



Village of River Forest E-News



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

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 August. It's a busy time with summer vacations winding down and students preparing to return to school. There is still plenty of time to take advantage of the great outdoor opportunities here in town.

Our 6th annual River Forest Food Truck Rally will be from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday, August 24 in Keystone Park (rain or shine).

This signature summer event will have ten food trucks serving savory and sweet food items, a tent with craft beer and wine, stage entertainment, inflatables for the kids and games for the entire family. This event is hosted in partnership with Rotary Club of Oak Park River Forest and the River Forest Park District. All net proceeds will be donated to local non-profit organizations who serve the needs of our community. For more information, click [here](#).



Here's what happened at the Board table in July

Our first [Bicycle Plan](#) has been approved unanimously by the Village Trustees. This will be a five-year guide that sets out priority projects with key implementation dates and, in the long run, will create paths that will accommodate people who want to ride for transportation, pleasure or exercise and offer children another way to get to school. The plan also sets out how to fund the work, and we will be seeking State and County grant money to make this a reality. The work done here dovetails nicely with our updated [Comprehensive Plan](#). Thanks goes to our Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, who helped secure a \$40,000 grant to do the study and document the plan.

Two changes in parking were approved by Trustees. Cars now will be able to park for three hours along the south side of Lake Street from Franklin to Park to accommodate our local businesses. Also, new resident-only daily commuter parking is coming to the area along Central west of William. This parking will be available to anyone after 2 p.m. Monday through Friday for no fee if spots are available.

As per policy, Trustees got a peek of and provided input on the proposed Bonnie Brae Place Townhomes before it moves on to the Development Review Board for

consideration. To see the development that was presented, click [here](#).

River Forest's sales tax on gasoline will increase by three cents a gallon to help cover the cost of local road improvements. The Village of River Forest strives to provide excellent road conditions, and funding sources such as this are critical for maintaining our streets.

The Village is continuing to reach out and get answers from Union Pacific Railroad on issues pertaining to its ongoing third mainline track project. We will be following up with letters to our Congressman Danny Davis and our state lawmakers to ensure that residents who live by the tracks get this matter resolved. The Village and the West Lake residents who live closest to the UP tracks are not opposed to the construction of the third mainline track project, but the conditions that are left after construction such as the access road, noise level, and safety.

To get answers on those issues and others, residents are invited to attend a town hall forum with [Congressman Davis](#) scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, August 27, at Village Hall.

The River Forest Police Department held its quarterly Community Crime Prevention Meeting on July 24. To watch the video presentation, click [here](#).



To help make our community safe, we welcomed three new police officers to our force. Congratulations to Donald Spears, Denisse Zermeno, and Colin Pickens and their families.

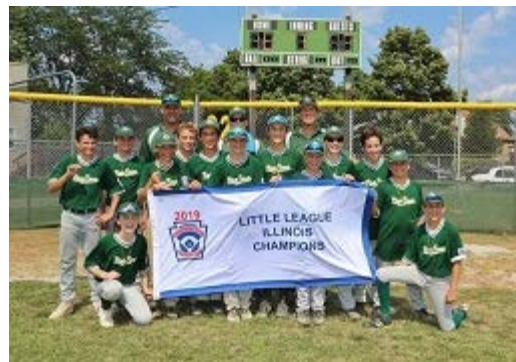


Demolition and remediation at Lake and Lathrop are in full swing. For continued updates on this project and more information, please visit vrf.us/LakeandLathrop.

And in August

The State's newly enacted recreational marijuana bill that will go into effect on January 1, 2020 will be a topic of conversation at our Board table. We will talk about it in depth - from law enforcement, to the tax implications and the overall impact it will have on our community.

Finally, congratulations to the under-12 River Forest youth baseball team on winning the Little League state championship! Best of luck to the team as they continue their season in the Great Lakes Regional in Westfield, Indiana this weekend.



See you at our very own River Forest Food Truck Rally!

Sincerely,

Cathy

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Know the Code!

Residents are asked to please be respectful of your neighbors and note that the Village has ordinances in place to regulate the hours of outdoor noise. Any outdoor work completed by a resident involving any mechanized landscaping, such as lawn mowing, is allowed from 7 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday, and between 8 AM – 5 PM on Saturday, and 9 AM – 5 PM on Sunday. (Village Code 6-7-2).

Protect Yourself from Utility Scams

As utility scams become more frequent, ComEd has joined other utilities nationwide in an effort to help protect customers against scammers. Click [here](#) for more information on how to protect yourself against utility scams and how to report suspicious activity.

A red rectangular graphic with white text. The top line reads "BE INFORMED" and the bottom line reads "DON'T GET SCAMMED".

Vehicle Sticker Reminder

The Village of River Forest would like to remind residents to purchase a 2019-2020 vehicle sticker to avoid being ticketed. The deadline for purchasing and displaying vehicle stickers without penalty was July 14. **The late fee on vehicle stickers will increase from \$10 to \$15 on August 15.**

All vehicles registered in the State of Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker. New residents have 30 days to purchase a vehicle sticker without a penalty.

Stickers are \$45 for passenger vehicles and \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens (one senior citizen vehicle sticker per household). Vehicle sticker applications were mailed in late May. If you received an application for a vehicle that you no longer own or a duplicate application, please notify the Village by either calling, or returning the application noting the vehicle's status in the enclosed envelope, so that the vehicle will be removed from our records. For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or click [here](#).

Back to School Tips from the River Forest Police and Fire Departments

Back to School Safety

The week of August 19, River Forest schools will begin opening for the 2019-20 school year. The River Forest Police Department would like to remind everyone of some state laws, local ordinances, and additional tips to help ensure everyone's safety as the school year begins. Click [here](#) for Back to School Reminders. Before shopping for school supplies and stuffing backpacks, the River Forest Fire Department would like to remind residents that safety starts before kids enter the school building. Backpacks that are too large for children have some very serious safety concerns. Click [here](#) to learn more about backpack safety, and click [here](#) for more back to school safety tips.

Report Unsafe Drivers

Finally, please keep in mind that everyone is trying to get somewhere, and the Police Department's priority is to ensure everyone gets there safely. Please drive carefully around the schools and be respectful and courteous to pedestrians and motorists. The Police Department will be out enforcing the above laws and assisting with traffic flow. If you observe any unsafe situation or driver, you can always report that by dialing 911 for emergencies or 708-366-7125 for non-emergencies.

Historical Society House Walk

The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest will host a house walk called "West Side Stories: People and Architecture that Shaped River Forest". The walk will be on **Saturday, 8/17** from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM.



starting at the Trailside Museum. The Historical Society suggests attendees bring water for the outing. For tickets and full information, please click [here](#).

River Forest District 90

Students return to District 90 schools on **Wednesday, 8/28**. Drivers, please be aware of students as they travel to and from school. To help keep students, other pedestrians, and bicyclists safe as they traverse River Forest, District 90 and the Village will finish implementing the [Safe Walking Routes to School Plan](#). The Plan includes recommended maps for the safest walking routes to all Village schools and the River Forest Community Center. New signage and crosswalks will be installed by the start of the school year. Click [here](#) to view the maps for the recommended routes for District 90 schools.

GREEN NEWS

Parkways for Pollinators Grant

The Sustainability Commission was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the ComEd [Green Region Program](#) to help fund the third season of Parkways for Pollinators. In collaboration with the Deep Roots Project, [Parkways for Pollinators](#) is a hands-on garden planting activity that is available to residents through hosting green block parties. Transforming parkways into native plant oases can help mitigate flooding by using deep root natives, and provides a habitat for butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. This program adds many new native gardens, brings neighbors together in fun planting activities, and educates residents about the benefits of natural garden and lawn care. Click [here](#) to learn more about hosting a Green Block Party.



PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk



Registration is open for the 22nd Annual Byline Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk on **Saturday, 9/21**. This race is presented by the Byline Bank of Oak Park River Forest, the River Forest Park District, Concordia University Chicago, and Fenwick High School. Proceeds from this event benefit the West Suburban Special Recreation Association. Register by September 6 to receive the early registration discount! Click [here](#) for event details and to register.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Summer Fun at the Library

Summer fun is continuing at the Library in August. The calendar is packed with programs for all ages. Visit www.riverforestlibrary.org to see what's happening! The summer reading program is in full swing and will end on **Wednesday, 8/21**. However, it's not too late to sign up. Adults, this includes you too! Every book read gets you an entry into a drawing for a great prize, so there's still time!

Branch Out and Read

Friday, 8/9, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Thatcher Woods Pavilion (8030 Chicago Avenue)



Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Library invite you to celebrate your summer reading success. Join us for fun activities such as archery, animal encounters, stories, and exciting book themed surprises. Tickets for this event are free and can be picked up at River Forest Library and Trailside Museum. All ages are welcome!

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

To learn more about the programs and services provided by River Forest Township, please visit www.RiverForestTownship.org, or the River Forest community calendar at www.RFHappenings.com.

School Supply Drive

Youth Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships is hosting a school supply drive to benefit local youth in need. Drop off school supply donations through **Wednesday, 8/7** at the main Oak Park Public Library or at River Forest Public Library. Cash and Amazon donations accepted at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. A fun pickup event will be held **Friday, 8/16**, 4 PM – 6:30 PM at the Oak Park Township parking lot, with free refreshments and representatives from local organizations who serve our youth. Please contact Township Youth Services with questions at 708-445-2727 or youth@oakparktownship.org.

AROUND RIVER FOREST

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – RFHappenings.com](http://www.RFHappenings.com)

[Village of River Forest](#)

[River Forest School District 90](#)

[OPRF High School District 200](#)

[River Forest Park District](#)

[River Forest Public Library](#)

[River Forest Township](#)



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