



Village of River Forest E-News



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

Thank you for taking the time to read the Village's E-News. These messages are sent approximately once per month and include timely information regarding Village events, news and other useful information. We strive to keep the content brief and relevant to the issues that matter most to the community.

Message from the Village President



Dear River Forest Residents,

Welcome to March. This usually is the busiest month for Village Trustees and staff as we add the finishing touches to next year's budget. This will be much of the focus of my message for April. Until then, I'd like to bring your attention to the following items.

This past Monday at a regularly scheduled board meeting, I delivered my [State of the Village](#) address and focused on a number of matters related to our guiding principles: safety, stabilizing property taxes and strengthening property values. My comments also touched on some initiatives that will improve our overall quality of life.

Trustees passed a [resolution](#) naming River Forest a Dementia-Friendly community. We become the fifth governmental agency in Illinois to be so recognized by [Dementia Friendly America](#). The Village had many partners in this endeavor, including River Forest Township, Concordia University, [AgeOptions](#) and others.



In the coming months you will see a lot of discussion around the question of aging in place. So let me explain what that is and, more importantly, what it can be. River Forest will look at how we can create programs and services that will help integrate seniors into as many facets of life here as possible. As the chair of the Mayor's Caucus subcommittee on this issue, I will be bringing ideas and solutions back to River Forest. Aging in place is vital. As we know from US Census figures, our population is growing older and because of this, we will need to offer the support that will help our aging residents maintain a high quality of life. In 2017 nearly 16 percent of our community's residents were over the age of 65; 7 percent of our residents were over the age of 75.

Now on to other matters.



The Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing at **7:00 PM on Thursday, March 7, 2019** on our updated [Comprehensive Plan](#). This document will guide present and future development, redevelopment and growth of the Village and establish a long-range vision for the entire Community. I encourage you to attend this important meeting and learn how our community can progress in the coming years. The Board of Trustees will be taking up the Plan Commission's recommendation regarding

adoption of the Comprehensive Plan later this spring.

The One Earth Film Festival begins today with several films being shown in our area. For a full schedule, [click here](#).



To keep up with all of the programs and events in River Forest, visit the [River Forest Community Calendar](#). Every unit of government that serves our community has posted events here. Use it often, and tell your friends – find it at [RFHappenings.com](#).

The Village has many communication channels available. This e-newsletter is part of a messaging system that will apprise you of construction, crime alerts and other emergencies. River Forest's [Facebook](#) page also has loads of information for you. We will keep you apprised of our progress as the Village looks to expand its social media presence.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy".

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Consolidated Election

The General Consolidated Election is April 2, 2019. For more information about early voting, finding your polling place, and registering to vote, [please click here](#) »

Know the Code - Hours of Work



At its February 11 meeting, the Village Board of Trustees addressed the ambiguity in the Village Code related to homeowners acting as contractors for their construction projects. As a courtesy to all residents, the Village Code now prohibits any work on Sundays that is being performed under a building permit, regardless of who is performing this work.

[For full details on the code change, click here](#) »

Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Saturday March 2, 2019 Forest Park will host their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at 1 PM on Madison at Van Buren and will travel East on Madison into Forest Park.

[For details on parking restrictions and road closures, click here](#) »



Help the River Forest Fire Department Find Your Home



The River Forest Village Code mandates that address numbers for all buildings be plainly visible and legible from the street fronting the property. Additionally, when a garage abuts a public alley, address numbers must be plainly visible and affixed to the face of the garage. [Click here](#) for additional information. For questions, call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

River Forest Police Department Child Safety-Seat Inspections

Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of death for children under age 13. In Illinois, one out of four children who die in crashes is unrestrained. Researchers estimate that proper use of federally-approved

car seats could reduce child deaths by 71 percent and injuries by 67 percent.

If you have a car seat in your car make sure it is installed and utilized properly. The River Forest Police Department offers free child safety-seat inspections. [Contact RFPD](#) to schedule your appointment with a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician today! For more information on the Illinois Child Passenger Safety Requirements, [click here](#).



Message from River Forest School District 90

One District•One Book



River Forest
Public Schools

Join District 90 in its One District/One Book community conversation based on the book, *The End of Average*, by Todd Rose. This event will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at Roosevelt Middle School from 6 PM – 8 PM There will be small group discussions and hands-on learning activities. You can check out *The End of Average* at the River Forest Public Library, listen to audiobooks, visit local bookstores, or view short YouTube videos. This event is free and open to the public. Dinner will be served. RSVPs are requested at [One District/One Book RSVP](#)

Message from OPRF District 200

District 200 to abate \$5.8 million in property taxes

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has announced that Oak Park and River Forest High School District 200 is one of 28 Illinois school districts that are now eligible to receive a Property Tax Relief Grant. This action reduces the District's portion of the annual tax bill for a \$400,000 market value home by approximately \$280. [Click here to read more »](#)

D200 Board of Education Town Hall

Racial Equity & School Safety - [Thursday, March 7, 6:30 PM, OPRF South Cafeteria](#)

GREEN NEWS

Save these dates for important upcoming sustainability events:

- April 27 - Des Plaines River Clean Up and Finished Compost Pick Up for subscribers
- May 4 - Recycling Extravaganza at United Methodist Church 8AM - 1PM
- May 19 - Tree Tour of River Forest 10AM - noon

Visit vrf.us/sustainability for more info.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Register Now for Summer Camp!

With over 40 different summer camps to choose from, the Park District has something for everyone! In addition to popular half-day morning camps (Tot Camp, Kidz Camp, and Ultimate Sports Camp), the Park District offers a large variety of afternoon specialty camps ranging from sports and fitness to STEAM, cooking, and art. For the older kids, check out Thrill Zone, a field-trip based camp for kids ages 10-14.



The 2019 Summer Camp Guide is available online. [Click here](#) to see the large variety of fun summer camps. Resident registration for Summer Camps is currently open. Non-resident registration for Summer Camps begins March 25.

Now Hiring Summer Staff!

The Park District is currently hiring for the following seasonal positions: Summer Camp Director, Summer Camp Assistant Director, Summer Camp Floater, Summer Camp Counselor, Park Maintenance Staff, Birthday Party Leader, Dance Instructor.

[Click here for details »](#)

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

The River Forest library offers a **wide variety of free programs for all ages**. Check out everything the library has to offer at www.riverforestlibrary.org.

Visit the River Forest library and discover quality collections, a comfortable space, computer workstations, free wifi, and friendly, professional staff committed to providing the highest level of service. Remember, residents also have 24/7 access to **premium online resources** including eBooks, streaming and downloadable movies and music, digital magazines, and online databases with the [Digital Library](#).



Irish Heritage Singers

Gear up for St. Patrick's Day with the Irish Heritage Singers on **Sunday, March 10 at 2 PM**.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Join the Strengthening Families Program

Learn effective parenting skills, healthy communication, conflict resolution, and stress management skills. Free 12-week program for families with children ages 7-17; dinner provided; childcare available. **Tuesdays, February 19 – May 14, 6 PM – 8 PM**, at the River Forest Township, 8020 Madison St, River Forest. Call 708-410-0615 to register.

Memory Café Meets 3rd Tuesdays

The new Memory Café meets on the **third Tuesday of each month, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM** at Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships, 130 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. Next meeting: **March 19**.

Memory Café is a welcoming place for individuals with memory changes and their care partners; enjoy conversation, food and activities. For more info, contact Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060 or memorycafe@oakparktownship.org.



Informative Talk for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities

Attorney Robert H. Farley, Jr. will share “how to be successful in obtaining funding for a developmentally delayed person”, **Wednesday, March 6, 6 PM - 8 PM at OPRF High School**. Learn about the state “waiting list”, guardianship, and more. For parents, caregivers, those diagnosed with disabilities, and other interested parties. RSVP to Pleshette at pdavis@cmhb-oakpark.org. Respite care provided; contact Pleshette for details.

AROUND RIVER FOREST

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – RFHappenings.com](http://RFHappenings.com)

[Village of River Forest](#)

[River Forest School District 90](#)

[OPRF High School District 200](#)

[River Forest Park District](#)

[River Forest Public Library](#)

[River Forest Township](#)

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