

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | July, 2023



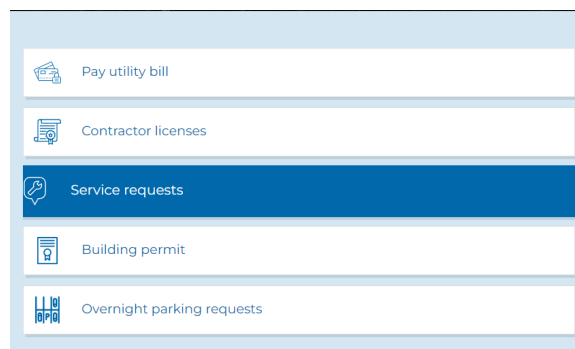
Make Service Requests Through Village Website

The Village continues to create new ways to ensure residents can utilize online resources whenever possible for the many services offered through the Village's different departments. One of those are **service requests** available on the Village website, which can provide a way for residents to reach directly to the appropriate Village staff member for a variety of needs or issues that arise through our daily lives.

Among the service-related requests are information relating to how you can host a block party, if you'd like to request a permit or obtain a business license, or how to make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Additionally, if residents observe potholes, hanging branches in the right-of-way, graffiti, streetlights in need of repair/replacement, or other issues that affect the community, the service request form can be used to report the concern so that it can be addressed in a timely manner. Other service requests found through

this online portal can be requests for a delivery of wood chips, information about composting, as well as composting carts, and to ask any questions related to utilities, among many other services.

Residents can view the entire list of service request items [here](#).



vrf.us homepage

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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Welcome to June,

July is Vehicle Theft Prevention Month and residents who own a Hyundai or Kia vehicle built between 2010 and 2021 are still eligible to receive a complimentary, anti-theft, steering wheel lock device – while supplies last. To qualify, you must have a valid River Forest vehicle license sticker affixed to your windshield. For more information, email [Sergeant Ransom](mailto:Sergeant.Ransom).

Also related to personal safety, residents who are heading out of town can sign up for a vacation watch provided by our Police Department. Please contact the police non-emergency number for more information or to schedule a vacation watch by calling 708-366-7125.

Unplug Illinois Day is Saturday, July 15 and encourages residents to unplug their electronic devices and instead spend time with family and friends. If you're looking for family-friendly options, consider [Triton College's Cernan Earth and Space Center](#) for a show, touring our community's historic properties, or taking advantage of the Park District's [tennis/pickleball courts](#), tennis walls or basketball hoops in [Keystone Park](#).

Flamingo Fridays are back, which were created to encourage interaction amongst our residents during the summer months. Each week, one individual can sign up to host a party in their front yard, and preview it by putting a Flamingo on their lawn the week leading up to this Friday gathering. To learn more, or to sign up to host a Flamingo Friday party, click [here](#).

And finally, congratulations to River Forest native Paul Fischer, who was recently selected in the 5th round of the NHL Draft by the St. Louis Blues - through the NHL's U.S. National Development Team. Paul is a defenseman and will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall. Let's all wish Paul good luck on this exciting journey!

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

Keystone Tennis/Pickleball Courts

The River Forest Park District is happy to announce that the Keystone tennis/pickleball courts and tennis walls are now open to the public. The Keystone basketball hoops area is scheduled to open to the public on Friday, July 7.

Residents are reminded to please observe the court rules and reservation guidelines that are posted at the court entrances when using the courts.



Business Spotlight

Top Dog Petcare Service is a dog walking and pet sitting service that has been serving River Forest families for more than 10 years. This small, locally-owned business also donates a portion of all business proceeds to the Animal Care League in Oak Park. For more information or to schedule an appointment, email jayne.gould@comcast.net.

If you'd like to see your business featured, send us an [email](#). Visit the [Shop River Forest](#) website for more information on local businesses.



River Forest Library Events



Spend Your Summer with the Library!
Visit the Library's [Calendar](#) to see everything happening at the Library.

Summer Hours

Please note: The Library is closed on Sundays during the summer.

Sunday hours will resume on Sunday, September 10.

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, 7/8, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Magnificent Mutts Pet Adoption Day, All Ages

Give a shelter animal a forever home. Magnificent Mutts Rescue will have a number of fabulous furry friends available for adoption. Submit an [adoption application](#) online to schedule a meet-and-greet to find your new furry best friend! Walk-ins are also welcome.

Wednesday, 7/19, 4-5 p.m., Talewise Presents: Science Heroes Saving Earth Together, Grades K-4

Join Talewise for an action-packed story where two unlikely heroes work together to save their town (and the planet) from a super-polluting mastermind! Participants will explore Newton's Laws of Motion, air pressure, chemical reactions, and more! **Advanced registration is required.**

Saturday, 7/22, 2-3:30 p.m., Live Music in the Library: NEIU Flute Trio, Adult

An intimate concert including classical flute music. The NEIU Flute Trio features one of the Library's staff members, Marissa Walentschik! This event is brought to residents in partnership with River Forest Township.

Summer Reading: It's Not too Late to Sign Up!

The River Forest Library has summer reading programs for all ages (including adults) and registration runs through August 4. Registration can be completed through the reading app called [Beanstack](#) and logging can be done either in the app or on paper reading logs - which can be picked up at the Library. Children and teens will win prizes along the way, and adults and teens will earn raffle entries for some fantastic grand prizes!

Village Department News

Police Department

River Forest & Oak Park Junior Citizen's Police Academy

This isn't your average Summer Camp! The River Forest and Oak Park Junior Citizen's Police Academy (JCPA) is a week-long experience where cadets (ages 10-15) enjoy a curriculum derived from real Illinois Police Academy trainings.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Police Equipment and Nomenclature, Physical Fitness, DUI Investigations, Criminal Law, Crime Scene Investigation, Evidence Collection, Arson investigation, Report Writing, Use of Force / Decision Making, and much more.

Applications are open to any member of the River Forest and Oak Park community and will be available starting June 9 at the [River Forest Village Hall](#) and the [Oak Park Police Department](#). The Academy will run from **August 7 – 11** from **9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, and will be hosted at the [River Forest Police Department](#).

Space is limited. For more information email bransom@vrf.us (River Forest Police) or rmonty@oak-park.us (Oak Park Police).



Administration and Finance

Pet and Vehicle Registration

Pets, including dogs and cats, and all vehicles are required to be registered with the Village. Pet tags can be purchased for \$10 at [Village Hall](#) and are valid from May 1 - April 30 each year. Click [here](#) to learn more. Vehicle stickers for 2023-2024 need to be purchased and affixed to windshields by Friday, July 14 to avoid late fees and citations. For more information or to purchase a sticker online, click [here](#).

Please note that all vehicles registered in Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village, which can be accomplished through the purchase of a vehicle sticker.

Fire Department

Be Safe When Grilling

Summer is a time when many of us are outside enjoying the weather and grilling - and, unfortunately, a time when there is a substantial

increase in grill-related injuries and fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, each year an average of 9,600 home fires are caused by grilling, and close to half of all injuries are due to thermal burns involving hot grills.

Be sure to keep you, your family members and friends safe, by reviewing and following the below safety tips:

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, out from under eaves and overhanging branches - and a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Periodically, clean and remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited when the grill is hot.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire, because the flames can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Grill only outdoors! If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as garages or tents, barbecue grills pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to carbon monoxide.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "kid-free and pet-free zone" around the grill.
- Do not ever leave a grill unattended while cooking. The leading cause of residential fires is unattended cooking.

And as always, be sure to supervise kids in and around the grilling area to make sure they are protected from burns or fires.

Public Works

Summer Construction

Each summer, the Village begins work on a variety of construction projects to maintain and improve infrastructure, and to make River Forest a great place to live and work. Residents can expect certain projects annually, like work related to streets and sewers. The Village's Street Patching and Maintenance programs extend the performance of pavement still in good condition through either patching defective areas or by applying preservation materials and sealing cracks, minimizing costly repairs by prolonging the life of the pavement. Street rating identifies those in poor condition and slates them for resurfacing as part of the Street Improvement Program. Not performing roadway maintenance eventually results in total pavement failure and requires reconstruction, which is significantly higher in cost than resurfacing. These projects are partially funded by Motor Fuel Fund tax dollars, distributed by the State to municipalities based on population.

The Sewer Lining and Point Repair programs improve the sewer system and help to prevent costly repairs due to failing sewer mains. Portions of the sewer system are cleaned and televised annually. These videos help staff examine the conditions of the sewer network and determine which sections are in need of partial replacement or being lined, which provides structural support.

The Curb and Sidewalk program consists of the removal and replacement of defective curb and sidewalk throughout the Village, which is surveyed by region on a 3-year cycle. Repairing damaged sidewalks is vital to keeping the Village traversable. Click [here](#) for more information about the Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program.

Visit the Village's construction page at vrf.us/Construction for more details on these capital projects and project updates.

Organizations Serving River Forest



Township

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

2023
SCHOOL
Supply Drive!
MAY 15-AUG 4



Backpack and School Supply Drive Through August 4

Township Youth and Family Services is collecting donations of NEW backpacks and school supplies to benefit youth in need from Oak Park and River Forest Townships, pre-K through 12th grade, now through August 4.

Scissors, rulers, notebooks, folders, crayons, pencils, sharpies, highlighters, and more are requested donations, which can be dropped off at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park, or scan the accompanying QR code to purchase supplies directly on Amazon and have them shipped to Oak Park Township.

Back-To-School Social Is August 11

Backpacks with school supplies will be distributed to in-need youth at the August 11 Back-To-School Social, which will be held from 4-6 p.m. at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park. Families can enjoy crafts, face painting, music, snacks and raffle prizes.

For more information, call Oak Park Township at 708-445-2727 or email youth@oakparktownship.org. The Township thanks residents in advance for their support to give our children the tools they need to succeed during the upcoming school year.

Seniors: Benefits Appointments Available in River Forest

Township Senior Services staff are available every Wednesday at the River Forest Township offices, 8020 Madison Street, to help seniors with benefits counseling, which includes license plate discounts, ride free passes, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid redetermination, and the Medicare savings program. Call the Township Benefits Team to make an appointment at 708-383-8060.

Financial Assistance Available for Youth Summer Programs

It's not too late to sign up for summer programs! River Forest Township offers need-based scholarship funds for summer programs, available for youth who qualify. Funds can be used at places like the River Forest Park District and Community Center, Oak Park River Forest High School, School of Rock, and through other community organizations. Scholarships generally require some fee sharing with the youth's family and the program, and there is a \$250 limit per child, per year. For any questions, call Supervisor Carla Sloan at 708-366-2029 ext. 11 or email cb Sloan.rf township@gmail.com.

riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Historical Society

West of the River Cemetery Walking Tour

On Sunday, July 9 from 10 - 11:30 a.m., the Historical Society of Oak Park River Forest will host a cemetery walking tour starting at Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park, where attendees can learn about the people, organizations and historic stories found west of the Des Plaines River. History will be shared about a well-known radio personality, the founder of the world's first blood bank, veterans' and fraternal groups, and much more.

The tour will meet inside the First Avenue gate of the cemetery, which is immediately north of Proviso Math and Science Academy, at 10 a.m. at the first intersection east of the entrance. Tickets are \$10 each, or \$8 for members. Space is limited, so reserve yours today on the Historical Society website, or by calling 708-848-6755.

Please note: This is a walking tour, so those who attend are advised to wear good walking shoes and to bring water, if needed. No refunds will be given for reservations canceled less than 24 hours prior to the event. Restrooms and water fountains will NOT be available at the cemetery, and the cemetery bridge over the Des Plaines River is currently closed.

Parking: Beyond the garden mausoleums on the right near the entrance is a large, open area, and it suggested that attendees park in that area.

opr museum.org | 708-848-6755

Library

River Forest Reads

Come together this summer to read *When Franny Stands Up* by local author Eden Robins. This novel, set in post World War II Chicago, is about a woman from Oak Park who becomes a stand-up comedian. Copies of the book are available at the Library.

This is a community read, and the Library will have several events that connect to the book.

- **July 29** at 2 p.m., Dr. Annette Bochenek will help put the book in context with a presentation on the history of women in comedy.
- **August 5** at 2 p.m., author Eden Robins will join the Library in person for a special event that will include a reading, a Q&A, and a book signing.
- **August 17** at 7 p.m. there will be a **community book discussion** where residents can voice their thoughts on the novel and hear what neighbors have to say.



riverforestlibrary.org | 708-366-5205

Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest
High School



Roosevelt
Middle School



Willard
Elementary School



Lincoln
Elementary School

District 200



Get Ready to Celebrate 150 Years of OPRF High School!

It may be hard to believe now, but Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS) opened its doors in 1873 and was part of a tiny building at Lake Street and Forest Avenue. The first class graduated in 1877 and was composed of just three students who were toddlers when Abraham Lincoln was president.

During the past 150 years, OPRFHS has become a cornerstone of the community, with its sprawling million-square-foot building and 3,400 active, engaged and energetic students. With the help of alumni, students, parents, and community members, OPRFHS has big plans for observing its 150th birthday throughout the 2023-2024 school year - which you can learn more about at [OPRFHS.org/OPRF150](https://oprfs.org/OPRF150).

The celebration kicks off this month with the Sesquicentennial Challenge - a year-long effort to accrue 150,000 hours of volunteer service in honor of OPRFHS. This is an opportunity for all Huskies—students, faculty, staff, retirees, parents, and alumni—to join together and demonstrate their impact upon their communities, states, nations, and world through a magnificent milestone of community service.

Anyone anywhere can participate by volunteering for their chosen cause, then completing a quick form on the OPRFHS website at [OPRFHS.org/OPRF150](https://oprfs.org/OPRF150). If you want to feel inspired to join the challenge, go to our YouTube channel at bit.ly/OPRFchallenge to see the one-minute, "I Want to Serve" video our students helped to create, featuring some famous OPRF alums.

One final note: As part of the sesquicentennial, OPRFHS is looking for interesting stories from students, alum, and current and former staff. Tell them your story by completing the form at bit.ly/OPRFstories. The form includes prompts to consider, such as your most impactful teacher/coach/counselor, the generations of your family who attended OPRFHS, shenanigans with friends, and more. OPRFHS can't wait to hear from you!

oprfs.org | 708-383-0700

District 90

D90 Summer School Ends

District 90 (D90) Summer School ends Friday, July 14. Please watch for students and other pedestrians and bicyclists as they journey through Village streets.

Registration for the 2023-24 School Year in District 90 Opens August 1

Families of returning D90 students who have not registered their students for the 2023-24 school year will be able to register them as new students starting August 1. Information about the registration process, creating a PowerSchool Portal account, and other registration information can be accessed [here](#).

Families registering incoming kindergarten students can indicate their interest in registering by completing the [Intent to Register](#) form at this [link](#). The intent to register form only starts the registration process and does not complete the registration process. Once the intent to register form is submitted, please watch your email for a message from the D90 Registrar, Devin Howe, regarding the next steps and requirements to complete registration. Students turning 5 years old by September 1, 2023, are eligible for kindergarten, which will be a full-day program.

For questions about registering returning D90 students, new students, and incoming kindergarten students, please contact Registrar Howe at howed@district90.org. The first day of school will be Thursday, August 24, 2023.



Registration Open for the D90/West Cook YMCA Signature After School Program

Registration is open for the District 90 and West Cook YMCA's After-School Signature Program for the 2023-24 school year. The first day of the program will be Thursday, August 24. Along with homework help, students will also benefit from enrichment activities such as art and science-technology-engineering-math (STEM), daily physical activity, social-emotional development activities, and an after-school snack.

Hosted at Willard and Lincoln schools, the program is limited to 30 students per school. To register, click [here](#). For more information about the After School Signature Program and registration, visit this [link](#). Contact the YMCA team via email at d90asp@westcookymca.org for further assistance or any questions.

district90.org | 708-771-8282

Historic Preservation Award Nominations Due July 28

Preserving the historic character of River Forest is an overarching goal of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). In that vein, the commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders, and other professionals who help to achieve this goal. An awards program was established by the Commission in 2009, and includes six different categories that relate to restoration, streetscape compatibility, adaptive reuse, architectural details, renovation and overall merit.

The Village is currently accepting applications for these Historic Preservation Awards. You can learn more about each of them and access the nomination form by visiting vrf.us and searching "Historic Preservation Award 2023". Nominations must be received at Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, Attention: HPC Awards, or via email to Imasella@vrf.us on or before July 28, 2023. **The deadline for nominations is on or before Friday, July 28.**

The Value of Trees in Our Village

Trees are the lungs of the Earth. They provide a habitat to most of the world's species, clean our water, moderate our climate, provide sustenance, support jobs, and also offer refuge and recreation.

Each year, the trees in River Forest provide the municipality with \$996,200 worth of benefits according to [iTreetools](#), a software suite from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessments.

Learn more about the many benefits of trees below:

- **Trees keep us cooler.** A big shade tree can reduce the surrounding temperature by 10 to 15 degrees. Trees can reduce the urban "heat island effect" caused by heat stored in paving and masonry buildings.
- **Trees clean the air we breathe.** Urban trees capture fine particles from the air as well as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides, and other pollutants. The improved air quality is valued at \$713,217 by iTreetools.
- **Trees reduce flooding.** By intercepting stormwater, trees can ensure water does not pool in many areas, which is valued at \$209,335.
- **Trees are good for business.** Research shows shoppers will travel farther to shop in tree-lined business districts.
- **Trees increase property values.** Homes in neighborhoods with mature trees sell for 3.5% to 10% more than in neighborhoods without trees.
- **Big trees are worth more.** Large, mature shade trees provide the lion's share of benefits. It takes many years for a newly planted tree to provide the value of a larger tree. The carbon sequestered principally by the large trees in our village are valued at \$73,622.
- **Trees together form a forest that needs our care.** The trees in our village make up a vast, urban forest that is as important to our community infrastructure as streets and sewers.

The Village of River Forest is recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta. You can learn more about the trees in your neighborhood by exploring [River Forest Tree Trails](#).



RIVER FOREST
Proud Heritage • Bright Future

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.