



# ***River Oaks Newsletter***

Volume 3, Number 7

October 1991

## **Dear Fellow Oakers:**

With the arrival of Fall, we all look forward to accomplishing the many tasks associated with preparing for Winter. The River Oaks Improvement Association also is undertaking a variety of activities designed to improve River Oaks and to lay the groundwork for 1992. The current Board of Directors, comprised of 8 hard-working people, has addressed numerous items during 1991.

The strength and effectiveness of our Association strongly relates to the degree of participation of the homeowners. Our Association has an excellent reputation with the City of Warrenville and other homeowner associations. River Oaks is known for our leadership on several issues, and the thoroughness with which we present our case. Direct results of these activities include the City's support of the River Oaks initiated lawsuit against Anden, the lowering of our 1990 real estate taxes and the City's resolution in support of the River Oaks Parkway Tree Planting Program, among others. All these issues have set precedents with the other parties concerned.

In order for our Association to continue its position of leadership, and to creatively address our concerns, the Association needs your participation. If you have a desire to participate on a committee, serve on the Board, or know someone who you feel would be a valuable addition to the Association, now is the time to "get in the loop". And how does one "get in the loop"? EASY! Call Toni Oster, Chair of the Nominating Committee, or myself, or any Board member and express your desire to participate. Toni will be initiating a dialogue with all interested residents over the next few weeks.

Perhaps the most visible result of many hours of work will be initiation of the River Oaks Parkway Tree Planting Program. Through the efforts of several dedicated residents, especially John

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



### **Thursday, October 24**

Board of Directors  
Monthly Meeting at 7:30 PM.  
at the Saxton's  
2 S 539 River Oaks Dr.

### **Friday, October 25**

Deadline for Candy Drop-Off  
for Halloween Party (see notice)

### **Sunday, October 27**

River Oaks Annual Halloween  
Party, 1:30 to 3:30 PM.  
Warrenville Community Club

### **Wednesday, October 30**

Judging, Halloween House  
Decorating Contest

### **Thursday, October 31**

Halloween Trick or Treat Night

Christiansen, and Bill Murphy (Lot 1 - our Alderman), the City of Warrenville has passed a resolution in support of our program. Additionally, the City will provide us with access to wholesale nurseries. This is a precedent for the City, and our program will serve as a model

for other homeowner associations. The planting of parkway trees will benefit all River Oaks residents. Realtors assert that each tree adds \$2,500 to \$5,000 in value to a house. Over the next few weeks, you will be approached by a representative concerning your selection of the species of tree and particulars of the location.

Again, please feel free to contact either myself or any Board member about any ideas or concerns you may have. Several concerned residents are currently looking into our 1991 real estate tax assessments, others are involved with the Parkway Tree Planting Program, Highway 59 issues, the Anden lawsuit, the Halloween house decorating awards and other matters of interest to River Oaks. Your input is ALWAYS welcome!

..... **Tom Sinnott,**  
**President, River Oaks Improvement Association**



## The Return of the Assessor!

It's the scariest time of the year again, folks, and we don't mean Halloween. Yes, it's time for the annual tax reassessment ritual that hits River Oaks each October. The news came days ago, and it looks like River Oaks was hit with a 6 % (and in some cases higher) increase in assessed value. If you are one of those hit with a high increase, it might be wise to go to the assessor's office and request to see your record card. As far as the general increase in Warrenville is concerned, we will try to get more details on it and how River Oaks fits in with these increases. When we do know more, we'll let you know.

*If there are any corrections that you would like to make to the River Oaks Directory which was distributed with the last Newsletter, please advise someone on the Newsletter Committee, or the Board of Directors.*



## ATTENTION SUPER SLEUTHS !

**Help Catch Criminals and receive Rewards of up to \$1000 !**

The Warrenville Police Department would like all of the citizens of Warrenville, including residents of River Oaks, to be aware of the new DUPAGE COUNTY CRIMESTOPPERS PROGRAM. All of the DuPage County law enforcement agencies have combined together to bring this program to DuPage County.

Crimestoppers is a program involving the public, the media, and the police in the fight against crime. It offers anonymity (you don't have to give your name) and cash rewards to persons who furnish information leading to the arrest and the filing of criminal charges against felony crime offenders and to the capture of fugitives.

The Crimestoppers program is administered by a Board of Directors comprised of concerned citizens of DuPage County who establish policy, are responsible for fund raising, and control the amount of reward payments. It is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely through tax-deductible donations from the public.

When a call is received by Crimestoppers, it is logged with the date, time and a brief summary of the caller's information. Callers are furnished with a secret code number which is used in subsequent transactions. Callers may remain anonymous, with no pressure to reveal their identity, and still collect their rewards. When an arrest results from this information, the Board of Directors approves the rewards to be paid in CASH, based on information presented by the Police Coordinator.

While Crimestoppers is a police department program, crimes of special community concern may be selected for publication by area media. The production expenses and newspaper or air-time costs are absorbed by the cooperating media or by community-minded businesses. The Crimestoppers Program has proven beyond the shadow of a doubt to be a successful tool in combating crime.

To report any criminal activity, call  
1 - 800 - 424 - 9119.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:  
DuPage County Crimestoppers Program, Inc.  
P.O. Box #174  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-0174

## **More on PARKWAY TREES**



The lead article in last month's Newsletter talked about the prospects of having parkway trees in River Oaks, and described the work which the River Oaks Board of Directors has done to try to make this possible. The Newsletter is pleased to report that more progress has been made on this project. Our parkway tree planting proposal was formally presented to the City Council on Monday, October 7. The Council approved the plan and appeared quite supportive of it.

As a result of the City's decision, the Board is now able to proceed to seriously investigate various options for obtaining trees to grace our parkways. The Board will pursue the possibility of getting discount rates on substantial numbers of trees, and will continue to solicit some form of assistance from the City. In addition, individual homeowners may now plant trees in their sections of the parkway, provided that they follow the plan approved by the City Council. Anyone who would like specifics on the parkway tree planting plan can contact John Christiansen (393-4946, Lot 19) or Tom Sinnott (393-2808, Lot 53).

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The Beautification Committee, and specifically Millie Murphy, Chairman, have been busy, decorating the entrance way with corn stalks and planting many bulbs in the entrance island for the Spring. Thanks a lot!



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**A Reminder:** Warrenville does have a leash law (which requires a leash for all dogs when not in their own yard), as well as an "animal nuisance" law (which says no animal nuisances are allowed, such as noise, odor or other obnoxious factors). Please respect your neighbors and your neighborhood and obey these laws.

## **ROUTE 59 SAFETY CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The Route 59 safety task force met again on Thursday, October 10 at the home of our alderman, Bill Murphy, to work out the details of a petition drive and letter-writing campaign aimed at convincing the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to lower speed limits and install turning lanes on Route 59.

In attendance at the October 10 meeting were representatives of Summerlakes, Maple Hill, Fox Hollow, and River Oaks. In addition to those organizations represented, an informal positive response on the Route 59 campaign has been received from Emerald Lakes and the Warrenville Chamber of Commerce; other homeowners' associations may also join in the effort.

Bill Murphy drafted letters to IDOT, our State Senator (Forest Etheridge), and our State Representative (Mary Lou Cowlshaw). The contents of these letters, and the wording of the petition, were reviewed and finalized at the meeting. The Summerlakes and Fox Hollow homeowners' associations have agreed to handle reproduction of the letters and petitions, etc.

The campaign will kick off within the next couple of weeks. One of your neighbors will be dropping by to ask you to support the drive to make our daily encounters with Route 59 a little less stimulating. ALL YOU WILL HAVE TO DO to show your support will be to sign the petition (just once, please!), and sign and mail preprinted copies of the three letters which have been prepared and pre-addressed (to IDOT and our two State legislators).

The success of this safety campaign depends critically on YOUR support in signing the petition and signing and remembering to mail the letters. The City is very strongly behind us on this campaign. Let's help make it work!

# RIVER OAKS

## WHO'S THERE?

### A River Oaks Puzzle

How many kids in River Oaks go to an elementary school? The answer is 32! And all of their first names are hidden in this word search puzzle. The names are all in straight lines. The lines can be horizontal, vertical, and diagonal, and the names can be backwards as well. Can you find all the names?

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S W U X J G D A L C Y Z I U Y X O N K K
J O Y Y S E C A H F E N Q K Q M N P N N
E Z Y Y R A L L I H O E E C A A O Y A H
L L Y E B V M R N H J G B R I A N R P F
N S K P R F V A T E D A K H U R U O C A
V X Q Y M I Q A N H E V T X R A E C I B
H B N A G I N A T T I R B T L O L Y S C
H T A J T O T A L E H K U L C E P J Z M
P U F P J L J E I L I A E A N P A W W M
E U R Q F E K N S T N S R V M G R F G F
N X E G X A A L A A S R V Y I O S Y A O
Y E N T I H W F H U J A Z P N N V D Q R
R O E W P C B G R E B M B A O B L K E P
W N O E Y I E K V P V R D E G X H G R O
L N T H A M I S A B A F O I S D Q O F T
V S I T E W P A V N S Z O P L Y B M I Z
T J V T G C G M D A W C X W V I Y O F P
F V N A S D E O C R S G A T G I M N H W
S Y C M N U N H E W O M Z Z L K M F Y Q
O Q Y L E L J A E Y N O Z J T Q E R B H
    
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*Here is a list of all 32 names that are hidden in the puzzle :*

Sebastian	Laura
Derek	Erin
Sam	Hiam
Brittani	Basima
Michael	Brandon
Mark	Lisa
Tim	JJ
Ryne	Rafael
Brian	Eric
Meghan	Joey
Whitney	Kevin
Carrie	Russell
Jonathon	Samantha
Lauren	Justin
Stephanie	Matthew
Maureen	Hillary

*Answers in next Newsletter !*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OCTOBER KIDS !



Stephanie Carlson  
Tiffany Durso  
Ryne Brackman  
Melissa West

Michael Ryan Soelke  
Kristine Boivin  
Rebecca Noffsinger



## **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Get Ready For  
A Spooky Time  
Halloween Fun Party!

**RIVER OAKS ANNUAL  
HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Magic Tricks by Super Magic -  
Cupcake Walk - Pocket Lady -  
Fortunes Told

Sunday, October 27  
1:30 to 3:30 PM  
Warrenville Community Club

## **DECORATING CONTEST**

That ghostly, spooky, scariest of all nights is fast approaching and with it the 2nd Annual River Oaks Halloween House Decorating Contest. The actual judging will take place on the evening before Halloween, so get your decorations ready to display on Wednesday, October 30th. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners on Halloween.

## **IN THE AREA**

The Sycamore Pumpkin Festival,  
Sycamore, IL.  
October 24 - 29.  
Take Route 64 west to Sycamore.

West Chicago Park District  
Spook Trail  
Reed-Keppler Park  
National and Arbor Sts.  
7 - 10 PM, October 25 - 26.



The Cub Scouts who live in River Oaks will be coming around at the end of October to take orders for Christmas wreaths and ropes. Delivery will be the week before Thanksgiving. Please give our local lads your orders!



## TEEN AMBASSADOR



Congratulations to Heather Moore on her invitation to apply for participation in the People to People High School Student Ambassador Program. This is an exciting four-week exchange project to Europe and the Soviet Union open to U.S. and Canadian students in grades 9 through 12. Last summer 3,500 Student Ambassadors representing all fifty states participated in the program. They met with teenagers and adults in government offices, youth clubs, farms and factories. Students this summer will be involved in a comprehensive program of educational and cultural activities in the Soviet Union, Sweden, Denmark and England. Their overseas project will include homestays in two of the countries to be visited and participating Student Ambassadors are able to obtain up to ten university credits.

Heather now will be competing with other students in DuPage County to be a part of the Illinois Delegation. It's an exciting opportunity, Heather. Good Luck!



**Get Well Wishes to Debra Stanley:**

*We wish you well and quick healing,  
No more lying on the floor,  
and looking at the ceiling.*

*Sorry to learn of your broken foot.  
Mend quickly!*

### Treasurer's Report, September 1991

Balance, 8-31-91 .....	\$4153.81
Deposit .....	485.00
Interest, Aug. ....	10.66

Total ..... 4649.47

#### Expenses

H&B Service .....	845.00
Service Charge, Aug. ..	9.30

Total Expenses ..... 854.30

Net ..... 3795.17

#### Money Market Account

Balance, 8-31-91 .....	5018.80
Interest, Aug. ....	21.82

Total, Money Market ..... 5040.62

Total Monies ..... 8835.79



## MINUTES OF RIVER OAKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 3, 1991 (September Meeting)

**PRESENT:** Tom Sinnott, Toni Oster, Cheryl Soelke, Gloria Langston, Mille Murphy, Linda Saxton, John Christiansen, Amy Salyer, and John Spartz.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Tom Sinnott.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gloria gave a written and verbal report of the finances. There are currently \$555.00 in outstanding dues. Tom Sinnott reported that he has made several attempts to contact a certain homeowner regarding past due Association dues to no avail. It was decided that a letter be sent out to the homeowner regarding the past due.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:** Linda Saxton reported that a report was printed in the September Newsletter regarding the annual picnic. A letter of thanks was sent to the Gary Wheaton Bank for

donating the services of Breezy the Clown to the picnic.

The annual Halloween party is scheduled for October 27th. A check was requested for the deposit for the Warrenville Community Center. We contacted a magician for entertainment for the children; he will do a 45-minute show. Receipts were presented for reimbursement for the block party. It was also decided that no costume contest will be held at the Halloween party. Games will be played and treats will be given to each child.

The Entertainment Committee plans to have the 2nd Annual Halloween House Decorating Contest. Judges will be viewing houses in the subdivision on October 30th. The Entertainment Committee plans to decorate the front entrance for Halloween and also for Christmas. The committee is a little over budget at the present time. Since some other committees are reporting expenses well below their budgets, Cheryl Soelke made a motion that the Board grant \$100 to the Entertainment Committee for the rest of the year. Toni Oster seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

**CITY LIAISON:** Amy Salyer volunteered to write a letter of thanks to Officer Bruce Van Wankum for attending our August Board meeting. Tom Sinnott plans to send a letter of thanks to Police Chief LaDeur for keeping the Board informed of the status of activity of speeders on Route 59.

**NEWSLETTER:** The October edition of the Newsletter is scheduled to be distributed sometime the week of October 20th. Directories were distributed to each resident in September. Extra copies of the directory were given to the Secretary. The committee is also a little under this year's budget at the present time.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Toni Oster reported that the Nominating Committee for this year will be: Toni Oster, Judy Molina, and Ruth Brackman. The Committee is preparing a letter and nominating petition which they plan to distribute to each household in October. Suggestions given to Toni Oster for speakers for the upcoming Annual Meeting included having a Realtor or the President of the Board of the Warrenville Park District. The committee will consider the suggestions.

**GROUNDSKEEPING/BEAUTIFICATION:** John Spartz reported that the committee was currently under budget for the year. Due to this year's past drought, the grass was not cut as often as planned for and we have saved a substantial amount of money. A suggestion was made that bulbs be planted in the front entrance for next Spring. Millie Murphy will get some volunteers and plant the bulbs.

Our Parkway Tree Proposal was presented to the City at the last Community Development Meeting. Tom Sinnott attended this meeting and reported that our proposal would be given to a consultant for the City (Joe Molina). The City seemed impressed with our proposal and it looked encouraging that this would be approved at the next Community Development Meeting which will be held Monday, October 7th. A discussion proceeded on how, when or what the River Oaks Homeowners Association Board will propose to do if the City asks for our plans to maintain the parkway trees. It was suggested that possibly a surplus fund could be established of a minimal amount of money each year to be used for maintaining these trees if the need arises. Also discussed was how the Groundskeeping/Beautification Committee could proceed with this project if we receive the City's blessing to plant these trees. It was decided that a special meeting will be held once the City's decision is made.

It was brought to the Board's attention that during a windstorm a couple of weeks ago, the center of a huge maple tree was blown down and fell towards the river bank taking with it about ten smaller trees.

Fortunately, there was no damage to the homeowners along the lots along the river bank because the tree fell towards the river. There is a big mess that needs to be addressed. Jim West, Lot 36, called the County because it is the County's responsibility to keep the waterway clear. The County Inspector is due to come out soon to assess the situation and then in the next 6-8 weeks most of the problem, hopefully, will be resolved after the County removes the debris from the waterway. Jim West will inform the Board of what, if anything, will need to be taken care of once the County is finished. The ten smaller trees that were knocked down, may have to be removed and plans may have to be made to replant these trees. The Board should be advised that a plan will probably have to be drawn up regarding maintenance of this river bank as this is common area in the subdivision. Amy Salyer will obtain the name of the gentleman who lives across Route 59 from River Oaks who originally cleared this area for the subdivision. The Board will contact this individual to see if he may be interested in any leftover wood in this area after the County cleans up.

**ANDEN:** Tom Sinnott reported on the City vs. Anden status. It was discussed at the Community Development Meeting that Anden and the City recently had a meeting at the advice of the Court. There is a new attorney for Anden and new employees involved. According to the spokesperson at the Community Development Meeting, the new attorney for Anden was a little more reasonable and the City and Anden are meeting



again in the middle of October in hopes to reach an agreement on the issues. If no agreement is reached, the suit will go to court.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Letterhead was distributed by the Secretary. It was suggested that we develop a return address label with the River Oaks logo to be used in sending out letters. John Christiansen will work on a label to be used.

Cheryl Soelke reported that she talked to William Jegen's secretary on September 10th and requested a letter from Jegen stating that Joe Ricely had left the firm and that William Jegen was officially taking over our account, and quoting his hourly rate. To date we have had no response. Cheryl will contact several other attorneys in the area to get their rates.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The latest letter from Police Chief LaDeur stated that 18 tickers were issued in the last two weeks for speeding, 80 written and verbal warnings, 5 speed-related accidents, and 2 injuries on Route 59.

A letter was received from the Summerlakes Homeowners Association regarding the Fox Valley Freeway/Tollway Project. Any interested residents are encouraged to contact the public information access number (1-800-DATA-FOX) for meeting/hearings information.

Mayor Vivian Lund sent a letter to the Board asking for our \$25. donation for the Christmas banner to be hung at the entrance of the subdivision for Christmas. Tom Sinnott made a motion that a check be sent to the City of Warrenville in the amount of \$25. Amy Salyer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

John Christiansen reported that he attended the recent meeting at the Murphy residence held by our Alderman, Bill Murphy, concerning the Route 59 issues. Mr. Murphy was asked by the City to head up a Committee to get some action from the Illinois Department of Transportation to reduce the speed limit along Route 59. Plans are being put together to get petitions signed and distribute letters for signatures to be sent to IDOT and our State Representative and our State Senator requesting that action be taken.

Tom Sinnott requested that each Committee Chairperson draft a budget proposal for next year and present it at the next meeting.

Tom also requested that a committee be formed to amend the By-Laws to incorporate several items: delinquent accounts, vacant properties, and the City weed ordinance. The Committee will consist of Tom Sinnott, Cheryl Soelke, Linda Saxton, and Amy Salyer. It was suggested that possibly we could obtain copies of other Association's ByLaws and Covenants to get some ideas and guidelines.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

The next meeting will be held October 24., 1991 at 7:30 PM at the Saxton residence.

*This Newsletter is brought to you by your friendly Newsletter Committee, consisting of:*

*John Christiansen, Chairman, 393-4946  
Linda Saxton, 393-2206  
Marnie Sinnott, 393-2808  
Lois Hitchcock, 393-2409  
Amy Salyer, 393-7645  
Becky Christiansen, 393-4946*

*Let one of the committee members know of anything you might want included in the Newsletter.*