



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST E-NEWS

Thank you for taking the time to read the Village's E-News. These messages are sent approximately once per month and include timely information regarding Village events, news and other useful information. We strive to keep the content brief and relevant to the issues that matter most to the community.

### Message from the Village President



Dear River Forest Residents,

I am pleased to announce that the Village is launching its very own River Forest [Facebook page](#). It will be used to share news and information with residents on upcoming events, seasonal community reminders, public safety alerts, updates from the Village board and commissions, and much more. We hope you will check in often to stay abreast of all things River Forest! Click the "Like" button to see updates from the Village in your Facebook news feed.

The Village Board will be approving the 2017-2018 budget on April 24. A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall and Trustees will adopt the budget that evening.

The Village will again have a balanced budget, with less than a 1-percent increase to our levy (property tax). The Village Board will ensure that River Forest is a safe community for its residents, business owners and institutional partners, and we will work to protect and strengthen property values and implement strategies to stabilize property taxes.

I would like to highlight the long-term strategic goals that the Village Trustees and I recently established and that will be covered by the Village's annual spending plan:

#### Investing in Public Safety

- Support training and professional development opportunities for public safety employees.
- Invest in the continued use of technology advancements including an upgrade and expansion of our camera systems.
- Develop strategies for relocation of our 911 emergency communications center.
- Satisfy the Village's pension obligations per the

#### In This Issue

Message from the Village President

Village Launches Official Facebook Page

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Hearing

Historic Preservation Award

Pet License Renewal

FEMA - Four Steps for Tornado Preparedness

Distracted Driving Awareness Week

Know the Code!

GREEN NEWS

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Computer Learning Lab

Foreign Film Forum

Architectural Design Workshop

Pancakes for Poetry

Mario Kart Wii Tournament

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Journey Through Space

Barbara Henry Poetry Reading

National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Pension Funding Policy that was adopted by the Village Board.

### **Stabilizing Property taxes through Economic Development**

- Complete property acquisition for Lake and Lathrop and ensure that the site is clear of contamination.
- Select a new preferred developer for the Lake and Park redevelopment project.
- Create the North Avenue Tax Increment Financing District
- Create a strategy for appropriate development in the Madison Street Tax Increment Financing District
- Ensure that Fresh Thyme Farmer's Market opens this summer.

### **Improving Property Values by Making River Forest a Better Place to Live**

- Launch the new website that will be easier to navigate, integrate more pictures and videos and collaborate with other units of government to establish a community-wide calendar.
- Promote the use of our new mobile "app."
- Finalize a new resident brochure that will be available online and at the Village Hall. This brochure will provide valuable information about River Forest and the many wonderful attributes about our community.
- Begin work on an updated comprehensive plan for the Village. The last time the village updated our plan was 2003. To view the current plan [click here](#).
- Examine the Village's holiday decorations and other beautification standards and recommend changes where necessary.
- Work with the new Sustainability Commission to create a set of goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

To view the Village's annual budget, [click here](#).

Finally, the Village Board and I would like to congratulate everyone who chose to serve their community by running for public office. No matter what unit of government we are engaged in, we all represent the same constituency and we all are part of River Forest. This community counts on us to lead, solve problems, and improve the quality of their lives. I look forward to working with the elected bodies and newly elected officials to achieve the Community's goals together.

Best wishes for a wonderful Passover and Easter.

Best,



Cathy Adduci  
Village President

Community Health Needs Assessment-- Online Survey

Seeking a New Member for the Township Youth Services Committee

"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs

Celebrating Seniors Week is Almost Here: May 18-25

Volunteer Meet & Match Event on April 26

Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays

New Restaurant Added to Senior "Dine-Out Program"

Caregiver Support Groups

IMPACT Sponsors Parent Forum on Youth Drug and Alcohol Use

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Now Hiring for the Summer!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Youth Programs

Upcoming Youth Sports Programs

### **Useful Links**

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Emergency](#)

## Village Launches Official Facebook Page

The official Village of River Forest Facebook page is now live! We encourage all residents to take a look at [Facebook.com/VillageofRiverForest](https://www.facebook.com/VillageofRiverForest) and "Like" our page to see updates from the Village in your Facebook news feed.

Our Facebook page will be used as a space to share information about our community and the Village government. From now on, you can look to the page for news about upcoming events, seasonal community reminders, public safety alerts, Village board and commission activity, and much more. Facebook will allow us to share updates in a more timely fashion than via the monthly E-News—without clogging your email inbox.

We hope you will find the Village's first social media presence to be useful and informative.

## Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Hearing

The Village of River Forest will hold a formal public hearing on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The public hearing will take place in the 1st floor Community Room of the Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Village Hall during regular business hours or on the Village's [website](#).

## Historic Preservation Award

The Historic Preservation Commission is currently accepting applications for 2017 Historic Preservation Awards from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2012.

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of our Village. An awards program was established by the Commission in 2009 in order to support these efforts.

Nominations must be received on or before May 26, 2017. The awards will be announced at the Commission's regularly scheduled June 22, 2017 meeting. Multiple awards may be given each year. The nominated structure need not be in a historic district and may be a residential (single family or multiple unit), commercial, public/institutional or religious structure.

For more information or for an application, [click here](#).

## Pet License Renewal

Pet licenses for the period from May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 are now available at the Village Hall. Dogs and cats are required to be registered with the Village. For more information and for the pet license application, please [click here](#).

## FEMA - Four Steps for Tornado Preparedness

Tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Every state has some risk of this hazard.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

Make sure you're ready for a tornado with the [How to Prepare for a Tornado Guide](#) that explains how to protect yourself and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly at a time when every second counts. Learn more tips at [Ready.gov](#).

## Distracted Driving Awareness Week

April 24-28 is Distracted Driving Awareness Week. In 2009, over 5,000 people lost their lives and over 400,000 people were injured in vehicle accidents in the U.S. related to distracted driving. Since that time, laws have been enacted to combat distracted driving.

In Illinois, all cell phone use (including phone calls, texting, GPS) must be hands free. Here are some tips from AAA to help you avoid distracted driving and avoid becoming a statistic:

1. **Turn it off.** Turn your phone off or switch it to silent mode before you get in the car. If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area first.
2. **Spread the word.** Set up a special message to tell callers that you are driving and you'll get back to them as soon as possible, or sign up for a service that does this for you.
3. **Groom at home.** Shaving and applying makeup are best done prior to getting in the car.
4. **Use your passengers.** Ask a passenger to make the call for you.
5. **Stay safer, text later.** Don't text and drive, surf the web, or read your email while driving. It is dangerous and against the law in most states.
6. **Familiarize.** If you're traveling, know the state and local laws before you get in the car. Some states and localities prohibit the use of hand-held cell phones. For a listing of state laws, visit [TeenDriving.AAA.com](#). If you're traveling in a rental car, familiarize yourself with the vehicle's features before getting behind the wheel.
7. **Plan ahead.** Program GPS systems and review maps and directions before you start driving. If you need help while driving, ask a passenger or pull over to a safe location.
8. **Secure your pets.** Pets can be a big distraction in the car. Always secure your pets properly before you start to drive.
9. **Keep the kids safe.** Pull over to a safe location to address situations with your children in the car.
10. **Focus on the task at hand.** Refrain from smoking, eating, drinking, reading and any other activity that

takes your hands, mind, or eyes off the road.

## Know the Code!

The Village would like to remind you:

- As the warmer months approach, please remember that all dogs must be leashed when on any public street, sidewalk, parkway, public area or unenclosed premises within the Village. Please see Section 8-3 of the [Village code](#) for all dog control information.
- Please note: The first date for yard waste collection was Tuesday April 4th, 2017.
  - "Yard waste" includes trees or tree branches (not exceeding four inches in diameter), brush, plant stalks and shrubs cut up and bound into bundles of no more than four feet in length and fifty pounds in weight. Bundles shall be bound with biodegradable twine and shall have one universal solid waste tag affixed to each bundle. Yard waste is also grass clippings, leaves, twigs, weeds and all other materials of similar nature placed in biodegradable paper bags (up to thirty-two gallons in capacity) and affixed with one universal solid waste tag. It is unlawful for any person to mix yard waste with other garbage and refuse.
  - For non-alley collections, properly packaged yard waste will be picked up "curbside". Materials placed for such collection may not be put out prior to 6:00 PM on Monday (the day before yard waste collection) and will be picked up on Tuesday. For alley collection, properly packaged yard waste may be placed for collection next to the regular garbage collection point. It is unlawful to place yard waste within the street, alley or walkway.
- All landscaping companies must be licensed to operate in the Village. To view a list of licensed contractors, please click [here](#).

## GREEN NEWS

### April 22 - EARTH DAY

Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22. The day marks a worldwide initiative to demonstrate support for environmental protection. To learn more about Earth Day, visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

### April 22 - Des Plaines River Clean Up from 8-10 AM

Celebrate Earth Day by getting a group together and cleaning up along the Des Plaines River. There will be demonstrations during and after the clean-up on how to properly sort your own trash as

well as an opportunity to register the most unusual item discovered during the clean-up. Participants will receive a discount coupon from Ten Thousand Villages and a free continental breakfast. Please [click here](#) to register.

### **Wondering what to do with all those yard signs?**

The following are great, green options for getting rid of your old yard signs:

- Drop your sign at the Des Plaines River Clean Up on April 22 and the Sustainability Commission will share them with groups that can re-use the signs.
- Ask the representative who gave you the sign if they would like it back for reuse.
- Save them for kids' school projects and/or signage for your own projects.
- Remove the metal stakes and place in a recycling bin and throw the sign in landfill container. (Although the sign is plastic, it is not recyclable).

### **April 22 - Free Finished Compost for Compost Subscribers**

Subscribers to the Village's Curbside Compost Program can pick up free compost for their gardens on Saturday, April 22 starting at 8 AM at the Depot, 401 Thatcher. The container will remain in the parking lot for the entire day. Residents are asked to bring their own buckets and shovels for transporting compost. If you are not a compost subscriber, [click here](#) to sign up now.

### **Weekly Compost Pick-Up Returns Every Tuesday**

Spring is here! Compost pick-up will take place every Tuesday through the end of November. All food scraps (including meat and dairy) can go in the cart along with yard waste. For more information or to sign up for compost pick up, [click here](#).

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## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Adults**

#### **Wednesday, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab**

Does your computer drive you nuts? Does your tablet make you crazy? Come to our Computer Learning Lab -- whatever your tech issue, we can help you figure it out or get to the next step. These sessions are designed for the total beginner through intermediate home/personal user. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn on one of our laptops, or bring your own device.

#### **Saturday, 4/8, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum**

*Mostly Martha*

#### **Sunday, 4/23, 2-3 PM, Architectural Design Workshop**

Seasoned Interior Designer Maura Braun will share her steps in creating a design plan for any remodel project. You'll hear great tips on how to plan the design and stay on budget! Architectural interior planning, quick start tips, finances, material selection, and 2017 trends will be covered.

## Teens

### **Wednesday, 4/19, 3:30-4:30 PM, Pancakes for Poetry, Grades 5-12**

Who wants a pancake, sweet and piping hot? Recite your favorite poem or write your own in exchange for fluffy goodness!

## Children

### **Friday, 4/14, 2:30-4 PM, Mario Kart Wii Tournament, Grades K-4**

Test out your racing skills at this fun Wii game tournament. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

### **Friday, 4/21, 6:00 PM, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Ages 2-8**

Arrive at 6 PM for a bedtime story with your stuffed pal. Leave your stuffed animal for some overnight fun at the library. Come back for a light breakfast at 9 AM on Saturday to see what the stuffed animals were up to during their slumber party. Advanced registration required. For ages 2-8.

### **Saturday, 4/29, 3-4 PM, Journey Through Space, Grades K-4**

Discover the universe as you blast off on a space adventure. Learn space trivia, play games, and enjoy activities that are out of this world! Advanced registration required.

## For All Ages

### **Thursday, 4/27, 7-9 PM, Barbara Henry Poetry Reading, All ages welcome**

April is National poetry Month! Celebrate National Poetry Month with local author, speaker and poet, Barbara J. Henry. Join the fun at this interactive event: Bring a one or two minute personal poem to read or a poem of the same length written by your favorite poet. Children who love poetry are also welcome!

### **Sunday, 4/30, 2-4 PM, National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, All Ages**

Give a shelter animal a forever home on National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. Magnificent Mutts Rescue will have a number of fabulous furry friends available for adoption.

For the complete current list of programs or to register for an event visit: [riverforestlibrary.org](http://riverforestlibrary.org)

## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### **Community Health Needs Assessment-- Online Survey: Please Respond by April 15**

River Forest Township and partner organizations from Oak Park are undertaking a Community Health Needs Assessment. *Your participation in the online survey is essential!* Survey results will provide valuable input to mental health and other community health-related decisions and funding over the next several years.

This online survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Responses are **anonymous and confidential**. Respondents must be River Forest or Oak Park residents, age 18 and up;

multiple adult members of a household are welcome to complete the survey.

Please [click here](#) to take the survey.

For those unable to access the survey online, paper copies are available at River Forest Township (located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street), River Forest Village Hall, the River Forest Public Library and River Forest Park District.

**Responses are required by April 15**; thank you for your time and input!

## Seeking a New Member for the Township Youth Services Committee

River Forest Township is seeking a River Forest resident to fill a vacancy on the volunteer OPRF Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). The YSC provides input to developing and funding local youth programming. Experience with youth is a plus but not required. The YSC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM. If interested, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](#).

## "Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs

Join us for the April lineup:

- **Sunday, 4/23, 2 PM** - *Architectural Design Workshop* with designer Maura Braun

Programs are held at the River Forest Library at no charge. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. People of all ages from all communities are welcome!

## Celebrating Seniors Week is Almost Here: May 18-25

Celebrating Seniors Week will soon be here! River Forest Township is hosting a number of exciting and informative events. Visit [www.celebratingseniors.net](http://www.celebratingseniors.net) for more details.

- **Thursday, 5/18, 9:30 AM, River Forest Community Center (RFCC)** – *IL Secretary of State Rules of the Road and Mobile Drivers Unit/Vision Screening*
- **Friday, 5/19, 10:30 AM, RFCC** – *Advanced Directives for Later Life Planning: Powers of Attorney for Property & Healthcare...and Why We Need Them* with Tom Wendt
- **Friday, 5/19, 3 PM, RFCC** – *Falls Prevention* with Synergy Home Care/Nick Preys
- **Friday, 5/19, 7 PM, River Forest Public Library (RFPL)** – *Terry Sullivan Trio Intimate Jazz Concert\**
- **Sunday, 5/21, 2 PM, Roosevelt Middle School auditorium** – *Best-selling local author Elizabeth Berg\**
- **Monday, 5/22, 1 PM, River Forest Village Hall** – *Protecting You and Your Loved Ones* with River Forest Police Officer Glen Czernik



- **Monday, 5/22, 7 PM, RFPL** – *River Forest Historic Homes II* with Al Popowits\*
- **Wednesday, 5/24, 2 PM, RFCC** – *Memoir Writing* with Cathaleen Roach
- **Thursday, 5/25, 1 PM, RFCC** – *New! Movement & Memory Class* with Gloria Araya

\*in partnership with River Forest Public Library

## **Volunteer Meet & Match Event on April 26**

Looking for volunteer opportunities in our community? Newly retired? Recently moved here? Looking to meet new people? Come to the Volunteer Meet & Match event on **Wednesday, April 26, 4 – 8 PM** at the Oak Park Public Library (Veterans Room).

Dozens of local nonprofits will be there to present their volunteer opportunities and answer questions. Sponsored by the OPRF Community Foundation, the West Cook YMCA and the Oak Park Public Library. Please [email](#) any questions.

## **Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays**

Coffee Mondays are held at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM, featuring guest speakers and time left to chat! Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **May 1 and June 5** – guest speakers to be announced!

## **New Restaurant Added to Senior “Dine-Out Program”**

Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services announces the addition of a new restaurant in the “Dine-Out Program” for seniors. Geppetto's in Oak Park is the 4th local eating establishment in the program, which gives seniors the opportunity to enjoy an affordable, well-balanced meal at specified local restaurants.

Seniors can purchase Dine-Out Program coupons at Township Senior Services (130 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park); coupons are \$4/meal. Seniors then use the coupons to purchase a meal at participating restaurants. Meals are selected from a pre-approved healthy menu and include an entrée, sides if appropriate and coffee, tea or milk.

Seniors must register for the program at Township Senior Services in Oak Park and obtain a program ID. Participants can purchase coupons there, or after registering, they can purchase coupons by mail. Coupons are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM -noon.

The four local participating restaurants are: Geppetto's, Robinson's Ribs, Cozy Corner and Grape Leaves, all in Oak Park.

Only coupons can be used to pay for Dine-Out Program meals, but we ask participants to consider tipping the wait staff. Questions: please call Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060.

## **Caregiver Support Groups**

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, adult child or grandchild...support is available.

- **2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 PM**, Koehneke Community Center/Concordia Campus. Sponsored by Concordia's Center for Gerontology (in partnership with River Forest Township). Contact Dr. Lydia Manning at 708-209-3218 or via email.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith at 708-383-8060.

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## **PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Now Hiring for the Summer!**

Looking for a fun summer job? We are currently hiring Summer Camp Staff!

If you are 18 years or older and have experience with kids, check out our summer camp job opportunities! We are hiring Summer Camp Directors, Assistant Directors and Counselors. For details, [click here](#).

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Egg-Stravaganza Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 15 - 10-10:15 AM, at the Depot (400 Thatcher Ave)**

Join us for springtime fun at our annual Easter Egg Hunt! The event is held in designated areas of Keystone Park West. Children ages 2-10 will be divided into groups according to age and will hunt for hundreds of candy and toy filled eggs. Children should also be on the look-out for special hidden eggs that are redeemable for prize baskets. Note: Children do not have to be registered for Breakfast with the Bunny to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free.

\*Please note the hunt lasts for only five minutes, so it is recommended that you arrive a few minutes early to avoid disappointment.

### **Upcoming Youth Programs**

#### **Safe Sitter® Essentials with CPR - Saturday, April 29, 9:30AM - 4:00PM**

New & Improved Curriculum! Ages: 11 - 15. Safe Sitter® prepares students to be safe when they are home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Students learn life-saving skills such as how to rescue someone who is choking and helpful information like what to do if there is severe weather. The lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use CPR manikins to practice CPR and choking rescue! The fee includes a Student Handbook with completion card.

[Click here](#) to register for programs.

### **Upcoming Youth Sports Programs**

**Spring Soccer - Tuesdays, April 11 - May 16, 4-5 PM or 5-6 PM**

**Age: 4 & Grades K-1**

The Chicago Edge Soccer Academy provides an introductory soccer program designed specifically for these younger age groups. It will introduce basic soccer skills in a fun and non-competitive environment. Using exciting exercises and games, we will teach the players fundamental skills such as foot-eye coordination, dribbling, passing, ball control, and shooting. Participants will also be introduced to the concepts of teamwork and sportsmanship. This program is great for both newcomers and those that have already participated in any of our previous soccer activities. Have your child join us for some spring soccer fun, and don't forget, every participant receives a t-shirt.

**Girl's Spring Lacrosse Pink League - April 9 - June 4**

**Grades 2 - 3, 4 - 5, 6 - 7, 7 - 8**

Be part of a community-based lacrosse league just for girls! The goals of the program are to teach the rules of lacrosse in an active teamwork setting, encourage sportsmanship, and foster personal development in a respectful environment. The IGLA is adopting the US Lacrosse "PLAYERS FIRST" Athlete Development model: which means smaller fields and a smaller number of players. Girls are more engaged, get more touches on the ball, and further develop their skills.

Registration is a two step process:

1. River Forest Park District Registration
2. Fill out the Player Information Form at [www.iglax.org](http://www.iglax.org) (under the "Registration" tab).

**Volleyball Skills and Drill - Sundays, Apr 9 - May 14**

**Grades: 3 - 5, 6 - 8**

Improve your volleyball skills with 60 minutes of drills in setting, passing, overhand serving, and spiking. The lesson plan directs the use of self-mastery training and groups that help each student reach a new level. Instructors organize short games at the end of each class. Lesson plan also incorporates short educational drills, including spelling, math & science.

**Register Today!**

[Click here](#) to register for programs.



If you no longer wish to receive this email please email [unsubscribe@vrf.us](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).