



# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | November, 2024



## Village Receives Sustainability Award

On October 29th, the Village was recognized by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) at the **12th Annual MWRD Sustainability Summit**. On behalf of River Forest, Village President Cathy Adduci was presented the award for Excellence in Promoting Green Infrastructure, recognizing the Village's work in modernizing our alleyways with permeable pavers. Throughout the Village, 35 alleyways have been reconstructed to allow stormwater runoff to permeate through the pavers in the middle of the alley, rather than run off to the sides and impact neighboring residential properties. The permeable pavers allow for runoff to infiltrate into a storage layer of stone (under the pavers) to help prevent ponding. Perforated pipe was installed under the permeable pavers to allow some stormwater to be conveyed into the sewer system during extremely heavy rain events. This project has relieved the flooding of alleyways and adjacent properties, as well as reduced the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewer to be sent to the MWRD treatment plant in Stickney, Illinois.



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## From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall colors in River Forest. Our Village is really a sight to see when all the leaves are falling. It's also hard to believe it's already November and the holiday season is just around the corner!

At Monday's meeting, the Village Board unanimously voted to amend the Village code for regulating Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. The new rules require charging infrastructure for new commercial construction and create standards for new stations. This follows a recent grant awarded to the Village to install six EV stations in municipal parking lots. More information on the Village's EV Readiness Program can be [found here](#).

The Village Board also discussed potential restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers in River Forest. The discussion followed months of work by the Sustainability Commission collecting input from local landscaping firms and research from other cities and villages. To provide feedback on potential leaf blower restrictions and help contribute to the Village's other sustainability priorities, please complete a [quick survey](#)!

Lastly, please join me at my upcoming quarterly Casual Conversation on Saturday, November 23 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the River Forest Library. All community members are invited to attend and ask any questions, or provide feedback on Village operations, including current or future initiatives.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President  
Village of River Forest



## 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

### Museum Bus Tours in November

Oak Park River Forest Museum and Visit Oak Park will be hosting two different bus tours starting at the Museum, located at 129 Lake Street in Oak Park. On Sunday, November 10 a two-hour Black History Tour will take place through Oak Park, River Forest and Maywood - and will explore key sites and the contributions of African Americans in the area. On November 24, a Hometown Legends Tour will include the childhood homes of stars like Dan Castellaneta (the voice of Homer Simpson) and Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's, among others during this two-and-a-half-hour tour. Both tours begin at 1:30 p.m. and seating is limited - so reserve your spot today at [oprfmuseum.org](https://oprfmuseum.org).



**Join OPRF Museum for two bus tours!**

**Black History Tour**  
Sunday, Nov. 10

**Hometown Legends Tour**  
Sunday, Nov. 24

Details at  
[OPRFMuseum.org](https://oprfmuseum.org)

Visit OAK PARK

OAK PARK RIVER FOREST MUSEUM

### Parent University is on November 16

District 200 and River Forest Township are proud to co-sponsor Parent University on Tuesday, November 19, at 6 p.m. at Oak Park River Forest High School. Come for an informative evening of resources and sessions designed to help nurture your adolescents' and teens' mental health, and empower yourself with knowledge and tools to support your children's mental wellness journeys. This free event is open to all parents and caregivers of students in surrounding area schools (public and private). **Register** and be eligible to win a free copy of one of the keynote speaker's books!

This free event is open to all parents and caregivers.



**D200**  
MENTAL WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE

**Parent University**  
Fall '24

**REGISTER TODAY**

**Nov. 19, 6:00PM-8:30PM**  
Oak Park and River Forest High School  
201 N Scoville Ave, Oak Park

Scan for the full program schedule and speaker info

In today's fast-paced world, nurturing our students' mental health is more crucial than ever. Join us for an informative evening of presentations designed specifically for parents seeking to support their adolescents' and teens' mental health.

### Local Spotlight Artist Display - November

Meet the artist on Thursday, November 14, 6:30-8 p.m.! Head upstairs to the Library's exhibit area to view work by local artist and River Forest resident, Jenny Kelly. Her work will be on display throughout the month of November. The exhibit will feature her Chicago Series, which is a union between two of her favorite subjects on a canvas: cities and dogs. Jenny is a self-taught artist and works exclusively with oils on canvas. She started drawing and painting as a young child, and says she is most drawn to beauty in the everyday; especially in cities where life is always interesting and changing, though sometimes also chaotic! Learn more about Jenny at [jennykellyart.com](https://jennykellyart.com).





# Village Department News

## Village Administration

### Have a Casual Conversation with the Village President

Join Village President Cathy Adduci for her quarterly Casual Conversation event on Saturday, November 23 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. at the River Forest Public Library. All community members are invited to attend and ask any questions, or provide feedback on Village operations, including current or future initiatives. This event was created to build stronger relationships between Village leadership and residents, by providing an informal setting for open conversations. **Please consider attending!**

## Police Department



### Holiday Safety Tips

As the holiday season approaches, some may be making plans to travel and spend time with family and friends, and others may be staying in town to celebrate the season. With bustling travel schedules, holiday package deliveries, festive celebrations and more, the Police Department reminds community members to take precautions to protect yourself and your home from potential threats. See essential home safety tips below to keep in mind for the holiday season.

- ★ **Secure all Entry Points:** Lock all doors and windows and consider reinforcing them with deadbolts or security bars.
- ★ **Install a Security System:** Purchase a home security system with cameras and alarms.
- ★ **Set up Timed Lighting:** Use outdoor motion lights or timers for indoor and outdoor lights to create the illusion of occupancy.
- ★ **Mail and Deliveries:** If you're traveling, arrange for a neighbor or friend to collect mail and packages or put a hold on mail delivery. Even if you're staying in town, ensure you are home when packages are delivered, or arrange to pick them up.
- ★ **Notify a Trusted Neighbor:** Inform a neighbor about your travel plans and ask them to keep an eye on your property.
- ★ **Avoid Social Media Announcements:** If you're traveling or out for the evening, don't post updates on social media until after you return to avoid alerting potential burglars.
- ★ **Keep Valuables Out of Sight:** Store valuables in a safe place, away from windows and visible areas, and consider a safe for important documents.
- ★ **Install Smart Home Devices:** Use smart doorbells, cameras and smart locks that can be monitored remotely to receive alerts if there is unusual activity around your home.
- ★ **Remove Climbing Aids:** Ensure items like ladders, outdoor furniture, or tree branches are not left near your home, as these can provide easy access to second-story windows.
- ★ **Prepare for Weather:** If traveling during inclement weather, arrange for someone to check on your home and address any issues like snow removal, leaks or blocked vents. Also, prepare an emergency kit for your vehicle if you're staying local, to include a blanket, food and water, and a first aid kit. More safety kit tips can be found [here](#).

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

### Monthly Incident Summary

Each month, the River Forest Police Department creates a monthly incident summary. These are available for viewing on the Village website. In addition, the Department creates monthly reports to thoroughly detail all department activities. This also includes staff trainings, crime statistics and notable events and arrests. The reports are included in the Village Board's monthly meeting packets and are [available here](#). The Department also hosts Quarterly Community Safety meetings to answer questions about crime trends and share information about community partnerships



## Fire Department



### Holiday Food and Cooking Safety Tips

Thanksgiving is a cherished occasion for gathering with family and friends, but it also is the time of year with the highest incidence of home cooking fires. To ensure a safe holiday, please consider the following guidelines:

#### Maintain Vigilance in the Kitchen

- ✿ Never leave cooking food unattended.
- ✿ Utilize timers on your phone to prompt regular checks on your dishes.
- ✿ Keep flammable items at a safe distance from heat sources.

#### Deep Fry Turkeys Outdoors

- ✿ Conduct deep frying on an **OUTSIDE** stable, flat surface, that is away from flammable materials.
- ✿ Ensure the turkey is fully thawed and dry to prevent oil splatter which could cause burns.

#### Prevent Food Contamination

- ✿ Wash your hands thoroughly before, and after handling food.
- ✿ Use a meat thermometer to confirm all dishes are properly cooked.
- ✿ Promptly refrigerate leftovers to avoid spoilage.



### Holiday Season Parking Reminders

With colder weather coming at some point there will likely be snowfall. Please remember that there is no parking on Village streets for eight hours following a snowfall of 2" or more. Also, when guests are parking at your home for holiday celebrations, request that they park on the same side of the street, so they don't obstruct emergency vehicles if they need to get through your neighborhood.



## Village Department News

### Public Works

#### Leaf Pickup has Begun!

All this month, Public Works crews will collect leaves each week. Residents can rake leaves into the street, and they should be piled near, but slightly away from the curb to ensure proper drainage during a rain event. Leaves will be collected beginning at 7 a.m. each weekday based on the below schedule. The Leaf Collection Map can be found [here](#).

- ◆ **Mondays:** Area west of Thatcher, including Edgewood, Auvergne, River Oaks and Lake, as well as all streets south of the railroad tracks.
- ◆ **Tuesdays:** All streets between William and Harlem.
- ◆ **Wednesdays:** All streets between Lathrop and Monroe (north of the railroad tracks).
- ◆ **Thursdays:** All streets between Park and Ashland (north of the railroad tracks).
- ◆ **Fridays:** All streets between Thatcher and Forest (north of the railroad tracks).

To ensure collection, please have all leaves raked into the street the evening prior to your scheduled collection day. The map outlines the collection dates scheduled for the fall. For the week of Thanksgiving, **Village staff will not be working on Thursday (11/28) or Friday (11/29); please have any leaves raked into the street at least two days prior to your usual collection day**, as Village crews will collect any excess leaf fall during the first half of the week.

**Please note:** this program allows for the pick-up of leaves only. Grass clippings, brush and any other type of material should be disposed of in accordance with the Village's [yard waste procedures](#). More information on the Village's Curbside Composting Program, including a new option to share a cart with a neighbor and split the cost, can be found [here](#). Leaves can also be mulched and raked into your garden beds to provide plants with a protective blanket in winter, conserve water year-round, and enrich the soil as the leaves decompose. Learn more about the "Leave the Leaves" initiative from the USDA [here](#).

#### Public Works is Getting the Lead Out

The Public Works and Engineering Department is working to ensure the safety and quality of our water infrastructure, and that it complies with the Lead Service Line Replacement Act, mandated by the State of Illinois. Work is being done to identify all residential water service line materials, and if they contain lead.

Residents that haven't already done so are asked to test and identify the material on the residential side of your water service lines (pipes) to determine if lead is present. For instructions, visit the following survey link which once completed, will provide this information to the Public Works Department as they work toward replacing all lead water services lines. Visit the link [here](#) or scan the accompanying QR code.



Once the Village collects this information, a plan will be developed to replace any lead service lines throughout the Village by coordinating with impacted property owners. If lead is detected in your water service lines, steps to reduce exposure and other information about this initiative can be found [here](#).

## Sustainability

### Rooftop Solar Metering Changes



#### Rooftop Solar Metering Changes Coming January 1

Under the state's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act ("CEJA"), net metering offerings will change to supply-only starting January 1, 2025. Under this law, *full retail rate net metering will no longer be available for new distributed generation customers registering for net metering on, and after January 1, 2025*. After that date, customers installing a distributed generation system will receive only energy supply credits for the excess energy generated by their system that is sent back to the grid.

Historically, ComEd has been required to provide customer bill credits for excess energy produced by residential or small commercial solar systems at the full retail rate. Energy credits from surplus power will now be applied to the supply portion of a customer's energy bill, rather than the entire bill, as they currently are under full retail net metering. As a result, monthly bill credits may be slightly reduced, though consumers will still have the opportunity to see savings by going solar. Bill credits can also now be rolled over year-over-year and last the lifetime of the installation.

Current residential solar and storage customers will continue to receive the same net metering benefits throughout the lifetime of their systems. **There is still time for new customers who can qualify for full retail net metering** for the lifetime of their system. Residential or small commercial projects still receive full retail rate net metering, as long as their system has filed a completed Certificate of Completion Application with ComEd, as well as a net metering application **before 5 p.m. CST on December 31 of this year**.

Learn about the Village's permitting process for rooftop and ground mounted solar panels [here](#). More information on the new net metering law can be found [here](#).



# 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](#).



### Coffee Monday is November 4

Join the Township for some coffee and light snacks at the River Forest Public Library on November 4 from 10 - 11 a.m. when Bianca Ingwersen, (the Adult Protective Services/Case Management Supervisor) from Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services will talk about Adult Protective Services. Learn more [here](#).

### Deadline for Township 2025 Election Petitions

The Township 2025 election petitions for the Consolidated General Election on April 1, 2025 are due in mid-November. Petitions may be turned in to Township Clerk Detmer or Township Supervisor Becvar on Friday, November 15 between noon and 2 p.m. and on Monday, November 18 between 3 - 5 p.m. Any objections to nominating petitions must be filed with the filing officer within five business days following the last day of the petition filing period. Email [clerk@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:clerk@riverforesttownship.org) for more information.



### Cars and Games for Seniors on November 18

The Township is expanding senior social programming! In addition to weekly Mahjong and monthly Zumba classes at the Community Center, the Township is hosting a seniors' card and game evening from 4-6 p.m. in Room 202. Additional social programming will begin to be offered on the third Monday of the month at the River Forest Community Center from 4-6 p.m. To share what type of programming you would like to see for seniors, email [seniors@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:seniors@riverforesttownship.org).

### First Installment Tax Bill Due in 2025

The 1st installment property tax bill payments are expected to be mailed out on-time with an approximate due date of March 1, 2025. You can plan for and calculate your first installment tax bill by multiplying your total tax bill paid in 2024 by 55%. Exemptions are only reflected on the 2nd installment tax bill, which have an estimated due date of August 1, 2025. Follow [this link](#) to the [Cook County Treasurer](#) website to view your tax history.

[riverforesttownship.org](http://riverforesttownship.org) - 708-366-2029 x11

## Park District

### Santa's Arrival & Holiday Tree Trimming

Join the Park District in celebrating the holiday season by participating in the annual Tree Trimming and welcoming Santa to town! Community businesses, organizations, and neighborhoods are invited to sponsor a tree, which will be on display along Lake Street in Memorial Parkway through the New Year. A tree with lights will be provided, and sponsors must bring and hang their own decorations. [Register your group for one of the two time slots available](#) on Thursday, November 21 from 4 - 5 p.m. or from 5 - 6 p.m. Individually wrapped cookies and hot cocoa will be provided, along with Santa's mailbox and festive music. The registration deadline is Monday, November 11!



[rfparks.com](http://rfparks.com) | 708-366-6660

## Library

**Please note upcoming closures:** The Library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, and will be closed on Thursday, November 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

### Sunday, 11/3, 2-3:30 p.m., Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle, Adult:

Museum curator Margaret Schlesinger presents an insider's view of Colleen Moore's world-famous enchanted fairy castle, on display at the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI). See the details of more than 1,500 unique miniature artifacts, learn about Colleen's life as an actress and philanthropist, and get a glimpse into the 2014 conservation project when Margaret and the MSI team preserved and repaired the nearly 90-year-old castle. This event is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

### Sunday, 11/10, 2-4:30 p.m., Global Film Forum, Adult:

Enjoy cinema from around the world, in the company of fellow global film fans. This month's film is "The Zone of Interest," winner of Best International Feature at this year's Academy Awards. The film takes place in the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust. For this screening, guests will be joined by a docent from the Illinois Holocaust Museum, who will speak about the history of Auschwitz after the film and take audience questions.

### Sunday, 11/17, 2-3:30 p.m., The Reintroduction of Native Americans into Illinois, Adult:

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with this presentation by Gerald Savage, a HoChunk Native American also known as Chief White Winnebago. He will examine the history of his tribal territory and settlements, how his family was relocated into Starved Rock, tribal names and culture, his regalia, artifacts, and more. This event is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

[riverforestlibrary.org](http://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



### Students Participate in Community Safety Program

This fall, students at District 90 Schools learned about safety on buses and bicycles, fire safety and more, with River Forest Crime Prevention Officer Megan Drake and Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley during an interactive Community Safety Program.

## Board of Education Townhall Meeting

Roosevelt Auditorium

Monday, November 4th



### Board of Education Town Hall Meeting on 11/4

Attend the Board of Education Town Hall Meeting on District 90 Finances, Monday, November 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Auditorium at 7560 Oak Avenue. The meeting will include an overview of the District Operating Fund Financial Projections, followed by an opportunity for community members to ask any questions.

### Coffee with Board of Education Members on 11/20

Engage with one or two District 90 Board of Education members in an informal setting on Wednesday, November 20 from 6-7 p.m. at the District Office, located at 7776 Lake Street (enter under the cupola). All are welcome!

[district90.org](http://district90.org) | 708-771-8282

## District 200

### District Earns Top Marks for Financial Management

District 200 recently received excellent news about its financial status: S&P Global gave the District a credit rating of *AAA plus* - its highest rating of *Strong* for the District's financial management. Only six, or 0.7%, of Illinois' 852 school districts have earned this distinction. The exemplary rating is based on a number of factors, including:

- ✦ **Excess levy capacity.** Since 2013, District 200 has opted to levy \$77 million less in property taxes than it was permitted to collect by the state's tax-cap laws.
- ✦ **Structural budgetary balance.** The District's practice of building zero-based budgeting—rather than starting with what was spent in the past—leads to greater accuracy: Fiscal year 2024 came in at 99.2% of budgeted revenues and 98.1% of budgeted expenses.
- ✦ **Operating surpluses.** The District's policy requires cash reserves of 25% - 50% of operating expenses. Five-year projections show the District at a 29% fund balance at the conclusion of fiscal year 2029, which includes drawing down \$44.2 million from cash reserves to help fund Imagine OPRF Project 2, currently under construction to replace the century-old physical education facilities.
- ✦ **Low to moderate debt burden.** The District 200 Board recently approved issuing up to \$46.5 million in debt certificates to help fund Project 2. The District's only debt obligation, it will be paid back from the annual budget over 20 years, without adding an extra debt levy on top of the annual inflation-based levy.

"I am extremely proud of the rating the district received," said Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Tony Arbogast. "To achieve such a high rating while also lowering our fund balances is a testament to the work and foresight this district puts into being fiscally responsible."



[oprfs.org](http://oprfs.org) | 708-383-0700



# Congratulations to this year's Historic Preservation Award winners!



**KEITH STROM & LISA RODRIGUEZ**  
**LAUREL MCMAHON RESTORATION AWARD**

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

This property has received a Historic Preservation Award from the Village of River Forest Historic Preservation Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals to preserve the historic character of our Village. Structures are recognized in five award categories: Restoration, Renovation, Streetscape, Adaptive Reuse, Architectural Details, and Award of Merit.



To learn more about the Historic Preservation Commission and the awards program, scan the QR Code or visit the Village's website at <https://www.vrf.us/guides/guide/11>



**ANDREW AND LAURA MAYCHURK**  
**STREETSCAPE COMPATIBILITY AWARD**



**WILLIAM & JENNIFER DUGAN**  
**RENOVATION AWARD**



**ALEX MILLING & BOB DOLEHIDE**  
**RENOVATION AWARD**



**RIVER FOREST**  
*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

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**  
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.