



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.

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Message from the Village President



Dear River Forest Residents,

Summer is winding down and our children have returned to the classroom. That means keeping our children safe as they walk and bike to school becomes a top priority. The Board of Trustees and I believe that safety is our number one priority. We ask you to watch the road, drive slowly, obey traffic signs and yield to pedestrians, particularly at intersections that do not have stop signs. And we also ask you to not text and drive or speak on cell phones in and around school zones and as you drive elsewhere through River Forest.

You also will notice traffic and safety changes around Roosevelt Middle School. The sidewalk on the west side of Jackson has been widened. During school hours there are on-street parking restrictions on Jackson and Oak Street is closed to traffic. The Village will continue to monitor the impact of these changes, and we welcome feedback from residents.

What makes our community safe and strong is the dedication of our police officers. I was proud to present the police department's highest commendation, the Department Medal of Honor, to Sgt. Chris Pate, a 15-year veteran and Officer Dan Humphreys, a 5-year-veteran for their dedicated service. Both showed courage and judgment during a shooting incident on July 12, and the Board of Trustees and I are grateful for their service.

We are pleased to report that economic development is in full swing. To meet one of our Board goals of stabilizing property taxes, the Economic Development Commission and the Board have created a business district on Lake from Lathrop west to Park. Trustees will take public comment, discuss and evaluate three proposals for development at Lake and Park at a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. Establishment of TIF districts along Madison Street and North Avenue is also in full-swing. And we are looking ahead as Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market starts rehabbing the long-vacant Dominick's site on North Avenue.

As part of a Board commitment to improving property values, I would like to update you on our Northside Stormwater Management Project (NSMP). It is ahead of schedule and under budget. Because of that diligence, we will be extending the mainline sewer from William to Harlem. We anticipate all of the underground work and restoration will be done by late November/early December, weather permitting.

Please do not forget the annual LemonAid event which will be held on Friday, September 11 from 3 to 7 p.m. on Bonnie Brae between Oak and Chicago. Proceeds from this event benefit charities chosen by the volunteers who work tirelessly to organize LemonAid each year. A link to the LemonAid Facebook page is [here](#) for your convenience.

Sincerely,
Cathy Adduci

Useful Links

LemonAid

LemonAid will be hosting their annual event on Friday, September 11th from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. on the 700 block of Bonnie Brae. In memory of the September 11th attacks, LemonAid works to raise awareness and funds for local charities that serve children. To learn more or to donate, please visit [LemonAid's website](#).

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

Construction Update

[Village Board](#)

The NSMP continues to move east through River Forest and is currently well ahead of schedule and appears to be under budget. In order to take advantage of the time and cost savings realized thus far, the Village Board recently approved a change order that will see the continuation of the main sewer line in Greenfield Street extend all the way to Harlem Avenue (it was originally scheduled to stop at William Street). This extension will provide additional stormwater capacity and will complete all NSMP construction on Greenfield Street. Though the scope of the project has increased, it is still scheduled to be completed within the original time frame. We realize the impact that this project has had on residents within the affected area and appreciate everyone's cooperation throughout the construction.

[Agendas](#)

[Smart Phone App](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

Proclamation - Kiwanis International Day

At the Village Board of Trustees meeting on July 13th, 2015, Village President Cathy Adduci signed a proclamation declaring August 1st, 2015 Kiwanis International Day. The Kiwanis Club of River Forest & Oak Park serves the community through the development of community leaders, education, positive role models, intercultural understanding and cooperation, and opportunities for fellowship, personal growth, professional development and community service.



Emerald Ash Borer Update

River Forest is nearing the end of its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation and nearly all non-injected trees have been removed. To date, the number of trees lost to EAB totals just over 800 or approximately 10% of the total parkway tree population. Approximately 40 non-injected trees remain and will be removed as they decline from EAB.

Two hundred and seventy five ash trees are currently being injected on a biennial basis in areas where mono-cultures exist and those trees will be replaced slowly over time to reduce the aesthetic impact. The majority of tree removals occur during the summer and stump grinding and parkway restoration follow shortly thereafter.

Due to the heavy losses from EAB, we will be planting 150 trees this fall and another 150 trees in the spring in an effort to replace parkway trees as soon as possible.

This [map](#) represents an ash tree inventory that was conducted in 2006, approximately two years before EAB was discovered in River Forest.

Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from September 14th through November 27th. The next opportunity to dispose of leaves after November 27th will be during the yard waste collection program which starts in



April 2016. Rake only leaves onto the street by 7 a.m. on your collection day, leaving the curb exposed, where Village and Strom crews will collect them. Grass clippings, brush or any other type of yard waste mixed with your leaves will not be collected. Leaves are collected on both sides of the street in accordance with the following schedule:

Mondays: The area west of Thatcher including Edgewood, Auvergne, River Oaks and Lake, and all streets south of the Union Pacific Rail Road tracks.

Tuesdays: Harlem through and including William.

Wednesdays: Monroe through and including Lathrop, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Thursdays: Ashland through and including Park, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Fridays: Forest through and including Thatcher, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Fire Department Open House

The River Forest Fire Department will be hosting an Open House to culminate Fire Prevention Week on Saturday, October 10, 2015. Department fire fighters and paramedics will display fire apparatus, fire equipment and give tours of the fire station. Fire prevention and safety materials will also be available on a number of topics. This event is free and open to the public.

Know the Code!

Help emergency responders find you by ensuring your address is visible from the street!

Here are a few other reminders:

- Lawn bags cannot go on parkway before 6 p.m. on Monday.
- Large items such as furniture, televisions, etc. cannot be left out on the parkway to see if someone will take them. Large items put out for pickup must have a garbage tag and cannot be put out until the night before the assigned pick up day.
- Estate and Garage sale signs are prohibited from being posted on parkways.

Landscape Contractor Hours

As a reminder, please remember that landscape contractors are required to be licensed with the Village and abide by the work hour restrictions. Landscape contractors are permitted to work Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are not allowed to work on Sundays or holidays. Work conducted outside these hours could result in fines.

Green News You Can Use

- **Community Shredding and Electronics Recycling**, September 12 1-4 p.m. at the River Forest, Community Center. For the shredding of personal documents, please remove all paper clips, staples and other bindings. Limit 2 boxes per person. For more information repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com
- **Zero Waste Campout**. Sign up now for this popular family event in Priory Park Friday, September 25 6:30 p.m. through Saturday, September 26 7:30 a.m. Register at the Park District Office at the Depot.
- **Curbside Composting Going Strong**. Thank you to the **160 households that have signed up** for the new Curbside Composting Program. Get ready for fall clean up and sign up at <http://vrf.us/curbside-composting>. If you have questions about the program you can contact the Village at composting@vrf.us
- **60 Families Take the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Pledge**. *Keep ON the Grass* signs are sprouting up all over River Forest as residents pledge to select a chemical free lawn. This initiative is designed to promote best practices for lawn care and landscaping at the residential level to reduce use and impact of lawn care products on human health and the environment. Visit <http://rfparks.com/parks-foundation/> to add your pledge or to learn more.
- **Stop Raking Your Leaves into the Street-Learn about Leaf Mulch**. Learn about the benefits of leaf mulch for your garden, Saturday, September 19 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Oak Park Conservatory.
- **Go Green at Your Block Party**. Select the Go Green option on the Block Party Permit and a representative will contact you to set up a demonstration on Curbside Composting and the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Campaign and give you helpful hints to have a Green Block

Party. <http://vrf.us/residents/block-party-permits>

- **West Cook Wild Ones Program.** September 13, Mushrooms of the Chicago Region presented by Dr. Patrick Leacock 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Priory, 7200 Division Street, room 259, River Forest.
- **You are invited to join with others at 7:00 p.m. on September 24th** at the Oak Park Main Library to watch Pope Francis' historic address to the joint houses of Congress (recorded earlier in the day). Following the speech stay for a facilitated conversation to consider its implications for our personal choices and the public dialogue needed to address climate change leading up to the UN Climate Summit in Paris in December.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Upcoming Library Events

Style Over 60, Thursday, 9/10, 7 PM: River Forest resident Chris Hauri presents Style Over 60, fun and practical tips on colors, style and shopping. This program is held in partnership with the River Forest Township as part of our series, Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long.

My College Planning Team, Wednesday, 9/23, 7 PM: Parents of high school students - it's never too early to begin planning for college. Experienced professionals will share their knowledge and expertise to guide you in your family's college search, selection and funding. This event is free but requires registration. Visit the library's event calendar at www.rflib.org to sign up.

Syria, Sunday, 9/27, 2 PM: In Syria today, Civil War is displacing millions. Against this bleak background, Bill Helmuth will personally take you to the cities, including Damascus, the grand Mosques, exotic outdoor markets, ancient Christian citadels and crusader castles, to explore this fascinating culture.

Kaplan ACT Prep Test, Saturday, 9/19, 9 AM-1 PM: High school students are invited to head to the RFPL to take a free, full-length practice ACT test sponsored by Kaplan Test Prep. A fully-proctored practice test shows students what to expect in a test-like environment. This is a great opportunity to practice before the real thing! Space is limited so registration is required.

Grandparents' Open House, Monday, 9/14, 10 AM-4 PM: Grandparents (and grandparent figures) are invited to stop by the Library between 10 AM and 4 PM with the special children in their lives to share stories, make a craft, and enjoy refreshments.

Magic Tree House Party, Wednesday, 9/23, 2-3:30 PM, Grades K-4: Dinosaurs, knights, and mummies, oh my! Travel like Jack and Annie in a Magic Tree House with games, activities, and snacks that celebrate this enduring book series. [Registration required.](#)

Parachute Play, Thursday, 9/24, 10-10:30 AM, Ages 2-5: Join us for fun with parachutes! Bounce, wiggle, and have fun as you play with our favorite prop.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long!

River Forest Township and River Forest Public Library are once again co-sponsoring "Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long", a series of fun and informative programs for seniors held throughout the fall. Although the series is directed at seniors, all are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, September 9, 7 p.m., RF Public Library: See "Style Over 60" under "Upcoming Library Events".

Sunday, October 4, 2 p.m., RF Public Library: River Forest author and Chicago Symphony Orchestra violinist Melanie Kupchynsky shares her remarkable story through her book *Strings Attached* (recommended reading).

Tuesday, November 3, 2 p.m., RF Community Center: Charles Troy dramatizes the story behind the making of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Just in time for the Broadway revival, opening in November!

Coffee Mondays and Computer Labs for Seniors: Fall Schedule

River Forest Library and River Forest Township are pleased to co-sponsor the following events at the Library:

Mondays, 10 am, 9/14, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7: Coffee Mondays...join your fellow seniors for conversation, coffee and snacks.

Wednesdays, 10 am, 9/2-9/30, 10/21-10/28, 11/4-11/18, 12/2-12/16: Computer Learning Lab... build your computer skills with the help of hands-on instruction. For the total beginner through intermediate home/personal user. Use one of the library's laptops or bring your own. Open to all, with space priority given to RF and OP residents.

Paths to Faithful Caregiving: a faith-sensitive class for caregivers of older adults

Tuesdays, 10 am-12:30 pm, 9/8 through 10/13: This belief system-based education class is designed to help caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for someone else. *Not based on any specific faith.* Registration required; call Steve Smith (708) 383-8060. Held at Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue.

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.
- **Temporary handicapped parking placards** - available with signed physician form at RF Township offices and Village Hall.
- **Gently used medical equipment** - available for loan at Oak Park Township offices, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Call (708) 383-8005 for more info.
- **Senior bus rides to get around Oak Park and River Forest** - weekdays; \$1 per ride requested; book at least 24 hours in advance; call (708) 383-4806.
- **Lunch at the Township Senior Services center** - served Monday-Friday, 11 a.m., 130 S. Oak Park Ave, \$1.50 requested.
- **Special presentation about Township Senior Services at your apartment/condo building or organization** - please call Cathaleen Roach at (708) 366-6159 x234.
- **Senior office hours at River Forest Township, Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.** - Drop in to meet Supervisor Carla Sloan or Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach.
- **Questions?** Email croach.rftownship@gmail.com or call (708) 366-2029.

Sibshops to Resume in the Fall

Starting in October, River Forest Township will resume its Sibshop program, specially designed for *brothers and sisters* of kids with special needs, which can include physical & developmental disabilities or emotional & mental health challenges. For 3rd-8th grade siblings. Open to residents of RF and surrounding suburbs. Please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan if you are interested by phone (708) 366-2029 or by email cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.