



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 November. With the holiday season fast approaching, it promises to be a busy time for us all.

Last month Trustees unanimously approved a senior living facility at Chicago and Harlem thereby addressing a long-standing community need. This decision was carefully thought through, acknowledging the concerns that neighbors had about this development. The 125-unit assisted living and memory care community will benefit River Forest in a variety of ways. It will generate nearly \$700,000 in property taxes, third largest behind Town Center I and West Suburban Medical Center Complex. Beyond that, it will allow seniors, and those who want to stay in their homes as long as possible, the ability to remain in River Forest when they need assisted care. We anticipate that organizations, such as the Public Library and the Township, can collaborate on programming that will allow seniors and young people to mingle and learn from one another. We anticipate completion in late 2020, and we will keep you apprised of how this important project progresses. To learn more about how the Equalized Assessed Value affects your property taxes, [click here](#).

This is a good time to step back and briefly explain the development review process and how large projects like this are considered in River Forest. This process guides the Village toward looking at the right development at the right location at the right time. The chart below describes what notices and steps are required by state law and Village code when a project is proposed. The Village imposes twice as many steps for the developer to ensure the applications are thoroughly vetted. Although some might think this process is not business friendly, we believe this puts the residents and the community first, and then the developer next. To learn more about this process, [click here](#).

In This Issue

- Message from the Village President
- Chicago Avenue Resurfacing Project
- Thanksgiving Holiday - Village Hall Closed
- Thanksgiving Holiday Parking
- Package Theft—'Tis the Season
- Holiday Shopping
- Safety for the Season
- Parking after Snowfall
- Know the Code
- Special Message from River Forest School District 90
- GREEN NEWS
- RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT
- PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT
- TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

Comparison of River Forest Zoning Notice Requirements vs. State Minimum Requirements

Requirement	River Forest	State Law
Introduction of Project to Village Board	X	
Introduction of Project to Economic Development Commission	X	
Pre-Filing Meeting with Development Review Board	X	
Resident Meeting & Notice	X - 500' Radius	
Technical Review Meeting with Staff, including Village Planner Analysis for Comprehensive Plan Compliance	X	
Public Hearing Notice Requirement via USPS	X	X
Public Hearing Notice Radius Requirement	500'	250'
Posting of Public Hearing Notice at Property	X	
Posting of Public Hearing Notice in Newspaper of Local Circulation	X	X
Posting of Development Application on Village's Website	X	
Public Hearing before the Development Review Board	X	X
Deliberation and Recommendation by the Development Review Board	X	X
Notice of Village Board Final Consideration via USPS	X - 500' Radius	
Final Action by Village Board	X	X

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

The [Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit](#) (CAFR) for the fiscal year that ended April 30, 2018 was completed and approved at the October 15 Village Board meeting. I am pleased to report that the audit of the Village's financial condition, conducted by BKD, LLP, a firm of licensed independent auditors, issued a clean opinion on the Village's financial statements. The Village continues to receive awards recognizing its practice of going beyond the minimum requirements and preparing a CAFR that evidences the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Congratulations to our Administration, with special recognition to Joan Rock, our Finance Director, for a job well done!

At its October 17, 2018 meeting, the Village's Traffic and Safety Commission sent the initial draft report on the Safe Walking Routes to School back to the Administration for further review. The report, done in collaboration with River Forest Elementary School District 90, addresses safe walking routes, crossing guard placement and signage, and other pedestrian hazards affecting how public and parochial students can bike and walk safely to school. To read the draft report, [click here](#).

A hearty congratulations to [Cyclebar](#), which is celebrating its second anniversary. Stop by and take a ride.



At the next Village Board Meeting, which will be held Monday, November 26, the Trustees and I will discuss a proposed update to the Village's building codes. These codes help to ensure that buildings are constructed in a safe, high-quality manner.

Also, as I write this, the Village staff has already begun preparing the next five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a planning tool that identifies major projects and funding requirements to ensure Village facilities, vehicles, equipment and critical infrastructure (such as sidewalks, roadways and water mains) remain in good working order. This document will be presented to the Village Board for review in January and incorporated into next year's budget.

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving Day. To our Jewish neighbors and friends, we wish an early Happy Hanukkah, which starts at sundown, Sunday, December 2.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Chicago Avenue Resurfacing Project

With the Chicago Avenue Resurfacing Project nearing completion, there are a few remaining steps that will impact vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Miscellaneous concrete items and sod installation are being completed now through the week of November 5th. Preparations are also being made to begin paving the final layer of asphalt next Tuesday, November 6th. Impacts will be similar to those during the installation of the first layer of asphalt, however, the new pavement will now be joined to all the existing side-street pavement to remove all bumps throughout the corridor. To improve the bond between the first and second layers of asphalt, a thin layer of a liquid-asphalt product will once again be applied, this time to the first layer of asphalt (similar work was performed on the road base before the first layer of asphalt was installed). This liquid is expected to dry out over the course of a few hours. Before it has dried, however, vehicles traveling at higher rates

of speed may spray the material up onto the body of the vehicle via the tires. In an effort to avoid this from happening the contractor will once again be applying the material overnight, this time at approximately 1AM on Tuesday, November 6th. The goal is to have the material dried by the time morning rush hour traffic begins. Paving will start later in the day on Tuesday and will likely take two to three days to complete. If any re-scheduling is required due to inclement weather, additional notice will be provided.

Thanksgiving Holiday - Village Hall Closed

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a happy Thanksgiving holiday. Please note Village Hall will be closed Thanksgiving Day (11/22) & Friday (11/23).

Thanksgiving 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 Wednesday, 11/21 (12:01 AM) through Monday, 11/26 (9:00 AM). No overnight 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.

Package Theft—'Tis the Season

During the holidays, more people take advantage of online shopping. Criminals also take advantage of the fact that there are more unattended packages for them to steal. If you are having packages delivered to your home, here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim of package theft:

- If possible, have packages delivered to your workplace.
- Have packages delivered to a place where they can be received in person, such as the home of a trusted neighbor who stays home during the day, or a retired relative.
- Request the shipper require a signature confirmation or hold your package at their pick-up facility so you can pick it up in person at your convenience.
- If available, request store delivery.
- Request a specific delivery date and time from the shipper when you know you will be home.
- Provide delivery instructions to the shipper so that packages can be left at a safe location at your home that is out of sight from the street.
- Sign up for delivery alerts from the shipper.

Holiday Shopping

Criminals will take advantage of the busy crowds at retail stores and restaurants during the holidays by being able to blend in and using distractions. A common crime we see in River Forest is "pick-pocketing" where criminals target unattended purses and backpacks. Usually the victim

has a false sense of security due to the fact that their property is nearby, such as in a shopping cart or hanging on the chair they are sitting in.

However, the criminal knows that the victim really is not watching the property and will remove a wallet or valuables from inside the bag without the victim noticing. Remember to be aware of your surroundings and do not leave your property unattended or even out-of-view.

When you are shopping, remember to secure any purchased items in your trunk or out-of-view from the outside so your vehicle is not a target for burglary.

Safety for the Season

[Click here](#) to read important and timely safety tips from the River Forest Fire Department.

Parking after Snowfall

We are hoping for a mild winter, but please remember that the Village prohibits parking on any street or alley after two inches or more of snowfall for an eight hour period or until the streets are clear. This helps our dedicated Public Works department to their jobs to keep our streets clean and safe from road hazards. The Village will not grant overnight parking passes during the above conditions.

Know the Code

As fall comes to a close, please remember to rake only leaves into the street. All other landscape waste must be bagged for pickup. Please also be sure to properly dispose of pumpkins - no pumpkins should be left at the curb or raked into the street.

Special Message from River Forest School District 90

Lincoln and Roosevelt Schools will be holding book fairs during the week of November 5.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 7 and Thursday, November 8. These conferences represent an opportunity for faculty and families to share information about student academic and social-emotional progress. Students will not be attending school on Thursday, November 8 and Friday, November 9.

District 90 is holding its Board of Education meeting on Monday, November 19 in the Roosevelt Middle School LLC starting at 7PM. We hope to see you there!

Schools will not be in session from Wednesday, November 21 - Friday, November 23, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please enjoy the Thanksgiving festivities.

GREEN NEWS

PUMPKIN SMASH 2018

Don't trash your pumpkin or place it in the street. Compost it. A compost container will be provided to "smash" your pumpkin, Saturday, November 3 from 9am-noon at Roosevelt Middle School, on the Jackson Avenue side. All are welcome to drop off pumpkins. Please encourage friends, family, neighbors to compost their pumpkins instead of trashing them.

Winter's Farmer's Market at Grace Lutheran church in River Forest

An indoor market will be held Saturday, November 10, from 9AM-1PM. The market will feature locally and sustainably produced goods. There will be

something for everyone at this market, including vegetables, bread, baked treats, honey, coffee, bath products, self-care items, sauces, and more. Link/SNAP benefits are accepted. Grace Lutheran is located at 7300 Division Street, River Forest.

Brown Bag and Curbside Compost Pick Up

Please note that compost and brown bag pick up switches to every other Tuesday, December 1.

Next Sustainability Commission Meeting

The next Sustainability Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at 7PM at the River Forest Village Hall, located at 400 Park Avenue. The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Holiday Tree Trimming

Thursday, November 29, 4-5 PM - *deadline to sponsor a tree is November 26!*

Community businesses, organizations and neighborhoods are invited to sponsor a tree which will be on display along Lake Street in Memorial Parkway. A tree with lights will be provided, and sponsors will bring and hang their own decorations. Sponsorship is \$30 per tree. The tree lighting ceremony will be at 5 PM.

Register Now for Rec Basketball!



Registration is now open for all leagues! The registration deadline is November 30 at noon (or until filled). Mandatory player evaluations are on Saturday, December 1.

Registration usually fills up before the registration deadline, so don't wait! Since we are limited by gym space, we are unable to add more teams after reaching our maximum numbers. [Click here](#) to register.

We are looking for volunteer coaches! Please register to coach on the registration form.

Now Hiring Rec Basketball Staff

We are now hiring Rec Basketball Referees, Site Supervisors and Score Keepers. [Click here](#) for more information.

Chicago Bulls Fundamentals Camp

Mondays, November 5 - November 26, 6:30PM – 7:30 PM (ages 5 – 8), 7:30PM – 9PM (ages 9 – 14)

The Chicago Bulls are coming to the River Forest Park District! This camp will teach the latest techniques in ball handling, passing, shooting, and rebounding while also teaching children how to be student-athletes and great teammates. Every participant will receive top flight instruction from our professional Bulls/Sox Academy coaches who have learned from the Chicago Bulls coaching staff. We provide a fun and safe environment for children to learn the game, as well as life lessons such as discipline, respect, sportsmanship and dealing with peer pressure. Each participant will receive a camp t-shirt and a personal scouting report.

Safe Sitter® Essentials with CPR

Sunday, November 4, 9AM - 3PM, 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!

Winter-Spring Fun Guide

The Winter-Spring Fun Guide will be online November 26 and will be delivered to residents' homes December 3.

`<hr color="d04d27" font-family:="" arial,="" sans-serif="">`

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Here are some highlights of events and programs at your Library in November. For a complete listing of programs and services, visit our website at www.riverforsetlibrary.org.

Community Listening Sessions



Residents are invited to join us at the Library for community listening sessions that will help guide our strategic planning process. All ages are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Your Voice Matters! **Thursday, 11/8 at 7 PM and Saturday, 11/10 at 10 AM.**

Children

Wednesday, 11/7, 4-5 PM, Ready Readers, Grades 1-4

Get ready to read *A Boy Called Bat* with crafts, activities, and a snack based on the book by Elana K. Arnold. Listen to a librarian read the first chapter, and then check out a copy to finish reading at home! [Advanced registration required.](#)

Thursday, 11/8, 1:30-2:30 PM, I Survived... The Library!, Grades K-4

Celebrate the popular *I Survived* series with games, challenges, and fun activities based on these action packed books. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Wednesday, 11/21, 2-3 PM, Craftsgiving, Grades K-4

Celebrate Thanksgiving by creating crafts and decorations for your holiday festivities. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Friday, 11/23, 9 AM-5 PM, Black Friday Sale, Birth-10 years

Visit the Children's Room on Friday, Nov. 23 for our super blow out shopping sale. Check out at least five library books at regular price (FREE) and receive a bonus FREE paperback book to take home and keep. Offer available while supplies last. One book per customer (age 0-10).

Sunday, 11/25, 2-3 PM, Frosty's Winter Wonderland Marionette Puppet Show, Kids of All Ages

Dave Herzog brings his wonderful marionettes to life in this engaging live show, *Frosty's Winter Wonderland*. [Advanced registration required*](#) Best for ages 3 and up. *Due to limited space in our meeting room, please register everyone who will watch the performance, including adults*

Monday, 11/26, 4-5 PM, Amazing Artists: Paul Cézanne, Grades K-4

Learn about world famous artist Paul Cézanne, and create your own art piece inspired by his unique style. Supplies will be provided. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Teens

Thursday, 11/8, 3-4:30 PM, Harry Potter Wizard Wearables, Grades 5-12

Just in time for the latest wizarding world film you can show your own love by crafting your own wizard wearables! [Advanced registration required.](#)

Thursday, 11/29, 3:30-4:30 PM, Teen Tasters:, Grades 5-12

Try out a variety of unique foods from a different country each month in this fun tast test program. [Advanced registration required.](#)

EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY THE RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Sunday, 11/4, 2-3:30 PM, Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Fireside Chat, Adult

Step back in time and join us at the library upstairs by the fireplace for a fireside chat with President Franklin D. Roosevelt! Historical dramatist R. J. Lindsey will portray the beloved president as he addresses the nation, reads

Depression era letters from citizens asking for help, and reminds us of the challenges facing the country during World War II.

Monday, 11/5, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday, Adult

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks, and conversation. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn about things going on in the community. This month, Denise Murray will be joining from Mohr Center to discuss their day trips program for seniors.

Wednesday, 11/14, 10-11:30 AM, Connect With Tech, Adult

Are you a local 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? Concerned about internet safety? Then join us for 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.

Friday, 11/16, 12-2:30 PM, Film Lover Fridays, Adult

Join other movie lovers on the 3rd Friday of every month to watch popular and entertaining films! This fall we'll be showing Jimmy Stewart movies! Today we'll be watching *It's A Wonderful Life*. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy before the film starts. Light refreshments will be served.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Fall Sibshops Continue

Sibshops, a program specially designed for siblings of those with special needs, disabilities and health challenges, meets on the first and third **Saturdays, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM**, at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park: **11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15**. For 1st-7th grade siblings. Lunch is provided.

Facilitators lead fun activities, focused on sharing siblings' experiences and ideas, including crafts, games and lunch prep. Fee is \$10 per session; need-based scholarships are available. Registration is required in advance; for more info or to register, call River Forest Township at 708-366-2029 or email supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org.

Seniors: Come Play Pickleball Starting November 7

Pickleball is a paddle sport for all ages and abilities and is the fastest growing sport in America! It combines elements of tennis and ping pong, with rules which are simple to learn. Seniors are invited to play indoors **starting November 7** at a specially designated time at the Tennis and Fitness Centre of OPRF, 301 Lake Street (Lake and Ridgeland), Oak Park, **Wednesdays, 1-2:30 PM**. Cost is \$10 for non-members/\$6 for members; equipment rental is free. **All levels are welcome, including beginners. Open to non-club members. Bring your friends; no need to register in advance.** Contact River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan 708-366-2029 or cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com with questions.

Sign up for Encore Chorale's Winter/Spring Season

Oak Park-River Forest Encore Chorale, for singers age 55 and up, will start its winter/spring rehearsals on **Tuesdays, starting in mid-late January**. The local Encore group is part of the largest chorale organization for older adults in the country. All are invited to join this musically talented group; no audition is required. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 9:30-11 AM at 19th Century Club, 178 Forest, Oak Park. For more info, contact Linda Crabtree Powell at crabtreepowell@gmail.com. Need-based scholarships for River Forest

resident Encore members are available through River Forest Township.

All are welcome to attend the Encore's free fall season concert, Saturday, December 8, 4 PM, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph, Oak Park.

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Income Tax Prep

River Forest Township supports a local initiative by Triton's RSVP Program to provide free income tax preparation for low-moderate income seniors (age 60+). To become a volunteer tax preparer for this Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, contact Kay Frey, kayfrey@triton.edu, 708-456-0300, x3603.

Free training sessions for volunteers will be held on Saturdays, January 5-February 2, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, at Triton. For more info or to register for the training, call 708-456-0300, x3835 or 3603.

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+), offered at multiple locations in surrounding communities.

Starting the last week in January, call 708-456-0300, x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. Time slots fill very quickly.

Coming Soon: Memory Café

Coming this winter to Oak Park and River Forest, a Memory Café is a welcoming place for individuals with memory changes and their care partners. Cafes provide a chance for conversation, food and enjoyable activities. They also offer a great opportunity to volunteer as a speaker, greeter, craft leader, etc. For more info, contact Supervisor Carla Sloan at cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

"Support4U" App for Middle and High School Students

The "Support4U" phone app is available to all middle and high school students in Oak Park and River Forest. Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource, by which students can text licensed mental health clinicians for assistance or guidance on such issues as anxiety, depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, bullying, or any other mental health-related topic. Support4U is anonymous and available to students 24/7. We thank School 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! Students can download the app or text 844-670-5838. D90 students will text "SAFE" and D200 students will text "CARE".

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 Supervisor Carla Sloan at supervisor@riverforesttownship.org.

Introducing the Great Neighbors Program

A local partnership, consisting of Arbor West Neighbors, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, and Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 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 contact Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or supervisor@riverforesttownship.org.

"SHIP" Senior Health Insurance Counseling

Free Senior Health Insurance (SHIP) counseling is available at the River Forest Township offices on the **first Friday of each month**, located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, 2nd floor. SHIP counseling is held on the other Fridays at Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Call 708-383-8060 to schedule an appointment.

Please note: SHIP counseling appointments in Oak Park and River Forest are now FULL for the open enrollment period ending December 7; however, please call 708-383-8060 for alternative options.

Seniors and Free/Reduced RTA Fares

River Forest Township has been receiving many calls regarding senior fares on the RTA, which includes CTA, Metra and PACE. Seniors are entitled to an automatic 50% fare reduction when they turn 65 and complete the application process. Disabled seniors or reduced-income seniors are eligible to apply for free fares. Visit www.rtachicago.org or call 312-913-3110.

Seniors can also ride the Township Senior Services bus to Oak Park, River Forest, and some other nearby locations. Ride Monday thru Friday, 7:45 AM – 4 PM; reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance and scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Suggested donation \$1 per ride. Call 708-383-4806 for more info.

Support Group for Those Who Have Lost a Loved One to Suicide

A monthly drop-in support group is held monthly in River Forest for adults aged 18 and over who are suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. The group is run by LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) and is led by a licensed clinical social worker.

Group meets on the third Monday of each month, 6-8 PM. Next meeting is November 19.

The previously held teen group is no longer meeting in River Forest. However, if anyone you know is interested in participating in a teen group, please contact the number below.

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

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



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