



## OAK LEAVES

Volume VII

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Number 7

**H**ow's this for a Hot Summer!!! It's hard to avoid the obvious subject for openers. Everything and everyone is hot and uncomfortable. Including your gardens, lawns, and trees. Here are a few tips to remember when caring for your home outside.

- Do your watering in the evening or early morning. During the daylight hours less than 70% of what you sprinkle ever hits the soil.
- Water Trees with about 3 - 5 buckets of water every week.
- Let your lawn grow a little longer.

Protect your investment! This kind of summer can be hard on many plants and animals. Just look at how hard it is on us!

### Calendar of Events

- ◇ Saturday Aug, 5,  
10:00 AM, Finish  
building stairs.
- ◇ Tuesday, Aug 22,  
Entertainment  
Meeting at Lynch's  
7:30 PM
- ◇ Wednesday, Aug  
23, Landscape  
Meeting at Sinnots  
7:30 PM
- ◇ Thursday, Aug 24,  
Board Meeting at  
Moore's 7:30 PM

## Minutes

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date:** June 27, 1995

**Present:** Tom Sinnott, Brian Lynch, Mark Moore, Becky Christiansen, Paul Koenig, Joe Lanute

**Absent:** Chuck Hulse

**Guest:** Mary Moore

Tom called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

**Minutes:** There were several grammatical corrections made to the minutes from the June 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting. **Motion:** Brian made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The current balance in the ROIA checking account is \$9,898.58. The Brickmann bill will have to be adjusted for the canceled mowings after the August payment. Joe will be checking area banks and their service charges to see if a bank with lower service charges can be found. Tom suggested looking at money market accounts that offer limited checking, since ROIA's funds would be above the minimums required for those accounts. There are still some people who are confused because of the changes in the payment schedule of dues implemented over the past year, due to the change in the fiscal year. Tom will write a recap of the payment schedule for this transitional period of time, which Mark will put in the Newsletter.

Expenses for period 6/21/95 to 7/27/95 include the following:

Newsletter	\$ -24.39
Treasurer (postage)	-10.82
Davey Tree (1994 Lawn Mowing bill)	-462.75
Landscaping (Common Area entrance way planting)	-52.23
Service Charge	-43.36
Interest	+18.38

**Motion:** Mark moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Entertainment:** Brian reviewed the responses to the Entertainment questionnaire. Nearly 50 homeowners responded to the questionnaire, with the majority of

those responding expressing their preference for the Taste of River Oaks. The majority also preferred that the dues remain the same and that events be paid for by those attending if more moneys are needed. Some events that also gained a positive responses were the Easter egg hunt, group excursions, Halloween party and Christmas caroling.

The Entertainment Committee met on July 20. Attending were Brian, Paul Koenig, Ana Vainisi, Linda Saxton, and Linda Simak. The Committee agreed on Saturday, September 16, as the date of the annual River Oaks picnic, with Sunday, September 17 as a rain date. They agreed that this year's theme would be a Taste of River Oaks, with each family attending bringing a dish of food to contribute to the buffet. Ana will coordinate the food. Paul will check to see if paper products were left from last year with Amy Salyer. Brian will be in charge of the games and is looking into prizes for the games. A flyer will be distributed on August 28<sup>th</sup>, asking people if they will be attending and what kind of dish they would like to bring. Tom suggested that there be an effort to get the recipes for the Taste contributions for a recipe exchange, such as was done in the past. The Committee suggested that all new families be given special invitations to attend.

**City Liaison:** Chuck was not present. Tom will try to find out how soon the drainage work can be done in the Common Area. Mark discussed the continuing problem regarding the oil slick damage to the Common Area. Tom suggested discussing with the City the possibility that tracers (sponges tied with cord) be put at all storm sewer locations that connect with the pipes flowing through the Common Area, in order to pinpoint the location of the contamination.

**Landscaping:** There was no mowing two weeks ago due to the drought. When the mowing is canceled, Tom explained that he sends a fax, as well as a posted letter copy, to Brickmann on the Tuesday before the canceled Saturday mowing date. Mark will do this during the weeks that Tom will be on vacation. There will be no work on the new stairs this coming weekend. Work will resume on the first weekend in August. Tom hopes to get some people to help him move the telephone poles away from the crest of the river bank above the outfall pipe this weekend (July 29-30 ). He will see about the sign repainting schedule with the painter. The Board would like to thank Elli Kleine and her son Stefan for their weeding of the entryway island. They did this on their own

initiative, and the Board thanks them for their time and energy.

**Newsletter:** Brian suggested that an introductory letter be written to welcome new homeowners into the subdivision. Such a letter would include a brief history of River Oaks, and explanations about the Board, activities and dues. The next edition of the Newsletter should include information about the new neighbors, as well as a note about the death of River Oaks homeowner Bill Emerson.

Mark reported that he has received a copy of the Fox Hollow Newsletter. He noted three items of general interest that could also be included in **Oak Leaves**. These include 1) a note that Fermilab is now closed to traffic, 2) a reminder that Batavia Rd between Butterfield and Rt. 59 will be resurfaced soon, and 3) mention of tests of a commuter rail system on the EJ&E tracks on the west side of Summerlakes. The next Newsletter should be out sometime next week. Mark will follow-up with Kelly Kreminski regarding the River Oaks historian position.

### **Old Business:**

**Car Problem:** Tom reported that he has sent a thank you letter to the second homeowner who has moved the illegally parked car from their yard.

### **New Business:**

**Homeowner Allegations to County Authorities re River Bank Work:** The Board reviewed a report on the meeting held on July 20 with the ROIA Board of Directors, and County and City officials. This meeting was held to discuss allegations brought before County officials by the Salyers, Lot 23, that claimed that ROIA was in violation of governmental ordinances in the river bank work begun this spring. The report, which will be published in the Newsletter and attached to these minutes, is a summary of the meeting with Joseph Chaplin, Stream Maintenance Coordinator, DuPage County, and Ron Mentzer, Community Development Director, City of Warrenville. It was clarified at the meeting that jurisdiction of the river bank above the flood plain does not lie with the County but with the City. Mr. Mentzer saw no violations of any ordinances, nor did he see the need for any permits for the river bank work. See report for details. Mark will send follow-up letters to both Mr. Mentzer and Mr. Chaplin.

**Security Light Nuisance:** Several homeowners have complained to the Board about a nuisance security

light. They claim that this security light is shining directly into their houses, decks and yards. Tom will send a letter to the light owners asking for their help in this matter, in the hopes that the problem can be resolved within the neighborhood.

**Motion:** Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Christiansen, Secretary

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 24, at the Moores', 2S. 561 River Oaks Dr.



**H**ave you noticed the entrance island at Hwy. 59? Give your thanks to Elli and Stephen Kleine. They got out in the hot sun and pulled those ugly weeds. Thanks a Million, it looks great.



# DUES NEWS



RIVER OAKERS HARD  
AT WORK !  
ENDURE BROILING  
HEAT!!  
BUILDING FOR  
TOMORROW !!!

Two years ago, as part of the by-law amendments, River Oaks changed its fiscal year. Formerly, our fiscal year began in January (*before* the Annual Meeting). Now, our fiscal year begins in March (*after* the Annual Meeting).

The re-alignment was done in order to better match-up our fiscal year with the actual times River Oaks establishes budgets and incurs most expenses.

While there was no dues increase for 1995, it can *appear* that there was because dues for the last 2 months in what used to be fiscal 1994 appeared on the 1995 dues postcards. *Confused yet? Wait, it gets better.* Here's a recap:

**Billing date notes**

5/31/95	\$52.50 (included 2 months NOT billed for FY 1994)
8/31/95	\$31.50
11/31/95	\$31.50
2/28/96	\$31.50 (what used to be the first 2 months of FY 1996)

While the paperwork can seem confusing, it will help River Oaks better systematize our budgets.

The dues for any 12 month period have not changed, it is only the relationship between the fiscal year and the calendar year which has been adjusted.

Remember, its been 6 years since the dues were **DECREASED!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joe Lanute (our Treasurer who had to deal with all the bookkeeping) or another Board member.

Lead by Mark "SAW KING" Moore, intrepid River Oaker **manly men** have spent a couple of long & HOT weekends working on the Common Area stairs. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the old stairs were carefully dismantled and saved. Then 10 holes were measured, drilled and dug - 42 inches deep! New posts were cut, squared and sunk in concrete and the rest of the new lumber was put in position. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the new stair stringers were cut and primary framing assembled. In spite of record temperatures, an inconvenient thunderstorm, LOTS of mud and a hardware shortage, the game guys of River Oaks persevered.

**A VERY BIG and WELL DESERVED THANKS TO:** Mark Moore, Tom Sinnott, Jim Hoffman, John Christiansen, Paul Koenig, Brian Lynch and Frank Vainisi,

A very special thanks to Kelly Kreminski and her thirst slaking, LIFE SAVING iced tea. A most appreciated break. THANKS from a bunch of hot & thirsty guys!

And a dry River Oaks thanks to *Russell Christiansen* for the tarps which kept our tools dry and probably gave a few Oakers pause to stare during the rain. See, we DO have enough sense to come in out of the rain (just barely).

Plans are to complete the new stairs within the next couple of weeks.

**REPORT on ROIA MEETING with  
COUNTY and CITY OFFICIALS  
held on 7/20/95**

***REASON FOR THE MEETING:***

The meeting was requested by the Board of Directors in order to discuss and resolve several alleged violations lodged against the River Oaks Improvement Association (ROIA) by Mr. and Mrs. James Salyer, Lot 23.

The allegations were first brought to the attention of Tom Sinnott, President, ROIA, at an unannounced meeting in the late afternoon of June 28, 1995 when Mrs. Salyer brought Mr. Joseph Chaplin of the DuPage Department of Environmental Concerns to the Sinnotts' house for an impromptu encounter.

***MEETING ATTENDEES:***

Joseph Chaplin, Jr., Stream Maintenance Coordinator, Department of Environmental Concerns, Stormwater Management Division, DuPage County

Ron Mentzer, Community Development Director, City of Warrenville

Mark Moore, Vice-President, ROIA

Chuck Hulse, City Liaison, ROIA; Warrenville Plan Commission

Becky Christiansen, Secretary, ROIA

Brian Lynch, ROIA Director

Paul Koenig, ROIA Director

John Christiansen, Member, ROIA Landscaping Committee; Chairman, Warrenville Natural Areas Commission

***SUMMARY:***

Mrs. Salyer, in her communications with Mr. Chaplin, asserted that activities of the ROIA along the river bank were in violation of several governmental ordinances and regulations. On June 28, 1995, Mr. Chaplin performed an on-site investigation with Mrs. Salyer. Mr. Chaplin formally reported his observations in a response letter to Mr. and Mrs. Salyer on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Since jurisdiction of the bulk of the river bank falls to the City, he referred Mr. and Mrs. Salyer to Mr. Mentzer, the City of Warrenville official who evaluates possible City code violations. Mr. Chaplin also sent Mr. Mentzer a copy the his Salyer response letter. **No violations were found by either Mr. Chaplin or Mr. Mentzer.**

## DISCUSSION:

The observations enumerated in Mr. Chaplin's response letter to the Salyers were discussed as follows:

- [1] Mr. Chaplin remarked that the telephone poles and wood at the top of the river bank, while violating no ordinance, might pose a potential threat to the river if a torrential rain and substantial flood caused them to be swept over the bank, and therefore should be moved away from the crest of the hill above the outfall pipe. Mr. Moore agreed to alleviate this potential problem by shifting the items away from this point.
- [2] Mr. Chaplin noted remains of dumped grass clippings. Mr. Moore explained that this has been a sporadic problem in River Oaks and that the Newsletter has published several articles over the years regarding this unwanted practice.
- [3] Mr. Chaplin observed that there had been dumping of materials down the river banks at various locations. He was also shown a bare area at the foot of the river bank as an alleged dump site. Mr. Moore explained that Anden (the builder of River Oaks) had done the dumping when the sub-division was being built and that the bare spot in question was the site of a controlled burn of undesirable undergrowth that been conducted, with the City's knowledge, this spring.
- [4] Mr. Chaplin noted the presence of the small terraces and the trees, identified to him by Mr. Sinnott as gray dogwoods, during his previous visit. Mr. Chaplin agreed that gray dogwoods are desirable trees for river bank erosion control. He suggested that a simpler solution would have been to plant grass with a temporary aspen mat covering. Mr. Christiansen explained that that approach had been tried by the builder, but had not been effective. Mr. Chaplin stated that he had not seen any signs of serious erosion. Mr. Moore explained that a deeply eroded area at the top of the bank was filled by ROIA this spring with an estimated 5 cubic yards of fill.

***Mr. Chaplin found no violations of any county or state ordinance or regulation as a result of the work along the river bank by the River Oaks Improvement Association.***

Mr. Chaplin explained that the State of Illinois has jurisdiction over all building in the floodway and flood plain of the river, and would require permits for any building done in that area. He defined building to mean man-made structures. He explained that natural vegetation may be added to or removed from the flood plain without a permit. Mr. Christiansen asked if the County could provide lists of suppliers of natural vegetation. Mr. Chaplin said he would send ROIA what information he has on appropriate nursery sources. Mr. Chaplin said that citizens are encouraged to remove undesirable growth from the river area, and replant with plants appropriate to the ecology of the area.

Mr. Chaplin further explained that the river bank above the flood plain (i.e. above the outfall pipe) falls under City jurisdiction. In response to Mr. Chaplin's question regarding whether the ROIA installed fill needed a City permit, Mr. Mentzer explained that it did not, since the City does not require a permit for the installation of less than 5,000 cubic feet of fill (ROIA installed an estimated 135 cubic feet of fill), nor did the City require a permit for the ROIA-installed retention structures downslope from the gray dogwoods.

***Mr. Mentzer further stated that he had found no violations of any City code or ordinance as a result of the work along the river bank by the River Oaks Improvement Association.***

### **FUTURE RIVER BANK WORK:**

Mr. Chaplin enthusiastically encouraged ROIA erosion control work along the river bank, and discussed the soon-to-be implemented Streamline Stabilization project. The county, he explained, is concerned about erosion and destabilization of the river area and is encouraging citizen participation by assisting in the planning and execution of streamside projects. He also mentioned the idea of adopting a stretch of river much as stretches of highways are adopted by various groups. Mr. Moore noted that ROIA has already had several conversations with the West Branch Project of the Conservation Foundation of DuPage regarding a river bank adoption for River Oaks. He noted ROIA's history of river clean-up, combined with bank stabilization and planting management should meet the goals of the Streamline Stabilization project.

Mr. Chaplin added that County resources are available to assist with clean-up and stabilization activities. He said that the County has a program to help community groups remove dead or unwanted trees. The county will provide a contractor to take the trees down and cut them up. The community group must then provide the manpower to haul the pieces to a road where county trucks will then collect the wood. Mr. Moore mentioned that this is of great interest to River Oaks, since there are many dead and undesirable trees along the river bank.

Mr. Moore expressed the strong desire of River Oaks to continue its work on the river bank and assured the City that we will continue to work closely with them on any projects that need City approval. Mr. Moore cited the close work done by ROIA and the City on the formulation of the Parkway Tree Plan, now a model for parkway tree planting in the City of Warrenton, as well as the effective collaboration between ROIA and the City during the prolonged Anden lawsuit pursuance and resolution.

In summary, the meeting was very productive, and will lead to expansion of the scope and environmental value of the ROIA riverbank project in several areas without requiring significant ROIA expenditures.

# Adopt a Family

Have you ever seen the sparkle in the child's eye on Christmas morning? Then I'm sure you'll agree, it's a feeling you never out-grow! But did you know that several children and their families won't experience that feeling this Christmas? How many times have you thought of helping a less fortunate family, but felt like you couldn't make a difference as an individual, or maybe thought you didn't have the time or finances?

Now is your opportunity to make a difference for a less fortunate family. It will take so little and mean so much if River Oaks could adopt a family for Christmas.

I know August is rather early to be thinking of Christmas, but I thought I would spark an interest before the hustle and bustle of the holidays begins. I've spoken to Sally McCarthy at the Warrenville Police Dept. Social Services area about River Oaks adopting a family. She will be getting back to me around the second week of August with more information. I'll be in touch.

If you have any comments, Questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 393-9563.

Thanks, Kelly Kreminski



## Some Tid Bits

Have you tried to drive though Fermi Lab lately? As of last week end Batavia Road entrance is closed to thru traffic. Bicycle and Foot traffic are always welcome.

When Highway 59 gets done, don't sigh in relief to soon. City council is debating on resurfacing Batavia Road and possibly widening it. Be patient.....

Metra is running test commuter trains on the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern rail line. If successful this could be a new commuter route with a potential Warrenville station.

# Welcome Home

**Andy and Sandy Gorski in Lot 11. We're glad you are here.**



## TASTE OF RIVER OAKS

The annual Taste of River Oaks, the yearly gathering of the River Oaks clan for food and frolic, will take place on Saturday, September 16 (rain date the 17th), beginning at approximately 4:00 p.m. and continuing until we decide we don't want to be there any more. Sounds simple enough, right? Okay, so here's how it works. On or about August 28th, each homeowner will find a flier in their front door announcing the Taste, the date, and the time. Each homeowner will be asked to: A) decide if they will be able to attend, and B) what they would like to bring. There will be suggestions on the yet-to-be-written flier about different types of food: appetizers, main dishes, side dishes, dessert, huge quantities of junk food, and the ever popular other.

Now for the easy part. About a week to ten days later, the entertainment committee will divide the subdivision, with each member of the committee calling a few households finding out if: A) they are coming, and B) what they will bring. Ana Vainisi volunteered, with the help of Linda Simak, to organize the food. This way we will try to avoid having all 64 homeowners bringing the same item. (Though I'm sure they would all taste WONDERFUL, variety is the spice.....aren't cliché's wonderful?)

After much heated discussion and only limited blood-letting, the committee decided to provide utensils - plates, napkins, cups, forks, knives, other-and drinks-lemonade, iced tea, water, and soda- instead of doing any actual cooking. It was felt that having any one person swelter over a hot grill all day defeated the purpose of having a social get together. The poor person caught behind the grill would not be able to enjoy the Taste as much as his/her beloved neighbors.

Yours truly, Brian Lynch, will be in charge of the entertainment for the Taste. I more than welcome any help and suggestions. If anyone has access to something they consider a perfect door prize....bagel certificates, a free pizza, a new car....please feel free to secure the prizes and contact me, or the other way around. Also, for anyone who said on the questionnaire that they would like to help with entertainment and were not able to attend the last meeting, we welcome your help. If you would like to help with this or any other project, contact any one of the committee. (Brian Lynch, Paul Koenig, Ana Vainisi, Linda Saxton, and Linda Simak.....so far)

So mark your calendar, get out your recipe books, and get ready to party on Sept. 16!



## Complaint Department

Recently we have received two complaints with requests to have them in the newsletter.

1. Children have been riding bicycles on lawns, front and back. Please ask your kids to use the sidewalk, and skip the common area and private properties as a short cut.
2. There are several homeowners with gardens that are easily accessible from the common areas. As this years harvest of fruits and vegetables comes near please leave the crop to the homeowners. Apparently juicy ripe tomatoes have proven to much temptation for someone.

## **COUGARS TICKETS!!**

Due to a limited response..... ZERO..... there will be NO River Oaks excursion to the Kane County Cougars this year. Whether an inconvenient date was selected or people could not commit that far in advance I don't know. Oh well, we'll try again on some future project.  
that's entertainment



### **NEED A BABY-SITTER?**

Baby sitting certificate and experience; pet companionship and plant care extraordinaire.

Please call Stephanie Sinnott 393-2808.



### **WANT TO ADVERTISE A NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE?**

Give Mark Moore a call or drop a note in the door at 2 S. 561 and we'll include your ad in the Newsletter.