



VILLAGE VIEW

The Voice of Roscoe Village Neighbors

roscoevillage.org

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UPCOMING RVN EVENTS



OCT 20

RVN HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

Celebrate the spooky season Roscoe Village style with your neighbors, featuring live music, a drink tent, photo ops and of course lots of candy!

Booths will be set up on Roscoe Street, activated by local schools, businesses and your elected officials. Visit each booth to participate in Halloween-themed activities and to trick-or-treat. Live music schedule, drink options and more details coming soon! Check out website for more details. This event is free to attend.

NEW THIS YEAR!

ROSCOE VILLAGE FALL CLEAN UP!

Roscoe Village Neighbors is partnering with WasteNot to collect your leaves and other yard waste to help keep our streets and sewers from clogging up with slippery wet leaves, and our compostable yard waste from ending up in landfills.

Find more information and sign up on Page 4!

NOV 6



DEC 6/7/8

SAVE THE DATE: RVN WINTERFEST

Gather with friends and family at our annual Winterfest. Have a festive weekend starting with a tree lighting, shopping at our one-of-a-kind boutiques, hot chocolate galore, and holiday cider. Then, bring the family for a horse-drawn sleigh, children's activities, caroling, and, of course, Santa! Check out website for more details.





Board of Directors 2022-2023

Larry Peterson, President

Brian Crouch, Vice President

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Molly DiRago

Raechel Ferry-Rooney

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Calli Verkamp

This newsletter is published by Roscoe Village Neighbors, a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization, as a service to our members and community. It contains information, news and other items of general interest to those who live and work in Roscoe Village. Please direct submissions and comments to the editor, info@roscoevillage.org.

RVN Committees

Education

educationcommittee@roscoevillage.org

Events

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Membership

membership@roscoevillage.org

Neighbors on Watch (NoW)

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Beautification & Sustainability

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Zoning & Planning (ZAP)

zoning@roscoevillage.org

Please send any general inquiries to
info@roscoevillage.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Villagers,

Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of Village View. It is hard to believe that it is already October and, as I write this on a beautiful autumn day in Chicago, we are just a few months away from the end of the year. Looking back on 2024 so far, I'm grateful for the fantastic weather we had for the Garden Walk and Retro, and just a little bit of rain at Clean & Green and the Annual Garage Sale. ***I am especially grateful for the work of our volunteers at Retro and for the Garden Walk exhibitors who generously opened up their unique and absolutely beautiful spaces for everyone to enjoy.*** On behalf of the entire RVN Board, thank you so much for your time and effort! Our volunteers help make all of our work possible and, as an all-volunteer Board, we share in your commitment to the Roscoe Village community.

No one understood or embodied this commitment more than Roscoe Village resident Colleen Flood. Colleen was a lifelong Chicago resident who spent 35 years living and working in Roscoe Village, up until her passing in September last year. Her contributions are too numerous to mention here but among them are the naming of "Roscoe Village," the creation of Roscoe Village Neighbors and many of our events, including Retro on Roscoe, Winterfest, and the Halloween block party. Colleen was also a business leader, seeing the enormous potential in Roscoe Village long before most everyone else.

Colleen was a founding member of RVN, serving as a Board Director and President over several years. Even after leaving the Board, Colleen remained active attending meetings, running the car show every year at Retro, and serving as a mentor and motivator. After one of my first RVN board meetings as a new Director, I and another board member offered to walk Colleen home. She always took a shortcut through the alley and it just felt right to see her home late on a Tuesday evening. As we chatted and walked, Colleen pulled out a large, menacing flashlight out of her jacket. Taken aback, we asked what it was for, considering that she had two somewhat strapping, youngish men walking with her. Colleen replied, in a tone that made it clear that we had asked a silly question but one that she was thrilled to answer, "It's in case I need to protect you guys!" And then, a few months later, we were sitting together wrapping decorative presents for the Winterfest tree. To me, that has always encapsulated Colleen's staunchly protective and yet gently caring nature. She was always looking out for us, her neighbors, and for the wellbeing of Roscoe Village. We'll miss her generosity, her leadership, and her strength.

(continued on page 4)



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

RVN JUNIOR BOARD SITS DOWN WITH ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANN WILLIAMS

The Roscoe Village Neighbors Junior Board recently had the opportunity to interview Illinois State Representative Ann Williams, who has represented the 11th District since 2011. Junior Board Vice President, Jack Lee took the lead, asking insightful questions about youth involvement in politics, community improvement, and Representative Williams' priorities for the district.

Representative Williams, whose district includes Roscoe Village, spoke about how she first became interested in running for office. "My group of friends had already been active in the community," she explained. "When this State Representative seat opened up, we all thought it would be great if one of us actually represented the community that we had been so involved in. I volunteered, and because we had acted as a team, we felt that we all had a real voice." This sense of teamwork and commitment to community is something Williams carries with her today, particularly when it comes to listening to the concerns of her constituents.

When asked about her top priorities, Williams highlighted several key issues that directly impact youth in the 11th District. **"A high-quality education for all students, environmental protection, gun violence prevention, reproductive health care, and equality for all Illinoisans, including the LGBTQ community, are all issues I focus on. I've engaged with young people on these topics, and their voices are critical in shaping the future."**

Williams also expressed her support for the Roscoe Village Neighbors Junior Board. **"I think it's great that RVN has established a Junior Board," she said. "It's forward-thinking and positive for the neighborhood."** Youth are a big part of the conversations on many of the issues we face, and their voices are impactful. I believe that all local neighborhood groups should engage youth in this way."

The discussion also touched on how young people can get involved in improving their communities. Williams encouraged youth to reach out to their elected officials.

"Just like any constituent, youth should make an effort to get to know their representatives." Whether it's at the city or state level, we have a lot of interest in hearing what young people have to say. It's always exciting to engage with them and learn about their priorities."

Williams also provided practical advice on how to make an impact, especially when youth disagree with certain policies. **"There's power in working together with others who share your perspective. Reach out to your elected officials, gather support, and make sure your voice is heard."**

Mental health and public safety were other important issues discussed during the interview. Williams acknowledged that, especially since the pandemic, youth mental health has become a greater priority. "Schools are great resources when it comes to mental health and safety," she said, adding that her office is always available to connect young people with the right resources.

Lastly, Representative Williams spoke about the importance of preparing youth for future challenges, both in their careers and as civic leaders. "Our community takes this very seriously," she said. **"The Junior Board reflects how much we value youth voices, and I believe we're moving in the right direction by engaging young people on issues that matter to them."**

This interview was a valuable opportunity for the RVN Junior Board to connect with an influential local leader and gain insight into how youth can play an active role in shaping their community. We're thankful for Representative Williams' time and her continued support for the next generation of leaders in Roscoe Village.

A transcript of the interview is available on RVN's website.

ROSCOE VILLAGE FALL CLEAN UP!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Sign Up
Here!



Roscoe Village Neighbors is partnering with WasteNot to collect your leaves and other yard waste to help keep our streets and sewers from clogging up with slippery wet leaves, and our compostable yard waste from ending up in landfills.

Order your craft yard bags from Roscoe Village Neighbors (RVN) by Oct 20. Fill them up with leaves and other spent plants, and set them on your curb by Tues, Nov 5. WasteNot will pick them up Wed, Nov 6.

RVN is excited to provide 2 FREE bags per household.
Need more? It's only \$5/bag including pickup! Just indicate the number of additional bags, and we'll contact you for payment info.

Questions? Email roscoevillageneighbors@gmail.com

To become a member of RVN, please visit our website at roscoevillage.org/join.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued

On Saturday, September 28, Colleen was honored by the City of Chicago with the dedication of the "Honorary Colleen J. Flood Way" on Damen between Henderson and Roscoe. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the ceremony led by Alderman Waguespack along with a crowd of Colleen's family, friends, and neighbors. As we exchanged fond memories on the corner outside, and then inside, Colleen's beloved Four Treys Tavern, it became apparent once again the number of lives Colleen had a lasting positive impact upon. I would encourage everyone to take a look at the Ordinance commemorating Colleen J. Flood Way (scan the QR code to the right). And if you have a chance, take a look at the newly installed sign at the corner of Damen and Henderson. *Our neighborhood wouldn't be the same without Colleen's leadership, vision, and hard work.*

-Lawrence Peterson, RVN President



**Read more about
Colleen and find a link
to the Ordinance here!**

