



## 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 October. The Village Board of Trustees and I were busy in September and we are looking forward to the rest of fall.

#### Here is what happened in September.

A well-earned congratulations and warm thank you to all of the community volunteers and the attendees who made the annual [LemonAid](#) event a success. This year's event benefitted Hephzibah Children's Association and Beat the Streets Chicago Wrestling, two well-deserving charities. River Forest is proud to have such strong philanthropy in our community.



The Village Board of Trustees and I recognized our Police Department for their first place win in their category for the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge, an award that shows the Department's commitment to traffic safety in the community. View the award winning report by clicking [here](#).

Just a couple of days ago, the Village Board of Trustees and I were joined by Cook County Commissioner Pete Silvestri and others for the groundbreaking of The Sheridan at River Forest, the new development taking place at the intersection of Chicago and Harlem.

This project represents great efforts by our community to serve our senior population by providing another housing option to age in place as well as stabilizing property taxes by broadening our tax base. For updates on the construction, please click [here](#).



The Village Board of Trustees and I adopted an ordinance that prohibits the sale of flavored liquid nicotine products in River Forest. These flavored liquid nicotine products are most commonly used in electronic cigarettes. The FDA notes research showing that sweet-tasting flavors are especially appealing to youth and young adults. The Village is proud to pass this ordinance in an effort to protect the health and safety of our residents and particularly our youth.

On September 9, 2019, the Village Board held a Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:00 p.m. to hear resident input and gather information about changes to State laws regarding cannabis and cannabis business establishments. A video of the meeting, which includes public comment, is available on the Village's [Facebook page](#). At its 7:00 p.m. regular meeting, the Village Board voted to direct Staff to submit an application for text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding cannabis business establishments under the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act ("CRTA") and medical cannabis establishments under the Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, with the proposed amendments:

- Allowing cannabis dispensaries and craft growers operating under the CRTA as a special use in the C1, C2, C3 and ORIC Zoning Districts;
- Prohibiting cannabis cultivation centers, processing organizations and transporting organizations operating under the CRTA in the C1, C2, C3 and ORIC Zoning Districts;
- Allowing medical cannabis dispensaries as a special use in the C1, C2, C3, and ORIC Zoning Districts;
- Allowing medical cannabis cultivation centers as a special use in the in the C1, C2, C3, and ORIC Zoning Districts; and
- Prohibiting consumption of cannabis on the premises of any cannabis business establishment

Additionally, the Village Board approved an Ordinance at its September 23rd meeting that imposes a 3% tax on cannabis sales in River Forest if the Village allows cannabis to be sold at retail in the Village. The approved Ordinance does not modify the Village's zoning regulations, and the Village will not collect this revenue unless a cannabis business establishment locates in River Forest.

#### **Here is what is coming in October.**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled to hold a public hearing to consider the text amendments related to cannabis business establishments at their [October 17, 2019](#) meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Following the public hearing, the ZBA will vote on a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees. They 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. For more information, including an FAQ regarding the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, please click [here](#).

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## Village Spotlight

The Village is currently reconstructing alleys at four different locations. These alleys were in poor condition initially and experienced flooding to some degree during rain events. The reconstruction of these alleys will provide a much-improved driving surface and will include a section of permeable pavers to help drain the alley and surrounding areas during rain events. The design allows for as much water as possible to drain into the surrounding soil, with a perforated pipe present to convey any excess runoff into the sewer system.



## Free Counseling Sessions at Concordia University

Concordia University Chicago Master's students are offering free counseling to the community **Tuesdays 12:30 PM - 8:30 PM until December**. They offer family, individual, and couples counseling. Topics include but are not limited to anxiety, depression, and career counseling. Please call Karina at 708-488-4111 to learn more or to schedule an appointment. Space is limited.

## Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from **September 16 - November 29**. The next opportunity to dispose of leaves after November 29 will be during the yard waste collection program which starts in April 2020. Rake only leaves onto the street by 7 AM on your collection day, leaving the curb exposed, where Village and Strom crews will collect them. Grass clippings, brush or any other type of yard waste mixed with your leaves will not be collected. Leaves are collected on both sides of the street in accordance with the following schedule:

**Mondays:** The area west of Thatcher including Edgewood, Auvergne, River Oaks and Lake, and all streets south of the Union Pacific Rail Road tracks.

**Tuesdays:** Harlem through and including William.

**Wednesdays:** Monroe through and including Lathrop, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

**Thursdays:** Ashland through and including Park, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

**Fridays:** Forest through and including Thatcher, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.



## River Forest Police Department

In order to have a safe and fun Halloween, the Village of River Forest has set official trick-or-treating hours on **Thursday, 10/31, 3 PM - 7 PM**. Residents are asked to try their best to participate within these hours. Click [here](#) to view Halloween Safety Tips. Have a safe and fun Halloween!

## River Forest Fire Department

**Saturday, 10/12, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Fire Department Open House, Village Hall**

Have you ever stepped into an ambulance or sat in the driver's seat of a big, shiny red firetruck? The River Forest Fire Department invites everyone to attend its Open House





to culminate Fire Prevention Week, observed to commemorate the Chicago Fire of October 1871. Visitors will be able to get up close to the equipment used by firefighters and paramedics and learn fire safety tips for home. In addition to touching all the cool equipment of a modern fire department, the Open House will include tours of the firehouse as well as having your child practice making a 911 phone call. Light refreshments and fun handouts will be available. Click [here](#) for more information.

## 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.

### Leaves Protect Plants Over the Winter

Leaves make a great winter mulch for trees and plants; they provide important microbes for the soil and provide plants with nutrients. For healthier soil next spring, rake leaves into planting beds and use as mulch around trees.

## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



### Halloween Hoot 'n Howl

**Friday, 10/11, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Trailside Museum**

Join the River Forest Park District, Trailside Museum, and the River Forest Public Library for Halloween Hoot 'n Howl, a free event geared towards children ages 10 and under and their parents or guardian. Attendees will enjoy a guest appearance by Nature Cat, live music, pumpkin painting, live native animals, and so much more. Guests can sit around the bonfire and enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Rec Basketball

New and experienced players are welcome to join the Winter 2020 basketball season! Boys and girls divisions are offered for 1st - 8th graders. Participants will play against their peers with coaches stressing fundamentals and sportsmanship. Practices and games will run from January 6 to March 7. Registration is open now through November 29 at 12:00 PM. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.



Volunteer coaches are needed for all age groups. Click [here](#) to register.

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

### Library Renovation Update

The Library is in week three of its renovation project and it's off to a



flying start! Demo work has been completed, allowing framing and drywall installation to begin. In addition to the interior renovation, some much needed repairs to the slate roof have begun. These repairs are estimated to take two weeks to complete, depending on the weather. There is a book drop for returns available in the garden, as well as a drive-through book drop located at the exit of the south parking lot of Roosevelt Middle School on Lathrop Avenue.

Even during the renovation, the Library has wonderful program offerings. See what's happening at [RiverForestLibrary.org](http://RiverForestLibrary.org).

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## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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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).

### Looking for Volunteers to Serve on Township Committees

River Forest Township is looking for enthusiastic River Forest residents to serve on the Mental Health Committee (MHC) or the Youth Services Committee (YSC). Experience in mental health or youth services is helpful but not required. Committees review grant applications, make funding recommendations to the Township Board, and provide input to policies and programs.

Committees meet nine months per year; MHC meets **6:30 PM 1st Tuesdays**; YSC meets **6:00 PM 1st Wednesdays**. Contact Supervisor Carla Sloan at [cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com](mailto:cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com) or 708-366-2029.

### Fall Sibshops are Underway

Sibshops is a program specially designed for siblings of kids with special needs, disabilities, and mental or physical health issues. Participants can engage with other siblings and with trained facilitators in a fun and meaningful way.

For 1st – 7th graders; all are welcome. **Saturdays 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**, Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park. Lunch is provided. \$10 per session fee (need-based scholarships are available). Contact Supervisor Carla Sloan at [cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com](mailto:cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com) or 708-366-2029.

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## AROUND RIVER FOREST

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Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

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