



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,

The Village of River Forest is working with local officials and community partners to monitor the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On Monday, March 2, the Village sent out a Special E-News email explaining more about COVID-19 and what we have been doing to keep our community informed. To read more, click [here](#). Since that time, the Federal Government has passed legislation that will provide funding in the event the Village incurs costs in response to coronavirus. If you forwarded our email to someone, please consider asking them to sign up for the Village's E-News by clicking [here](#). The Village will continue to monitor the situation and send out more information as the need arises.

This month the Village Board and I are moving into what is usually a busy time as we start to put the finishing touches on next year's budget.

On our agenda for our March 9 meeting, we will discuss a new Roy Strom waste hauling contract, which will include an updated electronics recycling component.

At our Special Village Board of Trustees meeting on March 30, we will review and consider recommendations from our long-awaited parking study. Additionally, we will discuss clean energy aggregation for our Village where we hope to find ways to provide clean energy at lower cost to our residents.

Until then, here are a few things we took up at the Village Board of Trustees meeting in February.

The deer management ad-hoc committee appointees were approved by a 5-1 vote. Eleven residents, along with two Trustees, will serve on the committee. After discussion, an additional two more members will be named at our March 9 meeting. A report and recommendations will be reviewed by Trustees this fall. The board also anticipates recommendations coming from the committee before the final report is presented. Information on this issue is posted on our [website](#).

The Board also approved formation of an Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, the second step toward making River Forest an official part of the [AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#). The Village was accepted into the Network last November. I will appoint, with the



advice and consent of the Village Trustees, a seven-member committee to undertake this important responsibility. If you are interested, please fill out an application, which you can find [here](#). We strongly encourage our senior residents to apply so that they are better represented in this process. The committee will meet over the next two years and come back with an Age-Friendly River Forest action plan. I would like to thank Trustee Vazquez for his leadership in this effort.

The Trustees and I signed a [letter of commitment](#) to join the PlanItGreen initiative to pursue 100% renewable electricity by 2050. We would like to thank Julie Moller and the Sustainability Commission for bringing this forward and for all of their hard work in helping make River Forest a healthier, more sustainable community.

Residents can find out more about the sustainability efforts in River Forest, Oak Park and the League of Women Voters during the Second Tuesday Forum, at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 10 at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave., Oak Park. The event is sponsored by the Environmental Committee of the local League of Women Voters and Julie Moller, Chair of our Sustainability Commission will make a presentation.



Census Day is April 1. As the date approaches, River Forest - and the entire nation - will continue to prepare for the 2020 Census. Our participation is vital for it ensures that we 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. Residents should look out for official mailings from the U.S. Census Bureau starting March 12. More information is available on our [website](#). I would like to thank Trustee Bachner for her leadership in this effort.

In April, we will discuss and adopt the 2020-2021 budget.

Finally, congratulations to our Roosevelt Middle School students Marin Chalmers and Daniela Arezina, both in 7th grade, who won awards and recognition at the One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest for their animated film "Walking for a Happier Earth." Also, congratulations to Samantha Older, a 7th grader at Roosevelt, who received an honorable mention for her film, "The Shortage of Helium." The One Earth Film Festival runs from March 6 through March 15. For more information, click [here](#).

A handy list of all our meetings and events around the village is available on the [River Forest Community Calendar](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and watch our Board of Trustees' meetings on [YouTube](#) and the [Village's website](#) by clicking on the meeting.

Regards,

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Village Spotlight

The Village of River Forest is part of an organization called TripCom, organized by the Cook County Department of Homeland Security. TripCom also includes the Villages of Forest Park and Elmwood Park. The organization's purpose is to have a demonstrable and testable plan for rapid emergency pharmaceutical distribution within the three villages. Members of TripCom are constantly updating plans to meet current and

potential needs. The plan is practiced and revised on an annual basis. Members on the committee include the fire and police departments from all three villages, West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, Citizens' Corps, Concordia University and Dominican University.

Illinois Primary Election

The 2020 primary election in Illinois is **Tuesday, 3/17**. Please click [here](#) to find your polling place, and click [here](#) for more information about elections.



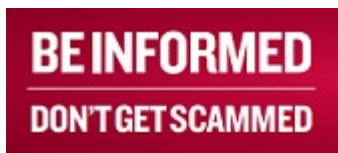
Public Hearing - ZBA

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, 3/12, 7:30 PM** to consider a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to change massage therapy establishments from a permitted use to a special use in the C1, C2, C3 and ORIC Zoning Districts. Please click [here](#) for more information. The ZBA's recommendation will be considered at a future Village Board of Trustees meeting date.

Public Hearing - Bonnie Brae & Thomas

The Public Hearing for the Bonnie Brae & Thomas planned development is continued to **Thursday, 5/7**. The progress of the application can be tracked at VRF.us/BonnieandThomas.

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.

Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade

On **Saturday, 3/7** Forest Park will host their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at 1 PM on Madison at Van Buren and will travel East on Madison into Forest Park. Click [here](#) for details on parking restrictions and road closures.



Beekeeping



As the seasons change, the Village would like to remind residents that a permit is required for beekeeping. Click [here](#) for links to the beekeeping permit and other helpful information.

River Forest Police Department

The River Forest Police Department would like to remind residents to celebrate responsibly this St. Patrick's Day. The Department will conduct special patrols to crack down on impaired drivers and encourage people to wear their seat belts. Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

River Forest Fire Department

With spring approaching, please click [here](#) for a spring safety checklist from the River Forest Fire Department.

GREEN NEWS

Start Thinking Spring

In partnership with the Sustainability Commission, David Murphy from *The Deep Roots*

Project will present strategies to eliminate the use of pesticides and other chemicals in resident lawn care routines. Keep your family, lawn and environment healthy. **Sunday, 3/22, 2 PM - 3:30 PM**, River Forest Public Library.

Mark Your Calendar!

Free compost pick up is **Saturday, 4/25** all day at the Park District Depot parking lot.

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Property Tax Appeals

River Forest Township is open for appeals with the Cook County Assessor. The Cook County Assessor will close our appeal period on 3/19. Appeals may be filed [online with the Cook County Assessor](#). The Township Assessor can assist with finding comparable properties. If you would like an appeal packet, please call the office at 708-366-2787. Please leave your name, address and phone number twice. Please speak slowly and clearly and have patience during this very busy time.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

Spring Break

Spring Break for students in District 90 is **3/23 - 3/27**, with students returning to classes on **Monday, 3/30**. Please be on the lookout for children while driving through the Village.

Screenagers

The film *Screenagers* will be shown on **Thursday, 4/2** at Roosevelt Middle School, from 7 PM - 9 PM. This documentary details in an engaging and informative manner the effects that screens (cell, tablet, laptop, etc) are having on adolescents. The free showing of this eye-opening film is hosted by the District 90 PTOs, the Parent Enrichment Committee, and the Oak Park Township.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 200 SPOTLIGHT

Imagine OPRF Project 1 Breaks Ground in June

During nearly two years of facilities master planning, a rather surprising theme emerged from the input collected: students repeatedly said that they needed spaces that would allow them to spend more time at school to study, collaborate on projects, and socialize during down time. That is exactly what they will have in the centralized, secure Student Resource Center (SRC) that breaks ground this June. Funding for the project, which has a cost of \$32,631,500, will come from existing cash reserves, thereby avoiding a tax increase to property owners and preserving the district's debt-free status. Click [here](#) for more information.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

New Website Launch

The River Forest Park District is excited to announce the launch of the new website on Monday, 3/9. The site features a clean design with new features like an event calendar, field statuses, interactive park and facility map, and more. Visit www.RFParks.com to view the new site.

2020 Summer Camp Registration



Summer Camp is right around the corner! Registration has begun for River Forest Residents. A variety of camps for tots to teens are offered. Click [here](#) to view the Summer Camp Guide.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

The River Forest Public Library offers programs, services and resources to all. Visit www.RiverForestLibrary.org to find out everything that is happening at the Library.

Introducing the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

Families with young children ages birth through five years are invited to join the new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the library. This program is a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly read aloud to their children. Visit the library to register or click [here](#) to begin your reading adventure. For questions, please ask your friendly Children's Services staff for assistance.



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.

Advocacy Town Hall on March 12

In honor of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, there will be an Advocacy Town Hall meeting on **Thursday, 3/12**; doors open at 6 PM with a discussion led by a panel of experts 6:30 – 8 PM. Open to people with intellectual and/or development disabilities and their parents, guardians, families and caregivers. Location: Riveredge Hospital, 8311 W. Roosevelt Rd, Forest Park. Topics include lifelong transitions, vocational opportunities, and state funding. Hosted by the Developmental Disabilities Consortium and the Oak Park Community Mental Health Board. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY THE RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY AND RIVER FOREST TOWNSHIP

Celebrating Seniors All Year Long – March Lineup

Seniors: join us on Sunday afternoons in March for a lineup of informative and enjoyable programs. Held at 2:00 PM at the River Forest Public Library. Hosted by the Library and River Forest Township. Free of charge; all are welcome.

3/8: RN Joan Davis takes us to the Blue Zones: Living Vibrantly into your 90's and Beyond.

3/15: Back by popular demand, the Irish Heritage Singers return for St. Patrick's Day.

3/29: Author Linda Gartz shares her personal story, *Redlined: a Memoir of Race Change and Fractured Community in 1960's Chicago*

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](#)



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