tours are available by appointment, For more information call 708-447-7635 or e-mail [tours@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:tours@olmstedsociety.org).



## Presentations



Dan Murphy  
*Presentations Chair*

### Advance Registration Encouraged

For each presentation held at the Riverside Public Library that you plan to attend, please pre-register on the library website. This will ensure that the library provides enough chairs for the expected number of attendees. Of course, you're always welcome to attend our free presentations – even if you don't pre-register.

## Hidden Gems Road Trip: Along the Des Plaines River

**March 28 at 7 PM at the Riverside Public Library**

"Hidden Gems Road Trip" features photographs that speaker Pat Camalliere took of historic and scenic locations along the Des Plaines River, beginning at the Chicago Portage and ending in Lockport. Pat used these locations in the writing of her historic mystery novels. The talk reveals why these places are important to the area's history, how they look today, and how to visit them.



Included in the program is a handout with maps that pinpoint each location and directions to find them. Most of the places are little-known, open for visitors, and are located within a thirty-minute drive of the southwest suburbs.

Pat Camalliere is the author of the popular, five-star-rated *Cora Tozzi Historical Mystery Series*. She lives with her husband in Lemont, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where her stories are based. Camalliere's books will be available for purchase and signing before and after the talk.

Register at the Riverside Public Library: <https://riversidelibrary.libcal.com/event/11932743>

## Spongy Moths & Cicadas: Facts & Fallacies

**Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM**

Dr. Frederic Miller of the Morton Arboretum and Riverside Village Forester Michael Collins will address two threats to Riverside trees and plant life; the ongoing danger of the Spongy Moth and the return of the 17-year cicada brood this summer. Spongy Moths pose a threat to trees and plants during their caterpillar stage. The caterpillars feed voraciously on leaves, defoliating trees and weakening them. In severe infestations, they can even kill their host tree. While adult cicadas don't directly harm trees and plants by feeding on them, their egg-laying behavior can damage young twigs and branches. Female cicadas slit the bark of woody plants to deposit their eggs, which can cause breaking, wilting or dieback in affected limbs. Presented with the Riverside Public Library and the Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission



Dr. Fredric Miller is Senior Scientist – Entomology at The Morton Arboretum, in Lisle, Illinois. Michael Collins has been Riverside's Municipal Forester for 19 years. Prior to his arrival in Riverside, Michael worked at Cantigny Gardens as Grounds Arborist and the Morton Arboretum as a Research Assistant.

Register at the Riverside Public Library: <https://riversidelibrary.libcal.com/event/11890174>





*Presentations, cont'd.*

Donald and Tanya Smith Present *A History of Chicagoland in Maps*

**Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 PM at the Riverside Public Library**

Since Frederick Law Olmsted studied land surveying as a young man and personally surveyed the terrain that would become Riverside, it is fitting that the Olmsted Society welcomes Donald and Tanya Smith of Greeley-Howard-Norlin & Smith, land surveyors and map makers.

The Smith's wide-ranging presentation will span time from the founding of the U.S. through the 20th Century. Topics will include: The U.S. Government's plan to sell land to pay off Revolutionary War debt and Thomas Jefferson's idea to divide the country into uniform townships, company founder Samuel Greeley serving as an expert witness for Abraham Lincoln in two court cases, rebuilding after the Great Chicago Fire, and the companies contemporary work with the Sears Tower. The Smiths will also bring antique surveying instruments and a number of historical maps and atlases – including an 1891 real estate advertisement map of Riverside.

Donald and Tanya Smith, owners of the land surveying & map making company Greeley-Howard-Norlin & Smith, own, preserve, protect and maintain a large collection of historical documents dating back to the early 1800s. Don and Tanya have invested immense amounts of their time, energy, money and care into the organization and research of the gathered historical materials which include 190 map atlases and more than 400,000 hand-drawn maps and plats dating from 1820 to 1990. <https://www.chicagolandhistorymaps.org/>

Register at the Riverside Public Library: <https://riversidelibrary.libcal.com/event/11890199>



## *Tributes & Trees Program*



Linda LaBelle & Sandie Petrzilka  
*Tributes & Trees Co-Chairs*

Tributes & Trees is a way to not only recognize others, your donations are put to good use. All funds raised go towards the purchase of tools, supplies, trees, and plantings to improve Riverside's parks and public lands. If you wish to acknowledge someone with a Tributes & Trees donation, visit [olmstedssociety.org](https://olmstedssociety.org), and look for "Tributes & Trees" on our home page.

If you have questions, please send us an email, [tributes@olmstedssociety.org](mailto:tributes@olmstedssociety.org). We would love to hear from you.



### **TRIBUTES & TREES REMEMBERS:**

**In memory of: Richard Ray**

Donors: Thomas and Constance Guardi

**In memory of: Richard D. Murphy**

"Very sorry for the loss of your Dad"

Donors: Jim and Sandie Petrzilka

"Father of Dan Murphy"

Donors: Thomas and Constance Guardi



## Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

*Landscape Co-Chairs*

In 2024, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

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.

We will be planting 34 White Oak trees in the spring and 53 White Oak trees in the fall in Riverside's public spaces.

Date	Location	Notes
<b>March 16</b>	Indian Gardens	
<b>April 13</b>	R/B HS Community Day at Indian Gardens and Patriot's Park	
<b>April 27</b>	Celebrate Arbor Day at Scottswood Common	
<b>May 18</b>	The Longcommon to honor Carolyn Huson	The late Carolyn Huson was a dedicated volunteer who spent countless hours on the Longcommon.
<b>June 1</b>	Big Ball Park	
<b>June 29</b>	Big Ball Park	
<b>July 20</b>	Longcommon and Downing	
<b>August 17</b>	Akenside/Longcommon Triangle	Joined by Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) volunteers
<b>September 14</b>	Patriot's Park	
<b>October 5</b>	Indian Gardens	
<b>October 19</b>	Riverside Road	
<b>November 9</b>	Harrington Park	

Walk-up participation is encouraged. To make advanced reservations for large groups to participate in a workday, or to be added to our Olmsted Society landscape committee e-list, please contact: Holly Machina & Cindy Kellogg [workdays@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:workdays@olmstedsociety.org); or Michael Collins, Village Forester at [mcollins@riverside.il.us](mailto:mcollins@riverside.il.us) 708-442-3590 x 502.



## Membership



Linda LaBelle  
*Membership Chair*

2024 Membership renewals are off to a great start. Thanks for your generous contributions. Many activities are planned for 2024. Members and the community are welcome to participate.

Please consider renewing, becoming a member or giving the gift of membership. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, enjoying Riverside's landscape and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

Membership is open to all interested individuals for a minimum \$35.00 tax-deductible contribution by check 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!

### 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. The town was developed in 1868 by Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his business partner Calvert Vaux.

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](http://www.olmstedsociety.org) and select the Membership tab.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

☐ *Reliable Redbud* \$35-\$49 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *Hearty Hickory* \$50-\$124 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *Sugar Maple* \$125-\$249 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes 2 walking tour tickets)

☐ *Mighty Oak* \$250 + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes 4 walking tour tickets)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

☐ Gift Membership

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

#### COMMITTEES:

*Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee!*

- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Education & Tours
- ☐ Fundraising events:
  - ☐ Hop Stop
  - ☐ Housewalk
- ☐ 4th of July Parade Float
- ☐ Landscape Workdays
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Website

☐ I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation





## Notes from the Editor



Cathy Maloney

*Newsletter Ed*

As I inherit this Newsletter role from the very capable hands of Dan Murphy, I hope you will contact me with your suggestions and ideas. Reach me at [newsletter@olmstedssociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedssociety.org).

In this newsletter, I've included some additional events from kindred organizations that might interest you. Events you might like:

### **World Water Day** **Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 PM**

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will be at the Riverside Public Library on Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 to help us celebrate World Water Day. At least one rain barrel will be given away. Learn about what the MWRD does, water quality of the Des Plaines River, water conservation, water reclamation and related topics. Come with your questions for the MWRD. Sign up for free oak tree saplings, which will be available in April.

Co-hosted by the Riverside Public Library, Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) and the Riverside Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4).

### **Natural Lawn Care** **March 25 at 7:00 PM**

Do you have a lawn that is overusing water, fertilizer, pesticides or herbicides? Do you want to manage your lawn more naturally? Learn about sustainable lawn and



landscape practices. The University of Illinois Extension will give a presentation on these topics, hand out literature and answer your questions

at the Riverside Public Library on March 25 at 7:00 PM. Register for the event [here](#).

Co-hosted by the Riverside Public Library, Riverside Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) and the Riverside Cross-Community Climate Collaborative (C4).

### **Indiana Dunes Birding Festival** **May 16-19.2024**



At the height of bird migration season, don't miss this four-day birding and wildlife festival. Experts will offer lectures and walks all around the Dunes area. Not limited to

birds, you will enjoy wildflowers, art displays, photography and more. To register, and for more info, see: <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com>.

### **Native Plant Sales** **April through May, various dates**

Sometimes native plants are hard to find in local garden stores. In spring, many organizations host native plant sales. Check out these sites for updated information on sales this spring:

- Illinois Native Plant Society: Native Plant Sales - Illinois Native Plant Society ([illinoisplants.org](http://illinoisplants.org))
- Chicago Living Corridors: Native Plant Sales - Chicago Living Corridors

### **Historic House and Garden tour** **April 26-28**

If you're out and about, visit our sister city, Druid Hills, the "last" Olmsted-designed suburb. Just outside of Atlanta, GA, Druid Hills offers beautiful landscapes and exquisite homes. For more information and tickets, see: <https://www.druidhillstour.org>.



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Subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at:

[newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org)

Check out our online resources for information on upcoming events:



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[olmstedsociety.org](https://olmstedsociety.org)