



Riverwoods Village Voice

June 2022

Volume 26/Issue 3

Riverwoods.gov



Riverwoods

V I L L A G E V O I C E



A Helping Hand for Our Local Ukrainian Refugees

By Olga Renert

Since the beginning of Russia’s attack on Ukraine, over four million Ukrainians have had to flee their homes, most of them finding shelter and help in Europe, but some are also coming to the United States and settling in Chicago’s Northwest suburbs. These people are trying to set up their lives here – some temporarily, until it is safe to return, and others, whose homes were destroyed, with more permanent plans. All of them are in need of toiletries, kitchen items, blankets and everything else that we are so used to having in our daily lives.

Andy Niebur, Anna Glavatsky, Natalya Zaretsky, and Irina Bakman from the Riverwoods State Farm Insurance office set up a store where people could donate items for Ukrainian refugees, and those in need shop for free. “My 3 employees went through a similar situation when they emigrated here from the former USSR, with just the clothes on their backs,” says Niebur “so they wanted to find a way to help the recent Ukrainian refugees, knowing how hard it can be coming here with basically nothing.”

Avalon Realty was kind enough to grant the free use of a large vacant space within Colonial Court right near Niebur’s State Farm agency. Glavatsky and Bakman created a Facebook group called “Support Ukrainians in Chicagoland” to solicit donations and recruit volunteers. Within just a few days people from all over the neighboring suburbs began bringing in clothes, shoes, toys, books, dishes, baby items, as well as racks, hangers, and shelves to display the collected goods. Among numerous volunteers, were Glavatsky’s and Bakman’s children who worked tirelessly to help sort and organize donated items. Their dedication enabled refugees to shop for free and leave with the items they desperately needed to feel a little more secure in this new country.

The most frequently shopped items are posted within the Facebook group and typically replenished within a few days by generous donors. Irene Kohut is a volunteer who was born in the US to Ukrainian parents. When she saw a social media post about this store, she brought over 13 carloads of donations that she had initially collected for Ukraine.

Continued on Page #2



VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Riverwoods Village Board

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm.
June 7, 21, July 5, 19, and August 2 and 16.

Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursdays at 7:30pm.
June 2, July 7, and August 4.

Meetings are generally held at Village Hall, 300 Portwine Road.

Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

During COVID meetings may be virtual.

GET INVOLVED IN RIVERWOODS

Riverwoods Preservation Council (RPC)

David Shimberg, President
RiverwoodsRPC@gmail.com

Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA)

Jill Kaplan
847-945-0062
jedma1@yahoo.com

Riverwoods Book Club

June Melber
847-940-7086
argos501@aol.com

Plant Sale Committee

Rich Koomjian
312-520-6370
rkoomjian@gmail.com

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods

Catherine Game
Executive Director
cgame@brushwoodcenter.org

Helping Hand; *continued from front cover*

She has since been coming to the store almost daily to help sort, display and order more supplies. “Yesterday I spoke with a mom from Bucha which is where hundreds of civilians were victims of a historic massacre at the beginning of April. She talked about getting her kids out of that horrific situation because her brother from Wheeling bought them all plane tickets to come here. I was able to speak Ukrainian with her and help her find things for herself and her family.

The outpouring of donations has been incredible in this community. Everyone wants to do something. The store gives them the opportunity and the Ukrainian refugees are beyond grateful.”

The donation site is located at 1127 Milwaukee Ave. in Riverwoods. Hours are Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm plus Saturday 10am to 1pm. For more information, please call the State Farm office at 847-215-2030 or check the Facebook group, “Support Ukrainians in Chicagoland” to see a donation request list.

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Springtime in Riverwoods

The trillium is blooming, the birds are back, and we might even see some fawns in the next couple of weeks. It’s springtime in the woodlands. The beautiful flowers and wildlife remind us of why we live in Riverwoods. Despite the threat of stormwater and poison ivy, we love it.

Clean Up Day and the Plant Sale were a tremendous success. We found plenty of roadside trash while meeting up with old-and new-neighbors. The Riverwoods Preservation Council (RPC) sold all the plants. There was live music from the local band *North Shore Line* and grilled food from Josh’s. Some of our fine police officers as well as our dedicated firefighters were there to meet and greet us. Even the weather cooperated. All in all, a delightful day capped off with the dedication of a swamp white oak tree to our late Village Engineer Pat Glenn.

We truly hope to continue such events this summer and perhaps fall – all dependent upon help from volunteers, and health and safety concerns.

I would like you to know that the Board has authorized some research into water main extensions to the 1/3 of our residents who do not have access to municipal water. Access to municipal water is an important public safety issue because no water mains mean no fire hydrants. The website will

continue to have Board agendas, minutes and news postings available so that residents may follow the actions of our governing body.

In the meantime, whenever possible please dine and shop at the great places available right here in Riverwoods – The Poached Egg, Cafe De Oro, Jimmy John’s, Kogii Kogii and Edible Arrangements – as well as other Riverwoods businesses that would welcome our support during these difficult times.

Be kind to your neighbors, enjoy the trillium and watch out for fawns.

Respectfully,

Kris Ford
Mayor of Riverwoods



Riverwoods Village Board of Trustees Meeting Notes

The following is a summary of topics and actions by the Board of Trustees from the March, April and May Board of Trustees meetings. Read the entirety of these minutes, including the current Police Reports and Plan Commission Reports on the Village of Riverwoods website at www.riverwoods.gov.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thornton’s – The Thornton’s project continues to move forward. Certain agreements with neighboring Cube Smart have been completed. Agreements with Lake County for storm water management are in process.

Paths – The Board has moved forward for the replacement and maintenance of the paths on the Village Hall campus. Maintenance of the Deerfield Road and Riverwoods Road paths is being investigated.

Hazardous tree removal – A final review of trees not removed or pruned is in progress. Second notices will be sent.

37 Acres – The proposed distribution Center is no longer being considered.

Play area – The development and design of a play area in the Flatwoods Heritage Center is under way.

Extension of Water Mains – The Board approved preliminary work by Gewalt-Hamilton Associates (GHA) for the extension of water mains to areas of the Village not currently served by the water system. Roughly 1/3 of the residents do not have access to municipal water. Safety issues were stressed, noting that without a water main there is no fire hydrant, creating a serious threat to safety and property in the event of fire.



ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND BOARD ACTIONS OF INTEREST

Approval of Appropriations – There was approval of the annual appropriations bill which by ordinance allows the spending of Village funds.

Support of the Deerfield Parents Network (DPN) – The Board approved a donation to the DPN for its after prom activities.

CIVIC ITEMS OF INTEREST

Free Thrift Store – A Store was set up in Colonial Court by employees of the State Farm agency for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees. The Store accepts donations of household as well as personal goods.

Report from the Village Ecologist – The Village Ecologist reported continuing interest from residents in the consultation and woodland programs. He also discussed Oak Declining Syndrome affecting our oaks. Long term as well as short term stresses have had a noticeable impact on our woods.

RIVERWOODS VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kris Ford
Mayor/Board President
847-945-3990
kford@Riverwoods.gov

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Michael Clayton
Economic Dev./Finance/Capital Planning
224-813-1263
mclayton@Riverwoods.gov

Liliya Dikin
Communications
847-945-3990
ldikin@Riverwoods.gov

Andrew Eastmond
Woodlands/Ecology
847-945-3990
aeastmond@Riverwoods.gov

Michael Haber
Legal/Police
847-940-1957
mhaber@Riverwoods.gov

Henry Hollander
Roads/Land Use
847-945-4879
hhollander@Riverwoods.gov

Rick Jamerson
Building/Utilities
847-370-6565
rjamerson@Riverwoods.gov

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Russ Kraly
Director of Community Services
847-945-3990
rkraly@Riverwoods.gov

Bruce Dayno
Chief of Police
847-945-1130
bdayno@Riverwoods.gov

Police Department
Non-Emergency 24/7
847-945-1820
Office (Records, Admin, or leave a message for officers) 847-945-1130
police@Riverwoods.gov

Emergency Police/Fire 911
Tom Krueger
Fire Chief
Lincolnshire/Riverwoods
Fire Protection District
847-634-2512



Director of Community Services

RV's are Fun! Store them Properly on Your Property

By Russell Kraly, Director of Community Services

Yes, spring has finally arrived! I hope everyone had a great Easter and is looking forward to a terrific Spring and Summer. It was an easy winter as far as snow fall goes, but its nice to see the lawns starting to green up, the trees coming to life, tulips in full bloom and the hostas peeking out from their winter ground cover. Everyone will be cleaning up the balance of the leaves from winter and getting their gardens ready for flowers and vegetables. Definitely my favorite time of year!

The Hazardous Tree Project has been under way the last few months. Many residents have taken advantage of the special prices offered by Lucas Landscaping to remove the marked tree(s). Some of you have your own landscaping service and preferred to use them, and that's perfectly fine. Remember to report what has been removed to the Village so we can keep track.

Urban Forest Management will be following up, and reminding those of you who have not yet done so, that the time to remove those hazardous trees is now. We will hopefully have this project complete by the end of May. If you have a problem managing the removal of marked trees on your property, contact me and together we can make plans to get them removed.

Finally, as summer vacation time approaches, we are reminded of those recreational vehicles and the fun family trips they take us on. But when not in use, that RV must be stored properly if doing so on your property. The Village has a detailed ordinance that spells out the specifics on proper recreational vehicle storage. Here's just the beginning of that ordinance.

Ordinance 9-2-6-9 Recreational Vehicles: Recreational vehicles shall not be parked outdoors on any property within the village except as an accessory use for a single-family dwelling in accordance with the provisions and restrictions of this section.

A. Only one recreational vehicle at a time may be parked on the resident's own parcel. If the recreational vehicle is visible from the front property line of the parcel, then it shall be parked, except during active loading or unloading, such that the long axis of the recreational vehicle is nearly perpendicular to the street to minimize the bulk of the recreational vehicle seen from the street. Except for the portion of the recreational vehicle properly parked as just described and still visible from the front property line, the balance of the recreational vehicle shall be screened with fencing or landscaping that achieves at least ninety percent (90%) opacity in all seasons. Screening with landscaping or fencing shall be situated to block the view of such vehicle in all seasons from the vantage point of first floor rooms, decks and patios of neighboring residences looking across their side and rear yards. . . .

Read the complete ordinance on the village website and have a great summer!

RIVERWOODS VILLAGE VOICE

Riverwoods Village Voice is published bimonthly by the Village of Riverwoods. It's purpose is to provide a communication forum and information for residents. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Mayor or members of the Board of Trustees.

Editor: Jackie Borchew.
Any resident wishing to become a newsletter staff volunteer please call the Village Hall at 847-945-3990 and leave your name and phone number.

SEND IN THOSE LETTERS!

Letters from residents and Riverwoods homeowners' associations are invited and encouraged. Preferred length: approximately 250 words or less, typed. All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters may be printed, space permitting, but may be edited for grammar, clarity and length. If controversial topics are addressed, the editor will seek opposing viewpoints for balance.

Deadline for the July-August issue:
June 20, 2022
Send to:
Editor
Riverwoods Village Voice
300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015
or jackie@borchew.com



Spring Arrives!

As has been the tradition over the years, the Riverwoods clean-up and native plant sale officially marked the arrival of Spring once again in Riverwoods.

Residents young and old came together in honor of Spring first by picking up trash along the roadways, then selecting native plants, followed by a barbecue with all the fixins, served up with live rock and roll to smooth out the day. But not without a heartfelt tribute to our dear friend Pat Glenn with a swamp oak planted in his name at Village Hall.

A big thank you to the Riverwoods Preservation Council for organizing the native plant sale, the Village (and Josh's) for a great BBQ, The North Shore Line for the live music, and especially all of the volunteers and residents who come out and support our Village in so many ways. We may be small, but we are mighty.



May is Lyme Disease Prevention Month

Take Steps to Prevent Tick-borne Diseases

The Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center urge residents to take precautions against ticks, which can carry several diseases, including Lyme disease.

“Although we are exposed to ticks year-round, they are most active during warmer months,” said Alana Bartolai, Ecological Services Program Coordinator for the Health Department. “Ticks may be small in size, but we still need to protect ourselves, our families, and pets against the diseases they can carry, especially Lyme disease.”

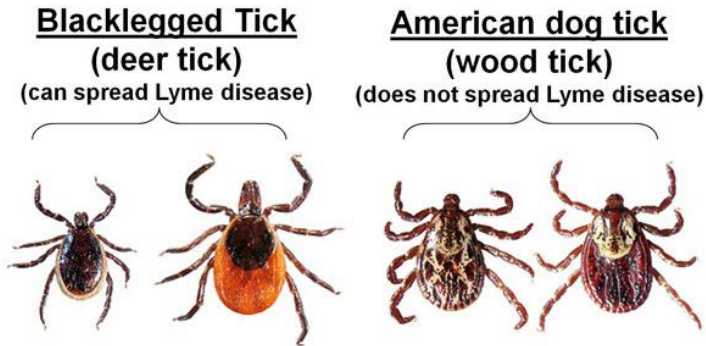
Ticks live in and near wooded areas, tall grass and brush. If infected, ticks can transmit diseases including Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Southern Tick Associated Rash Illness (STARI), tularemia, and others when they bite humans or animals.

“If you experience fever, headache, fatigue, or a rash after a tick bite, please consult your healthcare provider for possible testing and treatment,” said Dr. Sana Ahmed, Medical Epidemiologist for the Health Department. “If left untreated, some tick-borne diseases can cause serious illnesses and may be fatal.”

Protect yourself, your family and pets against tick-borne illnesses. Take precautions to avoid tick bites:

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails so plants do not brush against you.
- Wear light-colored protective clothing, such as long sleeved shirts, pants, closed-toe boots or shoes, and a head covering or hat. Tuck long pants into your socks and tuck in your shirt.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or IR3535 to exposed skin (except the face). Use products that contain permethrin on clothing. Always follow product instructions carefully.
- Check yourself, your children and pets, and outdoor gear often for ticks.
- Reduce tick habitats around your home by clearing leaf litter, mowing grass, cutting back weeds, and keeping the ground clean under bird feeders.

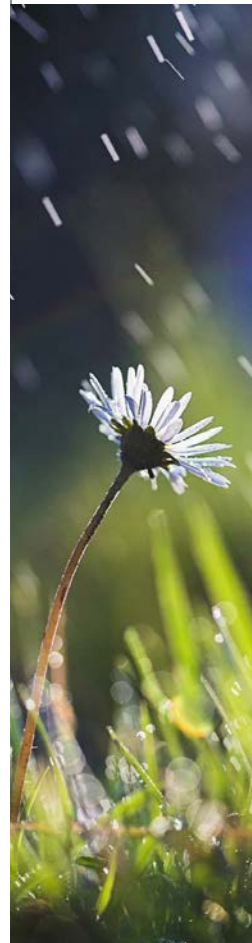
TICKS



If you are bitten by a tick, promptly and properly remove it:

- Using fine-tipped tweezers, grasp the tick near the skin and pull upward with slow, even pressure. Do NOT twist or jerk.
- Do NOT burn the tick or smother it with oils or petroleum jelly, as this may cause the tick to spit up infected saliva into your skin.
- Once the tick is removed, disinfect the bite area and wash hands with soap and water.
- Make a note of the date you were bitten in case you need medical care later.

For more information and to watch a short video on how to properly remove a tick, visit www.fightthebitenow.com.



Floodplain Information

Spring (and winter) rains can sometimes bring flooding. While we do have some floodplains in Riverwoods, they are generally limited to two areas of the Village. FEMA Floodplain Maps and information are available at the Village Hall. Please come in during regular office hours and see if you are affected. We would like to remind you that flood insurance is mandatory if building in the floodplain and using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan. Come in and our Building Department Staff will be happy to help you with this information. The Village Engineer can also help you get Elevation Certificates. They already have information on file for some areas of the Village, and for a nominal fee will be able to help you get one for your property if needed. Site visits are also available to properties upon request. Please call the Building Department if you have any questions at 847-945-3990.

Police Report

Disabilities and Special Needs Premise Alert Program

By Bruce Dayno, Riverwoods Chief of Police

The Riverwoods Police Department, along with the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District and the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District, offer a Premise Alert Program (PAP) in support of individuals living with disabilities or special needs as well as police and emergency medical personnel responding to calls at a related address. Individuals with disabilities or special needs wishing to participate in the program may supply information to be kept in our computer aided dispatch (CAD) database free of charge. Information may also be supplied by the individual’s family members, friends, caregivers, or medical personnel familiar with the individual. When a 911 operator sends police or emergency medical personnel to an address in the database, the information will be passed on to the emergency responders. The information gathered as part of PAP shall remain strictly confidential and will be used only to provide assistance to the emergency medical and police responders.

Individuals with disabilities are those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

Individuals with special needs are those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require mental health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by individuals generally.

The intent of the Premise Alert Program is to afford people with special needs or disabilities the same access to public safety services provided to all citizens. Provision of the information will not result in preferential treatment, but it will enhance the ability of emergency responders to effectively deal with those individuals.

If you would like to provide information for a person with a disability or special needs for entry into our computer aided dispatch system, please fill out the following Premise Alert Program Enrollment Form. The form must be filled out every two years. Information not renewed after two years will be removed.

For questions, contact Bruce Dayno, Chief of Police, 847-945-1130 or bdayno@riverwoods.gov.

Premise Alert Program SPECIAL CONCERNS RESPONSE INFORMATION

Riverwoods Police Department

Village of Riverwoods residents please use this form to provide information to be entered pursuant to the Illinois Premise Alert Program Act (430 ILCS 132) into the computer aided dispatch database for public safety agencies.

General Information About The Special Concerns Person:

LAST			FIRST			MI			NICKNAME						
ADDRESS									PHONE: HOME		CELL		EMAIL		
BIRTHDATE		RACE		GENDER		HEIGHT		WEIGHT		HAIR COLOR		EYE COLOR		PHOTO	
				MALE FEMALE								YES NO			
EMPLOYER/SCHOOL ADDRESS (ONLY IF IN RIVERWOODS)															
SPECIAL CONCERN OR CONDITION:															
MEDICATIONS:										HOW DOES THIS MEDICATION AFFECT ACTIONS, RESPONSES, SENSES, POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE ETC?:					
SUGGESTIONS/TECHNIQUES/ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE A CONFRONTATION:															
THIS SPECIAL PERSON IS:										PLEASE LIST ANY "ACTIVATIONS" OR "TRIGGERS" WHICH MAY ESCALATE AN ENCOUNTER: WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE AVOIDED BY FIRST RESPONDERS?					
<input type="checkbox"/> SENSITIVE TO LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> LIKELY TO HIDE <input type="checkbox"/> SENSITIVE TO TOUCH <input type="checkbox"/> LIKELY TO FIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> AFRAID OF POLICE/UNIFORMED PPL <input type="checkbox"/> VERBAL ABUSE <input type="checkbox"/> VIOLENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUBJECT TO SEIZURES															

RESPONSIBLE PARTY COMPLETING THIS FORM

LAST			FIRST			MI			DATE OF BIRTH			RELATIONSHIP										
ADDRESS									STREET		CITY		STATE		ZIP		HOME PHONE		CELL		WORK	

I affirm all the above is true to the best of my ability and understand that this information will be maintained for 2 years from the date of entry pursuant to Illinois Public Act 096-0788 and by volunteering to participate in the Illinois Premise Alert Program, I (or person listed) will not be afforded preferential treatment. Riverwoods Police will contact me at the end of 2 years to check if I wish to continue in the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:																
LAST			FIRST			MI			RELATIONSHIP							
ADDRESS									PHONE HOME		CELL					
EMERGENCY CONTACT:																
LAST			FIRST			MI			RELATIONSHIP							
ADDRESS									PHONE HOME		CELL					

Feel free to list additional emergency contacts

Send forms to:

Riverwoods Police Department, 845 Saunders Rd, Riverwoods, IL 60015
 Or fill out at: <https://www.riverwoods.gov/public-safety/page/police-department>

How to Turn Your Yard into an Ecological Oasis

Replacing grass with even a few plants native to your region can save insects and the ecosystems that depend on them.

For years, Toni Genberg assumed a healthy garden was a healthy habitat. That’s how she approached the landscaping around her home in northern Virginia. On trips to the local gardening center, she would privilege aesthetics, buying whatever looked pretty, “which was typically ornamental or invasive plants,” she says. Then, in 2014, Genberg attended a talk by Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. “I learned I was actually starving our wildlife,” she says.

The problem, Tallamy explained, is with the picky diets of plant-eating insects. Most of these bugs—roughly 90%—eat and reproduce on only certain native plant species, specifically those with whom they share an evolutionary history. Without these carefully tuned adaptations of specific plants, insect populations suffer. And because bugs themselves are a key food source for birds, rodents, amphibians, and other critters, that dependence on natives—and the consequences of not having them—works its way up the food chain. Over time, landscapes that consist mainly of invasive or nonnative plants could become dead zones.

Croplands can be just as destructive, making up nearly 20% of all land in the United States. And that doesn’t even include the single largest irrigated crop in the country. Covering more than 40 million acres in the U.S., grass lawn consumes an area roughly the size of New England—land that, for the sake of habitat conservation, might as well be pavement.

Considering how little habitat and food these monocultures provide, and the incredible amount of resources they require, is there any wonder why the global insect populations are plummeting?

But there are solutions. One, at least in theory, is quite simple: Plant more native species. It’s a calling that has spoken to a growing number of park managers, home gardeners, and landscapers—many of whom trace a direct line of inspiration to Tallamy. His research has helped overturn decades of harmful horticultural practice, forcing us to rethink how we tend to both public and private spaces.

Savanna Syndrome

In lieu of monocrops, landscapes with a larger, more diverse biomass of native species help support pollinators, sequester carbon, capture runoff, and rebuild habitats. One recent study found habitats with two or three native tree species are on average 25% to 30% more productive than monocultures, meaning they contribute that much more food and energy to an ecosystem. Habitats with five native tree species were 50% more productive. Wildlife is drawn to lands teeming with native plants.

For individuals who’d like to live a more sustainable lifestyle, the simple message of planting more native species is both productive and rewarding—a refreshing contrast to consumerist exhortations that blame the collective problem of environmental collapse on individual shopping choices. Like anything else, real change has to happen at the macro level, especially when it comes to turfgrass—a crop with deep cultural, even evolutionary roots.

Sociobiologists refer to the preference humans have for vast swaths of low-cut grass as “Savanna Syndrome.” Open grasslands allowed our primitive ancestors to keep an eye out for predators. So even today, on a deep level, we feel safer when we can see to the horizon.

Lawn is the default landscape, but it doesn’t have to be.

Until the Industrial Age, the demands of agriculture kept lawns at bay. They were seen mostly as status symbols that said a person had enough money to brush off the territorial demands of farmland. The invention of the lawnmower democratized the lawn, and further embedded its pathological hold on our psyches.

But lawns require huge quantities of water and often chemical treatments to maintain them—

not to mention the emissions produced by two-cycle lawnmowers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, running a lawnmower for one hour emits as much air pollution as driving a typical car 100 miles. This resource allocation becomes more and more difficult to justify as climate change continues to dry up once-productive habitats. As a monocrop, lawns displace landscapes that could benefit people, plants, animals, and insects. It’s time for us to reconsider lawns on a grand scale, several researchers have concluded.

Considering how entrenched lawns are in the American imagination, to uproot them will require some give-and-take. Advocates say we need a culture shift as well as policies that support it.

“As climate change and droughts worsen, we might get to a point where there’s political support to outlaw lawns,” says Sarah B. Schindler, a professor of law at the University of Maine, who has written several papers about the legal authority of municipalities to ban lawns. “I do think we’re seeing a change in norms, and I think part of that is tied to rising awareness of climate catastrophe.”

Part of that work is simply raising awareness. Many people don’t think about the possibility of their yards as anything but turfgrass. As Tallamy puts it, lawn is the default landscape, but it doesn’t have to be. “People don’t realize there’s an alternative.”

Choosing Native Plants

Some communities are beginning to impose alternatives. In California, Colorado, and Arizona, where water shortages are a growing crisis, cities offer rebates for each square foot of lawn replaced with native or water-saving landscapes—a process known as “xeriscaping.” In wetter climes, Washington, D.C., and cities in Nebraska, Washington state, Iowa, and Minnesota have implemented rebate programs for the planting of rain gardens, which capture and infiltrate more runoff than grass. The city of Alexandria, Virginia, recently changed its municipal mowing to allow for the growth of meadows and glades in city parks.

Throughout the country, local groups are advocating for the planting of natives on roadsides, medians, campuses, and parks. Some, like Food Not Lawns, encourage homeowners and neighborhoods to replace lawns with edible plants to establish food sovereignty and food security within their communities. Others take a more clandestine approach by planting “guerrilla gardens” or tossing “seed bombs” into abandoned lots and properties where they don’t have the legal right to garden.

“One thing that we’ve learned with our research is that there is room for compromise,” Tallamy says. Native planting doesn’t have to be all or none to make a difference. He gave the example of chickadee reproduction: If you have at least 70% native plant biomass in a given habitat, you can have sustainable chickadee reproduction. “That gives you 30% to plant perennials and exotics and other ornamental plants.”

Tallamy’s research into the relationship between native plants and insects has inspired gardeners to do more than just turn their yards

into native oases. Many are now creating resources to empower others to do the same.

The National Wildlife Federation created a native plant finder web tool, which allows users to plug in a ZIP code to find trees, shrubs, and plants native to their region. Following her horticultural revelation, Toni Genberg created ChooseNatives.org, a resource to help users find, purchase, and learn about native plants. Since switching to natives, Genberg herself has seen all sorts of wildlife return to a property that, before, was only a suburban simulacrum.

Biodiversity Among Buildings

But shifting away from lawns is complicated by the fact that municipalities have long adopted rules called “weed ordinances,” which require short ground cover for purely aesthetic reasons. This effectively mandates the planting and maintaining of lawns, as do many local zoning laws and HOA bylaws.

The elephant in the room, of course, is property rights. Limits and requirements can inspire backlash. As Genberg points out, “Americans don’t want to be told what to do, especially when it comes to their properties.”

That’s why Tallamy has focused on talking to the public instead of advancing top-down regulation. Laws, especially bans, need public support to pass. To even think about regulating lawns you first need to change the culture around them. As people like Toni Genberg and Matt Bright show, Tallamy’s message is resonating.

“What you do on your property affects everybody,” Tallamy says. Nonnative or ornamental plants may not look like pollutants, but from an ecological standpoint, they are. Tallamy’s research bears this out: A new paper from his team shows just how effective nonnative plants are at destroying local habitats.

“We compared caterpillar communities in hedgerows that were invaded with non-natives versus hedgerows that were mostly native,” he explains. “There’s a 96% reduction in caterpillar biomass when they’re nonnative, so if you’re a bird and you’re trying to rear your young, you just lost 96% of your food.”

But there’s a flip side, he says. If you take the invasive species out and put the native plants in, you’ve just created 96% more food.

And this isn’t some gardening trend reserved for America’s suburbs and conservation lands. In Manhattan, the most densely populated urban center in the country, officials converted an abandoned railway line into a public park called the High Line, with a policy of planting at least 50% native species.

“There are monarch butterflies there, there are all kinds of native bees, which really surprised me,” Tallamy says. “If you can do that in Manhattan, you can do it anywhere.”

Garlic Mustard: Invasive and Destructive

Wild garlic mustard is a highly destructive invasive species in the United States, but anyone can help stop its spread.

What is garlic mustard?

Garlic mustard, originally from Europe and Asia, has become a very troublesome invasive plant across the Northeast, Midwest and Northwest of the United States. The plant was introduced to North America in the mid 1800s for its herbal and medicinal qualities and as erosion control. Its aliases are Poor Man's Mustard, Hedge Garlic, Garlic Root and Jack-by-the-Hedge. It is called garlic mustard because its leaves have a garlic smell when they are crushed. During its first year, garlic mustard leaves are rounder and take on a rosette formation at ground level. In their second year, the leaves grow up a flowering stem and become more triangular and heart-shaped with toothed edges. Small white four-petaled flowers emerge in the spring. Like many invasive species, garlic mustard requires patience and persistence to get rid of.

Why is garlic mustard bad?

Garlic mustard is a threat to the biodiversity (the variety of life on Earth and in a habitat) of many native ecosystems. This plant spreads its seeds in the wind and gains a foothold in fields and forests by emerging earlier in spring than many native plants. By the time native species are ready to grow, garlic mustard has blocked their sunlight and out-competed them for moisture and vital nutrients. This advantage is only strengthened as climate change continues to alter seasons faster than native plants can adapt. Invasive species that crowd out forest ecosystems inhibit trees, which store large amounts of carbon dioxide, from growing. Because the understory of a forest is so important for insects and other species at the bottom of the food chain, invaders like garlic mustard can weaken the entire ecosystem.

Further, garlic mustard's roots release chemicals that alter the important underground network of fungi that connect nutrients between native plants, inhibiting the growth of important species like trees. Fortunately for us, we have options to rid ourselves of this pest of a plant.

How do you kill garlic mustard?

The ultimate goal in removing garlic mustard is to prevent seed development and spreading until the existing seed bank is depleted. Unluckily for us, this may take 2-5 years in any confined area. Vigilance is key, as garlic mustard can sprout up even when you're sure that you've gotten rid of every last one.

The best way to get rid of garlic mustard is manually:

- Try to pull up the plants before they set seed, because the action of yanking the plant from the ground will spread the seed.
- A good time to pull garlic mustard is after it rains, when it's easier to get all or most

Garlic Mustard Fast Facts

Scientific name: *Alliaria petiolata*

Identification: triangular, heart-shaped leaves with toothed edges and white four-petal flowers

How it was introduced: Brought from Europe in 1800s for herbal uses and erosion control

Edible? Yes, can be harvested when young. Older plants should be cooked thoroughly due to increased toxicity.



of the long tap root.

- After you have pulled the plants, bag them up and throw them out with your garbage; do not compost.
- Chemical treatment (e.g., Roundup) is frequently ineffective. It also risks injuring or killing nearby vegetation.

The task may seem daunting, but if you watch carefully, you will see that native plants and even tree seedlings steadily re-populate the areas where you have removed the garlic mustard. You are helping the area become healthier!

Can you eat garlic mustard?

Yes, garlic mustard is edible. Harvest young, when it's less bitter (older plants need to be cooked thoroughly as they contain cyanide). Adds spice to dips, sauces, salads, and stir fries. Be sure to harvest the whole plant, roots and all, to help prevent its spread. Pull up any nearby plants you don't intend to eat and put in a bag (to prevent seeds from falling) and throw away. Clean off boots and clothes to further reduce the spread.

Garlic Mustard in Riverwoods.

The plant grows heartily in Riverwoods, and most vigorously in areas of trampled and disturbed soil. Garlic mustard is a biennial, growing over a two-year period. Seeds can be viable for five years, control of an infestation requires activity for several successive years.

Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals. It crowds out other plants, monopolizing moisture, nutrients and soil space, and reducing the food supply for native animals. Native animals do not eat garlic mustard, and butterflies are not attracted to it. In addition, garlic mustard is believed to contaminate the soil with chemicals

exuded from its roots. The chemicals inhibit growth of other species. Garlic mustard is capable of producing glucosinolates, a known class of chemicals that are toxic to humans and animals.

50/50 Cost-Share Program.

Don't forget the Village 50/50 cost-share program for removal of garlic mustard, at <https://www.riverwoods.gov/woodlands/page/ecological-cost-share-programs>. Following an on-site consultation by the Village Ecologist (\$75 fee) and the Village Ecologist's recommendation to proceed with garlic mustard removal under the cost-share program, you'll need to apply to the Village to pre-qualify your contractor, and submit a two-year plan for removal. If the Village approves your application, the Village will contribute up to \$2,000 per year for two successive years. The program requires a \$100 non-refundable application fee.

You can download a garlic mustard removal application form from the village of Riverwoods website.

Information from The Nature Conservancy, and Riverwoods Preservation Council



Illinois State Fair at Half Day School

Trustee Liliya Dikin (seated, far right) and Deputy Clerk Bowne (seated, middle) recently participated in Half Day School's "Illinois State Fair Event." Members of various government agencies and elected officials talked to fourth grade students about their roles and how they serve Lake County communities.



Orphans of the Storm's Featured Pet **Cheerio**

Sex : Male
Age : 4.5 years
Weight : 69.00 lbs
Available for Adoption and Training Foster

Cheerio is ready to find his forever home! He's been waiting over a year and a half. Staff and volunteers love him and have gotten to know him well. Outside of his kennel, he is playful, active, smart, and goofy. He is treat motivated, intelligent, and ready to learn! He's been responsive to training here at the shelter, but a family of his own would make the experience more fun and rewarding!

Cheerio also loves to PLAY with toys of all kinds - plush, rope, or ball- he's a pro at entertaining himself! But, he also loves to play with his human friends. His fetch skills are incredible and his favorite game is tug-of-war! When you first meet Cheerio in the shelter setting, he may not seem super interested--- but give him just a bit of time and he'll develop a close bond with you, just like his favorite dog walkers here. Cheerio attends a lot of our offsite events and does great meeting people of all ages, including children! While Cheerio would do best in a home as the only dog, don't worry, he's all the dog you'll need! He's truly amazing and he's waited too long to find the life he deserves. So come meet him! He will bring years of joy and laughter to your home.

Call ahead to make an appointment to meet Cheerio and the other deserving pets at Orphans of the Storm at 847-945-0235.

Nature Explorer Backpacks Mochilas de Explorador

Brushwood Center and partners across Lake County are teaming up to provide 900 bilingual Nature Explorer Backpacks / Mochilas de Explorador to more than 1,000 youth and family members in Waukegan, North Chicago, Round Lake, and Highwood. The Backpack program, which began in 2020 as part of Brushwood Center's COVID-19 response, provides families with tools for supporting physical and mental health amidst Lake County's parks, preserves, and other natural areas. This year the Backpacks will be distributed at locally-organized events where families can engage in hands-on activities and nature walks, learn how to use the materials in the Backpacks, and gain confidence using these spaces.

This year's Backpacks will include a Lake County Environmental Justice Coloring Book, nature field guides, art supplies, local mental health resources, and school supplies with all materials provided in English and Spanish. The Backpacks encourage families to explore the natural spaces around them through activities focused on nurturing wellness and creativity.

Contact our Director of Development, Mirja Spooner Haffner, to learn more at mspoonerhaffner@brushwoodcenter.org.

Project History

Nature Explorer Backpacks / Mochilas de Explorador is a part of Brushwood Center's It's A WIN (Art and Wellness in Nature) program serving families from predominantly low-income households in Waukegan, North Chicago, Round Lake, and Highwood. These communities were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing disproportionately higher cases and deaths from COVID-19, more severe financial tolls, and significant mental health challenges.

The Backpack program began in the spring of 2020, as a result of Brushwood Center's partners indicating a need for supplies and activities for families during the lockdown. Many of these families had to make difficult decisions when it came to budgeting, and purchasing supplies like backpacks became an extra burden. The Backpacks alleviated some financial burden and provided nature and art resources to help families access the health benefits that come with spending time outside and exploring creative outlets.

How it Works

Partnership Coordination: Brushwood Center, who currently Chairs the Lake County Nature Network,

is coordinating a collaborative of organizations contributing to this project. Partners agree to provide Backpack materials, volunteers or space for Backpack assembly, and/or sites and community networks for Backpack distribution. Current Partners include Lake County Forest Preserves, Waukegan Public Library, Mano a Mano, Foss Park, Cool Learning Experience, Lake County Audubon Society, and Round Lake Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. We plan to engage additional partners who participated in previous years including Foss Park District, North Chicago Library, Rotary Club of North Chicago, Cool Learning Experience, Round Lake Area Public Library, Family Service of Lake County, Highwood Public Library, Waukegan Park District, Windy City Harvest/Green Youth Farm, and Lake County Health Department.



Backpack Contents: Each Nature Explorer Backpack will include bilingual nature field guides, art supplies, local mental health resources, school supplies, and a Lake County Environmental Justice Coloring Book. The Environmental Justice Coloring Book is a collaborative publication created by Brushwood Center, Clean Power Lake County, and artist Diana Nava of Round Lake. The Book tells the story of community power and organizing around environmental pollution in Lake County, lifting up narratives of leadership within the community and opportunities for youth and families to get involved. All Backpack materials will be assembled during mid-May.

Distribution: Backpacks will be distributed during four community events taking place during June and July in each of the four target communities (Waukegan, North Chicago, Highwood, and Round Lake), coordinated with community partners and libraries in each location. Additionally, all Backpack recipients will be invited to a larger Nature Festival in August featuring the Lake County Nature Network partners and offering free family activities like guided walks, animal interactions, and activities for all ages.

Impact: We anticipate that the 900 Nature Explorer Backpacks will reach at least 1,000 youth and family members in Waukegan, North Chicago, Highwood, and Round Lake. Backpack distribution will be tracked, including the number of people in each household who receive a Backpack, ages of children, and city of residence. Additionally, we will use surveys to measure outcomes at each distribution event including 1) confidence levels visiting nature sites as a family, 2) wellbeing outcomes affiliated with the nature activities,

and 3) identification of additional outdoor activities that would most benefit youth and families. Lastly, we will conduct follow up interviews with all of our program partners to gain insight into how families used the bags beyond our initial events and to improve the project's success in the future.

It's A W.I.N. (Art & Wellness in Nature)

The It's A W.I.N. (Art & Wellness in Nature) program is a community-driven approach to supporting youth, families, and community partners in North Chicago, Waukegan, Round Lake, and Highwood to:

1. Increase equitable access to the many health benefits of nature;
2. Strengthen environmental awareness and action through youth empowerment; and
3. Cultivate rich cultural connections to the natural world.

It's A W.I.N. supports children and families through their ecosystem of care. We create long-term partnerships with vital community organizations who support youth education and health, and shape our program around community-defined goals, knowledge, and feedback. In order to deliver culturally-competent programs at multiple touch-points in a child's life, we intentionally partner with a wide variety of organizations, including healthcare providers, libraries, childcare providers, nature organizations, immigrant support organizations, and school systems.

We use art and nature in our programs because of the many documented health benefits of outdoor time and creative expression, especially for young minds. We customize our youth programs to suit the needs and desires of our partner organizations and communities, so there are many options for partnership! All of our programs can also be bilingual in English and Spanish.

To learn more about Brushwood Center and their programs visit www.brushwoodcenter.org.





IN THE KITCHEN WITH GALE

Schnitzel Fest Dinners to Benefit World Central Kitchen

On April 21st, Chefs Gale Gand (Riverwoods resident) Dan Smith, and Peter Schonman created and offered to the public, a 4-course dinner-to-go with all of the proceeds benefiting Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen to help feed Ukrainian refugees who've fled to Poland. The trio raised \$15,020. Coopers Hawk donated

bottles of wine for the dinners and Wild Roaster in Deerfield (at the Lake Cook train station) donated freshly roasted ground coffee as well. The chefs set up a website for the public to preorder meals with a choice of three different pickup locations. WGN was kind enough to do a lunch time segment to promote the fundraiser.

Gale and Peter both were thinking of going to Poland to cook at World Central Kitchen's facility in Przemysl, Poland but thought they could maybe be of just as much help if they did a dinner locally for their followers. After completing the benefit event Gand said, "I thought it might be enough to scratch that itch...but it's just not."

So Gand decided to do a Go Fund Me to help cover her travel expenses and packed her bags (and rolling pin) for Poland. She spent a week cooking in Poland in the industrial strength kitchens over Mother's Day saying, "This year I couldn't think of a better thing to do with my Mother's Day than to cook for the mothers and their children who have had to flee their homes and their country." Mother's Day in Ukraine is celebrated on the same day as in the U.S.

If you would like to contribute to Gale's Go Fund Me with all left over funds going directly to World Central Kitchen, here's that link:

<https://gofund.me/466b5204>

Chicken Schnitzel

Serves 4 - 6

4 4-ounces skinless, boneless chicken breasts, pounded (may have to cut breasts in half to get this size)

½ cup flour

1 teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon ground pepper

2 eggs

1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard

2 teaspoons water

1 cup or more unseasoned bread crumbs

2 Tablespoons vegetable or canola oil

2 Tablespoons unsalted butter

2 Tablespoons chopped parsley

4 – 6 lemon wedges

Place chicken pieces between plastic wrap and pound till thin, about ¼ inch thick. If the pieces are very big you may want to cut them into two pieces.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH GALE



Place the flour in a shallow bowl and sprinkle with salt and pepper. In another shallow bowl, beat eggs with the water and mustard. In a third shallow bowl, place bread crumbs. Dip the pounded chicken in flour, then beaten egg, then in seasoned breads crumbs and place on a plate. In a large sauté pan heat the oil and butter on medium heat and fry the breaded chicken till golden on one side, then flip to brown the other side.

Drain on paper towels or a paper bag. Serve topped with chopped parsley and lemon wedges to squeeze over the chicken.

Chive and Mustard Spaetzle

Serves 4 – 6

3 eggs

¾ cup milk

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

½ teaspoon nutmeg

1 teaspoon salt

2 cups flour

1 teaspoon snipped fresh chives or freeze dried chives, plus more for garnish

2 Tablespoons unsalted butter

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. In a bowl, whisk the eggs, milk and mustard together. Add the flour, nutmeg, salt, and chives and whisk to combine. Push batter through a colander or spaetzle cutter into the pot of boiling salted water. Simmer on high for 3 minutes till the spaetzle floats to the top. Drain, toss in butter and serve sprinkled with more chives.



Gale Gand is a Riverwoods resident and pastry chef and had the Michelin two-star restaurant, Tru, in Chicago. She hosted Food Network's show "Sweet Dreams", is the author of eight cook books, and worked with Julia Child on her book and PBS series, "Baking with Julia". Gale teaches cooking classes and makes Gale's Root Beer which is sold nationally. She has received two James Beard Awards, and was schooled in Paris at La Varenne. Gale appears at food and wine festivals, is a professional Pie and Food Competition Judge. She has three kids and plays the ukulele. Fun fact-She once made a Peach Cobbler for Aretha Franklin. For more info on Gale go to: www.galegand.com and kitchensisterscookingschool.com.



RIDE LAKE COUNTY

Just launched this May, a new countywide transportation system! Ride Lake County is a paratransit service sponsored by Lake County and Pace Suburban Bus that provides seniors age 60+ and people with disabilities transportation to any area of Lake County for work, shopping, medical appointments and more.

As a reservation-based program, vehicles do not travel on a fixed route each day. Riders schedule their trips in advance and the vehicles provide curb-to-curb service from the rider's desired pick-up and drop-off destinations. Ride Lake County is a shared-ride service, so vehicles may make stops for other passengers.

Before scheduling their first ride, residents must register through Pace by calling their call center at 1-800-201-6446. Residents can register as either a senior (60+) or as an individual with a disability.

For riders registering as an individual with a disability, Ride Lake County is using the Reduced Fare Permit to verify the status of an individual's disability to determine eligibility. Riders registering as an individual with a disability can either provide proof of disability benefits or have their doctor fill out a proof of disability form to obtain the Reduced Fare Permit.

Residents can call the Pace Call Center at 1-800-201-6446 daily between 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to book a trip for any day of the week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the exception of certain holidays.

Ride Lake County has a flat rate with a distance tiers structure meaning the cost of the trip will vary \$2-\$6 depending on the distance.

For more information call the Lake County Division of Transportation at 847-377-7400.



VILLAGE OF

RIVERWOODS

Village of Riverwoods
300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, Illinois
60015-3898

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT #63
DEERFIELD, IL
60015-3898

Native Plants for Butterflies

From Riverwoods Preservation Council,
In Our Own Backyard

Most forbs (flowering plants) that attract butterflies require sun. Plant these at the woodland edge, in an open meadow or prairie, or in a sunny garden area. Aside from their beauty, butterflies are excellent pollinators, and the larvae are an important part of the food chain. Butterflies usually like flowers with a “landing pad” because they taste with their feet, which have special sense organs. The following forbs are recommended for butterfly areas.

Nodding Wild Onion	Wild Bergamot
Butterfly Weed	Wild Quinine
Prairie Coreopsis	Foxglove Beardtongue
Purple Prairie Clover	Black-Eyed Susan
Coneflowers	Riddell's Goldenrod
Rattlesnake Master	Sky Blue Astor
Joe Pye Weed	Ohio Spiderwort
Blazing Star	

