



Village of River Forest



**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,

### COVID-19 Update

River Forest, like the rest of the country, must remain vigilant if we are to ever mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Between Sunday, November 22, and Saturday, November 28, we had 34 new positive cases; 427 tests were completed, resulting in a positivity rate of 8%. The week before, from Sunday, November 15, to Saturday, November 21, we had 42 new positive cases of COVID-19; 457 tests were completed, resulting in a positivity rate of 9.2%. This results in a 1.2% decrease in the positivity rate week over week. For more on COVID-19 data, please read a previous COVID-19 Update by

clicking [here](#). We had one COVID-19-related death reported on November 24, bringing our total to 2 since the pandemic began.

The Village will continue to update you on COVID-19 case data. Residents can also view this by visiting the following sources:

- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Cook County Department of Public Health](#) (CCDPH, click "Case Data by Town")
- [Enigma Forensics](#) (utilizing data from the IDPH and tracking it day-by-day)

Please remember that Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Tier 3 resurgence mitigations are still in effect. Click [here](#) for the complete list of Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation requirements.

Please follow public health protocols:

### **Wear a Mask! Remain Socially Distant! Wash Your Hands!**

As we go into the holiday season, please remember that our **River Forest COVID-19 Senior Response Team** is still available! Please call 708-613-1642 for any assistance you need, such as grocery shopping, pharmacy pick-up, dog walking, library returns or pickups, snow removal, and other non-direct contact needs.

Here's the latest. During a call Thursday morning, December 3, with the Governor's Office, Dr. Ngozi O. Ezike, the head of the Illinois Department of Public Health, shared that the State is still waiting for final details from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on the makeup of the various priority vaccine groups. This applies to all States, not just Illinois. You can find an initial list of priority groups starting on page 7 of the Illinois Vaccination Plan, available by clicking [here](#).

River Forest will send out the final guidance on the priority groups from the CDC and ACIP as soon as it is available.

### **The Village of River Forest COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Plan:**

Since the start of the pandemic, the Village has made providing relief to our residents and businesses a top priority. On March 24, I issued [Executive Order 20-02](#) which suspended fees and permits for parking, late fees for water and refuse service, and bill collections. Additionally, the Village delayed business registration, licenses, vehicle stickers and places of

eating tax payments and created the [Shop Safe Shop River Forest](#) campaign to encourage support for our local businesses.

That commitment continued when the Village Board of Trustees and I approved a 2020 Property Tax levy **with a 0% property tax increase for this year**. This will ease the challenges residents may have experienced due to the pandemic. We will forgo both the Consumer Price Index 2.3% increase and any additional growth tied to assessed valuation from new construction projects. A history of strong, responsible financial policies allows us to do this. This is the right thing to do for our community.

In addition, River Forest also has sought relief and recovery money to help offset our COVID-19-related expenses. So far, the Village is expecting to receive \$172,942 in funds for COVID-19 assistance from FEMA and from an allocation from Cook County as part of the CARES Act.

Other relief will be coming from the Cook County Board of Commissioners. The Board voted to waive late fees for two months on both property tax installments due in 2021, giving cash-strapped property owners more time to juggle their finances, according to Treasurer Maria Pappas. The Board unanimously waived for two months the 1.5% per month late fee on all Tax Year 2020 property taxes. Specifically:

- The First Installment of 2020 taxes is due March 2, 2021, with application of late charges moved back to May 3, 2021.
- The Second Installment of 2020 taxes is due August 2, 2021, with application of late charges moved back to October 1, 2021.

### Shop Local and help our businesses recover:

This year, especially, please consider supporting local businesses this holiday season if you are able. The Village has partnered with [Takeout 25 Oak Park](#), a local campaign geared toward getting commitment from local residents to spend \$25 each week on takeout from local restaurants through the winter months. Support like this is critical for the economic survival of our local business community. Please click [here](#) and find your next takeout meal!

### Business Spotlight:

- [SunStar Dental](#) - SunStar has provided over 20 years of great dental care and have supported the community through sponsorships of the Memorial Day Parade and many other community initiatives.
- [New Rose Catering](#) - New Rose Catering has been in business for 10 years, spending the last 3 years cooking out of the River Forest Kitchen. They offer soup and entree deliveries in River Forest, Oak Park, and Forest Park Monday through Wednesday. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they have supported [Housing Forward](#) by providing meals for their clients.
- [Sugar Beet Schoolhouse](#) - Sugar Beet Schoolhouse offers children's cooking classes out of River Forest Kitchen and aims to help kids build confidence and skills as they navigate interesting and challenging projects. They hope to use their unique programming to improve food literacy, community health and access to and appreciation for local and sustainable food.

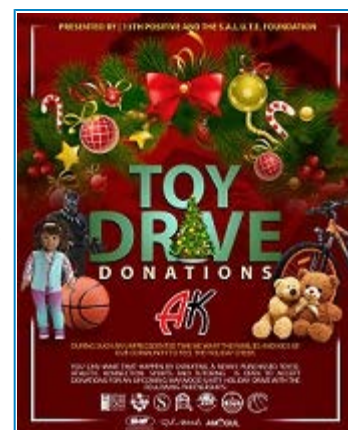
### Toy Drive

In collaboration with [Athletic Konnection](#), the Village of Maywood and the Village River Forest will be collecting toys for children and families in need in the Proviso Township and River Forest area. Drop-off locations are being finalized and details will be shared once available. Toys can also be purchased through this [link](#), which will be delivered directly to the organizers for distribution. Cash donations can be made through CashApp to @donateAK and will be used as financial assistance to help families with bills, rent, groceries, and gift cards. Let's come together in this time of need and spread joy throughout our communities.

### OPRF Infant Welfare Society Virtual Holiday Housewalk Fundraiser

The [Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society](#) has gone virtual with their signature Holiday Housewalk fundraiser in support of the IWS Children's Clinic! Enjoy anywhere, anytime, 12/4 - 12/30. Ticket purchase includes:

- Online access to video tours of 5 beautiful Oak Park & River Forest homes - all dressed up for the holidays.
- One-of-a-kind, how-to holiday project videos showcasing local talent and small local businesses.



- Entry into a Grand Raffle with the chance (or chances!) to win \$10,000! Winner to be announced online 12/30 at 7PM.

Click [here](#) to purchase your ticket.

## Village Administrator Eric Palm to be Appointed Village of Hoffman Estates Village Manager



The Village has [announced](#) that Eric Palm will be named the next Village Manager for the Village of Hoffman Estates. The Hoffman Estates Village Board will make his appointment official at its December 7 meeting. His last day with River Forest will be Friday, February 5, 2021. Eric began serving as Village Administrator in 2010 and has been an exceptional leader. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment to River Forest. Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner will serve as acting village administrator. She has been the Assistant Village Administrator since 2013 and we will be in good hands.

Please have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!!

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## Village Holiday Tree



The Village was proud to decorate a tree for the River Forest Park District's annual Holiday Tree Trimming event. Please stop by Memorial Parkway on Lake Street (across from Jewel) and see all of the wonderful trees. This year, Village staff decorated our tree with a Fire Department theme. Feel free to take some Fire Department swag or even an ICE packet for yourself or a River Forest senior you care about!

What is an ICE Packet? The ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet contains a Medical Information Form which seniors fill out and store in the freezer...right where the River Forest paramedics know to find it! A decal is provided for the front of the freezer to alert paramedics that a completed ICE Packet is inside. ICE Packets are also available at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall, and the River Forest Public Library. Questions? Please contact Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley at 708-714-3562.

## Tree Trails Winner

Congratulations to Mimi Lannon, pictured here, who is the second winner of the Sustainability Commission's [Tree Trails activity](#), winning three months of free curbside composting!



## Holiday Season Village Hall Closures

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a happy holiday season. Please note Village Hall will be closed Thursday, 12/24, Friday, 12/25, and Friday, 1/1/21.

## Holiday Greens Collection Schedule

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on every Tuesday in January.

## River Forest Police Department



The online retail industry is bigger than ever this year, especially as COVID-19 forces many gift-givers to shop online this holiday season. About 26 million Americans had holiday packages stolen in 2017, and a 2019 national survey showed nearly 4 in 10 people have had packages stolen from their homes after delivery. For online shopping safety tips click [here](#).

Here are some ideas from the River Forest Police Department to avoid Package Theft:

- Opt for curbside pickup at a local store
- Install security cameras
- Require signature upon delivery
- Reroute or reschedule deliveries to fit your schedule
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye out for deliveries (offer them the same courtesy)
- Have packages delivered to your workplace
- Add delivery instructions to your order to place them somewhere more discreet
- Use smart package lockers such as Amazon Locker

## River Forest Fire Department



### Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

The holidays are a frantic time of year and can leave little time to consider fire risk and pet safety. Be fire smart while decorating for the holidays this winter: click [here](#) for wreath safety tips, [here](#) for fire and burn prevention tips, and [here](#) for pet safety tips.

### Safety with Snow

As winter approaches, the River Forest Fire Department urges all residents to use caution while [playing in](#) and [clearing snow](#). Please keep [fire hydrants](#) clear of snow so firefighters can locate them in emergencies.

## GREEN NEWS

### Holiday Lights Recycling

Stay green for the holidays! The Village continues to partner with Elgin Recycling Inc. to provide an easy way to responsibly dispose of old and unusable holiday lights. Residents can drop off holiday lights for recycling in a receptacle clearly marked for this purpose behind Village Hall (400 Park Avenue) on Central Avenue under the railroad viaduct. These bins are available through 01/15/2021.

- ACCEPTED: Wire string holiday lights and extension cords.
- NOT ACCEPTED: Live Trees, Artificial Trees, Live Greens, Wreaths, Garland, Ornaments, Figurines, Inflatables.



Elgin Recycling takes the lights and cords. The strands are separated, baled and sent to be chopped or shredded and sold as a commodity to foundries and mills across the United States.

### Think Green During the Holidays

Celebrate the holidays while still being a steward of the environment. The River Forest Sustainability Commission has come up with a host of ways to gather the family together in a festive manner while also reducing, recycling and reusing. Click [here](#) for Sustainable Holiday ideas.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

### District 90's Winter Break

District 90 will begin its Winter Break on Thursday, 12/24. Students will return to school on Monday, 1/11/21. The revised dates for the Winter Break were designed to align with OPRF High School's dates.

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Please visit the Library [website](#) to see everything that is happening at the Library. An exciting lineup of virtual offerings can be seen on the [calendar](#). At this time, the Library building remains closed to the public until further notice. The Library is offering

[curbside/vestibule service](#) for pickup of holds and program kits.

## System Downtime



Beginning Saturday, 12/5 at 7AM, the River Forest Public Library will be undergoing a two day computer system-wide update that will impact the services the Library is able to provide. Read more details [here](#).

## Missing Storytime?

Families can now pick up [storytime prop bags](#) to enhance the fun during live weekly storytimes on the Library's [YouTube channel](#). The bags contain a number of props and instruments. One bag per family

please!

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## RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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### Winter/Spring Fun Guide and Registration

The River Forest Park District Winter/Spring Fun Guide is now online. To view the guide and upcoming programs, click [here](#). Resident registration begins Monday, 12/7 and Non-Resident Registration begins Monday, 12/21.

### Letters to Santa and a Photo Opportunity at The Depot

Santa's mailbox is available in the lobby of The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue, for those who wish to send Santa a letter and their holiday list. Santa's chair with holiday decorations are set up for families looking for a photo opportunity. Staff asks that only one family be in the lobby at a time. The lobby will be regularly sanitized and cleaning products will be available. The Depot lobby will be open weekdays, 12/7 - 12/18 from 9AM - 4PM. The Park District offices remain closed to the public.



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## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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Many in-person Township services and programs have been moved to a virtual platform this winter. To learn more, visit [www.RiverForestTownship.org](http://www.RiverForestTownship.org), the River Forest community calendar at [www.RFHappenings.com](http://www.RFHappenings.com), or [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan.

### "It's Christmastime in the City...."

From the windows on State Street, to Marshall Field's Walnut Room, to the Sears Wish Book, learn about Chicago's special holiday traditions. Join historian/entertainer Clarence Goodman on Zoom on Thursday, 12/17 at 7PM. This program is part of the Celebrating Seniors All Year Long series hosted by River Forest Public Library and River Forest Township; all ages are welcome. The Zoom link is available upon registration. Click [here](#) to register.

### Volunteers Needed to Deliver Meals to Seniors

Township Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest needs volunteers to help with "contact-free" meal delivery to local seniors. Please call 708-383-8005 for more info or if you are interested in helping. A background check is required.

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## AROUND RIVER FOREST

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Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – 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](#)

