



## 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,

Welcome to July. Many of us will take some long-awaited time off traveling with our families and friends or just relaxing. Please enjoy your summer vacations, safely!

I would like to update you on the status of the proposed Madison Street TIF (Tax Increment Finance) district. After the Village Board's very first meeting hearing residents' concerns, the Board of Trustees has decided to step back and look at restricting the use of eminent domain against homes adjacent to Madison Street. The revisions that the Board is considering signify that residents' comments have been taken seriously and will be addressed to the best of the Board's ability. Additional meetings with area residents and businesses will be conducted to consider revisions to the ordinance, the Joint Review Board will be reconvened and a public hearing will also be scheduled. We initially anticipated that the

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Board would take final action on the ordinance creating the TIF in August, however, that will be rescheduled. In the meantime, the Village will continue to notify residents about the progress made on this item through mailings and by posting relevant and important information about the TIF on our Village website. The Village Board of Trustees and I encourage you to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

River Forest created the Lake Street TIF in 1987 to improve the Village's fiscal health and enhance property values. The result of that was the Town Center I and II, which have become the Village's biggest economic engines. They produce the sales and property tax dollars needed to operate necessary services such as police, fire, public works and administration. They also provide needed tax revenue to River Forest school districts, the Park District, Library and Township. TIF is the most prudent redevelopment tool the Village has at its disposal to stabilize property taxes over the long term and advance the progress needed to remain a vibrant community.

This year marks the centenary of the only known development of Prairie-Style homes in the United States and, as it is here in River Forest, the Village has taken steps to acknowledge this milestone. The Board of Trustees adopted a [Resolution](#) that commemorates the anniversary of the 700 block of William Street and will soon install two honorary street signs at the intersection of the 700 block of William Street and Oak Avenue to mark the occasion. This neighborhood was built between 1913 and 1916, and residents continue to preserve its unique character. These efforts and others show the pride and dedication this community shares in protecting the historically significant structures in our community.

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The Board of Trustees and I approved a joint federal grant application with Elmwood Park for funding that would be used for North Avenue streetscape improvements from Lathrop Avenue east to Harlem Avenue. If the grant is awarded, River Forest and Elmwood Park envision that the North Avenue improvements will include new street lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, decorative pavement and landscaping, and that they will mirror the Madison Street improvements that were completed last year in cooperation with Forest Park. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.2 million, of which \$2 million would be funded through the grant. River Forest and Elmwood Park anticipate that each community will pay half of the remaining cost, or \$600,000 each. The Village's share will come from available funds in the capital improvement budget. The Village hopes to learn if the grant was awarded sometime this

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fall.

I would also like to share with you that the Village is still working diligently with MidAmerica Real Estate Group to get repairs completed on the former Dominick's Finer Foods building. The Village Board and I want to assure residents that we are doing all we can to ensure the repairs are completed as quickly as possible. The Village looks forward to the opening of Fresh Thyme at this location.

The Village's Traffic and Safety Committee recently met and reviewed the on-street parking plan implemented last year near Roosevelt School. The Committee's recommendations will be considered at the July 12 Village Board Meeting and include the following proposed changes:

- Change Library parking on the east side of Lathrop Avenue to 60 minute parking;
- Extend the drop-off/pick-up zone on Jackson Street north to the fire hydrant;
- Change "Do not enter" restrictions on Jackson to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
- Install more robust traffic cones or barricades on Oak Street at Jackson during the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. closure;
- Examine a more permanent crosswalk solution for the west side of the Chicago Avenue/Jackson Street intersection.

Finally, on behalf of the Village Board, please join me in congratulating the 2016 State Champion girls' softball team from Oak Park and River Forest High School. You go girls! You have made us proud!

Happy July 4th! Please be careful during the holiday weekend.

Best,  
Cathy Adduci

### **Independence Day Holiday Closure**

Village Hall will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, July 5th. The Village staff wishes you a safe and enjoyable 4th of July weekend!

### **Refuse Service Delayed One Day**

Please note that Roy Strom refuse services will be delayed by one day next week, the week of July 4th, due to the holiday. Your pick-up will be one day after your normally scheduled weekday.

### **Division Street Resurfacing to Begin the Week**



## of July 5th

Roadwork on Division Street between Thatcher Avenue and Harlem Avenue is set to begin next week. The project will include street resurfacing, improvements to the sidewalk crossings, and the addition of handicap ramps at intersections. This work will improve the quality of the street and sidewalk, allowing for improved traffic and safety conditions for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Division Street will be accessible throughout the project. Traffic will be maintained in both directions and driveways will remain accessible. On-street parking will be limited at times due to construction work areas and equipment. All work is scheduled to be completed by this fall.

To learn more about the project, please view an informational brochure by [clicking here](#). To follow project updates, please visit [www.vrf.us/divisionstreet](http://www.vrf.us/divisionstreet).

## Laurel McMahon Retires from Village Historic Preservation Commission

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission would like to recognize the contributions of Laurel McMahon to the quality of life in our Village upon her retirement from the commission. A longtime leading voice for history and preservation, Laurel was the primary advocate for the adoption of the initial preservation ordinance. She served as the commission's first chair, in addition to her active participation in the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, as well as the River Forest Service Club. Laurel and her husband Dennis faithfully restored the 1882 William H. Hatch House at 306 Keystone Avenue, as evidenced by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The commission has unanimously voted to name its annual Restoration Award in her honor.

## Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio hosts free open house on July 15

The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust invites the community to Wright's Oak Park Home and Studio for the Trust's annual Summer Open House.

The Summer Open House will take place 5-7:30 PM, Friday, July 15 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park. Refreshments will be served. This free event is appropriate for all ages. Reservations are not required.

In addition to a highlights tour of the Home and Studio, this kid-friendly event will have an art project in the courtyard and a cardboard cutout of Frank Lloyd Wright for photographs.

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

## **Free Rain Barrel Program to end December 31, 2016**

Between January 2014 and December 2016, the [Midwest Water Reclamation District](#) (MWRD) will have funded and distributed more than 120,000 free rain barrels. The demand for rain barrels has cultivated a newfound understanding and appreciation for managing water in addition to providing the MWRD with an opportunity to provide many communities with a new tool in combating flooding.

Effective December 31, 2016, the MWRD will discontinue the free rain barrel program and will return to its prior program of selling rain barrels at cost on the MWRD's website, [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org). The MWRD will continue to accept orders from River Forest residents for free rain barrels through December 31, 2016. So get your free rain barrel NOW! To learn more about the program or apply, please [click here](#).

## **2016-2017 Vehicle Stickers**

Vehicle stickers are now available for purchase and must be affixed to your windshield by July 14 to avoid late fees and citations.

All vehicles registered in the State of Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker license. Payment may be made as follows:

- By mail using the envelope received from the Village (the application can also be downloaded [here](#)).
- In person at the Village Hall during regular business hours or after hours using the drop box located outside the Village Hall.
- Online at the Village Website by clicking [here](#).

Stickers cost \$45 for passenger vehicles, \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens. For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or click [here](#).

## **Summer Safety from the River Forest Police Department**

Warm weather is here, which means increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic on our streets and sidewalks. Please keep these tips in mind for everyone's safety:

- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners using crosswalks.

- If you must walk or jog on a roadway, keep to the LEFT (against traffic) and be alert to vehicle traffic.
- When cycling in the roadway, ride to the RIGHT (with traffic).
- Cyclists in the roadway must obey the same "rules of the road" as motor vehicles, such as signaling turns, obeying traffic control devices, and right of way.
- Avoid wearing dark clothing when cycling, skating or jogging at night. Wear bright clothing, with reflective elements if possible.
- When cycling at night, state law requires bikes have a front light (white, visible at 500 feet) and a red reflector in the rear. RFPD recommends also using a red light attached to the rear.
- When cycling, always wear a helmet!
- Please notify RFPD of any suspicious behavior or circumstances you may see. If you are being followed or harassed, move to a safe location and call 911.

Additional Reminder: Curfew for juveniles under age 18 in River Forest is 11 PM - 6 AM on weeknights (Sun.-Thurs.); and 12 AM - 6 AM on weekends (Fri.-Sat.). Driving privileges (whether by learner's permit or Graduated Driver's License) for juveniles become invalid one hour prior to curfew (10 PM - 6 AM on weeknights and 11 PM - 6 AM on weekends.)

## **Community Bulletin - Theft of Packages**

Please [click here](#) to view an important bulletin from the River Forest Police Department regarding the theft of packages at residential homes.

## **Safety for the Season**

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide everyone with these timely reminders. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Grilling by the Numbers](#)
- [Grilling Safety Tips](#)
- [Fireworks Safety Tips](#)
- [Pool Safety](#)
- [Gasoline Safety Tips](#)

## **Know the Code!**

The Village would like to remind all residents to be mindful of the following Village Code items during the summer season!

- Village Code Section 5-8-4 - Any tree/shrub which overhangs any sidewalk, street or other public place in the village in such a way as to impede/interfere with traffic or

travel on such public place shall be trimmed by the owner. Any tree or limb of a tree which has become likely to fall on or across any public street, sidewalk or place shall be removed by the owner.

- 4-5-4 H. - Signs In Rights Of Way: Except as provided in this subsection, no sign except governmental signs authorized in this chapter shall be placed in or extend into or over any public property or right of way. Temporary signs advertising civic functions may extend into or over a public right of way upon the specific prior approval of the village manager on the basis of need and impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and impact on surrounding properties.
- Other specifics on sign allowance can be found in the Village Code Section 4-5-6 .

As always, residents can access the Village code via the Village website or by [clicking here](#).

## **GREEN NEWS**

### **Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Campaign Expands to Entire Midwest**

The success of the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family campaign in River Forest has encouraged Midwest Pesticide Action Center to broaden their work and debut the Midwest Grows Green Campaign. Midwest Grows Green is based on the same actions as River Forest's initiative. Communities such as Dubuque, IA are joining Midwest Grows Green (MGG) and committing to protect people, pets and the environment by practicing natural lawn care. Visit [vrf.us/take-the-pledge](http://vrf.us/take-the-pledge) to learn more about River Forest's campaign or to view more resources on maintaining your lawn. Or [click here](#) to visit Midwest Pesticide Action Center for more information.

### **Sign Up for Your Green Block Party**

In addition to the Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family Campaign we will continue to promote the Village's Curbside Compost program. If you sign up for a one year compost subscription at your Green Block Party you will receive two months free, so reserve your block party date now!

[Click Here](#)

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## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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To register for programs, visit the new Library website at <http://www.riverforestlibrary.org/> and go to the event



calendar.

### For adults:

**Saturday, 7/9, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum, Adult**

Join us for a screening and discussion of *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. Snacks will be served.

**Friday, 7/15, 7:30-9 PM, Dooley Brothers Live, Adult**

Join us on the library lawn for our annual Dooley Brother's Concert! The Dooleys have been entertaining Chicagoland for over 30 years with their delightful banter and wide musical repertoire. And they are River Forest natives!

**Saturday, 7/30, 2-3 PM, Riveting Rio de Janeiro, Adult**

Get ready for the 2016 Summer Olympics with a journey through beautiful Rio de Janeiro! Allow Bill Helmuth to take you through this extraordinary city and all its natural beauty. Bill will also present on the Iguazu Falls, the most incredible waterfalls on the planet earth situated on the Brazil/Argentina border. This is a visual and historical delight you won't want to miss!

### For teens:

**Wednesday, 7/6, 6:30 PM, Bend it Like Beckham, Grades 8-12**

Join us for tasty treats while watching the new classic sports movie Bend It Like Beckham. Rated PG-13.

**Tuesday, 7/12, 7 PM, Tween MarioKart Tournament, Grades 5-8**

Put the pedal to the metal and leave your friends in the dust. Test your skills against your peers in our Mariokart Tournament at a chance for a fabulous prize. We'll have a pit crew available to make sure our drivers are well hydrated and keeping their energy up with refreshments. Come show us what you've got! Registration Required

**Wednesday, 7/13, 2 PM, Robo-Bowling, Grades 5+**

Coding whiz? Program a librarian to become the ultimate Robot Bowler. Join us at Circle Lanes to learn some coding tips and bowl a few strikes. Registration Required. \*\*Note: program is held at Circle Lanes, 7244 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL 7245 60130, 708-366-2810.\*\*

**Thursday, 7/14, 3:30 PM, Minecraft Madness, Grades 5-7**

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to RFPL to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and compete in challenges to win prizes. Advanced registration required.

**Tuesday, 7/19, 3:30 PM, Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction: Ninja Warfare, Grades 5+**

Assemble an armory out of household materials to become a ninja master prepared for reconnaissance and sabotage. Perfect your

aim to win.

**Wednesday, 7/20, 2 - 4 PM, Stitch On, Grades 5-12**

Bring your crochet work in progress on over to the library for some tips and tricks. Beat the heat with air conditioning and light refreshments. Grades 5+

**Thursday, 7/21, 3 PM, Dart Art, Grades 5+**

Get messy with Dart Art! Burst paint filled balloons to create a masterpiece.

**Tuesday, 7/26, 7 PM, Bingo for Books, Grades 5+**

Get a Bingo? Get a book!

**Thursday, 7/28, 2 PM, Quidditch, Grades 5+**

Calling all witches and wizards! Come learn the wizarding world's favorite sport! No need to have your Hogwarts letter - this program is open to children entering Grades 5 and up. Please wear sneakers or closed-toed shoes. Registration is required.

**For children:**

**Friday, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29 AM-5 PM, Free Play Fridays, Children of All Ages**

Enjoy a different free play activity each week in the Children's Room. Activities will rotate between blocks, puppets, and crafts.

**Tuesday, 7/5, 2-4 PM, Super Soaker Watercolor Art, All Ages**

Who knew squirt guns could create masterpieces? Come and find out how in this all ages drop-in program. For all ages.

**Wednesday, 7/6, 2-3 PM, Yoga, Grades K-4**

Bend, stretch, and relax with a fun introductory yoga class for kids at the Library. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

**Thursday, 7/7, 3 PM, Mammals and More Animal Show, All Ages**

Get up close and personal with a sloth, fennec fox, armadillo, and more when Flying Fox Conservation Fund brings the zoo to RFLP in this fun hands-on animal show! For all ages.

**Mondays, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 1:30-3:30 PM, Sports Movie Mondays, Ages 3 and Up**

Take a break from the hot sun and join us to watch a classic family sports movie. Popcorn and light refreshments will be served. Ages 3 and up with parent/caregiver.

**Tuesday, 7/12, 2-3 PM, Karate, Grades K-4**

Try some new karate moves at the Library! Join staff from Master S.H. Yu Martial Arts for a karate mini-class and demonstration. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

**Wednesday, 7/13, 3-4:30 PM, Wii Sports Tournament, Grades K-4**

Test your virtual sports skills at this fun Wii game tournament. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4

**Thursday, 7/14, 1:00-3:00 PM, Minecraft Madness, Grades 3-4**

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to RFPL to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and compete on challenges to win prizes. Advanced registration required. Grades 3-4.

**Monday, 7/18, 10-11 AM, Toddler Triathlon, Ages 2-5**

On your mark, get set, have fun! Participate in activities inspired by running, biking, and swimming at the Library. For ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver.

**Thursday, 7/21, 11 AM-3 PM, Sports Equipment Scavenger Hunt, Children of All Ages**

Drop in between 11 AM-3 PM to look for hidden sports equipment at the Library. Find them all and win a prize. For children of all ages.

**Tuesday, 7/26, 2-3 PM, Ballerina Story Time, Ages 3-6**

Dance on over to the Library for this fun ballet inspired story time with movement activities. Ages 3-6 with parent/caregiver.

**Wednesday, 7/27, 4-5:30 PM, BINGO Bash Pizza Party, Grades K-4**

Play BINGO, eat pizza, and win fun prizes as you celebrate your summer reading success! Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

**Thursday, 7/28, 6:30 PM, Musical Celebration with Super Stolie, All Ages**

Celebrate your summer reading success with a fun concert in our outdoor garden. Super Stolie's captivating show will engage kids of all ages and get the whole family singing along! For children and families.

To register for programs, visit the new Library website at <http://www.riverforestlibrary.org/> and go to the event calendar.

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## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Seniors: RF Township and RF Fire Department Introduce the ICE Packet**

RF Township, in partnership with the RF Fire Department, is now distributing the new ICE Packet to River Forest seniors. The ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet contains a Medical Information Form which seniors can complete and store in their freezer...right where the paramedics know to find it in an emergency! A decal is

provided for the front of the freezer to alert paramedics.

ICE Packets can be picked up at the Township offices (at the RF Community Center), Village Hall and the RF Public Library.

If you are unable to pick one up, or if you have any questions, please contact Carla Sloan, RF Township Supervisor, [by email](#) or by phone at 708-366-2029. Quantities are available for church groups, organizations or condo/apartment buildings.

## Caregiver Support Groups

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, adult child or grandchild... support is available.

- **2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 PM**, Koehneke Community Center/Concordia Campus. Sponsored by Concordia's Center for Gerontology (in partnership with River Forest Township). Contact Dr. Lydia Manning [by email](#) or by phone at 708-209-3218.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, OP & RF Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

## "Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Announces Summer Programs

Join us as we celebrate seniors all summer long! Co-sponsored by RF Township and RF Library.

- Friday, July 15, 7:30 PM – Live music...dance to The Dooley Brothers in the garden of the River Forest Library.
- Monday, August 22, 10 AM – Anna Glielmi shares "downsizing and decluttering" tips; held at the RF Library.
- Wednesday, September 28, 1:30 PM – Charles Troy dramatizes the story behind the making of *My Fair Lady*; held at the RF Community Center.

## New Women's Wellness Program for Seniors

Seniors are invited to a new Women's Wellness Program on Thursdays, July 7, 14 and 21, 11:30 AM -12:30 PM, at the Township Senior Center, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Topics may include nutrition, life-long learning, technology, managing medications, staying active, and legal concerns. Snacks will be served and seniors are invited to stay for lunch. To reserve a spot, contact Celeste Duignan [by email](#) or by phone at 708-383-8060 x134.

## Seniors: Coffee Mondays Summer Schedule

Coffee Mondays continue at the RF Library this summer at 10 AM, featuring book chats by our own librarians, Mary Kay and Dana. Please note we will take a holiday break in July!

- **August 1** – “Non-fiction that Reads Like Fiction”
- **September 12** – Fall Travel Ideas

## Computer Classes on Wednesdays

Seniors: come in from the heat and join the Computer Learning Labs on Wednesday mornings at the RF Public Library, 10 – 11:30 AM. For the total beginner through intermediate user. Bring your own device or use one from the library. Co-sponsored by RF Library and RF Township.

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## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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### Join us for Summer Camp!

Our popular half-day Kidz Camp, Ultimate Sports Camp and Thrill Zone Camp run weekly from now through August 12. In addition to the half-day camps listed above, we offer several different afternoon Sports Camps and Arts and Fun Camps. These camps are available now through August 24. We're sure to have just the right camp for you!

Camps do fill up. ***Register today to secure your spot in the camp of your choice!***

For more information on our camps, [click here](#).

### Constitution Park Party

Join us for music and fun!

**Thursday, July 21 • 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

**Featuring WENDY & DB**

Your imagination will soar with this interactive family show filled with fun songs! Winner of the 2015 Parents' Choice & NAPPA Awards.

\*Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

### 2016 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk

Registration is now open for the **2016 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk** being held **September 17, 2016, 8:00 AM**, starting at Concordia University Chicago.

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

If you no longer wish to receive this email please email [unsubscribe@vrf.us](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).