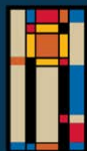




Village of River Forest



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 Vaccine

The Village will continue to share all vaccine distribution information with residents as we receive it from the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). For more information, please reference the updates I provided in past Special E-News editions by clicking [here](#).

Triton College is now open as a large-scale vaccination site, operated by Cook County. Vaccinations at all Cook County Health sites, including Triton, **are provided by appointment only**. Appointments can be made at vaccine.cookcountyil.gov. Individuals without internet access or who need assistance scheduling can call (833) 308-1988 (from 7am to 7pm, Monday - Friday).

COVID-19 vaccinations are being distributed to people in Phases 1a and 1b. The distribution of vaccinations is being done in a phased approach based on vaccine availability, using guidance from local, state, and national public health authorities.

Please be aware that currently there are far more people eligible to get the vaccine than there are available vaccine doses. More than three million people in Illinois are now eligible for the vaccine, and the state's weekly shipment has been fewer than 100,000 doses in past weeks. **Your patience over the next few weeks is greatly appreciated.**

Phase 1b includes:

- Individuals 65 and older
- Frontline essential workers, including:
 - First responders (firefighters, police)
 - Educators (teachers, support staff, daycare)
 - Food & agriculture workers
 - Manufacturing workers
 - Corrections workers
 - U.S. postal service workers
 - Public transit workers
 - Grocery store workers

There are currently four channels to receive the vaccination:

- **Health Care Providers** - Your primary care provider, health clinic, or hospital where you have gotten medical care in the past
- **Pharmacies** - Such as some Jewel, Walgreens, Walmart, and Mariano's pharmacies
- **Dedicated Vaccination Sites** - See the [State of Illinois map](#)
- **Employers** - Your employer should be reaching out to you if/when available

According to officials at CCDPH, residents that sign up through [the portal](#) and who are eligible to receive the vaccine, will receive email notifications about appointments that are available at sites nearest to them. Residents are also encouraged to

check back on the County website (using the link provided in the confirmation email) to check for available appointments at other County facilities, including Triton College, or with their private partners such as Jewel or Walgreens in River Forest.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and CCDPH are working to continue to add vaccination sites. The IDPH released this [press release](#) about those locations. IDPH officials note, "While we are working to increase the number of vaccines administered daily, we are limited by the amount of vaccine available and allocated by the federal government. Vaccinations are available only by appointment at this time and we encourage people to check back frequently for open appointments. Until the supply is increased, there will be a great demand and we ask people to be patient. Individuals should be signing up for an appointment to receive their second dose while they are getting their first vaccination."

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please review the resources below and contact your primary care physician. **You may also call the River Forest COVID-19 Senior Response Team at 708-613-1642** or Village Hall at 708-366-8500 during business hours, Monday through Friday 8am-4:30pm.

- [Cook County Department of Public Health Vaccine Information](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health Vaccine Information](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)

Both the IDPH and CCDPH have provided portals containing vaccination data to monitor progress of the vaccine administration.

- [Illinois Department of Public Health Vaccine Data](#)
- [Cook County Department of Public Health Vaccine Data](#) (click "Vaccine Data")

COVID-19 Cases

Between Sunday, January 24, and Saturday, January 30, River Forest had 18 new positive cases; 356 tests were completed, resulting in a positivity rate of 5.1%. The week before, from Sunday, January 17, to Saturday, January 23, there were 17 new positive cases of COVID-19; 305 tests were completed, resulting in a positivity rate of 5.6%. For more on COVID-19 data, please read a previous COVID-19 Update by clicking [here](#).

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 "Data by Town")
- [Enigma Forensics](#) (utilizing data from the IDPH and tracking it day-by-day)

COVID-19 Restrictions

Currently, all regions in Illinois are in [Phase 4](#). However, CCDPH has issued [Mitigation Order 2021-01](#). River Forest is under the jurisdiction of CCDPH and is subject to these mitigation measures. To review the mitigation measures in their entirety, please click [here](#). Under Cook County Mitigation Order 2021-01, indoor restaurant and bar service is limited to the lesser of 25% room capacity or 25 persons.

COVID-19 Testing

Residents who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to confirmed cases of COVID-19 should quarantine and get tested. Residents are encouraged to contact their primary care physicians to coordinate testing needs. For more information on local and free testing options, please see a previous Special E-News by clicking [here](#).

Saying Goodbye to Two Long-Time Village Employees

During the Village Board of Trustees meeting on January 25, we took time to thank two long-time Village Employees for their service - Georgette Carlini and Eric Palm. Georgette retired at the end of January after serving for 21 years as the Village's Utility Billing Clerk. I know many of our residents knew Georgette for her kindness and helpfulness. Eric Palm served as the Village Administrator for 10 years and is leaving River Forest to become the Village Manager in Hoffman Estates. Eric served the community professionally and with a smile. We are so grateful to both of these people - thank you, Georgette and Eric!

Shop River Forest

If you are able, please support local businesses. Shop local and help support our restaurants and businesses during these difficult times, especially through [Takeout 25 Oak Park](#), a local campaign geared toward getting commitment from residents to spend \$25 each week on takeout from local restaurants through the winter months.

Business Spotlight:

- [Breit & Clean Dry Cleaning Service](#), located on Madison Street, was started in response to the need for a high quality, service oriented, and pocket friendly dry cleaning service for the River Forest community. Breit & Clean is a family-owned and operated business with Mark and Dorene Breit actively involved in every aspect of its operation. Their goal is to ensure that every customer receives the highest quality dry cleaning and prompt service at a fair price. Utilize their dry thru for a safe option to drop off and pick up.
- [Gagliardo Realty](#) is in the business of matching buyers and sellers in the residential and investment markets in River Forest and surrounding communities by providing high quality services to their clients and maintaining the highest ethical standards. They have 40 licensed realtors who are highly recognized and respected in the area and are among the most knowledgeable realtors in the field with personal roots in the communities they serve. Check out their main office on North Avenue for all your real estate needs.
- [My Gym](#) was born out of a passion to teach children in a fun, physically engaging environment. Their goal is to create an environment where children feel loved and supported so their self-esteem and confidence can flourish. With a location on Lake Street right here in River Forest, My Gym offers fun classes, camps, and parties for children of all abilities.

For more River Forest businesses, visit the Shop River Forest page of our website at vrf.us/ShopRF. Don't see a River Forest business listed on the Shop River Forest page? Want your business to be featured? Email info@vrf.us.

Sincerely,



Cathy Adduci
Village President

Village Spotlight

The Village of River Forest Police Department was recently announced the grand prize winner of the 2020 Aftermath Safety and Training Contest for their video on the importance of personal protective equipment. Aftermath is the Village's biohazard remediation partner and specializes in crime scene clean up and now COVID-19 disinfection. The Department was awarded 50 individual personal protective equipment kits and \$5,000 to be used towards training or safety equipment. Special thanks to Corporal Dan Humphreys for his hard work on the video. View the award winning video [here!](#)

Roy Strom Acquired by Lakeshore Recycling Services

The Village's waste hauler Roy Strom was recently acquired by Lakeshore Recycling Systems. There are no anticipated changes to the current collection agreement with Roy Strom and there will be no disruption to current services.

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.

For more information, visit vrf.us/Snow.

River Forest Police Department

Early sunsets during winter are forcing more and more of our joggers and cyclists to exercise in the dark. While the safety tips [here](#) hold true for daytime activities, they are even more crucial after sunset.



River Forest Fire Department

Valentine's Day Safety

If you give or receive flowers and candy for Valentine's Day, be extra careful where your pet is concerned. Both flowers and candies can be deadly to your pets. Click [here](#) for pet safety tips. And don't let an accidental fire ruin your romantic evening! Click [here](#) for candle safety tips.

Carbon Monoxide and Blocked Vents

Carbon monoxide hazards are a year-round concern, but vents blocked under snow can be especially hazardous. Click [here](#) for more information.

GREEN NEWS

Rooftop Solar Has Never Been Easier

It's never been as easy to be green. Harness the power of the sun to provide your home with green, renewable energy. River Forest is a SolSmart certified community which means the process to put a solar system on your rooftop is streamlined and simple. Any one of the many reputable solar companies in the region will take care of the process for you and provide a turnkey solution. Today's systems are efficient, easy to install and require little to no maintenance.



It has never been as economical to be green. The Future Energy Jobs Act in Illinois created significant incentives for homeowners, and along with federal tax incentives, solar rooftop systems pay for themselves quickly while providing you with clean, renewable energy for decades.

Please visit the [Village of River Forest Solar Guide](#) for more information on how to start or continue your clean energy future.

12 Things that We Can Do to Save Water ... Together

Using water-saving techniques can save you money and diverts less water from our rivers, bays, and estuaries, which helps keep the environment healthy. It can also reduce water and wastewater treatment costs and the amount of energy used to treat, pump, and heat water. Click [here](#) for 12 ways to save water.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

Registration for District 90 Kindergarten Starts

D90 will begin registering children for Kindergarten on Friday, February 5, for children who turn five years of age on or before September 1.

D90 is now processing all Kindergarten registrations electronically. All families registering students for Kindergarten must make an appointment to speak with Josephine Ribaldo, District Registrar, to begin the registration process. Appointments can be made by calling 708-771-8282. During your telephone appointment, the registrar will explain the online process and provide you with a specific link for your student(s). For additional information about registering for Kindergarten in D90, please click [here](#). The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Valentine's Day Gift Boxes

Sweeten someone's day! The River Forest Park District has partnered with local businesses to offer gift boxes that include 1/2 dozen heart-shaped cookies, assorted sprinkles, Valentine's balloons, popcorn, and a dried floral arrangement. Gift boxes are available for pickup or delivery. Learn more [here](#).



Seasonal Hiring in Progress

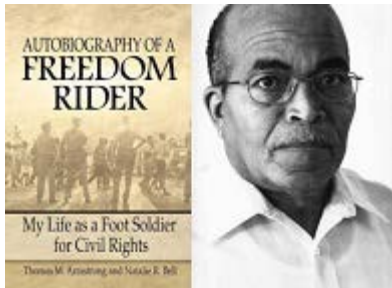
The River Forest Park District is hiring multiple seasonal positions for Summer 2021. Positions include Summer Camp Director, Summer Camp Counselor, Park Specialist, and Birthday Party Coordinator. Click [here](#) for details and an application.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Library Updates

Please welcome the Library's new Director, Emily Compton-Dzak. View a short greeting from her [here](#). Staff is thrilled that the building is again open to the public in a limited capacity. Click [here](#) to read the full details on opening.

February Events



February is Black History Month and the Library will be featuring several displays that highlight this important month. Also look for librarian curated book/movie lists throughout the month.

The Library hopes you can join for a special author visit with Thomas Anderson on Saturday, February 13, 2-3:30 PM. He will discuss his book *Autobiography of a Freedom Rider: My Life as a Foot Soldier for Civil Rights*. Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Visit the Library [website](#) for the most current updates and view the Library [calendar](#) to see all the virtual program offerings.

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Property Taxes

Due to Covid-19, all exemptions will automatically renew for only the year 2020. Exemptions are taken into account on the 2nd installment payment. This includes: Homeowners, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Veterans and Disabled.

Homeowners who turn 66 years of age in the year 2021 will need to file for a Senior Prime exemption. Exemption forms should be available sometime in late February. The Assessor's Office will be mailing the forms to residents who have contacted the Office regarding this exemption.

First installment tax bills are available online. First installment tax bills are estimated tax bills. They are 55% of the total amount paid in the previous year. Due to Covid-19, both the 1st and 2nd installment tax bills will have a 2 month penalty free grace period in the payment schedule.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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

Seniors: Join the new Circle of Friends

Older adults are invited to join a new program, Circle of Friends. The group will meet on Zoom one hour per week for twelve weeks. The group is for people who may be feeling isolated and want to meet new people, socialize, and discuss various topics like exercise, wellness, or the arts. Space is limited. If you are interested, contact Betsy Kelly by [email](#) or at 708-221-3814. Hosted by River Forest Township and Arbor West Neighbors.

Thrive Hosts Suicide Prevention Training

Thrive Counseling Center will sponsor a free suicide prevention training on Zoom for people who work with or care for older adults. The course teaches the risk factors and warning signs of suicide and how to find help for someone in need. Thursday, February 18, 10AM – 11AM. Register by February 17; [email](#) to receive a Zoom link.

AROUND RIVER FOREST

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](#)

