



## 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,

Welcome to February. While some would say winter doldrums go with the season, we have exciting things happening in River Forest.

The Village Board of Trustees on Feb. 13 will decide whether to make the [sustainability committee](#) an official village commission. We discussed the commission during our October 2016 board meeting, after which our staff and Village Attorney worked on a draft ordinance that was presented to the Village Board on January 23. I am excited about the committee's work and its effect on our community.

Since 2014, the [Parks Foundation and Sustainability Committee](#) have worked on behalf of the Village and served as an advisor on sustainability and conservation initiatives, including recommendations on policy and resource support. Its members have done an outstanding job. As a result of their dedication and initiative, River Forest became the second community in Illinois to have curbside recycling, many of our lawns are now pesticide-free

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and the number of green block parties has grown. But the committee is ready to take on more, and as a full part of village government, I am confident that they will take on their role as advisors and educators with the same energy that they did as a committee.

Speaking of education, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is developing a map that will feature about 25 homes, highlighting the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Drummond and the Buurma Brothers, among others. Each house selected by the HPC will have a photo and brief vignette. When this map is finished, it will be distributed widely throughout the community and elsewhere to help shine a spotlight on the scope of our rich architectural heritage in River Forest. We look forward to seeing the result.

The annual [One Earth Film Festival](#), a popular and important avenue to learn about the many environmental issues facing communities like ours, will be held March 3-12, 2017. Films will be shown throughout the Chicago area, including various locations right here in River Forest. The festival will again be produced by [Green Community Connections](#), which is working to build a sustainable future for Oak Park and River Forest. Visit [oneearthfilmfest.org](http://oneearthfilmfest.org) for more information about the festival.

Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 Superintendent Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams is conducting a listening tour to find out what is on residents' minds about education at OPRFHS and to share thoughts on current and future plans. You will have an opportunity to participate at 6 p.m., February 6 at Roosevelt Middle School, 7650 Oak Avenue. There will also be another opportunity on March 18 at 9:30 a.m., also at Roosevelt. Healthy and effective schools are important to the whole community, and these meetings will provide excellent opportunities to get engaged in school issues, no matter whether you have students in the school or not.

The Village's Northside Stormwater Management Project was recently selected by the American Public Works Suburban Branch as a Public Works Project of the Year in the Environment category. The Branch recognized the Village at an awards meeting where the project was presented along with award winners from other categories. As an award winner, the project has also received the Branch's endorsement for the Chapter Awards competition.

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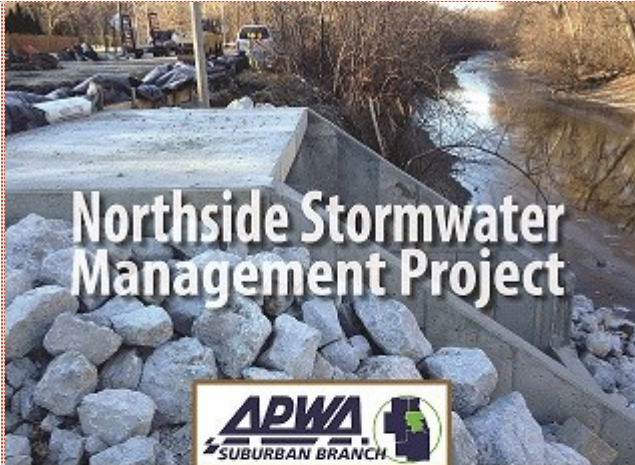
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#### PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



## 2017 Project of the Year

Category: Environment  
\$5 Million to \$25 Million



Believe it or not, spring is around the corner. I hope you will take advantage of the different events and programs taking place around River Forest this winter, and I look forward to seeing you out and about even more as the calendar moves toward warmer months.

Best,  
Cathy Adduci

Village President

## River Forest Police Department - Vehicle Theft Prevention

The River Forest Police Department has been noticing an increase in vehicle thefts in Chicago and the western suburbs. All of the vehicles stolen had one thing in common—they were left running with the keys inside! The River Forest Police Department would like to remind you not to leave your vehicle running and unattended. Some of us may be in the habit of leaving it running while making a quick stop at a gas station or convenience store. Even though it has never been stolen in the past, and you

- 3-on-3 Pond Hockey
- Safe Sitter Essentials with CPR
- Self-Defense Workshop
- Wine and Paint Night

### Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

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may only be feet away, car thieves are preying on your false sense of security and waiting for the right moment to take your car. The Police Officers have also seen running vehicles with push-button ignitions stolen despite the fact that the owner took their key fob with them. Unless you have a remote ignition specifically designed with anti-theft measures to prevent the vehicle from being stolen, you should not leave your car running unattended for any reason. With modern cars it is no longer necessary to "warm up" the engine before driving, nor does it burn more gas to turn off the car and restart it. As nice as it is to return to a warm car, if you leave your car running unattended you may return to find yourself left out in the cold.

## Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide everyone with these timely reminders. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [9 Volt Battery Safety](#)
- [Electrical Safety Tips](#)
- [Family Room Safety Tips](#)
- [Kitchen Safety Tips](#)
- [Bedroom Safety Tips](#)
- [Basement Safety Tips](#)

Learn important information about home structure fires by [clicking here](#) and downloading the U.S. Home Structure Fires Fact Sheet.

## GREEN NEWS

### Compost Pick Up - Every Other Tuesday

Please remember that compost pick-up takes place every other Tuesday, December through March. Upcoming compost pick up dates are 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28.

### Refuse Pick Up

Refuse pick-up will take place as regularly scheduled in the month of February. President's Day does **not** impact refuse service. For more information about refuse pick up, please [click here](#).

## Message from River Forest Elementary School D90

### Kindergarten Registration Open

If you have or know of a child who will be five years old by September 1, it's time to start the process to register for Kindergarten. Registration for River Forest District 90 Kindergarten begins on Friday, February 3.

To begin the registration process, families must pick up a Kindergarten registration packet. The packet contains all of the forms and information needed to register, such as proof of residency. Families who are new to District 90 must pick up Kindergarten registration packets at the Administration Building, 7776 Lake Street. Families will also have to make an appointment with Josephine Ribaldo at 708-771-8282 or [via email](#) to complete the process. **The hours for registration at the Administration Building are 8:45 AM – 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM.**

Families with a student who already attends a District 90 school can pick up the Kindergarten registration packet at Lincoln School, 511 Park Avenue, or Willard School, 1250 Ashland Avenue.

District 90 encourages all families with children preparing to enter Kindergarten in 2017 to register as early as possible. Doing so enables district administrators and principals to make critical decisions about staffing, the boy/girl ratio of classrooms, the number of morning and afternoon sessions, and other matters. **Starting the registration process also enables families to make all the necessary appointments that are required to enroll in Kindergarten, such as medical, dental, and eye exams.**

The first day of school is Thursday, August 24, 2017.

### **Sign up for Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences**

It's time to sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences with District 90 teachers! Registration for District 90's Parent/Teacher Conferences closes on Tuesday, February 28 at 10 PM. Families can sign up online for a conference time with teachers by visiting the District's website.

Conferences are held on two days: Thursday, March 2 and Friday, March 3. Thursday, March 2 - **Kindergarten** 8:30 AM – 8:00 PM, **Grades EC, Pre-K, 1-4** 3:40 PM – 8:00 PM, **Grades 5-8** 3:40 PM – 7:40 PM. Friday, March 3 - **All Grades** 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

To register, you may click on the appropriate link below until Tuesday, February 28 at 10 PM.

#### **Grades EC, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1 - 4**

#### **Grades 5-8**

Please remember that there are computers at the River Forest Public Library that you can use to register for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parent/Teacher Conferences represent an opportunity to discuss your students' academic

and emotional progress. District 90 teachers look forward to meeting with families and working together to support our students.

## **Message from OPRFHS D200 - Attend the D200 Superintendent's Listening Tour**

What is OPRF High School doing well? How could we improve? Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, new superintendent of District 200, invites all community members to attend a listening tour session and share your thoughts. Enjoy a complimentary light meal during the first half-hour, followed by dialogue. To RSVP to attend a session, please [click here](#).

**Saturday, 2/4, Hatch Elementary School**  
1000 N. Ridgeland Ave., Oak Park, Updated Time - 1-3 PM

**Monday, 2/6, Roosevelt Middle School**  
7560 Oak Ave., River Forest, 6-8 PM

**Wednesday, 3/15, RSVP by 3/8, Irving Elementary School**  
1125 S. Cuyler Ave., Oak Park, 6-8 PM

**Saturday, 3/18, RSVP by 3/11, Roosevelt Middle School**  
7560 Oak Ave., River Forest, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

For a complete listing of library programs or to register for an event, visit the website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org)

### **Adults**

**Wednesdays, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 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, 2/11, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum, Adult**

Join us for a screening of *Monsoon Wedding*. Delicious snacks will be served.

**Monday, 2/13, 10-11 AM, 13 Presidential Libraries, a Personal Odyssey, and What You Don't Know About Your Presidents**

In this exciting and timely presentation, Ed White, a history

traveler, will take you on a personal odyssey through thirteen presidential libraries. Explore the architecture, souvenirs, treasures, and documents of our American presidents.

**Sunday, 2/19, 2-3 PM, Oscar Predictions from Brian Tallerico**

Brian Tallerico, a member of the Board of Directors for the Chicago Film Critics Association will show movie clips, discuss Oscar contenders and take questions from the audience.

**Tuesday, 2/14, 2/28, 7-8:30 PM, Great Decisions**

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Great Decisions promises to be an exciting series of discussions about international issues. Stop by the library to get a list of the issues to be discussed and to check out a briefing book. There will be eight sessions in total.

## Teens

**Sunday, 2/5, 2-4 PM, Paint 'n' Sip, Grades 7-12**

Grab a sparkling drink and paint a masterpiece. Registration Required.

**Friday, 2/10, 6-8:30 PM, Interactive Movie: *The Princess Bride*, Grades 5-12**

Don't miss the opportunity to duel, wrestle Rodents of Unusual Size, fall in love, snack, and shout along with the characters in the classic movie *The Princess Bride*. Registration Required.

## Children

**Saturday, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 9:30-11:30 AM, Donuts for Dads, Kids of All Ages**

Grab Dad and join us at the Library for crafts, books, and board games as well as tasty breakfast treats and coffee from Blue Max. At 10:30 we'll all head upstairs for a fun story time by the fireplace. Moms, grandparents, and caregivers also welcome to attend with the children in their lives.

**Monday, 2/20, 4-5 PM, Snack Attack, Grades K-4**

Learn how to make a fun seasonal snack at this after school cooking program. Advanced registration required.

**Tuesday, 2/21, 3-4 PM, Princess Karaoke, Ages 3 and up**

Sing along with your favorite princesses at this interactive event. Dressing up in costumes is encouraged. For ages 3 and up.

**Saturday, 2/25, 2-3 PM, Kid Fit, Grades K-4**

Stay active all winter long at the Library. Wear comfy clothes and prepare to sweat as you have fun! Grades K-4.

For a complete listing of library programs or to register for an event, visit the website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org)

## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### Winter/Spring Sibshops Underway

It's not too late to join the winter/spring Sibshops! 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month in February and March: 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18. Final Sibshop is April 22 to accommodate spring break and Easter.

Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Siblings do fun activities and share information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

11:30 AM-1:30 PM (including lunch), at Thrive, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. Free parking next to building for drop off and pickup. Priority given to participants from River Forest and Oak Park. Interested families are welcome to try a session.

Registration is required in advance. \$10/session; need-based scholarships available. To sign up or for more information, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:Supervisor Carla Sloan).

### Live Webinar Celebration: Atul Gawande, MD, author of Being Mortal

Join us for a live webinar celebration featuring AtulGawande, MD, MPH, renowned author of the bestselling book, Being Mortal. Dr. Gawande, whose book addresses how medicine can improve life as well as the process of its ending, will be speaking live from Boston.

**Monday, 2/13** at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street (Madison and Thatcher). Hosted by Arbor West Neighbors and Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services. Free of charge. Meet & greet/registration 3-3:30 PM; introduction 3:30-4 PM; live webinar 4-5 PM; concluding remarks 5-5:30 PM.

Space is limited, so please RSVP. To RSVP or for more information, [email Arbor West Neighbors](mailto:Arbor West Neighbors) or call River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan at 708-366-2029.

### Important Information from the River Forest Township Assessor

- **1st installment 2017 tax bills** were sent to property owners the last week in January. This is an estimated tax



bill, comprising 55% of the total amount of the taxes you paid in the previous year.

- **Senior and Senior Freeze Exemptions** must be filed every year. **Deadline: February 8.** If you own your home and were born in the year 1951 or earlier, you should apply for Senior or Senior Freeze Exemption. You may only claim a Home Owner, Senior or Senior Freeze Exemption on your primary residence. The River Forest Assessor's office can help you file for your exemptions; please call 708-366-2787.
- **Community Outreach with the Cook County Assessor's Office - Tuesday, February 21, 6:30-8:30 PM**, hosted by the River Forest Township Assessor. All residents are invited to attend and ask questions regarding your new property assessment. The event will be held at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, room 206. The Township anticipates tri-annual reassessment notices will be mailed by the Cook County Assessor's office the first week in February. Once these notices are mailed, residents will have 30 days to file an appeal with the Cook County Assessor. You may file directly at the outreach event on February 21st or on-line at [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com). The River Forest Assessor's office can help you find comparable properties for your appeal; please call 708-366-2787.

### **New Grief Support Group Being Offered in River Forest**

The LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) Program is offering a 6-week grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. Run by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the group will meet on six Thursdays, **March 2 – April 6, 6:30 PM–8:30 PM**, at the River Forest Township offices, located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison St., 2nd floor. Registration is required in advance. Offered in partnership with River Forest Township. LOSS is a no-denominational program of Catholic Charities. Please call LOSS at 312-655-7283 for more info or to register.

### **Annual Valentine's Day "Poetry from the Heart"**

Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services presents its annual Valentine's Day event, Poetry from the Heart, on **Tuesday, February 14, 10 AM –noon**, River Forest Community Center (8020 Madison Street). Read, recite and listen to poetry related to this special day. To register, call Steven Smith by February 10, 708-383-8060. Offered in partnership with Home Instead Senior

Care of Oak Park.

## **Mental Health Conference to be held March 18 in River Forest**

Please join us for the 3rd Annual "Piecing It All Together" mental health conference, to be held **Saturday, March 18, 8 AM-4 PM** at Dominican Priory Campus. Sponsored by NAMI Metro Suburban and supported by River Forest Township.

Parents of children with mental health conditions and school/mental health professionals are invited to attend. Includes keynote speakers, workshops, lunch and networking. CEU's available.

Please click here to register online. For questions, please contact Angela Suarez at 708-524-2582 x101 or [via email](#).

## **Senior Health and Longevity Expo on March 2**

The Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest will host its 2nd annual Health and Longevity Expo (HALE) on **Thursday, March 2, 10 AM-3 PM** at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave, Oak Park. Free of charge.

The Expo gathers service providers for questions and consultation, with a focus on aging well. Learn about leisure activities, home repairs, financial planning, in-home care services, etc. For further info, call SCCOPRF at 708-848-5251.

## **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" Winter Programs**

Join us for this winter's lineup:

- **Monday, 2/13, 10 AM** – Presidential Libraries with Ed White
- **Sunday, 2/19, 2 PM** – Oscar Prediction Party with Brain Tallerico
- **Thursday, 3/9, 7 PM** – Organizing Small Spaces for

## Seniors with Beth Randall

Programs are held at the River Forest Library at no charge. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library.

### **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.

- **February 6** – Experience a special visit from our own local “Abraham Lincoln”, in commemoration of his birthday.
- **March 6**- Several local organizations present volunteer opportunities for seniors.
- **April 3** – Learn what’s new with Arbor West Neighbors, the local grassroots organization helping to enhance our community’s livability for seniors.

### **Seniors: Cab Coupon Booklets Can Help with Winter Transportation**

Cab coupon booklets are for sale through River Forest Township, for River Forest seniors and residents with disabilities. \$10 coupon booklets can be purchased for \$7, for use with Blue Cab or Red Cab. For sale at River Forest Township offices (located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street) or at Village Hall. Cash, check or credit card accepted.

### **Chase the Winter Blues with Computer Learning Labs!**

Seniors: have you been wanting to build your computer skills? Work with photos? Research your family tree? Come to the weekly Computer Learning Lab at the River Forest Public Library, **Wednesdays in February, 10-11:30 AM**. For the beginner thru intermediate home/personal user. Use one of the library’s laptops or bring your own device. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Public Library.

### **Need Income Tax Preparation Assistance?**

River Forest Township supports two local initiatives for moderate income seniors (age 60+) who would like free income tax preparation assistance. Call immediately to schedule an appointment, as time slots fill very quickly.

- **AARP Tax-Aide Program:** Forest Park or Franklin Park locations. Call 708-771-7737.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program at**

**Triton:** Call 708-456-0300 x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

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## **PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

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For event registration, information, and more, please [click here](#) to visit the River Forest Park District website.

### **Self-Defense Workshop**

**Monday, 2/6, 6:30PM - 9:00PM, Ages 12-16**

Techniques will be taught, practiced, and discussed in a variety of situations from beginner to intermediate. Lessons and techniques are presented in a way that any physical skill level will benefit from the experience. We will discuss and practice the secret to self defense that starts before any physical defense is required. Wear comfortable clothes that allow a wide range of movement.

### **Safe Sitter Essentials with CPR**

**Saturday, 2/11, 9:30AM - 4:00PM, 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!

### **3-on-3 Pond Hockey**

**Sunday, 2/12, 2-5 PM, Ages 9-12**

Come out and participate in this fast-paced 3-on-3 Pond Hockey Tournament (single elimination). Each 15 minute period will see teams of three showing off their skills and scoring goals. Safety comes first in this friendly tournament, with no checking allowed. A fun day for budding or more experienced hockey players alike. Teams of 3-6 players. Min 4 teams/ Max 8 teams. The event is free. Only stick, gloves, and helmet allowed. **Registration Deadline: February 9** (Team Captain must register their team.)

### **Wine and Paint Night**

**Saturday, 2/25, 6:00PM - 8:40PM, Ages 21 & up**

At Wine and Paint Night, we make the atmosphere as comfortable and inspiring as possible by allowing you to share in an experience taking inspiring art lessons from talented, professional artists. This event will be a great place to mingle and have fun creating some

beautiful artwork; Perfect for a "Girls' Night Out", a date night, or a get-together with friends.

All painting supplies are included for use in class: Your 16 x 20 canvas masterpiece, brushes, aprons, easels, etc. Beverages and appetizers will be provided. Registration Deadline: February 21

For event registration, information, and more, please [click here](#) to visit the River Forest Park District website.

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