



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | September, 2025



Tour de Proviso - Get Involved!

The sixth annual **Tour de Proviso community bike ride** will take place on Saturday, October 4, hosted by the villages of Forest Park, Oak Park, and River Forest. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. at **Oak Park Village Hall**. There will be a 20-mile bike ride starting at 8 a.m. and the 7-mile family ride beginning at 8:30 a.m. This event is free and open to all cyclists of all ages and skill levels to enjoy a morning of fitness, community, and connection. You can register to ride [here](#).

The Tour de Proviso is made possible with the support of dedicated volunteers, and many roles are available to get involved - from event setup and participant check-in, to vendor assistance and raffle support. Sign up [here](#) to volunteer or register to ride and help make this year's Tour de Proviso a success!

In addition to the ride, the Village of Oak Park will host a Community Fair from 9 a.m. to noon on the south lawn at **Oak Park Village Hall**. It will highlight area businesses, local organizations and elected leaders. Local organizations interested in having a table at the Community Fair are encouraged to reach out to **Paola Garibay**, Oak Park Neighborhood Partnerships Administrator, at **708-358-5407**.

The Tour de Proviso began in 2020, and was founded by Mayor Katrina Thompson of Broadview as a way to encourage wellness and togetherness during the pandemic. It has since grown into a multi-community tradition, with host communities rotating each year that help to showcase the spirit of collaboration within our west suburban communities.

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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

I encourage you to take part in the 6th Annual Tour de Proviso. Whether you bike it, volunteer, or simply cheer along the route with family or friends, this multi-community partnership showcases one of the many local collaborations our Village takes part in. You can find more details in the front-page article of this newsletter.

Earlier this week, I was thrilled to attend the ribbon cutting for **First Watch** restaurant. Their decision to open a new location in River Forest is another example of our community's strong economic growth, and I'm pleased to welcome another great dining option for our residents and visitors.

Finally, I invite everyone to attend the 24th Annual Bonnie Brae 9/11 Charity LemonAid Stand next Thursday, September 11, from 3 to 7 p.m. on the **700 block of Bonnie Brae**. This event was founded to honor those who lost their lives on this tragic day, and continues doing good by raising funds for local children's charities. Thank you to our Bonnie Brae neighbors for keeping this cherished tradition alive over the years.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President
Village of River Forest



Village Board Trustees



**Erika
Bachner**



**Kathleen
Brennan**



**Lisa
Gillis**



**Megan
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Village Clerk



**Rosa
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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 saw a fallen tree branch in the neighborhood. Who should I report this to?

Answer: You can use the Village's [online service request platform](#) to communicate the location of the fallen branch to Public Works. From the service request platform click, "Parkway Trees and Bushes" with any concerns about trees that you have.

Question: I have a question about one of the parks in River Forest. Who do I call?

Answer: Please call the River Forest Park District at **708-366-6660**, which is a separate public organization.

Question: What paperwork do I need to get a 2025-2026 pet license?

Answer: The Village needs your pet's current rabies vaccination number - which you can get from your pet's veterinarian - and then upload it online when purchasing a pet tag [here](#). If you'd like to purchase a pet license in person, please bring a copy of the rabies vaccine document to [Village Hall](#).



RF Team Member Spotlight

Seth Jansen
Management Analyst for Public Works
& Village Sustainability Liaison

If salary weren't a factor, what job would you want to have?

If salary weren't a factor, I'd probably still be doing something dealing with public administration or public policy, just part-time so I could spend more time at home with my family. But if skill-level/ability weren't a factor, then closing pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, no question.

What position do you hold and in what circumstances would I come to you for something?

I am the Management Analyst for the Public Works Department. In addition to handling various administrative tasks for the Public Works Department, the two areas I interact with residents the most are through managing the Village's waste hauling contract and serving as staff liaison to the Village's Sustainability Commission. I often respond to resident questions and issues regarding garbage collection, recycling, and composting and I am the staff contact for sustainability or green initiatives.



Village Departments in Action

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

Public Works

As we approach the end of summer, the Public Works Department is beginning its second and final round of tree removals, to remove dead and hazardous trees along the Village Parkways. This work helps keep our community safe and looking its best.

During tree removal each year, the Public Works team secures the site and puts up signs and notifications to make residents aware of planned work. They will then assess the site and its conditions and may begin removing tree limbs with ropes and pulleys and aerial lift trucks - or they may take down the entire tree into an open area (usually the roadway).

Roads do close during the final steps of the tree removal process to ensure the safety of the crew and residents. In addition to safety, the goal is also to spend as little time as possible disrupting traffic and pedestrian walkways.

Other crew members collect the limbs and brush, running them through the Village chipper. **The resulting wood chips are available - free of charge - for Village residents!**



Welcome New Police Officers



Public safety remains a top priority, and the Village recently welcomed five new officers to the Police Department: Officers Juan Acevedo, Andrew Cassin, Alexcis Expose, Luke Thomas, and Carlos Trejo. Their dedication and hard work at the police academy mark the start of promising careers in law enforcement. These officers join three others who have come on board over the past six months, strengthening the Department's ability to serve and protect our community.



Lead Line Replacement Assistance



At the last "Casual Conversation" event, several residents stated they weren't sure about whether their homes contain lead pipes. With the State-mandated lead pipe replacement program underway, the Village is happy to assist with this. If you have questions or want to determine whether your pipes contain lead, please contact the Public Works Department at 708-714-3551 to schedule an appointment. You can also complete a brief survey to identify the materials in your home's water line.

Electronic Waste Recycling

Residents who utilize the Village's waste collection program can schedule free electronic waste (e-waste) pick-ups from their homes. Requests must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, for collection during the week of September 15–17. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will collect up to seven (7) approved items per household, including a maximum of two (2) TVs or computer monitors. Items must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on pickup day, and clearly marked as e-waste. Small electronics should be placed in a box or paper bag. To schedule a pick-up and see a list of accepted items, visit the [LRS website](#) and select the "Electronic Waste Pick-Up" tab.



Age-Friendly Corner

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

Memory Care Kits

Did you know the River Forest Public Library offers Memory Care Kits to help seniors who are struggling with dementia or other cognitive impairments? Each themed kit provides movies, books, and various activities to stimulate all five senses, while prompting special memories and connection with a caregiver. Learn more [here](#).

ZUMBA FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Township is offering complimentary Zumba classes for older adults on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. beginning on September 8 through November 3 (no class on October 13). There is room for up to 25 adults. To register please call Yazmin at 708-725-9129. In addition to Zumba, the Township offers complimentary chess and mahjong instruction most weeks. Complimentary Pickleball instruction will be starting in the fall. For more information, contact Senior Outreach Coordinator [Betsy Kelly](#).

Zumba for Older Adults



Police Department

Free Car Seat Safety Checks

As part of Child Passenger Safety Week, observed nationwide September 21–27, the Police Department will host free car seat safety checks on Saturday, September 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the [River Forest Town Center](#).

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available to guide parents and caregivers in selecting the right seat and ensuring it is installed correctly. This event is held in conjunction with National Seat Check Saturday, a nationwide initiative to improve child passenger safety.

“Many parents don’t realize their car seat may not be properly installed, or may not be the best fit for their child,” said Police Chief James Greenwood. “Our goal is to make sure children are as safe as possible every time they’re on the road.”

Car crashes remain one of the leading causes of death for children under 14, but proper car seat use greatly reduces the risks.

Those unable to attend can click [here](#) to find certified technicians, installation assistance, and other safety resources. A quick check of your child’s car seat could save their life!

Sustainability

New Leaf Blower Ordinance

Over the past several months, the Sustainability Commission has gathered feedback on a proposed ordinance to regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the Village.

At its July meeting, the Village Board unanimously approved the Commission’s recommendation to adopt a phased-in ban that aligns with best practices and timelines from other Illinois communities. The new regulations apply to both residents and contractors:

Starting in 2026: Gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited from May 15 to September 15. The use of portable fossil-fuel generators to power electric blowers or recharge batteries will also be prohibited.

Starting in 2028: Gas-powered leaf blowers may only be used in April, October, and November.

Starting in 2030: All use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited in the Village.

To support this transition, the ordinance also includes incentives for landscaping companies. Contractors licensed with the Village who commit to year-round use of only electric leaf blowers will receive a rebate equal to their licensing fee. They will also be recognized on the Village website as partners in sustainability.

Public Works

Fresh Crosswalk Striping Enhances Safety

The Public Works Department has completed its annual Pavement Striping Program, reinforcing the community’s commitment to pedestrian safety and well-maintained infrastructure. This year’s work focused on busy corridors such as Lake Street and Washington Boulevard, which serve schools, parks, and other high-traffic destinations.

The updated striping directly supports the Village’s Safe Routes to School initiative, making crosswalks clearer, bolder, and easier to navigate for students, families, and all pedestrians. By re-striping faded markings, the Program not only improves safety, but also addresses community concerns about poorly marked crossings.

To ensure lasting results, the Village used thermoplastic striping, a material that offers superior visibility and durability compared to traditional paint. While it carries a higher upfront cost, its extended lifespan makes it a more efficient and cost-effective choice.

Residents can now see the improvements throughout the Village, especially near school zones. The Public Works Department appreciates the community’s support as ongoing efforts continue to make River Forest safer and more accessible for all.

Fire Department

River Forest Fire Department Annual Open House

The River Forest Fire Department invites residents and families to its annual Open House on Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the [Fire Station](#). This free, family-friendly event offers:

- **Fire truck tours** - climb aboard and see the gear up close
- **Meet our firefighters** - talk with the professionals who serve River Forest
- **Safety demonstrations** - learn practical tips for your home and family
- **Hands-on activities** - fun and educational for all ages
- **Equipment displays** - discover the tools and technology behind the job

It’s a great opportunity to learn valuable fire safety tips, connect with first responders, and see the tools and technology that keep our community safe. For questions, contact the Fire Department at **708-366-7629**.



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](#).



Volunteers Needed for Mental Health Committee

The Township has openings for both the Mental Health Committee and Senior & Disability Services Committee. Each committee meets once per month, 8-9 times/year. The Board relies on River Forest resident volunteers to evaluate grants and programming in each respective area. Are you interested in helping the Township by serving on the committee for a 3-year term beginning September 2025? Contact Township Supervisor John Becvar.

NAMI'S NEXT PRACTICAL FAMILY SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Practical Family Skills workshop is for family members of those living with a mental health condition. The Township's partner, NAMI Metro Suburban, is hosting an event on Saturday, September 13, at their Drop-In Center at **814 Harrison St. in Oak Park**. Participants will be able to learn and practice skills that help to strengthen relationships and encourage recovery oriented activities, including communication skills, collaboration and self-regulation. Register online by clicking [here](#). For more information contact bockus@namimetsub.org.



riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Library



River Forest Public Library
Your journey starts here.

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

Monday, 9/8 - Sunday, 10/19, River Forest Reads the Great Gatsby, Adult

All are invited to participate in "River Forest Reads," a shared reading experience for members of the community to read and discuss the same book. In honor of its 100th anniversary, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is the "River Forest Reads" pick for 2025. Whether you're revisiting this American classic or coming to it for the first time, the Library encourages everyone to read the book together and attend a series of related programs. Copies of the book will be available for checkout starting Monday, September 8, and programming continues through Sunday, October 19. Learn more [here](#).

Phase Two of Community Room Project will begin this September

Last month, the Library Board of Trustees voted to accept Midwest Services and Development's bid to complete the renovation of the Community Room and Children's Services office space, and to add a bathroom to the Children's Room. They also accepted Henricksen & Company's proposal to provide furniture and furnishings for the project. Learn more about the project [here](#).

riverforestlibrary.org | 708-366-5205

Park District



River Forest Park District

Third Annual Color Run

Join the River Forest Park District for their third annual Color Run on Saturday, September 20 at Priory Park! This one-mile walk/run features color stations where volunteers toss chalk as participants pass by, with medals awarded to the top three finishers in each age group. Every runner will receive a white shirt, sunglasses, a swag bag, and a certificate. After the run, stick around for the after-party with a DJ and bagels! The event begins at 8 a.m. for ages 11-12, followed by ages 9-10 at 8:15 a.m., ages 7-8 at 8:30 a.m., ages 13 and up at 8:45 a.m., and a family run (no awards) for ages 4+ at 9 a.m. All net proceeds benefit the West Suburban Special Recreation Association. Learn more [here](#).

rfparks.com | 708-366-6660

District 90



D90 Back to School

Lincoln Elementary, Willard Elementary, and Roosevelt Middle School welcomed students back for the first day of school on Wednesday August 20. Teachers greeted fifth-graders at the Oak Street entrance.

district90.org | 708-771-8282

District 200



Taking Center Stage: Inclusion in Theatre Education

The Special Education division's Adaptive Acting class is a lively, creative space where students with intellectual and developmental disabilities explore the same skills taught in any introductory acting course.

Students from the school's Leadership Class also join in, providing support and building connections. Their participation helps to create a shared, inclusive environment where students learn alongside one another and gain a deeper understanding of their peers.

Adaptive Acting is one of four elective courses designed for students with special needs, alongside Adaptive Art, Adaptive Choir, and Adaptive Foods. The class grew from a recognition that while many students with varying abilities took acting, those with the most significant disabilities oftentimes could not. "We're always a work in progress," Bayer says. "We constantly reflect on our practices to make sure we're being as inclusive as possible."

That inclusivity extends beyond the classroom. Some Adaptive Acting students also participate in the school's theatrical productions. This year, several performed as ensemble members in *Cinderella*.

"This is part of our commitment to inclusivity in every sense - race, gender identity, learning style, and ability," Bayer says. "We don't deny a student's identity - we embrace it."

oprfs.org | 708-383-0700

Older Adult BBQ Recap

The Village had a wonderful time celebrating our older adults last Friday in honor of National Senior Citizens Day! Approximately 60 seniors joined us for a festive afternoon featuring a BBQ lunch, bingo, and an ice cream social. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make this event a success!



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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.