



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,

Happy November and the start of the approaching holiday season.

Let me fill you in on what happened at the Board table in October.

The Trustees unanimously voted to accept our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended April 2019. The report showed that River Forest, for a 10th straight year, continues its good fiscal health. Trustees and I thank Village Administrator Eric Palm, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Assistant Finance Director Keke Boyer and the rest of our administration and staff for their hard work and prudence in keeping our Village's finances sound. For more information and to read our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, please click [here](#). For key highlights of the report and to learn more about what this report means to our residents, please click [here](#).

Thanks to our newly initiated snow removal program, qualified seniors and disabled residents can get help removing snow on sidewalks and front walks during the winter. The Township Assessor and Senior Services Center have flyers advertising the program. Interested residents can complete the form at Village Hall or click [here](#). We have begun reaching out to contractors to perform this service and will continue to provide updates on this program.

Left turns from eastbound Madison Street to northbound Keystone Avenue will be prohibited from 7am to 9am and from 4pm to 6pm, Monday through Friday. Signage has been installed and this ordinance is now in effect. The request came from several residents concerned about cut-through traffic on Keystone from Madison Street. The Village will continue to monitor traffic and safety in the area.

The Trustees also awarded a contract and funded a commuter parking study. The Village frequently hears concerns from residents related to parking throughout the entire town, but particularly from those close to the campuses and transit areas that attract commuters. This study is an effort to take a holistic and thoughtful approach to these issues and will be completed in February 2020.

The River Forest Civic Center Authority Building, located at 8020 Madison, Feasibility Study project is making progress. The stakeholder groups recently met with a consultant to discuss their space needs. In the coming weeks, the consultant will create architectural

bubble plans that will highlight areas for possible collaboration to present to the working group and determine how to move forward.

The Village collaborated with many partners to address residents' concerns for the Metra third rail project. Union Pacific agreed to install an eight-foot tall fence along the tracks nearest to the homes on the west end of Lake Street. Additionally, Metra agreed to begin a pilot program to test a product that will be attached to the fence to help mitigate noise. The project will cost approximately \$60,000 and will be funded by Metra. Thanks to Senator Kimberly Lightford for her assistance in resolving these resident issues.

Here are a few things coming in November.

The Zoning Board of Appeals held a Public Hearing on October 17 regarding recreational cannabis business establishments (CBEs). The ZBA made a recommendation to the Village Board to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow dispensing organizations and medical cultivation centers as special uses in the commercial zoning districts. The ZBA will return on November 14, 2019 to adopt the findings of fact, their recommendation, and the October 17 meeting minutes. These items will be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration, and the Board will make a final determination on the matter at its December 9 meeting. For more information, including an FAQ regarding the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, please click [here](#).

The Village Board and I will consider an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserves of Cook County during our meeting on November 25, 2019. The agreement will include a plan to partner with the Forest Preserve to begin a wildlife management program, specifically the culling of the deer population within River Forest. Please attend our meeting to hear more about this program.

Congratulations to all the historic homes and buildings that have applied for and received their Historic Plaques from the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest. Details on how to apply are later in this newsletter.



To catch up on all the events around town, log on to the [River Forest Community Calendar](#). Also, do not forget to stay connected with the Village by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to wish our neighbors and friends a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy".

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Village Spotlight



future infrastructure projects.

You may have recently noticed a vehicle driving slowly down Village Streets with the name "Roadbotics" on the side. This is a Village consultant hired to help assess the pavement condition of roadways throughout the Village. They do this by taking pictures of the roadway at ten-foot intervals. A computer then analyzes each photo and accumulates the data to provide an overall pavement rating for each block in the Village. This non-invasive pavement assessment helps Staff determine which roadway segments will need to be addressed in

Thanksgiving Holiday - Village Hall Closed

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a happy Thanksgiving holiday. Please note Village Hall will be closed Thanksgiving Day (11/28) & Friday (11/29).

Holiday Parking

Will family be visiting this year? Do they need somewhere to park? Contact the Police Records division Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for answers: 708-366-8500 x 345, and use our 24/7 non-emergency line to call for permission to park a vehicle on the street overnight: 708-366-7125. Please stop by the Village Hall for a free refrigerator magnet that keeps parking and other important contact information within reach.

The Overnight Parking Ban will be lifted from Tuesday, 11/26 (12:01 AM) through Monday, 12/2 (9:00 AM). No overnight waivers will be required during this period.

Winter Parking Reminders

Parking is not permitted on any Village street after two inches of snow or more has accumulated on the street, and for up to eight hours after the snowfall ends, to allow snow plows to safely clear the street. This helps our dedicated Public Works department do their jobs to keep our streets clean and safe from road hazards. The Village will not grant overnight parking passes during the above conditions.

Historic Plaque Program

Administered by the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, the Historic Plaque Program was created to highlight the rich history and architectural heritage of these two villages as well as to promote community pride. Click [here](#) for more details.



ComEd Power Outages

Power outages can be reported directly to ComEd. To report outages or downed wires:

- Use the online form at [ComEd.com/Report](https://www.comed.com/Report) to report or to check if your outage has been reported
- Text OUT to 26633 (COMED) if you have already subscribed to Outage Alerts
- Download the free ComEd Mobile App (for iPhone and Android smartphones)
- Log onto the Facebook Outage App
- Call 1-800-EDISON-1. (During storms call centers may experience high wait times)

Outage maps can be found online: <https://outagemap.comed.com>

Census 2020



The next census will take place in spring of 2020. Your participation is critical to ensuring that everyone is 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, visit [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

River Forest Fire Department

Is your smoke alarm still working?

A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all. On Sunday, 11/3 when resetting your clocks for Standard Time, make sure your smoke alarms work and replace the batteries, if necessary. Click [here](#) for more information.

Fireplace Safety

As the weather turns chilly, it is important to remember to properly maintain fireplaces and chimneys. Click [here](#) for maintenance and safety tips.

River Forest Police Department

Panel Discussion on Fraud and Scams

Please join us at Village Hall on **Wednesday, 11/13, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM** for our panel discussion on Identity Theft, Scams and more. The Village's Crime Prevention Officer will be joined by a member of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Click [here](#) to learn more.



School Crossing Safety Tips

Safety at intersections is the responsibility of motorists, crossing guards and pedestrians. Just because a vehicle is stopped at the intersection, it may not be safe to cross just yet. Click [here](#) for the Our School Crossing Safety Tips. Spread the word and help keep our intersections safe!

River Forest District 90

District 90 Hosts Town Hall Forum on Social-Emotional Learning

The public is invited to attend a Town Hall Forum hosted by District 90. The Forum will be held on **Tuesday, 11/5, 7 PM** in the Roosevelt Middle Library Learning Center. The topic for the Forum is *Social Emotional Learning in District 90*.

This Town Hall Forum will feature a presentation outlining the role of social-emotional learning in supporting the development of the whole child. The presentation will discuss some of the components of the District's social-emotional learning efforts. The event will also provide community members with the opportunity to ask questions about the topic and share feedback with the Board of Education. Please bring questions, insights, and a friend. Hope to see you there!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

District 90 families and faculty members will be holding Parent/Teacher Conferences on **Wednesday, 11/6** and **Thursday, 11/7**. *Thursday, 11/7 and Friday, 11/8 are student non-attendance days.*

GREEN NEWS

Saturday, 11/2, 9:00 AM - noon, The Great Pumpkin Smash, Roosevelt Middle School

Drop off and "smash" Halloween pumpkins for composting. This is a great way to recycle pumpkins instead of sending them to the landfill, where decomposing organics contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.



PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Rec Basketball

Basketball season is right around the corner. The River Forest Park District is seeking volunteer coaches, both beginner and experienced, for our recreational youth basketball league. Click to register: [Head Coaches](#) and [Assistant Coaches](#).



Holiday Tree Trimming

Celebrate Santa's arrival with hot cocoa, cookies, and tree lighting on **Thursday, 12/5, 4 PM - 5 PM** at Memorial Parkway. Community businesses, organizations, and neighborhoods are [invited to sponsor](#) and decorate a tree, which will be on display along Lake Street in Memorial Park.



RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Visit www.RiverForestLibrary.org to find out everything happening at the Library.

Lobby Renovation Nearing Completion

The library will be closed to the public on **Friday, 11/8**. On this day, the temporary wall will be taken down and staff will be setting up the new materials service desk. The front door will be re-opened and our new desk will be operational on Saturday, 11/9.

Children's Room Closing for Renovation

The Children's Room will be closed **Saturday, 11/9 - Friday, 11/15** to allow for exciting updates, including new shelving, carpet, paint, and a new service desk. These updates will make the Children's Room more welcoming, and the collections more functional and ADA compliant.



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.

Memoir Writing Workshop on November 10

Everyone has a story to tell! Learn how to effectively tell yours at the Memoir Writing Workshop on **Sunday, 11/10, 2 PM – 3:30 PM** at the River Forest Public Library. In-class exercises will help you retrieve memories, support them with sensory details and begin writing. Free and open to all, including beginners and seasoned writers. (A follow-up session on Sunday, 1/12 at 2 PM will explore how to successfully use genealogy and historical research in the memoir-writing process.) Sponsored by RF Township and RF Public Library. Contact [Cathaleen Roach](#) with questions.

Parent University on November 13

Parents are cordially invited to attend the inaugural *Parent University*, **Wednesday, 11/13, 7 PM – 9:35 PM** at Oak Park River Forest High

School. Participate in three class sessions directed at teens' mental wellness, including: Finding Balance, Managing Stress, Screens & Technology, the Vaping Epidemic, the Teen Brain, and Mastering Executive Function. Free and open to all, including D200, D97 and D90 parents. Sponsored by the D200 Mental Wellness Collaborative. Contact [Kris Johnson](#) with questions.

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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