



# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | October, 2023



## Police Department Youth Safety Programs

The Police Department is working hard to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth in our community. To this end, they have launched several programs to encourage and promote the welfare of our young residents, which include: positive reinforcements for those who wear helmets while riding bicycles, child safety seat checks and Operation "Safe Party."

The Department partnered with the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** for Child Passenger Safety Week, which ran from September 17-23. The week ended with National Seat Check Saturday, where parents and caregivers received free car seat checks and instruction on how to select and correctly install them in vehicles. Police officers spoke to dozens of local citizens about child passenger safety and installed car seats for residents.

A partnership was created between **River Forest Chocolates** and the Department to reward bicyclists for wearing their helmets. Police Officers are now handing out coupons for

a free chocolate truffle from this local business to bicyclists who prioritize safety and are seen wearing helmets while riding. Another partner, **Forest Security** is offering free bike helmets to community members who need them.

Lastly, to combat underage drinking and associated dangers, the Department recently launched the Operation "Safe Party" campaign, which aims to curb underage alcohol consumption, reduce the risk of alcohol-related accidents, and promote responsible and healthy behavior among our youth. The campaign also includes increased neighborhood patrols, holds local businesses that sell alcohol to minors accountable, hosts educational seminars at schools, and much more!

If you have questions about any of these new programs, would like to request a complimentary bicycle helmet, or need to set an appointment for a car seat check or installation, please send an **email** to Officer Megan Drake.

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# From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

The Village is very optimistic about recent efforts to ensure this prime property in River Forest is readied for future development. We continue to work closely with the court-appointed receiver who is managing the property and Wintrust, who will own the property so that come spring, new development opportunities will be possible. The Village will continue to provide updates when they are available so that our community has the latest news and information on this property. For more information on this former development project, click [here](#).

I am pleased to announce that the Village received the 2023 Greentelligence Environmental Award from the West Central Municipal Conference last week. This award recognizes area municipalities who have shown leadership and commitment towards creating a sustainable future, and is given to those who show consistency in their environmental efforts. ABC 7 Meteorologist, Tracy Butler, presented this award during the West Central Municipal Conference of Mayors Awards Dinner.

And lastly, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I encourage residents to participate in upcoming events that help to raise funds for complimentary breast exam screenings, research and education. A noteworthy upcoming event is the Pink Out soccer game between St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Elementary School and St. Luke's School on Saturday, October 14 beginning at 11 a.m. Event proceeds will be donated to A Silver Lining Foundation, and more information is available [here](#).

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President  
Village of River Forest



# Village Board Trustees



**Erika Bachner**



**Kathleen Brennan**



**Lisa Gillis**



**Ken Johnson**



**Robert O'Connell**



**Respicio F. Vazquez**

## Village Clerk



**Jonathan Keller**

To contact the Village Board to submit a comment or question, click the button below

[Contact the Village Board](#)

# News Around Town

## Community Art Mural: Hands Across River Forest

All summer long, community members were invited to participate in making art, using 5x5 canvases for tracings of their hands. These individual pieces of art have been hung together in the Library lobby to create a beautiful community mural. The project was spearheaded by the Library's creative Children's Associate, LucyRose Till Campbell. [Read more about the process and inspiring stories of art making.](#)



# Halloween



## HOOT 'n HOWL

{Event is intended for families with kids 10 and younger.}

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 5:00-7:00 PM**

**KEYSTONE PARK WEST & THE DEPOT**

Join the River Forest Park District and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Trailside Museum staff for an evening of fall family fun.

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

Horse-drawn hay ride, pumpkin inflatable, live music, pumpkin decorating, bonfire with s'mores, ghoulish games, Boo Bingo, furs and skulls table, and will end with a Halloween costume contest!

**FREE! Wear your Halloween costume! Dress for the weather.**

## Hispanic Heritage Month

The Village of River Forest is proud to highlight National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed from September 15 to October 15 each year and celebrates the contributions, history and diversity that Latino Americans have on our culture. Village Trustee Erika Bachner, who is Hispanic and still has family in Columbia and El Salvador, took part in a recent roundtable at Oak Park Library, along with dozens of other Latin Americans from around the country (in person and virtually). The discussion covered both challenges and strengths experienced by Latin Americans, and how the greater community can come together more to support individuals who more recently arrived in our country. In addition to Trustee Bachner, Trustee Res Vazquez is also of Latin American decent, and serves on the River Forest Board of Trustees.



# Village Department News

## Police Department



### ABLE Project

The Police Department is proud to announce a partnership with the Georgetown Law Center for Innovations in Community Safety to implement the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project. ABLE teaches officers how to create a culture where officers can routinely intervene—and accept interventions from other officers to prevent misconduct, avoid mistakes, and promote their health and wellness. The Department adopted the ABLE Project training at the request of River Forest Police Chief James O’Shea, with the support of the Village Board of Trustees. To learn more about the ABLE Project, click [here](#).

## Public Works

### Fall Leaf Collection Has Begun!

Fall leaf cleanup is now underway, which allows residents to rake leaves into the street where Village crews will collect them. The program will run through the first week in December. Leaves should be piled near, but slightly away from the curb to ensure proper drainage during a rain event. Village crews will collect leaves throughout the workday based on the following schedule:

- **Monday:** Area west of Thatcher Avenue, including Edgewood and Auvergne Place, River Oaks Drive and Lake Street, as well as all streets south of the UP railroad tracks.
- **Tuesday:** All streets between William Street and Harlem Avenue
- **Wednesday:** All streets between Lathrop and Monroe avenues (north of the railroad tracks)
- **Thursday:** All streets between Park and Ashland avenues (north of the railroad tracks)
- **Friday:** All streets between Thatcher and Forest avenues (north of the railroad tracks)

A map of this schedule can be found on the Village website [here](#).

Please note, this program allows for the pick-up of leaves only. Grass clippings, brush and any other type of material should be disposed of in accordance with the Village’s [refuse](#) and [yard waste](#) procedures. Anyone interested in participating in the Village’s Curbside Composting Program can find additional information [here](#).



## Fire Department

### Fall Fire Safety Tips

The season for outdoor fire pits and patio heaters is upon us, the River Forest Fire Department would like to offer some safety tips to review before using these fall staples!

#### Outdoor Fire pits

- All fire pits should be at least 15 feet away from any structure.
- Make sure there are no overhead or hanging hazards such as awnings, or tree branches.
- The pit should be clear of any overhead hazards such as tree branches, overhead wires, or awnings.
- The area below the fire pit should be clear of combustible material. Never place a fire pit directly on a wooden deck.
- Fires should not be lit on windy days or during droughts.
- Always have an appropriate method of extinguishment, such as a garden hose or bucket of sand, at the ready.
- Keep children and pets 10 feet away from the fire pit at all times.
- A competent individual must be present at all times the fire is burning.



For more safety information on Outdoor Fire Pits contact the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at **708-714-3562**.



#### Propane Patio Heaters

- Do not operate or light the heater if you smell gas.
- Keep patio heaters at least 3 feet away from combustible materials.
- Do not leave heaters going unattended.
- Patio heaters can only be used outdoors in a well ventilated area.
- Only use outdoor patio heaters on flat, stable surfaces, away from foot traffic.
- Keep outdoor heaters away from exits.
- Turn off and disconnect heater when moving or storing.
- Turn off the fuel supply on the heater and the tank when not in use.
- Store additional fuel away from the heater in a safe place outside.
- Make sure that your heater is properly maintained.

For more safety information on Patio Heaters visit [this link](#) or contact the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at **708-714-3562**.

# Organizations Serving River Forest



## Township

Many Township services and programs are returning to meeting in-person. To learn more, visit [RiverForestTownship.org](http://RiverForestTownship.org), the River Forest community calendar at [rfhappenings.com](http://rfhappenings.com), or email Supervisor Carla Sloan at [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

### Medicare Open Enrollment is Here!

Medicare Open Enrollment is in effect October 15 through December 7, 2023. Now is the time to review or change your prescription drug and health coverage for next year. If you need assistance with this process, please call Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060 to be connected with specially trained counselors. You may also call Senior Outreach Coordinator Betsy Kelly at 708-366-2029 x 13 for additional resources or visit [medicare.gov](http://medicare.gov).

**MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE**

Name/Nombre  
**JOHN L SMITH**

Medicare Number/Número de Medicare  
**1EG4-TE5-MK72**

Entitled to/Con derecho a  
**PART A**  
**PART B**

Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza  
**03-03-2016**  
**03-03-2016**

### Senior Mobile Event on October 23

The Illinois Secretary of State is hosting a Senior Mobile Event on Monday, October 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at River Forest Township, 8020 Madison Street in River Forest (also known as the RF Community Center).

The program includes Rules of the Road classroom instruction, vision screening exams, drivers license and state ID renewals and corrections, real IDs, and license plate stickers (new, renewal and corrections).

For more information and to register for this free event, call Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060. Space is limited. This event is hosted by Township Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest.



Presented by the Secretary of State

## Park District

### Youth Baseball League Registration

The last day to register for the Winter Youth Basketball League is Friday, November 17 at noon. The league is a GRADE based league NOT AGED BASED, so make sure you register your child for the league according to their current grade level. Practice and games will begin in January. [View basketball League Registration.](#)

[rfparks.com](http://rfparks.com) | 708-366-6660

## Library

### Upcoming Events

Visit the Library's [Calendar](#) to see everything that's coming up!

Now that school is back in session, the regular story times are back, as well as the Library's traditional after-school Middle School Crafting program on Tuesdays.

**Monday, 10/9, 10-11:30 a.m.: Touch a Truck!** Have you ever been inside a real fire truck or police car? Come explore the real thing and touch the trucks at the Library. \*This event is held behind the library on the 700 block of Jackson Avenue and will be canceled in the case of heavy rain.\*

**Spooky Fun at Your Library: Enjoy lots of fun, spooky activities and events for all ages in October!**

**Sunday, 10/22, 2-3:30 p.m.: The Most Haunted Places in Illinois, Adult** Paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis will take those who attend on a spooky journey through the most haunted locations in Illinois. Whether or not you believe in ghosts, this presentation will be a fun and informative way to mark the Halloween season. Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

**Thursday, 10/26, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Ghost Busting, Grades 5-8** Middle Schoolers are invited to become ghost busters! Participants will make their own ghost busting equipment and find out once and for all if the library is haunted! [Advanced registration required.](#)

**Saturday, 10/28, 10-11:00 a.m.: Spooky Saturday, Ages 0-10**

Celebrate Halloween with some spooky stories and crafts at the Library's spooktacular Halloween party. Costumes are welcome!

**Friday, 10/31, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Half Day Craft 'n' Snack, Grades 5-8**

Middle Schoolers are invited to join the Library after the half day of school to do a spooky craft and have a snack!

**Please note:** The Library will be closed on Friday, October 20, for a staff training day.

# Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest High School



Roosevelt Middle School



Willard Elementary School



Lincoln Elementary School

## District 200

### Students explore post-high school pathways

Whether students decide to go to college or go into the workforce after graduation, making sure they are fully prepared is a top priority. To help students get an early start on exploring post-high school interests, resources, and opportunities, Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) recently hosted its second annual *My Future, My Pathway* event for the freshman and sophomore classes.

Students each selected four sessions to attend. OPRFHS faculty led 17 of them, on topics that included audio-visual engineering, community college awareness, hospitality and culinary arts, journalism, and politics. Representatives from more than a dozen local and national organizations also presented about career fields such as barbering, doula birth care, firefighting, renewable energy, and technology.



For some students, the event opened their eyes to new possibilities. "To be an educator is to want to help people and make change," freshman Tegan Smith said. "The education session talked a lot more about motives than actions, and I have not seen that side before. There are also many different ways to work in education, yet not be a teacher, and I have never considered that before."

Freshman Cheslynn Ash said Ms. Robert's Beauty Academy presented her favorite session. "I have never been interested in cosmetology until today. My teacher was amazing, and I would definitely take this class again!"

For other students, the event helped them discover they were no longer interested in certain fields. "I realized that any kind of engineering wasn't for me when I learned just how much math you actually have to do," freshman Calla Andersen said. For freshman John Irvin, being a politician also lost its luster. "Politics is really time consuming, and you don't get breaks on holidays."

## District 90

### National Walk Bike & Roll to School Week

District 90 schools are celebrating National Walk Bike & Roll to School Week through October 6. The Green4Good Committees at Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Willard schools organized this event. Participants are helping the environment, exercising their bodies, and promoting safety. Motorists are encouraged to keep watch for students walking or biking to school. For information about bicycle safety, click [here](#).



### Bike Safety Workshops

A bike safety workshop that was held at Lincoln Elementary on September 7 - 8 helped young cyclists learn the basics of safe biking. Organized by the PTO and run in partnership with the River Forest Police Department, students learned about wearing helmets, locking bikes, and safe cycling.



### Open Houses

All District 90 schools welcomed the families of students this fall for Open Houses. Many parents came out to learn about their children's year ahead.

### Community Pancake Breakfast

The Willard Elementary School Community Pancake Breakfast on September 23 gathered many families and community members to celebrate the start of the school year.

### Adventure Education Day

Roosevelt Middle School hosted a special day of adventure education for 8th graders in September. Students traveled to Camp Duncan for a day of team building challenges outdoors and enjoying a beloved school tradition they had missed as 5th graders due to COVID-19. Students took part in challenges, such as the rope maze (pictured below).



# River Forest Sustainability

## River Forest Receives Greentelligence Award

The West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) awards program recognizes municipal achievements in various categories. One of them is the Greentelligence Award, which highlights collaborative efforts between municipalities that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship. The villages of River Forest, Broadview and Oak Park were recipients of this year's award.



River Forest Village President Cathy Adduci, Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson and Gary Cuneen representing the Village of Oak Park were presented with the award at the WCMC annual awards dinner at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. The event emcee, ABC 7's Tracy Butler, along with the WCMC Executive Director, Richard Pellegrino presented the awards.

## Village Adopts Polystyrene Foam Foodware Ban

The Village Board unanimously passed a new ordinance on September 11 to ban polystyrene (frequently referred to by the brand name, Styrofoam) for businesses that serve food. The Sustainability Commission was asked to take up this issue in May of this year, and modeled the ordinance after the Illinois legislature's proposed ban. The Village has reached out to all potentially affected local businesses via mail and email, the Commission considered all public input over several meetings and sent their recommendation to the Board at the end of August.

Polystyrene is very difficult to recycle, very slow to degrade and contains the chemical styrene, which has been deemed a "possible carcinogen" by the World Health Organization and is linked to cancer, nervous system damage and numerous other negative effects for humans and the environment. Many companies banned polystyrene decades ago for these reasons, including McDonalds, which notably moved away from their iconic foam clam shells in 1990. Many low cost alternatives currently exist that are sustainable, compostable and/or recyclable that have the same thermal and structural qualities as polystyrene.

The new ordinance will be effective January 1, 2024, though smaller food establishments (\$500k or less in revenue) have until January 1, 2025 to comply. The ordinance also includes language that ensures any initial violations in the first four months of 2024 will result in education instead of citations. For more information [please click here](#).

# Spoke Café's Artisan Market



Spoke Café's third annual Artisan Market had a great response this year and included more than 15 vendors that helped to raise nearly \$2,000 for Beyond Hunger, a nonprofit organization that provides hunger relief for people living in the western suburbs and parts of Chicago. The turnout and feedback on this event was extremely positive, and the Village hopes that more markets will take place in the future. Thank you to all who participated in this fun and philanthropic event!

Individuals or businesses interested in participating in future Artisan Markets can email [spokemobilecafe@gmail.com](mailto:spokemobilecafe@gmail.com).



# Fire Department Open House

The Village of River Forest Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Fire Department located at 400 Park Avenue. Residents will have an opportunity to touch a firetruck, go on a fire apparatus and fire station tour, register bikes, obtain child identification kits, and much more!



Follow the Village on Social Media



Sign Up For Email and Alerts



***River Forest Events***



## Village Contact Information

Village Administration  
708-714-3563

Village Administrator  
Matt Walsh

Finance Department  
708-714-3524

Director Rosemary McAdams

Fire Department  
708-714-3560  
Chief Tom Gaertner

Public Works and  
Development Services  
708-714-3551

Police Department  
708-714-3540  
Chief James O'Shea

Emergency  
Services  
Dial 911

400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305

708-366-8500

708-366-3702 (fax)

Monday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesday- Friday 8a.m. – 4:30 p.m.