



Village of River Forest E-News



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

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 a very busy month for us all.

I'd like to fill you in on what's been happening at Village Hall and with the Board of Trustees.

Trustees approved a \$8.135 million property tax levy to pay for on-going Village and Public Library operations and pensions for all municipal employees, including police and fire.

The Board has opened 28 parking spaces at the former MB Financial Bank lot at 418 Franklin Avenue to patrons of nearby businesses and residents who are waiting for overnight parking. Eight of the spots will be sold as 24-hour parking spaces for nearby residents; the remaining spaces will be converted to 3-hour time limit free parking.

Our Village has been accepted into the [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#). This is the first step to becoming designated as an Age-Friendly Community. The Network provides a structured process to encourage communities to prepare for the nation's aging population. Please read the article below in this newsletter for more information.

Dementia Friendly River Forest, in conjunction with the Oak Park Movie Program, will be hosting a "no-shush" screening of *It's a Wonderful Life* on Wednesday, December 18, 1:00 p.m., at the Classic Cinemas Lake Theatre in Oak Park – 1022 Lake Street. As a "no-shush" film, those with Dementia and their caregivers are allowed to enjoy the experience of a movie in a supportive setting. The event is free of charge and is open to all ages and abilities. Thanks to the Center for Gerontology at Chicago University Chicago for sponsoring this event. Click [here](#) to view the event flyer.

Our last Village Board of Trustees meeting for the year will be this Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, where Trustees will take up two important community issues. The first will be to review and take action on the Zoning Board of Appeal's recommendation to allow Cannabis Business Establishments (medical and recreational) to operate as a Special Use in our commercial zoning districts. For additional information, click [here](#).

The second will be a continuation of the discussion on the management of [wildlife](#). Read this [presentation](#) from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that was presented to

the Village Board on June 24, 2019 for more information.

We now have our first bike repair station located at the Metra train station on Keystone Avenue. We hope to continue to make bicycling a more convenient and viable option for our residents in the future.



I am excited to announce that our Village Board of Trustees meetings are now being live-streamed on the Village's website via YouTube. To view our last meeting, click [here](#). Live-streams and recordings can be found by visiting the meetings web page via the calendar or the "Agendas and Minutes" link at the top of the website.

This January-

Trustees and I will begin preparing for the 2021 Fiscal Year that will begin on May 1, 2020 by setting goals for the year. We will also review and approve our annual Capital Improvement Plan.

As we finish up the year, I want to thank all of our residents who volunteer their time on our many Commissions and Committees. You come prepared to listen and be engaged on issues that help make our community a better place to live and work. Thank you so much for all that you do for us.

We already have faced winter, and we anticipate seeing quite a lot more. River Forest is a community of volunteers, so please remember to pitch in and help out your neighbor this winter.

Finally, the Village Board of Trustees, Village Clerk, Village Staff and I wish you, your families and friends a warm and wonderful Holiday Season and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,



Cathy Adduci
Village President

Census 2020 Hiring for Temporary Workers



The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. Local workers help their communities connect with and count underrepresented groups. Click [here](#) to find out more.



AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

Launched in April 2012, the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, a program launched in 2006. Through the age-friendly program, AARP helps participating communities to become more livable and age-friendly by creating safer and more walkable streets, needed housing and transportation options, better access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. Click [here](#) to view the certificate accepting the Village of River Forest into the network.

Village Spotlight - Commuter Parking Study

The Village has heard increased concerns about commuter parking congestion throughout the Village, as well as concerns about limited parking availability in the Metra Station lots.

In response to this, the Village is conducting a **Commuter Parking Study** and is requesting input from residents, businesses, commuters, and university students via a survey. The results of this anonymous survey will help inform policy decisions and determine how to manage the increased parking demands around the Metra Station and the Village as a whole. The survey takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Visit www.vrf.us/ParkingStudy for updates and to access the link to the survey. Please be sure to share with neighbors.

Refuse Pickup Delays & Holiday Greens Collection Schedule



Refuse will not be collected on **Wednesday, 12/25** or **Wednesday, 1/1**. Refuse pickup for Wednesday will be delayed one day during these two weeks. Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on every Tuesday in January.

River Forest Police Department

New Overnight Parking Portal

The River Forest Police Department has begun utilizing Frontline Public Safety Solutions online portal to provide an additional way residents can request overnight parking permission. Requesting overnight parking permission can be done through the online portal at www.vrf.us/OvernightParking or can still be done by calling dispatch at 708-366-7125. The Police Department hopes the addition of the Frontline Public Safety Solutions online portal will provide residents an easier and more convenient way to request permission for overnight parking. The online portal can be reached on any cell phone, tablet, computer or device with access to the internet.

Holiday Parking

Will family be visiting this year? Do they need somewhere to park? Contact the Police Records division Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM 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 from Thursday, 12/19 (12:01 AM) through Thursday, 1/2/20 (9:00 AM). No overnight waivers will be required during this period.

Winter Parking Reminders

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. This helps our dedicated Public Works department do their jobs to keep our streets clean and safe from road hazards. **The Village will not grant overnight parking passes during the above conditions.**

Holiday Season Village Hall Closures

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a happy holiday season. Please note Village Hall will be closed **Tuesday, 12/24, Wednesday, 12/25, and Wednesday, 1/1/20.**

River Forest Fire Department



Tips for Safe Holiday Decorations

The holidays are a frantic time of year—shopping for gifts, preparing for guests, and parties galore can leave little time to consider fire risk and pet safety. Be fire smart while decorating for the holidays this winter: click [here](#) for fire safety tips and click [here](#) for pet safety tips.

GREEN NEWS

Holiday Light Recycling

The Village is collecting holiday lights for recycling now through 1/15/20. Please drop off working and non-working lights/cords on Central Avenue in the container by Village Hall. No CFL or fluorescent bulbs - only holiday lights please. These include Italian mini-lights, traditional lights, extension cords, rope lights, and LED lights.

Winter Curbside Compost Pickup

Curbside Compost winter pickup will occur on the first and third Tuesdays of each month through March 31. With the ramp up to holiday cooking and yards continuing to be cleared, now is the time to sign up! A cart is provided, so there is no need to worry about brown paper bags, and food waste can be included year-round. Click [here](#) to sign up and learn more.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

Strategic Planning Community Feedback Session

All are invited to attend the District 90 Strategic Planning Community Feedback Session on **Wednesday, 12/11, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM** in the Roosevelt Multi-Purpose Room from. The meeting will include an update on the District's strategic planning process, brief presentations about the information used during the planning sessions, and an opportunity for community feedback about the process. No RSVPs required.

Winter Break

District 90 schools will be closed for Winter Break from **Monday, 12/23 - Friday, 1/3/20**. Schools will be dismissed at 2:30 PM on Friday, 12/20.

The District Office and all school buildings will be closed from 12/23 - 1/3/20. The District Office will reopen with reduced hours from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM on 12/30, 1/2/20, and 1/3/20. Classes resume on 1/6/20, and the District Office returns to regular business hours of 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



Winter & Spring Fun Guide

The River Forest Park District's 2020 Winter & Spring Fun Guide is available by clicking [here](#), with programs for all ages and interests. Check out the upcoming Special Events in the back of the guide. Resident registration begins Monday, 12/9.

Winter Break Camps

School is out for Winter Break! Winter Break Camps begin **Monday, 12/30 - Friday, 1/3/20** at the Depot. For children ages 8-12, *Improv* is available from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and *Toastmasters Speech* from 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM. To learn more, check out page 26 of the Winter & Spring Fun Guide.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Visit www.RiverForestLibrary.org to find out everything happening at the Library.

Library Renovation Complete

Have you noticed the exciting changes at the library? The lobby renovation has been completed and provides many improvements for patrons and staff. Stop by and see the exciting transformation. The Children's Room also received an overhaul, which included new paint, carpeting, shelves, and service desk. Many thanks to the River Forest Public Library Foundation and all the generous donors who made this update possible. Thank you to the River Forest community for your patience during this process. We know there were lots of ups and downs, but we made it!



Programs Back in Full Swing

Now that the renovation work is complete, programs are back in full swing. Visit the Library for the annual event Stories with Santa on **Saturday, 12/14, 10 AM - 4 PM.**

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

To learn more about the programs and services provided by River Forest Township, please visit www.RiverForestTownship.org, or the River Forest community calendar at www.RFHappenings.com.



Sounds Good! Choir Concert

All are invited to hear the Oak Park-River Forest Sounds Good! Choir singing at their free holiday concert *Lights and Miracles* on **Friday, 12/13, 7 PM** at Pilgrim Congregational Church (460 Lake Street, Oak Park). Don't miss this holiday treat! Sounds Good! Choir is the largest and fastest-growing choral program for older adults (age 55+) in the Chicago area. The local group is conducted by resident and musician Linda Crabtree Powell. Click [here](#) for more information about the spring session. This event is supported by River Forest Township.

Memory Cafe

The Oak Park & River Forest *Memory Cafe* offers a warm "coffee house" atmosphere, with engaging programs for individuals with memory changes and their care partners. *Memory Cafe* meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM at Senior Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships, 130 S. Oak Park Ave., OP. This month's Cafe meets on **Tuesday, 12/17**. Registration is requested but not required for this free program. For more info, please call 708-383-8060 or email memorycafe@oakparktownship.org.

AROUND RIVER FOREST

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – RFHappenings.com](#)

[Village of River Forest](#)

[River Forest School District 90](#)

[OPRF High School District 200](#)

[River Forest Park District](#)

[River Forest Public Library](#)

River Forest Township



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