



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST E-NEWS

Thank you for taking the time to read the Village's E-News. These messages are sent approximately once per month and include timely information regarding Village events, news and other useful information. We strive to keep the content brief and relevant to the issues that matter most to the community.

Message from the Village President



Dear River Forest Residents,

Spring is finally here. Soon we will start caring for our lawns and gardens and doing other outdoor projects.

It's also a good time to raise awareness of our responsibility to make River Forest a more sustainable community. During our regular Village Board meeting on April 11, the Board of Trustees and I will celebrate the local winners of this year's environmental movie competition, the [Young Filmmakers Contest](#). Miles Toppen and Carter Workman, students at Willard, won at the elementary school level for their film, "Pretty Nice Island—The Movie." Five members of the Team Green from Trinity, Kate Conneely, Emma Alm, Veronka Lubeck, Sarah Whiteside, and Katherine Cusack, earned an honorable mention at the high school level for "Team Green." Their movies will be shown at the beginning of our Village Board meeting on April 11.

Our young filmmakers have shown us that we all can make River Forest a healthier, more environmentally conscious community. Here are some ways we can do our part:

- Residents can start using rain barrels to collect rainwater to use on our plants and gardens. River Forest, through the Parks Foundation Sustainability Committee, is offering **FREE** rain barrels. [Click here](#) for details and to order one.
- Residents can turn River Forest into a greener community if we throw fewer food scraps and less yard waste to landfills. With the help of Roy Strom, our trash hauler, the Village is offering voluntary curbside composting. The cost is \$18 a month for a one year contract. Residents will receive a 64gallon cart for the weekly collection of organics and an under the sink collection bucket. [Click here](#) to learn more, including what is compostable, and to sign up.
- Residents can volunteer our time to clear trash from the Des Plaines riverbank and Thatcher Woods on Earth Day, April 23. The activity begins at 8 a.m. at the [Depot](#). The Park

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Where the Sidewalk Begins

District, the sponsor of this event, will provide a continental breakfast to thank volunteers. Visit [this site](#) for more information and to register.

- An electronics recycling event will be held on Saturday, April 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. [Click here](#) for more information.

There are other ways residents can volunteer their time to give back to River Forest. If you are unsure how, come to the Volunteer Meet and Match, from 4 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 13 at the [Oak Park Public Library](#), 834 Lake St. This event will match your interests and skills with 30 nonprofit agencies for single events, short-term options and long-term volunteer possibilities. To learn more and register, [click here](#).

On March 14, the Village Board of Trustees voted to strengthen our local laws to protect our most valued cultural assets: our historically and architecturally significant properties. To read more about it, [click here](#).

Additionally, the Historic Preservation Commission is accepting applications for its annual historic preservation awards. Homeowners, architects and contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2011, are eligible. Winners will be announced at the Commission's June 23 meeting. Applications can be downloaded from the Village's website at www.vrf.us/residents/historicpreservation.

The Oak Park River Forest High School Board of Education will hold three meetings in April to gather feedback on how it should move ahead with replacing and/or rebuilding the school's 90yearold pools. One meeting will be from 7:30 p.m. to 9 pm, Monday, April 11 at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison St. Anyone who is unable to attend is encouraged to attend one of the other sessions: from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 9 or from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday April 12. Both will be at the [OPRE](#) Field House, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Optional tours of the pools also will be available. To sign up for any of the meetings, [click here](#).

Finally, save May 30 to come out for our annual [Memorial Day](#) parade. More details to follow.

Best wishes for a warm and wonderful Passover, which starts at sundown on Friday, April 22.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci

Village President

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Hearing

The Village of River Forest will hold a Budget Workshop at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 11, 2016 to present the FY2017 Village Budget ahead of the formal public hearing on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Both the workshop and the public hearing will take place in the 1st floor Community Room of the Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Village Hall during regular business hours or on the Village's [website](#) prior to the hearing.

Fancy Nancy Tea Party

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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Girls Lacrosse League

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Nature Nuts

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Wildlife Photography

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[Useful Links](#)

Historic Preservation Award

The Historic Preservation Commission is currently accepting applications for 2016 Historic Preservation Awards from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2011.

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of our Village. An awards program was established by the Commission in 2009 in order to support these efforts.

Nominations must be received on or before May 27, 2016. The awards will be announced at the Commission's regularly scheduled June 23, 2016 meeting. Multiple awards may be given each year. The nominated structure need not be in a historic district and may be a residential (single family or multiple unit), commercial, public/institutional or religious structure.

For more information or for an application, [click here](#).

OPRFHS Pool Project



Oak Park and River Forest High School—District 200 is exploring options for replacing and/or rebuilding the district's 90-year-old pools. **The Board of Education will host three community tours and meetings, on April 9, 11, and 12, to share options and to gather community feedback.** Please join the D200 board to learn more and share your thoughts. [Click here](#) for complete details.

Protect Your Pets

River Forest Police are reporting an increase in the amount of calls received regarding sick raccoons. The Cook County Animal Control Department has issued this news item to remind pet owners to get their dogs and cats vaccinated.

[Click here](#) for the full report, courtesy of the Cook County Animal Control. ****Scroll down to "News"****

Caring for Trees

In the coming months, Public Works will be planting new parkway trees throughout the Village. Additionally, residents may also begin thinking about landscaping projects. For guidance on mulching and landscaping around trees and shrubs, please [see this article](#) from the Chicago Tribune. Other forestry information and tips can be found on the Village's website by [clicking here](#).

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

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Lead Level Testing

The testing of water for harmful chemicals is an important matter. For information related to how lead levels are tested and regulated in drinking water, please [click here](#).

Pet License Renewal

Pet licenses for the period from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017 are now available at the Village Hall. Dogs and cats are required to be registered with the Village. For more information and for the pet license application, please [click here](#).

Fire Station Story Time

The Village, in conjunction with the River Forest Public Library, hosted Fire Station Story Time on March 16th. Twenty eight children and eighteen adults were in attendance to hear a story, tour the fire department facilities, and learn more about fire safety. The Village would like to thank all who participated in this kid-friendly fire safety event!



Know the Code!

The Village would like to remind residents:

- Accessory structures, such as a detached garage, must be structurally sound and in good repair. The Village will be working with the owners of properties with non-compliant structures to identify issues and bring them into compliance. Deteriorated roof materials, rotted wood, missing or damaged siding, chipped and peeling paint, broken or missing windows and doors are a violation of the building code. Residents are asked to check the condition of the accessory structures located on their property and bring them into compliance if necessary. Violations of the building code can result in fines of up to \$750 per day per count. Residents can contact the Village Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Vaclav at 708-714-3523 if there are any questions. As always, the Village prefers to achieve voluntary compliance.
- Property must be kept free from accumulating trash. Trash must not be allowed to accumulate against fences and buildings or along sidewalks and in alley ways.

GREEN NEWS

Weekly Compost Pick-Up Returns Every Tuesday

Spring is here! Compost pick-up will take place every Tuesday until Tuesday, November 28. All food scraps (including meat and dairy) can go in the cart along with yard waste. For more information or to sign up for compost pick up, [click here](#).

Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family Campaign

Residents can learn how to maintain a healthy lawn, promote best practices for lawn care, and landscaping to reduce use and impact of lawn care products on human health and the environment by [clicking here](#).

Free Rain Barrels

River Forest has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago to offer free rain barrels to any resident who disconnects downspouts from the sewer system. Up to four rain barrels and hardware will be available per household. [Click here](#) for more info.

April 23 Free Finished Compost for Your Garden Pick-Up

Subscribers to the Village's Curbside Compost Program can pick up free compost for their gardens on Saturday, April 23 from 8am-10:30am at the Depot, 401 Thatcher. Residents are asked to bring their own buckets to fill. Shovels will be provided.

April 16 Electronics Recycling Event

In celebration of Earth Day 2016, the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, in cooperation with the Village of Westchester – Environmental Sustainability Committee, are hosting an Electronics Collection event for Saturday, April 16. This region-wide event will take place at the Village of Westchester Water Tower from 9:00 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. For directions and more information, [click here](#).

April 21-Stink Documentary at Lake Theatre

Stink! is a new documentary about the chemicals found in common household products. The film will be screened at the Lake Theatre in Oak Park at 7pm on April 21st. For tickets, [click here](#).

April 22-EARTH DAY

Earth day is celebrated annually on April 22. The day marks a worldwide initiative to demonstrate support for environmental protection. To learn more about earth day, visit www.earthday.org

April 23 River + Woods (Des Plaines River Clean Up) from 8-10am

A continental breakfast will be provided to all volunteers. Register today to volunteer! For more information [click here](#).

April 23 Village of Oak Park Earth Fest

The Village of Oak Park Earth Fest is an annual celebration of green living. Booths will be available for recycling eye glasses, sun glasses, hearing aids, rechargeable batteries and cell phones. The event will take place at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., Oak Park, IL from 10am-2pm.

Native Plant Sale

West Cook County Wild Ones is holding their annual native plant

sale. Orders are due by April 15. [Click here](#) for more information.

Forest Preserve Birding

Calling all new and experienced birders! The Big Year Birding Competition, sponsored by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, began March 1, and ends December 31. This is not a competition about stamina or skill, but about getting outside, observing wildlife, and convincing as many friends as possible to get involved. [Click here](#) for more information.

May 7 Green4Good's Recycling Extravaganza 8am-1pm

PLEASE NOTE there will be an event fee charged to recycle TVs and monitors. There will be a \$10 fee for ONE television (plasma or CRTs) and ONE monitor. An additional fee will apply if there is more than one TV and one monitor. All other household electronics are free. In addition to electronics, they will accept scrap metal, household items, prescription medications, books, school supplies, CFL and fluorescents, corks, keys, ink cartridges and pet supplies at no charge. For questions or to volunteer at the event please contact julie@4moller.com

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Sunday, 4/3, 2-3 PM, Gardens of Holland

Linda Oyama Bryan, a professional garden photographer, will present a "behind-the-scenes" tour of world-famous Dutch gardens. Dutch design has a long reach into all parts of the world, including the Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park. Join us for this inspirational and educational travelogue!

Wednesday, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab

Does your computer drive you nuts? Does your tablet make you crazy? Come to our Computer Learning Lab -- whatever your tech issue, we can help you figure it out or get to the next step. These sessions are designed for the total beginner through intermediate home/personal user. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn on one of our laptops, or bring your own device.

Thursday, 4/7, 7-9 PM, Barbara Henry Poetry Reading

April is **National Poetry Month!** Celebrate National Poetry Month with local author, speaker and poet, Barbara J. Henry. Ms. Henry will read selections from her book of poetry, *Coming Full Circle*. Join the fun at this interactive event by bringing a **one** or **two** minute personal poem to read or a poem of the same length written by your favorite poet. Children who love poetry are also welcome!

Saturday, 4/9, 3:30-5 PM, Minecraft Madness Grades 3-7

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to River Forest Public Library to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and

compete on challenges to win prizes. Advanced registration required. For kids in grades 3-7.

Saturday, 4/9, 1-3 PM, Foreign Film Forum

This month, the River Forest Public Library will be screening *The Triplets of Belleville*, an animated French film that is rated PG-13. When her grandson is kidnapped during the Tour de France, Madame Souza and her beloved pooch Bruno team up with the Belleville Sisters--an aged song-and-dance team from the days of Fred Astaire--to rescue him.

Thursday, 4/14, 3:30-4:30 PM, Poetry for Pancakes, Grades 5-8

Who wants a pancake, sweet and piping hot? Recite your favorite poem or write your own in exchange for fluffy goodness with all the fixin's!

Friday, 4/15 (6-7 PM) and Saturday, 4/16 (9-10 AM), Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Ages 2-8

Children ages 2-8 can arrive at 6 PM for a bedtime story with your stuffed pal. Leave your stuffed animal for some overnight fun at the library. Come back for a light breakfast at 9 AM on Saturday to see what the stuffed animals were up to during their slumber party. Advanced registration required.

Sunday, 4/17, 2-3 PM, Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Tells Her Own Story

Performance artist Ellie Carlson brings Mamah Borthwick Cheney, the mistress of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, back to life in this chilling, ghostly tale of love, murder and intrigue.

Friday, 4/22, 11:45-2:30 PM, ½ Day Pizza and Trivia, Grades 5-8

So you think you're a pack of smarties? Take advantage of the District 90 half day of school and come with your friends to test your knowledge against your peers. Pizza will be served! Space is limited and sign-up is required.

Thursday, 4/28, 10-10:30 AM, Toddler 1-2-3, Ages 2-3 with Caregiver

Let's count! Listen to a story and then practice your 1-2-3's with simple number and matching activities. For ages 2-3 with Caregiver.

Thursday, 4/28, 3:30-4:30PM, Where the Sidewalk Begins, Grades 5-8

Have a favorite poem? Share it with the world! We will be chalking our favorite verses outside on the library sidewalks. Weather Depending.

Saturday, 4/30, 2-3 PM, Fancy Nancy Tea Party, Ages 3-8

Ooh la la! Join us for an elegant affair as we do crafts, play games, and read stories based on the popular Fancy Nancy series. Light refreshments (that's a fancy word for snacks) will be served. Advanced registration required. For ages 3-8.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Tyra Manning Presents *Where the Water Meets the Sand*

Former District 90 Superintendent Dr. Tyra Manning will present her new book, *Where the Water Meets the Sand*, on **Sunday, May 1, 2 pm**, at the River Forest Public Library. Dr. Manning's memoir imparts a message of hope while recounting her personal journey of mental illness, courage, perseverance and love. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township, its Mental Health Committee, and the River Forest Public Library. *All are welcome to attend.*

Saturday Sibshops are Back!

River Forest Township will hold its final Saturday Sibshop program for the spring on **Saturday, April 23, noon – 2 pm**, at Thrive, 120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park. Sibshops are specially designed for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs, including physical & developmental disabilities or emotional & mental health challenges. 1st-7th grade siblings. Parking available next to the building. Please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan to register or if you have questions by calling 708.366.2029 or emailing cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Let's Celebrate Seniors™ All Year Long!

"Let's Celebrate Seniors™ All Year Long", the joint program series co-sponsored by River Forest Township and the River Forest Public Library, continues on Sunday afternoons. Although the program is directed at seniors, all are welcome to attend the free sessions at the RF Library.

Sunday, April 3, 2 pm – Celebrate spring and tour the gardens of Holland with landscape photographer Linda Oyama Bryan.

Sunday, April 17, 2 pm – As a preview to the Wright Plus Housewalk in May, enjoy actress Ellie Presents' costumed interpretation of "Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Cheney Tells Her Story".

Announcing New Caregiver Support Programs

Powerful Tools for Caregivers – a six-week educational series designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for an older relative or friend. **Mondays, April 18 – May 23, 10 am – 12:30 pm** at Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Registration is required; class size is limited. Suggested donation of \$25 to cover materials. Contact Steven at 708.383.8060.

Caregiver Support Group at Concordia University – a new caregiver support group is starting up at Concordia University and will be

open to River Forest residents, as part of a new partnership between River Forest Township and Concordia's Department of Gerontology. The group will meet once or twice a month at Concordia at 5:00 pm. Details will follow. If interested, please email Supervisor Carla Sloan cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Lunch & Movie for Seniors

Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services invites seniors to its upcoming Lunch & Movie. The film, *Amazing Grace*, will be shown on **Friday, April 15, 10 am – 12:30 pm** at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street. Call 708.383.8060 by April 8 to register.

Seniors: Start your month with Coffee Mondays!

River Forest Library and River Forest Township have enhanced Coffee Mondays with some special topics of conversation, with time left over "just to chat". Meet at 10 am at the River Forest Library on the first Monday of each month:

April 4- Wellness through exercise with RF resident Lila Pagni

Celebrating Seniors™ Week is Coming!

Get ready for the 5th annual Celebrating Seniors™ Week, May 12-19! Activities include a full lineup of fun and informative programs for seniors plus Battle of the Bands, Pets in the Park, Calling all Collectors, 60 over 60 awards, and the ever-popular closing lunch and guest speaker. Visit www.celebratingseniors.net for more details. Program schedule will be posted soon!

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Youth Sports

Chicago Fundamentals Camp

The Bulls/Sox Academy will be hosting a Chicago Bulls Ball Handling camp for boys and girls ages 5-14. Every player, no matter their position, needs to learn how to handle the basketball. This camp will teach the latest techniques to help improve a player's ball handling, hand-eye coordination, and shooting/lay-ups off the dribble, as well as teaching children how to be student athletes and great teammates. Every participant will receive a camp t-shirt and personal scouting report.

April 4 - April 25 • 6:30pm-7:30pm (for ages 5-8)

April 4 - April 25 • 7:30pm-9:00pm (for ages 9-14)

Boys Spring Lacrosse League

Grades: 1-4, 5-6, 7-8

Ante-Up's mission is to introduce and prepare young lacrosse players for their future high school career. They teach sound fundamentals through competitive, team-based lacrosse. This model ties into leadership, sportsmanship, and helps build a

player's character, as well as improving his skills. This program is run by Fenwick's Varsity Lacrosse Coach, Tim Duffy. Coach Duffy is an OPRF HS Alum who won a gold medal in the World Lacrosse Games, played D1 and Professional Lacrosse, and was the 2013 Chicago Catholic League Coach of the Year. Teams will compete in the Illinois Boys Lacrosse Association. Practices will take place twice per week in River Forest on Monday and Wednesday. There will be approximately 8 games (4 home, 4 away), and will take place on Saturday or Sunday.

April 4 - June 8 • 6:15pm - 7:45pm

Girls Lacrosse League (Co-op with Oak Park)

Grades: 2-4, 5-6, 7-8

Be part of a community-based lacrosse league just for girls! The goal of the IGLA is to teach the rules of lacrosse in an active teamwork setting, encourage sportsmanship, and foster personal development in a respectful environment. The IGLA follows all Positive Coaching Alliance guidelines. Practices are 1.5 hours, and games will be played on Sunday between 12:00pm and 5:00pm within your division. *Sunday, April 10, will be the first practice of the Spring season for everyone, and games will begin the following Sunday, April 17 (all other practices will be on Thursdays).

April 10 - June 5 • 6:00pm - 7:30pm (practice)

Spring Soccer

Age: 4 years & Grades K-1

The Chicago Edge Soccer Academy provides an introductory soccer program designed specifically for these younger age groups. It will introduce basic soccer skills in a fun and non-competitive environment. Using exciting exercises and games, we will teach the players fundamental skills such as foot-eye coordination, dribbling, passing, ball control, and shooting. Participants will also be introduced to the concepts of teamwork and sportsmanship. This program is great for both newcomers and those that have already participated in any of our previous soccer activities. Have your child join us for some Spring soccer fun. Don't forget - every participant receives a t-shirt.

April 12 - May 17 • 4:00pm - 5:00pm or 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Tot Classes

Nature Nuts

Ages: 4-6

Does your child want to become a Nature Detective? Children will enjoy outdoor nature hikes, while using their senses to explore their surroundings. Nature Detectives will use special nature tools to explore living things on land, water, and in the sky. Nature Detectives will spend time exploring outside in the woods and inside our nature classroom. We will create crafts, go hiking, play games, and become the best Nature Detectives we can be! Please come dressed for the weather.

Session I

April 20 - May 11 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Session II

April 21 - May 12 • 9:30am-11:00am

Session III

April 21 - May 12 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Twinkle Toes *New!*

Ages: 18 mos-3yrs (with parent)

Join your toddler and discover the joy of music and dance, while meeting new friends. We will focus on movement as we 'hop like a frog' and 'spin like a helicopter', so dress to dance. Large motor skills and coordination will be developed as our young students learn to follow direction with age-appropriate and familiar music. This is an adult/child class; an adult must attend.

Apr 16 - May 14 • 9:15am - 10:00am

Youth Classes

Minecraft – Basic Training for Beginners *New!*

Ages: 6-8

Are your friends all into Minecraft, but you haven't quite figured it out? This is for YOU! You and your partner will collaborate to learn essential crafting skills while searching for clues to unlock doors, complete scavenger hunts and more! You'll get an introduction to the basics of computer networking, multidimensional objects and video game graphics. After completing this program, you'll have the basic tools to participate in more advanced Minecraft adventures!

April 8 - May 13 • 3:45pm - 4:45pm

Construction Vehicles and Machines using LEGO® *New!*

Ages: 5-7

Dig into engineering with big trucks, construction vehicles, and super machines. Explore the engineering terms, concepts, and vocabulary behind large-scale building machines. Build and learn about steamrollers, bulldozers, wrecking balls, tower cranes, and more while playing with your favorite building system: LEGO!

Min 9/Max 16

April 9 • 10:00am-11:30am

Adult Class

Wildlife Photography

Ages: 16 & up

In this class, learn the basics of how to photograph wildlife. We will spend a day in The Depot classroom learning the techniques of wildlife photography. The following week will be spent at Brookfield Zoo (inside Tropic World and the Wolves Encounter) putting into

practice what you learned. The last week, we will meet in The Depot classroom to review and critique, as a class, the images you captured at Brookfield Zoo.

April 16, 23 & 30 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on our programs, take a look at our 2016 [Winter/Spring Fun Guide](#).

For online registration, [click here](#).

Special Event

River + Woods Clean-Up 2016

Make a Difference this Earth Day by cleaning up the Des Plaines riverbank and Thatcher Woods. We encourage you and your family, organization, business, and neighborhoods to register as a Team to volunteer your time this Earth Day weekend. To thank all the volunteers, the Park District will provide a continental breakfast. Pre-registration is encouraged and available at rfparks.com, or by downloading a Group Registration Form online. FREE!

April 23 • 8:00am - 10:00am

For more information on this event, [click here](#).



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