



# River Oaks Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 3

May 1992

## GARAGE SALE



Our annual garage sale is set for Friday, May 29th, and Saturday, May 30th, from 9 to 4. If you are interested in participating in one or both days, contact Linda Saxton (393-2206) or Cheryl Soelke (393-9861) by May 20th.

Linda and Cheryl are planning to put an ad in some of the local papers the week before the sale. Participants will split the cost (nominal) of the ad and place balloons on their mailbox on the garage sale days. Call Linda or Cheryl for more details and the balloons.



## LEAF OUT !



On Friday, April 24, the last of the Parkway Trees were planted in River Oaks. The total number of trees is 108. This includes 97 trees purchased by the River Oaks Improvement Association, 10 trees donated by the Morton Arboretum, and 1 tree donated by the City of Warrentville. In all, 19 species and 25 varieties of trees are now in the parkways of River Oaks. It should be a wonderful sight when they all leaf out!

In honor of our new trees, and for their benefit and your own, the Newsletter will contain two new columns each month. One will focus on pointers for care and maintenance of the trees. A second column will 'introduce' each month several of the varieties of the trees we planted. We hope you enjoy these articles and that you find them useful.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*Wednesday, May 20*

Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee Meeting  
7:30 PM at the Sinnotts'

*Thursday, May 21*

Board of Directors Meeting  
7:30 PM at the Koenigs'

*Tuesday, May 26*

Newsletter Committee Meeting  
7:30 PM at the Noffsingers'

*Friday & Saturday, May 29 & 30*

Annual River Oaks Garage Sale

*Wednesday, June 17*

Landscape Committee Meeting  
7:30 PM at the Brackmanns'

If you are wondering which trees are which, take a walk around River Oaks (now that the weather promises warmer days ahead) and look at the tree name stakes in the ground next to each tree. Remember that with 25 varieties, you will be seeing them leaf out at different times, in many different ways. Be patient and enjoy the diversity!

### **PARKWAY TREES NEED WATER !**

**We haven't had much rain, so NOW is the time to give the Parkway Trees another good drink of water (3 to 5 buckets). For details, see tree care article.**



## TREE CARE BULLETIN



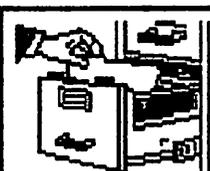
The planting and mulching of our new parkway trees was done in accordance with published guidelines from the Morton Arboretum. In the wake of the highly successful planting of our parkway trees, the Newsletter provides these brief excerpts from the Morton Arboretum booklet, *Selecting and Planting Trees*, and Information Leaflet No. 31, *Minimizing Transplant Shock*, to help us to help our new trees in coping with their critical first few months in their new home.

**WATERING:** *Following transplanting it is often necessary to water trees and shrubs for 2 to 3 years to provide an adequate water supply while root systems are becoming established. ... The tree should be watered with 6 to 10 gallons [3 to 5 buckets full] at 14 to 20 day intervals during dry periods of the growing season. Allowing the water hose to run for prolonged periods of time can result in overwatering and cause the roots to drown from lack of adequate soil aeration. Probably more trees and shrubs are killed or injured by overwatering than by being given no supplemental water at all.*

**FERTILIZATION:** *Fertilization at the time of planting is generally not recommended. ... It is unlikely that any nutrient is limiting the growth of the tree immediately after transplanting. Drought stress is probably the most limiting factor at that time. Fertilization should be delayed for a season or two after the tree is planted.*

### PLEASE REMEMBER:

If your neighbors are unable to water any obviously parched trees in their section of parkway, PLEASE take it upon yourself to water those trees, too! It doesn't take that long, and it could save the tree!



## ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The final tax assessments are out, and the bottom line is that there will be no reduction in the assessments this year. We knew when we appealed the assessments that we were quite close to the mandated 33 1/3% level of assessment. We expressed our concern to the assessor and the Board of Review that although we were near this level, most of older Warrenville was not, and hence we were being unfairly treated. It will be interesting to check next November to see if 'old Warrenville' is going to be brought up to our level!

## Name Our Newsletter Contest - Last Call

***Our Newsletter is still nameless in spite of its distinctive personality. Can you help us choose a name? We need your suggestions by May 15th. Contact any member of the Newsletter staff.***

## ARBOR DAY FESTIVITIES



Despite the blustery weather, River Oaks residents turned out to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a beautiful linden tree donated to the subdivision by the City of Warrenville. Members of the Natural Areas Commission were present, and one of their members, Bernard Wilger, gave a short history on the origin of Arbor Day. Mark Moore, Co-Chairperson of the landscaping committee, gave a talk on the River Oaks Parkway Tree Program. Mayor Vivian Lund then presented Tom Sinnott with a proclamation commemorating the planting of 108 parkway trees. Tom, on behalf of the Homeowners Association, presented a ceremonial scroll to the Mayor listing all of our parkway trees. The scroll was beautifully written in calligraphy by Mary Moore. After the official ceremony, it was time to plant the linden. This was accomplished with the help of Brownie Scout Troop 863. Then it was on to the Koenigs where we enjoyed cookies, punch and coffee. All in all, it was a great way to celebrate the completion of the planting of the parkway trees. Thanks to all who made it a fun event.

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*Attached to this Newsletter are several brochures that were provided at the Arbor Day celebration here in River Oaks. We are passing these along to you, in case you have any interest in them.*

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As a result of the River Oaks parkway tree planting program, we have 108 new parkway trees, representing 19 separate botanical species and 25 different varieties. Some are familiar to most of us; some you may never have heard of. This issue of the Newsletter begins a series of articles in which we introduce several of our newcomers each month.

#### HYBRID ELM

We received 10 of these fine young trees as a gift from the Morton Arboretum. They are the product of an intensive research effort underway at the Arboretum since 1972, led by Dr. George Ware. The research is aimed at finding a disease-resistant look-alike replacement for the vase-shaped American Elm, which has been decimated by Dutch Elm Disease. Our elms are hybrids, created by crossing various strains of Asian elms. Right now they are the smallest trees on the parkway, but maybe not for long! Dr. Ware has indicated that, once they are established, within a year or so of transplanting, they are capable of growth rates of up to 6 feet per year! These trees should reach around 60 to 70 feet at maturity. Their fall color is yellow.

#### KATSURATREE

We were fortunate enough to have found 2 Katsuras for our parkway. These trees originate in Japan. Their leaves, heart-shaped like redbud leaves only smaller, are reddish purple when they open, changing to blue-green through the summer, and to apricot-yellow in the fall. Fall Katsura leaves are said to smell like cotton candy! Katsuras are medium to fast growers (around 2 feet/year once established), reaching a mature height of 40 to 60 feet. There are some terrific fully-grown Katsuras in the gardens between the Visitors Center and the Research Center on the east side of the Morton Arboretum.

#### NORWAY MAPLE

The Norway Maple is native to much of northern Europe. It generally reaches 40 to 50 feet at maturity, and casts dense shade. Its leaves are very similar to Sugar Maple. We have two different cultivars (distinct varieties) of Norway Maple in our parkway: 4 'Emerald Queen' and 7 'Crimson King'.

●'Emerald Queen' Norway Maple is relatively rapid growing for a hard maple (over 1 foot/year), with large dark green leaves turning yellow in fall.

●'Crimson King' Norway Maple is highly unusual in that its leaves are a deep red-maroon color from spring through fall. Its average growth rate is around 1 foot/year.

#### TULIPTREE

Tuliptree, also known as Yellow Poplar or Tulip Poplar, is not a poplar but is an ancient member of the magnolia family, native to the U.S. It is the tallest-growing hardwood in the eastern U.S., reaching 150 feet in the wild, but typically 70 to 90 feet in cultivation. It is a fast grower once established, averaging 2 to 3 feet per year. Trees over about ten years old bear green-and-orange tulip-shaped flowers high up in the leaf canopy. The tuliptree's large leaves resemble tulips in outline. Fall color is a clear yellow. Tuliptrees prefer moist soil. There are 7 Tuliptrees in our parkway.



Over 60 children participated in our 1992 Easter Egg Hunt, which had been postponed to April 12, Palm Sunday, due to rain. The children welcomed the arrival of the Easter Bunny, who was picked up near Farmer MacGregor's garden earlier that day and escorted to River Oaks via the Eagle Express.

After receiving a treat from the Easter Bunny's basket, the children divided into three age groups: 0 - 5, 6 - 8, and 9 - 12, and went to the assigned yard. They collected 600 brightly-colored plastic eggs lilled with wrapped candies and treats which had been donated by the participating families. A picture of this fun and noteworthy event appeared in the *Warrenville Free Press*.

Many thanks are due to the Entertainment Committee for organizing the egg hunt, to the Salyers for stuffing the eggs; the Lynchs, Brenks, and Salyers for use of their yards, and to Bob Oster for locating and delivering the Easter Bunny.

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

*Becky Christiansen, Chairman, 393-4946*

*Marnee Sinnott, 393-2808*

*Chris Noffsinger, 393-4388*

*Amy Salyer, 393-7645*

*Tom Sinnott, 393-2808*

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



## to the River Oakers

On Saturday, April 11, at 7 AM, the final phase of the parkway tree planting began, with more than 70 trees in the ground by Sunday afternoon. Appropriately, on Friday, April 24, Arbor Day, the final trees of the 108 that make up River Oaks' parkway trees were planted. Aside from the digging of the holes, which we paid Autumn Green landscapers to do for us, the work involved in the Parkway Tree Project was accomplished by River Oaks volunteers.

River Oaks volunteers visited the nurseries and tagged the trees to be planted here. Volunteers picked up and delivered ALL of the trees, from nurseries as far away as Morris and DeKalb. The volunteer planting crews rode with the pick-up trucks (River Oaks pick-up trucks!), distributing dirt and mulch, and doing the actual planting, in conditions well-liked by the trees (cold, damp mist and rain) but not wonderful for human beings. And when it was over, another River Oaks crew cleaned up the debris. The end result you can see as you look up and down our streets at the beautiful new trees. Another result you cannot see is the hundreds of dollars saved through the efforts of these people, thus bringing the Parkway Tree Project in well under budget.

We would like to thank the volunteers who made this all possible. Very sincere thanks goes to:

Our Managers, Planners, and Designers: Tom Sinnott and John Christiansen, who did the research, planning, visiting of nurseries, and managing of this almost 10 month long project.

Our Foreman (that's a nice way to say slave driver): Mark Moore;

Our Delivery Crew: Joe Lanute (and his truck), Terry Costlow (and his truck), Bill Doran (and his truck), John Christiansen (and his hatchback), Tom Sinnott (and his truck driving), Denny Hill (and his loading);

Our Professional River Oaks Planting Crew: Peter Boivin, Frank Vainisi, Terry Costlow, Bryan Lynch, Ross Stern, Bill Taluc, John Spartz, Bill Doran, Tom Sinnott, John Christiansen, Mark Moore, Jon Noffsinger, Joe English, Dave Polak, Denny Hill, Joe Lanute, Mike Soelke, Tom Saxton, Mike Bojko, Bob Ott, Scot Moore, Russell Christiansen;

Our Women's Auxiliary Planting Crew (and occa-

sional beer providers): Mary Moore, Marnee Sinnott, Jan Stern, Becky Christiansen, Toni Oster (they also corrected any mistakes the men made - you know how men are!);

Our River Oaks Children's Auxiliary Planting Crew: Brandon Stern, Christopher Stern, Matthew Stern;

Our Coffee and Doughnut Wagon Ladies: Chris Noffsinger, Rebecca Noffsinger;

Our River Oaks Pick-Up Truck Owners, who let us use their trucks at a moments' notice: Skip Nesbit, Terry Costlow, Bill Doran;

and EVERYONE else who helped us with this project! Thank you, every one! We should also thank our landscape contractor, Autumn Green. They were a delight to work with, willing to do whatever we asked.

### RIVER OAKS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION REVENUES & EXPENSES MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 1992

#### MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance	\$5,145.02
Interest Credit	16.70
Ending Balance	\$5,161.72

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT:

Beginning Balance	\$3,249.16
Dues Deposit	912.00
Interest Credit	6.83
Photo Copying	(58.59)
Newsletter	(22.85)
Easter Party	(39.50)
Service Charge	(13.10)
Ending Balance	\$4,033.95

PAST DUE 1ST QUARTER \$156.00

PAST DUE PREVIOUS QUARTERS \$600.00

TOTAL PAST DUE \$756.00

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAY KIDS !



Amanda Spartz  
Matthew Mahowald  
Camille Vicino  
Laura Christiansen

## NOTICE

For Experienced, Responsible  
Babysitters Call:

Angle Vainisi - 13 years old  
or  
Sara Vainisi - 12 years old

393-3238

Have taken babysitting courses through Girl  
Scouts and the Public Library.

### MISSING IN ACTION:

The Christiansens lost a brand-new shovel in the heat of the parkway tree planting action on April 11. It is round-nosed, short-handled, and has their last name on the wooden shaft. If you find it, please drop it by (2S600 River Oaks), or call Becky or John at 393-4946.



## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 15, 1992

Meeting called to order at 7:45 PM.

**PRESENT:** Tom Sinnott, Paul Koenig, Mark Moore, Joe Lanute, Millie Murphy, Becky Christiansen, and Amy Salyer.

**ABSENT:** Toni Oster (arrived late)

Cheryl Soelke, Secretary, submitted her resignation, effective 4/15/92. Paul will do minutes from this meeting; Joe will handle other related paperwork.

**GUEST:** Bernard Wlger, Commissioner from City of Warrenville's Natural Areas Commission (NAC).

**ARBOR DAY DISCUSSION:** Details of City of Warrenville's Arbor Day ceremony, this year to be held here in River Oaks, on Saturday afternoon, April 25, 3 PM. Punch and cookies for estimated 50 people supplied by the ROIA, from Landscape Committee budget. Details will be coordinated with NAC.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** See monthly written report. Joe will transfer \$3,000. out of money market account to Checking account to cover parkway tree expenses.

**DISCUSSION:** Letter and payment plan drawn up for one delinquent liened account was discussed. Arguments were heard for and against the parkway tree planted in front of the house in question.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:** Toni, the chairperson, was not present. Tom summarized successful Easter Egg Hunt.

**CITY LIAISON:** Paul and Amy discussed recent car drive-thru along the easement sidewalk between Lots 51 and 52.

**ACTION ITEM:** Need for post or gate at the easement sidewalk to prevent this discussed. Mark said Landscape Committee will discuss this at their next meeting and make recommendation at the next Board meeting.

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** Becky reported that the last two Newsletters were sent to the other Warrenville subdivisions. April Newsletter used up ends of colored paper reams, so rainbow effect. April Fools column caught a few people.

**LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE:** Millie and Mark, co-chairpersons.

**ACTION ITEM:** Millie will check out entrance-way planting, as bushes leaf out, to see what needs to be done.

**DISCUSSION:** Parkway Tree Project. Estimated \$6,000. spent to date.

**DISCUSSION:** Solicitation of homeowner contributions for high-priced parkway trees.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom will negotiate with Autumn Green, landscaper who dug holes, to lower their bill.

**MOTION:** To access \$400. more from Parkway Tree fund to finish tree purchases. Motion made by Becky, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** To plant a tree in front of Lot 63. Motion made by Mark, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM:** Becky will see about care and feeding flyers for the trees, and about special Arbor Day flyer.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom will contact city litigator re status of Anden lawsuit and to determine whether to go ahead with Common Area weed and feed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**DISCUSSION:** Mark suggested that Delinquent Accounts procedures be viewed as possible By-Law change, by Ad-Hoc By-Law Committee.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**ACTION ITEM:** Several homeowners were suggested as possible candidates to fill Board vacancy. Becky, Mark, and Tom will talk to these people.

Meeting adjourned 10:20 PM.

Next meeting, May 21, at Paul's house.

*Here's a delicious spring and summer treat- a cookie bar that tastes like lemon meringue pie without the meringue!*  
from Marnee Sinnott

#### LEMON BARS

3/4 cup unsalted butter  
1/2 cup powdered sugar  
1 1/2 cups flour

Mix ingredients with a pastry cutter until it crumbles and then begins to stick together. Pat into a 9" x 13" pan. Bake 15-20 minutes at 350 .

While the crust is baking, mix together the following:

3 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
3 TB flour  
Juice of 1 lemon

Pour over the hot crust and return to the oven for 20 more minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar when baking is completed and lemon bars are still hot.