

# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | July, 2025



## E-Scooter Safety in River Forest: What You Need to Know

**E**-scooters are becoming a popular and eco-friendly way to get around, but it's essential for riders - and parents - to understand and follow key safety guidelines. In River Forest, E-scooter use is regulated by State and local laws to help keep all road users safe.

### Important Safety Guidelines

These scooters can only be operated by individuals 18 years of age or older, and they are prohibited on roads with speed limits over 35 miles per hour, as well as on State highways. Riders should always 1) wear a helmet, 2) ride solo (no passengers), and 3) stay off sidewalks.

Additionally, E-scooter users must follow all traffic laws, including stopping at stop signs and yielding to pedestrians. When riding at night, a bright white front headlight and a red rear light or reflector are required. Riding under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Responsible riding keeps everyone safe. Whether you're considering an E-scooter for yourself or a family member, knowing and following the rules is critical to prevent accidents and create a safer community for all.

Additional information about E-Scooters can be found on the last page.

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## From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

I'd like to take a moment to thank our Village's first responders for their outstanding community outreach efforts over the past week. Their dedication goes far beyond emergency response and plays a vital role in strengthening the bonds within our community.

- The Police Department participated in the annual Torch Run for Special Olympics to raise funds for this invaluable organization.
- The Fire Department partnered with Concordia University to support a summer camp for students exploring careers in healthcare and emergency medical response.

Find information on other community engagement activities coming up involving both departments on page 4 of this newsletter.

Also, on page 4 you will read about a very important Public Hearing the Village will be conducting on **July 10 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Community Room at Village Hall**. The hearing will focus on proposed upgrades to Priory Park.

Just a reminder: as sprinklers run to keep us cool and our lawns green, it's a great time to keep an eye on your water usage and your water bill. The Village is committed to helping residents conserve water and reduce costs through **WaterSmart**, a free and user-friendly online tool launched in 2023. You can monitor real-time water use, receive leak alerts, and track billing information. If you haven't signed up yet, visit the **[WaterSmart website](#)** and get started today.

Lastly, please note that Village offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President  
Village of River Forest

## Village Board Trustees



**Erika  
Bachner**



**Kathleen  
Brennan**



**Lisa  
Gillis**



**Megan  
Keskitalo**



**Robert  
O'Connell**



**Respicio F.  
Vazquez**

## Village Clerk



**Rosa  
Castellano**

To contact the  
Village Board  
to submit a  
comment or  
question, click the  
button below

[Contact the  
Village Board](#)



# Front Desk FAQs

Answers to the most recent, frequently asked questions from community members.

**Question: Will normal refuse services occur on July 4th?**

**Answer:** No. Lakeshore Recycling Systems observes the 4th of July holiday. Service will be delayed by one day.

**Question: When does my 2024-2025 vehicle sticker expire? When do I have to purchase the 2025-2026 vehicle sticker to avoid a late fee?**

**Answer:** The 2024-2025 vehicle sticker expires on July 14, 2025. You must purchase the 2025-2026 vehicle sticker before this date to avoid late fees.

**Question: I dropped off a check for a vehicle sticker in the green mailbox outside Village Hall. How often is this box checked and when should I receive my vehicle sticker in the mail?**

**Answer:** The green mailbox outside Village Hall is checked every morning by Village staff. We handle the payments and will send your vehicle sticker in the mail via USPS. It can take up to a week for your sticker to be delivered. Please be patient but do give us a call at **708-366-8500** if you do not receive your sticker in the mail after two to three weeks, a replacement will be mailed to you.



## RF Team Member Spotlight

### Police Commander Martin Grill

**When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

I knew at a young age I wanted to get into policing, so I followed my interests and went to the Indiana Law Enforcement Police Academy while I was a full-time student at Indiana University in Bloomington.

**What's your most hated household chore?**

I definitely don't like doing laundry. Thankfully my wife says I am not allowed to do it anyway.

**If salary weren't a factor, what would be your dream job?**

I think it would be fun to play on the PGA Tour...Unfortunately, my game won't allow that.

**What position do you hold, and in what circumstances would a resident come to you for something?**

I hold the rank of Commander. You may come to me with Freedom of Information Act questions regarding police operations. You can also reach out to me when planning special events that require a police presence at **708-366-7125**.



## Village Departments in Action

So much goes on behind the scenes as Village employees deliver services to the community.

### Fire Department/Concordia Partnership

Last week marked the second session of the ENVISION Nursing Camp at Concordia University, offering local students a hands-on introduction to the medical field. Supported by a State grant, the camp featured realistic simulations in emergency and hospital care, including procedures like intraosseous placement, pleural decompression, intubation, suturing, and medication administration.

Led by Fire Department personnel and Concordia nursing faculty, the camp provided a dynamic, supportive environment for exploring healthcare careers. With continued grant funding, ENVISION remains a valuable opportunity for high school students to gain real-world medical experience and life-saving skills.





## Quarterly Community Safety Meeting



Residents are encouraged to attend the upcoming Quarterly Community Safety Meeting hosted by the Police Department on Wednesday, July 30 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the **Village Hall Community Room** and will also be accessible via Zoom for those who prefer to join remotely. Attendees will hear updates on local crime trends, public safety tips, training efforts, and upcoming events. The meeting will conclude with an open forum for community member questions, comments, and concerns. For more information and Zoom meeting details, click [here](#).

## Fire Department Blood Drive

Help make a life-saving difference - donate blood at the upcoming Fire Department blood drive on Saturday, July 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Village Hall on the apparatus floor. Walk-ins are welcome, but scheduling an appointment is recommended. For details or to reserve your spot, click [here](#), then click "Donate," enter your ZIP code, and scroll to the July 26 event.



## Public Hearing on Priory Park



The River Forest Park District is proposing exciting updates to **Priory Park**, including the addition of a splash pad, a picnic shelter, and an expansion of the Priory Center. Residents are encouraged to learn more and share their feedback at the upcoming **Development Review Board meeting** on Wednesday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m. at **Village Hall**. This is a great opportunity to hear about the project details and have your voice heard in the planning process.

## Age-Friendly Corner

Information, events, and resources tailored for older adults living in River Forest to stay active, informed, and connected.

### Free Senior Potluck Picnic is July 12

River Forest Township is hosting a Senior Potluck Picnic on Saturday, July 12 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at **Priory Park**. This is a free event meant to bring the senior community together and all are welcome to attend. The Township will provide catered sandwiches from Opportunity Knocks, utensils and water, and asks everyone to bring either an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. When you arrive, you'll get a name tag and a label to place with your food to indicate any possible allergens. In the event of rain, the event will relocate to the **River Forest Civic Center** Room 206. RSVP [here](#).




### Senior Fitness Walk

Join fellow seniors for a refreshing morning stroll during the Senior Fitness Walk hosted by the Trailside Museum of Natural History, and held twice monthly in **Thatcher Woods**. These free, moderately paced 1-mile walks offer a gentle way to stay active and enjoy nature. The next walk takes place on Wednesday, July 16 at 9 a.m. Registration is required and can be completed online [here](#).



# Administrative Update

Stay informed with the latest news, decisions, and initiatives from the Village of River Forest.



400 Park Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305  
(708) 366-8500

**VEHICLE STICKER APPLICATION**  
Vehicle sticker must be affixed to the lower passenger's side of the windshield by July 14th.  
Make checks payable to: Village of River Forest

OFFICE USE ONLY	Year	Make	Model	Color	License Plate REQUIRED	Amount	OFFICE USE ONLY	Sticker No.
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY						TOTAL		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address **River Forest** **IL** **60305** Apartment/Unit No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS AND SCHEDULE OF FEES ON REVERSE SIDE OF PART 1 & 2.

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## Vehicle Registration Deadline is July 14

Reminder! Vehicle stickers for 2025-2026 are now available for purchase. Updated stickers need to be affixed to windshields by Monday, July 14 to avoid late fees and citations. Please note that all vehicles registered in Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker. For more information or to purchase a sticker online, click [here](#).

## "Casual Conversation with the Village President"

Save the date for the next "Casual Conversation with the Village President" on Saturday, August 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. (location to be announced soon). This quarterly event offers residents a relaxed setting to chat with Village President Cathy Adduci and Village staff, ask questions, and discuss local topics. The upcoming conversation will include insights into the permit process for home projects, and guidance for businesses interested in building in River Forest. Stay tuned to weekly E-newsletters and the Village's social media for location details.



## Police Department

### Congratulations Sergeant Glen Czernik

The Police Department is proud to announce that Sergeant Glen Czernik has graduated from Northwestern University's prestigious School of Police Staff & Command (SPSC). This intensive 10-week leadership and management program, held from January 13 to May 23, is designed for public safety professionals preparing for senior roles.



As a member of SPSC Class #600, Sergeant Czernik completed a demanding curriculum covering leadership, human resources, organizational behavior, budgeting, and media relations. The program includes exams, projects, presentations, and a staff study research paper, with the option to earn six undergraduate credits from Northwestern University.

Since its founding in 1983, SPSC has graduated more than 22,000 law enforcement leaders. Sergeant Czernik's achievement reflects both his commitment and the Police Department's ongoing investment in professional development. His additional training and development will be a valuable asset to our Police Department and the community.

## Public Works

### Summer Infrastructure Improvements Underway!

The Village manages many projects to keep River Forest a safe, accessible, and welcoming community. The annual Street Improvement Program, partially funded by State Motor Fuel Tax dollars, was completed in May and included:

- 1,632 feet of curb and gutter replaced
- 7,756 square feet of sidewalk replaced
- 58 sidewalk ramps upgraded to meet ADA standards

Through the Curb and Sidewalk Program, the Village also replaced 21,807 square feet of sidewalk at 197 locations – improving walkability for all residents. Later this summer, street patching and maintenance work will help to extend pavement life by sealing cracks and patching, avoiding costly reconstruction. The Sewer Lining and Repair Program will utilize cleaning and camera inspections to identify needed repairs that avoid the need for major excavation. Click [here](#) for more details and updates on current projects.

## Fire Department

### Fireworks Safety Reminder

The Fire Department reminds residents that fireworks are illegal to set off in River Forest, per Village Code. Fireworks-related injuries are on the rise; in 2024 around the U.S., there were an estimated 14,700 emergency room-treated injuries and 11 reported deaths.

Make it a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and leave the fireworks to the professionals!





# Organizations Serving River Forest

## Township

To learn more about Township programs and services, click [here](#), visit the River Forest [Community Calendar](#), or email [Supervisor John Becvar](#).



### COMMUNITY MEETING ON RFCCA BUILDING - JULY 15

The River Forest Civic Center Authority (RFCCA) is the owner and manager of the building at 8020 Madison Street. The RFCCA Building currently is home to River Forest Township's offices, the River Forest Community Center, Opportunity Knocks, D200 CITE Program and more community resources. RFCCA is working to ensure the building has the needed capital to be a vibrant space for the community for the next 30 years through its agreements with the Township, Community Center, [Park District](#) and prospective tenants. Join them on Tuesday, July 15 at 7 p.m. on the second floor of **8020 Madison Street**, where all are welcome to voice their opinion on the future of the building. For more information, contact [Township Supervisor John Becvar](#).

### TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Second installment tax bills are expected to be mailed sometime this summer with a possible due date 30 days after mailing. They will also be available to view and pay online. Second installment property tax bills reflect any changes made to your assessment in 2024, as well as exemptions. **Please note** - be sure to check that your tax bill has your exemptions listed. For more specific information, visit the [Cook County Treasurer's website](#).

[riverforesttownship.org](#) - 708-366-2029 x11

## Library



Visit the River Forest Public Library [Calendar](#) to see everything happening at your Library - with events and activities for all ages.

### Upcoming Adult Programs at the Library

#### Saturday, 7/19, 2-3:30 p.m.: Antiques Appraisal with Rex Newell

Back by popular demand, antiques dealer Rex Newell returns to the [River Forest Public Library](#) to share his expertise and appraise the value of your vintage treasures. Each attendee may bring one item for evaluation. Please arrive by 2 p.m. to submit your item before Rex begins his presentation. Please note - Rex does not appraise Asian antiques, Native American antiques, or any type of firearm. This program requires [registration](#) and is offered in partnership with the River Forest Township.

#### Thursday, 7/24, 7-8 p.m.: Summer Concert Series: Le Travaillant

Join the [River Forest Public Library](#) for a lively evening of music under the summer sky. Le Travaillant will bring the sounds of French-speaking Louisiana to River Forest with their energetic mix of Cajun, Creole, and zydeco music. Whether you're ready to dance or just want to relax and enjoy the rhythms, this concert promises a fun, festive atmosphere. Some seating will be available, but feel free to bring your own lawn chair for comfort. In the event of rain, the concert will move indoors to the second floor of the Library. Learn more [here](#).

[riverforestlibrary.org](#) | 708-366-5205

## Park District



River Forest Park District

### Food Truck Rally

Join the River Forest Park District for a fun-filled evening at the Food Truck Rally on Friday, August 22, from 5 to 9 p.m.! Sponsored by the Village, the River Forest Park District, and the Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest, this exciting community event will take place at the Depot Parking Lot and [Keystone Park West](#). Enjoy a variety of delicious eats from food trucks, and there will also be a beer tent for adults. Families can look forward to live entertainment, inflatable attractions, and fun activities for all ages. It's the perfect way to celebrate summer with neighbors and friends. Don't miss out on this night of food, fun, and community spirit! Learn more [here](#).

[rfparks.com](#) | 708-366-6660

## District 90



Students, staff, and families honored the important achievements of students this school year with celebrations at Lincoln Elementary, Willard Elementary, and Roosevelt Middle Schools. Pictured at Lincoln, fourth-graders took center stage on their last day by participating in the school's annual Maypole performance, drumming showcase, and final clap-out.

[district90.org](#) | 708-771-8282

## District 200



### Huskie Interns Gain Real-World Experience with Geothermal Project

Construction of 240 geothermal wells beneath the Oak Park and River Forest High School football field is not only powering the Imagine OPRF Project 2, but also providing hands-on experience for two students. Senior Connor Czerniawski and junior Isabella Kessel secured paid internships with Veregy, the school's geothermal contractor.

Connor has been passionate about the environment since childhood and finds fulfillment in contributing to meaningful projects. "This summer we're going to help analyze the school's energy use and find ways to improve efficiency," he shared, "Knowing we're leaving a positive legacy is really rewarding".

Isabella values the internship's variety. "We've met with teams from engineering to marketing and even interviewed construction workers on site," she explained, "It's helped me see the many career paths available beyond traditional project management".

Both students say the experience has influenced their career goals. Connor plans to study environmental engineering at the University of Illinois in Chicago with a clearer view of the industry. Isabella, once focused on botany, now sees environmental science as a more impactful path. "This internship showed me how sustainability can be applied practically and how it can truly benefit the community," she said.

Their internships highlight how school partnerships with industry can offer students not only knowledge, but a vision for their future.

[oprfs.org](#) | 708-383-0700



# Community Update



## E-SCOOTERS IN RIVER FOREST

The Village is prioritizing education and encourages responsible electric scooter use to help protect all roadway users. Ride smart, stay alert and do your part to keep River Forest safe.

### WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER?

- A device with two or three wheels, handlebars and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding.
- Weighs less than 100 pounds, powered by an electric motor and/or human power and has a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour.

Any device 750W and above is **PROHIBITED**  
Check the watts!



### E-SCOOTER LAWS HAVE CHANGED

- A new Illinois state law (P.A. 103-0899) went into effect on August 9, 2024, banning the use of e-scooters unless authorized by local ordinance.
- The Village of River Forest will soon adopt an ordinance to allow e-scooters with state-required safety regulations and local restrictions.
- The Village does not have authority to adopt local regulations less restrictive than the state law.



### KEY RULES FOR E-SCOOTER USE

- Riders must be 18 or older, per Illinois State Law.
- E-scooters may only be used on public roads with speed limits of 30 mph or lower and fewer than four lanes.
- Riding on sidewalks is not permitted.
- Only one person is allowed per scooter.
- E-scooters must have a working brake, a white front light and a red rear reflector or light for nighttime use.



### PROHIBITED AREAS

Electric scooters are not permitted in the following locations:

- Roads with posted speed limits above 30 mph or four or more lanes
- Roads or sidewalks/locations where posted signs restrict scooter use.



### SAFETY REMINDERS

- ✓ Wear a helmet
- ✓ Look both ways before riding through any kind of intersection
- ✓ Walk your e-scooter in crowded areas & downtown
- ✓ Be respectful of others
- ✓ Avoid distractions



## Juneteenth River Forest



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Social Media



Sign Up For Email and Alerts



**River Forest Events**



## Village Contact Information

Village Administration  
708-714-3563

Village Administrator  
Matt Walsh

Finance Department  
708-714-3524

Director Rosemary McAdams

Fire Department  
708-714-3560  
Chief Tom Gaertner

Public Works  
708-714-3551

Director Jack Bielak

Police Department  
708-714-3540  
Chief Jim Greenwood

Emergency  
Services  
Dial 911

400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305  
708-366-8500  
708-366-3702 (fax)  
Monday - Friday 8a.m. – 4:30 p.m.