



News & Views

OAK LEAVES

of River Oaks

Volume VI

March, 1994

Number 2

Welcome to the Newsletter!

This issue of **Oak Leaves** contains LOTS of **IMPORTANT INFORMATION!** Please read!! Inside, besides our usual offerings, you will find the minutes of the Annual Meeting, as well as two meetings of the Board of Directors.

River Oaks is in the process of organizing a **Neighborhood Watch**. A description of this program and more detailed information can be found on pages 3 and 4.

See page 13 for the River Oaks **SERVICE CENTER**, a new feature which lists some services available from our neighbors.

On page 17 is a recap of the River Oaks screening project which is of particular interest to residents who live along the Northern, Western or Southern borders. If you haven't already seen them, look for a visit from our canvassing team.

The famed River Oaks **EASTER EGG HUNT** is soon approaching. Remember to bring your candy donations to Amy Salyer (lot #23)!

FOR MORE INFO - READ ON!



Calendar of Events

☛ Now → March 19

Perimeter Screening
Canvassing

☛ Saturday, March 19

Anden / Landscaping
10:00 AM
At the Moores'

☛ Monday, March 21

Entertainment Committee
7:30 PM
At the Salyers'

☛ Thursday, March 24

Board of Directors
7:30 PM
At the Brackmanns'

☛ Saturday, March 26

11:30 AM
Easter Egg Hunt
{rain date Sunday at 2:00}



February Birthday Kids:

Jacqye Salyer, Jamie Salyer, Hillary Saxton, Jonathan Lynch, Carrie Berland, Lauren Wierema, Brandon Stern, Christopher Stern, Julianne Brackmann, Rachael Brackmann, Katherine Andrejevich, Katherine Nesbit, Veronica Nesbit, Christopher Hitchcock

March Birthday Kids:

Brad Malcolm, Tamara Stanley, Justin Wierema, Matthew Nagode, Mark Nesbit, James Hoffman

WELCOME HOME, NEW NEIGHBORS !!

A warm *River Oaks* welcome is extended to our newest neighbors, **James and Deborah Hoffman**, who have recently moved into lot 61 from their previous residence in Wheaton. James and Deborah have three children: 7 year old **Jonathan**, 4 year old **Kathryn**, and 3 year old **James**. James and Deborah both work, he with circuit boards and she with insurance brokerage.



Welcome to LAND of the OAKERS!!!

Oak Leaves is brought to you by the Newsletter Committee, and we are: Tom Sinnott, Becky Christiansen, Mary Moore & Marnee Sinnott.

The committee wishes to thank all the River Oaks residents who have contributed articles and ideas to **Oak Leaves**. We trust that you will be as supportive of the new Newsletter Committee.

Neighborhood Watch

On Wednesday, March 2nd, the first meeting was held to set up a Neighborhood Watch in River Oaks. Present from River Oaks were Tony Oster, Amy Salyer, Becky Christiansen, Paul Koenig, Chuck Hulse, Frank Vainisi, and Marnee Sinnott. Officer Dave Schar from the Warrenville Police Department directed the meeting. The following is a report on the information Officer Shar provided.

W

hat is the Neighborhood Watch program? The Neighborhood Watch program is a program that encourages homeowners to monitor their neighborhood for possible criminal activities. The police like to encourage such community involvement because it can be an effective crime deterrent and can help them with their busy workload. It does not involve watching your neighbors, but instead involves watching out for your neighbors.

How effective is the Neighborhood Watch program? The figures have yet to be compiled for Warrenville. A couple of years ago, Geneva began the Neighborhood Watch program. In one year, there were 64 home burglaries in Geneva. Sixty of these were in neighborhoods without a Neighborhood Watch, while only 4 occurred where a Neighborhood Watch was established.

The structure of the Watch program involves **Watch Houses**, *Block Captains*, and possibly Safe Houses. The **Watch Houses** are those homeowners who have agreed to participate in the Watch. They will be listed on a neighborhood map and in a phone chart.

If anyone sees something suspicious occurring in the neighborhood, then they can call a **Watch House** near the location of this occurrence and ask the homeowner in the **Watch House** to take a look. This does not mean that the **Watch House** homeowner is supposed to approach a dangerous situation. It might mean looking out of the window to get a better view of what is going on and, if something suspicious does seem to be in progress, then to call 911. It does not mean that a **Watch House** should be called in the middle of the night if someone sees something suspicious in the neighborhood. If something seems to be happening in the middle of the night, then 911 should be called immediately.

Block Captains are the organizers of the Neighborhood Watch, especially during set-up. They recruit the **Watch Houses** to participate in the Neighborhood Watch. This will be done in a door-to-door canvas of the subdivision in the spring. They are a contact for the **Watch Houses**, as well as for the police.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (continued)

The police inform the *Block Captains* if there is an on-going problem in the subdivision to be watchful for, e.g. car burglaries, criminal damage to property, etc., or if a homeowner is out of town and their house is vacant.

In consideration of such responsibilities, the Police screen all Block Captains for criminal records. As Officer Schar said, you don't want a Block Captain who has a long history of arrests for burglary! This does not mean, however, that a person cannot be a Block Captain if his record is clean except for a problem with the law years earlier.

Safe Houses are houses that children can go to in case of an emergency or to get away from a dangerous situation quickly. Safe Houses are not necessarily a part of the Neighborhood Watch unless requested. Summerlakes, which had the first Neighborhood Watch program in Warrenville, requested Safe Houses. Again, such applicants would be screened for criminal records, especially for child molestation charges. River Oaks will have to decide whether or not to participate in this program.

Every six months or so, there will be a meeting of the Neighborhood Watch with the Police Department. Before the meetings, the Block Captains will organize any questions they want answered and give them to Officer Schar. He will come to the meeting prepared with the right bit of law from the hundreds of pages of municipal, state and federal codes that might apply. On-going problems will be discussed and, hopefully, solutions might be worked out. These include problems that might not be criminal in nature, such as dog nuisances. Officer Schar will arrange for special speakers if requested. Such speakers might include zoning officers if there are zoning questions in the subdivision. Another possible speaker would be an alarm system expert, although no selling of products or services will be allowed at these meetings.

Besides time, the only cost for the Neighborhood Watch program is the signage. Four street signs will cost approximately \$58 total, and there is an addition charge for signs for each Watch House, which are displayed in a window. The Board of River Oaks would consider using ROIA monies for the street signs.

In order to set up the Watch, Officer Schar needs Block Captain applicants. If anyone who did not attend the meeting would like to be a Block Captain, please call Becky Christiansen at 393-4946 for an application. These applications should be filled out and returned to Officer Schar at the Warrenville Police Department.

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 3, 1994

PRESENT: Mark Moore, Joe Lanute, Tom Sinnott,
and Becky Christiansen

ABSENT: Paul Koenig, Phil Brackmann, Kathryn
Costlow

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

MOTION: Mark made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. Joe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe is currently working on the year end financial report. The Association received a Davey bill that appears to be in error, and Mark is currently looking into this. The books of the Association this year will reflect 1993 activities, as well as the first calendar quarter of 1994, in order to be in accordance with the By-Laws changes passed last year which align the financial year with our Annual Meeting. Joe reported that he did not think the software package, Quick Books, was appropriate for the Association's books. He also reported problems printing the postcards, which Tom will investigate. The Newsletter Committee bills were paid.

LANDSCAPING: Mark received a request from Pat Sullivan, formerly of Davey and presently representing another landscaping firm, to bid on the annual maintenance work. Mark is waiting for the proposals from Davey with regards the Common Area. Mark also reported on his attendance at the Mid Am show for landscapers.

NEWSLETTER: There was no response to the Newsletter tear-off sheet regarding nominations. Tom has received the new Fox Hollow newsletter and noted that they list the baby sitters in their subdivision. He thought Oak Leaves might want to consider this.

NOMINATING: Phil, the chairman of this committee, was absent. The Board agreed to call the two names suggested to them as being interested in running.

The Board went into Executive Session at this time.

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 3, 1994 (continued)

OLD BUSINESS:

HOLIDAY BANNER: The check for the holiday banner was received by the City of Warrenville.

NEW BUSINESS:

ANDEN: Tom is working on the Board's response to the Anden settlement.

ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the River Oaks Improvement Association is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 1994, at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall, in the City Council chambers. The mailing should go out as soon as possible.

MOTION: Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M. Joe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Christiansen, Secretary.



New Babe on the Block!

River Oaks has a new resident! Born December 17th was *Morgan Elyse Costlow*, daughter of retiring Board member, Kathryn, and that son of Texas, Terry Costlow. This long young lady topped eight pounds when she entered the world as a rather special Christmas gift. Congratulations, Kathryn and Terry!



**MINUTES
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
RIVER OAKS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
*February 18, 1994***

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Koenig, Phil Brackmann, Joe Lanute, Becky Christiansen, Tom Sinnott, and Mark Moore.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathryn Costlow

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Boivin, John Christiansen, Michael Hitchcock, Elli Kleine, Ann Koenig, Mary Moore, Millianne and Bill Murphy, Skip Nesbit, Tom Saxton, Marnee Sinnott, Ana and Frank Vainisi.

NUMBER OF LOTS REPRESENTED ELIGIBLE TO VOTE: 13

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M. and welcomed those present. Becky explained that the reason for the Annual Meeting taking place on a Friday evening was that this was the only day of the week when the City Council room was available. Other possible meeting sites, such as the meeting room at the Warrenville Fire Station No. 1, should be investigated for next year.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe issued a verbal report of financial activity for the year. The ending balance for the year was \$7,319.

QUESTION: Does this sum represent excess funds?

RESPONSE: These are the reserve funds and are not considered in the budgetary requirements for 1994.

Some of the 1993 dues collected represent advance payments of a portion of 1994 dues. In one case, there was an advance payment that will cover several years. Referring to the 1993 budget, Joe noted that most categories were under budget. The two exceptions were insurance which was over by \$27, and Newsletter which was over by 9 cents. The final figures for the year, which will include a portion of 1994 to coordinate the fiscal year change initiated in last year's By-Laws changes, will appear in the Newsletter.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

ENTERTAINMENT: This Committee is currently inactive, and Kathryn, the chair, was not present. There was no report.

NEWSLETTER: Tom referred to the samples of last year's Oak Leaves on the display board. He is still exchanging newsletters with other subdivisions in Warrenville.

DISCUSSION: The last Fox Hollow newsletter included a list of baby sitters in the subdivision and suggested that River Oaks do the same. This could be done in a Service Corner, which could also include such things as house sitters, dog sitters, snow shovelers, lawn mowers, etc.

DISCUSSION: There was an extremely small response to the questionnaire regarding advertising in Oak Leaves. Comments from those homeowners present included:

- It might off-set costs.
- Homeowners should not have to pay to have their advertising included.
- Advertising would present logistical problems in implementation and much more work for the Committee.
- The Newsletter is presently a community paper and this could change its nature.

LANDSCAPING: Mark reported on the work done by the Committee during the past year. These included:

- Plantings in the entrance island at Rt. 59.
- Plantings along the Common Area entrance between Lots 17 and 18, including 7 trees and 73 shrubs, currently believed to all be alive.
- Arranging for and overseeing the maintenance of the Common Areas.
- Maintenance of the tree nursery in the Lower Common Area, which currently includes 65 trees of 20 different species.
- Minor maintenance of Parkway Trees.

Mark thanked a number of the people who had helped with this Committee this year.

Mark outlined the proposed work for 1994. These will include the Common Areas maintenance management, planting on the berm of dirt behind Lot 40, and repair and landscaping changes to the lower cul-de-sac circle. The major portion of the Landscaping Committee workload this year will be the implementation of the landscaping work resulting from the Anden settlement.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

QUESTION: What is the status of the proposed planting along the Common Area entrance between Lots 9 and 10?

RESPONSE: This will have to wait until next year, as the Anden lawsuit landscaping will occupy most of the time of the Committee.

QUESTION: In what condition are the stairs to the Common Area between Lots 9 and 10?

RESPONSE: They are stable and useable, having been repaired once last summer. Perhaps some minor work might become necessary again this summer if further damage occurs. In the future, the stairs should be more extensively rebuilt, but it is believed that for the moment they are stable.

QUESTION: Is the Association liable for accidents with respect to the stairs?

RESPONSE: Yes, but it is believed that prudent care has been followed and that this negates any claims of intentional negligence.

ANDEN LAWSUIT REVIEW: Tom reviewed the settlement agreement for the City of Warrenville's lawsuit against Anden Corporation, the builder of River Oaks. The suit was settled for the amount of \$47,530.00. This sum is to be divided as follows according to the agreement:

\$33,530	for various public improvement repairs, including sidewalk and driveway apron repairs, curb and gutter replacements, hydrant and light pole work
\$1,000	for concrete work at station 15 + 00
\$13,000	for landscaping work to satisfy Ordinance 828

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT REPAIRS: The City will be in charge of the first two items. The City will determine the extent of such work, and the exact locations that need repair, after inspections to be done this spring.

QUESTION: Can these three areas of cash disbursement be transferred by the City from one to another?

RESPONSE: The City as plaintiff retains some control over the items which receive funding.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

QUESTION: What if the City finds it needs more money than \$33,530 for the public improvement repairs?

RESPONSE: The City plans to do these repairs and combine this work with other City work of the same type that will be ongoing at the same time, to be more cost effective.

LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE WORK: The actual disbursement of the \$13,000 will be done only after River Oaks submits to the City a written plan to outline the work it would like to be done and the City Council approves the plan. This plan must adhere to the specifics of Ordinance 828. These issues include screening along the west boundary (Rt. 59), as well as screening on the north and south boundaries, and replacement of the plantings in the Common Area that were removed by Anden.

According to previous estimates, the scope of this work will exceed the allotted \$13,000. It is hoped that the City will agree to remove dead trees in the subdivision boundaries and to dig the holes for new trees to avoid additional charges for labor. Tom presented an aerial photograph of the River Oaks area in 1979, which showed the dense trees that existed on the boundaries of the property, as well as in the Common Areas.

Soon there will be a survey of the properties on the boundaries to determine the number and type of plantings required, as well as the tree removal work, and the agreement of each homeowner affected to accept such work. Once the City approves the plan, the ROIA Board hopes that the City will set up a pass-through account so that ROIA might execute the plan themselves while benefiting from tax-free purchases as they did for the Parkway Tree program.

QUESTION: Will the area between Lots 31 and 32 be raised and adversely affect the drainage in the adjacent lots?

RESPONSE: No, the area will not be raised without placement of drainage piping. One suggestion has been to put in a raised board walk over the area, so that the entrance can be used for drainage and also for foot access to the Common Area. Other solutions to drain the water are also being investigated.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

QUESTION: What kind and size of screening trees are being considered?

RESPONSE: The trees being considered are evergreens, 5 feet to 7 feet in height. Along Rt. 59, the plantings may consist of two staggered rows, 12 feet apart. These would be put on private property, at the back ends of the Lots that border Rt. 59 and could only be planted with the approval of the homeowners. If the homeowners have already planted in these locations, they might still get the screening trees if they are willing to move their previous plantings.

QUESTION: What will happen to the stumps that are present from the previously-removed dead trees?

RESPONSE: At the present there is no plan for stump removal, although several possibilities could be looked into. The City may assist in the removal of any dead trees.

QUESTION: On the north boundary where access to the backyards is difficult for City work crews and which has screening from existing trees on the private property north of River Oaks, could lilac bushes be used for screening?

RESPONSE: That seems to be a reasonable alternative, since lilac bushes would be easier to move and plant than evergreen trees.

QUESTION: Is the screening only replacement screening?

RESPONSE: No, the Ordinance states that the screening should be maintained or supplemented to ensure 90% density screening on Rt. 59, high density screening along the south and privacy screening along the north boundaries.

QUESTION: What can be done to avoid the flooding in the lower cul-de-sac, as happened in 1993?

RESPONSE: The City maintains that the lower cul-de-sac is supposed to hold overflow waters from extremely heavy rains and that it is behaving as it should.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Becky reported that the first meeting to set up the Neighborhood Watch will be held on Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30 P.M. in the upstairs meeting room of the Warrenville Fire Station on Batavia Rd. Officer Dave Schar will be present to explain the Watch. All those interested should plan to come. The Watch will need as many as six Block Captains.

QUESTION: Has there been an increase in crime in River Oaks?

RESPONSE: The Board has no knowledge of any crime increase. It has not received the quarterly crime report from the Police Department recently.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The terms of three directors of ROIA expire at this Annual Meeting: Kathryn Costlow, Becky Christiansen, and Tom Sinnott. Before the meeting, there were three announced candidates: Chuck Hulse, Becky Christiansen, and Tom Sinnott. Paul called for nominations from the floor and encouraged the homeowners to get involved with the Board. There were no nominations from the floor. The members present voted by secret ballot. To these 13 votes were added votes from five absentee ballots. Chuck, Becky, and Tom were elected to two year terms.

QUESTION: What do the homeowners present think about the possibility of reducing the numbers on the Board to five?

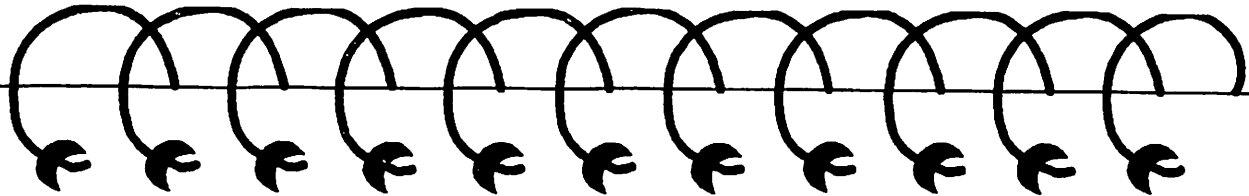
RESPONSE: If a quorum of 4 were required, then it might work. The City has eight aldermen for the whole City, while River Oaks has seven Board members, which seems disproportionately large. The Board could run into difficulties and become too small if there were several members who had to move away in a year, or if too many of the Board members travelled.

There was no further business to conduct.

The seventh annual homeowners meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Christiansen, Secretary





The RIVER OAKS SERVICE CORNER

A listing of some handy services provided by your neighbors in River Oaks.

Children & Pet companions:

Sara Vainisi, Age 14
Evenings and Weekends
Lot #2, 393-3238

Angela Vainisi, Age 15
Evenings and Weekends
Lot #2, 393-3238
Starting June 15, 1994

Stephanie Sinnott, Age 10
Pet Companion & Plant Care Extraordinaire
Weekends or Holidays
Lot #53, 393-2808

Snow Shoveling and Lawn Cutting and Pet Sitting:
Joey Vainisi, Age 12
Lot #2, 393-3238

Emma Goodman, Age 9 Pet Care
House Watching, Plant Watering, Lawn and Garden Jobs
Lot #15, 393-2431

If you are interested in advertising your neighborhood services in **Oak Leaves**, please contact any Board Member with a list of your specialties.

Oak Leaves is also interested in making available to River Oaks residents referrals for service providers who have "done a good job" for River Oaks residents. For example, if the handyman who built your deck did a great job at a reasonable price, or if the plumber came on time, fixed the problem, and didn't drive off in an Infiniti, you might want to make your neighbors aware of a good quality service. Please contact any Board member with your referrals, and **Oak Leaves** will list them in the Service Corner.

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 3, 1994

PRESENT: Paul Koenig, Phil Brackmann, Chuck Hulse, Joe Lanute, Tom Sinnott, Mark Moore, and Becky Christiansen

Paul called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

MINUTES: The minutes from the Annual Homeowners Meeting were read and amended.

MOTION: Tom moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mark seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe stated that currently there is \$7,350 in the River Oaks account. Last month's service charge was less than the interest earned. The only activity in the account was the \$25 check to the City of Warrenville for the holiday banner and one dues deposit. Davey withdrew the bill sent in error in December.

MOTION: Tom moved to accept the treasurer's report. Phil seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom brought a catalogue from which to order blank post cards for laser printers. The Board selected a design and Joe will order the cards to use for ROIA dues statements. The cost of the cards is under \$20 for 200.

MOTION: Joe moved to purchase the laser printer post cards. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next dues statement will be for six months, since this will be the first dues statements for 1994. Joe will be continuing to align the books with the new fiscal year defined by the By-Laws changes.

MOTION: Paul moved to send the City of Warrenville a check for \$25 in appreciation for the use of the City Council chambers for the Annual Meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom will write a cover letter for this contribution.



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 3, 1994 (continued)

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:02 P.M. for the purpose of discussing Board offices and committee chairmanships for the new year. The Executive Session ended at 8:32 P.M.

The Board officers and committee chairmanships for 1994 are as follows:

President	Mark Moore, Landscaping Chair
Vice President	Tom Sinnott, Anden, Landscaping committee
Treasurer	Joe Lanute
Secretary	Becky Christiansen
Newsletter	Phil Brackmann, Chair
Nominating	Paul Koenig, Entertainment committee
City Liaison	Chuck Hulse, Landscaping committee
Entertainment	Amy Salyer, Chair

Entertainment will be chaired by a non-Board member, Amy Salyer. Paul Koenig will serve on her Committee as a Board representative. Landscaping will cover the usual Common Area maintenance work and other minor landscaping projects outlined at the Annual Meeting. Landscaping, Anden Issues, and City Liaison will be working together on the lawsuit settlement issues. The City Liaison will provide contact with the Public Works department regarding the settlement work.

ENTERTAINMENT: Phil read a note from Amy regarding the Easter Egg Hunt. The Hunt is tentatively scheduled for March 26 at 11:00 A.M., with a rain date of March 27th at 2:00 P.M. The Easter Bunny will not be making an appearance at this year's hunt. Candy donations will be accepted through March 19th.

LANDSCAPING: The first Landscaping Committee meeting will be scheduled for Saturday, March 5th, at 9 A.M. at the Moore's house. Mark expressed the need to get a working plan for the settlement issues. This includes defining a scope of work for bid solicitation for the Common Area drainage work between Lots 31 and 32 and the river bank erosion repair. Chuck suggested several possibilities for the river bank work.

DISCUSSION: Would it be possible to only weed the Common Areas, instead of both weed and feed, in order to reduce the dandelions? Mark explained that if the weed and feed is done early enough, it should be effective against dandelions. Due to lawsuit considerations for the last two years, the weed and feed was put on too late to be totally effective.

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 3, 1994 (continued)

NEWSLETTER: A Service Corner was suggested for the Newsletter, to include a listing of baby sitters, snow shovelers, lawn mowers, etc. In addition, Amy Salyer has volunteered to coordinate a Reference/Referral list for repairmen. She will ask the homeowners here for names of workers with whom they have been pleased. These could include electricians, plumbers, deck builders, etc. It was also suggested that the Newsletter include information about Illinois' recent phone solicitation laws, which clearly define the time of day that phone solicitations can be made, as a community service.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE: A homeowner requested that the Board send a letter of appreciation to the Warrenville Fire Department paramedic unit for their prompt response to several individual 911 calls from River Oaks. In reference to individual calls, the Board felt that it is appropriate that the recipients, or families of the recipients of the aid should respond with their own thank you letters.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Paul, Chuck, and Becky attended the first Neighborhood Watch meeting on March 2nd. A total of seven River Oaks residents attended. Becky will be the River Oaks chairman of the Neighborhood Watch committee. The police department needs applications from residents who would be willing to act as block captains. These block captains will organize and set up the watch, as well as act as police contacts for River Oaks. Two applications were turned in at the meeting, but more are needed before the next step in setting up the watch can occur. Paul suggested that the Board consider using ROIA funds to pay for the street signs for the Neighborhood Watch. Such signs cost approximately \$58 for four signs. The Board was in agreement on this issue.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24th at the Brackmanns' house, at 7:30 P.M. Becky will have the schedule for the rest of the year's Board meetings, which will be on the third Thursdays of the months.

MOTION: Mark moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Christiansen, Secretary

PERIMETER SCREENING UPDATE

This spring River Oaks will initiate the implementation of various portions of work arising from the City's lawsuit with Anden. Many residents along the Northern, Western and Southern boundaries of River Oaks have already been contacted by Landscaping Committee members in order to determine the maximum number of trees (or shrubs) which they are eligible to receive under the terms of the remediation plan. The drafting and implementation of the remediation plan is a somewhat complicated matter. In order to provide the residents of River Oaks with an overview of this situation, the following narrative is offered for your review. If you have any questions about the plan, please plan on attending the next meeting of the Landscaping Committee, or contact Tom Sinnott at 393-2808.

Phase I - survey & drafting of the remediation plan:

We are currently completing a survey of the properties eligible to receive screening landscaping. This survey will provide us with the **maximum** of trees and shrubs which need to be purchased. Residents will be advised of the maximum number of trees (or shrubs) they are eligible to receive. The homeowner will then pick out the requisite number of plants from the approved species list. Rules governing the screening will be given to each eligible homeowner.

A draft version of the remediation plan has been completed. When the survey data is available, it will be incorporated into the final draft of the plan, whereupon the plan will be submitted to the City for its approval. The concept is that the City will make the landscaping funds in the settlement available to the River Oaks Improvement Association, which will coordinate and oversee the implementation of the remediation plan.

Phase II - logistical considerations:

In order to determine the size of the screening landscaping, we need to be able to ascertain how various operations will be carried out. These operations include: removal of dead trees, stump removal and planting of the new trees and shrubs. While the City has offered to help with the removal of dead trees, the details of their involvement have yet to be determined. Given our experience with the parkway tree program, we know that planting activities can consume 1/3 of the cost of the plants themselves. Preliminary discussions have been held with the City concerning the City's participation in this planting along the Western boundary. We may be able to elicit some City support for the planting activities, but any planting along highway 59 will most likely involve the temporary removal of fencing to allow efficient access to the planting sites. A similar situation exists at some properties along the Southern boundary. If fencing must be removed, the Association will be responsible for the removal and re-installation of the fences. Excess dirt may be used to repair erosion at the West Branch of the DuPage River.

Phase III - implementation:

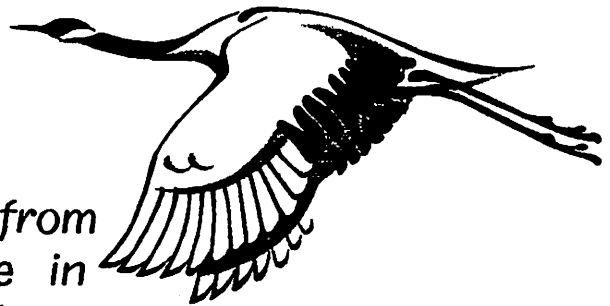
After the extent of the City's participation is known, purchase orders will be placed with various nurseries and contractors. J.U.L.I.E. will be contacted to mark underground utilities. Tree and stump removal activities will be undertaken. Homeowners will be instructed to move trees in accordance with their preferences as noted on the survey sheets. Prior to delivery of the plants, fencing will be

PERIMETER SCREENING UPDATE (continued)

removed as necessary, and digging of the planting holes will commence. Planting will be a busy time! The plants will be delivered, and offloaded as necessary. To the extent possible, planting activities will be coordinated with the digging operations in order to make efficient use of equipment, and to reduce storage time of the plants. After planting, the plants will be mulched. Although we will attempt to obtain warranties where possible, the care and maintenance of the screening trees and shrubs are the responsibility of the homeowner.

In order for River Oaks to receive the maximum benefit of the settlement (i.e. the largest plants possible), it will be necessary for the individual homeowners to participate as much as possible in the planting activities. As many Oakers will recall, the work parties responsible for planting the parkway trees had FUN! The planting of over 100 trees was an occasion to rub elbows with friendly neighbors in an informal atmosphere of common purpose. All of us will benefit from the screening activities, and the value of ALL properties in River Oaks will be enhanced as a result of better privacy and noise screening.

**A BIG RIVER OAKS
THANK YOU
TO SUSAN RAY !**



Susan will soon be flying away from River Oaks to her new home in Florida, and has donated 2 tables to the Association! Thanks, Susan! Your thoughtfulness will be remembered every time we use your fine gift. The best wishes of your River Oaks neighbors go with you as you get settled in your new neighborhood.

According to Mr. Humor's Little Black Book, a certain figure skater can be reached at 800-555-#*#*