



PlantItGreen

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Sue Crothers (left) of the River Forest Sustainability Commission, and Cathy Aducci, River Forest Village President, were featured speakers at The Deep Roots Project July 29 ribbon cutting in River Forest.

RFSC and Deep Roots sow seeds for Inspiration, pollinator gardens

With support from the River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC), the [Deep Roots Project](#) held a ribbon cutting July 29 at the Trailside Museum to celebrate the first of 10 Inspiration Edible Garden beds it plans to install and help maintain in Oak Park and River Forest over the next year.

The two-year-old nonprofit has a mission to educate, raise awareness and inspire the local communities (and beyond) to grow their own food and reduce toxins in the environment. Earlier this year, the Entrepreneur Leaders in Philanthropy Fund, a giving group of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, awarded Deep Roots funds to install the gardens.

Deep Roots is working in partnership with the [River Forest Sustainability Commission](#) on the "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family" pesticide free lawn care program in River Forest.



River Forest neighbors plant a pollinator garden during a Green Block Party this summer.

Deep Roots is also working with the Commission on the Parkways for Pollinators initiative. The organization helped put on a Green Block Party activity in River Forest earlier this summer, during which residents planted a permanent pollinator garden in the 700 block of Bonnie Brae.

Working with local landscaping company Dig Right In and West Cook Wild Ones, Deep Roots designed two gardens (one for sun and one for shade). The gardens are approximately 4' x 10' and contain about 15 native plants.

David Murphy, Deep Roots Project director, says they've gotten "a slew of requests starting going all the way through September." Those who are interested can find a block party applications [here](#).

Make a pledge to help Oak Park's sustainability initiatives grow

Green Mountain Energy Sun Club is partnering with the [Park District of Oak Park](#) to provide \$100,000 for an innovative sustainability project that includes solar panels, rain harvesting, tea composting and observable working honeybee hives at the Oak Park Conservatory.

To secure these funds, the Park District needs everyone's help. Residents are being asked to make a pledge and identify actions they and their families will take to help make the community more sustainable and contribute to the overall health of the planet.

Pledge options include hosting a [green block party](#), conducting an



energy audit, eliminating single-use bags and bottles, installing solar panels, growing a home fruit, vegetable or herb garden, converting a lawn to a garden, participating in the Village of Oak Park Composting program and more.

For every pledge received, Sun Club will provide \$100 toward these sustainability projects.

Make your pledge [here](#).



Pam Todd, co-founder of West Cook Wild Ones, points out native species during a tour of her garden.

West Cook Wild Ones garden tour attracts "Birds, Bees and Butterflies" - and people

Located throughout Oak Park and River Forest, 17 public and private native gardens showcased the biodiversity packed into the two villages. The gardens were opened to visitors during the "Birds, Bees and Butterflies: A Native Garden Tour" on Aug. 5.

Master gardeners and professional landscapers were on hand to answer questions about native plants, how to grow them and incorporate them into a variety of landscapes. Tour takers also learned how vital and attractive native plants are to birds, bees and butterflies.

"This tour was for anyone who is curious about native gardening and wants to be a better steward of their surrounding environment," said **Pam Todd**, co-founder of [West Cook Wild Ones](#), which hosted the tour for the third time since 2014.

D97 will show off its school gardens

Saturday, Aug. 18
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Oak Park

This family-friendly self-guided garden tour will feature District 97's incredible



school gardens (with the exception of Holmes due to construction). The special features of D97's school garden are as varied as the students who planted them. Learn how each school uses its space and take away ideas and inspiration for your home or school garden. School Green Team volunteers will be on hand at each school to show you around.

11th Annual Micro Brew Review practices zero waste on a huge scale

Oak Park Micro Brew Review showcases the best craft beers our Illinois brewers have to offer, select beers from Midwest and national craft breweries, live music and small plates incorporating local food from Oak Park area restaurants.

The event is the largest zero-waste craft beer fest in the Midwest. Zero waste means NOTHING from the event is sent to the landfill.

Proceeds from the festival support the work of Seven Generations Ahead to promote and support healthy and sustainable communities.

Get tickets [here](#).



Solar Tiny House exhibit at Micro Brew



This year's Micro Brew will showcase the Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA) Solar House, a self-sustaining demonstration lab with photovoltaic panels. The fully functioning tiny house will show how a residential house can operate on solar power, including lighting, electronics, and more. SGA will be hosting the house during the entire Micro Brew event, and providing information on how to get involved with community solar. To learn more about the ISEA Solar House, stop by during Micro Brew, or visit illinoissolar.org/iseasolarhouse.

Upcoming PlanItGreen Events

Join PlanItGreen this fall at these upcoming learning events. If you are interested in attending any or all of these events, please RSVP to Abbey with your name, email address, and which events you would like to attend.

RSVP to: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org

Lunch and Learn: Community Solar

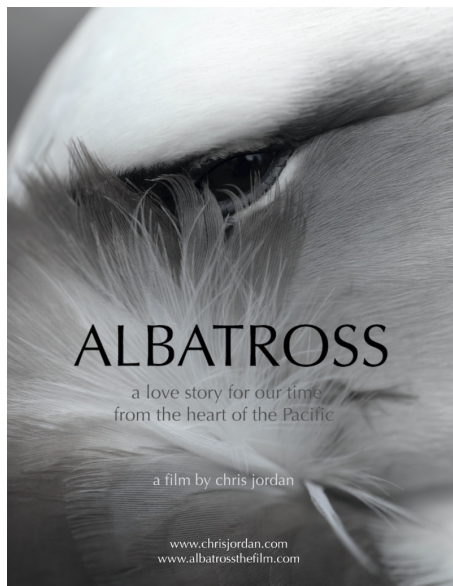
Friday, Sept. 7, 12-1:30 pm
Ridgeland Commons
415 Lake St., Oak Park

As the Future Energy Jobs Act programs develop and in advance of the Illinois Solar Tour, PlanItGreen's Sept. 7 "Lunch and Learn" will focus on ways commercial, nonprofit and public sector organizations can take advantage of solar power, both on their building and offsite.

Hear from experts and developers on different, cost effective procurement strategies. The Lunch and Learn will be at the Park District of Oak Park's Ridgeland Common Recreational Center, which features a 100 kilowatt solar installation.



RSVP to Abbey at: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org



ALBATROSS Documentary Film Screening

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6 - 8:30 pm
Oak Park Public Library, Veterans Room
834 Lake St., Oak Park

On a remote atoll in the North Pacific Ocean, albatross chicks are dying, bodies filled with plastic. ALBATROSS unflinchingly shows the horror and grief of this tragedy, but ultimately brings us to a deeply felt experience of beauty and love for life on Earth. Stepping outside of traditional documentary film style,

ALBATROSS delivers a profound message of reverence and renewal. The film is 97 minutes long.

Watch the trailer [here](#).

RSVP to Abbey at: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org

Lunch and Learn: Metropolitan Planning Council on Water Conservation

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 12 - 1 pm
Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation
1049 Lake Street, Oak Park**

We are lucky: In northeastern Illinois, we generally enjoy an ample amount of water thanks to our location along the shores of a Great Lake. However, we are not without our drinking water issues. Safe and sustainable drinking water is a key foundation for livability, prosperity, and quality of life. Come to learn about the current challenges facing our drinking water systems, and what we can do about them.

This presentation by Danielle Gallet, a water resource strategist and urban planner, will also provide an overview on a new, free resource for elected officials and community leaders on best practices for ensuring safe and sustainable drinking water systems for our region now and into the future: Drinking Water 1-2-3.



Danielle Gallet

RSVP to Abbey at: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org



Lunch and Learn: ComEd Energy Efficiency

**Tuesday, Oct. 2, 12 - 1 pm
Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation
1049 Lake Street, Oak Park**

The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program provides incentives and technical assistance to help public sector organizations and business save energy and money! Join us for a presentation and Q&A with ComEd about the many energy efficiency incentives and services available for your organization.

For more information on the ComEd Energy Efficiency Program, visit ComEd.com/WaysToSave.

RSVP to Abbey at: abigail@sevengenerationsahead.org

PlantGreen is a project of the OPRF Community Foundation facilitated by Seven Generations Ahead, which engages multiple community institutions, and is guided by the OPRF Community Foundation's Communityworks Advisory Board and the PlantGreen Core Team.



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation
COMMUNITYWORKS

Communityworks provides a coordinated, systems-based approach toward the achievement of community aspirations.

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