



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,

As we head into the Independence Day weekend, we all need to remember some important health and safety precautions. Under Phase 4 of Governor Pritzker's reopening plan, [Restore Illinois](#), gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed. Please wear face coverings, practice social distancing, wash your hands and stay home if you are sick or at high risk. Also, if you are interested in tracking the number of positive cases and other data by county, [click here](#).

Please do not use or allow others to use fireworks. River Forest ordinances and State laws prohibit anyone from using, selling, delivering, exploding or possessing fireworks in the village all year round. The term "fireworks" includes firecrackers, cherry bombs, M-80's, bottle rockets and Roman candles.

Please keep yourself, your family, and your neighbors safe this holiday weekend. And never drive under the influence.

Temperatures are expected to be warm through the weekend and throughout the coming week. Please remember to:

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Try to stay in the shade or indoors as much as possible
- Check on elderly neighbors and others who may need help
- Take pets indoors and make sure they have plenty of water
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle

If you have a few minutes this weekend, take a look at a questionnaire from the Deer Management Committee. Since its inception this spring, the Committee has been hard at work on this survey, which will gauge residents' views on the deer population and how it affects the community. This questionnaire will offer recommendations on the next steps the Village should take on this issue. The survey is for information gathering purposes only. Visit www.RiverForestDeer.com to participate or call Village Hall 708-366-8500 to obtain a paper copy. This questionnaire is open to River Forest residents 18 and older. **Responses are due August 31, 2020.** The questionnaire contains 15 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. *Please note that Survey Monkey, the tool the village uses to gather survey results online, will be down for scheduled maintenance on Friday, July 3rd. The questionnaire will be unavailable during this time, we apologize for any inconvenience.*

We encourage you to watch our upcoming Policing and Social Justice public forum on July 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM. The agenda will mirror the first we held on [June 24](#). This forum will be [live streamed](#).

Take a few minutes on the Fourth to remember the men and women who helped foster the values we cherish as Americans.

Have a great holiday weekend and remember to stay safe.

Sincerely,



Cathy Adduci
Village President

Village Spotlight - Street Improvement Program



Each year, as part of the Village's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) the Village plans and completes the annual Street Improvement Program. This year's projects are anticipated to start later this month and are budgeted at \$825,000 funded by Motor Fuel Tax funds, Water/Sewer funds, and an Infrastructure Improvement Bond fund. In 2018, the Village hired Roadbotics to analyze Village street conditions and establish a rating. These ratings are then categorized into conditions of Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. The purpose of this program is to improve the condition of local streets by bringing streets with condition ratings of Fair or Poor to Good or Excellent.

Streets rated Poor or Fair are prioritized for one of the construction options (rehabilitation, resurfacing, or reconstruction) depending on the condition, location, and estimated traffic volumes. The timing in improving streets is critical. Waiting too long to address street repairs will result in further deterioration, at which time a more costly repair becomes necessary. To learn more and see project locations, please click [here](#).

Overnight Parking Ban Lifted

Overnight parking will be allowed on Village streets for the Independence Day weekend from 12:01AM Friday, 7/3, 2020 through 9:00AM Monday, 7/6, 2020. No overnight parking waivers will be required during this period. All other parking regulations remain in effect.

DRB Public Hearing

The Development Review Board will hold a public hearing **Thursday, 7/16, 2020 at 7:30PM** to consider an application for a Planned Development to construct a 19-unit townhome development at 1101-1111 Bonnie Brae. Click [here](#) for more information.

2020-2021 Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers for 2020-2021 are now available for purchase. Due to the unprecedented circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for purchasing the vehicle stickers has been delayed by 60 days. The stated deadline of 7/14 on the application has been extended to 9/14/20. **In order to avoid late fees and citations, vehicle stickers must be purchased and affixed to your windshield by 9/14/20.** 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 license. Payment may be made as follows:

- Online at the Village Website by clicking [here](#).
- By mail using the envelope received from the Village (the application can also be downloaded [here](#)).
- Drop off your application in the green drop box in front of Village Hall or in person during regular business hours.

If you choose any one of the no-contact payment options, the vehicle sticker will be delivered to you via US Mail.

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 recently mailed. If you receive 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](#).

River Forest Police Department

Protect Your Bike

The Police Department offers these tips on how to protect bicycles:

- Cable locks should not be used as a primary means of locking a bike. Cheaper and older locks can often be broken without any tools. Use a quality U-Lock.
- Aim to have the hardest bike to steal on the rack. Consider two U-locks, or a U-lock and one heavy-duty cable.
- Do not rely on foot traffic to keep your bike safe; years of reports have taught us that many thefts, particularly those involving cutting cable locks, occur under the cover of crowd activity or in front of bustling cafés or restaurants.
- Tug on whatever you are about to lock onto in order to make sure it cannot be easily removed.
- Bicycles are often stolen from garages and store rooms. Lock your bike securely to an immovable object even if it is in a "secure" place.
- Do not leave your bike unlocked in a back yard, park, alley, or outside a business.
- Register your bicycle online by clicking [here](#).



Consumption of Alcohol

The Police Department would like to remind residents that **underage consumption of alcohol** (under the age of 21) is prohibited statewide and re-enforced by Village Local Ordinance (Village Code 8-5-34). Parents or guardians facilitating underage consumption will be held accountable under the **Social Hosting Ordinance** (Village Code 8-11-3). The Department will also begin its Fourth of July safety campaign to encourage safe and sober driving. Please click [here](#) for the full release and follow these tips for a safe holiday:

- Designate a sober driver and give them your keys before you go out.
- Don't let friends or family members drive under the influence.
- If you are drunk or impaired by marijuana or other drugs, call a taxi, take mass transit, use your favorite ride-sharing service, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.
- Promptly report drunk drivers to law enforcement by pulling over and dialing 911.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. It's not only the law, but also your best defense against an impaired driver.

River Forest Fire Department

As Phase Four of Restore Illinois allows people to cautiously leave their home for a night out or vacation, the Fire Department would like to offer [babysitting safety tips](#) and [vacation safety tips](#).

Camping is a great way to teach kids about nature and can provide bonding time away from the glare of electronic devices and the noise of our everyday lives. The Fire Department offers these [camping safety tips](#) to be prepared while enjoying nature.

GREEN NEWS

Parkways for Pollinators Garden Planting Season Is Almost Here!



The Sustainability Commission encourages residents to plant natives for their deep root structure to support healthy soils while mitigating flooding with the added benefit of supporting pollinators. The Commission created the [Parkways for Pollinators](#) initiative three years ago in partnership with the [Deep Roots Project](#), a local nonprofit with expertise in organic gardening, to assist and educate residents on the benefits of native plants and the importance of pollinators. Beginning this summer, the Parkways for Pollinator gardens will be offered to both private residents and local institutions independently of Green Block Parties via an online application available on the Village of River Forest website. Click [here](#) for more

information.

Green Electric Aggregation Program

Beginning in September 2020, the Village of River Forest will establish a green electric aggregation program that supports renewable energy projects and offsets the Village's CO2 emissions, making significant progress towards the goal of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2050. The electric aggregation program is estimated to eliminate nearly 26,000 metric tons of CO2 per year, equivalent to the annual emissions of approximately 5,500 cars. It would take 34,000 acres of forest

(137 times the size of Thatcher Woods) to sequester the same amount of carbon. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program. Residents and businesses will receive a letter from the Village with additional information this month.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

Free and Reduced Priced Lunches

District 90 will continue to offer student lunches at no cost to help support our families who may be unexpectedly facing times of food insecurity due to circumstances such as unemployment or a reduction of work hours. Every Monday through 7/31, the District will deliver a week's worth of student lunches to help any D90 family indicating need. The packages include both perishable and non-perishable food items. This support of our families is in collaboration with OPRF High School and the District's transportation vendor. Parents of students who need this service are asked to please [email](#) Josephine Ribaldo no later than noon on the Wednesday prior to delivery. Please be assured that we will keep your information confidential. In the email, please include:

- Name
- Current residence address (for delivery of lunches)
- Phone number
- Number of children in PreK-8 grade

Please send the above information to Josephine Ribaldo only if your family has not previously contacted the District about receiving this assistance.

Summer Learning Resources

On its [website](#), District 90 offers optional Summer Learning Resources, as well as social-emotional resources for students and families. Different social-emotional activities and resources will be added to the website every Monday. The District invites D90 families to take part in any of the optional resources to help maintain a student's learning trajectory for the fall.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Summer Camps and Programs

There are a variety of camps and program openings available. The Park District is now offering youth sports classes starting the week of 7/6. Click [here](#) for details.



July Special Events

- On 7/9, the Park District is hosting a Bunny in July drive-through event.
- On 7/23, the Mobile DJ will be cruising the streets of River Forest, playing family-friendly tunes. It's a great time to spend an evening outside. A new route will be available on the website.

Details will be coming soon for both events, so be sure to join the [email list](#).

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Building to Reopen on July 27

The Library plans to reopen its building in a limited capacity on Monday, 7/27. The Library is in the process of acquiring the necessary equipment to ensure that when it opens, it will be safe for the public and staff. Staff will be providing more detailed information about procedures and available services very soon. Until then, [curbside service](#) will still be available.



Materials from Other Libraries Available Beginning July 7

Beginning on 7/7, patrons will be able to request items from other SWAN libraries that are participating. More materials means shorter hold times!

The Library has many exciting summer programs planned. Please click [here](#) for details.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

River Forest Township is here to help support your needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit www.RiverForestTownship.org or the River Forest community calendar at www.RFHappenings.com, or [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan. Please note: many in-person services and programs have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Services Guide

The online [COVID-19 Social Services Guide](#) provides a comprehensive list of services and contact information and is updated weekly.

Virtual Summer Sibshops

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.

For the first time, virtual Sibshops will be offered on Saturday, 7/18 and 8/15, 11:30AM – 1:30PM. Hosted by facilitators from Thrive Counseling Center. For more info or to register, [email](#) Laurie Johnson at Thrive or call 708-383-7500 x409.

Seeking New Member for Township Youth Services Committee

River Forest Township is seeking to fill a vacancy on the volunteer **OPRF Township Youth Services Committee**. This Committee makes funding recommendations to the Township for local youth programming. Meets first Wednesdays, 6:00PM.

Must be a River Forest resident and experience with youth or in youth services/social work is a plus but not required. If interested, please [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan.

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](#)

