



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | July, 2024



Lead Pipe Survey Reminder

The Village is working to identify and ultimately remove all lead water service lines in the Village and help is needed from the community! Residents are asked to take a short survey [here](#) as part of a commitment to meet the requirements of the Illinois Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act. This survey will assist the Village in identifying and eventually eliminating any lead piping within our water supply network. So far, we've received feedback on about 500 service lines, but we need your help!

The Replacement and Notification Act requires that annual lead service line inventory replacement plans be submitted every April for the next three years. The Village is currently finalizing year one replacement locations in River Forest. Priority is given to high-risk locations and those where only the customer side needs replacement, which

will minimize street openings and allow us to address more services. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important initiative to update and improve water lines that deliver this vital resource in town!



In This Issue

Village President.....	2
Village Board of Trustees....	2
News Around Town.....	3
Department Updates.....	4
Business Spotlight	5
Sustainability.....	5
Local Organizations	6-7
Juneteenth Photos.....	8
Village Contacts.....	8



From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

Unplug Illinois Day is on Saturday, July 13, and encourages all citizens to disconnect from their electronic devices, and instead, enjoy time with family and friends. Activities you may want to consider are a visit to [Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center](#) for a show, take a [Wellness Walk](#) at the Forest Preserves of Cook County, or tour one of our community's historic properties. The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission has developed an interactive map that highlights these properties, complete with their locations and brief histories. You can view the interactive map [here](#).

Homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of the Village are invited to apply for a Historic Preservation Award. Nominations are due Friday, July 26. For detailed information on how to apply, please click [here](#).

As a reminder, Village offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. There will be no refuse collection on July 4; that collection will take place on Friday, July 5. For a list of fireworks displays, please refer to the article in this newsletter, with times, dates and locations.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President
Village of River Forest



Saturday, July 13th



Village Board Trustees



**Erika
Bachner**



**Kathleen
Brennan**



**Lisa
Gillis**



**Ken
Johnson**



**Robert
O'Connell**



**Respicio F.
Vazquez**

Village Clerk



**Jonathan
Keller**

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

[Contact the
Village Board](#)

News Around Town

Flamingo Fridays Return

Flamingo Fridays return! It's a great way for neighbors to connect and have fun this summer. Each week, a new host puts the flamingo on their lawn to signal they're hosting this event on a Friday. The host provides the space, a table, and an ice bucket or cooler so those who attend can bring their own beverages. Attendees should also bring their own cups and snacks. It's that simple and all are welcome! Volunteer to host a Flamingo Friday and learn more [here](#).



Fourth of July Fireworks Displays

Looking for a place to watch fireworks this year? The city of Berwyn will be hosting fireworks at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 3 at **Morton West High School** and the Village of Elmwood Park will be hosting fireworks on Thursday, July 4 at 9:30 p.m. at **Elmwood Park High School**. For additional firework displays in the Chicagoland area, click [here](#).



Back-to-School Physical and Dental Exams

School registration is approaching, and proof of physical and dental exams is required by Tuesday, October 15 for children entering kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grades. Physicals are also needed for young people to join a sports team, or to transfer schools. Children entering kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 9th grades will also need a dental exam. For more information or to schedule a physical, dental exam or both, call **The Children's Clinic in Oak Park** at 708-848-0528 or visit childrensclinicwi.org. Medicaid is accepted, but please note that appointments fill up fast.

A graphic for a back-to-school health event. It features two circular inset photos: one of a doctor examining a child and another of a child with a parent. A yellow circular badge with the text 'Get Ready for a Healthy School Year!' is positioned above the photos. Below the photos, the text reads: 'SCHEDULE YOUR CHILD'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL PHYSICAL and DENTAL EXAM NOW Call 708-848-0528'.

Lion King On the Lawn!

Join the Maywood Fine Arts Association for an unforgettable performance of "The Lion King The Musical," brought to life by the talented students of the Summer Performing Arts Intensive. They've dedicated their time and passion to singing, dancing, drumming, acting, prop design, costume creation, and much more.

On Thursday, July 11, there will be FREE performances at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Thatcher Woods Pavilion, 8030 Chicago Avenue in River Forest. This is an outdoor show with no seating. Please bring your lawn chair or beach blanket and carve out your spot on the lawn. This spectacular show is free and open to all ages. Don't miss out on this magical event!



Village Department News

Village Administration

Vehicle Registration

Reminder! Vehicle stickers for 2024-2025 are available for purchase and need to be affixed to windshields by 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](#).

Police Department

Fireworks Safety and the Law

The purchase of certain types of fireworks may be legal in some neighboring states, but they remain illegal to use or possess in Illinois. In addition to them being illegal, fireworks contain gunpowder, making their use dangerous in uncontrolled settings without professional expertise. In 2023, 108 people in Illinois were injured due to fireworks. One third of those injured suffered multiple injuries according to the Illinois State Fire Marshal.



Serious injuries associated with fireworks include burns, blindness, and other injuries from the heat, explosions, flames, and projectiles that fireworks produce. River Forest ordinances prohibit any person from using, selling, delivering, exploding, or possessing fireworks in the Village all year (425 ILCS 35 / IL Pyrotechnic Use Act). The term "fireworks" includes firecrackers, cherry bombs, M-80's, bottle rockets, and Roman candles. If you purchase large fireworks in a neighboring state and bring them back to Illinois, you are violating Interstate Commerce Laws, and local ordinances.

The Police Department will thoroughly investigate all fireworks complaints. If someone is found to be in violation, the items in question will be confiscated and the person(s) involved will be arrested and/or charged when appropriate. This applies to both adults and minors.

Contact Officer Megan Drake with the Crime Prevention Unit at 708-366-7125 ext. 343 or e-mail mdrake@vrf.us if you have any questions regarding fireworks laws.

**AS ALWAYS - FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

Public Works

Summer Construction

Each summer, the Village works on a variety of construction projects to maintain and improve infrastructure to make River Forest a great place to live and work. Residents can expect recurring projects annually, such as street patching/resurfacing, sidewalk replacement, and sewer maintenance/repair.

The Village's Street Patching and Maintenance programs help to prolong the service life of pavement by patching defective areas or by applying preservation materials and sealing cracks. Doing this minimizes costly repairs, too. Pavement condition rating identifies roadways that need resurfacing as part of the Street Improvement Program. Not performing regular roadway maintenance eventually results in total pavement failure and requires reconstruction, which is significantly higher in cost

than resurfacing. These projects are funded in part by Motor Fuel Fund tax dollars, which are distributed by the State to municipalities based on population.

The Sewer Lining and Point Repair programs improve the sewer system and help to prevent costly repairs due to failing sewer mains. Portions of the sewer system are cleaned and televised annually. These videos help staff examine the conditions of the sewer network and determine which sections are in need of lining or partial replacement. Sewer lining is an effective way to repair damaged pipe and avoid open excavation, sidewalk destruction, or digging up trees

The Curb and Sidewalk program consists of the removal and replacement of defective curb and sidewalk throughout the Village. The Village is divided into three regions which are surveyed by region on a three-year cycle. Repairing damaged sidewalks is vital to keep walking in the Village safer, more convenient, and more enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. Click [here](#) for more information about the Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program.

Visit the Village's construction page [here](#) for more details on these capital projects and project updates.

Fire Department

Stay Safe in Hot Weather

A reminder to residents that in the coming months, the extreme heat can be deadly. Do not ever leave children, older adults, or pets in parked vehicles. Even with the windows slightly open, temperatures can rise 20-30 degrees in as little as 20 minutes. Even when not traveling, please be wary of children entering parked vehicles as tragedies have occurred where children enter a vehicle on a hot day and then cannot get out.

Other Hot Weather Safety Tips:

- Be aware of the dangers of alcoholic and caffeinated drinks during the summer months, which can lead to dehydration.
- Avoid overexertion and other strenuous activities when possible. It may not be the best idea to go play activities such as pickleball during midday when temperatures are extreme.
- Drink two quarts of water at least, daily.
- Be aware of heat, cramps, exhaustion and strokes. For more information on these heat related illnesses and how to combat them, click [here](#).

For information on cooling centers in your area, click [here](#).

Please also note: Due to a rise in drowning accidents in the Chicagoland area, the Fire Department has issued safety precautions for swimming in pools and while at the beach. Please click [here](#) for tips on staying safe while swimming.



Golf Outing

St. Vincent Ferrer Golf Outing

Save the date for St. Vincent Ferrer's (SVF) annual golf outing on Friday, August 9 beginning at 9 a.m. at the [Indian Boundary Golf Course](#) in Chicago.

This event is presented by the SVF Athletic Board, and registration is now open. To learn more, click [here](#).



<https://one.bidpal.net/svfgolfouting2024>

SVF Athletic Board Presents

SVF GOLF OUTING

09 AUGUST 2024 || 9:00 AM SHOT GUN START

Indian Boundary Golf Course
8600 Forest Preserve Drive, Chicago

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Post Round Party
2-5 PM
D'Agostino's
3131 Thatcher Avenue
River Grove

- FOURSOME
- INDIVIDUAL GOLFER
- 19TH HOLE
- HOLE SPONSORSHIP



Business Spotlight



The Chicago Christian Counseling Center has been a trusted and reliable source for mental health services for more than 45 years, with offices located throughout Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana - including in River Forest. Out-patient mental health counseling is available for individuals, couples and families. For more information, call 708-845-5500 or click [here](#).

Please support local businesses whenever possible! If you have a business located in River Forest with a valid business license, it can be featured in the Village's business spotlight through weekly E-newsletters and on its social media channels. If you'd like your business to be featured, please send us an [email](#). You can find a listing of River Forest businesses on the Village's [Shop River Forest website](#).

Sustainability



Take the Plastic Free Challenge to Reduce Waste!

Plastic is everywhere, from food packaging and beauty supplies, to cleaning detergents and beverage bottles. According to the United Nations Environment Program, plastic production worldwide has grown from about 2 million tons in 1950 to more than 400 million tons today - and is expected to more than double by 2050.

Plastic Free July encourages small changes to reduce plastic waste. Millions of participants from more than 190 countries join each year by refraining from using single-use plastics to positively impact the environment. In the past five years, approximately 22 billion pounds of household waste has not been created, contributing to cleaner streets, as well as healthier oceans and communities.

For Plastic Free July, the Plastic Free Foundation asks individuals to avoid using one single-use plastic item or pledge to not use plastic cups, bottles or food wrap. Residents can refill reusable water bottles or cups, or switch to using reusable containers. You can sign up to take the Plastic Free July Challenge [here](#). More tips on how you can reduce your plastic consumption can be found [here](#).

To reduce plastic waste locally, the Village adopted a Single-Use Plastic Ordinance in 2022, which requires local businesses to only hand out single-use foodware for take-out and delivery orders at the customer's request.

As always, please explore the River Forest Sustainability Commission's [Guide to Sustainable Living](#) for more tips on how sustainable living tips can be incorporated into busy lives.

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](#).

SHIP Counseling Available at River Forest Township (NEW!)

The Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) offers free consultations for those wishing to discuss their Medicare needs with a trained specialist. In-person appointments are now available on select Fridays each month (June 28, July 26, August 30 are the next few available) at the [Township offices](#) for River Forest residents, in addition to phone appointments. Advance appointments are required and usually last one hour. Call 708-383-8060 for more information.

Need a Ride to the Oak Park Farmers Market?

The Township transportation bus can take River Forest seniors and individuals with disabilities to the Oak Park Farmers Market between the hours of 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. for a \$1 suggested donation. The farmers market takes place every Saturday from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. through October 26. Located in the [Pilgrim Church](#) parking lot, participants can enjoy locally grown and sourced produce, along with monthly events. Call 708-383-4806 to reserve your curb-to-curb ride.



Save 40% With Township Taxi Coupon Program

River Forest Township offers River Forest seniors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to save 40% with their Taxi Coupon Program. For \$6, residents can get ten (10) \$1.00 coupons towards cab fare. One coupon booklet per resident per month allowed; and payments are taken by cash or check only. Booklets are available at [River Forest Community Center](#) and at [Village Hall](#).

Second Installment Tax Bills

Second installment property tax bills have been mailed late the past several years due to delays with the Cook County Assessor's Office. Second installment property tax bills will be mailed out on time this year with a due date of Thursday, August 1. This tax bill will reflect changes from the 2023 reassessment. Tax bills will become available online to view, print, or pay. Click [here](#) to visit the Cook County Treasurer's Website.

Does your second installment property tax bill reflect all your exemptions? If you think you may be missing an exemption, contact the [River Forest Township Assessor's Office](#) immediately for assistance.

Does your mortgage company pay your property taxes? Once tax bills are available, it may be time to have a conversation with your mortgage company to review your escrow payments. With your total property tax liability for 2023 determined, you can calculate your 2024 first installment property taxes due in March 2025 (total 2024 taxes owed x 55%). For any questions, contact the [River Forest Township Assessor's Office](#).

riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Park District

Party in the Park

Join the River Forest Park District for their Thursday "Party in the Park". The next event will be held Thursday, July 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. at [Keystone Park](#). Bubble Guy Scott Ingerson, a balloon artist, will be there and grilled hot dogs, chips, and dessert will also be available throughout the event! Live music will be provided by The DYNAMIX - the ultimate classic cover band - will be playing some of the greatest hits from the 50's-80's. The band includes a full horn section, a powerhouse female lead, and an unforgettable sound to get any crowd up and moving for the entire night! This event is free for all ages. It is recommended that those who attend bring a blanket or lawn chair. Learn more [here](#).



rfparks.com | 708-366-6660

Library

Visit the [calendar](#) to see everything happening at the Library. There are events and activities for all ages. Below are some highlights:

Saturday, 7/20, 2-3:30 p.m.: Antiques Appraisal, Adult:

Rex Newell, an antiques dealer with more than 20 years of appraisal experience, will be at the Library to inspect your old possessions and give a presentation on trends in the antiques industry. [Registration](#) is required if you plan to bring an item for appraisal, and spectators are also welcome. **Please note:** Rex does not appraise Asian antiques, Native American antiques, or firearms of any kind.



Tuesday, 7/23, 10:30-11:15 a.m.: ZAP! Story Time at Brookfield Zoo with Mr. Jose, Ages 0-10:

Join Mr. Jose and staff from Brookfield Zoo for a very special story time all about animal movement! The ZAP! Storytime at the Zoo will take place at the [Hamill Family Nature Plaza](#). Families without Brookfield Zoo memberships can visit the Children's Room to receive two free zoo admission passes for the event, while supplies last. Brookfield Zoo admission is FREE for children ages two and younger.

Thursday, 7/25, 7-8:30 p.m.: Outdoor Concert Series: Petra van Nuis Quartet (Jazz), Adult:

The Library will present outdoor concerts in their garden on the fourth Thursdays of July and August. This month features acclaimed jazz vocalist Petra van Nuis and her band (including keyboard, upright bass and drums). Petra, a leading figure in the Chicago jazz scene, has performed worldwide over her musical career. "All About Jazz" magazine praised her music as atmospheric and creatively substantial. Limited seating is available; attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. In case of rain, the concert will move indoors to the Library's second floor. This event is held in partnership with River Forest Township.

riverforestlibrary.org | 708-366-5205

Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest
High School



Roosevelt
Middle School



Willard
Elementary School



Lincoln
Elementary School

District 90

District 90 Summer School



District 90 Schools offer a variety of classes to students in Kindergarten through eighth grade during Summer School. During Friendship Club with Ms. Haley Strahler, children used scissors, glue, and magazines to design collages about themselves and then discussed them as a group - building connections with one another.



District 90 staff and families celebrated all of the 8th grade graduates during the Roosevelt Middle School Commencement Exercises in early June. Ahead of the ceremony, the class gathered with caps and gowns for a full-class photo in the North Gym.



District 90 also honored faculty and staff for their years of service during the June Recognition and Retirement Celebration.

district90.org | 708-771-8282

District 200

Project 2 Construction Is Underway

In early June, more than 50 community members came together to help celebrate the high school's groundbreaking for Imagine Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) Project 2. The second of the district's 5-phase Master Facility Plan, Project 2 will replace the southeast corner of the building, which was built in 1928 for girls' physical education.



The conditions, configuration and capacity limitations of the century-old space made it insufficient for today's students. The replacement facilities will feature larger, flexible-use gyms, including a 25-yard x 40-yard pool, boys, girls, and all-gender locker rooms. Additionally, there will be improvements to some of the performing arts spaces, the addition of a geothermal heating and cooling system and more.

Click [here](#) to learn about the details of Project 2, including all the facility improvements, how the school is working with its neighbors during the project, and how curricular and extracurricular programming is being adjusted to best serve students during the two years of construction.

To track the project expenditures in real time, click [here](#). This dashboard provides transparent details of the project by construction bid, and will be regularly updated as the District works to ensure it stays on time and under budget, just as it was for the recently completed Track and Fields Project.

For community members who do not have students at OPRFHS, perhaps the biggest change you'll notice, other than the construction itself, will be that the 100 block of Scoville Avenue directly in front of the school will be narrowed during construction. Instead of its current two lanes with parking on the west side of the street, it will shift to one lane with no room for street parking. The parking garage, however, will still be available throughout construction.

oprfs.org | 708-383-0700

Juneteenth Celebration Photos

Juneteenth 2024



Follow the Village on
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 and
Development Services
708-714-3551
Director Jack Bielak

Police Department
708-714-3540
Chief James O'Shea

Emergency
Services
Dial 911

400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305
708-366-8500
708-366-3702 (fax)
Monday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday- Friday 8a.m. – 4:30 p.m.