

# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | October, 2025



## Fall Leaf Collection Begins October 13

There's nothing like the beauty of crisp fall air and leaves drifting from the trees. As the season arrives, the Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program begins on Monday, October 13. Once the program starts, residents should rake leaves into the street (close to, but not directly against the curb) which helps prevent drainage issues during rain. Before collection begins, the street sweeper will clear any leaves already placed in the street.

Leaf collection runs through the first week of December and the collection schedule (Monday through Friday) is available [here](#). Please note this program is for leaves only; grass clippings, brush, and other yard debris should be disposed of according to the Village's [refuse and yard waste](#)

**guidelines.** Residents interested in sustainable options can learn more about the [Village's Curbside Composting Program](#), which offers a cost-sharing cart option, or explore the ["Leave the Leaves"](#) initiative for an eco-friendly alternative.



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## From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

**A**t the **October 13 Village Board meeting**, two agenda items may be of interest to residents and I hope to see you there if you'd like to be part of the discussion.

- **Term Limits** - The Board will continue its discussion, with the Village Attorney providing responses to questions Trustees raised at the September meeting.
- **Audit** - An auditor will highlight the budget planning and forecasting that has enabled the Village to remain financially sound.

Have you heard about the Village's Fall Photo Contest? Showcase your creativity and you could win an award! The deadline to submit entries is Wednesday, October 15. Click [here](#) for more information, contest rules, or to submit your entry.

Along with Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson and Oak Park Village President Vicki Scaman, I recently participated in a panel at the **Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4)** Mayoral and Community Forum. Conversations focused on sustainability and climate change challenges. I'm proud of River Forest's leadership on this initiative and look forward to continued partnerships with our neighboring communities.

Lastly, while registration for the **Tour de Proviso** tomorrow (Saturday, October 4) has closed, residents can still take part in a **Community Fair** after the ride on the south lawn of **Oak Park Village Hall** from 9 a.m. to noon. I'll be there, so be sure to stop by and say hello!

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:** I received a notice in the mail that I need to purchase a vehicle sticker. I no longer own the vehicle that is listed. What should I do?

**Answer:** Please call the Village at 708-366-8500 and be prepared to provide the plate number, make, and model of the vehicle. The Village will remove the vehicle from our records to ensure you do not get a ticket.

**Question:** I have an old smoke detector that I would like to dispose of; does the Village offer disposal?

**Answer:** Yes! Residents are welcome to dispose of old smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on the second floor of Village Hall, in the yellow bin at the top of the stairs (pictured right).

**Question:** With leaf collection beginning soon, how can I dispose of other yard waste?

**Answer:** As mentioned in the front-page article of this newsletter, leaves (only) should be raked into the street. All other yard waste must be placed in yard waste bags with a yellow Lakeshore Recycling Systems sticker for collection on Tuesdays through the first week of December.



## RF Team Member Spotlight

**Jack Bielak**  
Director of Public Works  
& Engineering

**What services does the Public Works Department provide for the community?**

The department is responsible for maintaining the Village's public infrastructure, which includes roadways, sidewalks, the water distribution systems, and snow plowing. We are also responsible for infrastructure planning and design for future maintenance and improvements.

**What caused you to pursue a career in public service?**

I value the responsibility and diversity that comes with managing public infrastructure. As a Village engineer, I can work across multiple disciplines - traffic, water resources, structural, civil, and geotechnical - depending on the issues that arise, rather than focusing on just one area.

**What is the most exciting part of your job?**

I enjoy being in the field with team members and contractors as we work to resolve real time problems to serve our community.



## Village Departments in Action

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

### Public Works at Your Service

Last week, a water main break occurred at Gale Avenue and Washington Boulevard. Public Works quickly secured the area, and the Village's repair contractor replaced the failed section of a 12-inch transmission main. Service disruption was minimal, though nearby residents experienced reduced water pressure.

The repair was complicated by the break's location beneath a mature oak tree. Despite efforts to save it, the tree's stability was compromised and it had to be removed.

The water main is now fully operational, and Public Works will complete permanent surface repairs in the coming weeks.



## Public Hearing Notice

The Village is considering updates to the Tree Preservation Ordinance, which could affect homeowners planning to remove large oak or elm trees (20"+) from their property. Under the proposed changes, a replacement tree would need to be planted to help preserve the community's tree canopy. Oaks and elms provide shade, improve air quality and support a healthier environment, which makes these adjustments an important discussion for the community. The Public Hearing will be held Thursday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. at **Village Hall**. Attend the meeting to learn more, ask questions, and share your feedback. Learn more [here](#).



## Quarterly Community Safety Meeting



Mark your calendars for the upcoming Quarterly Community Safety Meeting on Wednesday, October 22, at 6 p.m. at **Village Hall**. These meetings bring residents and the Police Department together to strengthen communication, share resources, and work collaboratively to keep our community as safe as possible. Attendees will hear updates from police and community partners, and learn about Village safety programs. The evening will wrap up with an open forum, and give residents the chance to ask questions and provide input and feedback. More details can be found [here](#).

## Next "Casual Conversation"

### SAVE THE DATE!

Residents are invited to the next "Casual Conversation with the Village President" on Saturday, November 15, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the **River Forest Civic Center Authority Building**. This informal gathering offers community members a chance to interact directly with Village President Cathy Adduci and Village staff members to learn more about Village operations, ask questions, and share feedback in a casual, relaxed setting.



## Age-Friendly Corner

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

### Senior Fitness Walk

Seniors are invited to join a gentle, moderately paced 1-mile walk on Wednesday, October 15, at 9 a.m. as part of the Senior Fitness Walk series, hosted by the Trailside Museum of Natural History. The free event takes place at **Thatcher Woods Pavilion**. Registration is required - call 708-366-6530 to sign up and enjoy a morning of fresh air, light exercise, and community connections. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Library Home Delivery

Home delivery is available for River Forest residents who are temporarily or permanently unable to visit the River Forest Public Library due to illness, disability, lack of transportation, or other circumstances. To qualify, you must have a valid River Forest Public Library card. Learn more or register [here](#).



## Police Department

**Trick-or-Treat on Friday, October 31 | 3-7 p.m.**

**Halloween safety tips from the Police Department:**

- ◆ Wear reflective costumes or add reflective tape; carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- ◆ Choose safe costumes that fit well and use face paint instead of masks.
- ◆ Inspect candy and discard anything with broken seals or unusual packaging.
- ◆ Stay on sidewalks and use crosswalks, avoid cutting across yards or streets.
- ◆ Parents should be with young children and encourage older kids to go in groups.
- ◆ Don't enter anyone's home and only visit houses with porch lights on.
- ◆ Drive cautiously; slow down and be extra alert in residential areas.
- ◆ Be respectful to neighbors and decorations on their property.

**Happy Halloween! Stay safe and enjoy the spook-tacular fun!**

**TRICK OR TREAT**  
**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 31**  
**3-7 PM**

## Sustainability

### **International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste**

September 29 marked the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, established by the UN in 2019 to call attention to reducing food waste. When food ends up in landfills, it produces harmful methane gas; composting prevents this while creating nutrient-rich soil.

The Village offers a [Curbside Composting Program](#), with subscription fees ranging from \$13.90 to \$18.04 per month depending on cart size - and neighbors can share a cart and split the cost. Public composting carts are available at [Village Hall](#), the [Public Works Garage](#), and the [Water Pumping Station](#) for small drop-offs. Accepted materials include food scraps, compostable paper products, and certified compostable items.

Residents can cut food waste by planning meals, using "imperfect" produce, storing food in clear containers to keep track of what's in the refrigerator, and repurposing or freezing leftovers.

## Public Works



### **Upgraded Sidewalks and Intersection Ramps**

Over the past two years, the Village has replaced 1,060 sidewalk squares and upgraded 186 intersection ramps - an increase of 57% compared to previous years. The new ramps are fully ADA compliant, and enhance walkability and accessibility across town. Thanks to grants from Cook County, a portion of these improvements were funded without added cost to local taxpayers. This is one example of how the Village continually manages and maintains infrastructure throughout River Forest.

## Fire Department

### **Fire Department Open House Recap**

Nearly 450 residents attended the Fire Department's annual September Open House! Families enjoyed activities for all ages, including the popular "Touch-A-Firetruck," an ambulance tour, and operating a real fire hose to put out a simulated fire. A highlight was the fire sprinkler demonstration, showing how quickly sprinklers can stop a fire with minimal damage. The Police Department connected with neighbors as Public Works entertained children with their vehicles, while guests enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn, and the ever-popular Famous Fire House Punch.

The Fire Department thanks River Forest Township, the nonprofit Creating Aquatic Safety Team (CAST), and Concordia University's Nursing Program for their support and volunteer efforts—and all who attended to make the event a great success!



# 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](#).



### Parent Pop-Up Event October 8

Learn how AI is shaping your teen's world and how you can support their mental health, set boundaries, and guide safe, positive use. This free, in-person workshop for parents and caregivers takes place immediately before the [Junior College + Post Secondary Planning Night Parent/Guardian Night](#) on Wednesday, October 8 - which starts at 6:30 p.m. at [Oak Park River Forest High School](#). No need to pre-register. Just show up before 6:30 p.m., grab some snacks, and see how you can support your teen!

### Free Pickleball Classes Return

The Township is offering free pickleball classes once a month now through March of 2026 for older adults who reside in River Forest, at the [River Forest Civic Center Authority building](#). Advanced registration for each afternoon session, along with a participation waiver is required. Register by emailing [Seniors@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:Seniors@RiverForestTownship.org) - or learn more [here](#)

## Assessor

### Second Installment Tax Bill Update

The Tax Year 2024 Second Installment Property Tax due date has not yet been announced by the Cook County Treasurer's Office. When the tax amounts are finalized, the Township Assessor will be able to print and mail the bills.

Check the following website for further updates: [cookcountytreasurer.com/](http://cookcountytreasurer.com/)

[riverforesttownship.org](http://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.

### Saturday, 10/4, 2-4 p.m.: Paper Shredding Event, Adult

If you have sensitive documents that need secure disposal, bring them to the River Forest Public Library parking lot for a community paper shredding event. Each person can bring up to three boxes of documents. Please **do not** include binder clips, hanging file folders, photos, or any metal larger than a paperclip. This event is presented in partnership with River Forest Township.

### Digital Library Card

Don't need another card in your wallet? A full access digital library card is now available! A digital card now gives you the same Library access as a physical card. Learn more [here](#).

### Leave a Legacy With a Garden Plaque

Have you visited the Library Garden lately? You'll find beautiful new signs that share the heartfelt stories behind some of our commemorative garden plaques. Want to share your own story? Plaque donations support the River Forest Public Library Foundation and help the Library thrive for future generations. Learn more [here](#).

[riverforestlibrary.org](http://riverforestlibrary.org) | 708-366-5205

## Park District



River Forest Park District



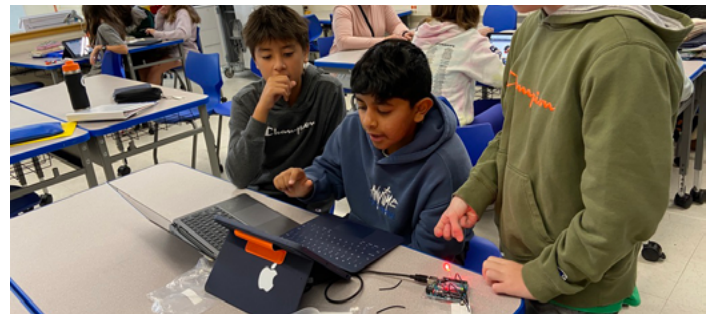
### TONIGHT! Hoot & Howl

Don't miss the annual Halloween Hoot'n Howl at [Keystone Park](#)! Hosted by the River Forest Park District in partnership with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Trillside Museum, **this free family-friendly event is happening tonight - Friday, October 3, from 5 - 7 p.m.**

Designed for children 10 and under (adult supervision is required), the evening will be packed with fall fun - including hayrides, inflatables, live music, a costume contest and so much more. Come in your favorite Halloween costume and enjoy a spooky, fun-filled night with the whole family! Get more information [here](#).

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

## District 90



**Roosevelt Middle School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2025-2028, honored for its innovation, leadership, and educational excellence in technology. It is one of only two schools in Illinois to receive this distinction this year.**

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

## District 200



### Fast Facts: OPRF High School Summer Sports Camps

Construction in the Oak Park River Forest (OPRF) High School stadium and athletics facilities didn't stop another busy season of sports camps - check out the offerings, activities and some other facts!

- ◆ Number of different sports offered: 21
- ◆ Most popular: Football
- ◆ Total number of K-12 participants: 2,242
- ◆ Number of sessions: 53
- ◆ Number of camps with limited slots: 1 (Golf)
- ◆ Earliest camp start time: 6 a.m.
- ◆ Latest camp start time: 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Cost per session: \$50 - \$300
- ◆ Summer 2026 registration: Late February/early March 2026

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

# IML Conference & Golden Trumpet Award

## Village President Adduci Sits on Panel for Award-Winning Community Engagement

At last month's Illinois Municipal League Conference, Village President Cathy Adduci took the stage to moderate a panel on the Village's Neighborhood Dialogue series. She was joined on the panel by Rick Jasculca of Jasculca Terman Strategic Communications and Village Administrator Matt Walsh, who shared their firsthand experience utilizing this unique community engagement approach that encouraged open dialogue in neighborhoods around the Village last fall. The panel sparked strong interest among city and village leaders across Illinois, who asked thoughtful questions about how small-group, in-person conversations can build stronger connections and more meaningful dialogue with residents.

The Village's Neighborhood Dialogue initiative not only gained statewide attention at the conference, but also was recently honored with a Golden Trumpet Award from the Chicago Publicity Club, recognizing its success as a model for nontraditional community engagement.



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**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.