



## 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 May. Here's hoping you have enjoyed the return to warmer weather and all the season brings.

Please join me in thanking the River Forest Park District, Sustainability Commission and the approximately 175 volunteers who participated in the Earth Day events in April including a recycling event and the Des Plaines River Cleanup. As a result of their efforts 3,500 pounds of garbage and 5,800 pounds of scrap metal were collected. Thank you for working to keep River Forest sustainable and beautiful!



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## Here's What Happened During the Village Board's April Meetings

Trustees adopted the budget for the new fiscal year that begins on May 1. For the eighth consecutive year, the Village's spending plan - totaling \$29.874 million - is balanced, thanks to the diligence of a lot of talented individuals who are committed to preserving the vibrancy of our community while keeping our expenditures in check. The Board of Trustees and I would like to thank Village Administrator Eric Palm, Finance Director Joan Rock, department heads and the Village Board's Finance Committee, chaired by Trustee Carmela Corsini, for their hard work. For more about the budget, click [here](#). To give you a few highlights:

- The Police Department has budgeted nearly \$25,000 in training for continual training of its officers in the areas of crisis intervention, civil rights, cultural competency, use of force, procedural justice, and more.
- The Village will invest over \$2.2 million in the streets, sidewalks and alley improvements to enhance the drivability, walkability, and stormwater drainage in River Forest. The Village devoted additional funds to complete two alley improvement projects this year.

River Forest units of government and the Community Center board have committed themselves to participate in a study that will look at the feasibility of renovating, remodeling or building a new center at its present location or somewhere else in town. A request for proposal for the study will be issued soon, and results are expected back by the end of the year. This is an unprecedented collaboration that will benefit the needs of multiple governmental and community interests. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

Trustees adopted a resolution supporting a lawsuit to fight the opioid epidemic facing our community and the nation. There will be no cost to the Village. [Click here to read the resolution.](#)

### Here's What's Coming Up.

In "green" news, the Village and its Sustainability Commission have partnered with the River Forest Park District to offer garden plots for rental at the Community Garden, which is located at the corner of Jackson and Berkshire. You can register to rent up to three plots at the River Forest Park District administrative office,

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411 Thatcher Ave., from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, until May 15. Visit the [Community Garden Program](#) website to learn more about rental fees and more.

There is still time to submit an application for the 2018 [Historic Preservation Awards](#) from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2013. The nominated structure need not be in a historic district and may be a residential (single family or multiple unit), commercial, public/institutional or religious structure. Nominations must be received on or before May 25, 2018. Awards will be announced at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on June 22. To apply, [click here](#).

We hope to see you at the 93rd annual Memorial Day parade on **Monday, May 28**. The event will step off at 9:30 a.m. from Constitution Park, travel south on Ashland Avenue to Lake Street, then west to Keystone Park. A free hotdog lunch will top off the day. Our Grand Marshall will be Robert F. Berg, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1969. A lot of hard work goes into planning this grand event, which is sponsored by the Civic Association of River Forest, the River Forest Parks Foundation, the River Forest Park District and the Village. Individuals and businesses can still enter a float; to find out more, click [here](#). To learn more about the parade, click [here](#).



### Stay Up-to-Date on Current Events

For at least the next two months, 1st Avenue between Lake Street and Washington Boulevard will remain closed due to construction by the Union Pacific Railroad. During this time, IDOT has rerouted 1st Avenue north and southbound traffic along Roosevelt Road and North Avenue to Harlem Avenue. While the detour routes are intended to direct traffic to other IDOT maintained roads, there will likely be some increase in traffic on our streets during this time. Please read more by clicking [here](#).

The process to create a TIF District on North Avenue continues. Residents with questions and concerns about the North Avenue TIF District are encouraged to visit the [webpage](#) devoted to [reports](#) and other material.

I would like to update you on recent key development activity within River Forest. There are planned development projects proceeding through the Village's application process. Those projects include a commercial and residential mixed use building

at the southwest corner of Lake and Lathrop and a senior living building with assisted living and memory care services at the northwest corner of Chicago and Harlem. Residents can stay up-to-date by visiting the [Village's website](#) and viewing the [Development Review Board's](#) meeting packets. The complete planned development applications will also be available online at least 15 days before a public hearing is held on these applications.

The Village continues to alert residents to announcements about crime, construction, other important activities and events. Please "Like" our [Facebook page](#) and [sign-up](#) to get that information e-mailed right to your inbox.

On behalf of the Village Board, I wish a warm and wonderful Mother's Day to all. Congratulations to all college graduates who will be starting on a new journey this month.

Regards,



Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## **Safe Walking Routes to School and Bicycle Master Plan Study Questionnaire**

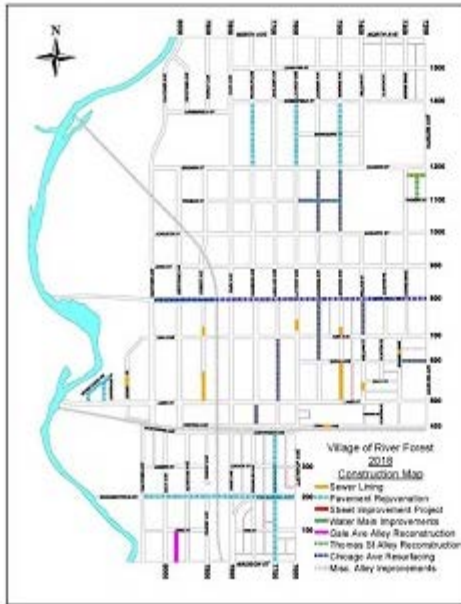
The Village of River Forest and River Forest School District 90 are jointly sponsoring a study to map the safest walking routes to the schools in the Village. The Village is also developing a Bicycle Master Plan. Please take a moment and [click here](#) to complete a questionnaire. Your responses will be of tremendous value and the survey is anonymous.

## **Village Construction Projects**

The Village has updated our Construction page ([www.vrf.us/construction](http://www.vrf.us/construction)) on the Village website to include an interactive map and periodic updates for each of the ongoing construction projects this year. An interactive map showing all projects and periodic updates can be found by clicking on any one of the project links in the right-hand margin. A PDF map showing all projects can also be seen or downloaded by clicking on the main map instead of one of the project links.

## Public Works Construction & Engineering

Each year the Village budgets for infrastructure improvements throughout the community. The map below shows an overview of upcoming construction. Click on the individual projects to the right to see specific project details and updates as well as an interactive version of the map below.



- Curb & Sidewalk Replacement
- Street Maintenance
- Street Improvement
- Dale Avenue Alley
- Chicago Avenue Resurfacing
- Sewer Lining
- Water Main
- Thomas Street Alley
- Miscellaneous Alley Improvements

### Historic Homes II

Village of River Forest Historic Preservation Commissioner Al Popowits presents a narrated presentation highlighting eleven historic and architecturally significant homes in River Forest. This is the second installment in a series of presentations given by Mr. Popowits. Please [click here](#) to watch the video. For more, please visit [vrf.us/historicpreservation](http://vrf.us/historicpreservation).

### Cook County seeks Applicants for 2018 Silver Star Banner Program

Annually, the Cook County Board President and Board of Commissioners honors the Silver Star Families of America. This event was initiated in 2008 to recognize the service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or became ill while serving in a war zone.

Residents are asked for assistance in identifying and honoring service members and veterans from Cook County who qualify to participate. For an application, [click here](#).

### River Forest Service Club – Armed Services Registry

The River Forest Service Club continues to collect information about River Forest residents or their loved one's military service for the purpose of recognizing those individuals before and during the annual Memorial Day parade. If you or your loved one has served or is currently serving in the Armed Services, please [click here](#) to visit the Service Club's website and register your information.

In order to recognize these individuals during Memorial Day events, please submit information on or before May 12.

## All Contractors Must Be Licensed

All contractors performing work in the Village must be licensed and bonded, including landscape contractors. To obtain a license a contractor must provide the Village with proof of insurance and a surety bond. The insurance protects property owners in the event that the contractor damages the property or if a worker is injured. The surety bond acts as a guarantee that the contractor will perform work in accordance with Village code and other applicable regulations. For more information, and to view a list of contractors currently licensed in the Village, [click here](#).

## River Forest Police Department - Did you know?

### Pets and leashes

Walking dogs without a leash is unlawful in River Forest. Per village ordinance 8-3-6, all dogs must be leashed when using any public street, sidewalk, parkway, public area or unenclosed premises within the village." Also, leashes should not "be longer than eight feet in length."

Although any River Forest Park District park is considered a "public area", village ordinance 8-13-7 further reinforces that dogs (and cats) must be leashed while in any River Forest parks. Also, any person who brings dogs or cats into the park system must pick up and remove any and all solid waste. Disposal of any solid waste is prohibited in any park district waste receptacle.

### Bike Helmets

All children under the age of 16 must wear a helmet while riding a bike in River Forest. Per village ordinance 9-4-8, "Every person under the age of sixteen years shall wear a properly fitted and fastened protective helmet that meets the standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing Materials and/or the Snell Memorial Foundation, Inc., whenever that person is: 1) riding or being carried on any bicycle or any carrier attached to or pulled by a bicycle upon any public street, sidewalk or bicycle path; and 2) riding a motorized scooter or motorized skateboard (neither of which are eligible to be licensed under the Illinois vehicle code) upon any public sidewalk."

During annual assemblies and classes at the elementary and middle schools, students are reminded of the ordinance and also the physical dangers of riding without a helmet. Finally, as an added incentive, students are told that they may be awarded a coupon for a free Slurpee® by an RFPD officer if they are observed wearing a helmet while riding their bike. RFPD has partnered with 7-11 for "Operation Chill" for over 10 years and are pleased to announce that we have again partnered together to provide the free Slurpee® coupons to children wearing their helmets while riding their bikes in 2018.

### Railroad Property

Per Illinois State law (625 ILCS 5/18c-7503), it is illegal for anyone to be upon railroad property (which includes the rails, embankments, bridges and access roads) unless using it for a legitimate purpose such as fare-paying passengers waiting on a platform or crossing it at a designated location like sidewalks and

public streets. River Forest has two railways that intersect our town; Union Pacific which runs East-West south of Central Ave, and Canadian National which runs North-South from the 7800 Block of Madison to the 1100 Block of Thatcher. Not only is it unlawful to be upon either of these railways but it is also very dangerous. Due to the sporadic, low-volume of traffic on the Canadian National tracks, some people mistakenly believe that they are "abandoned" or not in use but they are.

## Message from School District 90

### District 90 Acknowledges Staff Appreciation Week

District 90 will be commemorating Staff Appreciation Week, which is May 7-11. The District's teachers and staff continue to provide the high-quality instruction that is student-centered and rigorous. Please take a moment to thank a teacher or school staff member as you reflect on the effect teachers have had in your life.

### Student Registration for 2018-19 School Year is Open

District 90 families should have received information about registering students for the 2018-19 school year. The registration invitation will come from the email address, [powerschool@district90.org](mailto:powerschool@district90.org). If families have more than one child attending District 90 schools, they will receive a separate email for each student and will need to register each child. Please visit the District 90 website for a schedule of the required forms, fees, and documents required for registration. Register before June 15 to receive the Early Bird Discount on school fees.

### D90 Recognized for 25 Years of Sound Fiscal Stewardship

For the 25th year, District 90 has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE) from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. The award is in recognition of District 90's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year 2017. The District's participation in the Certificate of Excellence program for the past 25 years is a testament to its commitment to transparency, high-quality financial accountability, and sound fiscal stewardship of taxpayer resources.

## Imagine OPRF wants YOUR input!



Imagine OPRF is the community-led group creating a long-term facilities plan for the high school. Prior to beginning initial discussions with the Board about recommendations, we are holding community feedback meetings as concepts are considered and refined. Please plan to attend! We have two time options, with the same content at each session. Meet in the OPRF South Cafeteria, 201 N. Scoville Ave. [Click here](#) for more details.

- Saturday, May 19, 9:30 AM
- Monday, May 21, 7:00 PM

## GREEN NEWS

## Share your Opinion

The Sustainability Commission is asking residents to fill out a [brief questionnaire](#) to gain a better understanding of what residents already know about sustainability in the village and help guide the future direction of the commission. The questionnaire will be open until May 18.

## No plastic bags in Curbside Recycling Bins

Please do not place your recycling in plastic bags. Recyclables should be emptied loose into your bin. No flimsy plastic should be placed in your curbside bin only rigid plastic. Watch [this video](#) to see what happens when flimsy plastic ends up at the recycling facility.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Sustainability Commission is Tuesday, May 8, 7pm at Village Hall, 400 Park. All are welcome to attend.

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

The Library is on Instagram! Follow us [@riverforestpubliclibrary](#).

Here are some program highlights for the month of May. For a complete listing of programs, please visit the Library website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](#)

## Adults

**Saturday, 5/5, 2-3:30 PM, Rise and Shine Disney and WWII**



Film instructor Jason Sperb discusses Disney's vital-but now forgotten-contribution to the war effort as a prolific producer of hundreds of educational, industrial, and propaganda films during the Second World War--an effort which not only helped save the country but also the studio that would go on to be an American cultural institution. Sperb will show film clips during the presentation. Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

## Gather, Discover, Engage - Monthly Programming for Seniors

This trio of monthly programs is geared especially to seniors and older adults with the goal of providing opportunities for social connection, lifelong learning, and culture.

- **Coffee Mondays, 10-11 AM, 5/7**



- **Connect with Tech Wednesdays**, 10-11:30 AM, 5/9
- **Film Lover Fridays**, 12-2:30 PM, 5/18 (*The Philadelphia Story*)

**Sunday, 5/20, 2-4 PM, Author Visit: William Hazelgrove and *Forging A President*, Adult**

National bestselling author William Hazelgrove will share the story of Theodore Roosevelt's time in the Wild West as a cattle rancher and deputy sheriff and how it shaped the man who would eventually become President of the United States. Mr. Hazelgrove is also the author of *Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson*. He will sign copies of his books following the lecture. Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

**Teens and Tweens**

**Sunday, 5/6, 2-3:30 PM, Family Frosting Fun, Grades 5+ with Adult**



The only thing sweeter than a decorated cake is knowing you decorated it yourself. Join librarian Dorothy for an exploration of the basics of hobby cake decorating. Grab your apron! [Advanced registration required.](#)

**Friday, 5/25, 11:30 AM-1 PM, Bring Your Own Lunch & Movie, Grades 5-8**

Bring your own brown bag lunch and chow down while watching a fun film.

**Children**

**Monday, 5/21, 4-5 PM, Snack Attack, Grades K-4**

Learn how to make a fun seasonal snack at this after school cooking program. [Advanced registration required.](#)

**Friday, 5/25, 10-10:30 AM, Water Safety Story Time, Birth-6 years**

Join experts from Foss Swim School to learn about water safety with stories, rhymes, tips, and more. Ages birth-6 years with caregiver.

**PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

**Party in the Park - Keystone**



**Thursday, May 17, 6 PM - 7:30 PM, Keystone Park**

MR MEYERS will perform! Join us for Caribbean night complete with leis and a limbo contest! Dance to the tropical sounds of Mr. Meyers' unique style of Caribbean Rock, which blends calypso and ska, the rhythms of reggae, and a little rock-n-roll with some favorite classic tunes. Entertaining for all, young and old!

In addition to the live entertainment, there will be face painting, a balloon twister, grilled hot dogs, and frozen treats. Free! For All Ages. \*\*Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

### **Register Now for Summer Camp!**



With over 40 different summer camps to choose from, we have something for everyone!

In addition to our popular half-day morning camps (Tot Camp, Kidz Camp, and Ultimate Sports Camp), we offer a large variety of afternoon specialty camps ranging from sports and fitness to STEAM, cooking, and art. For the older kids, we offer Thrill Zone, a field-trip based camp for kids ages 10-14.

Our 2018 Summer Camp Guide is available online. [Click here](#) to check out our large variety of fun summer camps.

## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

### **Announcing the "Support4U" Program**

A new program is being introduced this month to students at Roosevelt, Brooks and Julian Middle Schools and OPRF High School called "Support4U". Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource for students, by which they can text licensed mental health clinicians for assistance or guidance. While students can initiate a text conversation on any issue, some of the matters that students might wish to address could include anxiety, depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, eating

disorders, bullying, abuse, or any other mental health-related topic.

Support4U is anonymous and available to students 24/7. We thank Districts 90, 97 and 200 for their support of this program on behalf of their students.

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](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

## **Mental Wellness Screenings on May 18**

Friday, May 18 is National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day. Township Senior Services is hosting free mental wellness screenings from 9 AM - 2:30 PM at the Township Senior Services building, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Local agencies, police and other resources will be on hand to share information with seniors related to mental wellness. Light refreshments will be served. Come tour the building, which is open to seniors from both Oak Park and River Forest.

This event is sponsored by River Forest Township, Oak Park River Forest Township Senior Services, Oak Park Community Mental Health Board, and Concordia University.

## **Seniors: Come Play Pickleball!**

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 at a specially designated time at the Tennis and Fitness Centre of Oak Park River Forest, 301 Lake Street (Lake and Ridgeland), Oak Park, **Thursdays, noon-2:00 PM through May 24**. 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 [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org) with questions.

## **"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs Continue**

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

- **Saturday, 6/2, 2 PM** – Edu-tainers Jenny Riddy and Elizabeth Doyle share stories and songs about *Pets at the White House*

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

## **Encore Chorale Concert on May 12**

Encore Chorale of Oak Park/River Forest will hold its spring concert, "Goin' Home: A Celebration of American Folk Song",

on **Saturday, May 12, 4 PM**, at Concordia University's Buchanan Chapel. Admission is free. Encore is a national choral organization for adults aged 55+, led by music professionals. Don't miss this wonderful event featuring adults from our community. New session starts in September. For more info, visit [www.encoreillinois.org](http://www.encoreillinois.org).

## **Township Senior Services Needs Your Input!**

Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services is seeking information from older adults, their families and caregivers, community partners, and those who work with older adults. We feel that gathering input from all of these groups will allow for a holistic view to help us shape our vision for Township programs and services moving forward.

Please help us by completing [this brief survey](#) by June 5.

If you need a paper copy of the survey, please call Cathaleen Roach, Senior Outreach Coordinator, 708-771-6159 x234.

## **Seniors: Review Your Utility Bills**

Seniors: Representatives from the Citizens Utility Board will be on hand to review your current utility bills and discuss ways to reduce them. Friday, May 18, 10 AM – noon, at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, River Forest. Please bring your most recent electric, gas and phone bills. To register, call Steven Smith, 708-383-8060 x 117 by May 17.

## **Seniors: Start the Month with Coffee Mondays**

Coffee Mondays continue at the River Forest Library on the **first Monday of the month at 10 AM**. Co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **May 7** – Learn to swim or take a refresher class...the new Foss Swim School in Elmwood Park will share about its swim lesson curriculum for all ages.

## **Seniors: "Gather, Discover, Engage" in Re-vamped Township/Library Programs!**

River Forest Township and River Forest Public Library are partnering to re-vamp two successful current senior programs and one new senior program, under the umbrella "*Gather, Discover, Engage*", **starting in May**.

- *Connect with Tech*, where seniors can receive assistance with tablets, e-readers, smartphones, and laptops, will move to the **second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM** (program was previously offered weekly). **Monthly Connect with Tech starts May 9**.
- A new program, *Film Lovers Friday*, will meet on the **third Friday of each month at noon**. Seniors can bring a lunch and watch a film, with beverage and dessert provided. The genre through August is

"Classic Movies from the 40's", starting with *The Philadelphia Story* on **May 18**.

*Gather, Discover, Engage* programs are free, meet at the River Forest Public Library and are open to seniors from all communities. Call 708-366-5205 for more information.

## **Support Groups for Who Have Lost a Loved One to Suicide**

Two monthly drop-in support groups are held in River Forest for those suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. Groups are run 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 the month, 6-7:30 PM. Next meeting May 17.**
- **Adult Support Group:** For adults 18 and over, **third Monday of the month, 6-8 PM. Next meeting May 21.**

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

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

## **Seeking New Members on the Township Youth Services Committee**

River Forest Township is looking for energetic and passionate River Forest residents to fill openings on the volunteer Oak Park and River Forest Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). 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 interested, please email River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan at [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org) or call 708-366-2029.

## **Seeking a New Member on the Township Senior Services Committee**

River Forest Township is seeking a River Forest resident to fill a vacancy on the volunteer OPRF Township Senior Services Committee (SSC). The SSC has an advisory role to Township Senior Services and develops and implements senior-related projects in the Oak Park-River Forest community. Experience with seniors or senior services is a plus but not required. The SSC meets the third Wednesday of most months at 7 PM. If interested, please email River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan at [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org) or call 708-366-2029.



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