



## 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 a busy month.

***Here's what's happening with economic and community development in River Forest ...***

Economic development continues to be the principal focus of the Board of Trustees. A [Request for Qualifications](#) to identify qualified developers to construct a high-quality project at Lake and Park has been issued to the market, and we are looking to have some possible developers for consideration early next year. Once the Village identifies qualified developers, the Economic Development Commission and the Board of Trustees will discuss any proposals that are submitted. The Village will continue to post all information on its [website](#), [Facebook page](#) and e-newsletter. The Board of Trustees and I see this as an important step toward making Lake Street our downtown.

The Village anticipates closing this month on the purchase of the Lutheran Children and Family Services building on Madison Street. This purchase is a strategic first step in shaping the future of this corridor. For more information, [click here](#).

The Village received an application for a planned development for Lake and Lathrop on November 30. The developer is moving forward on this project and anticipates that a public hearing will be held in the first quarter of 2018.

River Forest continues to make progress on a new comprehensive plan. There still is time for you to let us know how you feel about your community. What do you like about our town? What would you like to change? Please let us know. This [web page](#) will show you how to share your insights.

The Historic Preservation Commission will have a public hearing on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School to consider an application for demolition of 747 William Street.

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Local businesses need the support of the community so I encourage you all to shop local and patronize River Forest businesses.

### ***Here's what's happening at Village Board Meetings...***

The Village Board passed an ordinance regulating Bees and Beekeeping. We'd like to thank the Sustainability Commission for their hard work and thoughtful consideration around this issue. Audio recordings of the Village Board's [November 13](#) and [November 27](#) discussions are available online. Once the Village's new website goes live, visitors can find the audio under the Agendas & Minutes link on the home page.

Before our regular Board meeting on Monday, December 11, the Trustees and I will discuss our goals for the upcoming budget year. Please plan to attend. The goal-setting discussion will begin at 5:30 p.m.; and the Village Board Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

### ***Here is what's coming in the next month...***

The Village's new website will go live on Monday, December 11. The new site provides a mobile and desktop friendly experience for users with a direct link from the home page to Agendas & Minutes, where users can find Board and Commission meeting materials. Be sure to check out the Pay & Apply page for all online payment options and applications. Also check out "Life in River Forest", which offers guides to various services and programs offered by the Village.

The Village Board of Trustees, Village Clerk, Village Staff and I, would like to wish you and your families and friends a warm and wonderful Holiday Season and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,



Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## **Refuse Pickup Delays**

Refuse will not be collected on Monday, December 25 or Monday, January 1. Refuse pickup will be delayed one day during these two weeks.

## **Overnight Parking Ban Lifted for Christmas and New Year's Holidays**

Overnight parking will be allowed on Village streets from 12:01 AM Friday, December 15, 2017 through 12:01 AM Tuesday, January 2, 2018. No overnight parking waivers will be required during this period.

**Reminder - 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.**

## **Holiday Season Village Hall Closures**

### **Useful Links**

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a very safe and happy holiday season. Please note Village Hall will be closed Monday December 25, Tuesday December 26, and Monday January 1.

## **Holiday Wreaths, Trees and Garland Collection Schedule**

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on the following **Tuesdays in January**:

- January 2
- January 9
- January 16
- January 23
- January 30

Residents should remove all decorations, lights, metal wiring and place holiday greens on the parkway by 7 AM on the above days. Please note - this does not include yard waste and/or leaves. These collections are for "holiday greens" only.

## **Keep the Wreath Red**

As we approach the holiday season, the Village of River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you to keep your holiday safe and happy. The Fire Department will once again team up with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and neighboring fire departments in the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. This year, the program will run through Sunday, January 7, 2018.

"Keep the Wreath Red" is a holiday fire safety program designed to increase fire safety awareness. In the event of a holiday-related fire, firefighters will replace one of the red bulbs with a white one. The goal is to keep the bulbs on that wreath red.

For more on Keep the Wreath Red, [click here](#).

For all holiday fire safety tips, [click here](#).



**Help the River Forest Fire Department - Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow!**



# pluggie



**Needs your help with the snow**  
**Please clear a path to and around your hydrant**



Please help me and the Firefighters by clearing away the snow. Thanks



For more information, Please call the River Forest Fire Department at 708-366-7629

## Know the Code!

With snow on its way, the Village would like to remind you:

- Village code requires residents and business owners to remove snow and ice from sidewalks in front of and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after an event.
- Snow or ice frozen on sidewalks that cannot be removed without injury to the pavement should be treated with an abrasive material until weather permits further clean-up.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited after snow exceeds two inches in depth, and for an eight hour period following the cessation of the snowfall.
- Snow removal contractors are prohibited from using snow blowers between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- The placement of snow or ice on any Village owned street, alley or sidewalk is prohibited.

## Winter Driving Tips from River Forest Police Department

Tips for driving in snowy or cold conditions

- **Slow down.** Even if you have all-wheel drive,

slippery conditions will reduce your ability to stop, and the faster you are traveling the longer it will take you to stop.

- **Beware of black ice.** Black ice is so dangerous because it can be hard to see, but you can anticipate it on bridges, in the shadows of tall buildings, and near intersections. In bad weather, give yourself even more time and distance to stop for intersections.
- **Avoid tailgating.** Leave as much room as you can between yourself and the car in front of you to stop in case that person brakes suddenly.
- **Don't brake during a turn.** Slow down ahead of time and take your foot off the brake in order to coast through the turn.
- **Turn into a skid.** Remain calm, take your foot off the brake and the gas pedals, and turn the car in the direction the car is skidding. For example, if sliding to the left, gently turn the steering wheel to the left. This cancels out the skid. The car corrects itself and goes straight.
- **Accident reporting.** If you are involved in an accident on a public way, you may call 911 to report the accident. If there are no injuries and all cars involved are drivable, you may be instructed to drive to the nearest police station in the jurisdiction to complete the report. Remember that if weather conditions contributed to your accident, there is a chance that those same conditions may contribute to additional accidents nearby. If safe to do so, you may move your car out of a dangerous location. If you are unable to move your vehicle, remain inside with your seatbelt on.
- **Just don't drive.** The best way to be safe during inclement weather is to simply avoid driving if possible. Be aware of weather advisories and alerts and plan ahead in order to ensure you are not on the road.

### **Additional tips for personal safety while driving**

- Always have your mobile phone handy and charged.
- Avoid being alone in your vehicle in high crime neighborhoods, isolated roads and intersections and desolate areas of parking lots.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Never leave a car running while going into a business or residence.
- Never leave children alone or valuables highly visible to onlookers in a running car.
- Be wary of how carjackers lure victims. These include bumping your car, pretending to be stranded motorists or flashing their lights as if there were something wrong with your car.
- Practice safe parking and defensive driving.
- Don't sit in your car with the door unlocked or the windows rolled down in public areas.
- Don't stop at isolated ATMs, stores, gas stations, or

other businesses where your risks increase of being a victim.

- If a Vehicular Hijacking occurs, just give the thieves what they want, your life and safety is worth much more!

## Message from School District 90

### District 90's Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

District 90 is holding a special Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, December 5 in the Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium starting at 7 PM. The topic for the meeting is, ***The Evidence Based Funding for Student Success Act: Implications for River Forest District 90***. The presentation will feature Ralph Martire, Board of Education President and Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability; Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent; and Anthony Cozzi, Director of Finance and Facilities.

Evidence based funding for schools ties the dollars invested in schools to the educational practices that have been proven to improve student achievement. In time and with adequate funding, taxpayers can expect to see notable improvement in many indicators of student achievement including test scores, school climates, and high school graduation rates. Please plan to attend and learn about what evidence based funding means for District 90.

### One District/One Book with District 90

Please join District 90 and the River Forest Village in its One District/One Book reading experience. District 90 families, faculty, and staff, along with Village residents, have begun reading the book, ***Mindset: The New Psychology of Success***, by Carol Dweck.

Plans are underway for community-wide events and activities to complement this One District/One Book reading experience. In January and February, District 90 expects to host several activities surrounding ***Mindset***. More details will be forthcoming. Please keep an eye out for more information.

## GREEN NEWS

### NEW Electronics Pick-up Program

Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service is now providing curbside electronics pick-up to River Forest residents. To schedule a pick-up Call Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service Inc. Scheduling hours are weekdays 7 AM to 3:30 PM 708-344-5000 or visit [www.roystrom.com/contact-us](http://www.roystrom.com/contact-us) For information on pricing and what can be picked up please [click here](#).

### Recycle Your Cooking Oil into Fuel

Do you have cooking oil left over from your holiday cooking? Don't pour it down the drain. Even if hot water is running and grease is liquid when it goes down the drain, cooking oils and fats solidify when they reach cold pipes. Cities and homeowners spend thousands of dollars on resulting sewer clogs. Garbage is for solid waste only so what's a person to do?

Recycle your used cooking oil into biodiesel! Save your vegetable

cooking oil in a container and bring it to a cooking oil recycling location or special event. **Locations accept liquid, vegetable-based cooking oil only – no animal fats (i.e. those solid at room temperature).** Drop off your oil at: **Salt Creek Sanitary District**, 201 IL-83, Villa Park, IL 60181, \*Entrance can only be accessed from NB IL Route 83, Monday - Friday 8 AM - 3 PM

### **Holiday Light Recycling - 12/1-1/15**

The Village of River Forest is collecting holiday lights. 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 Pick-up and Leaf Pick up**

Curbside Compost Winter pickup is every other Tuesday through March 31st. The winter pickups will occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

If you are still cleaning up your leaves or have pumpkins and mums, now would be the time to sign up for curbside composting.

You do not have to worry about brown paper bags and you can include all of your food waste all year round. Sign up now at [vrf.us/curbside-composting](http://vrf.us/curbside-composting). Please note that only leaves should be raked into the street for pick up by the Village. Do not add any other yard waste, branches, etc. to the leaves.

The **Next Meeting for the River Forest Sustainability Commission** will be Tuesday, December 12 at 7 PM at Village Hall.

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## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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Here are some highlights of upcoming programs at the library. Visit [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org) for a complete listing of programs and services.

Get reading this Winter! The library has Winter Reading programs for all ages that go from 12/18-2/28. Visit the library to find out how you can read and win great prizes.

### **Children**

#### **Saturday, 12/9, 10 AM-3 PM, Stories with Santa, Birth-8 years**

Santa is visiting River Forest Public Library! Our annual holiday program for children features stories, crafts, and visits with Santa upstairs by the fireplace. Pictures taken with Santa will be posted to the River Forest Public Library website. Caregivers are encouraged to snap their own keepsake photos as well. This is a drop-in, free, fun family program.

#### **Sunday, 12/17, 2-3 PM or 3-4 PM, Family Gingerbread House Party, 3-10 years**

Families work together to make a gingerbread house. We will provide one gingerbread house kit with candy supplies per family. An adult caregiver is required to assist children. Advanced registration required ([2-3 PM](#) or [3-4 PM](#)).

### **Teens**

**Sunday, 12/3, 2-3:30 PM, Poly Clay Holiday, Grades 5-12**  
Come learn how to make tasteful, homecooked jewelry and accessories perfect for the holiday season. [Advanced registration required.](#)

**Friday, 12/15, 6-8 PM, Interactive Movie: Home Alone, Grades 5-10**  
Don't miss the opportunity to snack, prank, and shout along with the characters in the movie Home Alone. [Advanced registration required.](#)



**Friday, 12/22, 2:45-4 PM, Gingerbread Houses, Grades 5-8**  
Make a gingerbread house that will be both great to look at and tasty to eat! All materials are provided. [Advanced registration required.](#)

## Adults

**Saturday, 12/2, 2-3:30 PM, Holiday Gadget Gifts, Adult**  
Need some holiday gift ideas for the tech lover in your home? Or maybe you'd just like something cool to put on your own wish list! Mike Gershbein of the technology training company Very Smart People will be here to offer a survey of unique technology products from inexpensive to pricey, from practical to off-the-wall. Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

**Sunday, 12/10, 2-3:30 PM, Christmas at Marshall Field's, Adult**  
For many Chicagoans, no Christmas season was complete without a visit to Marshall Field and Co. We'll trace the store's holiday traditions, including the Walnut Room Christmas tree, the window displays, the toy department, and the Christmas catalogs. Ever have your photo taken with Santa in Cozy Cloud Cottage? Remember Uncle Mistletoe and Aunt Holly? A fun and fascinating look at one of Chicago's most beloved holiday traditions. Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

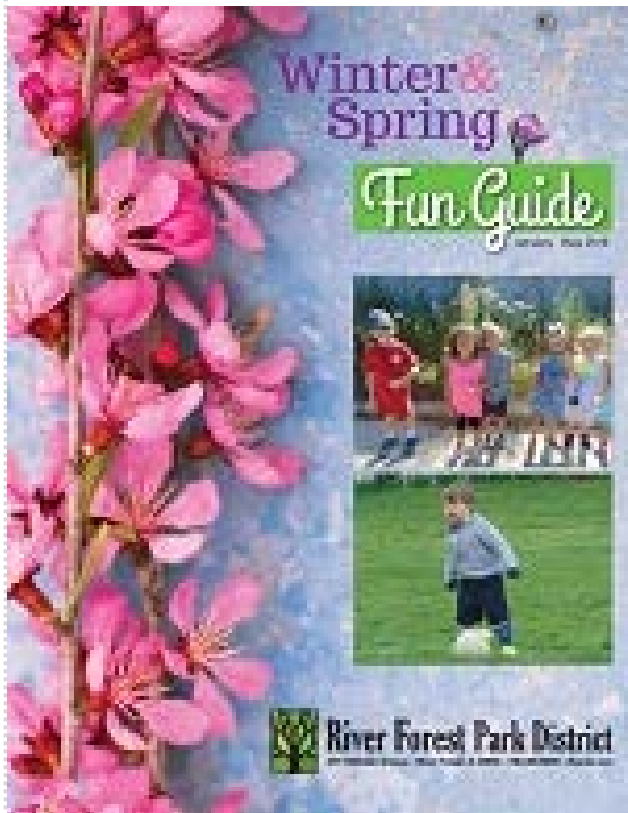


## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

**Winter-Spring Fun Guide**



The [Winter-Spring Fun Guide](#) is now available online! The guides will be delivered to residents' homes Monday, December 4. If you live in an apartment or condominium building, look for the Fun Guides in your lobby. If you live in a home, check your front door for your Fun Guide.



### **Park District Administration Office Closure**

The Park District Offices will be closed the last two weeks in December (**December 18 - January 1**). Program registration will still be available at [www.rfparks.com](http://www.rfparks.com). Staff will be available by email. Contact emails are listed in the front of this Guide.

### **The Depot Closed for Renovation**

The Depot will be closed December 18, 2017 - May 31, 2018 due to renovation work in the building. During this time, the Park District Administration Offices will be temporarily re-located across from The Depot at 411 Thatcher. Birthday Parties and Rental Space will not be available during this time.

Please go to [www.rfparks.com](http://www.rfparks.com) for updated information on renovation progress and new program opportunities in the newly renovated facility.

**Available June 2018 - Check out our new improved Rental and Birthday Party Spaces!**

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## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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**Building on 100 Years of Vital Human Services**

River Forest Township continues to celebrate its 100th

anniversary! Your Township funds and supports a full array of vital human services to youth, seniors, those with mental health needs, and those in financial need...in addition to our active Assessor's office.

**Fun fact #1:** Your Township Assessor is specially trained to assist you with property tax questions, appeals, and exemptions.

**Fun fact #2:** River Forest Township partners with many local agencies and groups, such as the Alzheimer's Association, Thrive Counseling Center, Concordia University and Encore Senior Chorus, to help bring you programs related to youth, mental health, and seniors.

Visit [www.RiverForestTownship.org](http://www.RiverForestTownship.org) to view more Township programs and services and to see upcoming events, or call 708-366-2029.

## Saturday Sibshops Continue

Sibshops are back! 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.

Remaining Sibshops will be held on **12/2 and 12/16, 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. 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.

Look for the winter Sibshops schedule in the coming weeks.

## New Support Groups for Those Losing 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 December 21.**
- **Adult Support Group:** For adults 18 and over, **third Mondays of each month, 7-9 PM. Next meeting December 18.**

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](http://www.catholiccharities.net/loss).

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

## Encore Senior Chorus Hosts Holiday Concerts

The local Encore Senior Chorus invites people of all ages to attend its two free holiday performances, *Sounds of Joy*.

- **Saturday, 12/9, 4:00 PM**, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph St., Oak Park
- **Thursday, 12/14, 2:00 PM**, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chestnut St. and Michigan Ave., Chicago (all area Encore choirs)

## **New “Movement and Memory” Class Starting Up for Seniors**

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 Cathaleen for more information at 708-771-6159, x234.

## **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 contact River Forest Township Supervisor [Carla Sloan via email](#) or at 708-366-2029.

## **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: December Line-up**

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

- **Saturday, 12/2, 2 PM** – Holiday Gadget Gifts... ideas from Mike Gershbein from the tech training company Very Smart People
- **Sunday, 12/10, 2 PM** – Historian and actress Leslie Goddard brings back Christmas at Marshall Field's

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

## Seniors: Start the Week 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.

- **December 4-** Librarian Dorothy Houlihan shares about the library's new Talking Book and Braille Service
- **January 8-** Start off the new year with exciting reading recommendations from our librarians

## "Connect with Tech": Learn how to use those holiday gifts!

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 Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, January 3 and 10, at the River Forest Library, 10-11:30 AM. Call 708-366-5205 for more information.

## Caregiver Support

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, grandchild, or person with special needs...support is available.

- **Concordia University: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 PM**, Koehneke Community Center/Concordia Campus. Sponsored by Concordia's Center for Gerontology (in partnership with River Forest Township). Contact Dr. Lydia Manning, [via email](#) or at 708-209-3218.
- **Township Senior Services: 2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

## 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, December 7 and 21, 10 AM – 12:30 PM**, River Forest Medical Campus, 7411 Lake Street, River Forest, Building A, Community Room, Office-

1104.

- **Thursday, December 14, 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](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).