



## 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,

August will be a very busy month in the Village. Please make sure you read through this month's E-News to learn about all the different events taking place, including this year's annual Rotary Food Truck Rally from 3 to 9 PM, on Saturday, Aug. 27. [Click here](#) for more information.

The proposed Madison Street TIF District continues to move forward, and thanks to input from many residents, we have amended the ordinance to address a number of concerns. Many of you still may have questions and comments about economic development in general. [Click here to read how the TIF District will have a major impact on progress in our community.](#)

Fresh Thyme Farmers Market is still looking to open its doors. At our last Board of Trustees meeting, MidAmerica Real Estate Company, which is responsible for managing the building, told the Board they will have their work finished by December 31, 2016. I know you are frustrated that the store has not opened - we are too. I can assure you that we are doing everything we can to move this along. To stay informed on this project, please visit our [website](#).

On Wednesday, August 24, U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis will hold a [Town-Hall meeting](#), from 7 to 9 PM in the Community Room, located on the first floor of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.

[Cook County Board of Review](#) Commissioner Dan Patlak is sponsoring two property tax appeal seminars in River Forest. The first will be [Monday Aug. 8](#) at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison St. and the second will be [Tuesday Aug. 9](#) in the Community Room at Village Hall. Both will start at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Patlak will explain how you can appeal

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your property tax assessment, and analysts from the Board of Review will be on hand to answer any questions. The appeal period is open now and will close Aug. 30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about this important process.

The Village is currently resurfacing Division Street and will begin work on Chicago Avenue next year. The combined estimated federal funds received for this project totals nearly \$2.5 million. Both projects are possible because we secured federal grants, thanks to the hard work of our Public Works Director John Anderson and our Village Engineer Jeff Loster who worked tirelessly on the applications.

We took a bit of time recently to applaud the community service of three dedicated volunteers: Thomas "The Big Guy" Michael and Laurel and Dennis McMahon. In addition to passing resolutions highlighting their community service, we provided honorary street sign designations. River Forest is a better community because of you. [Click here](#) to read the resolution and the many contributions made by these residents.



We also congratulated the girls' softball team from Oak Park and River Forest High School for winning the state championship. You've made River Forest proud.

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Congrats to the U12 River Forest Girls Softball team for [claiming the state title](#) and having a strong showing at the Central Regional Championship. The U12 River Forest Boys also had a great season making it all the way to the championship game. Kudos to all of our athletes.

Finally, please encourage your neighbors to sign up for the official River Forest E-Newsletter. To sign up, [click here](#).

Best,  
Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## **2016 Junior Citizen's Police Academy**

**Sponsored by The River Forest, Forest Park and Oak Park Police Departments**

The River Forest, Forest Park and Oak Park Police Departments' Crime Prevention Bureaus will conduct a Junior Citizens Police Academy to further the positive relationship between the community and its police department. These classes will involve law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and the various other agencies. The Academy will address the following topics:

- Criminal Law
- Police Procedures
- Evidence Collection
- CPR
- Critical Incident scenarios
- Traffic Stops
- Physical Fitness
- Basic Self Defense
- Specialized officer presentations
- Crime/Fire Prevention

The Junior Citizen's Police Academy will last one week (Monday-Friday Only) beginning on **Monday, August 8, 2016 and ending on Friday, August 12, 2016**. Class duration will be 6 hours to begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM Lunch will NOT be provided; participants must bring a sack lunch. Participants must dress appropriately for physical activity. There are limited openings which will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

**If you are between 10 and 15 years of age, and are**

interested in attending this FREE Academy, please contact Ofc. Glen Czernik by [email](#) immediately.

## Electrical Aggregation

On July 12, 2016, the Village Board voted to suspend the electrical aggregation program once the existing contract with MC Squared expires in September 2016. At that time, customers will be returned to ComEd for their electrical supply. There is nothing you need to do to make that transition. If you have not already, you will be receiving information in the US mail about the transition. For more information, please [click here](#).

To learn more about electric competition in Illinois and find out how you can choose a supplier, please visit the Official Electric Choice Website of the Illinois Commerce Commission [by clicking here](#).

## 7th Congressional District Town Hall Meeting for Residents of River Forest - Wednesday, August 24

Congressman Danny K. Davis of the 7th District of Illinois will hold a Town Hall Meeting for residents of River Forest on Wednesday, August 24th, 2016. The meeting will be held from 7-9 PM in the First Floor Community Room of Village Hall. For more information, please view the informational flyer by [clicking here](#).

## Two Property Tax Appeal Seminars for River Forest Township

Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak will be holding two property tax appeal seminars in River Forest Township for taxpayers seeking to appeal their 2016 property tax assessments. River Forest Township is open for appeal at the Board of Review August 1 – August 31, 2016.

The seminars are co-sponsored by River Forest President Catherine Adduci and Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri. The hour long session will educate taxpayers on how to file a successful tax appeal, provide information on property tax exemptions, and address why property taxes go up when the value of your home goes down.

The seminar includes a presentation by Commissioner Dan Patlak explaining the appeal procedure at the Board of Review. Before the end of the evening, taxpayers will have an opportunity to work with staff from the Board of Review to address their specific questions and concerns.

This event is free to the public, and there is no fee to appeal at the Board of Review. Taxpayers are asked to bring a copy of their most recent tax bill.

**The seminars will be held on Monday, August 8, 2016 and Tuesday, August 9, 2016.** The August 8 session will be held at the River Forest Community Center located at 8020 Madison Street. The August 9 session will be held at the River Forest Village Hall, located at 400 Park Avenue. Both sessions begin at 6:30 PM. For more information and to access flyers, please [click here](#).

Taxpayers may file an appeal online by [visiting the Board of](#)

[Review website.](#)

Also, appeal forms are available at the Board of Review located at 118 N. Clark St., Room 601, Chicago, IL.

## **OPRFHS District 200 - Pool and Facilities Update**

As this issue went to press, the Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 Board of Education had begun final deliberations about how to address the district's failing swimming pools. At ninety years old, the two pools have long outlived their expected lifespan of 40-50 years and suffer from significant structural and mechanical issues. They leak a total of 3,000 gallons of water a day, and contractors will no longer guarantee repairs to stop the leaking. The district conducted a phone survey and five well-attended community engagement meetings to gather feedback about several possible plans for replacing the pools. The potential plans also address other needs in the same area of the building, namely, adding classrooms to accommodate a 20% enrollment increase in performing arts classes, renovating locker rooms to bring them up to code, and improving learning spaces. To learn more and see the latest updates, please [click here](#).

## **OPRFHS District 200 - Joylynn Pruitt named Interim Superintendent for the 2016-2017 School Year**

In a unanimous vote, the Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 Board of Education hired Joylynn Pruitt, Ed.D., as interim superintendent for the 2016-2017 school year, effective July 1. Dr. Pruitt fills the position being vacated by Dr. Steven Isoye, who begins serving as superintendent of Niles Township High School District 219 on July 1. For more information, please [click here](#).



## **District 90's Office Closing for Repairs and Maintenance**

District 90's Administrative Offices, 7776 Lake Street, are closed on Friday, August 5 during normal business hours (7:30 AM – 4:30 PM). Regular office hours resume on Monday, August 8.

## Safety for the Season

Colleges and University students are returning to school this month and the River Forest Fire Department would like to remind residents to be safe and remember to have situation awareness in all of your travel plans. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Campus Safety Tips](#)
- [Public Assembly Occupancies Safety Tips](#)
- [Hotel and Motel Safety](#)
- [Camping Fire Safety](#)
- [Car Temperature Safety](#)

## 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 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

### Beyond the Bin - Recycling Opportunities

Ever wonder where to take items that do not go in your recycling bin but can be reused or recycled? The Beyond the Bin guide is your answer. The Village of Oak Park and River Forest's Sustainability Committee have teamed up to provide a comprehensive list of where to take items, such as school supplies, tires, electronics etc. Please [click here](#) to view the guide and look for it soon on the Village website.

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## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

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**Wednesday, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 10-**

### **11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab, Adult**

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

### **Saturday, 8/13, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum, Adult**

Join us for a screening and discussion of *The Amazing Catfish*. Snacks will be served.

### **Wednesday, 8/17, 3-4:30 PM, Mario Kart Wii Tournament, Grades K-4**

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

### **Wednesday, 8/17, 7 PM, ACT VS SAT, Adult/Teen**

Huntington Learning Center invites all parents and teens curious about Illinois switching from ACT testing to the SAT.

### **Friday, 8/19, 1-3 PM, Messy Art Day, Children of All Ages**

Drop in and make fun (and messy) artistic creations at the Library. This program will be held outside weather permitting. For children of all ages with parent/caregiver.

### **Monday, 8/22, 10 AM-3 PM, DIY School Supplies, Children of All Ages**

Get ready for school! Stop by the Children's Room to assemble some great DIY school supplies for your first day back. For children of all ages with parent/caregiver.

### **Monday, 8/22, 10-11 AM, Downsizing and Decluttering, Adult**

Is it time to start Downsizing and Decluttering your life? Downsizing usually happens later in life. It can be motivated by an event that requires you to move or just a personal decision to live in an organized environment. Anna Glielmi, Professional Organizer, will provide real-life tips and strategies to help you simplify your life. This program is held in partnership with the River Forest Township as part of our series, Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long.

### **Thursday, 8/25, 3:30 PM, Welcome Back, 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.

## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### Save the Date for Illinois Township Day 9/21/16

Celebrate Illinois Township Day on Wednesday, September 21, at two exciting events at River Forest and Oak Park Townships!

**4:30-6:30 PM, River Forest Township, 8020 Madison St, River Forest (at the River Forest Community Center):** Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social, with free sundaes by Brown Cow. Please bring a food item to donate to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry.

**2-4 PM, Township Senior Services, 140 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park:** "Carnival of Information" – a fun and entertaining resource fair for all.

All ages welcome. Events will feature food, live entertainment, and appearances by special guests, including "Abraham Lincoln".

Come join in the fun and learn about the vital human services funded and offered through your Townships. Illinois Township Day is being celebrated all over the state on 9/21!

### Seeking Residents Interested in the Township Clerk Position

Would you like to serve your community and be part of the human services mission of River Forest Township? The Township is seeking a River Forest resident interested in serving as the Township Clerk. This is a paid, five to eight hour per week position which involves working closely with Township elected officials and staff. Computer skills are required. For more information, or if you are interested, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](#) by August 19.

### Property Assessment Appeal Seminars

Pamela Kende, River Forest Township Assessor, will host a free property assessment appeals seminar on **Monday, August 8, 6:30 PM at the RF Community Center, 8020 Madison St, River Forest**. Staff from the Cook County Board of Review will explain the appeal procedures at the Board of Review. The session will educate taxpayers on how to file an appeal, provide information on property tax exemptions, and explain the relationship between property taxes and property values. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to work with staff to address specific questions and concerns.

An additional seminar will be held at Village Hall, Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30 PM, where Assessor Kende will also be present.

Please bring a copy of your most recent tax bill; if you purchased your home prior to 1/1/13, bring your closing papers.

River Forest Township is open for appeals with the Board of Review August 1-30. There is no fee to appeal at the Board of Review. Contact Township Assessor Pam Kende for help with an appeal at 708-366-2787.

### Back to School...Back to Sibshops



Sibshops will be back for the fall session! Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Sessions are geared around having fun and sharing information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

Sibshops will now meet twice a month and include lunch! Priority is given to participants from River Forest and Oak Park.

Held on **Saturdays, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM** (note new start time), at Thrive, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. Free parking next to building for drop off and pickup.

Kickoff session: Saturday, September 24. Subsequent fall sessions held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays: 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17.

Registration required in advance. \$10/session; need-based scholarships available. To sign up or for more information, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](#).

### **Seniors: Calling all Vocalists!**

Do you – or a friend, neighbor or family member – like to sing? If so, and if you are 55+, please consider joining the new Oak Park/River Forest Encore Chorale, of which River Forest Township is a co-sponsor.

Encore is the largest and fastest growing choral program for older adults in the U.S. There is no audition. Weekly rehearsals are Tuesday mornings, 9-10:30 AM, starting September 6 at Trinity High School in RF.

Cost is \$150 for a 15 week session, including rehearsals, professional direction, sheet music and performance. River Forest Township has partial scholarships available for residents with demonstrated need.

Online registration is now open at [www.tinyurl.com/EncoreIllinois](http://www.tinyurl.com/EncoreIllinois). For more information, [email Linda Crabtree Powell](#) or call 312-342-7227.

### **Seniors: Be Sure to Get an ICE Packet for Your Freezer**

Seniors: River Forest Township and the River Forest Fire Department paramedics want to make sure you have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet in your freezer! The ICE Packet contains a Medical Information Form which you fill out and store in the 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 that you have a completed ICE Packet.

Pick up ICE Packets at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall and the River Forest Public Library.

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

### **“Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long” Announces Early Fall Lineup**

Join us as we celebrate seniors into the fall! Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. **All events are held at the River Forest Library except 9/28.**

- **Monday, August 22, 10 AM** – Anna Glielmi shares “downsizing and decluttering” tips.
- **Sunday, September 18, 2 PM** – Resident Al Popowits enlightens about historical River Forest buildings.
- **Wednesday, September 28, 1:30 PM** – Charles Troy dramatizes the story behind the making of *My Fair Lady*; **held at the River Forest Community Center**. Supported by Terry Zachata and New York Life.
- **Sunday, October 9, 2 PM** – Historical portrayer Terry Lynch presents Pierre Salinger and the 1000 days of Kennedy’s *Camelot*.

### Seniors: Coffee Mondays Fall Kickoff

Coffee Mondays continue this fall at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM. The September coffee will be held on **September 12** (one week later due to Labor Day), with ideas for local day trips from guest speaker Denise Murray of Forest Park Senior Services.

### 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). [Email Dr. Lydia Manning](#), or call 708-209-3218. **THIS GROUP DOES MEET IN AUGUST.**
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

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## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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### August Summer Camps - Register today!

Our popular half-day morning camps (*Kidz Camp, Tot Camp, Ultimate Sports Camp and Thrill Zone Camp*) is available for one more week, the week of August 8.

In addition to the half-day morning camps, we are offering the following afternoon camps:

#### Week of August 8:

- **Tennis Camp** - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ages 6 - 12)
- **Crazy Chemistry Camp** - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ages 6 - 12) or 3:15 PM - 4:30 PM (ages 3 - 5)

The following camps are available for the last weeks of summer:

**Week of August 15:**

- **Multi-Sports Full-day Camp** - 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM (ages 6 - 12)
- **Fairytale Storyacting Camp** - 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM (ages 3 - 5)
- **Storyacting Drama Daze Camp** - 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM (ages 6 - 12)

**Week of August 22:**

- **Follow Me Robot Camp** - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ages 6 - 12)

There's something for everyone!

[Click here](#) to view our Summer Camp Guide Online.

[Click here](#) to download a pdf of the Summer Camp Guide.

To register online, [click here](#).

**Food Truck Rally - The Depot / Keystone Park**

**Saturday, August 27 • 3:00 - 9:00 PM (rain or shine)**

The Rotary Club of Oak Park River Forest and the River Forest Park District are proud to host our 3rd Annual Food Truck Rally in Keystone Park at The Depot. This signature event includes 10 food trucks serving savory and sweet food items, a tented beer garden serving craft beer and wine, 2 stages with entertainment, inflatables for the kids, and games for the family.

For details, [click here](#).

**Fall Fun Guide Now Online!**

The **Fall Fun Guide** is available online. [Click here](#) to view the Guide.



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