



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 December! The best part of the holiday season is remembering those who make it meaningful. On behalf of the Village Board, I'd like to say thank you to the countless volunteers who contribute to the prosperity of this community. It has been another successful year in River Forest and I'd like to highlight some of this year's accomplishments.

Through excellent staff and enthusiastic commission volunteers we accomplished many of the goals that the Board of Trustees and I set last year. I discussed these in my annual State of the Village report, the second I have delivered since becoming your Village President. To hear my speech in its entirety, please [click here](#) or [click here](#) to read it.

Each success, and everything else we do in Village government, aligns with one of four overall objectives:

- Providing for a safe community for our residents.
- Ensuring a financially stable and effective government.
- Increasing property values for our taxpayers.
- Stabilizing our property taxes.

We continue to balance the Village's budget every fiscal year thanks, in large part, to a diligent staff that is committed to keeping expenses down. Our Village continues to receive acknowledgement and awards from the financial community for our fiscal policies. Our bonds are rated AAA, the highest rating possible.

The Village Board's priority this year has been economic development, and a number of projects have begun or are in the works that will bring in new revenue, strengthen our property values and stabilize property taxes. In the long run, this objective

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will benefit River Forest as a whole for years to come.

As promised, we will be wrapping up another important Board goal - the Northside Stormwater Management project. The largest infrastructure project in River Forest history is on time and on budget. We would like to thank the staff, the people who worked on this project and of course, you, the residents, for your patience and understanding while this long-planned effort became a reality.

We accomplished several other goals this year which will add to the value of our homes and quality of life. These efforts come as a result of building partnerships with School District 90, the Park District, Dominican University and the Village of Forest Park. We hope by this time next year the collaboration efforts among all of our units of government will draw ideas or solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our community.

We are looking ahead next year to building on our economic development successes by reinvigorating Madison Street and North Avenue, updating the Village's comprehensive plan, enhancing the Village's communication efforts and continuing to collaborate with other taxing bodies. You will be hearing a lot more about what government will be doing for you in the coming months.

The holiday shopping season is upon us and, as you make your gift purchases, please consider shopping locally and supporting River Forest businesses. I also encourage you to view the trees decorated by our local merchants on Lake Street near Lathrop Avenue across from [River Forest Chocolates](#).

As a convenience to residents and guests, River Forest will again lift its overnight parking ban from Friday, Dec. 18 at 12:01 a.m. through Monday, Jan. 4 at 12:01 a.m. Overnight waivers will not be required during this period. Please check the Village's [website](#) for additional details on this and other parking information.

If you haven't heard, the Secretary of State's Office will not mail vehicle registration reminder notices because of the budget impasse in Springfield. You can sign-up on the Secretary of State's website to have your notice emailed to you and you can renew your registration [online](#). Drivers with expired registration stickers could be stopped and ticketed by police so don't be caught off guard!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the administration and staff, I wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season and a warm and joyous New Year.

Sincerely,
Cathy Adduci

Brian Staunton Named New Dispatch Director

At their meeting on November 23rd, the Village Board of Trustees welcomed Brian Staunton, the new director of the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, to the community. Staunton's education includes a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Troy University. He is also currently working toward a Master's degree in Management, Strategy and Leadership from Michigan State University. Before joining WSCDC, Staunton worked for 10 years at Northwest Central Dispatch System in

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Arlington Heights, IL, including spending his last 3 years as an Operations Manager.

Sarah's Inn

Once again, Village Hall is serving as a drop off location for Sarah's Inn. Your donation can help bring hope and support to a family affected by domestic violence this holiday season.

Drop off donations of unwrapped toys and gift cards by December 9, 2015 at:

Village of River Forest – Village Hall – Front Desk

Hours: Monday 8am - 7pm, Tuesday through Friday 8am - 4:30pm

Unwrapped toys and gift cards should be new and within the approximate value range of \$10 - \$25. Please consider gifts that promote non-violence and positive self-image.

Don't have time to shop or need gift ideas?

Visit www.sarahsinn.org to learn more about this project and follow a link to the Amazon Holiday Gift Project wish list. Purchase a gift online in seconds and have it directly shipped to Sarah's Inn!

Toys for Tots

The River Forest Police Department will again be participating in the Toys for Tots program during the Holiday season. It runs from November 1 through December 21 . Simply drop off your new, unwrapped toy at the front desk of Village Hall and we'll add it to the collection box for Toys for Tots!

The following restrictions apply:

1. All donated toys must be new and sealed in its original package.
2. No stuffed animals are allowed. (Dust & allergy concerns)
3. All donated toys CANNOT be gift wrapped.

River Forest Seniors... did you know these services are available?

- Cab coupon booklets - 30% discounted cab rides on Blue Cab and Red Cab; purchase at RF Township offices (8020 Madison) and Village Hall (400 Park).
- Temporary handicapped parking place-cards - available with signed physician form at RF Township offices and Village Hall.

Overnight Parking Ban Lifted for Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Overnight parking will be allowed on Village streets from 12:01 AM Friday, December 18, 2015 through 12:01 AM Monday, January 4, 2016. No overnight parking waivers will be required during this period.

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If overnight, on-street parking is needed Sunday night through Monday morning (1/4/16), residents/guests are advised to call (708) 366-7125 for permission.

Reminder - parking is not permitted on any Village street after two inches of snow or more has accumulated on the street, and for up to eight hours after the snowfall ends, to allow snow plows to safely clear the street.

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Holiday Wreaths, Trees and Garland Collection Schedule

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on the following Tuesdays:

- January 5th
- January 12th
- January 19th
- January 26th

Residents should remove all decorations, lights, metal wiring and place holiday greens on the parkway by 7 AM on the above days. Please note - this does not include yard waste and/or leaves. These collections are for "holiday greens" only.

Holiday Lights Recycling

Residents can recycle their holiday lights at a Village collection site located on Central Avenue between Park Avenue and Keystone Avenue. The collection site will be open 24/7 from December 15th through January 15th. Holiday light recycling includes:

- Italian mini lights
- Traditional lights
- LED lights
- Rope lighting
- Extension cords

Holiday Season Village Hall Closures

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a very safe and happy holiday season. Please note Village Hall will be closed Thursday December 24th, Friday December 25th, and Friday January 1st.

Package Theft --- 'Tis the Season

Historically, November and December are the months when the Chicagoland area experiences an uptick in reports of delivered packages being stolen from the homes to which they are delivered, and River Forest is no exception. If you are having packages delivered to your home, here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim of package theft:

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- If possible, have packages delivered to your workplace.

- Have packages delivered to a place where they can be received in person, such as the home of a trusted neighbor who stays home during the day, or a retired relative.
- Request the shipper require a signature confirmation or hold your package at their pick-up facility so you can pick it up in person at your convenience.
- If available, request store delivery.
- Request a specific delivery date and time from the shipper when you know you will be home.
- Provide delivery instructions to the shipper so that packages can be left at a safe location at your home that is out of sight from the street.
- Sign up for delivery alerts from the shipper.

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Keep the Wreath Red

As we approach the holiday season, the Village of River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you to keep your holiday safe and happy. The Fire Department will once again team up with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and neighboring fire departments in the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. This year, the program will run from Monday, December 1st through Monday, January 5, 2015.

"Keep the Wreath Red" is a holiday fire safety program designed to increase fire safety awareness. In the event of a holiday-related fire, firefighters will replace one of the red bulbs with a white one. The goal is to keep the bulbs on that wreath red.

For full information, [click here](#) for the press release.

Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department wants everyone to enjoy the season and holidays safely. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Winter Holiday Safety](#)
- [Holiday Entertaining Safety](#)
- [Christmas Tree Safety](#)
- [Heating Safety](#)
- [Top 10 Winter Freeze Tips](#)
- [Religious Candle Safety](#)
- [Shabbat Fire Safety](#)
- [Candle Safety Tips](#)

Learn important information about home structure fires by [clicking here](#) and downloading the U.S. HOME STRUCTURE FIRES FACT SHEET.

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Know the Code!

With snow making an early arrival this year, the Village would like to remind you:

- Village code requires residents and business owners to remove snow and ice from sidewalks in

front of and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after an event.

- Snow or ice frozen on sidewalks that cannot be removed without injury to the pavement should be treated with an abrasive material until weather permits further clean-up.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited after snow exceeds 2 inches in depth, and for an 8 hour period following the cessation of the snowfall.
- Snow removal contractors are prohibited from using snow blowers between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- The placement of snow or ice on any Village owned street, alley or sidewalk is prohibited.

GREEN NEWS

Less is More When Wrapping Gifts

Did you know wrapping paper from holiday gifts is largely to blame for a 25 percent spike in curbside trash volume between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, according to the EPA? For creative ways to save money on wrapping paper and create less waste year-round visit [here](#).

Compost Subscribers Pick Up Begins Every Other Tuesday

Compost pick-up will now take place every other Tuesday beginning December 1st through March 31st. Pick-ups in December will be Dec. 1st and 15st.

After December 25 Holiday Trees can be placed in the parkway for composting.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

12/1-1/31, Winter Reading Young Adult Bingo, Grades 5-12

When facing a new year filled with so many possibilities for resolutions, sometimes it's hard to know where to start. Bingo—that's where! Read books and win prizes! Beginners, start by getting one line; if you're more advanced, try the whole outside box on the card; experts, fill in the whole card! Ready? Grab your Reading Bingo card at the RFPL and let's get reading!

Wednesday, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 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.

Sunday, 12/6, 2 PM, Holiday Jazz Concert with the James Callen Trio

Get in the spirit of the season and join us for a musical afternoon! The James Callen Trio will expand your holiday horizons with lively

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interpretations of favorite seasonal classics.

Monday, 12/7, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday

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. Today we have a special guest speaker, local history guru Jan Dressel. Jan will speak with us about the Historical Society's local history tree, featured here at RFPL during the holiday season. Coffee Mondays are supported by Blue Max Coffee and River Forest Township.

Saturday, 12/12, 10 AM-3 PM, Stories with Santa, Birth-10 years

Santa is visiting RFPL! Our annual holiday program for children features stories and crafts with our talented librarians and visits with Santa upstairs by the fireplace. Pictures taken with Santa will be posted on our Children's blog after the event. Bring your camera to have a keepsake of your own! This is a drop-in, free, fun family program.

Sunday, 12/13, 2 PM, Mug Magic, Grades 5+

Tired of that boring mug? Join us to personalize and decorate your own mug. Makes a perfect gift for the holidays. Advanced Registration Required.

Friday, 12/18, 2:45- 4 PM, Gingerbread Houses, Grades 5-8

Make a gingerbread house that will be both great to look at and tasty to eat! All materials are provided, but space is limited so sign-up is required.

Thursday, 12/31, Noon Year's Eve Party, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, Children of All Ages and Caregivers

Happy New Year! Be the first to celebrate as you countdown to 2016 with activities, games, and snacks with a festive flair. Advanced registration required. For children of all ages and caregivers.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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, will continue throughout the winter months!

Although the program is directed at seniors, all are welcome to attend the free sessions, to be held at the RF Library on weekend afternoons.

Sunday, January 10, 2 pm - Renowned storyteller, writer and world traveler Bill Helmuth takes us to Iran, its rich past and complex present day.

Saturday, February 20, 2 pm - "Talk Intelligently about Art" with Chicago art historian and guide Jeff Mishur.

Sunday, March 6, 2 pm - Edu-tainer Martina Mathison, founder of Living History, re-enacts the life of Marie Antoinette in honor of Women's History Month.

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Sunday, April 3, 2 pm - 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".

Seniors: Come in from the cold on Coffee Mondays!

River Forest Library and River Forest Township are pleased to "warm up" this winter's 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*:

- December 7- Walk through OP and RF history with local expert Jan Dressel
- January 4- Writing your own life story: getting started
- February 1- Love songs performed by the A Cappella Fellas
- March 7- Tips from the River Forest Police Department
- April 4- Silver Sneakers exercise class

Seniors: Try something new at the Computer Learning Lab!

Search your family history on the web... learn to Skype with your grandchildren... connect with old friends by email...

Come to the Computer Learning Lab at the River Forest Public Library! For beginners through intermediate home/personal users; directed at seniors but all are welcome. Individualized, hands-on instruction. No need to sign up in advance. Use one of the library laptops or bring your own. Co-sponsored by RF Public Library and RF Township.

- Wednesdays, January 13 through May 11, 10:00-11:30am*

***For Coffee Mondays and Computer Learning Labs, 1-hour weekday parking is available to library patrons in the Roosevelt School middle lot on Lathrop.**

Soul Sisters musical rocks at OP and RF Township Senior Services

Soul Sisters, a live musical story of two great performers, will be presented on **Friday, December 4 and December 11, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**, at the Township Senior Services Center, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue.

Featuring music from Gershwin, Billie Holiday and more. Sponsored by Concordia University and Township Senior Services through a grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

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Free but reservations are required. RSVP to Celeste
at CDuigan@oakparktownship.org or 708.383.8060 x 134.



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