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## Guest Comment

# Plainfield Riverfront project takes off

**By Michael Collins**  
*Plainfield Village President*

The Plainfield Riverfront Foundation has made great strides in advancing its mission of raising public awareness and funds for development of Plainfield's Riverfront along the DuPage River.

I would like to encourage everyone to pitch in and help with the foundation's fundraising efforts by attending the inaugural "Plainfield River Days" festival, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11, on the West Electric Park property, located south of Lockport Street and east of Village Hall.

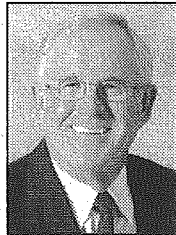
The River Days Party in the Park kicks off at 10 a.m. on Sept. 11 and will include live music and dancing, an art fair, bag toss tournament, fishing derby, kids' jumpies, face painting, car and tractor exhibition, miniature golf,

beer tent and food vendors, as well as a patriotic commemoration of 9/11.

The Riverfront Foundation hopes that the "River Days" festival grows into an annual event that generates substantial funds toward development of the riverfront.

You can also quack for the cause! As part of the festival, the Riverfront Foundation is conducting a duck race raffle to help raise funds. Tickets to adopt a numbered duck cost \$5 per duck or \$20 for a family of five (the "quack pack").

The winning duck owner will receive \$500 for the duck that finishes first, \$200 for second place, and three prizes of \$100



**Michael Collins**

each for the next three ducks to round out the top five. Be sure to cheer on your ducks during the race on Sept. 11! Duck tickets are available for purchase during Cruise Nights in Downtown Plainfield, at Village Hall, the Plainfield Public Library and local businesses.

The Plainfield Riverfront Foundation also recently received its 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS as a charitable non-profit organization, making contributions tax-deductible.

Please include the Riverfront Foundation among the many worthy organizations as you consider your charitable giving. For details regarding specific donation opportunities, River Days or the Duck Race, visit [www.plainfieldriverfront.com](http://www.plainfieldriverfront.com).

We are thrilled that the Riverfront Foundation has already received two significant donations. Canadian National

Railway donated \$25,000 to the Plainfield Riverfront Foundation in June.

Additionally, the Village of Plainfield is very grateful to the estate of Marilyn Grayhack for the donation of an open space parcel adjacent to the existing Electric Park on Vista Lane. This parcel is a valuable addition to the public land holdings within the planned riverfront and the Village Board is grateful to Elizabeth and Marilyn Grayhack for their generous donation.

As far as the development of the Riverfront, the first project in the West Electric Park area has already been completed. The Village's Public Works Department recently finished constructing a temporary gravel parking lot and restoring the area surrounding the former auditorium foundation.

The project was supported by donated materials, equipment

and labor from several local contractors. The village truly appreciates everyone's time and effort in the development of the riverfront. It is our hope to follow this model to construct a path system and make additional improvements in the future while minimizing project costs.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help the Riverfront, Conservation Plainfield is looking for volunteers to help with this year's park enhancement project on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

This year's project will enhance the Riverfront's West Electric Park. Individuals, youth, families, Scout groups, sports teams and civic organizations are all encouraged to participate. For more information or to register, please visit [www.conservationplainfield.com](http://www.conservationplainfield.com).

I look forward to seeing you at the River Days Party in the Park!