



Village of River Forest



**RIVER FOREST**

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

**March 16, 2020**

**A Special E-News Message from the Village President, Catherine Adduci, Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Dear River Forest Residents,

This morning I called a special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees to adopt an Ordinance that would allow me as Village President to declare a state of emergency in the Village of River Forest. Immediately after adopting the Ordinance, I declared a state of emergency in the Village.

This authority is granted to municipalities in the State of Illinois Municipal Code. A Village-declared state of emergency gives my office certain abilities and powers to issue executive orders to help the Village respond to issues of Village concern more quickly and effectively. Some examples of this include ease in making emergency purchases and entering into emergency-related contracts that would otherwise require Village Board approval, which may now be quickly approved by an executive order issued by the Village President. Of course, we will continue to seek Federal and State funding and resources for cost associated with this crisis. I cannot stress enough the need for speed and flexibility in times of emergencies. This declaration allows for just that.

Governor Pritzker on March 9 declared a State of Emergency for Illinois and then just yesterday ordered all bars and restaurants closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, we will follow the direction of our Governor and other state officials to maintain our health and safety of our community.

If you believe you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to it, please call or email your physician immediately. If you are unable to contact your physician or do not have one, you should contact the Cook County Department of Public Health at 708-633-4000, press 3. You may also call the Illinois Department of Public Health coronavirus hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV).

The Village knows that this pandemic can be especially hard on our senior citizens and those in need and for those individuals who may need additional help and assistance. As always, we ask our residents to check in on neighbors who are older or in need. The Village is working with the River Forest Township to provide additional services as needed for our seniors and others in need. There will be an outreach to River Forest seniors this week and along with the creation and coordination of a program to aid these individuals. We are asking our residents to help volunteer their time to help others in need. More information will be forthcoming in the next day.

Further, I have directed the Village Staff and Departments to take all precautions in order to maintain our services and continuity of operations. The Village Administration is meeting daily to respond to discuss, plan and respond to the ongoing pandemic. I want to share with you some of the most important matters.

- Village Hall remains open which includes all of the operating departments. We are evaluating our operations on a daily basis. Non-essential employees are able to work from home. We are encouraging residents to utilize our “virtual village hall” which includes all of our online and telephonic options before physically coming to Village Hall. If you are in doubt, please call us at 708-366-8500 and dial 0 to speak to an operator or visit us online at [www.vrf.us](http://www.vrf.us). After hours, please call the Village’s non-emergency number 708-366-7125, and finally always call 911 in an emergency.
- We will be closing Village Hall on Tuesday for Election Day as Village Hall is a polling place.
- We have consolidated our Village Hall front counter operations in order to minimize potential exposure to employees and customers.
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing of high traffic areas, meeting rooms and other visitor areas in Village Hall has been in place for the last two weeks and will continue until further notice.
- Effective March 13, 2020 and until March 30, in an abundance of caution, the Village of River Forest is postponing all non-critical meetings and events. This includes our local boards and commissions. Please note that we could extend this date based on future information.
- Village Hall will close on Mondays at 4:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM through March 30, 2020.
- The March 25, 2020 local adjudication at Village Hall will be postponed until April.
- The Village Police and Fire Departments continue to operate while taking extra precautions in the operations as it relates to wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and conducting extra sanitization after interactions with a customer. The Village’s emergency medical response team continues to be in contact with Loyola Medical Center, the Cook County Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding changes to any protocols any further guidance regarding COVID-19.
- The Villages of River Forest, Elmwood Park and Forest Park are members of TRIPCOM, an intergovernmental agreement that created and maintains a coordinated plan for mass pharmaceutical distribution plan that will be activated if needed.
- Village drinking water (tap water) continues to be safe and residents are encouraged to continue to use it as they deem necessary. All water shut-offs have been temporarily postponed.
- As it currently stands, Election Day will proceed as normal on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The latest information regarding the election can be found by visiting at Cook County Clerk’s page: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/>

#### Beware of Scams

Unfortunately, there are bad actors that use this time to create malicious pranks, spam and phishing emails designed to capitalize on global attention to the COVID-19 pandemic. These malicious individuals use email to pose as authority figures in an attempt to steal personal information, commit fraud, or attack the individual. As a reminder, please note the following to protect yourself:

- Always check the sender’s email address closely and make sure you recognize it.

Never click links in unfamiliar emails.

- Avoid opening attachments unless you have verified the sender.
- Be especially wary of unexpected communications that ask you to sign in, provide credentials, or provide other sensitive information.
- Be alert to the fact that malicious parties often try to instill a sense of high urgency or close familiarity to catch you off guard.

Finally, as you have probably read, the Governor has ordered the closure of schools and other large gatherings within the State of Illinois. Below, please find links to all of the local entities where you can receive the latest information on their closures and related program information.

As always, you can find more facts, updates, and information on COVID-19, including symptoms and transmission of the virus, at the following links:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#)
- [Cook County Department of Public Health](#)
- [City of Chicago](#)

To receive up-to-date information, you can:

- Subscribe to official updates from the CDC by signing up here: [cdc.gov/Other/emailupdates/](https://www.cdc.gov/Other/emailupdates/)
- Receive updates through the IDPH Coronavirus Hotline and email account at 1-800-889-3931 or [dphsick@illinois.gov](mailto:dphsick@illinois.gov)
- Sign up for our [e-newsletter](#)

Sincerely,



Catherine Adduci, Village President  
Village of River Forest

Village of River Forest

<https://www.vrf.us/coronavirus>

River Forest School District 90

<https://www.district90.org/>

River Forest Park District

<https://rfparks.com/news/covid-19>

River Forest Public Library

<https://www.riverforestlibrary.org/>

River Forest Township

<http://www.riverforesttownship.org/>

River Forest Community Center

<http://www.rfcc.info/>

River Forest School District 200

<https://www.oprfhs.org/>

---

## AROUND RIVER FOREST

---

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – 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](#)



---

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

---