



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 Residents of River Forest,

Welcome to February. I'd like to fill you in on what has happened and what will happen in River Forest.

On January 24, the River Forest Police Department made an [informative presentation](#) on safety programs, such as vacation watches and security tips, which are available to residents. Police also discussed and addressed in detail the type of crime that has occurred in our community. We heard about tips that police suggested to keep our property and ourselves safe. To learn all about the programs and services the Police Department offers, visit our [website](#). Mark your calendars for our future public safety [meetings](#).

Here's what happened during our January Board Meetings

Sustainability Commission Goals: The Sustainability Commission presented its 2018 work plan and goals to Village Trustees with a continued focus on public education and awareness. Here are a few actions you can take:

- Sign up for curbside [composting](#). Sign up now through April and get one month free.
- Keep your lawn free of pesticides. Here are some [tips](#).
- Join us at for the [DesPlaines River](#) Clean-Up event on April 21 at the River Forest Park District Depot.
- Attend the [One Earth Film Festival](#), March 2 through March 11.

North Avenue Tax Increment Finance (TIF): The Village Board announced that three public meetings will be held so residents

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and business owners can learn about the proposed North Avenue TIF District. The meetings will be held at the River Forest Village Hall in the first floor Community Room on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, February 21 - 9am - Business Owners;
- Wednesday, February 21 - 7pm - Residents west of Lathrop;
- Thursday, February 22 - 7pm - Residents east of Lathrop.

Please join us at one of these public meetings. Materials about the meetings will be posted on the Village's [website](#) soon. In the meantime, information regarding the North Avenue TIF District is available at vrf.us/northtif.

The Village Board reviewed the Fiscal Year 2019-2023 [Capital Improvement Plan](#), which will be included in the Village's budget. The proposed plan calls for additional safety cameras throughout the community as well as accelerated street resurfacing and alley improvement programs.

Here's What's Coming Up

At the February 12 Village Board of Trustees meeting the Village will select a short-list of possible development partners to develop property at the southeast corner of Lake Street and Park Avenue. The Village Board has been informed by the subcommittee that brought the process to fruition that all of the finalists are quality developers with a track record of delivering good projects. We look forward to seeing the results of this process and moving toward our economic development goals.

At the February 12 Village Board Meeting, Trustees will make a decision to conduct a study that will identify Safe Routes to School for children in River Forest to travel to and from school. The Village and Elementary School District 90 have agreed to collaborate and share the cost of the study, which will pertain to all public and private elementary schools.

Now that we have gotten a look at our five-year capital improvement plan, our sights are turned to the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget. A draft budget will be provided to the Village Board in early March and made available [online](#). The Village will once again balance its budget and I encourage residents to learn more by attending the budget presentation on March 19, 2018 and the public hearing on March 26. The Village Board is scheduled to approve the budget in April.

If a neighbor says "I had no idea our Village does...", or perhaps, "I did not receive a crime alert" please use the opportunity to send this [link](#) to your neighbor to sign up for the Village's e-newsletter and alerts. Plus, "like" us on [Facebook](#). Thank you for helping us get the word out.

Best,



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Cathy Adduci
Village President

Refuse Pick Up

Refuse pick-up will take place as regularly scheduled in the month of February. President's Day does **not** impact refuse service. For more information about refuse pick up, please [click here](#).

Utility Scam Awareness



Please be advised, ComEd is warning customers to be on high alert for scam artists claiming to be a ComEd representative seeking payment. Over the past couple of years, the company has seen a significant increase in reports from small businesses and residential customers who were victimized by these types of scam incidents.

Customers should be aware that scammers may call or come to their homes or businesses. Representatives from ComEd always carry proper identification and NEVER ask customers for cash or personal financial information.

Customers can avoid being scammed by taking a few precautions:

- Never provide social security or personal information to anyone initiating contact with you claiming to be a ComEd representative or requesting you to send money to another person or entity other than ComEd.
- Always ask to see a company photo ID before allowing any utility worker into your home or business.
- When in doubt, check it out. Be skeptical of individuals wearing clothing with old or defaced company logos. If you have any doubts, ask to see a company photo ID and if you are still not sure, call our customer service to verify.
- Never make payment for services to anyone coming to the door or someone who is trying to pressure you on the phone.

Anyone who believes he or she has been a target of a phone scam is urged to contact the Illinois Attorney General's office toll free at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY 1-800-964-3013) or visit the Illinois Attorney General's web site at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov and click on the link "Protecting Consumers." Customers can reach ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 to inquire about details on their account or report a possible scam.

**Police Sergeant Graduates From
Northwestern University's Center for Public**

Safety



The River Forest Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of Sergeant Edith Buckner from the School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) at Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety. Sergeant Buckner successfully completed the ten (10) week Staff and Command Program held in Evanston, Illinois from September 11, 2017 – January 19, 2018. This program, which was implemented by the Center for Public Safety in 1983, has graduated over 18,000 students both nationally and internationally. Sergeant Buckner was a student in SPSC Class #421, which accommodated 29 students for the ten-week period. Sergeant Buckner was elected by her peers as SPSC Class #421 Vice-President.

The School of Police Staff and Command provides upper-level college instruction in a total of twenty-seven core or mandatory blocks of instruction and additional optional blocks of instruction during each session. The major topics of study include Leadership, Human Resources, Employee Relations, Organizational Behavior, Applied Statistics, Planning and Policy Development, Budgeting and Resource Allocation.

The Center for Public Safety was established at Northwestern University in 1936 with the specific goal of expanding university-based education and training for the Law Enforcement Community. Since its inception, the Center has broadened its original objective and now provides a variety of courses and programs in the area of Police Training, Management Training, and Executive Development.

The River Forest Police Department anticipates a variety of benefits from Sergeant Buckner's attendance at this program. Many of the program's graduates go on to achieve a variety of leadership positions within their respective agencies.

Police Officer Graduates from Chicago Police Department Metro Academy



The River Forest Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of Officer Rachel Spears from the Chicago Police Department Metro Academy on January 26, 2018. Officer Spears began her career with the Department on August 31, 2017 and attended the twenty-one week Police Academy. Officer Spears holds a Master's Degree from the University of Louisville and received her Bachelor's Degree from Missouri State University.

River Forest Police Department



Community Crime Prevention Meeting

On January 24th, River Forest PD held its first Community Crime Prevention meeting at Village Hall, which was met with a tremendous turnout and response from community members who attended. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25th at 6 PM. If you would like to view the slideshows and bulletins that were presented at the meeting, they are available at vrf.us/crimeprevention.

Lighting – An Effective Tool for Crime Prevention








One concern raised by community members at the meeting was that it feels unsafe to walk in certain parts of the village due to lack of lighting. The concern was not directed at streetlights, but at the fact that many homes do not utilize exterior lighting, which causes the area and sidewalk around the home to become dark. Burglars usually target empty houses, so a dark, empty-looking house is an attractive target for burglaries and other crime. RFPD encourages residents to utilize exterior lighting on their homes as an effective way to not only make their home less attractive to criminals, but also to increase safety of the community as a whole.

Free Gun Locks

River Forest PD has partnered with Project ChildSafe to provide free gun locks to interested River Forest residents. If you are interested in picking up one of the locks or want to learn more, please [email Ofc. Glen Czernik](mailto:Glen.Czernik@vrf.us) or call 708-714-3543.

ABA National Burn Awareness Week February

4-10, 2018

	<p>#NBAW National Burn Awareness Week FEBRUARY 4-10, 2018</p>
	<p>Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of unintentional death and injury in the United States.</p>
	<p>One civilian fire injury occurs every minute.</p>
	<p>Most of the burn injuries treated in burn centers occur in the home (73%) followed by work (8%).</p>
	<p>The lifetime odds of a U.S. resident dying from exposure to fire, flames or smoke are 1 in 1,498.</p>
	<p>Almost one-quarter (24%) of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15.</p>
	<p>96.7% of those treated in burn centers will survive. Unfortunately, many survivors will sustain serious scarring and life-long physical disabilities.</p>
<p>www.ameriburn.org</p>	

Each year, nearly 486,000 individuals have sought treatment of a burn injury in the United States and Canada. In 2016 alone, there were 3,390 recorded deaths from fire and smoke inhalation injuries. The majority of these injuries were preventable.

Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in our Nation where tragically, children, the elderly, and the disabled are especially vulnerable to burn injuries, and almost one-third of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15. Children under five are 2.4 times as likely as the general population to suffer burn injuries that require emergency medical treatment and young adults ages 20-29 have a probability of burn injury that is roughly 1.5 times the risk of the general population.

The primary causes of injury include fire-flame, scalds, electrical and chemicals. Most of the injuries occur in the home. Today, 96.8% of those who suffer burn injuries will survive. Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, and adjustment difficulties.

National Burn Awareness Week, an initiative of the American Burn Association, is a coming together of burn, fire and life safety educators to make the public aware of the frequency, devastation and causes of burn injuries as well as consistent and authoritative measures to prevent these injuries and how to best care for those that are injured. Aftercare support for the physical and emotional effects of burns has also played a key role in the successful reintegration of burn survivors into the community. Furthermore, burn safety education and prevention efforts continue to reduce the number of people who suffer burns each year.

This is why the River Forest Fire Department, in association with

the American Burn Association wants to bring awareness to the cause of such devastating and costly injuries.

Message from OPRF High School District 200

District 200 saves local property owners \$1.4 million in taxes

The Oak Park and River Forest High School—District 200 Board of Education has opted to forgo a standard 2.1% increase in the annual tax levy, effectively providing well over a million dollars in tax relief to local property owners. Under Illinois property tax cap laws, school districts are permitted to raise each year's tax levy up to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which for levy year 2017 is 2.1%. By holding the levy to \$66.6 million and forgoing the CPI increase, the District prevents a tax hike of nearly \$1.4 million in its portion of local property tax bills. This is the fifth consecutive time that the D200 Board has opted to provide tax relief. [Read more.](#)

Imagine OPRF wants YOUR input!



Imagine OPRF is the community-led group creating a long-term facilities plan for the high school. They are holding a series of community feedback meetings as options are considered and refined. All sessions take place in the OPRF South Cafeteria, 201 N. Scoville Ave. Please save the dates below and plan to attend! [Click here](#) for more details on the focus for each session.

- **Conclusions:** Feb. 27, 7:00 PM
- **Options:** April 16, 7:00 PM
- **Refined Options:** May 19, 9:30 AM, and May 21, 7:00 PM

GREEN NEWS

One Earth Film Festival

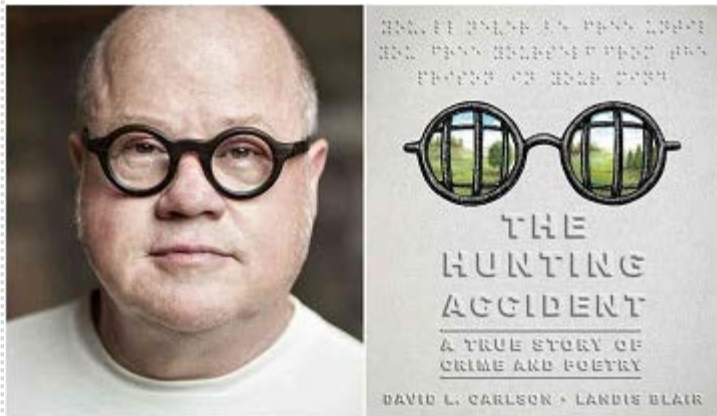
One Earth Film Festival is the Midwest's premier environmental film festival, creating opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability and the power of human involvement. It showcases top-issue, thought-provoking environmental films and lead audiences in interactive post-film discussions focused on solutions. See below for a schedule of films being shown in River Forest. For a complete listing, [click here](#).

- February 27 - Dominican, 7 PM *An Inconvenient Sequel*
- March 3 - Good Earth Greenhouse, 6:30 PM *Evolution of Organics*
- March 6 - Roosevelt Middle School, 6 PM *Gateway Bug*
- March 10 - Thatcher Woods Pavilion, 9 AM *3 short kids films* (ages 3-9) 11 AM *Straws*, 1 PM *Jane*

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Your Library delivers a wide range of programs and services for all ages. Below are some highlights. For a complete listing of library programs, visit riverforestlibrary.org

Special Event



Save the date! The Hunting Accident, A Conversation on Sunday, March 4, 2-4 PM

You won't want to miss this special event about the new graphic crime novel, *The Hunting Accident*. Joining us will be the author David L. Carlson, illustrator Landis Blair, and Charlie Rizzo, whose father is the subject of the book. A book signing will follow the discussion. [Registration is required](#) and attendance is limited to 75 participants. Brought to you by River Forest Library Foundation.

Adults

Wednesday, 2/7, 2/21, 1-2:30 PM, Great Decisions, Adult

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, *Great Decisions* promises to be an exciting series of discussions about eight international issues. Stop by the library to get a list of the issues to be discussed and to check out a briefing book. Attend all eight sessions in the series or come to individual sessions of interest. Topic 1: The Waning of Pax Americana?

Monday, 2/12, 10-11:30 AM, NovelTea Booktalks, Adult

Warm up with a delicious cup of hot tea and hear our librarians discuss new and upcoming books! Light breakfast treats will be served.

Sunday, 2/25, 2-3 PM, Sunflower Chamber Orchestra Concert, Adult

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music by the Sunflower Chamber Orchestra—a children's orchestra located in River Forest! Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Middle School/Teen

Tuesday, 2/13, 6-8 PM, Anti-Valentines, Grades 5-12

Love stinks! Come un-celebrate Valentine's Day with cranky crafts, moody music, and spiteful snacks. [Advanced registration required](#).

Thursday, 2/22, 3:30-5 PM, Squeaky Clean Soap Making, Grades 5-12

Students in grades 5-12 are invited to color, scent and mold their own stunning colorful gemstone soaps. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Children

Tuesday, 2/13, 2-3 PM, Captain Underpants Party, Grades K-4

Come have a wacky good time as we celebrate the Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey with crafts, games, and activities based on this potty-mouthed book series. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Monday, 2/19, 9 AM-12 PM, Morning PJ Party and Book Character Scavenger Hunt, 2-10 years

Wake up and come straight to the Children's Room for a morning pajama party! You'll be warm and cozy as you hunt for your favorite book characters, enjoy breakfast treats, and cuddle up for some quality reading time. Drop in any time between 9 AM-12 PM for the fun.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

3-on-3 Pond Hockey - FREE!

Sunday, February 11, 2 PM - 5 PM, Ages 9-12

Come out and participate in this fast-paced 3-on-3 Pond Hockey Tournament (single elimination). Each 15 minute period will see teams of three showing off their skills and scoring goals. Safety comes first in this friendly tournament, with no checking allowed. A fun day for budding or more experienced hockey players alike. Teams of three to six players. Only stick, gloves, and helmet allowed. Registration Deadline: February 8 (Team Captain must register their team.)

Moana & Maui Luau Party

Sunday, February 18, 10 AM - 12 PM, Ages 4 - 10 (with adult)

Join us for a Luau Party complete with songs, games, dancing, storytime, and a visit from your favorite Hawaiian princess! Come and enjoy our Luau Luncheon. Registration Deadline: February 13!

Safe Sitter with CPR

Sunday, February 25, 9 AM - 3 PM, Ages 11 - 15

Safe Sitter® prepares students to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn life-saving skills such as how to rescue someone who is choking and helpful information like what to do if there is severe weather. The lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use CPR manikins to practice CPR and choking rescue!

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

News from the Township Assessor

Township Assessor Pamela Kende reports that residents should

receive their first installment property tax bill in the mail at the beginning of February. The first installment tax bill is an estimated tax bill and is 55% of the total amount of property taxes to be paid in 2017.

Senior and Senior Freeze Exemptions must be filled out and return every year. These exemptions reduce the amount of property tax due. All exemptions are taken into account on the second installment tax bill that usually comes out in July.

To qualify for the Senior Citizen Exemption for Tax Year 2017, a taxpayer must have:

- been born prior to or in the year 1952,
- owned the property during 2017 or have a lease or contract for 2017 which makes them responsible for the real estate taxes, and
- used the property as his or her principal place of residence in 2017.

To qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption for Tax Year 2017, a taxpayer must have:

- been born prior to or in the year 1952,
- a total household income of \$65,000 or less for Tax Year 2016,
- owned the property or had a legal, equitable or leasehold interest in the property on January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017,
- used the property as his or her principal place of residence as of January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017, and
- been liable for payment of 2016 and 2017 property taxes.

The new Senior Freeze Exemption law expands eligibility by increasing allowable total household income to \$65,000, from the previous limit of \$55,000.

Seniors who would like assistance in applying for the Senior and/or Senior Freeze Exemptions may contact, Pamela Kende, the River Forest Township Assessor's at 708-366-2787.

New "Movement and Memory for Joyful Aging" Class

Movement is life! Teacher Gloria Araya leads a fun exercise class specially designed with seniors in mind, featuring music from popular artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. Sign up for the six-week session, Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 PM, beginning February 7 at the River Forest Community Center. \$50 per session. Registration through the RFCC is required. Offered in partnership with River Forest Township. Call Cathleen for more information at 708-771-6159, x234.

Poetry from the Heart: Celebrate Valentine's Day

Come share in reading and reciting "Poetry from the Heart", in celebration of Valentine's Day. This annual event, sponsored by Oak Park and River Forest Townships Senior Services, will take place on **Friday, February 16, 10 AM-noon**, at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, River Forest. To register, call Steve Smith by February 14 at 708-383-8060.

Tax Counseling for Low-Moderate Income Seniors

Triton's RSVP Program is once again offering free income tax preparation for low-moderate income seniors (age 60+).

Call 708-456-0300, x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program also services qualifying seniors in Forest Park or Franklin Park locations. Call 708-771-7737 for an appointment.

Time slots fill very quickly in both programs, so call as soon as possible.

Announcing the Winter/Spring Sibshops Schedule

Sibshops is a program specially designed for siblings of kids with disabilities and mental/physical health challenges. Siblings engage in fun activities and share conversation with each other and trained Sibshop facilitators.

Sibshops will be held on **2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM**, at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion St. in Oak Park. Lunch is provided.

Pre-registration is required. \$10 per session. Space is limited. Need-based scholarships are available. For more info, please [email Carla Sloan](mailto:Carla.Sloan@riverforest.org), River Forest Township Supervisor, or call 708-366-2029.

Support Groups for Those Who Lost a Loved One to Suicide

Two new monthly drop-in support groups are starting up in River Forest for those suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. Groups are hosted 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 each month, 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting February 15.**
- **Adult Support Group:** For adults 18 and over, **third Mondays of each month, 7-9 PM. Next meeting February 19.**

Held at 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.

Seeking New Members on the Township Youth Services Committee

We are looking for energetic and passionate River Forest residents to fill openings on the volunteer Oak Park and River Forest Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). You can 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 you are interested or have questions, please [email River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan](#) or call 708-366-2029.

"Smart Strategies for 50+ Jobseekers" Workshop

Are you 50+ and looking to return to work part-time or full-time? Learn "7 Smart Strategies" for re-entering the workforce, including job search strategies, interviewing practice, networking, and training programs. **Monday, February 5 at 10 AM.** Maywood American Job Center, 1701 South 1st Avenue, Suite 10, Maywood, IL. [Click here](#) or call 708-223-2652.

Safe Disposal of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications

Safely dispose of unused or expired 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.

This safe action removes potentially dangerous medications from the home and helps the environment. The program is sponsored by the Cook County Sheriff's Department and is hosted by the River Forest Fire Department. A second secure collection box is located in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison Street.

"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs in the New Year

Seniors: Join us for these informative and engaging free programs, held at the River Forest Public Library!

- **Sunday, 2/25, 2 PM** – Sunday afternoon concert by the Sunflower Chamber Orchestra, a student orchestra based in River Forest
- **Thursday, 3/8, 7 PM** – The Chicago Cubs as Champions: Then and Now, with author and sports historian Charles Billington

Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. People of all ages from all communities are welcome!

Seniors: Warm Up with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays continue at the River Forest Library on the **first Mondays at 10 AM**, Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored

by the Township and Library.

- **February 5-** Learn about cultural and educational opportunities for seniors at Triton College and at Dominican and Concordia Universities.
- **March 5-** Start your spring cleaning! Resident Karen Taubman shares tips on how to sell your unwanted items for cash.

“Connect with Tech”: Learn something new this winter!

Are you a senior who wants to get more out of your smartphone, eReader, tablet or personal computer? Would you like to explore better ways to connect electronically with family and friends? Come to “Connect with Tech”, which helps beginner tech users in a small, intimate group setting. Bring your questions and devices, or use one of the laptops provided. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn.

The newly revamped “Connect with Tech” program, formerly known as Computer Learning Lab, is offered in partnership with the River Forest Library.

“Connect with Tech” is held on **February 14, 21, and 28**, at the River Forest Library, 10-11:30 AM. Call 708-366-5205 for more information.

New Information Assistance Program for Seniors and their Caregivers

Trained staff from Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services are available to talk with seniors and their caregivers about various local, state and federally funded senior-related programs, on Thursdays at two locations:

- **Thursday, February 1 and 15, 10 AM – 12:30 PM**, River Forest Medical Campus, 7411 Lake Street, River Forest, Building A, Community Room, Office-1104.
- **Thursday, February 8 and 22, 10 AM – 12:30 PM**, West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, Oak Park, first floor, room 1062.

Please call to register for an appointment: 844-794-4301.



If you no longer wish to receive this email please email unsubscribe@vrf.us.