



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 you know, the Village focuses its goals on three core guiding principles and values:

1. Provide a safe community for all.
2. Strengthening our quality of life.
3. Stabilizing our property taxes.

I would like to take this opportunity to report the progress being made on various development projects in River Forest that will continue to strengthen our property values and quality of life as well as stabilize our property taxes.

The Sheridan Senior Care Community (Chicago and Harlem)



Construction on The Sheridan, a 125-unit a senior care and memory care community, is well underway. Roofing and the installation of exterior brick and siding should be completed by October. We look forward to this project opening as it will provide needed additional housing options for seniors who would like to come to our community or age in place. Construction is on track for completion in March, 2021, and The Sheridan will be welcoming new residents as early as

April, 2021. Once completed, the project will represent a significant increase to the amount of additional assessed valuation in River Forest. It is slated to be one of the top ten highest property tax producers. This is important as we continue to focus on protecting our property values and stabilizing property taxes. More information about the development at Chicago and Harlem can be found at vrf.us/ChicagoAndHarlem.

Lake and Lathrop

Demolition and debris removal has been completed at Lake and Lathrop and remediation of the contaminated soil is underway. The developer obtained approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to proceed with the remediation process under the Site Remediation Program. This work took place in late July and involved the application of an industry and State approved standard treatment solution at injection points throughout the site. After a period of curing from the initial treatment, additional soil borings are taken to determine how much additional treatment is needed. It is anticipated that a second, but limited scope of treatment will be needed to complete remediation.

ComEd is in the process of completing electrical relocation and removing existing utilities. The work has included the burial of new transmission lines. ComEd is working to coordinate the transfer of electrical services from existing buildings that are affected by this work. ComEd is hoping to have their work completed by the end of September.



Currently the developer has submitted all the necessary documents to the Village, which includes building, structural, stormwater and civil engineering plans. These items are currently under review by the Village and its third-party consultants, and once signed off by our Village Staff, a building permit will be issued to the developer to begin

construction.

Therefore, with the additional remediation efforts, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's involvement and approval, moving electrical (ComEd) wiring underground affecting the surrounding neighbors, and the Village's requirement of evaluating all the design and engineering plans, we anticipate a spring 2021 construction.

Those interested in the project can visit the sales center at 7579 Lake Street (at the southeast corner of Lake and Lathrop) or by visiting <https://rf-lakestreet.com>.

More information about the development at Lake and Lathrop can be found at vrf.us/LakeAndLathrop.

1101-1111 Bonnie Brae, Bonnie and Thomas

By a vote of 5-2, the Development Review Board (DRB) recommended that the Village Board grant conditional approval of an 18-unit townhome project at 1101-1111 Bonnie Brae Place (at the northeast corner of Bonnie Brae and Thomas). The DRB's recommendation will be forwarded to the Village Board of Trustees for consideration at its September 14, 2020 board meeting. More information about the development at Bonnie and Thomas can be found at vrf.us/BonnieAndThomas.

Madison Street and North Avenue Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts

At this time, there are no development projects slated for the North or Madison Street corridors. Both corridors have been designated as Tax Increment Financing Districts by the Village. A Tax Increment Financing District, or TIF, is a financing tool used by municipalities to encourage economic development in certain geographical areas. When a TIF is created, the assessed value of all the properties located inside of the TIF are frozen which sets a base level. Over the life of the TIF, all property tax revenue over this base amount is captured in a "TIF fund". The TIF fund can then be used for public improvements and economic development incentives aimed at revitalizing the corridor. State law sets the duration of a TIF District at 23 years. TIF districts are a long-term initiative and not a "quick-fix".

The Madison Street TIF was adopted and created by the Village Board in November 2016. To date, the Village has purchased one commercial property (the building formerly occupied by Lutheran Child and Family Services) and two residential properties (11 Ashland and 10 Lathrop) within the Madison Street TIF. All three of these properties were listed or planned to be listed for sale by the owners and voluntarily purchased by the Village for future redevelopment purposes.

Why did the Village purchase these properties?

Purchasing the properties is an eligible expense of the TIF district and allows the Village to control exactly what type of development it would like to see in the future, of course working with our residents along this corridor. The purchase of the homes allows for the possibility of additional buffering to the existing neighbors - somewhat similar to what Elmwood Park has done along North Avenue.

The Village has been awarded a grant from the State of Illinois to assist in the demolition of these properties. The Village is working with the State on the necessary agreements to receive the grant, but a final timeline has not yet been identified.

While the Village will remain open to other strategic purchases, other business owners in the Madison Street corridor have indicated their preference to continue their operations at this time and not sell their properties. In the meantime, the Village will continue to work with potential developers on the existing owned parcels. More information about the Madison Street TIF can be found at vrf.us/MadisonTIF.

The North Avenue TIF was adopted and created by the Village Board in August 2018. The Village has not yet taken any actions in the North Avenue TIF. More information about the North Avenue TIF can be found at vrf.us/NorthTIF.

These important development projects and TIF districts will help to stabilize our property taxes by redeveloping key properties which will lead to an increase in assessed valuations in the Village.



In March of this year, the Village entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement in partnership with Metra Rail Service to launch a pilot program to mitigate sound noise from rail and train cars on the Union Pacific West Line. The material used along the newly installed fence will help reduce the noise from the rail cars. The installation of the noise mitigation fencing was due in large part by working *together* with our residents along Lake Street closest to the rail tracks and involving Senator Kimberly Lightford and Representative Chris Welch to help advocate for our community with key Metra and UP executives. Finally, Metra has agreed to fund this pilot program, which cost just over

\$50,000.

Last month, the Village Board of Trustees and I adopted a resolution giving the 600 block of Keystone the honorary designation of Elaine "Blondie" Kirk Way. Her sign is posted at the intersection of

Keystone and Oak. Blondie has been an active volunteer in the community since moving here in 1955, and we are so proud to honor her with this sign. We were thrilled to e-present it to Blondie and her family. Click [here](#) to read the resolution.



The annual 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand event will be held virtually this year, with a drive-through collection only station on the 700 block of Bonnie Brae on Friday, September 11 from 4PM - 6PM. To facilitate the collection stand, traffic will be one way southbound on Bonnie Brae from Chicago to Oak, and right turn only onto Oak for the duration of the event. All proceeds will be donated to the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation. Click [here](#) for more information and to donate online.

I would also like to take a moment to remind residents, if you can, to water trees on private property and parkways to help them stay beautiful as we move into fall.

Have a wonderful and safe Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

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

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Village Spotlight

Did you know the River Forest Police Department offers free child safety seat installation and inspections? Call 708-714-3547 to schedule a child safety seat inspection today.



September 20-26, 2020 is Child Passenger Safety Week, and the Department encourages residents to take a moment to review the [Keeping Kids Safe guide](#) to protect children in and around cars. Properly securing children in safety seats keeps them safer. The National Safety Council [recommends](#) child restraint systems go beyond state requirements and offers these [safety tips](#).

COVID-19 Information

Visit [vrf.us/virus](#) for information and resources related to COVID-19. Click [here](#) for a list of testing locations throughout the State. Residents are encouraged to contact their primary physicians to coordinate testing needs.

Census 2020



Census takers have begun visiting homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census. If you have not filled out your Census response yet, there is still time to do so online, by phone or by mail. Learn more at [vrf.us/Census](#). If you respond online or by phone today, a Census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response. For more information on what to expect when Census takers visit your home and how you can verify that someone is a Census taker, click [here](#).

IDOT Sidewalk Improvements

IDOT will be performing sidewalk improvements at [these locations](#) along Lake Street starting later this month, tentatively scheduled to begin 9/14. This work is being done to improve ADA compliance at the intersections only. More details will be shared as they become available.

Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from **9/16 - 12/4**. The next opportunity to dispose of leaves after 12/4 will be during the yard waste collection program, which starts in April 2021. Rake only leaves onto the street by 7AM 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. Click [here](#) for the collection schedule.

Voting in the November 2020 Election

Voter Registration

Eligible voters can register online, in person, or by mail. Click [here](#) for more information about voter registration.



Early Voting

For the November 3, 2020 Election, traditional Early Voting will take place **10/19 – 11/2**. The nearest early voting locations are Elmwood Park Village Hall (11 W Conti Pkwy), Maywood Courthouse (Whitcomb Building, Rm. 104, 1311 Maybrook Dr), and Oak Park Village Hall (123 Madison St). Click [here](#) for more information about early voting and more early voting sites.

Vote By Mail

Any registered suburban Cook County voter may request a mail ballot online. Once the County verifies your registration and processes your application, they will send a paper ballot to the mailing address you designate in your application. The deadline to apply is five days before an election, however ballots must be postmarked by Election Day (November 3) in order to be counted. Click [here](#) for more information about voting by mail and click [here](#) for an FAQ.

Election Day Voting

Registered suburban Cook County voters can only vote in their home precinct on Election Day. Residents who are not registered to vote may register and cast a ballot on Election Day. Those who wish to register on Election Day must present two qualifying forms of ID. Registered and unregistered Cook County residents can find their assigned polling place with the [Your Voter Information tool](#).

2020-2021 Vehicle Stickers Deadline Is September 14

Vehicle stickers for 2020-2021 are 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, and Village Hall will be open on 9/14 until 7PM to accommodate those wishing to purchase stickers.** 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. Click [here](#) for more information and payment options.

River Forest Fire Department

The River Forest Fire Department would like to remind residents about [cooking safety](#). Cooking remains the number one cause of home fires and burn injuries. Click [here](#) for more information about how and why fires start.

As summer turns to fall, the River Forest Fire Department offers these [tips](#) for children and families to familiarize themselves with before experiencing the first cold snap of the season.

River Forest Police Department



The River Forest Police Department would like to remind residents that all "School Day" one-way street traffic patterns and parking restrictions in and around schools (both private and public) remains in effect and will be enforced during all school days this year – regardless of remote learning. This is in an effort to provide consistency and safety in our school zones for students, staff and faculty that will still be traveling to school buildings.

Sections of LeMoyné Street, Park Avenue, Franklin Avenue, Ashland Avenue, Oak Avenue and Jackson Avenue become one-way streets on school days between 7:30AM and 4PM. The sections are identified with "DO NOT ENTER" and "ONE-WAY" signs. Please remember to obey road signage at all times.

GREEN NEWS

When Fall Planting, Think Native!

As we all garden while spending time at home, think about planting native plants versus species not usually found in this area. Native plants provide beauty as well as food and shelter for wildlife. Native plant species are adapted to the Illinois climate. They require little or no watering and are resistant to drought, insect damage and most diseases. Because they are perennials, you can welcome their presence year after year. Click [here](#) to learn more.



River Forest Tree Trails

The River Forest Sustainability Commission has created a new activity for the residents of our village, those young in years as well as those young at heart! [River Forest Tree Trails: On Your Block](#) is a unique, fun and socially distant way to get to know the trees on your block. Visit vrf.us/trees to find out more about River Forest's trees.



Work with your family to complete the activity while spending time outdoors. Learn about the distinct features of the species of trees that you see every day on the parkway between your sidewalk and the curb. In times like these, it's important to connect not only with your family, but also with the earth on which you walk and the trees that give us all oxygen to breathe.

Completing the activity is easy and fun!

- Print the activity sheet, which can be found here: [River Forest Tree Trails: On Your Block](#).
- Answer the fun fill-in-the-blank questions about the different species of trees that live on the parkway right outside your front door.
- **Submit a picture or scan of your answers to sustainability@vrf.us by 9/30 for a chance to win three months of free curbside composting!**

SCHOOL DISTRICT 90 SPOTLIGHT

September Closures

District 90 will be closed Monday, 9/7 for Labor Day and Monday, 9/28. District 90 will not be in session and remote instruction will not occur on those days.

Immunization Reminder

All immunizations and medical examinations for students, including eye exams, must be submitted to District 90 by 10/15. The Illinois State Board of Education has indicated that the deadline for all child-health related requirements has not been extended and remains in effect. The deadline applies to all D90 students, even during remote instruction. All students enrolled in school in Illinois are required to show proof of appropriate grade-level requirements. The mandatory physicals must be completed on the Certificate of Child Health Exam Form, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Health forms should be scanned and sent directly to the school nurse or to nurses@district90.org.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Autumn Fun Guide and Registration

Join the fun this fall! The River Forest Park District's [Autumn Fun Guide](#) is available now and autumn registration has begun. There are a variety of programs for all ages. Click [here](#) for details on how the District is managing COVID-19.



Makin' Tracks Virtual 5K Run/Walk



From Friday, 9/18 - Sunday, 9/20, join the Park District in partnership with West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) in a virtual 5K race that is safe, enjoyable, and fun. Run a total of 3.1 miles over the weekend, submit your miles, and receive a medal. Net proceeds from this event will benefit WSSRA to provide superior recreation services for adults and children who have a physical impairment, developmental delay, mental disability, or any other type of disability. Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

It's Library Card Sign-Up Month!

September is library card sign-up month, so get one today! Applications for new cards are available at the Library's outdoor tent. Just complete the application when visiting and a new card will be given on the spot or mailed. Residents can [register](#) for an online-only library card that will grant access to the Library's eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming services, and research databases. Contact the Library with any issues with library cards. Call 708-366-5205, [email](#), or ask for help at the circulation desk.



Library Returns

Please return all items to the drive-through book drop in the Roosevelt Middle School south parking lot or to the walk-up book drop in the library garden. Returned items are quarantined for 7 days before being checked in.

Click [here](#) to see the exciting virtual offerings lined up for the fall!

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Property Tax Bills

The Second Installment tax bills are due without penalty by 10/1. Please review your tax bill. Exemptions are listed on the lower left side of tax bills, and the second installment should include all of the exemptions that have been applied for. For questions about exemptions, please call the Township Assessor's office at 708-366-2787.

All taxpayers should have their tax bill in their own name and address. To make a name change, visit www.CookCountyTreasurer.com and go to the "Your Property Tax Overview" box. Verify the information or follow the link to correct any errors. Contact the Township Assessor's office at 708-366-2787 for assistance. The correct name and address on a tax bill aids in confirming who is in-district for school enrollment and exemptions. A name change will NOT affect a property's assessment in any way.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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

Seeking New Township Clerk

River Forest Township is seeking a new Township Clerk. Applicant must be a River Forest resident. This is an elected, part-time, paid position. Click [here](#) to learn more about this positive way to serve the community. For questions or further information, please [email](#) Supervisor Carla Sloan.

Sibshops Start on September 19

Sibshops return this fall on Zoom! This program is specially designed for siblings of kids with disabilities, mental health issues or physical illness. The program is funded by River Forest Township and led by facilitators from Thrive Counseling Center.

For 1st-7th grade siblings. Siblings share with each other and the facilitators, while engaging in fun activities. **9/19, 10/3, 10/17, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19**. 11:30AM - 1PM; \$5 per session; \$30 for 7 sessions. Need-based scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please [email](#) Laurie Johnson or call 708-383-7500 x 409.

Coffee Monday and Other Senior Programs Return on Zoom!

River Forest Township and the Library are once again partnering to bring Coffee Mondays...now on Zoom! **9/14, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7**, 10 - 11AM. Special guest speakers will present each month.

Celebrating Seniors All Year Long programs are also back, by Zoom! The series kicks off on **Saturday, 9/12**, 2 - 3:30PM, with history presenter Leslie Goddard exploring the long struggle for women to gain the right to vote.

For all programs, visit the [Library's calendar](#) to register and obtain the 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](#)

