



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,

We are heading toward the middle of fall; enjoy the changing colors of our trees!

I'd like to share some important developments.

Our North Side Stormwater Management project is nearing completion. Jackson, between Division and Greenfield, and Greenfield east from William to Harlem are still under construction, while all other areas should be in the asphalt and sodding phases. We expect all construction to be completed by the end of November, weather permitting.

The Board of Trustees and I are proud to report that the Village continues to demonstrate sound and prudent management of our finances. The audit of our 2015 fiscal year budget reflects an increase of \$506,397 in revenue in the General Fund than we anticipated. Expenses were \$355,354 lower than we projected. We would like to extend thanks to our Finance Director Joan Rock, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, and of course, Village Administrator Eric Palm and the Village Board's Finance Committee Chair, Trustee Carmela Corsini. We couldn't have done it without their hard work, counsel and steadfastness. To read the entire report, [click here](#).

Although this is good news, we have to continue to build on our success. We need to find alternate sources of revenue that will strengthen the bottom line, increase property values and stabilize our tax burden. Here are some developments that will help us reach our goal:

1. Next spring's opening of Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market will strengthen our sales tax base.
2. New development of The Promenade Townhomes on Madison Street (former Hines Lumber site) will increase our property tax base.

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3. On Oct. 12, the Board of Trustees and I authorized negotiations with Inland/Keystone LLC to build 28 condominiums, seven townhomes and 16,000 square feet of commercial space between Park and Franklin on Lake Street. This will be the start of our efforts to revitalize our downtown and business districts along Lake Street.

I am pleased to announce that River Forest has formed a subcommittee of one elected official from each taxing body that will, for the first time, address overarching issues facing the community. Our vision is to identify services on which we can collaborate to retain existing residents and attract new residents, and improve your quality of life. In its first meeting the subcommittee identified what could become exciting opportunities.

We look forward to exploring them and sharing them with the community.

You still have time to take advantage of free and unlimited leaf pickup. "Rake to the Street" will continue through November 27.

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

As we settle into getting ready for Thanksgiving, let's remember those in need. Generosity is a hallmark of River Forest, and we hope you take part in a program that will bring aid and comfort to local families.

In closing, the Board of Trustees and I would like to wish all of you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Best,

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Thanksgiving Holiday

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a happy Thanksgiving holiday. Please note Village Hall will be closed Thanksgiving Day (11/26) & Friday (11/27).

Thanksgiving Holiday Parking

Will family be visiting this year? Do they need somewhere to park? Contact Police Records Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for answers: (708) 366-8500 x 345, and use our 24/7 non-emergency line to call for permission to park a vehicle on the street overnight: (708) 366-7125. Please stop by the Village Hall for a free refrigerator magnet that keeps parking and other important contact information within reach.

The Overnight Parking Ban will be lifted for Wednesday, 11/25/15 (12:01 a.m.) through Monday, 11/30/15 (12:01 a.m.). No overnight waivers will be required during this period.

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.

Running Safety

As winter approaches and the daylight hours get shorter, the River

Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Smart Phone App](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

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Forest Police Department wants residents to make safe decisions when exercising outdoors. Specifically, we urge residents to utilize sidewalks for walking or jogging. We understand that construction or weather factors may cause sidewalks to become temporarily unavailable for pedestrians, but for the safety of all residents, we ask that pedestrians avoid walking in the roadway whenever possible. Additional tips:

- Avoid use of electronics (i.e. headphones) that may distract you from noticing a dangerous situation.
- Increase your visibility by wearing bright, contrasting, and/or reflective clothing.
- Assume that none of the motorists see you, and act accordingly.

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:

- 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.

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:

- [Heating Safety](#)
- [Top 10 Winter Freeze Tips](#)
- [Thanksgiving Safety](#)
- [Cooking Safety](#)
- [Religious Candle Safety](#)
- [Shabbat Fire Safety](#)

Know the Code!

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As winter approaches, 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

Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Update

Eighty River Forest residents signed 'The Pledge' this season to go chemical free and committed to caring for their lawn and gardens with natural lawn practices. If you would like to learn more about the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Initiative visit the [Village website sustainability page](#).

Green Block Parties

Thank you to all the residents who signed up for a Green Block Party. Of the thirty four block parties held this summer, twenty seven were **Green**.

Author Paddy Woodworth at Oak Park Public Library

Author Paddy Woodworth will speak on **Tuesday, November 10 from 7-9 p.m.** at the Oak Park Public Library Veteran's Room. If you want to understand the promise, politics, issues, and controversies behind ecological restoration, there is no better guide than Paddy Woodworth. In his encouraging book, [Our Once and Future Planet, Restoring the World in the Climate Change Century](#), he introduces the relatively new science of restoration ecology, devoted to rejuvenating the natural-and-human-environments we call home.

Calling all Young Filmmakers... [click here](#) to learn about the Young Filmmakers Contest 2016.

Community Connector

[Click here](#) to read the Oak Park and River Forest High School's Fall 2015 Community Connector.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Friendly Parking Update from Your Library

We love seeing you here at the library and are invested in making our services and materials available to you despite recent parking changes. **Did you know** that while visiting the library,

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you **may** park in the following spots?

On Weekends, Non-School Days and after 3:45 PM on School Days (when after-school events are not scheduled).

- The entire North Parking Lot is open for public parking.

During Regular School Days (8 AM-3:45 PM)

- D90 Middle Parking Lot: 9 spots are available for up to 60 minutes.
- Lathrop Ave. in front of the Library: 6 spots are available for 30 minutes. There is one handicapped parking space available that has no time limit.
- Jackson on the east side of the street: 3 hour parking is available

On School Days After 3:45 PM (when after school events are scheduled)

- The east end of the North Parking Lot will be limited to school staff from 3:45 PM until the end of the event. The west end of the North Parking Lot will be open to the public.

The Library staff will do everything they can to make the library accessible to you. Library staff will happily hold materials for you at the Circulation Desk, deliver materials directly to your home, or answer your questions and help find books by chat on our [website](#) during library hours, by [email](#), or by phone at (708)366-5205. Lastly, don't forget our array of digital resources--ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, music, and movies that are available to you with your REPL card from the comfort of your home.

Contact us to learn more -- we're just a phone call away!

Upcoming Events at the Library

It's DINOvember at the Library

It's a month of dinosaur fun at REPL! Explore dinosaur fossils from the Field Museum, do crafts, and play dino-trivia. The program will continue throughout the month of DINOvember with fun activities in the Children's Room.

Sunday, 11/8, 2 p.m., Life in a Japanese Internment Camp

Among the over 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated, over two-thirds were American-born, many of whom were children. Historian and librarian Sarah Okner, a descendant of internees, shares photos and details of daily life in an internment camp, and the profound effects it had on those living there.

Wednesday, 11/11 & 11/18, 10-11:30 a.m., Computer Learning Lab

Don't let your computer frustrate you. Come to the library and learn in a casual and collaborative environment! Bring your questions or just come to learn the basics. No need to sign up. Drop in and use one of our laptops or bring your own.

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Monday, 11/16, 3:30-5, Hunger Games Cupcake Wars, Grades 5-8

To celebrate the release of the last file, the library is hosting its own version of the Hunger Games - Cupcake Wars. Each contestant will receive supplies to craft the perfect cupcake which will then be judged by their peers. May the odds be ever in your favor. Advanced registration required.

For a complete listing of library programs and services, visit www.riverforestlibrary.org.

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 p.m. – Renowned storyteller, writer and world traveler Bill Helmuth takes us to Iran, its rich past and complex present day.

Saturday, February 20, 2 p.m. – "Talk Intelligently about Art" with Chicago art historian and guide Jeff Mishur.

Sunday, March 6, 2 p.m. – Educator Martina Mathison, founder of Living History, re-enacts the life of Marie Antoinette in honor of Women's History Month.

Sunday, April 3, 2 p.m. – Tour the gardens of Holland with landscape photographer Linda Oyama Bryan.

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m. – 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 a.m. at the River Forest Library on the first Monday of each month*:

- 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!

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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. 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, 10:00-11:30 a.m.*

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

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Free Community Movie Event

All are invited to attend a special free showing of the film "Walking Man" at the Lake Theater on Saturday, November 7 at 10 a.m. The movie tells of one man's remarkable journey as he and his son walk across Missouri, in order to open a dialog and educate students about a recent suicide epidemic. A community discussion on bullying, mental health and suicide prevention will follow. Presented by NAMI Metro Suburban and co-sponsored by River Forest Township.

Building Strong Families IMP.A.C.T. Parent Forum at Roosevelt

Parents are encouraged to attend a forum entitled Building Strong Families, to be held Tuesday, November 10, 7-9 p.m. at Roosevelt Middle School. This interactive and engaging program will offer parents ways to strengthen their relationship with their adolescent children and to help their middle schoolers enhance the skills needed to make healthy choices. Presented by IMP.A.C.T. in partnership with Be Strong Families and supported by River Forest Township.



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