



## 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 March. We've hardly had a winter, and now spring is fast approaching with much to report.

In the coming weeks, we will take the first steps toward creating a tax increment finance district along North Avenue. We will update a development blueprint, determine if the area still qualifies and examine the boundaries, which had been set for North from Thatcher Avenue east to Harlem Avenue. We also will call on our volunteers on the Economic Development Commission to look at these reports before they come back to the Board of Trustees for approval.

TIFs are a tool to jump-start development, which will stabilize our property taxes and strengthen property values. These are goals that have the best chance of succeeding by improving our commercial tax base.

This process will take several months. From the outset, we will be more proactive in our outreach to you about our progress. One of the lessons we learned from Madison Street was that we needed to get information out sooner. So, in addition to regular communications, we will again set up a distinct page on our website, [www.vrf.us](http://www.vrf.us), about the process, the purpose of a TIF and other pertinent information.

River Forest will also provide information on the TIF process by way of social media. Results from a recent survey showed that Facebook was the site residents primarily used, and preferred that the Village use to engage on social media. A soft-launch of the site will occur later this month and will be followed by more formal efforts in April. This is our first foray into the world of social media, and we hope you find it useful and informative.

We will use Facebook as well to keep the community apprised of the work of all of our commissions, including our newest, on sustainability. In January, the Board of Trustees made sustainability a priority by unanimously voting to elevate the

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committee that advises us on environmental issues into a commission, a working part of village government.

In 2014, the Village signed an intergovernmental agreement with the River Forest Parks Foundation to create a committee that could give us guidance and programs that will make us a healthier and greener community. This exceptional group of residents has stepped up and the programs they have offered have exceeded our expectations. They helped bring about curbside composting, pavers in our commuter lot on Thatcher, taught us to use toxic-free pesticides on our lawns, and a number of other important initiatives.

The commission will start its work this spring. We encourage you to apply and bring your energy and talents to this important work. Please [click here](#) and complete the form at the bottom of the "Boards and Commissions" page. Thank you in advance for stepping up to serve your community.

Late last month Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution supporting a call for universal background checks on gun purchases nationwide. This measure reflected the overwhelming majority of residents who voted in favor of this advisory referendum from Cook County. We appreciate the guidance our community provided on this important safety issue.

Congratulations to David Snyder for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. As you may remember, David created a [Weather Bug](#) for our community. There's also a mobile app for iPhone and Android devices so you can follow the weather every hour on the hour of the day. We hope you'll use it. Thanks David for your service.



Have a warm and wonderful St. Patrick's Day. Please [click here](#) for traffic and parking restrictions and information on the Forest Park parade on March 4.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

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## Volunteer Opportunity on Newly Established Sustainability Commission

On Monday, February 13, 2017, the Village Board approved an Ordinance creating the Sustainability Commission. The Sustainability Commission's purpose is to enhance the quality of life of its residents through the study and promotion of sustainable practices that conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

Would you like to volunteer to serve on the Sustainability Commission? This is an exciting opportunity to use your insight, experience, and expertise to help shape your Village now and for the future! If you are interested in serving, please complete the form at the bottom of the "Boards and Commissions" page by [clicking here](#). Please indicate which Board(s) or Commission(s) on which you would like to serve. Tell us why you are interested in serving on a Board or Commission. Make sure to include your contact information so we can reach you to learn more about you and your interests in serving our community.

To learn more about the mission of the Sustainability Commission, simply [click here](#).

## Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Saturday March 4, 2017 Forest Park will host their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at 1 PM at Madison St. and Van Buren and will travel East on Madison St. into Forest Park.

There will be parking on the east side only in the 000 and 100 blocks of Ashland and Franklin and in the 000 block of Park. There will be parking only on the south side of Vine from Lathrop to Park. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic is expected to be heavy in this area from 12 noon until 2 PM. Lathrop, Ashland, Franklin and Park will be open to local/resident traffic only and will be closed at Madison St. Madison St. will be closed from Lathrop to Park during the parade.

## Road Closure on 1000 Block of Bonnie Brae – March 8 – 9

Concordia University is beginning the next phase of construction on its new dormitory on the southeast portion of their campus. The construction will require the 1000 Block of Bonnie Brae to be closed for two days while a crane is erected. Access to streets and sidewalks will be restricted from 7 AM – 6 PM on March 8 and 9. Should weather impact the work, March 10 will be used as a make-up date.

For full details including project maps, alternate parking, and contact information please [click here](#).

## Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide the following timely reminders about fire safety:

- [Top 10 Fire Safety Tips](#)
- [Lithium Ion Battery Safety](#)

[Village Website](#)

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## [Spring Fire Safety](#)

- [Electrical Safety](#)

## **Know the Code!**

The Village would like to remind you:

- As the warmer months approach, please remember that all dogs must be leashed when on any public street, sidewalk, parkway, public area or unenclosed premises within the Village. Please see Section 8-3 of the [Village code](#) for all dog control information.
- Please note: Although the weather is warming earlier, yard waste collection does not start until April. The first date for yard waste collection is Tuesday April 4th, 2017.
  - "Yard waste" includes trees or tree branches (not exceeding four inches in diameter), brush, plant stalks and shrubs cut up and bound into bundles of no more than four feet in length and fifty pounds in weight, which bundles shall be bound with biodegradable twine and shall have one universal solid waste tag affixed to each bundle. Yard waste is also grass clippings, leaves, twigs, weeds and all other materials of similar nature placed in biodegradable paper bags (up to thirty two gallons in capacity) and affixed with one universal solid waste tag. It is unlawful for any person to mix yard waste with other garbage and refuse.
  - For non-alley collections, properly packaged yard waste will be picked up "curbside". Materials placed for such collection may not be put out prior to 6:00 PM on Monday (the day before yard waste collection) and will be picked up on Tuesday. For alley collection, properly packaged yard waste may be placed for collection next to the regular garbage collection point. It is unlawful to place yard waste within the street, alley or walkway.
  - All landscaping companies must be licensed to operate in the Village. To view a list of licensed contractors, please click [here](#).

## **Short Term Rentals Prohibited in River Forest**

Recently, an industry has emerged that allows homeowners to list homes online for lodging and rental for short term stays whether or not they are present during these stays. This type of use is prohibited under the River Forest Municipal Code. Property owners who violate the Village Code will be expected to bring their home into immediate compliance. Failure to do so can result in the issuance of citation(s). The Village is not responsible for any fines.

or cancellation fees that a homeowner may incur by bringing the property into compliance with Village Codes. Click [here](#) to view more information about short term rentals or click [here](#) to view the Village Code.

## **Illinois Department of Transportation Project on Madison Street this Spring**

The Illinois Department of Transportation is planning to resurface the portion of Madison Street between the railroad tracks (just west of Park Ave) and the Des Plaines River. The work will include the resurfacing of the asphalt, replacement of all pavement markings, and upgrading of the pedestrian crosswalks to meet current ADA standards.

Please note that this project is unrelated to the project that was recently completed by River Forest and Forest Park, between the railroad tracks and Des Plaines Avenue. IDOT anticipates that this work will begin in April and end in May of this year.

## **One Earth Film Festival**

The annual One Earth Film Festival is now underway. This festival features thought-provoking films on a variety of environmental topics in the Chicagoland area. One Earth brings to you engaging films that will educate and inspire. For more information on the festival, please [click here](#). For information on events in River Forest, please [click here](#).

## **Message from OPRFHS District 200 - Two more sessions left on the D200 Superintendent's Listening Tour!**

What is OPRF High School doing well? How could it improve? All community members are invited to attend a session below, for a complimentary light meal and dialogue. Please RSVP by clicking [here](#) or contact Karin Sullivan by email or at 708-434-3691.

- **Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 6-8 PM** – RSVP by March 8, Irving Elementary School, 1125 S. Cuyler Ave., Oak Park
- **Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:30-11:30 AM** – RSVP by March 11, Roosevelt Middle School, 7560 Oak Ave., River Forest

## **Message from River Forest Elementary School D90 - Kindergarten Registration Open**

Registration for River Forest District 90 Kindergarten is open for children who turn five years of age on or before September 1. To begin the registration process, families must pick up a Kindergarten registration packet, which contains all of the forms and information needed to register, such as proof of residency.

For families who are new to District 90, registration packets are available at the Administration Building, 7776 Lake Street. Families will also have to make an appointment with Josephine Ribaudo at 708-771-8282 or [via email](#) to complete the process. The hours for registration at the Administration Building are 8:45 AM – 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Families, who have a student already

attending a District 90 school, can pick up the Kindergarten registration packet at Lincoln School, 511 Park Avenue, or Willard School, 1250 Ashland Avenue.

District 90 encourages all families with children eligible for Kindergarten this year to register as early as possible. Doing so enables families to arrange the necessary appointments that are required to enroll in Kindergarten, such as medical, dental, and eye exams.

The first day of school is Thursday, August 24, 2017.

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

For a complete list of programs or to register for an event, visit the library website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org)

### Children

#### **Saturday, 3/4, 3/11, 9:30-11:30 AM, Donuts for Dads, Kids of All Ages**

Grab Dad and join us at the Library for crafts, books, and board games as well as tasty breakfast treats and coffee from Blue Max. At 10:30 we'll all head upstairs for a fun story time by the fireplace. Moms, grandparents, and caregivers are also welcome to attend with the children in their lives.

#### **Monday, 3/6, 9 AM-12 PM, Morning PJ Party and Book Character Scavenger Hunt, Ages 2 and up**

Wake up and come straight to the Children's Room for a morning pajama party! You'll be warm and cozy as you hunt for your favorite book characters, enjoy breakfast treats, and cuddle up for some quality reading time. Drop in anytime between 9 AM-12 PM for the fun.

#### **Sunday, 3/12, 3-4 PM, Charlotte's Web, Best for Ages 4 and Up**

American Eagle Productions presents a live action musical play based on the classic story by E.B. White. Advanced Registration is required. Best for ages 4 and up.

#### **Wednesday, 3/22, 2-3 PM, Fire Station Story Time, Ages 2 and up**

Visit the Fire Station for this special story time and tour. \*\* Note: Program is held at the River Forest Fire Station, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL 60305\*\* For ages 2 and up.

### Teens

#### **Monday, 3/6, 2:00-3:30 PM, Beginner Bots, Grades 5-8**

Come learn how to construct a variety of basic robots, including a brushy bot and an art bot. Registration Required.

#### **Tuesday, 3/14, 12-2:15 PM, Reading Olympics, 5th Grade**

Reading Olympics is a literature enrichment program sponsored by local school districts 90 & 97, Oak Park Public Library, River Forest Public Library, and several area private schools. All 5th grade students are invited to read books on a list and compete with each other by answering questions about them.

### Adults

**Thursday, 3/9, 7-8 PM, Organizing Small Spaces for**

## Seniors

Join Professional Organizer Beth Randall for a fascinating presentation on organization for seniors! This presentation is specifically designed to help seniors organize their homes after a downsize. You'll learn tips and tricks on organizing small spaces, handling paperwork, photos, and other memorabilia.

### **Saturday, 3/11, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum**

Head to the River Forest Library for a free viewing of the foreign film *When Brendan Met Trudy* on our big screen. Delicious snacks are also provided.

### **Wednesday, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 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.

### **Tuesday, 3/14, 3/28, 7-8:30 PM, Great Decisions**

Topic: Conflict in the South China Sea (3/14)

Topic: Saudi Arabia in Transition (3/28)

## **Spring Break Activities for Kids**

### **Monday 3/27-Friday, 3/31, All Day, Collaborative Artwork, Grades 5-12**

Drop on by during Spring Break to make your mark on our collaborative artwork piece.

### **Monday, 3/27, 10 AM-5 PM, Puppet Party, Kids of All Ages**

Stop by to create your own puppets and put on a spontaneous puppet show in the Children's Room. Supplies will be provided. For kids of all ages and caregivers.

### **Tuesday, 3/28, 10 AM-5 PM, Games Galore, Kids of All Ages**

Challenge a friend or sibling to a fun board game. Games will be available all day in the Children's Room. For kids of all ages and caregivers.

### **Wednesday, 3/29, 10 AM-5 PM, Freestyle Crafts, Kids of All Ages**

We've got the craft supplies; you've got the talent. Get those creative juices flowing! Supplies will be provided. For kids of all ages and caregivers.

### **Thursday, 3/30, 10 AM-5 PM, Build a Fort, Kids of All Ages**

Turn the Children's Room into the fort of your dreams. Bring your own blankets and pillows or use what we have here to build a cozy hideaway. For kids of all ages and caregivers.

### **Friday, 3/31, 10 AM-5 PM, Puzzle Challenge, Kids of All Ages**

Work on puzzles throughout the day in the Children's Room. For kids of all ages and caregivers.

**For a complete list of programs or to register for an event, visit the library website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org)**

## Community Health Needs Assessment: Please Respond by March 31

River Forest Township and partner organizations from Oak Park are undertaking a Community Health Needs Assessment. *Your participation is essential!* Survey results will provide valuable input to mental health and other community health-related decisions and funding over the next several years. This survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Please [click here](#) to take the survey.

Paper copies of the survey will also be available after March 6 at River Forest Township (located at the River Forest Community Center), 8020 Madison Street; River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, and the River Forest Library. **Responses are appreciated by March 31**; thank you for your time and input!

## Strengthening Families Program Starts March 7

Parents: are you interested in learning more effective parenting skills? Healthier family communication? Stress management skills? Better ways to resolve conflict? Consider attending the Strengthening Families Program. This 11-week program is for the entire family, open to families with children ages 7-17. It runs **Tuesday evenings, March 7-May 23, 6-8 PM** at Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland, Oak Park. Meal provided; childcare and transportation available if needed.

For questions or to register, call 708-410-0615; mention "SFP in Oak Park".

## Winter/Spring Sibshops Underway

It's not too late to join the winter/spring Sibshops! 1st and 3rd Saturdays in March: **3/4, 3/18**. Final Sibshop is **April 22** to accommodate spring break and Easter.

Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Siblings do fun activities and share information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

**11:30 AM-1:30 PM** (including lunch), at Thrive, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. Free parking next to building for drop off and pickup. Priority given to participants from River Forest and Oak Park. Interested families are welcome to try a session.

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

## Mental Health Conference to be held March 18 in River Forest

Please join us for the 3rd Annual "Piecing It All Together" mental health conference, to be held **Saturday, March 18, 8 AM-4 PM** at Dominican Priory Campus. Sponsored by NAMI Metro Suburban and supported by River Forest Township.

Parents of children with mental health conditions and



school/mental health professionals are invited to attend. Includes keynote speakers, workshops, lunch and networking. CEU's available.

Register online by clicking [here](#). Please contact Angela Suarez at 708-524-2582 x101 or by [email](#) with questions.

## Seeking a New Member for the Township Youth Services Committee

River Forest Township is seeking a River Forest resident to fill a vacancy on the volunteer OPRF Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). The YSC provides input to developing and funding local youth programming. Experience with youth is a plus but not required. The YSC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM. If you are interested please [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan.

## "Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs

Join us for the March/April lineup:

- **Thursday, 3/9, 7 PM** – Organizing Small Spaces for Seniors with Beth Randall
- **Sunday, 4/2, 2 PM**- Ride on The Lincoln Funeral Train with historian Dave Clark
- **Sunday, 4/23, 2 PM** - Architectural Design Workshop with designer Maura Braun

Programs are held at the River Forest Library at no charge. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library.

## Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays are held at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM, featuring guest speakers and time left to chat! Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **March 6**- Several local organizations present volunteer opportunities for seniors.
- **April 3** – Learn what's new with Arbor West Neighbors, the local grassroots organization helping to enhance our community's livability for seniors.

## Save the Date: Celebrating Seniors Week May 18-25

Celebrating Seniors Week will soon be here! The Pet Parade returns...as well as the 60 over 60 Awards. The founder of Famous Amos Cookies joins us as the keynote luncheon speaker. River Forest Township will host a number of events, including presentations on advanced directives, memoir writing, and movement & memory. Visit the [Celebrating Seniors website](#) for more details.

## Need Income Tax Preparation Assistance?

River Forest Township supports two local initiatives for moderate

income seniors (age 60+) who would like free income tax preparation assistance. Call immediately to schedule an appointment, as time slots fill very quickly.

- **AARP Tax-Aide Program:** Forest Park or Franklin Park locations. Call 708-771-7737.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program at Triton:** Call 708-456-0300 x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

## 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, via [email](#) or by phone at 708-209-3218.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM,** Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Now Hiring for the Summer!

**Looking for a fun summer job? We are currently hiring Summer Camp Staff!**

If you are 18 years or older and have experience with kids, check out our summer camp job opportunities! We are hiring Summer Camp Directors, Assistant Directors and Counselors. For details, [click here](#).

### Upcoming Events - Junior NBA Skills Challenge

**Thursday, March 32, 6-8 PM, Ages 9-14, Roosevelt Middle School North Gym, FREE!**

The Jr. NBA Skills Challenge provides boys and girls, age 9-14, the opportunity to showcase their fitness through dribbling, shooting and rebounding skills competition. Boys and girls compete separately in three different age groups: 9-10; 11-12; 13-14. Come out for this fun evening of basketball competitions and games. Grab a few friends, show off your skills, and win prizes! You must pre-register for this event. For details, [click here](#).

### Upcoming Kids Sports Programs

#### Spring Soccer

**Tuesdays, April 11 - May 16, 4-5PM & 5-6PM sessions, Age: 4 & 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, and don't forget, every participant receives a t-shirt.

### **Boy's Spring Lacrosse League**

**March 15 - May 28, Grades K - 5, 6 - 8**

East Ave Lacrosse is an Oak Park and River Forest-based lacrosse club focused on growing the game in the area and developing the next generation of Fenwick Friars and OPRF Huskies. Founded in 2015 by OPRF and Fenwick varsity coaches, East Ave creates a fun and engaging experience that will help your son develop a love for the sport. First-time players and experienced veterans alike will greatly increase their knowledge of the game, advance their individual skills, and have a great time with their new friends.

No experience is necessary! Players will be divided by age, and each team will play 6-8 games, weather permitting. Playing time in games will be competitive, but balanced. Advanced players will also be eligible to play in tournaments through East Ave Lacrosse at an additional fee.

### **Volleyball Skills and Drill**

**Sundays, Apr 9 - May 14, Grades: 3 - 5, 6 - 8**

Improve your volleyball skills with 60 minutes of drills in setting, passing, overhand serving, and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of self-mastery training and groups that help each student reach a new level. Instructors organize short games at the end of each class. Lesson plan also incorporates short educational drills, including spelling, math & science.

### **Register Today!**

[Click here](#) to register for programs.

## **Upcoming Adult Programs**

### **Basic Photography for DSLR Cameras**

**(co-op with Oak Park)**

**Thursday, March 16, 6-9 PM, Ages: 16 & up**

Learn what all those wheels and buttons do. What is ISO and Noise? What are fast lenses? What is Depth of Field? What is selective focus? How do I stop Fast Action? When should I use a tripod? After this class, you will no longer fear taking your camera out of Automatic! This class is for people new to photography. This class is not for people with Point and Shoot Cameras.

### **Self-Defense Workshop**

**(co-op with Forest Park)**

**Monday, February 6, 6:30 - 9 PM, Ages: 17 & up**

The techniques and strategies taught will bolster in mind and body giving you confidence. Techniques will be taught, practiced, and

discussed in a variety of situations from beginner to intermediate. Lessons and techniques are presented in a way that any physical skill level will benefit from the experience. We will discuss and practice the secret to self defense that starts before any physical defense is required. Wear comfortable clothes that allow a wide range of movement.

[Click here](#) to register for programs.



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