



Village of River Forest



**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,

Governor Pritzker has [extended the stay at home order](#) for another thirty days until May 30, 2020. Face coverings or masks are required throughout the State when in a public area and where you cannot maintain a six foot distance from one another. This includes grocery stores and public transportation. This requirement applies to all individuals over the age of two. Please [click here](#) for more information on the face covering requirement.

In addition, the Governor has lifted some of the restrictions on the stay at home order to include golf courses, state parks, pet grooming and non essential curbside pick up at your favorite retail shops.

Currently, the River Forest Parks are still closed to organized play and all facilities, including playgrounds, are still closed. We do want you to enjoy the great outdoors so please go walk our parks' pathways, run, bicycle, and enjoy all of our green space, but please remember to keep six feet apart from one another and do not socially gather.

Making your own face covering is quick and easy - they do not need to be elaborate. Face coverings must cover your nose and mouth entirely and can include homemade face coverings, scarves, bandanas or ski gators. Please [watch this video](#) or [click here](#) to learn how to make your own face covering with household materials.

If you are in need of a face covering and unable to make your own or a senior or an older adult in need of additional services, such as grocery shopping or pharmacy pick up, then please call our River Forest COVID19 Senior Response Team at 708-613-1642.

The Village of River Forest remains committed to providing high-quality, compassionate customer service to its residents and visitors and working to make River Forest a safe place to live, work, and do business during, and after, the COVID-19 pandemic. To be successful in doing so, the Village will adhere to protocols to assist the public in creating and obtaining necessary resources to comply with the requirement of cloth face coverings. Please [click here](#) to view the protocol. This document has also been shared with local River Forest businesses to help partner in this effort.

The Village is working diligently to enforce the important restrictions that have been put in place. If you observe a violation of the face covering or social distancing requirements, please [click here](#) to submit a report form. If you are experiencing an emergency, please do not use this form and call 9-1-1. If you believe a business in River Forest is not complying with the cloth face covering and/or social distancing requirements, you are encouraged to report your concerns to the business owner or manager first. If you submit a violation form, rest assured we will follow up on your complaint with an email or phone call.

The River Forest COVID-19 Senior Citizen Response Program is looking for donations of supplies to create cloth face coverings. Supplies needed include pipe cleaners, fabric (especially 100% cotton), thread, rubber bands, safety pins, and shoe strings. If you can spare these supplies, or can volunteer to sew, please contact the team at 708-613-1642 or [rfseniorhelp@gmail.com](mailto:rfseniorhelp@gmail.com).

I realize how hard this is on all of us. However, I can assure you that River Forest is doing its part and having a positive



effect on beating this virus. To date we have 26 confirmed positive cases and no deaths. Our community and those that surround us need us now more than ever. Let's continue to do our part and stay home unless you need to do essential business.

Also, we need your help reaching all River Forest residents. If you or someone you know does not receive Village of River Forest emergency alerts and E-News to their email inbox or phone line, including cell phones, please encourage them to sign up by visiting the Village website at [vrf.us/alert](http://vrf.us/alert). It will only take a minute to sign up. Help us keep River Forest informed.

During our April Board of Trustees meetings, the Village Board passed our budget for Fiscal Year 2021. We are pleased to approve a balanced budget, for the 9th year in a row, that is the product of fiscal constraints and policies applied years ago. While we fully expect to continue to present balanced budgets going forward, the current situation could provide more difficulties. The Village will continue to monitor budget needs throughout the COVID-19 emergency and be prepared to make adjustments as needed.

I hope you will enjoy [this video of the Roosevelt Middle School band performing "America the Beautiful"](#). This music video was performed by students working independently from home during #RiverForestStaysHome. This is a great example of River Forest's school children collaborating together while staying home to save lives. Congratulations to these students for a job well done!



Finally, I would like to give a big shout out to our first responders and healthcare workers who are on the front lines for all of us. We appreciate you and thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

#RiverForestStaysHome

## Village Spotlight

The traffic signal upgrade project located at Lake Street and Thatcher Avenue is now complete. This project consisted of upgrading the traffic signals at this intersection to be equipped with left turn arrows in all directions. New mast arms and foundations were installed to accommodate these new turn arrows. The purpose of this project was to ease congestion based on data showing heavy traffic volumes during peak travel times.



## Village Spotlight



Please help the local, non-profit CAST Water Safety Foundation. You may even save a life with the click of a button. Despite all that we're going through, drowning remains the leading cause of death for children under 5, and is the second leading cause of death for children 5-14. The new demands of quarantine lifestyle leave us distracted and overwhelmed and super stores and pool stores are selling out of above ground pools as parents scramble to "save summer." Join us in CASTing Hope for a Safer Summer. Please visit The CAST Water Safety Foundation on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) @cast\_watersafety\_foundation or [castwatersafety.org](http://castwatersafety.org) to learn how to create a strong water safety strategy. Please share our work with neighbors and friends. For fun, CAST is also raffling off a variety of fun summer prizes including YETI Coolers, water tables and more. Sharing of safety tips on social media enters you to win. Together we can make a difference!

## Census 2020

We are so close, River Forest! Help us pass our 2010 Census self-response rate. If you have not responded to the 2020 Census, you still have time! Visit [vrf.us/Census](http://vrf.us/Census) for more information and be counted today.



## Short-Term Rentals Prohibited

The Village would like to remind residents that short-term property rentals, including single rooms, of 30 days or less are prohibited. These are the types of rentals typically advertised on sites such as Airbnb and VRBO. Any owner who violates this can face penalties of up to \$750 per day.

## River Forest Police Department



The River Forest Police Department officers may look a little different these days. In accordance with CDC recommendations, the Department is taking extra precautions by wearing various types of face coverings, protective eyewear, and gloves while making contact with the public. This is for everyone's safety so officers can continue to protect and serve the community throughout this pandemic. The Department encourages everyone to follow this example. Wear a face covering, wash your hands thoroughly and often, and stay safe. We will all get through this together. Please remember: If You See or Hear Something - Say Something!

## River Forest Fire Department

The River Forest Fire Department wants to remind residents about bicycling safety. Before heading out, always do a quick "A-B-C" check of your bike. The "A" stands for the air in your tires. Much like a car, proper air pressure in the tires help smooth out your ride. The "B" stands for brakes. Give them a quick check before you go out to ensure they operate properly. Finally, the "C" stands for your chain. Check to make sure that it is riding correctly on both front and rear sprockets. Click [here](#) to read more safety tips and click [here](#) for more information on bicycling in River Forest. During the Stay-at-Home order, please remember that cyclists riding together should be members of the same household. All cyclists must obey the same "Rules of the Road" as motor vehicles:



- Proper lane usage and obeying traffic signals.
- Must stay to the right and no more than 2 riders abreast.
- At least one hand must be on handlebars and when riding at night, bikes must have white light on front and red reflector on rear.

## GREEN NEWS

Check out these two green activities you can do while staying at home.

### Identify Your Parkway Trees

Learn about the trees on your parkway, visit the [River Forest Tree Map](#) and find the species. Then, use chalk to label them on the sidewalk or make a small sign to put near the tree.

### Home Composting

Now more than ever, River Forest residents are cooking and eating meals at home. This makes it a great time to begin diverting your organic waste and composting! Start a backyard compost or sign up for the [Village's Curbside Program](#) that also includes yard waste. Click [here](#) to read more about composting or check out [this podcast](#).

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

### Board of Education Meetings Go Virtual

The upcoming Board of Education's Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 5/5**. The Regular Business Meeting will be held on Monday, **5/18**. Both meetings will be held virtually using the Zoom conferencing platform. For information about joining the virtual Board meetings, please visit the District's [website](#) closer to the actual date for each

meeting for sign-in information.

## In-Person Activities Canceled for the Remainder of the School Year

Due to Governor Pritzker and Village President Adduci's directives instituting stay-in-place mandates to stem the spread of the coronavirus infection, all District 90 in-person activities and events planned for May have been canceled. District administrators and PTO members are considering ways to commemorate and recognize student achievements and accomplishments. More information will be forthcoming. Please continue to monitor the District's [website](#) for new developments.

## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Virtual Programming

The River Forest Park District is now offering a variety of virtual programming. Many programs are free and others require registration. Join each week for different programming opportunities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Summer Program Registration

At this time, the River Forest Park District is open and still hosting summer registration for programs. However, any program that has to be canceled due to COVID-19 will be refunded. To view the Fun Guide, register for a program, or stay on top of COVID cancellations, visit the new website at [www.rfparks.com](http://www.rfparks.com).



## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

### The Library is Still Here for You



The building may be closed but the Library is still here for you with expanded digital offerings to better serve the community during this time. Check out the new streaming service [Kanopy](#) and all the [digital offerings](#). Need help deciding what to read or watch? [Ask a Librarian](#) for recommendations through the new online reader advisory.

**Don't have a library card?** [Apply online now](#) to get a temporary card.

**Questions?** Chat with the Library [online](#) or [email](#) and they will get right back to you.

Follow the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). The Library is posting lots of virtual content, such as story times, book reviews, and crafting sessions. Visit the new [YouTube Channel](#).

## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

River Forest Township is here to help support your needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit [www.RiverForestTownship.org](http://www.RiverForestTownship.org), or the River Forest community calendar at [www.RFHappenings.com](http://www.RFHappenings.com), or [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan. Please note: many in-person services and programs have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Township Senior Services** is still operational and delivering essential services, including transportation for dialysis or other urgent medical appointments; delivery of shelf-stable and frozen meals; care management from qualified case managers; and the information referral line. Call Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060 for assistance.

### Seeking Senior Outreach Coordinator

River Forest Township is seeking a Senior Outreach Coordinator (SOC) to start effective **6/1/2020**. This part-time hourly position coordinates the Township's day-to-day efforts to help serve River Forest's older adults. The SOC works closely with the Township Supervisor in the areas of programming, outreach, and constituent service. The SOC plays a strong liaison role with the Township's partners such as Township Senior Services, River Forest Public Library, the Celebrating Seniors Coalition and the Village of River Forest. Work experience and/or education in gerontology, social work or related field is strongly recommended. For more information, please [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan by **5/10**.

## Social Services and Mental Health Resources

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local social service and mental health agencies have stepped up to continue serving those in need, by telehealth or other remote means:

- Click [here](#) for an updated version of the COVID-19 Social Services Guide.
- Call 708-622-8535 to access Township Youth Services social workers, who are offering support to youth and families by phone.
- Text 844-670-5838 to reach Support4U, an anonymous, confidential texting service available 24/7 for middle and high school students. Students connect with a licensed clinician regarding issues like depression, anxiety, substance use, etc. OPRF High School students text CARE; Roosevelt students text SAFE.
- Click [here](#) to visit "the HUB" for an extensive list of online resources related to mental health, food, and other social services.

These programs are offered and funded by River Forest Township and other local health-related organizations.

## 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](#)

