



## 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 June. Summer will be in full swing and the Village will be working on a number of initiatives vital to our continued progress.

Please join me in thanking the volunteers who helped to make our 93rd annual Memorial Day parade a success once again! In addition to the photos below be sure to check out the rest on the Village's [Facebook](#) page.



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### **Construction updates:**

The Village has resurfaced several side streets that were identified in the annual Street Improvement Program and the [Village budget](#). Street resurfacing may be a short-term inconvenience for residents, but the competitive pricing obtained by the Village based on the availability of the contractor allows us to control costs and keep our roads in excellent condition.

Starting next week and for the next eight weeks, crews will install a new water main along Chicago Avenue from Thatcher to just east of Forest Avenue. This project will address ongoing water main breaks, improve the quality of the street and enhance public safety by installing intersection “bump-outs,” which will shorten the distance pedestrians must travel to safely cross the road. A “green” feature will be added with the installation of rain gardens in the intersection “bump outs,” creating a natural collection site for storm water. Once the water main work is finished, Chicago Avenue will be resurfaced from Thatcher to Harlem Avenues. If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please feel free to contact Public Works Director John Anderson at [janderson@vrf.us](mailto:janderson@vrf.us) or (708) 366-3550. For more information about Village construction projects visit our [website](#), view information on the [interactive project maps](#), follow us on [Facebook](#) and [sign up](#) for e-news alerts.

The Union Pacific Railroad is continuing work on 1st Avenue between Lake Street and Washington Boulevard, and the area will remain closed to traffic. During this time, IDOT has rerouted northbound traffic on 1st Avenue traffic to North Avenue and Harlem Avenue, and southbound traffic to Roosevelt Road and Harlem Avenue. While the detour routes are intended to direct traffic to other IDOT maintained roads, there will likely be some increase in traffic on our streets during this time.

### **Here is what happened at the Board Table in May**

The Village Board has set meeting dates for the Joint Review Board and the public hearing for the proposed North Avenue TIF District. The Joint Review Board - comprised of representatives from the Village, School Districts 90 and 200, Triton College, Cook County, River Forest Township and Park District - met May 31st to review the public record, planning documents, Eligibility Report, Housing Impact Study, Redevelopment Project area and the TIF Plan for the proposed District. The Joint Review Board will meet again on June

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21st at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

The Village Board will conduct a public hearing at 7 p.m., July 9, 2018 at Village Hall. Visit the Village's website to read the [TIF reports](#) and learn more about the [North Avenue TIF District](#).

The Village Board reviewed the code enforcement tools available to ensure that the railroads maintain their property in a manner consistent with River Forest's high standards. In the coming weeks, staff and I will meet with Union Pacific to discuss these matters and look forward working together.

### **Coming in June:**

A public hearing is tentatively set for June 28 for a senior care community proposed for the northwest corner of Harlem and Chicago where TCF Bank and two single-family homes to the north of TCF are located. The project will consist of 106 assisted and memory care living units and is proceeding through the Village's Planned Development permit application process, the same process that Lake and Lathrop and Lake and Park developments need to follow. To read more about the senior care project, click [here](#).

A planned development for a long-awaited project at the southwest corner of Lake and Lathrop is moving along. Staff are reviewing an application that developers have submitted for a commercial and residential mixed-use building. This application will be reviewed by the Development Review during a public meeting this summer. To stay apprised of pending planned developments, click [here](#).

The Village and Houseal Lavigne and Associates are more than halfway finished with a draft of our new Comprehensive Plan. Houseal Lavigne is using your feedback from surveys, workshops, interviews and the community visioning session to create new and updated sub-area plans of our key commercial corridors. Those are: along North Avenue, Madison Street, Harlem Avenue and Lake Street, plus the Village Center area bordered by Lathrop Avenue, Park Avenue, Lake Street and Central Avenue. These areas present the greatest opportunities for economic development in River Forest. Drafts of these sub-area plans will be reviewed by the Village's Plan Commission this summer and incorporated into the draft Comprehensive Plan Document that residents and Trustees will review this fall before it is adopted by the Village Board.

Because of a \$40,000 grant from the Cook County Board, the Comprehensive Plan will include a master plan that will guide the development of a sweeping set of off- and on-road pathways, bike lanes, trails and other facilities to encourage bicycling as a safe mode of alternative transportation and as another method of recreation in River Forest. The plan also will focus on how we can connect our community to the Des Plaines River Bike Trail - and beyond. Thanks go to our Commissioner Pete Silvestri for helping to shepherd this initiative forward.

The bicycle master plan, along with results of a recently-completed survey, will be used to help plan Safe Walking Routes to School. River Forest School District 90 and the Village have been collaborating on this initiative so we can help residents comfortably traverse through town, whether to get to school, the library, to run errands or just get out for exercise.

If you're looking for summer fun close to home other than our very own Park District, the Cook County Forest Preserve is offering a variety of fun, family-friendly [summer events](#) that residents can

enjoy including several at the Trailside Museum on Thatcher Avenue right here in River Forest.

Many of your children soon will head off to high school, college, graduate school or begin careers. The Board of Trustees and I would like to send our heartiest congratulations and best of luck to you and your graduates. They all have done River Forest proud.

A warm and wonderful Father's Day to you all.

Sincerely,



Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## 2018-2019 Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers for 2018-2019 are now available for purchase and must be affixed to your windshield by July 14 to avoid late fees and citations. All vehicles registered in the State of Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker license. Payment may be made as follows:

- Online at the Village Website by [clicking here](#).
- By mail using the envelope received from the Village (the application can also be [downloaded here](#)).
- In person at the Village Hall during regular business hours or after hours using the drop box located outside the Village Hall.

Stickers are \$45 for passenger vehicles and \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens (one senior citizen vehicle sticker per household). Vehicle sticker applications were recently mailed. If you receive an application for a vehicle that you no longer own or a duplicate application, please notify the Village by either calling, or returning the application noting the vehicle's status in the enclosed envelope, so that the vehicle will be removed from our records.

For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or [click here](#).



## River Forest Then and Now Historical Map

Though things are constantly changing throughout the Village and the region, it can sometimes be hard to recognize that change because it does not occur overnight. [Check out this map](#) to see how things have evolved over the last 80 years. Move the slider left and right to toggle between the current map and the 1938 map to see just how much River Forest has changed during that time.

## Dr. Dennis “Denny” Witte Retires from Concordia University Chicago

The Village of River Forest congratulates Dr. Dennis “Denny” Witte on his retirement from Concordia University Chicago. Dr. Witte has served as an administrator and faculty member at Concordia for the past 45 years. Over the years, Dr. Witte has represented the University on many different projects and initiatives that have come before the Village. The Village of River Forest appreciates the partnership Dr. Witte has fostered between CUC and the Village. Village Administrator Eric Palm recently presented Denny and his wife Marcia a Village street sign in his name as a token of the Village’s appreciation. Best wishes Denny and Marcia!



## Know the Code!

Residents are asked to please be respectful of your neighbors and note that the Village has ordinances in place to regulate the hours of work for contractors and residents. All contractors are allowed to work from 7 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday, and between 8 AM – 5 PM on Saturday. No work can be completed on Sundays and major holidays. (Village Code 3-3-7). Any outdoor work completed by a resident involving the construction or repair of any building or structure or any mechanized landscaping, such as lawn mowing, is allowed from 7 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday, and between 8 AM – 5 PM on Saturday, and 9 AM – 5 PM on Sunday. (Village Code 6-7-2).

## Safety for the Season from the River Forest Fire Department

As we head into summer, [click here](#) to read important and timely safety tips from the River Forest Fire Department.



## Summer Safety from the River Forest Police Department

### Bike Safety:

- 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.
- When cycling at night, state law requires bikes have a front light (white, visible at 500 feet) and a red reflector in the rear. RFPD recommends also using a red light attached to the rear.
- When cycling, always wear a helmet!
- Children may be awarded a coupon for a free Slurpee® by an RFPD officer if they are observed wearing a helmet while riding their bike. This is made possible by a partnership with 7-11 called “Operation Chill”—one which RFPD has participated in for over 10 years.

### Curfew:

Curfew for juveniles under age 18 in River Forest is 11 PM - 6 AM on weeknights (Sun.-Thurs.); and 12 AM - 6 AM on weekends (Fri.-Sat.). Driving privileges (whether by learner's permit or Graduated Driver's License) for juveniles become invalid one hour prior to curfew (10 PM - 6 AM on weeknights and 11 PM - 6 AM on weekends.) If a juvenile is encountered driving during this time, he/she could be subject to arrest for the offense of Driving Without a Valid License, a Class A Misdemeanor in the state of Illinois. Additionally, the vehicle may be towed and impounded with an Administrative Fee of \$500 plus towing costs (\$100+).

### Driving Safety:

RFPD will be partnering this summer with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to reduce injuries and deaths due to traffic collisions. Throughout the summer, the RFPD will conduct several traffic safety missions by increasing enforcement and specifically focusing on violations most likely lead to accidents or injuries. In order to stay safe remember the following:

- Always wear your seatbelt while driving—“Click It or Ticket”.
- All use of electronic devices must be “hands free” while driving—“Drop It and Drive”.
- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs – “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”.

### **Thefts of Tools and Landscaping Equipment:**

Theft of construction tools, equipment from construction vehicles, sites, tradesmen's vehicles and lawn maintenance crews increases during the summer months. Workers should remove keys and keep vehicles locked at all times while on the job site. Do not leave trailers open and do not leave equipment unattended.

To assist the police in the recovery of property, record the serial numbers of tools and equipment and have them available on the job site. Consider engraving a unique ID, such as a driver's license number on the tools/equipment to aid the police in returning any tools recovered from thieves.

If you see anyone suspicious or any suspicious activity near your worksite or vehicle, please call **9-1-1**. Do not wait to call, call immediately. Try to get a good description of the person or persons, any vehicle information and direction they leave.

### **Special Message from OPRFHS District 200**



On Tuesday, June 26, Imagine OPRF will begin discussions with the Board of Education about potential concepts for a long-term facilities master plan for the high school. All are welcome to attend this public meeting, at 7 PM. in the OPRF High School board room. The community-led Imagine OPRF group has worked with architects from Perkins + Will to create the concepts, based on six months of intensive research as well as four rounds of feedback from community engagement sessions. To learn more, [click here](#). (Please note: Imagine does not yet have cost estimates. At this stage of the master planning process, they are looking at conceptual ways of addressing facilities needs before beginning to cost out and prioritize specific elements of the concepts.)

### **Special Message from School District 90**

#### **District 90's 8th Grade Graduation**

Roosevelt Middle School is holding the 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony on June 6 when 152 students will be headed off to high school. The ceremony will take place at OPRF High School. Please wish our graduates well as they start the next phase of their educations.

#### **Last Day of School**

The last day of school in District 90 is June 8.

### **GREEN NEWS**

#### **It's Green Block Party Time Again - This year plant a "Parkways for Pollinators" Garden**

During your Green Block Park you and your neighbors will create a garden on your block as part of the "Parkways for Pollinators" program. Learn about native plants and create your own neighborhood garden. The Village has partnered with the [Deep Roots Project](#) to help residents plant native flower gardens on parkways in River Forest. These "Parkways for Pollinators" gardens are offered for free to all River Forest Green Block Parties. Kids and adults alike will have a dirt load of fun planting a 4 x 10 foot native

flower garden that will attract butterflies, humming birds and other pollinators to your block. The plants are perennials, so your block can enjoy its pollinator garden for years to come. Visit the [Village website](#) for more information.



### **Community Herb Garden**

Roosevelt 8th Graders prepared and planted the Community Herb Garden at Keystone and Augusta on May 24 as part of their sustainability project. The planting is part of an end of the year unit in which students create projects around a theme. This year's themes are: Power of the Story, Project VOICE, Parks and Playgrounds and Sustainability. Thank you students for getting the garden ready for residents. The herbs in the garden are for any resident who would like to pick and use in their favorite recipe!

### **What to do with your plastic garden containers?**

Did you know that you can return the plastic pots that your perennials and annuals come in to the Jewel on Lake Street? Just drop the containers at the tent in their parking lot.

**Next Sustainability Commission meeting** on June 5, 2018 at 7 PM. Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, all are welcome.

For more information on the Sustainability Commission, [click here](#).

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## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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There's a lot happening at the Library this summer. Visit the library's website at [riverforestlibrary.org](http://riverforestlibrary.org) for a complete listing of programs. Here are some highlights:

### **Multi-Age Programs**

#### **Summer Reading - Libraries Rock!, June 8-August 3**

We have summer reading programs for kids, teens and adults. Patrons of all ages, who sign up and read, will be eligible for great prizes. Stop by the Library or visit [our website](#) for more details.

#### **Friday, 6/8, 3-5:30 PM, Summer Reading Kick Off Party, Kids and Teens of All Ages**

Start your summer off right! Sign up for our summer reading program and then join us in the park for a bounce house, popcorn, and lawn games. All summer reading participants are welcome to attend. Skip the line! Pre-register for the summer reading program and receive tickets for the Kick Off Party beginning May 21.

#### **Tuesday, 6/12, 10 AM-4 PM, Overdrive Digital Bookmobile Visit, All ages**



Readers at all levels of comfort and familiarity with eBooks are invited to come and explore! The 42-foot long Toterhome will be parked in the Roosevelt Middle School parking lot and provides devices, internet connectivity and expert guidance to the library's digital collection of eBooks and audiobooks. You won't want to miss this exciting event!



## Adults

### **Saturday, 6/30, 2-3:30 PM, Mary Pickersgill and the Star Spangled Banner, Adult**

Join author and storyteller, Lynn Rymarz as she steps back in time to tell the story of Mary Pickersgill. Hear the amazing story of how this Baltimore flag maker sewed the flag which flew over Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore against the British in September of 1814. Her flag inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words to the poem that became our National Anthem. Lynn will share historical photographs from this time in our Nation's history. Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

## Kids

### **Friday, 6/15, 10-11 AM, Laura Doherty Concert, Kids of All Ages**

Move and groove to the music as you rock and roll with singer/songwriter Laura Doherty in this fun live concert! This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Rain location: RMS gym.

### **Tuesday, 6/19, 3-4 PM, Mad Science Show, Kids of All Ages**

Join us in our front garden for Mad Science's interactive Sounds Like Science show. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Rain location: RMS gym. Best for ages 4 and up.

### **Wednesday, 6/20, 4-5:30 PM, Maui & Moana's Musical Storytelling, Grades K-4**

Moana! Make way, make way! Learn how to sing and dance like a pro in this magical musical adventure. Staff from Ovation Academy of Performing Arts will teach you a scene from Moana in this high-energy theater workshop. You're welcome! [Advanced registration required.](#)

### **Thursday, 6/28, 2:30-3:30 PM, Balloon Animal Workshop, Grades 2-4**

Learn how to make your own balloon animals in a workshop presented by Gary Kantor. An adult caregiver is required to stay in the program and assist children. [Advanced registration required.](#)

## Teens

**Wednesday, 6/13, 6:30-8 PM, Hamil-Teens Workshop, Grades 5-12**

Hear ye! Hear ye! Don't throw away your shot to experience the American musical phenomenon for yourself. Work with a musical director and choreographer from Ovation Academy to learn a medley of everyone's favorite Hamilton songs and moves. In just 90-minutes, students will put together a polished performance piece to showcase at the end of the workshop! Rise up and get ready to be more than satisfied with your experience. [Advanced registration required.](#)

**Tuesday, 6/19, 7-8:30 PM, School Of Rock Concert, Grades 5-12**

Oak Park River Forest students will blow your mind with advanced performances chock-full of hits by famous artists such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Frank Zappa, Queen, and many, many more!

**Tuesday, 6/26, 7-8:30 PM, Name That Tune Trivia, Grades 5-12**

Can you name the songs by the short clips? Test your team's knowledge on this music quiz to see how you do and compete to take home the grand prize. [Advanced registration required.](#)

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**PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

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**Party in the Park - Centennial**



**Thursday, June 21, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Centennial Park**

SUPER STOLIE will perform! This energetic and interactive show inspires the silliness in everyone, serving up a dynamic batch of fun, original kids' songs, nursery rhymes and popular cover tunes. Are you ready to rock? In addition to the live entertainment, there will be face painting, a balloon twister, grilled hot dogs, and frozen treats. The event is free and for all ages. Please bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

**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.

### **Adult Co-ed Pickleball League**

**Saturdays, June 16 - August 11, Game Times: 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12:00 PM Ages: 18 & up**

Pickleball is a badminton/tennis/table tennis-like sport and one of the fastest growing sports in the area. This fun and social game is perfect for all ages, easy to learn, and provides a great physical workout. This league consists of men and women who will be paired up differently each week. It is a casual league intended for players with limited to some experience. Players must have their own paddle and ball. The league consists of eight weeks of game play. For details, see page 26 of our [Summer Fun Guide](#). To register, [click here](#).

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## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Announcing the "Support4U" Program**

A new program was introduced last month to students at Roosevelt, Brooks and Julian Middle Schools and OPRF High School called "Support4U". Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource for students, by which they can text licensed mental health clinicians for assistance or guidance. While students can initiate a text conversation on any issue, some of the matters that students might wish to address could include anxiety, depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, bullying, abuse, or any other mental health-related topic.

Support4U is anonymous and available to students 24/7. We thank Districts 90, 97 and 200 for their support of this program on behalf of their students.

Please share this information with D90 and D200 students! The Support4U texting number is 844-670-5838. District 90 students will also text the word "SAFE" and District 200 students will text the word "HELP".

Support4U is sponsored by River Forest Township, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, the Oak Park-River

Forest Community Foundation, NAMI, and the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club.

For more information, please contact your school administration or [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:Carla.Sloan@riverforest.org).

## **“Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long” Continues All Summer Long**

Seniors: Join us for these informative and engaging free programs. Held at the River Forest Public Library; sponsored by the Library and River Forest Township. All are welcome.

- **Saturday, 6/2, 2 PM** – Edu-tainers Jenny Riddy and Elizabeth Doyle share stories and songs about *Pets at the White House*.
- **Saturday, 6/30, 2 PM** – Author and storyteller Lynn Rymarz presents Mary Pickersgill and the Star-Spangled Banner.

## **Township Senior Services Needs Your Input!**

Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services is seeking information from older adults, their families and caregivers, community partners, and those who work with older adults. Input from these groups will allow for a holistic view to help shape our vision for Township programs and services moving forward.

Please complete this [brief survey](#) by June 5.

For a paper copy of the survey, please call Cathaleen Roach, Senior Outreach Coordinator, 708-771-6159 x234.

## **Introducing the Great Neighbors Program**

A local partnership, consisting of Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, Arbor West Neighbors, and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, is introducing the Great Neighbors Program in the River Forest and Oak Park community. Through this program, which fosters “intergenerational connectedness”, River Forest and Oak Park residents aged 18+ can volunteer to become a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior in their neighborhood.

One or more “Friendly Neighbor” volunteers will be matched with a senior, with whom they will connect and share on a regular basis. Brief training and screening are required. The time commitment is flexible.

Great Neighbors is a program of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and has had much success in Chicago!

If you are interested in becoming a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior, or if you are a senior and would like to connect with other adult neighbors on a more regular basis through this program, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:Carla.Sloan@riverforest.org) or call 708-366-2029.

## **Seniors: “Gather, Discover, Engage” this Summer!**

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”. Please join us this summer!

- *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: June 4 (no Coffee Monday in July).**
  - **Held at the River Forest Library.**
  - **June 4** - Our local AARP/American Job Center will share about its wonderful resume and employment resources
- *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). **Next Connect with Tech: June 13.**
- 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 Maltese Falcon* on **June 15**.

*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.

## Seniors: Get Around Town this Summer on the Senior Bus!

Seniors aged 60+ and adults with disabilities: the Township buses are available to take you where you need to go in our local community. Curb-to-curb service is available Monday through Friday, 7:45 AM – 4 PM. Suggested donation is \$1 per ride. Reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance. Call 708-383-4806 Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM, to book a ride. Scheduling is on a first-come, first-served basis.

## River Forest ID Bracelet Program

Residents with disabilities, dementia, medical conditions or other special needs are encouraged to consider the River Forest ID Bracelet Program, offered free of charge by the River Forest Police Department. This program provides a personalized ID bracelet, designed to give police officers a means of quickly locating necessary information to help these residents in emergencies, while maintaining sensitivity and confidentiality of personal data. For more info or to obtain a bracelet, please [email Officer Glen Czernik](mailto:OfficerGlenCzernik@vrf.us), or call 708-714-3543.



If you no longer wish to receive this email please email [unsubscribe@vrf.us](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).