



## 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 August. It's a busy time with summer vacations winding down and students preparing to return to school. There is still plenty of time to take advantage of the great outdoor opportunities here in town.

Don't forget our 5th annual **River Forest Food Truck Rally will be held on Saturday, August 25 from 3:30-9:30 p.m. at Keystone Park.** This signature summer event will have 10 food trucks serving savory and sweet food items, a tent with craft beer and wine, stage entertainment, inflatables for the kids and games for the entire family. This event is hosted in partnership with Rotary International and the River Forest Park District. For more information [click here](#).



The Trailside Museum offers family friendly programs throughout the month, many of which are free. [Click here](#) to view the museum's monthly event calendar.

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Most recently, three members of the Sustainability Commission and I cut the ribbon for the front-yard-raised Edible Gardens offered by the [Deep Roots Project](#). This organization works to convert conventional lawns into bountiful edible and native plant gardens and toxin free lawns and landscapes in the Oak Park/River Forest area. We hope you will join in and compete for an Edible Garden of your own. Check out its website for more information.



Students continue to make our community great. Recently, a number of them painted a wonderful mural that features historic and architectural structures from around River Forest. This art, courtesy of [The Little Bits Workshop](#), is located on Central Avenue just west of Village Hall near the Keystone Park tennis courts. For information about historic preservation in River Forest, visit [vrf.us/historicpreservation](http://vrf.us/historicpreservation).



Speaking of our students, Patrick Hicks, a River Forest resident and recent graduate of St. Luke's Parish School, created an award-winning documentary, "Taking Illinois into the New Age: The Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention." After winning the Illinois History Day state competition, he moved on to the National History Day Contest, which was conducted recently at the University of Maryland.



School will be in session later this month, which means that motorists should drive safely and be alert for additional pedestrians and bicyclists in the area. A study to identify the safest walking routes to school is wrapping up, and Village Staff are reviewing a draft map and report in early August. The map will be available to the community before the beginning of the school year, and the Village will work to implement study recommendations.

Preliminary work has begun on resurfacing Chicago Avenue. Before the Village's contractor can mobilize and begin excavating for the traffic bump-outs and rain gardens, there are a couple of private utility lines that need to be relocated. Nicor and AT&T will be at various locations along the Chicago Avenue corridor over the next 7-10 days. Once completed, the Village's contractor will begin working.

**Here is what happened at the Village Board table in July:**

River Forest Trustees have declared each and every July 9 as "McKenzie and Charlotte Reusable Bag Day." McKenzie Lovell and Charlotte Meyer worked hard to create a campaign to improve waste diversion among fellow students at Roosevelt Middle School. As part of that initiative the students, then eighth graders, also sewed and sold reusable bags as alternatives to Ziploc and similar containers. Fifth graders, who were the focus of their campaign, made posters to display what they had learned from McKenzie and Charlotte. These young women are extraordinary role models who used their creativity and talents to explain the importance of sustainability to their peers. They have truly made a difference for River Forest.



A Tax Increment Finance District along North Avenue is progressing. A public hearing was conducted on July 9. Trustees will decide whether to formally adopt the TIF at their August 13 Board Meeting. [Click here](#) to read more.

Our third Police Community Forum was conducted on July 25, and it was well attended by seniors. To learn more about past forums and how you can help keep the community safe, [click here](#).

**Here is what is coming in September:**

On September 17, Trustees anticipate taking up the Development Review Board's recommendation on a proposed mixed use planned development for Lake and Lathrop. Read more about the project by [clicking here](#).

The Village and its consultant, Houseal Lavigne and Associates, will present a draft updated Corridor Plan that was previously approved by the Village Board in 2009 to the Economic Development Commission and Plan Commission for their review and input. The Corridor Plan is focused on the North Avenue, Harlem Avenue, Lake Street and Madison Street areas and will be incorporated into the new Comprehensive Plan. The Village Board will review the [Comprehensive Plan](#) this fall.

One of River Forest's most popular events, the Charity "LemonAid" Stand, will be held from 3 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, September 11, on the 700 block of Bonnie Brae between Oak and Chicago. To learn more about the 17th annual event and the charities that will benefit, [click here](#).

Please remember to "like" our [Facebook](#) page and have your neighbors sign up for our community alerts, which include our [monthly E-Newsletter](#).

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

**2018-2019 Vehicle Stickers**

The Village of River Forest would like to remind residents to purchase a 2018-2019 vehicle sticker to avoid being ticketed. The deadline for purchasing and displaying vehicle stickers without penalty was July 14th. The late fee on vehicle stickers will be increased from \$10 to \$15 on August 15, 2018. The late fee is in addition to the cost of the sticker.

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:

- Online at the Village Website by [clicking here](#).
- 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.

Stickers are \$45 for passenger vehicles and \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens (one senior citizen vehicle sticker per household). Vehicle sticker applications were mailed in late May. If you received an application for a vehicle that you no longer own or a duplicate application, please notify the Village by either calling, or returning the application noting the vehicle's status in the enclosed envelope, so that the vehicle will be removed from our records.

For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or [click here](#).

## **Solicitors - A Message From The River Forest Police Department**

On January 1, 2017, the Future Energy Jobs Act took effect in Illinois after being signed by Governor Rauner. As a result, many new companies were created to provide renewable energy to Illinois residents (for more info [click here](#)). In order to sell the energy they are creating, they are sending out sales people to get contracts. Some companies are more legitimate than others.

It is important for residents to understand that any agents that come to your door claiming to represent an energy company are subject to the same restrictions as any other solicitor under River Forest village ordinances, which are as follows:

- Solicitors must obtain and possess a valid permit issued by the River Forest Police Department (RFPD). Do not hesitate to ask someone at your door to produce their permit. If they will not or cannot, they are violating the village's ordinance and you should notify RFPD. At the time of this writing, "Constellation Exelon" is the only company that has obtained a Village permit. Other companies currently possessing solicitor's permits include "AT&T", "College Works Painting", "Pointe Pest Control" and "Weed Man" lawn care. **"Star Energy Partners" had their solicitor's permit REVOKED by the Chief of Police.**
- Even with a permit, no person may solicit at any

premises with signage posted stating "NO SOLICITOR" or "NO SOLICITORS INVITED" or "NO TRESPASSING". The village offers "No Solicitors" window clings on the 2nd floor of the Village Hall.

- Permitted solicitors may only operate 9 AM - 8 PM Monday -Saturday, 9 AM -5 PM Sunday, and never on holidays.
- Religious evangelists do not count as solicitors, unless they request donations.

For more tips and information regarding solicitors, please [click here](#).

## West Nile Virus Season

West Nile Virus season is upon us, and the risk of human infection is increasing. According to the Cook County Department of Public Health, River Forest, at some point during the summer, has had traps that have tested positive for the illness. Anyone can become infected, and we urge you all to take some simple, but important precautions:

- Cover skin with lightly colored loose fitting clothing when outdoors between dusk and dawn.
- Use mosquito repellent with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Always follow the directions on the product label.
- Get rid of standing water around your home in pet bowls, flower pots, old tires, baby pools and toys. Water that is allowed to stagnate for three or four days becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Make sure your doors and windows have tightly fitting screens and repair any tears or other openings.
- Keep weeds and grass cut short and keep gutters clean and free of debris.

The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District will continue spraying. To read more, [click here](#).

## River Forest Video Series on Historic and Architecturally Significant Homes

Beginning in 2015, Village of River Forest Historic Preservation Commissioner Al Popowits compiled research and photographs to give presentations at the River Forest Public Library on the architectural and historic nature of noteworthy structures throughout River Forest. These well-received presentations have now been preserved and made available as on demand videos. The Historic Preservation Commission believes the best way that River Forest can preserve its strong architecturally and historically significant properties is to educate the public through efforts like this.

To view the complete video series in four installments, [click here](#). For more information on historic preservation

visit, [vrf.us/historicpreservation](http://vrf.us/historicpreservation)

## Welcome Back - District 90 Schools Start August 23

The 2018-19 new school year is scheduled to start with District 90 students returning to school on Thursday, August 23. The first day of school consists of a full day of classroom instruction. The District's PTOs are also holding back-to-school coffees that day. Welcoming events for new families are scheduled to be held throughout the month. All summer long, District 90 faculty and staff have been working hard preparing classroom activities, cleaning and making repairs to school buildings, and supporting all the operations that make schools run smoothly. Welcome Back!

## GREEN NEWS

### River Forest Sustainability Commission Questionnaire

Remember to please fill out the short River Forest Sustainability Commission questionnaire at [tinyurl.com/RFSustainability](http://tinyurl.com/RFSustainability) so the Sustainability Commission can better serve our residents!

### It's Green Block Party Time Again - This Year Plant "Parkways for Pollinators" Garden

During your Green Block Park you and your neighbors will create a garden on your block as part of the "Parkways for Pollinators" program. Learn about native plants and create your own neighborhood garden. The Village has partnered with the [Deep Roots Project](#) to help residents plant native flower gardens on parkways in River Forest. These "Parkways for Pollinators" gardens are offered for free to all River Forest Green Block Parties. Kids and adults alike will have a dirt load of fun planting a 4 x 10 foot native flower garden that will attract butterflies, humming birds and other pollinators to your block. The plants are perennials, so your block can enjoy its pollinator garden for years to come. Visit the [Village website](#) for more information.

The next meeting of the **River Forest Sustainability Commission** will be August 14, 2018 at 7 PM, held at Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue. All are welcome to attend. For more information on the Sustainability Commission visit [vrf.us/sustainability](http://vrf.us/sustainability) or write to [sustainability@vrf.us](mailto:sustainability@vrf.us).

## EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY THE RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

### Monday, 8/6, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday, Adult

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn about things going on in the community.

### Wednesday, 8/8, 10-11:30 AM, Connect with Tech

Are you a local senior who wants to get more out of your smartphone, eReader, tablet, or personal computer? Would you like to explore better ways to connect electronically with family?

Concerned about internet safety? Then join us for Connect with Tech, which helps beginner tech users in a small, intimate group setting. Bring your questions and devices, or use one of the laptops provided. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn.

**Thursday, 8/9, 7-8:30 PM, Fun Places We Loved**

Steve Cooper presents a program of rare film and videos of places from our youth that don't exist anymore complete with the music that we grew up with! See rare film of Chicago landmarks including the Aragon and Trianon Ballrooms, the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Riverview Park, Kiddie Land, and famous neighborhood bowling alleys in addition to ballrooms, amusement parks, bowling alleys and diners from all over America. This highly entertaining and informative show will bring back many wonderful memories.

**Friday, 8/17, 12-2:30 PM, Film Lover Fridays \*New Program**

Join other movie lovers on the 3rd Friday of every month to watch popular and entertaining films! Today we'll be watching *On the Town*, a 1940's classic. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy before the film starts. Light refreshments will be served.

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**RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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The River Forest Public Library offers a wide range of programs for all ages. Listed below are some highlights. Please visit the library website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org) for a complete listing of programs.

**Middle School and Teen**

**Tuesday, 8/14, 2-4 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. [Advanced registration required.](#)



**Thursday, 8/23, 3:30-4:30 PM, Rock Your Locker, Grades 5-8**

Enjoy a welcome back snack and find out about the terrific library materials and fun programs the Library offers just for Middle



School students while crafting items to jazz up your school year.

## Children

### **Wednesday, 8/15, 10 AM-12 PM, Touch-A-Truck, All Ages**

Have you ever been up close and personal with a real fire truck or police car? Come explore the real thing and touch the trucks at the Library. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. For children of all ages with parent/caregiver.

### **Thursday, 8/16, 3-4:30 PM, Mario Kart Tournament, Grades K-4**

Test out your racing skills at this fun Wii game tournament. [Advanced registration required.](#)

### **Saturday, 8/18, 2-3 PM, Lego Club, Grades K-4**

LEGO fans will be given a new LEGO building challenge each time we meet. LEGO bricks will be provided. [Advanced registration required.](#)

### **Monday, 8/20, 4-5 PM, Snack Attack, Grades K-4**

Learn how to make a fun seasonal snack at this after school cooking program. [Advanced registration required.](#)

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## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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### **Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K**

#### **Saturday, September 15, 8 AM, Concordia University Chicago**

The 21st Annual Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk will be held on September 15, 2018. Proceeds from the event benefit the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA). For event details, [click here.](#)

## Platform Tennis

### **Platform Tennis Memberships**

Platform Tennis Memberships will be available for purchase for the 2018 - 2019 Platform Tennis Season beginning August 13. Memberships can be purchased online or at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

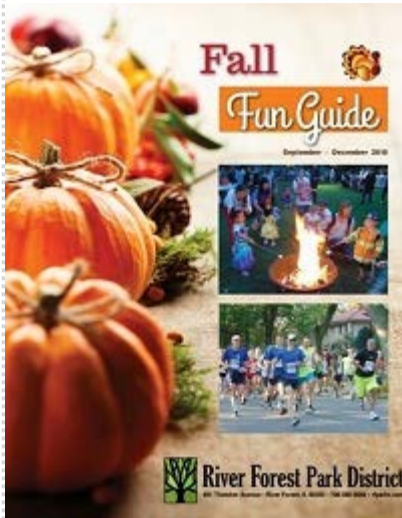
### **New Platform Tennis Pro**

Welcome to new Platform Tennis Pro Laura Berendt. Laura is currently ranked #12 in the nation, with partner Alison Morgan. Here are a few of her other accomplishments and credentials:

- 2018 winner of the Hinsdale Women's Challenge
- Illinois State Champion 2016
- 2007 Charities Champion
- Runner up at the Platform Tennis Nationals in 2008
- All-American, played for the University of Texas
- #1 in Florida in tennis at age 18

**The Fall Fun Guide is online!**

The Fall Fun Guide is currently [available online](#) and will be delivered to residents' homes on **August 6**. Resident registration begins August 13.



## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### From the Township Assessor...

The Assessor is hosting a Community Outreach with the Cook County Board of Review on Tuesday, August 21st at 6:30 PM. All residents are invited to attend and will be able to ask the commissioner and staff questions regarding your property assessment and appeal process. The outreach will be held at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, Room 206.

2nd installment tax bills were sent out and were due August 1st.

Senior and Senior Freeze exemptions must be filed every year in March. If you own your home and were born in the year 1952 or earlier you should apply for Senior/Senior Freeze Exemption. You may only claim a Home Owner, Senior or Senior Freeze exemption on your primary residence.

### Announcing the "Support4U" Program

A new program is available to students at Roosevelt, Brooks and Julian Middle Schools and OPRF High School called "Support4U". Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource for students, by which they can text licensed mental health clinicians for assistance or guidance. While students can initiate a text conversation on any issue, some of the matters that students might wish to address could include anxiety, depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, bullying, abuse, or any other mental health-related topic.

Support4U is anonymous and available to students 24/7. We thank Districts 90, 97 and 200 for their support of this program on behalf of their students.

Please share this information with D90 and D200 students! The Support4U texting number is 844-670-5838. District 90 students will also text the word "SAFE" and District 200 students will text the word "HELP".

Support4U is sponsored by River Forest Township, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, NAMI, and the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club.

For more information, please contact your school administration or Supervisor Carla Sloan at [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

## Senior Wellness Group to Promote More Meaningful Living

Seniors: Gather with other older adults to share and learn ways to enhance meaningful living. Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services is partnering with Concordia University to host a free 8-week wellness group at Concordia in the Christopher Center, 7400 Augusta Ave., room #263. Tuesdays, September 11 thru October 30, 3:30 – 4:30 PM or 6:30 – 7:30 PM. For more info or to register, contact River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org).

## Encore Senior Chorale Starting the Fall Season

Registration is now open for the fall 2018 Oak Park and River Forest Encore senior chorale, one of 7 Encore chorale groups across the Chicagoland area. People aged 55+ are welcome to join; no audition is required. Rehearsals for the 15-week session begin on Tuesday, September 4, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM at the Nineteenth Century Club at 178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park. (Note: this is a change in location from Trinity High School.)

The fall session culminates in a concert in Oak Park on December 8 at 4:00 PM. Cost is \$175 for the session and includes sheet music. Need-based scholarships are available from River Forest Township upon request; contact Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org). To register, [click here](#). Questions? Email [registration@encoreillinois.org](mailto:registration@encoreillinois.org).

## Introducing the Great Neighbors Program

A local partnership, consisting of Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, Arbor West Neighbors, and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, is introducing the Great Neighbors Program in the River Forest and Oak Park community. Through this program, which fosters “intergenerational connectedness”, River Forest and Oak Park residents aged 18+ can volunteer to become a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior in their neighborhood.

One or more “Friendly Neighbor” volunteers will be matched with a senior, with whom they will connect and share on a regular basis. Brief training and screening are required. The time commitment is flexible.

**Great Neighbors** is a program of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and has had much success in Chicago!

If you are interested in becoming a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior, or if you are a senior and would like to connect with other adult neighbors on a more regular basis through this program, please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

## Seeking Full-Time or Part-Time Employment?

Excellent free employment resources are available to all, including those age 50+, at the American Job Center, 1701 South 1st Avenue, Maywood. Resume and interviewing skills...job re-training...job opportunities...all are available at this center. For more information, contact Laina at 708-223-2652.

## Support Groups for Those Who Have Lost a Loved One to Suicide

Two monthly drop-in support groups are held monthly in River Forest for those suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. Groups are run by LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) and are led by a licensed clinical social worker.

- **Teen Support Group:** For teenagers 13-18, **third Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting August 16.**
- **Adult Support Group:** For adults 18 and over, **third Monday of the month, 6-8 PM. Next meeting August 20.**

**\*\*\*We are trying to determine interest in continuing the teen group in River Forest this fall. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in the teen group, please contact the number below.**

Hosted by River Forest Township (located at the River Forest Community Center), 8020 Madison Street. Please call 312-655-7283 for more information and to register, or visit [www.catholiccharities.net/loss](http://www.catholiccharities.net/loss).

All are welcome to try the groups. LOSS is a completely non-denominational program of Catholic Charities.



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