



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 February.

In January, the Village Board of Trustees and I voted to form a Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee to investigate and provide a written report and recommendations regarding deer management in the Village. This is an important step for our community to make a decision on this issue. To apply to be on the Committee and for more information, please click [here](#). The deadline to apply is Tuesday, February 18th, 2020. Recommendations for appointments to the Committee will be made at the Village Board meeting on Monday, February 24th.

At the January 27th Committee of the Whole meeting, Village Staff presented a draft Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025. Click [here](#) to view the draft document. The Capital Improvement Plan or CIP identifies major capital projects and corresponding funding sources for projects that are \$10,000 or more. This is the first step in our annual budget process and an important step in ensuring that the Village's facilities, equipment, fleet and infrastructure continue to be well maintained.

The Village Board of Trustees and I were proud to welcome our newest Firefighter/Paramedic, Jonathan Rouse, to River Forest. We are always appreciative of the individuals that work to keep our community safe.



Staff from School District 200 presented to the Village Board of Trustees on the [Oak Park River Forest High School Strategic Plan for 2019-2024](#). The plan's core is ensuring equity and excellence through access for all students. We encourage our residents to read through this Strategic Plan and if you have questions to reach out to our D200 elected officials.

The Village Board and I are pleased to support the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce 2020 Professional Development Program. This project is a partnership between the OPRF Chamber of Commerce and Dominican University Brennan School of Business. For more on this program, please click [here](#).

I had the pleasure of welcoming 30 River Forest Girl Scouts to Village Hall as part of their "Respecting Authority" unit. The Girl Scouts and I talked about



the many services that the Village Government provides and took a tour of our Police and Fire Departments. I am always proud of the youth in our community!

Finally, please remember the Village is offering a Snow Removal Program to eligible senior citizens 65 years of age and older and residents with disabilities. Seniors who qualify for a senior freeze property tax exemption or other financial or unique hardship are eligible for this program. This program will assist eligible residents with snow removal from the public sidewalks and front pathways to their homes. For more details and to apply, see the [application form](#).

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## Village Spotlight

In 2016 the Public Works Department purchased equipment to manufacture salt brine in-house and began using it to pre-treat roadways before snow and ice events. This method is known as anti-icing. The alternative, which is called deicing, is to let the snow bond/freeze to the road, then apply rock salt to break the bond between the snow and the pavement.



Salt brine is a solution of salt and water. It has a freezing point lower than pure water and, as such, is a useful tool in reducing the adhesion of snow and ice to road surfaces. Studies have shown that anti-icing will achieve the same level of service on a road or highway using between one-quarter and one-fifth the amount of salt used in deicing.

This winter, crews have applied 6,000 gallons of salt brine to Village roads, parking lots and alleys.

## Affordable Housing Plan

The Plan Commission began discussions regarding the creation of an Affordable Housing Plan in [October, 2019](#). In [January](#) the Commission reviewed an initial draft of the Plan and accepted public comment. The Commission will review a revised draft on [Tuesday, 3/3, 7PM](#) before making a recommendation to the Village Board that the plan be adopted. The revised draft Plan will be available online no later than Friday, February 28, 2020.

## Snow Removal - Know the Code

Residents are asked to review the below Village code items related to snow removal, as well as aid the Fire Department by making sure that [hydrants are accessible](#) in case of an emergency.

- Village code requires residents and business owners to remove snow and ice from sidewalks in front of and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after an event. If you are on a corner lot, you are responsible for removing snow on all sidewalks adjacent to

your property.

- Snow or ice frozen on sidewalks that cannot be removed without injury to the pavement should be treated with an abrasive material until weather permits further clean-up.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited after snow exceeds two inches in depth, and for an eight hour period following the cessation of the snowfall.
- Snow removal contractors are prohibited from using snow blowers between the hours of 1AM and 5AM.
- The placement of snow or ice on any Village owned street, alley or sidewalk is prohibited.

## Census 2020



The next census will take place in spring of 2020. Your participation is critical to ensuring that you are fairly represented at all levels of government, and that River Forest, Cook County, and the State of Illinois receive a fair share of federal funding to support a wide variety of projects and services. To learn more about how River Forest will Be Counted, visit [vrf.us/Census](http://vrf.us/Census).

### Census 2020: What You Need to Know

The River Forest Public Library, in collaboration with the League of Women Voters, is hosting *Census 2020: What You Need to Know* on **Sunday, 2/16, 2PM - 3:30PM**, at the Library, 735 Lathrop. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.

## River Forest Police Department

### Stay Secure

River Forest Police Department would like to remind residents to secure property and take advantage of existing security measures such as exterior lighting, locked doors, alarm systems, and security cameras. Be vigilant and call the police if you see or hear anything suspicious. Please contact the Detective Unit at 708-714-3522 with information or security camera footage that may aid in these efforts.



### Don't Get Left Out in the Cold

Snowstorms, icy roads, sub-zero temperatures – Chicago winters can be deadly. Click [here](#) to download a winter preparedness guide. It can be tempting to leave vehicles or snow removal equipment running and unattended while warming up inside, but this can lead to theft. Click [here](#) for an auto-theft prevention reminder.

## River Forest Fire Department

### Valentine's Day Safety Tips

Click [here](#) to read fire hazard safety tips from the River Forest Fire Department in preparation for Valentine's Day celebrations.



## GREEN NEWS

### One Earth Film Festival

The Film Festival returns for its 9th year - the Power of WE. *Biggest Little Farm* will be featured on **Friday, 3/13, 6:30PM** at Good Earth Greenhouse, 7900 Madison. The Festival runs **3/6-3/15**. Click [here](#) for the full list of films.

### Re-Ecology: Bringing Life to a Depleted Landscape

Presented by Wild Ones, Alexia Paul, owner of Re-Ecology, will discuss the importance of ecological landscapes on both large and small scales. She will share her philosophy and approach to design. **Sunday, 2/16, 2:30PM - 4:30PM**. Oak Park Library.



834 Lake Street, Veterans Room.

## TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR SPOTLIGHT

### Triennial Re-Assessment

2020 is River Forest Township's Triennial re-assessment year. The Township Assessor is hosting an outreach seminar with the Cook County Assessor on how to appeal your property's assessment and you will be able to appeal and ask questions directly to the staff from the Cook County Assessor Office. The seminar is **Tuesday, 3/3, 6PM** at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, Room 206.

First installment tax bills should arrive by the first week of February and are due **Tuesday, 3/3**. Tax bills can be paid [online with the Cook County Treasurer](#). River Forest is set to close its appeal period **3/9**. Appeals may be filed [online with the Cook County Assessor](#).

Click [here](#) for more information about property tax bills and applying for exemptions.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

### Roosevelt's Annual Spring Musical

The annual spring musical at Roosevelt Middle School opens on **Thursday, 2/20**. Nearly 200 middle school students of two full casts and crew members will sing, dance, and perform in the Tony-awarding winning production of *Gyps and Dolls*. A limited number of tickets are available for purchase [here](#).

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on **Thursday, 2/27** and **Friday, 2/28**. Friday is a non-attendance day for students, so motorists should be extra careful and watch out for youngsters.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 200 SPOTLIGHT

### Imagine OPRF Project 1 Community Meeting

**Monday, 2/24, 7PM - 8PM:** Imagine OPRF Project 1 Community Meeting. OPRF High School, 201 N. Scoville Avenue.

In June 2020, Oak Park River Forest High School breaks ground on its most significant renovations in 50 years. Come learn more from the project team, including design and video "walkthroughs," timeline, and construction impacts to the campus.

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

The River Forest Public Library offers programs, services and resources to all. Visit [www.RiverForestLibrary.org](http://www.RiverForestLibrary.org) to find out everything that is happening at the Library.

### Chicago Arabic Music Ensemble

**Sunday, 2/9, 2PM - 3:30PM** Please join us for a concert

introduction to the genres, instruments, and history of music in the Arab world. Learn about the oud, the qanun, the nay, and all the percussion instruments that play the many types of vocal and instrumental music that create the beautiful sounds of the East. Free and open to all.



## Lincoln Elementary School Art Display

Stop upstairs to see our Local Spotlight Display that features art from students at Lincoln Elementary School during the month of February. Interested in doing a Local Spotlight display? [Email](#) Francisca Arnold.

## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Valentine's Day Kids' Night Out

It's Valentine's Day and parents want a date night! Drop kids off at The Depot for an evening of Valentine's Day crafts, movie, pizza, and more. Click [here](#) for details and to register.

### Summer Happenings



Summer is just around the corner! The Summer Camp Guide will be available on [www.RFParks.com](http://www.RFParks.com) on **2/18** and Resident Registration is open on **2/24**. Click [here](#) to view a variety of summer employment opportunities.

## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

To learn more about the programs and services provided by River Forest Township, please visit [www.RiverForestTownship.org](http://www.RiverForestTownship.org), or the River Forest community calendar at [www.RFHappenings.com](http://www.RFHappenings.com).

### Adult Active Membership for Dole Center

The Park District of Oak Park is offering its Adult Active Membership (AAM) to River Forest residents age 50+, at an annual fee of \$50 (equal to the Oak Park resident rate). This membership includes access to the new Dole Center (255 Augusta, Oak Park), where members can participate in a wide range of classes, including weaving, bridge, German, ceramics, lapidary, quilting, stained glass, and more. Some classes are free with the AAM; others have a nominal per session fee. The AAM offers other benefits including limited pool passes, free and discounted PDOP programs, and discounted tickets to specified local theater events. Click [here](#) for more information or call 708-725-2000. Mention code RF50.

### Sibshops Winter/Spring Session Begins

Sibshops is a program specially designed for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs, disabilities or mental/physical health challenges. Siblings engage in fun activities while sharing conversation with trained facilitators and other siblings. **Saturdays, 11:30AM - 1:30PM, 2/15, 3/7, 4/4, 4/18, 5/2.** Lunch provided. Held at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion, Oak Park. \$10 per session fee; need-based scholarships available. For more information, contact River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan by [email](#) or call 708-366-2029.

## AROUND RIVER FOREST

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – RFHappenings.com](https://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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