



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 February! Winter has not yet descended upon us, but there is still plenty of time for snow and cold temperatures.

The Village is deep into preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, which begins May 1. The Board of Trustees and I got our first glimpse of the Village's capital needs for the maintenance and improvement of Village streets, sidewalks and alleys, water and sewer infrastructure and Village buildings, as well as vehicle and equipment replacements. A copy of the draft Capital Improvement Plan can be found on the Village's website by clicking [here](#). In March the Board will examine the proposed budget, which will include revenue projections and operating expenses for police and fire services, administration, pensions, insurance and other items associated with the day-to-day functions of village government. I can assure you the Board and I will adopt a balanced budget that will bring you the high quality services you expect while we continue to stabilize property taxes.

We are also keeping a watchful eye on the budget impasse in Springfield and the impact that it could have on the Village's bottom line. The Village can temporarily draw from its reserves, if necessary, but we must continue to insist that our state lawmakers and our governor pass a budget that has little to no impact on local government revenues. The stalemate is making it challenging for villages, schools and other units of government that need a share of income taxes to fund their services, and it is equally difficult for community organizations to provide the necessary services for our most vulnerable.

The Board of Trustees and I will consider possible amendments proposed by the Historic Preservation Commission to the historic preservation ordinance at the regularly scheduled Village Board Meeting on Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at Lincoln Elementary School and all residents are invited to attend. The proposed amendments will impact historically

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significant homes as well as local landmarks. Please visit the Village's website next week to view a copy of the proposed amendments. The foundation of our community is built on the homes that give River Forest character; they make our community a desirable place to live. Through preservation and restoration, we will breathe life into our motto: "Proud Heritage, Bright Future."

Over the past year or more the Village has been planning to create Tax Increment Finance districts along Madison Street and North Avenue. The Board authorized a market study to determine the types of development best suited for the proposed TIF Districts. In a recent presentation to the Village Board, the Village's consultant reported that a mixture of retail and residential (what is called "mixed-use development") is best suited for Madison Street. Development along North Avenue will be more challenging because of the commercial buildings' proximity to the homes behind them. The study also reaffirmed that River Forest is in a competitive market. I am confident that the Village can gather its resources to attract suitable business that will help increase property values and foster the community's reputation as a desirable place to shop and visit.

Finally, please join me in extending a hearty CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Addison Osta Smith! Addison is the first female and, at 9 years of age, the youngest competitor to earn the title of Master Chef Junior.



Sincerely,
Cathy Adduci
Village President

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Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide everyone with these timely reminders. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [9 Volt Battery Safety](#)
- [Electrical Safety Tips](#)
- [Family Room Safety Tips](#)
- [Kitchen Safety Tips](#)
- [Bedroom Safety Tips](#)
- [Basement Safety Tips](#)

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

Know the Code!

As the weather slowly starts to turn, the Village would like to remind you:

- Placing items on the parkway without a refuse sticker and/or not on your scheduled pick-up day is prohibited.
- Scavenging is not allowed in River Forest. Please, do not leave an item on the parkway hoping someone will come by and pick it up.
- Your property must be kept free from accumulating trash. Trash must not be allowed to accumulate up against fences and buildings or along sidewalks and in alley ways. As the snow melts, please be conscious of this to help keep River Forest beautiful!

GREEN NEWS

2 River Forest Locations for One Earth Film Festival Pre-Event Screenings

Feb. 11th, 7 pm: [This Changes Everything](#), Dominican University-Lund Auditorium, 7900 W. Division St, River Forest

Feb 25th, 6:30 pm: 2 Film Screenings- [Bea Johnson's Zero Waste Lifestyle](#) & [My Stuff](#), River Forest Public Library, 735 Lathrop Ave, River Forest. These films will explore environmental issues important to the River Forest community. Reserve your free ticket [here](#).

Next Compost Pick-up Dates

Compost pick-up will take place every other Tuesday through March 31st. February compost pick-up dates for residents signed up for the program are the 9th and the 23rd.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Sunday, 2/7, 2 PM, "Writing at the Edge" - Jeremy Falcon Author Visit

Come hear local author and world traveler Jeremy Falcon talk about his new historical trilogy, *The Harmony of the Spheres*.

**Wednesday, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 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.

**Friday, 2/12, 11:30 AM-2:30 PM, ½ Day
Pizza & Improv, Grades 5-8**

Do you make friends laugh? Are you a fan of Saturday Night Live or Whose Line Is It Anyway? How would you like to try your hand at improv comedy? Take advantage of the District 90 half day of school and come learn games, invent characters, and create scenes on the spot with professionally trained improv performers. *Back by popular demand * No experience necessary. Pizza will be served! Space is limited and [sign-up is required](#).

**Saturday, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 9:30-11:30 AM,
Donuts for Dads, Children of All Ages and
Caregivers**

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 story time by the fireplace. Moms, grandparents, and caregivers are also welcome to attend with the children in their lives.

**Saturday, 2/13, 3:30-5 PM, Minecraft
Madness Grades 3-7**

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to RFPL to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and compete in challenges to win prizes. [Advanced registration required](#). For kids in grades 3-7.

**Monday, 2/15, 2-3:30 PM, My
Weird School Party, Grades 1-4**

Come have a wacky good time as we celebrate the My Weird School series by Dan Gutman with crafts, games, and activities based on these fun books. [Advanced registration required](#). For children in grades 1-4.

**Saturday, 2/20, 2-3 PM, Talking Intelligently
About Art**

Are you a fan of art but uncertain how to talk about it? Do you want to understand more about a painting or sculpture than what the label on the wall tells you about it? In this slide lecture, art historian Jeff Mishur offers an introduction to the appreciation of art. Covering basic design principles, he will focus on how to analyze how a piece of art is "built" out of colors, lines, and

similar components.

Sunday, 2/21, 2-4 PM, 221B Baker Street Mystery

Kids grades 5-8. Come to the RFPL for an afternoon of clues, sleuthing, and fun. You'll question suspects, examine evidence, and attempt to solve the mystery. We'll have prizes and treats, so you will not want to miss this special event!

Monday, 2/29, 9-2:30 PM, Grade 5 & Audience of all ages, Reading Olympics @ RFPL

Monday, 2/29, 3:30-4:30 PM, Leap Year World Records and More, Grades K-4

Take a leap as you work on individual and team challenges and see if you have what it takes to compete with the people in the Guinness Book of World Records. For children in grades K-4.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Property Taxes Due March 1

By now you should have received your 1st installment property tax bill. If not, please contact the Assessor's Office, 708.366.2787, for assistance in obtaining a duplicate. This bill is 55% of the total amount of taxes you paid in the previous year. **Property tax payments are due March 1.** All exemptions and changes to your 2015 assessment will be taken into account on your 2nd installment tax bill that usually comes out in July.

We are assisting seniors with their senior exemptions. **All seniors must file for their senior exemptions every year.** For help completing the forms, please call 708.366.2787 for a weekday appointment or attend walk-in hours, Thursdays 10 am – noon. We are also able to assist new home owners with the home owner exemption paperwork.

We are in the last year of a tri-annual assessment period. If you have recently received a reassessment notice from the Cook County Assessor increasing your assessed value, now is the time to file an appeal. **River Forest Township will be open for appeals until Monday, February 29th.** Appeals are filed online at the Cook County Assessor website. We can assist you in finding comparable properties.

Save the Date: Regional Mental Health Conference to be held at Brooks Middle School

Saturday, 3/19, 8am - NAMI Illinois (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is hosting a regional mental health conference at Brooks Middle School entitled "Fostering Family Resilience". This event is open to parents, caregivers, social workers, teachers and mental health professionals. It will feature informative speakers and panel discussions, plus Second City's "Improv for Wellness". The event is co-sponsored by River Forest Township. Register

at www.namimetsub.org.

Saturday Sibshops are Back!

River Forest Township will resume its Saturday Sibshop program, specially designed for 1st through 6th grade brothers and sisters of kids with special needs, including physical & developmental disabilities or emotional & mental health challenges. Saturdays, noon – 2pm, **February 27, March 12 and April 23**, at Thrive, 120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park (new location). Parking is available next to building. Please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan to register or if you have questions: 708.366.2029 or cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Opening on Township Youth Services Committee

There is a volunteer opening for a River Forest resident on the Oak Park & River Forest Township Youth Services Committee. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month and supports mentoring and programs directed at our youth in the OP and RF communities. Specific experience with youth is helpful. For more info or an application, please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan: 708.366.2029 or cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Valentine's Day Poetry "from the Heart"

All seniors are cordially invited to the annual Valentine's Day Poetry Recital, sponsored by Township Senior Services, on Friday, February 12 at 9:30 am at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street.

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.

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.

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*:

- March 7- Tips from the River Forest Police Department
- April 4- Wellness through exercise

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*

***1-hour weekday parking is available to library patrons in the Roosevelt School middle lot on Lathrop.**

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Upcoming Events:

March Madness Open Gym

Feel the excitement of March Madness at the Park District!

Come out for this fun evening of basketball competitions and games. Grab a few friends, show off your skills, and win prizes! For grades 3 - 8. *You must pre-register for this FREE event.*

Thursday, March 17
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Roosevelt Middle School North Gym

Upcoming Programs:

Twinkle Toes *New!*

Ages: 18 months to 3 years (child-parent)

Join your toddler and discover the joy of music and dance, while meeting new friends. We will focus on movement as we 'hop like a frog' and 'spin like a helicopter,' so dress to dance. Large motor skills and coordination will be developed as your young students learn to follow directions with age-appropriate and familiar music. This is an adult/child class; an adult must attend.

Feb 20 - Mar 19 • 9:15am - 10:00am

Creative Movement *New!*

Ages: 3 - 5 (parent drop-off)

Children will explore and experiment with the fundamentals of creative movement, body, space, and time. A strong focus is placed on development of basic motor and locomotive skills with

the use of age-appropriate music and techniques. Children move to music acting like animals or twirling with ribbons. Creative Movement allows children to recognize their individuality and body mobility. Children are encouraged to move creatively while having fun dancing and enjoying music! Participants attend without parents and need to dress to move.

Feb 20 - Mar 19 • 10:30am - 11:15am

Funny Faces - Caricature Class *New!*

Ages: 6 - 10

Join us for theme park style caricatures! Participants will learn how to draw friends, family, and celebrities over the four-week course. Each week we will learn how to draw different features and then put it all together by the last class. All supplies are provided, and all skill levels are welcome!

Feb 26 - Mar 18 • 3:45pm - 5:00pm

Safe Sitter® Babysitter Training Course (1 day w/cpr training)

Ages: 11 - 15

Are you interested in making some money babysitting? Don't miss out on this excellent babysitter training course taught by a certified Safe Sitter Instructor. Safe Sitter is a medically accurate babysitting training program designed for young adolescents to prepare them for the profound responsibilities of nurturing and protecting children. The Safe Sitter class will help you land babysitting jobs and feel prepared to babysit. The class includes the following curriculum: Babysitting as a Business (babysitting ethics), Success on the Job, Child Care Essentials, Safety for the Sitter, Injury Management (first aid), Preventing Problem Behavior, Care of Choking Infant, and Care of Choking Child. Participants will also be trained in Infant & Child CPR. Fee includes The Official Safe Sitter® Babysitter's Handbook with completion card.

Feb 20 • 10:00am - 4:00pm

For more information on our programs and events, take a look at our [2016 Winter/Spring Fun Guide](#).

For online registration, [click here](#).



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