



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | August, 2023



Village Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recently presented the Village with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its comprehensive annual financial report over the last fiscal year, which ended April 30, 2022. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental and financial reporting. This award is received when a municipality has developed a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy and operations guide, financial plan, and as a way to create communication opportunities with interested stakeholders. The Budget must also demonstrate the spirit of, “full disclosure” and motivate individuals to review the report.

The Budget was presented before an impartial GFOA panel to ensure it met the program’s high standards. This award represents a significant accomplishment

for River Forest and its management, and couldn’t be accomplished without the hard work and efforts of Village Finance Director Rosey McAdams and her team! This marks the 14th year that the Village has achieved this impressive accolade, which showcases leadership in government and continually improving public finances.



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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

This past Monday, the Village held a Town Hall meeting to discuss ongoing Stormwater Master Plan efforts. Village staff and representatives from the Village’s engineering firm, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD., presented conceptual improvement projects and solicited resident feedback from those in attendance. If you were unable to attend, you can view the same information presented to the Board of Trustees at the meeting [here](#).

Children are returning to school soon, so please remember to use caution and follow posted speed limits in school zones and when you are driving near school buses. As a reminder, please make sure to follow the direction of school crossing guards, and drivers must stop and yield to pedestrians within a crosswalk when no traffic lights or stop signs are present. Additional information on back to school safety reminders can be found [here](#). I wish all new and returning students a safe and successful school year.

And finally, a big congratulations to the River Forest 14U Youth Baseball/Softball League winners. These young ladies successfully defended their State championship for the second consecutive year in a row! Their teamwork and defensive skills led them to entering their final game against Sterling undefeated, and we should all be very proud of their accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President
Village of River Forest



Village Board Trustees



Erika Bachner



Kathleen Brennan



Lisa Gillis



Ken Johnson



Robert O'Connell



Respicio F. Vazquez

Village Clerk



Jonathan Keller

To contact the Village Board to submit a comment or question, click the button below

[Contact the Village Board](#)

News Around Town

Local Spotlight Display - Birds

Don't miss the August display at the Library, which features art by Casey Jones!

About the artist: Casey lives mostly in her own head. Casey's birds have been shown at Uri Eichen Gallery, and at College of Lake County Robert T Wright Community Gallery of Art - where she won an honorable mention for her Red Headed Woodpecker. Casey's birds have also been featured at the Maze Branch of the Oak Park Public Library. She is what is described as an "outsider artist", is self-taught and deeply inspired by folk art and outsiders from all over. Casey hopes to inspire viewers to think about environmental and conservation issues, and to recycle creatively.



FOOD TRUCK RALLY




SATURDAY 4-9 PM
AUGUST 26

THE DEPOT PARKING LOT & KEYSTONE PARK WEST

Full line-up on rfparks.com



FOOD TRUCKS • ENTERTAINMENT • FAMILY ACTIVITIES • INFLATABLES • BEER TENT

Schoolhouse Kitchen + Studio

Schoolhouse Kitchen + Studio, located at 349 Ashland Avenue, is more than a neighborhood cooking school - it's a place where kids can build confidence and skills as they navigate interesting and challenging cooking projects! Registration is open for their Tween Summer Camp beginning this coming Monday, August 7 from 4 - 6 p.m.! Learn more [here](#),

If you'd like your business to be featured, send the Village an [email](#). Visit the Shop River Forest page on the Village's website to see a listing of River Forest businesses [here](#).

Summer
T/WEEN COOKING CAMPS
 Challenging and creative cooking projects each day!
 WEEK LONG CAMPS
 AGES 11-15
 4-6PM M-F

SCHOOLHOUSE
 kitchen + studio

Village Department News

Police Department

Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

Beginning August 21, both public and private schools in River Forest will welcome back students for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

The Police Department would like to remind everyone of State laws, local ordinances and additional safety tips as our students prepare to return to school. Click [here](#) to review Back to School Safety Reminders. The Police Department will be out enforcing traffic laws and assisting with traffic flow for the safety of all community members.

Please be sure to drive carefully around our schools and be respectful and courteous to pedestrians, motorists and school buses. If you observe any unsafe driving, you can always report that to the Police Department by calling **911** for emergencies, or **708-366-7125** for non-emergencies.



Administration and Finance

Pet and Vehicle Registration

Pets that live in River Forest households - both dogs and cats - as well as vehicles are required to be registered with the Village.

Pet tags can be purchased for \$10 online or at Village Hall and are valid from May 1 - April 30, each year. Click [here](#) to learn more. Also, the deadline for purchasing and displaying vehicle stickers without penalty has passed, and was July 14, 2023. Late fees on vehicle stickers will increase from \$10 to \$15 starting on August 15. To avoid being ticketed, you can purchase your sticker online or at Village Hall. For more information, click [here](#) or call **708-366-8500**.



Fire Department

Elapsed Time	Outside Air Temperature (F)								
	70°	75°	80°	85°	90°	95°	100°	105°	110°
0 min	70°	75°	80°	85°	90°	95°	100°	105°	110°
10 min	89°	94°	99°	104°	109°	114°	119°	124°	129°
20 min	99°	104°	109°	114°	119°	124°	129°	134°	139°
30 min	104°	109°	114°	119°	124°	129°	134°	139°	144°
40 min	108°	113°	118°	123°	128°	133°	138°	143°	148°
50 min	111°	116°	121°	126°	131°	136°	141°	146°	151°
60 min	113°	118°	123°	128°	133°	138°	143°	148°	153°
> 1 hour	115°	120°	125°	130°	135°	140°	145°	150°	155°

Never Leave a Child or Pet in a Vehicle!

The Fire Department would like to remind residents that each year, dozens of children and untold numbers of pets left in parked vehicles die from hyperthermia, which occurs when the body absorbs more heat than it can handle. This fatal condition can even occur in vehicles on a mild day when temperatures are in the 70s. Studies have shown that the temperature inside a parked vehicle can rapidly rise to dangerous levels for children, pets and even adults. Please note that leaving windows slightly open does not significantly decrease the rate that a vehicle can heat up. It's also extremely important to note that the younger the child, the more severe the effects are on them, because their bodies have not yet developed the ability to efficiently regulate their internal temperature. For more information, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at **708-714-3562**.

Public Works

Does Your Project Need a Permit?

Construction season is in full swing! Are you planning renovations or other upgrades to your home? Check [here](#) to see if you need a building permit before starting work. Looking for a licensed contractor and not sure where to start? Click [here](#) and enter the type of contractor you need to review a list of contractors currently licensed with the Village. All contractors must be licensed to work in the Village, which protects both you and your property.

Applications for building permits can be filed online using the Village's building permit software **LAMA** (short for **L**And **M**ANagement), which can be accessed at riverforest.onlama.com or at vrf.us/permits. This software helps the Village maintain precise records of permit submittals and contractor licenses, and ensures a more efficient permit review process. By creating an account, you can also track the status of permit applications at your property in real time. All applications can be made online 24/7 and any required documentation can be uploaded through the website. Review correspondence is completed through the software to ensure direct communication with any parties that are closely tied to submittals. Click [here](#) for more information about building permits, plan review timelines, and videos to help anyone who is using the software for the first time or needs assistance to understand how to submit a permit.

Organizations Serving River Forest



Township

Many Township services and programs are returning to meeting in-person. To learn more, visit [RiverForestTownship.org](https://www.riverforesttownship.org), the River Forest community calendar at [rfhappenings.com](https://www.rfhappenings.com), or email Supervisor Carla Sloan at supervisor@riverforesttownship.org.

Second Installment of Property Tax Bills Will Be Late Again this Year

Second installment property tax bills for Tax Year 2022 are expected to be available to property owners by early November 2023, with a possible due date in December 2023. Please note that the Cook County Assessor has not yet determined the results of assessment appeals that have been filed in River Forest Township.

If you appealed your assessment with the Cook County Assessor already, the results will be mailed to you via the United States Postal Service. Results of this appeal will not affect the second installment tax bill due this year. Any change in assessment will instead affect the second installment tax bill in 2024.

Youth and Family Services' Back-To-School Social

New backpacks with new school supplies will be distributed at the Back-to-School Social for River Forest and Oak Park families on Friday, August 11, 4 - 6 p.m. at Oak Park Township, located at 105 S. Oak Park Avenue. Families can also enjoy crafts, face painting, music, snacks, and raffle prizes.

For more info, call Oak Park Township at 708-445-2727 or email youth@oakparktownship.org. Thank you to all the community members who supported this program through donations to help our in need school children be prepared for the coming school year.

Rotary Food Truck Rally on Saturday, August 26

A **Food Truck Rally** will take place on Saturday, August 26, 4 - 9 p.m. and is sponsored by the Oak Park River Forest Rotary Club, the Park District and the Village. The Township will be there, so be sure to stop by the blue Township tent where there will be prizes and candy for children...and you'll also be able to see the Township Senior bus and the Liv4Lali van. Enjoy food trucks, a beverage tent, live entertainment, and blow-up rides for the kids, in addition to other family fun!

Financial Assistance Available for Youth Fall Programs

The Township offers need-based scholarships for after school and weekend programs, available to youth whose families qualify. Funds can be used for Park District programming, the River Forest Community Center, Oak Park River Forest High School, School of Rock, and other community organizations. Scholarships generally require some fee sharing with the family and the program and there is a \$250 limit per child, per year. For any questions, please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan at 708-366-2029 x 11 or email cb Sloan.rf township@gmail.com.

Park District

The Park District is hosting the **Party in the Park** on August 17 and the **Food Truck Rally**, in partnership with the Township on August 26. Join this Caribbean Party! Party in the Park is a free event, and for all ages! There will be a balloon artist, the bubble guy Scott Ingerson and grilled hot dogs, chips and dessert will be provided. **Mr. Myers** plays "Caribbean Rock"- a mixture of reggae, soca/calypso, beach music, and their own originals.

Information on the Food Truck Rally can be found on this page in the Township section. This event is brought to the community through a partnership between the Park District and the Township.

[rfparks.com](https://www.rfparks.com) | 708-366-6660

Library

Upcoming Library Events

Visit the Library's [Calendar](#) to see everything that's happening!

The Library has a jam-packed calendar of summer fun, that includes all kinds of story times, historical programs, live music, and more. Below are some highlights:

Saturday, 8/5, 2-3:30 p.m., Live Author Event with Eden Robins, Adult

Chicago author Eden Robins joins the Library live and in person! She will read from her acclaimed novel *When Franny Stands Up* (set partly in Oak Park), discuss her work in conversation with a librarian, answer audience questions, and sign copies of her book. **Registration is encouraged.**



Thursday, 8/17, 7-8 p.m., Community Book Discussion: *When Franny Stands Up*, Adult

After you read *When Franny Stands Up* and check out the live event with author Eden Robins, attend this librarian-led group discussion of the book. This is a chance to voice your thoughts about the novel and hear what your neighbors have to say! Snacks will be served.

Saturday, 8/19, 2-3:30 p.m., Luciano Antonio Duo, All Ages

Join the Library for an afternoon of Brazilian music by guitarist Luciano Antonio. Luciano was born in Brazil and is now a fixture on the Chicago music scene. His performance, accompanied by a percussionist, takes the audience on a tour of Brazil by presenting a wide variety of Brazilian compositions, combined with some of his originals. This program is brought to the community through a partnership with River Forest Township.

Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest
High School



Roosevelt
Middle School



Willard
Elementary School



Lincoln
Elementary School

District 200



Oak Park River Forest High School semi-finalists who competed in the national BioGENIUS competition (left to right, front row to back row): Jackson Baker, Rachel Chung, Bianca Turner, Rhea Richards, teacher Allison Hennings, Grace Koch, Phoebe Tanacea, Ameila Perisho, Henry Roloff, Isaac Davies, second-place winner Sahiba Dhillon, Emily Porrez, Nadya Dhillon, Ezekiel Wells, Marina Sjoblom, and Matero Nery.

Huskies Bring Home Top Honors

Before Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) launches the start of classes later this month, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on just some of the top accomplishments of last school year. While this is not an exhaustive list, it does show the breadth of OPRF excellence!

- For the first time, the State designated OPRFHS as an exemplary school, signifying its rank among the top 10% of all high schools in Illinois.
- Assistant Superintendent/Principal Lynda Parker was named the West Cook Region High School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association.
- OPRFHS student Sahiba Dhillon took 2nd place in the national level of the BioGENIUS competition, which is the most prestigious high school science competition in the world for original research in biotechnology.
- Nineteen science students were named semifinalists in the annual Chicago Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. This is the first time so many semi-finalists have come from a single school.
- The DECA business club had a record seven Huskies qualify for the International Career Development Conference, and in a first for the program, OPRFHS student Angelina Sunardio placed 3rd overall in the Entrepreneurship category.
- The OPRFHS Stage Crew won 1st place at the 47th Annual Illinois High School Theater Festival Tech Olympics.
- Setting an OPRFHS record, 21 music students were invited to the All-State Illinois Music Education Conference.
- The OPRFHS Newscene crew, which produces the student news show, placed 2nd in the Midwest Media Educators Association High School Video Festival's 7 Day Film Challenge.
- In the Senior Scholarship Exhibition at the annual Illinois High School Art Exhibition, OPRFHS students Lilah Grove, Amelie Kim, and Lauren Edwards were among the top 20 seniors receiving the most scholarship offers. In addition, out of 500 works of art in the Northern Regional Exhibition, student Lauren Edwards, Roan Egan, Jakob Jenks, Jessica Li, and Micah Nasralla won Best of the Best awards.
- Reese Garland placed 2nd in discus at the girls state track tournament, while Liam Newhart took silver in the boys 3,200-meter run.
- The boys volleyball team and the girls softball team both took 3rd in their state competitions.
- OPRFHS students Trinity White and Sarah Epshtein earned All-State honors at the IHSA Girls State Wrestling Tournament, with both finishing 4th in their weight classes.

The High School leadership team can't wait to see what other honors the Huskies bring home this year!

oprfs.org | 708-383-0700

District 90

District 90 Welcomes Students and Staff Back to School

District 90 (D90) will start the 2023-24 school year in August and includes the brand-new full-day Kindergarten program. Regular office hours for the school district will begin Monday, August 14, from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Faculty and instructional staff members will return for professional development and instructional planning/collaboration on Monday, August 21. D90 will also welcome new teachers, instructional and support staff, as well as other staff members. The first day of class for students will be Thursday, August 24, when full academic instruction and extracurricular activities will also resume. Registration for current and new students who haven't already registered resumed on August 1. Please visit the D90 website or email School Registrar Devin Howe at howed@district90.org for more information about the registration process. Please also remember to drive safely in all school zones and carefully watch for both students and pedestrians. District 90 welcomes everyone back to school for the 2023-24 school year!



Full-Day Kindergarten Afterschool Program

District 90 and the West Cook YMCA are pleased to announce the launch of a new Kindergarten after-school program. With the District's new full-day Kindergarten program, the YMCA will provide an after-school care option for families. As the YMCA prepares for this new program, please reach out if your family is considering enrolling and is interested in learning more by completing the [interest form](#), which can be found [here](#).

**WE WILL BE
CLOSED
LABOR DAY**

District 90 Closed for Labor Day

District 90 will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 4, 2023; all school offices will be closed and school will not be in session. Please enjoy the holiday!

district90.org | 708-771-8282

Cook County
**SMALL
BUSINESS
SOURCE**



Providing Access, Fostering Growth



The 2023 Source Grant

Helping Small Businesses Become More Resilient

The 2023 Source Grant will provide...

\$40 million in grants to small businesses to help stabilize operations, foster recovery and resiliency, and advance equity.

Who is eligible to apply?

Businesses located in Cook County with fewer than 20 full-time employees that were in business prior to 2020 are eligible to apply.

The program will prioritize businesses:

1. Located in suburban Cook County
2. In sectors hardest hit by COVID-19, including:
 - Arts & Entertainment
 - Childcare & Social Assistance
 - Hospitality, Food & Tourism
 - Retail Trade
 - Transportation & Warehousing
3. Owned by veterans

Application Window July 20-August 18

All applications must be submitted online. A laptop or desktop computer is recommended to upload documents and complete the application.

Visit our website at:

www.cookcountysmallbiz.org/sourcegrant to apply and to find a schedule of webinars, application help sessions, FAQs and more.

SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



Visit www.cookcountysmallbiz.org/sourcegrant for more info.

Halloween Fun Run/Walk

River Forest Sustainability

Save the date!

Join Hephzibah Children’s Association for their 2nd annual 1.5 mile Halloween Fun Run on Sunday, October 29 starting in Constitution Park. The children’s warm up will begin at 9 a.m. and the family start time will be at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 for adult participants, \$10 for children, and \$50 for families of four or more. Costumes are encouraged and sponsorship opportunities are available! To learn more, click [here](#).



Proceeds from the race will benefit the Hephzibah Children’s Association, whose mission is to help children thrive and families flourish through innovative, community-based programs. They also offer a home for children in Oak Park, Hephzibah Home, that provides intensive therapeutic care for severely traumatized young adults, a foster program, daycare, and more. The Association’s primary focus is to ensure children and families in need have the exceptional care they deserve. To learn more about this family focused nonprofit organization, click [here](#).

Visit the Sustainable Living Guide!

The River Forest Sustainability Commission encourages residents to check out the new **Guide to Sustainable Living** to learn about the many ways to incorporate sustainable living into all of our lives. Resources for reducing your carbon footprint include information on rooftop and community solar, green energy electric aggregation programs, and energy efficiency savings and rebate programs through ComEd and Nicor. The Guide highlights ways you can reduce your water usage and how to help create a more green ecosystem. You can also find information on upcoming sustainability events and learn more about regional sustainability goals and initiatives, including the Cross Community Climate Collaborative.



Through the Guide, you can learn about the many steps that Village has taken to create a more sustainable community. These efforts include the curbside composting program, WaterSmart online customer portal to monitor water usage and receive leak alerts, the Green Alleys project that uses permeable pavers to mitigate stormwater impacts on properties, and the maintenance of parkway trees. Additionally, the Green Block Party program provides Sort-It-Out Waste Stations for residents to sort their trash, recyclables, and compost materials. Learn more about what you can do to live a greener life in our community by visiting the Village of River Forest Guide to Sustainable Living [here](#).



Follow the Village on Social Media



Sign Up For Email and Alerts



River Forest Events



Village Contact Information

Village Administration
708-714-3563

Village Administrator
Matt Walsh

Finance Department
708-714-3524

Director Rosemary McAdams

Fire Department
708-714-3560
Chief Tom Gaertner

Public Works and Development Services
708-714-3551
Director Jeff Loster

Police Department
708-714-3540
Chief James O’Shea

Emergency Services
Dial 911

400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305
708-366-8500
708-366-3702 (fax)
Monday 8 a.m.– 7 p.m.
Tuesday- Friday 8a.m.– 4:30 p.m.