



Oak Leaf

Volume 28 Number 2 — June 2012

Oakwoodha.org

President's Message

ATTENTION!

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST (printed) OAK LEAF!

While I generally like for the President's message to be both friendly and informative, there are some key changes pending that it's important you are aware of.

First, after much prodding over the last few years, the Board is once again considering moving the Oak Leaf newsletter to a largely non-print format. Here is what this would mean:

1. The Oak Leaf, as it is now, will be posted to the OHA website (www.oakwoodha.org) for on-demand access.
2. If you would like the Oak Leaf e-mailed to you, it is important that you sign up for our e-mail distribution list. This list was recently transitioned to a new manager, and we are concerned that many people have fallen off the list. Even if you signed up previously, we encourage you to do so again to ensure you continue to receive updates. NOTE that we do NOT share or sell the contact list, and we limit to event and issue notifications that are deemed important. We will never "spam" our members.
3. If you would like a hard copy of the Oak Leaf, these will still be made available

- by request by contacting us at oha@oakwoodha.org or by sending us a hard copy request through the mail.
- 4. Physical notification of the issuance/availability of the Oak Leaf will be sent out when the Oak Leaf is posted.

This change is being made following considerable discussion and consideration. While we recognize that not everyone in our community has access to the internet and e-mail while at home, we believe that a significant enough number now do to justify this move. For those that do not and still want a hard copy, one will still be made available, but it is anticipated that we will be able to reduce spending notably through this shift and the resulting reduction in printing costs.

As we near the time of this transition (expected to be in place before the next Oak Leaf in September), we will send out notification of what has been put in place. If you have any up front thoughts on this matter, please contact us through the web form at <http://www.oakwoodha.org/contact.php> or by sending us a physical letter.

NEXT, I'm very excited to welcome Brad Alexander, Lou Ricciardi, and Monika Rodriguez to the Oakwood Board of Directors. All three are active members of the Oakwood community, and we are thrilled to have them on the Board. These three seats are not taken, filling the vacancies left by Roger Westman, Jerry Harlow, and Brian Cunningham, the last of whom stepped down very recently as his family has now moved out of the neighbor-

OHA Board:

- Matt Johnson — President 630.455.6022
- Mark Nelson — Vice President 630.742.3457
- Lynette Tuggle — Treasurer 630.986.8155
- Laura Connolly — Secretary 630.789.2078
- Bradley Alexander — Director 630.590.5450
- Lou Ricciardi — Director 630.325.5989
- Monika Rodriguez — Director
- Board e-mail: OHA@oakwoodha.org

Oakwood Homeowners Association
4 East Ogden Avenue # 313
Westmont, IL 60559

Oakwoodha.org

Oakwood News

hood. While Lou and Monika were appointed, Brad was elected at this year's Annual Meeting in April, which was once again a successful meeting. Thank you to all those who attended, or who went out of their way to sign and even mail in proxies making this meeting possible!

AND... I'd also like to congratulate Mark Nelson on his appointment to the Vice President role on the Board. Somehow I've been convinced to continue on for another year as President. What can I say? You people grow on me.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! At the Annual Meeting, with a very nearly unanimous vote, the path forward for the North end monument replacement program was approved and the gears are turning. Special thank you to Mark Nelson for all of his efforts on this project. This was a monumental undertaking (pun intended, but appropriate), and we are eager for this to move forward.

That's about all I have for this month. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

Matt "time for some a change" Johnson
OHA Board President

REMINDER—2012 Association Dues

If you've misplaced the bill for your Homeowners Association Dues which are due June 1, you can mail \$117 to:

Oakwood Homeowners Assoc
4 East Ogden, #313
Westmont, IL 60559

Also included in the bill we mailed was the form for being listed in the 2012 directory for the association. We do not share this information with anyone -- and you must fill out a new form even if you were in the 2010 directory.

2012 Father's Day Weekend Oakwood Garage Sale

We're getting down to the wire, and MANY of you have asked whether we're doing the garage sale this year. The answer is YES!!

The sale will run from 8am-5pm on Friday and Saturday, June 15th and 16th. Advertising will be done in papers for Westmont and 6 surrounding towns, but you may place individual ads as well as desired. To get flags for your yard, contact Frank Rogers at (630) 325-1458 (\$5 deposit required).



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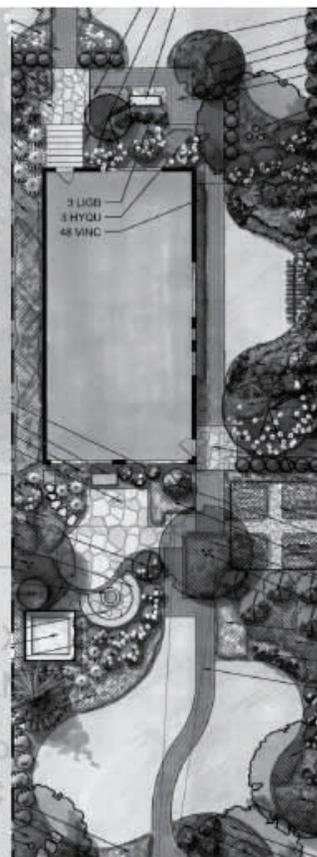
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Oakwood News

From the Westmont Planning & Zoning Commission

The winter months provided few opportunities for business development, but going into spring, the pace seemed to quicken slightly.

The highlight of our November agenda was the addition of a new wrestling school on the south side of Westmont on Cass Avenue south of 63rd Street.

December brought the change over from a Jewel-operated gas and convenience store to a Shell gas station paired with a Circle K operated convenience store. We would see signage change requests at our May meeting to complete the logo and branding switchover.

Most agenda items between January and April were routine. On a different note, we recommended approval of a new downtown business called A Cake In The Box. The business plan calls for specialty clothing, cell phone covers, jewelry, etc. with a "Cake" logo, each item produced in limited quantity and packaged in bakery style boxes and cartons. Most commissioners needed a thorough explanation of this concept.

Our May meeting featured a potential purchase of the old Fuller's self Service car wash located across the street from Jewel. The prospective buyer is the local owner of Pet Supplies Plus located on the west side of Cass Avenue on Ogden. Plans call for a 7000 square foot stand alone building resulting in an expanded selection of pet care products. The facility appears to be well designed and if

sales increase, the Village should also see an increase of sales tax revenue.

New openings include a beautifully displayed Play It Again Sports in the west side of the Georgia Carpets building. Relocated from Downers Grove, the store features a huge selection of gently used sports equipment. Also new to the scene, Bakersfield Restaurant opened on May 1st. Owned by the group that brought us the Standard Market, the restaurant features an upscale interior, beautiful patio dining options and an American menu of wood-grilled steaks, seafood and specials.

The Village of Westmont Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. All meetings are televised live on local cable access channel 6 and then replayed at 10:00am Monday through Friday. Agenda items are then sent to the Village Board with the comments of the Commission for final disposition. You can also view the agenda on the Village website – www.westmont.il.gov. The next meeting will take place June 13th – tune in!

Gregg Pill
Oakwood Resident

Special Thanks to Brian Cunningham

We regret to announce that Brian Cunningham has stepped down from the OHA Board as his family has moved away. We want to thank him for his service, and extend every wish for their happiness and success.



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Oakwood News

2012 Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday March 31st, 61 children and their families braved the chill in the air for the annual Oakwood Easter Egg Hunt. Donuts and coffee were enjoyed and gift bags were given to the children filled with Easter crafts, mini-games, candy, and for the littlest neighbors, stuffed animals. This year more than 1,100 eggs were hidden for kids of all ages to find. The Easter Bunny left four special gold and silver eggs that granted the finders a chocolate bunny. While we have a volunteer to organize the egg hunt for 2013, volunteers are always appreciated to help stuff eggs and set up the event. If you are interested in assisting with the Egg Hunt or any other social event, please contact a member of the board. A huge thank you goes to Monika for volunteering this year. I couldn't have handled all the day-off details while also entertaining my own young kids without you.

- Julie Cunningham, Organizer

Roger Westman Memorial Service

Oakwood's first resident, Roger Westman, who passed away on February 10th of this year, will be honored and celebrated at the Veteran's Memorial Park Shelter on Saturday, July 21st. Greeting will start around 9:20am, and several presentations will be given from 9:30 until 10:30, followed by refreshments and fellowship. We encourage all Oakwood residents to attend this event in remembrance of our friend and neighbor.

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Update on 35th Street Signs/Monuments

This is the fourth consecutive Oak Leaf an article has been written regarding 35th Street monuments, so hopefully this serves as an update for many of you. For those that are reading about this for the first time, please refer to the previous Oak Leafs on the OHA website for a detailed summary of the situation. In short, the signs at the 35th Street entrance were both badly in need of repair and it was much more cost effective to replace the monuments. From a distance the monuments still look to be in decent shape, but up close parts of the monuments are falling off and the support blocks are no longer supporting the monuments. The OHA board thought it was important to be proactive addressing the problem before the signs became unsightly and a potential liability. The board obtained professional designs and put those designs out for competitive bid to eight different reputable contractors.

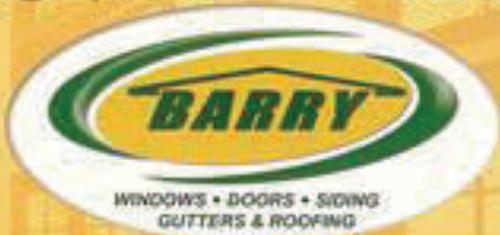
At the OHA annual meeting last April the designs for the new monuments and landscaping were presented. The new monuments and landscaping were overwhelmingly approved by the residents at the meeting. To see which design was selected, please refer to the next page. Landscaping is presented on the following pages.

The monuments and landscape designs were then presented to the Westmont Village Board since the signs are technically on Village property. The signs were approved by the Village Board and a permit was issued by the Village. Demolition of the existing monuments and construction of the new signs are set to begin shortly (might already be started or done by the time you read this article).

Please keep in mind the new shrubbery and surrounding landscape will take time to fill in and will likely take a season or two before it fully establishes itself, so please be patient.

- Mark Nelson
OHA Landscape Chair

Harold Barry III
HBarry3@BarryAlum.com
630-963-0925
Fax 630-963-2119

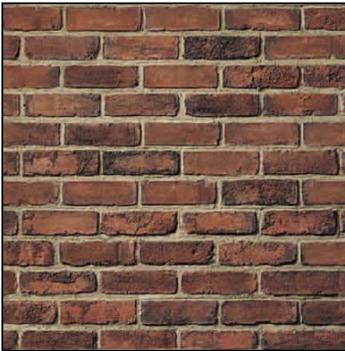


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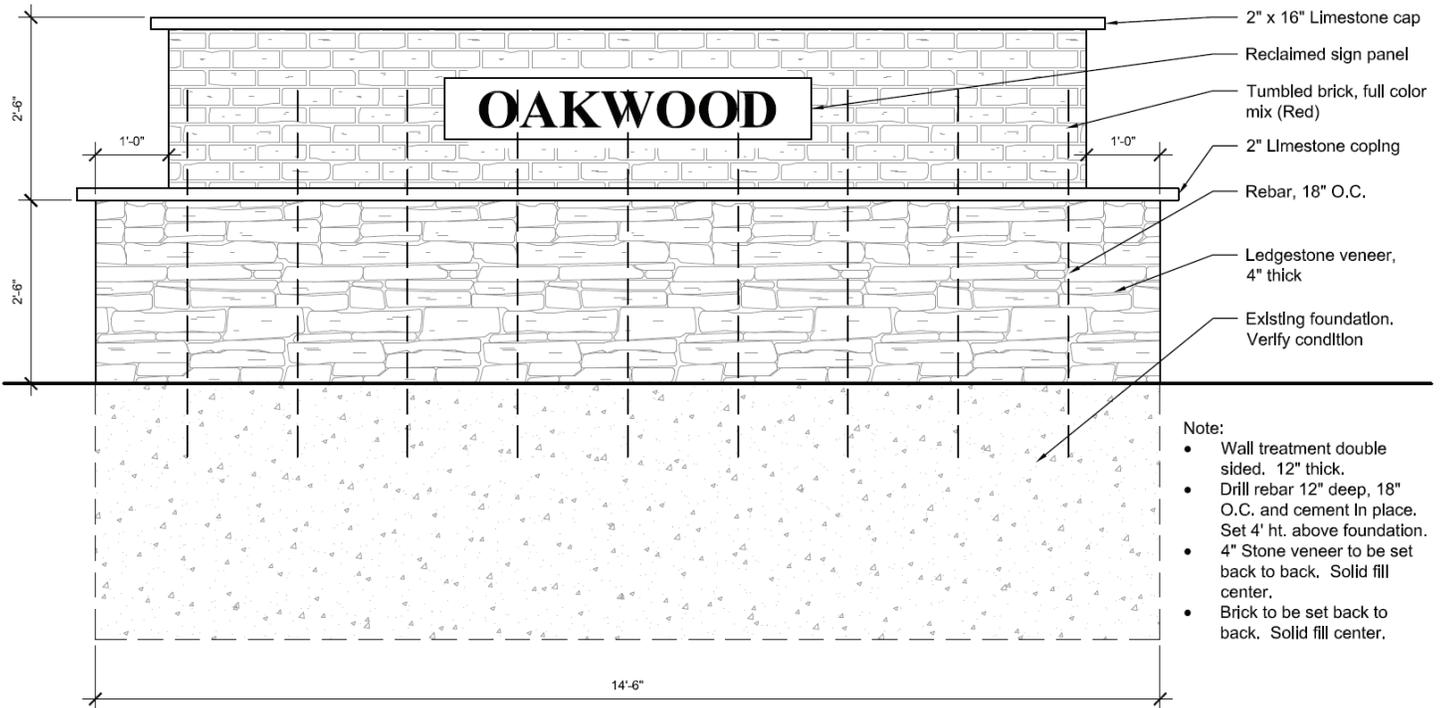
Limestone Cap Examples



Brick Material

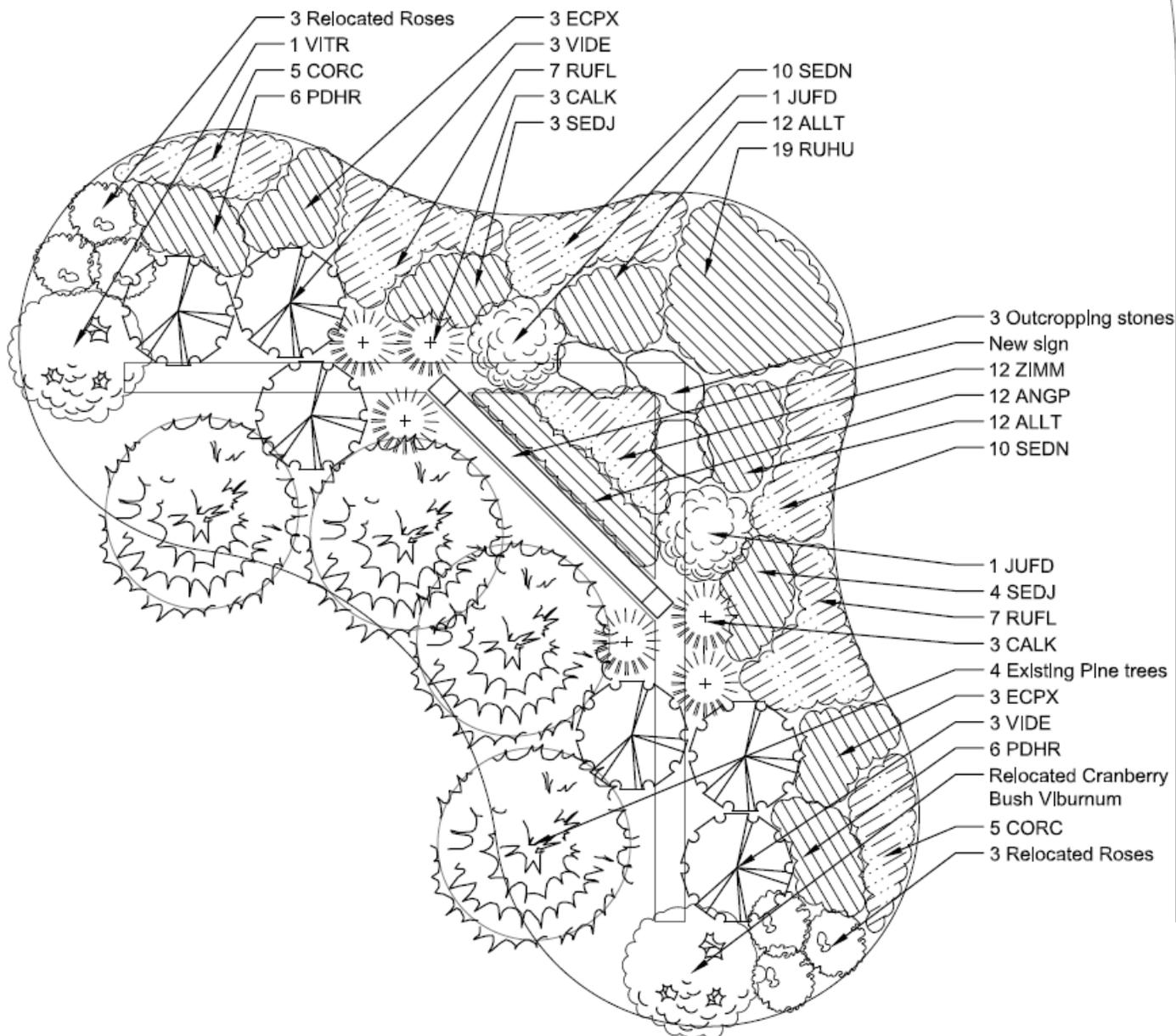


Stone Material Options



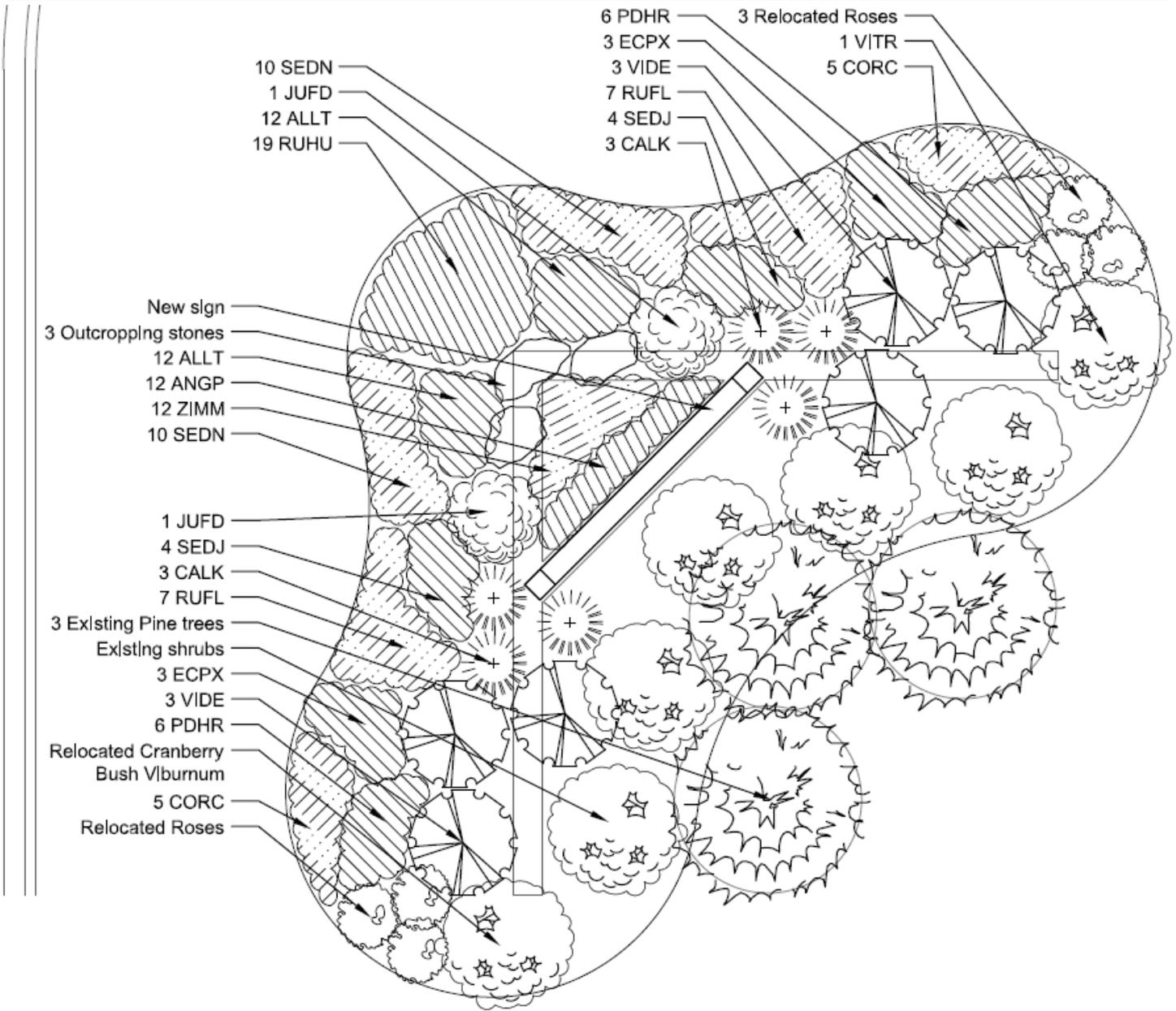
1 Sign Option 1

3/4" = 1'-0"



Plant Material List

	Qty.	Symbol	Botanical Name	Common Name
Deciduous Shrubs	12	VIDE	Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum
	2	VITR	Viburnum trilobum	Cranberry Viburnum
Evergreen Shrubs	4	JUFD	Juniperus chinensis 'Daub's Frosted'	Daub's Frosted Juniper
Perennials	48	ALLT	Allium 'Ozawa'	Ozawa Allium
	20	CORC	Coreopsis verticillata 'Creme Brulee'	Creme Brulee Coreopsis
	12	ECPX	Echinacea 'Pixie Meadowbrite'	Pixie Meadowbrite Coneflower
	24	PDHR	Penstemon digitalis 'Huskers Red'	Huskers Red Beardtongue
	38	RUHU	Ruellia humilis	Wild Petunia
	28	RUFL	Rudbeckia fulgida 'Little Suzy'	Little Suzy Black Eyed Susan
	12	SEDJ	Sedum 'Jose Aubergine'	Jose Aubergine Sedum
Ornamental Grasses	40	SEDN	Sedum spectabile 'Neon'	Neon Sedum
	12	CALK	Calamagrostis acutiflora - 'Karl Forrester'	Feather Reed Grass



ADVERTISE HERE

For information on how to advertise in the Oak Leaf please email OHA@oakwoodha.org or contact Brian Cunningham at 630-325-2314

Annual cost to advertise is the following:

Business card: \$60

Double size: \$120

Triple size: \$180

Full Page: \$250

The newsletter is distributed quarterly to over 450 homes, having great advertising exposure at a low cost!

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From the Village Board

I normally would be saying something like, "Welcome summer to everyone"! But since it's been summer like weather for the past few months, I'll skip that part. I would like to remind everyone concerning an issue that we all face every summer, which is the use of lawn fertilizers

that contain Phosphorus. Its use can help aggravate the algae growth in Lake Charles. When buying your fertilizers this summer please seek those without it. Those who use lawn services, please advise them as well.

I would like to congratulate Dave Weiss on his promotion to Fire Chief. Dave has been a member of the Westmont Fire Dept. since 1990 and was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1999. His experience and leadership abilities make him an outstanding choice! Dave's door is always open to all. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to call him.

The owners of Standard Market have opened their second venture here in town, Bakersfield (the old Baileys) at 333 Ogden. Check out their website - www.bakersfieldrestaurant.com for hours and menu. Great food and atmosphere! I'm sure our resident food critic Greg Pill has already sampled the menu

Crusin' Nights will start the 2012 season off on Thursday June 7th. Adding to that event will be the addition of "The Westmont Fresh Marketplace," which will have numerous vendors including farmers, specialty goods and gifts. The location for the Marketplace will be the first block west of Cass on Burlington St.

On to a more serious topic and one you'll hear about again in the near future, Home Rule. The last census totals put our population under 25,000. When this happened, the village sent an appeal to the Census Bureau advising that we felt those numbers were inaccurately low. We were advised that it could take up to 3 years for an appeal decision to be considered. You need a population over 25,000 in order to gain or retain Home Rule status, unless you hold a referendum. If the population dips below 25,000 the village, at the next general election, must hold a referendum on whether Home Rule should be retained. Some may be saying, "What is Home Rule?"

Under the 1970 Illinois Constitution, Home Rule shifts decision making from the state level (Springfield) to the local level (Westmont) enabling our community to find local solutions to local problems. Home Rule communities are granted a broad range of powers for the local good unless exempted by the State. Often a Home Rule community is exempted from meeting requirements mandated by state legislation.

Just as at the state level, there are positives and negatives of Home Rule. When used wisely, it helps in the running of our government. We have used the fair aspects of it and not the bad. Some of the positive ways have been the implementation of the Landlord Licensing Ordinance. The ordinance requires landlords to pay a registration fee and allow periodic inspections for

their units. This allowed us and the community landlords to help provide better & safer apartments for our residents. This ordinance was sparked by numerous calls from residents living in apartments and complaining of conditions.

When the economy started going down, the village board had to start thinking of how it was going to pay its bills. Home Rule gave us the ability to add a 2.5 - cent per gallon tax on the price of gasoline. While no one wants to raise taxes (really), the best way to help ease the burden to the residents would be to make it so people living outside of Westmont also help pay the tax. With the amount of car dealers we have and the traffic going through town, many people stop and but their gas here. Again, people not living in Westmont are helping us as well. I am enclosing a web address that addresses the issue far better than I can. Please read it !

<http://www.jrap-journal.org/pastvolumes/2000/v32/32-1-5.pdf>

My personal opinion is that if we lose Home Rule there will be changes (not for the better) in services provided by the village. I can't tell what those changes will be until after the referendum and we see what funding we lose. This is undoubtedly one of the most serious situations our village faces in recent history. The unfortunate part is that most people won't do their homework on the issue and could vote against it. If I truly thought this was a bad thing for our community I would be the first to tell you. Keeping Home Rule allows our local community (that means you), to have a voice on a host of legislation instead of relying on Springfield. In the end, it all boils down to - *do you trust us on how to handle Home Rule?*

In the upcoming months you will be hearing a lot more about this issue from the village. I'll be posting more information on Home Rule as well on my Facebook site: *Trustee Bob Scott*

If you have any questions or concerns on any of the above topics, please feel free to contact me or any of the other Trustees at anytime

Have a great summer!

Bob Scott

Village Trustee & Oakwood Resident

708-227-7268

bscott@westmont.il.gov

www.facebook.com/BobScott.01

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