



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 April. I'd like to share some pertinent information with you about your Village.

About Safety...

Daniel Dhooghe has been promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of Police. Dan is a 27-year veteran of the River Forest Police Department having started his career as a dispatcher in 1991. He worked his way through the ranks, becoming patrol commander in May 2013. Dan replaced James O'Shea who was promoted to the position of Police Chief in January. We look forward to his leadership as we move ahead with plans to enhance our community's safety.



On a related note, congratulations to Chief O'Shea who has been selected the new chairman of the West Suburban Enhanced Drug/Gang Enforcement (WEDGE) task force. This special unit is a collaborative effort that, since 2010, has focused on gang and drug problems in River Forest, Oak Park, Forest Park, Elmwood Park, North Riverside and Riverside. We know Jim will do an outstanding job for us and the other members of this important task force.

For the second straight year, River Forest Police Officers selected Officer Daniel Szczesny as Officer of the Year. Dan joined the RFPD in 2013, and his enforcement efforts on drunk driving,

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mentoring other officers and taking on leadership when needed are among just some of his significant accomplishments. He is just one of the many outstanding police officers who, day in and day out, help make our community safe.



The Police will host their second Community Crime Prevention Meeting from **6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25** in the River Forest Village Hall Community Room. This session will provide residents with information related to crime in the Village and allow the Police Department to learn more about what residents are seeing and their concerns. To learn more about crime prevention in River Forest, [click here](#).

RFPD is offering free, personalized bracelets to residents with disabilities, medical conditions, and other special needs. To sign up, [click here](#). For more information, [click here](#).

About sustainability that enhances our property values...

On March 12, the Board of Trustees and I congratulated Andrew Edwards for capturing first place in the middle school competition at this year's One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest. Andrew, a 7th grader at Roosevelt Middle School, created "Plastics Not Fantastic." We got to watch his almost 4-minute film, in which Andrew shows us the impact plastics have on us, our water and wildlife. His video also encourages us to use reusable bags and properly dispose plastic bags. To watch this marvelous example of environmental activism, [click here](#).



The Sustainability Commission will show how it's leading the way in "greening" our community during a discussion of its 2018 goals and ongoing initiatives during a program on **Sunday, April 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the [River Forest Public Library](#)**.

Earth Day is **Saturday, April 21**, and River Forest will be celebrating this day by making River Forest more sustainable. All festivities will take place at the commuter lots off of Thatcher just south of Lake Street. A cleanup of the [Des Plaines River](#) will be held from **8 to 10 a.m.** at the Depot Lot. Across the street, in the West Lot at Lake and Thatcher, there will be a [Recycling Extravaganza](#) from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We heard your requests, and we are acting quickly to give you what you want so the

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

Recycling Extravaganza will now accept all electronic recycling from River Forest residents. Compost pick-up will be available all day in the Depot lot for subscribers to the service.

A sustainable River Forest also means a community with lawns and gardens that can contribute to a healthier environment for family, pets, insect pollinators and the Des Plaines River. To accomplish that, the village offers the [Healthy Lawns, Healthy Family](#) Initiative. This program, created by the Sustainability Commission, is our effort to eliminate the use of harmful lawn and garden chemicals. If you take the [pledge](#), you can get a [lawn sign](#) that shows your commitment toward making River Forest a greener place to live. Click [here](#) to find out how you can engage in this program, get tips and other useful information as well as other commission projects.



The Sustainability Commission wants feedback from our residents. Please [click here](#) and take three minutes to fill out the attached questionnaire to help guide the work of the commission. Additionally, [click here](#) to sign up for Curbside Composting this month and receive one month free.

About the Village's financial management to help stabilize our property taxes...

The process of adopting next year's budget begins at **7 p.m. on Monday, April 9**, when Trustees will hold a public hearing on our draft spending plan for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019. That hearing will be part of our regular board meeting, which will be in the 1st floor Community Room at Village Hall. To view a copy of the proposed budget [click here](#).

Residents are still needed to help shape the new Comprehensive Plan. Please join us for our next **Visioning Workshop from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 11** in the OPRF Room in Koehneke Community Center at Concordia University. Your input is an essential part of the planning process. If you can't attend the workshop, participate online by clicking [here](#).

A [public meeting](#) on the North Avenue TIF (Tax Increment Finance) District will be held at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24** in the auditorium at Willard Elementary School, 1250 Ashland Avenue. The meeting is open to the public. [Click here](#) to view information regarding the TIF on the Village's website including a map of the proposed district, FAQs about the North Avenue TIF,

plus a video and a primer on understanding TIF Districts.

About our Seniors...

From April 26 to May 3, River Forest and Oak Park will honor, recognize our over 60 population during Celebrating Seniors week. For events, resources and other valuable information [click here](#). For information regarding senior programs from the Village [click here](#).

We Want You...

Please consider volunteering for a Village Board or Commission. We depend on our residents to help guide the Village Board of Trustees and I in our decision making. Please go to [this page](#) and click on the Commission you are most interested in and apply.

And last but certainly not least...

Congratulations to the Loyola University of Chicago Ramblers for an outstanding season and to our very own resident Jack Egan, member of the Loyola University Chicago 1963 NCAA Championship Team.

Best,



Cathy Adduci
Village President

Historic Preservation Award

The Historic Preservation Commission is currently accepting applications for 2018 Historic Preservation Awards from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2013.

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of our Village. An awards program was established by the Commission in 2009 in order to support these efforts.

Nominations must be received on or before May 25, 2018. The awards will be announced at the Commission's regularly scheduled June 28, 2018 meeting. Multiple awards may be given each year. The nominated structure need not be in a historic district and may be a residential (single family or multiple unit), commercial, public/institutional or religious structure.

For more information or for an application, [click here](#).

Pet License Renewal

Pet licenses for the period from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 are now available at the Village Hall. Dogs and cats are required to be registered with the Village. For more information and for the pet license application, please [click here](#).

Eligibility List Testing For Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedics

The Village of River Forest will hold a written examination on Saturday, April 28, 2018 to establish an eligibility list for the position of Full-time Firefighter/Paramedic. For full details and application information, [please click here](#).

O'Hare Closes Runway Affecting River Forest

On March 29, 2018, Runway 15/33 (formerly 14R/32L) was closed and converted into Taxiway SS. The north portion will be demolished this spring to allow for construction of Runway 9C/27C, which is scheduled to open in late 2020. Runway 15/33 ran northwest to southeast at O'Hare and was the primary source of runway noise affecting River Forest. While eliminating runway noise in the area is impossible, this closure will benefit the River Forest community.

For a review of the presentation on this matter from the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, [click here](#).

If you wish to lodge a noise complaint regarding O'Hare noise, [click here](#).

Safety for the Season

[Please click here](#) for some timely safety tips from the River Forest Fire Department.

Message from the River Forest Police Department

With spring here and summer approaching, there will be an increase of pedestrian and cyclist traffic on our streets and sidewalks. Please keep these tips in mind:

- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners using crosswalks.
- When cycling in the roadway, ride to the RIGHT (with traffic).
- Cyclists in the roadway must obey the same "rules of the road" as motor vehicles, such as signaling turns, obeying traffic control devices, and right of way.
- Avoid wearing dark clothing when cycling, skating or jogging at night. Wear bright clothing, with reflective elements if possible.
- When cycling at night, state law requires bikes have a front light (white, visible at 500 feet) and a red reflector in the rear. River Forest Police Department recommends also using a red light attached to the rear.
- When cycling, always wear a helmet!
- Please notify the River Forest Police Department of any suspicious behavior or circumstances you may see. If you are being followed or harassed, move to a safe location and call 911.

With these tips, we hope everyone will be able to have a safe and enjoyable summer! Please contact Officer Czernik with questions at (708) 714-3543 or [by email](#).

Message from School District 90

30th Anniversary of Willard School's Big Hearts Little Hands Senior Tea

River Forest seniors are invited to attend Willard School's Big Hearts Little Hands Senior Tea on Friday, May 4 from 1 PM – 2:30 PM at Willard School located at 1250 Ashland Ave in River Forest. This event presents the opportunity for students to learn about the gift of service and to connect with the older generation in the community. Every student is involved in the event – from providing entertainment, greeting guests, serving refreshments to passing out favors. 2018 marks the 30th year of this Senior Tea. To RSVP and for more information, [please email Doris Huang](#).

GREEN NEWS

April 8-Learn Why River Forest is Leading the Way in Sustainability

River Forest Public Library from 2-3 PM

Join us for a conversation on sustainable practices and learn what the Village is doing to help save money and resources. Members of the Sustainability Commission will be on hand to answer your questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Get a Free Month-New Curbside Compost Subscribers

In Celebration of Earth Day, April 22 Roy Strom Removal Service is offering a free one-month curbside compost subscription if you sign up by April 30. Visit vrf.us/compost and start receiving the benefits of composting all your yard waste, kitchen scraps and organics.

April 12-Engineered Food, Glyphosate Toxicity and Your Health - Lecture by Dr. Thierry Vrain

Dr. Thierry Vrain, a retired soil biologist and genetic engineer, who had a 25-year research career with the Canadian Agriculture department will discuss this topic on Thursday, April 12, 7-8:30 PM, Trinity High School, River Forest. [Click here](#) to reserve your space and learn more.

Your Input is Important

Please take 2-3 minutes and fill out [this brief questionnaire](#) about Sustainability in our Village.

Did you know that Roy Strom & Company Offers Electronic Recycling Pick Up?

For a small fee you can have your electronics picked up curbside by simply calling Roy Strom Removal Service (708) 344-5000. [Click here](#) for more.

Next meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission Tuesday, April 10 at 7 PM, Village Hall.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

For a complete listing of library programs, visit the library website at www.riverforestlibrary.org

For all ages



Sunday, 4/29, 1-4 PM, National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, All

Give a shelter animal a forever home on National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. Magnificent Mutts and Meows will have a number of fabulous furry friends available for adoption or just for petting.

Adults

Saturday, 4/7, 2-4 PM, Local Author Visit: Tom Holmes and *The Soul of a Liberal Village*

Local author Tom Holmes will be at the library to speak about his new book *The Soul of a Liberal Village*. Mr. Holmes will sign copies of his book following the lecture. Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Monday, 4/9, 10-12 AM, Monday Morning Matinee,

Get your week off to a great start and join us for a Monday morning matinee! We will show the classic Alfred Hitchcock film *Rear Window* (1954). Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Monday, 4/23, 10-11:30 AM, Shift Your Assets from Clutter to Cash

In this informative workshop, Green Kitchen Economist Laura Bruzas of Healthy Dining Chicago will teach you how to transform your clutter into cash! You'll learn the true costs to your wallet and well-being of having too much stuff, how to determine what to toss and what to keep, the best sources for valuing and selling your items, how to avoid the inevitable pitfalls, and valuable local resources! Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

Thursday, 4/26, 7-9 PM, Barbara Henry Poetry Reading, Adult

Celebrate National Poetry Month with local author, speaker, and poet Barbara J. Henry! Bring a couple of 1-2 minute personal poems to share or a poem of the same length written by your favorite poet. Children are always welcome. Parents and grandparents, help them select a poem to share to join in the fun! This program is part of Celebrating Seniors Week.

Saturday, 4/28, 10-12:30 PM, Morning Matinee: *Lion*

Come to the library and enjoy a viewing of the award-winning film *Lion* (2016). This program is part of Celebrating Seniors Week and is co-sponsored by the River Forest Township.

Teens

Thursday, 4/19, 3:30-5 PM, DIY Cloud Light, Grades 5-8

April showers have you feeling under the weather? Come make a cloud light that will light up your room. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Children

Sunday, 4/15, 2-4 PM, The Lego Ninjago Movie, 4-10 years
Ready to protect Ninjago from evil Lord Garmadon? Visit the Library for a viewing of *The LEGO Ninjago Movie*. Snacks will be served and LEGOs will be available to play with during the movie.

Saturday, 4/28, 2-3 PM, Fancy Nancy Tea Party, 4-10 years
Ooh la la! Join us for an elegant affair as we do crafts, play games, and read stories based on the popular Fancy Nancy series. Light refreshments (that's a fancy word for snacks) and tea will be served. [Advanced registration required.](#)

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Register Now for Summer Camp!



With over 40 different summer camps to choose from, we have something for everyone!

In addition to our popular half-day morning camps (Tot Camp, Kidz Camp, and Ultimate Sports Camp), we offer a large variety of afternoon specialty camps ranging from sports and fitness to STEAM, cooking, and art. For the older kids, we offer Thrill Zone, a field-trip based camp for kids ages 10-14.

Our 2018 Summer Camp Guide is available online. [Click here](#) to check out our large variety of fun summer camps.

We are now hiring Summer Staff!



[Click here](#) for a list of available positions.

Pool Vouchers Available starting Tuesday April 24 – Don't Miss Out!

The River Forest Park District will be offering vouchers to River Forest residents for discounts on the 2018 non-resident rate for individual or family pool passes at either the Park District of Forest Park or the Park District of Oak Park. **There is a limit of 1 voucher per household.**

Each household will have the choice of **one** of the following options:

1. Park District of Forest Park Aquatic Center \$25 off individual pass (up to 3 individuals), or \$75 off family pass
2. Park District of Oak Park-Ridgeland Common or Rehm Pools \$25 off individual pass (up to 3 individuals)

A limited number of vouchers will be available for pick up only at the Park Districts temporary offices, 411 Thatcher Avenue, beginning **Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 8:30 AM.**

Residents who come on the first day (April 24) between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM will be guaranteed a voucher. Vouchers are given out on a first-come, first-served basis and are typically gone within the first 48 hours.

- A valid driver's license will be required for pick-up and redemption of the voucher.
- Vouchers must be redeemed in person at the Park District of Forest Park or Park District of Oak Park Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex.
- Vouchers may not be applied to daily gate admission.
- Vouchers must be redeemed between April 24 - May 5, 2018

The Summer Fun Guide is here!



The [Summer Fun Guide](#) is now online! Summer Fun Guides will be delivered to residents' homes April 9.

Seniors: Come Play Pickleball!

Pickleball is a paddle sport for all ages and abilities and is the fastest growing sport in America! It combines elements of tennis and ping pong, with rules which are simple to learn. Seniors are invited to play indoors at a specially designated time at the Tennis and Fitness Centre of OPRF, 301 Lake Street (Lake and Ridgeland), Oak Park, **Thursdays, Noon-2:00 PM**. Cost is \$10 for non-members/\$6 for members; equipment rental is free. **All levels are welcome, including beginners. Open to non-club members. Bring your friends; no need to register in advance.** Contact River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan 708-366-2029 or [via email](#) with questions.

Important April Events for Parents: Vaping...Prom... Resilience...

- **Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 PM: "Up in Smoke: What You Need to Know About Teens & Vaping"**. For middle school and high school parents from all schools. Location: OPRF High School Staff Cafeteria. Substance prevention expert Andy Duran talks about the growing problem of vaping. Hosted by IMPACT, River Forest Township and OPRF HS Parent Connection.
- **Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 PM: Coffee and Conversation about Prom**. For OPRF High School parents. Location: Live Cafe, 163 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. Learn from seasoned parents about ways to help make the prom experience a safe one. Hosted by IMPACT, River Forest Township, PYD, OP CMHB and OPRF HS.
- **Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 PM: "It's More than 'Just Say No': Raising Resilient and Drug-Free Kids"**. For parents of 3rd-8th graders from all schools. Location: Oak Park District 97 Building, 260 Madison St., Oak Park. Substance counselor Claudia Evenson teaches parents how to raise resilient and drug-free children. Hosted by Rosecrance.

Discover Volunteer Opportunities at the "Volunteer Meet & Match"

New to the area? Recently retired? Want to "give back" to your community? Come to the Volunteer Meet & Match and learn about volunteer opportunities with local nonprofit agencies and organizations. **Wednesday, April 18, 4-8 PM**, at the West Cook YMCA, 225 Marion St., Oak Park. Admission is free. Visit www.oprfcf.org for details and to register.

Support Groups for Who Have Lost a Loved One to Suicide

Two monthly drop-in support groups are held in River Forest for those suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. Groups are run by LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) and are led by a licensed clinical social worker.

- **Teen Support Group:** For teenagers 13-18, **third Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting April 19.**
- **Adult Support Group:** For adults 18 and over, **third Monday of the month, 7-9 PM. Next meeting April 16. Note: Adult Group meets at 6 pm starting in May.**

Hosted by River Forest Township (located at the River Forest Community Center), 8020 Madison Street. Please call 312-655-7283 for more information and to register, or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss.

All are welcome to try the groups. LOSS is a completely non-denominational program of Catholic Charities.

Celebrating Seniors Week 2018 is Coming: April 26 - May 2!

Celebrating Seniors Week 2018 will be held April 26-May 2 across River Forest, Oak Park and Forest Park. The weeklong celebration features programs and events especially for our seniors.

River Forest Township is sponsoring the following lineup for the week. All events except the April 30 program will be held at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, River Forest.

- **Monday, April 30, 10 AM – “Protecting Yourself from Crime...At Any Age”** with River Forest Police Officer Glen Czernik. Note: this event will be held at River Forest Village Hall.
- **Tuesday, May 1, 1 PM – “Having Fun with Genealogy Using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com and Facebook”** with River Forest resident and genealogy expert Abby Schmelling.
- **Tuesday, May 1, 5 PM – “Happy Hour Improv Fun and Games”**, a comedy improv class with River Forest resident and comedian Chris Hauri.
- **Wednesday, May 2, 10:30 AM – “Amazing (and Low-Cost!) Cultural and Educational Opportunities in our Own Back Yard”**, a panel discussion with representatives from Concordia, Dominican and Triton.
- **Thursday, May 3, 10:30 AM – “Using Legal Tools like Advanced Directives and Wills for Elder Life Planning”** with Attorney Tom Wendt.
- **Thursday, May 3, 2 PM – “Why We Need More Humor in our Lives”** with River Forest resident, author and humorist Al Gini.

National Prescription Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 28

Remove potentially dangerous medications from your home! Bring unused prescriptions in their original package to Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue, OP, on Saturday, April 28, 10 AM – 2 PM. No liquids or hypodermic needles.

If you are unable to come on April 28, you can safely dispose of unused or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications in the secure box in the basement of River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue. Pills/tablets only. No liquids/creams/hazardous items; no loose items. Pills can be disposed of in bulk in re-closeable plastic bags.

A second secure collection box is also located in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison Street.

Encore Chorale Concert on May 12

Encore Chorale of Oak Park/River Forest will hold its spring concert, "Goin' Home: A Celebration of American Folk Song", on **Saturday, May 12, 4 PM**, at Concordia University's Buchanan Chapel. Admission is free. Encore is a national choral organization for adults aged 55+, led by music professionals. Don't miss this wonderful event featuring adults from our community. New session starts in September. For more info, visit www.encoreillinois.org.

Seniors: Start the Month with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays continue at the River Forest Library on the **first Monday of the month at 10 AM**. Co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **May 7** – Learn to swim or take a refresher class...the new Foss Swim School in Elmwood Park will share information about its swim lesson curriculum for all ages.
- **June 4** - Our local AARP/American Job Center will share about its wonderful resume and employment resources.

Seniors: "Gather, Discover, Engage" in Re-vamped Township/Library Programs!

River Forest Township and River Forest Public Library are partnering to re-vamp two successful current senior programs and one new senior program, under the umbrella "Gather, Discover, Engage", **starting in May**.

- **Coffee Mondays** will continue on the **first Monday of each month at 10 AM**, featuring refreshments, guest speakers and time to chat. **Next Coffee Monday: May 7.**
- **Connect with Tech**, where seniors can receive assistance with tablets, e-readers, smartphones, and laptops, will move to the **second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM** (program was previously

offered weekly). **Monthly Connect with Tech starts May 9.**

- A new program, **Film Lovers Friday**, will meet on the **third Friday of each month at noon**. Seniors can bring a lunch and watch a film, with beverage and dessert provided. The genre through August is "Classic Movies from the 40's", starting with **The Philadelphia Story on May 18.**

Gather, Discover, Engage programs are free, meet at the River Forest Public Library and are open to seniors from all communities. Call 708-366-5205 for more information.

Seeking New Members on the Township Youth Services Committee

River Forest Township is looking for energetic and passionate River Forest residents to fill openings on the volunteer Oak Park and River Forest Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). Share in the process of funding local youth programs and address issues related to youth in the Oak Park and River Forest community. The YSC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM. Experience in youth-related areas is helpful but not required. If interested, please [email River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:carla.sloan@vrf.us) or call 708-366-2029.

Seeking a New Member on the Township Senior Services Committee

River Forest Township is seeking a River Forest resident to fill a vacancy on the volunteer OPRF Township Senior Services Committee (SSC). The SSC has an advisory role to Township Senior Services and develops and implements senior-related projects in the Oak Park-River Forest community. Experience with seniors or senior services is a plus but not required. The SSC meets the third Wednesday of most months at 7:00 PM. If interested, please [email River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:carla.sloan@vrf.us) or call 708-366-2029.



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