

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | June, 2022



West Villages Inaugural Juneteenth Parade

The Villages of River Forest, Forest Park, Maywood, Oak Park, and a coalition of local organizations invite the community to be a part of the West Villages' Inaugural Juneteenth Parade. The parade is designed to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on June 19, 1865 when General Order #3 proclaimed the freedom of the enslaved people in Texas two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln. Juneteenth also celebrates the achievements of African Americans preserved through the pre- and post- Middle Passage, the slave trade, the Emancipation era, and the Civil Rights Movement, along with current accomplishments of African American cultural expression.

The parade will take place on Saturday, June 18 at 11 a.m., beginning at Circle Avenue and Randolph Street in Forest Park, and traveling a mile and a half to the historic Proviso East High School in Maywood, where post-parade events will take place, including food trucks, entertainment, and words from the local leaders

of River Forest, Forest Park, Maywood, Oak Park, and the surrounding community.

Businesses or organizations seeking to participate in the Juneteenth Parade can register by completing an online application [here](#). Applicants also have the option to download an application by clicking [here](#), completing the form, and emailing the application to WestVillages619@gmail.com. There is no fee to participate. More information and contact information is available on the [registration form](#).



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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

I would personally like to thank all who came out to the Village’s Memorial Day celebrations. This is the first parade the Village has been able to hold in the last two years, and the thousands of residents who participated reaffirmed our community’s support for this event. We are all so grateful to have been able to show our gratitude to the servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives for our country.

The Memorial Day Honor Roll Celebration was also a great success, and you can view a list of those who were honored, past and present, [here](#). The weekend’s events would not have been the same were it not for the additional support the Village received from our neighboring communities. I would especially like to thank Illinois House Speaker Emanuel ‘Chris’ Welch, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, Forest Park Mayor Rory Hoskins, Oak Park Village President Vicki Scaman, and Maywood Mayor Nathaniel George Booker for attending the event.

Please join me and others at the West Villages Inaugural Juneteenth Parade on June 18th at 11am! Click [here](#) for parade details.

A big thank you goes out to our Local Ethics Commission for their hard work and dedication to drafting the Ethics Ordinance amendments and the Village Board for unanimously approving the amendments. River Forest has set the highest standard for ethics reform in our state. To read the changes to the Ethics Ordinance, click [here](#).

Finally, I would like to congratulate the graduates of Roosevelt Middle School, St. Luke School and Grace Lutheran School on their achievements. I have every confidence that you will do great things throughout your academic time here in the Village, and beyond!

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

River Forest Public Library Foundation Sponsoring Summer Reading Kickoff Party

The River Forest Public Library is thrilled to announce the return of the summer reading program for the first time since 2019. A kickoff party will take place on Friday, June 10 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at the [River Forest Public Library](#).

There will be an ice cream social (hosted by the Brown Cow Ice Cream Parlor), a performance by School of Rock Oak Park, face painting, and lots of games. Attendees will be eligible to receive a ticket for the ice cream sundae bar if they are registered for the summer reading program (while supplies last). Registration is open and can be done either [online](#) or in person at the [Library](#). Staff will also be available at the event to help attendees register for the program.

The River Forest Public Library has summer reading programs for all ages (yes, even adults) that will run from Monday, June 13 through Saturday, August 6. All programs will offer incentives and prizes to add to the fun and encourage reading over the summer. Special thanks to the [River Forest Public Library Foundation](#) for sponsoring this event.

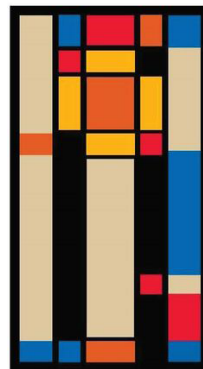
Visit the River Forest Public Library [website](#) to see the complete lineup of exciting summer events planned.



Time to Purchase Vehicle Stickers

2022-2023 Vehicle Stickers are now available. Updated vehicle stickers must be affixed to windshields by Wednesday, July 14 to avoid late fees and citations. All vehicles registered in Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker. For more information, visit <https://www.vrf.us/forms/form/12>.

2022-2023



INCORPORATED 1880

RIVER FOREST

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1

Vehicle License
Expires July 14, 2023
www.vrf.us

JUNETEENTH

RIVER FOREST FLAG RAISING

CEREMONY

**Educate.
Commemorate.
Honor.**

MONDAY, JUNE 13
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

A federal and state holiday commemorating the date in 1865 when General Order #3 proclaimed the freedom of the enslaved people in Texas.

We invite you to join us at the River Forest Juneteenth Flag-Raising Ceremony.

FREE EVENT

TELL A NEIGHBOR!

River Forest
Public Library
735 Lathrop Ave.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY
ADDIS CAFE AND KRIBI COFFEE

Hosted in partnership: Village of River Forest and River Forest Public Library

Village Department News

Police Department

Duck Rescue

River Forest Police Officers Zermeno, Drake, Cortes, and Corporal Humphreys were dispatched to a duckling stuck in the sewer in the 800 block of Keystone Avenue. Contact was made with the subject, who identified himself as 'Tater'. Upon arrival, Tater relayed that he was following his family down the street when the ground opened, and he fell into the water below.



The officers took immediate action by devising a plan to extract Tater from the sewer. The initial attempt to remove the sewer cover proved futile, so Plan B quickly developed. A halligan tool, a forcible entry tool used by firefighters and law enforcement, was lowered down in an attempt to reach Tater, but this, too, was unsuccessful. Finally, the officers developed a device using the halligan tool and an item commonly referred to as a 'spit hood' - a loose fabric placed over one's head to prevent biting. Once lowered, Tater latched on with all of his might as Officer Zermeno guided him upwards. Officer Cortes raised the duckling rescue device from the storm grate and welcomed Tater back topside, where he was then provided with a towel and lots of smiles.

Officers shared Tater's plight with Commander Greenwood, who, after interviewing Tater further, determined that reunification with his mother and family was unfortunately not possible. Commander Greenwood instead secured a shelter placement at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn. Tater was delivered to his forever home on May 7, where he will be 'flocked up' with other ducklings until his group is ready to be released into the wild.

Fire Department

Tornado Sirens

As summer approaches, so does the threat of severe weather. The Village has two outdoor tornado sirens; one located on the roof of Village Hall, and the other at the Pumping Station located at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Berkshire Street. The sirens only activate for a tornado warning that will affect the Village. The siren is motorized to rotate, so the warning is heard in all directions. In the event of a tornado warning, the warning sirens emit a continuous tone that times out after five minutes. If the tornado warning continues, the siren will



be reactivated until the tornado warning has expired or is canceled by the National Weather Service.

Lightning Sirens

The Village maintains a series of lightning 'predictors' that automatically activate when dangerous conditions exist that could produce lightning. Lightning predictors are located at the [Park District offices](#), [Priory Park](#), [Washington Square Park](#), [Keystone Park](#), [The River Forest Public Library](#), and [Willard Elementary School](#).

The system will activate one 15-second blast of the horn, and a yellow light will begin flashing and stay on while the lightning threat is active. Once conditions become safe and there is no active lightning in the area, the siren will activate three five-second horn blasts, and the yellow light will turn off. However, if the lightning threat continues and the yellow light is on, it is NOT safe to use the fields in the parks, and you should stay in the shelter. Dugouts are not to be used as shelters. When the siren is activated, DO NOT seek refuge under a tent or canopy if you are outdoors. Winds can turn the tent or canopy into a sail in a matter of moments. Thunderstorms can produce damaging winds, deadly lightning, large hail, flash floods, and tornadoes, making a tent or canopy unsafe during severe weather.

For more information on severe weather preparation, please call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at **(708) 714-3562**.

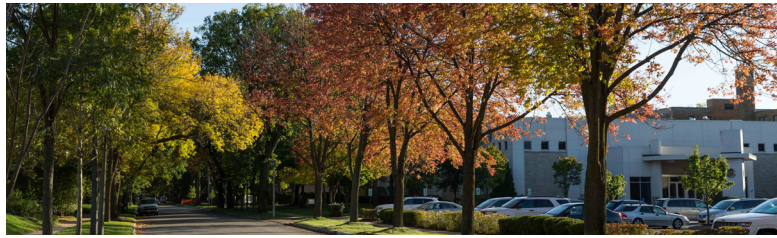
Public Works/Development Services

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](#) to search the type of contractor you need, or to view a list of contractors who are 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, which can be accessed at riverforest.onlma.com or at www.vrf.us/permits. This software helps the Village maintain precise records of permit submittals and contractor licenses, and helps ensure a more efficient 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 applicable documentation can be uploaded at any time. Review correspondence is completed through the software to ensure direct communication with those parties closely tied to each submittal. Click [here](#) for more information about building permits, plan review timelines, and videos to help those using the software for the first time.

Commission Spotlight



Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission consists of a Chairperson and two other members nominated by the Village President, and approved by the Board of Trustees. All members are required to be residents of the Village. Persons directly related up to the first cousin or by marriage to any elected official in the Village are prohibited from being nominated to the Ethics Commission. Two Commissioners are appointed to two-year terms, and the third Commissioner is appointed to a one-year term. After that, all shall be appointed to two-year terms and may be reappointed to serve subsequent terms.

The Commission is tasked with promoting the rules and procedures governing the performance of its duties and the exercises of its power. Upon receipt of a signed, written complaint, the Commission has the authority to investigate the claim, conduct hearings and deliberations, issue recommendations for disciplinary actions, impose fines, and refer violations to the appropriate attorney for prosecution. The Commission shall act only upon receiving a signed, written complaint alleging an infringement of the ethics code and identifying the complainant, not upon the Commission's initiative or an anonymous complaint.

On April 25, the Village Board passed proposed amendments from the Ethics Commission to amend the Village's ethics ordinance. The amendments enhance the Village's local ethics requirements and add requirements beyond what is written in State law. The revisions continue the Village's tradition of requiring elected officials, appointees, employees, and contractors to conduct themselves with integrity and honesty when working with and for the Village.

Someone to Know

Peggy Daley is the Chair of the Local Ethics Commission. Chair Daley began serving on the Commission in the fall of 2021. She moved to River Forest in 1998 with her husband and two children, who attended Willard Elementary School, Roosevelt Middle School, and Oak Park-River Forest High School. Her favorite thing about River Forest is that it is a great place to raise children, and it is overall a great community.

Chair Daley views the most important responsibility of the Commission to be the creation and enforcement of regulations that safeguard the community from unethical conduct. She believes the way to build a culture of compliance is to empower the enforcement of clearly defined rules and make it clear that the Village is interested in hearing about and addressing any potential violations. She notes that the current administration has made it clear they are interested in best-in-class ethics regulations.

Professionally, Chair Daley is the Vice President at Charles River Associates in the forensic services group. She leads companies' internal investigations and testifies as an expert witness in class action litigation. She volunteers on a board in her spare time, which oversees all licensed private detectives and security contractors in Illinois. Last fall, Mayor Lightfoot also asked her to Chair the Search Committee for the new Inspector General for the City of Chicago. Chair Daley enjoys being active in the Village; she and her husband regularly play tennis at the River Forest Tennis Club and are involved in the Paddle Tennis Leagues.

River Forest Sustainability

For many of us who grew up riding a school bus, it's easy to associate that memory with the smell of diesel and the hum of the engine ringing in our ears. And while school buses are not part of our normal transportation routine in River Forest, it's not uncommon for a diesel school bus to travel through our community, polluting the air we breathe.

Diesel-powered vehicles emit exhaust that contains several potent carcinogens, which adversely affect the health and wellness of the communities they serve. With more than 400,000 school buses in operation across the U.S., targeting school bus fleets for electrification will make a significant impact on the environment, especially for vulnerable populations.

Maggie Clancy, a resident and the Sustainability Commissioner, recently launched a company called Levo Mobility, dedicated to supporting districts interested in making the switch to electric.

"Districts looking to convert their existing diesel fleets to electric, face a daunting task – it's costly, complicated and there's a level of anxiety about battery range meeting route demands," said Ms. Clancy. "Fortunately, there are ways to tackle each one of these concerns through grants, purchasing power, and project management from start to finish."

The yellow school bus remains a powerful symbol for student transportation, and as more communities transition to electric, memories of school bus rides will no longer be of the smell of diesel or ringing in ears, but quiet rides, fresh air, and fun with friends.



Peggy Daley
Chair of the Local
Ethics Commission

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.

VOLUNTEER



Volunteers Are Needed

Calling all volunteers! As the meal program returns to in-person dining, help is needed to serve lunch to seniors at the Township Senior Services dining room. Volunteers are also needed to deliver meals to homebound individuals throughout River Forest and Oak Park. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Laura Valcour, nutrition program manager, at lvalcour@oakparktownship.org or (708) 383-8060 x134.



Need-Based Scholarships Available for Summer Youth Programs

Do your kids want to participate in summer activities around town, at places such as the River Forest Community Center, River Forest Park District, Oak Park-River Forest High School, or at programs like School of Rock? Need-based youth scholarships are available through the River Forest Township for resident children and young adults aged 5-17 for summer activities. Scholarship costs are shared between the River Forest Township, the summer program, and the family of the applicant. Each scholarship applicant is eligible for a scholarship of up to a maximum of \$250. The scholarship funds do not cover daycare. For an eligible scholarship applicant to be considered, the referring program/agency must complete a scholarship application on behalf of the applicant. For more information, please contact the summer activity program or contact the River Forest Township at supervisor@riverforesttownship.org or (708) 366-2029 x11.

riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Park District

River Forest Park District Hosts Parties in the Park

Once a month in the summer, the River Forest Park District hosts Parties in the Park on Thursday evenings. The first party kicks off on Thursday, June 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. at [Keystone Park West](#). The FeelGood Party Band will play your favorite jams from the 1960's to today. The Bubble Guy, Scott Ingerson, will be creating free balloon art. Hot dogs, chips and dessert will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket! Save the date for Thursday, July 21 from 7:30-10 p.m. at [Centennial Park](#) for a Movie in the Park and Thursday, August 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. for a concert at [Constitution Park](#). For the full schedule of upcoming events, click [here](#).



Summer Programs and Registration

The River Forest Park District summer program registration is in full swing. Check out the [Summer Camp Fun Guide](#) for a variety of new programs and old favorites for all age groups; there are still openings in some camp programs!

rfparks.com | 708-366-6660

Library

Anne Kowalski Named New Middle School and Teen Librarian

The River Forest Public Library is excited to announce that Anne Kowalski is the new Middle School and Teen Librarian. Anne joined the library in December 2019 as a Youth Services Associate and recently completed her MLIS from Dominican University. In her new position, Anne will be serving middle school and high school students ages 10-18. This includes planning and delivering innovative programs, managing the middle school and teen collections, and providing reference, readers' advisory, and technology assistance to library patrons of all ages. Please join in welcoming Anne to her new role.



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

Junior Wins Prestigious National BioGENEius Challenge

Oak Park and River Forest High School are proud to announce that junior **Maya Souden** won the Illinois BioGENEius Challenge and will move on to compete against winners from the U.S. and Canada in the international competition, beginning Monday, June 13 in San Diego, California. The BioGENEius Challenge is the most prestigious high school science competition globally for original research in biotechnology.



“To me, winning BioGENEius is, above all else, a validation that my work means something,” Souden said. “This whole project has been me trying to bring to life an idea that I had. It took a lot of time and effort to turn that idea into something tangible, and it feels amazing to know that my work might be able to actually benefit the medical community somehow.”

Souden’s research involved designing, prototyping, and testing a new surgical device -- an inflatable cuff that can be wrapped around a blood vessel (e.g., the aorta) and inflated to compress the vessel, thus lowering blood flow.

“This device could help control bleeding during long surgeries, where completely clamping the aorta is dangerous,” Souden said. She credits OPRFHS’ Investigative Research Design and Innovation (IRDI) class for preparing her for the competition.

“IRDI challenged me in every way a class possibly can,” Souden said. “I learned how to manage a greater workload, write better, read more critically, evaluate information, stick with an idea, modify my experimental plan over and over, visually and textually present information, and speak in front of a crowd.”

IRDI students spend the school year designing and implementing a unique research project to address a particular gap in published scientific research. They work collaboratively with expert mentors in their research fields throughout the process.



District 90

8th Grade Graduation

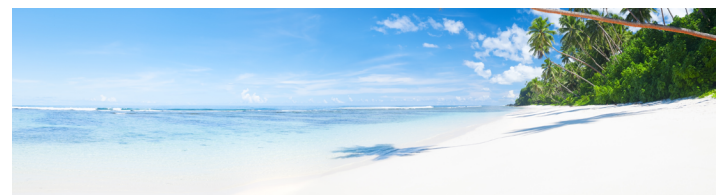
Congratulations to Roosevelt Middle School’s 167 graduating eighth-grade students! The members of the 2022 graduating class will receive their diplomas in the Oak Park and River Forest High School auditorium. The graduation ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8. Along with the pomp and ceremony of the commencement exercise, guests will hear remarks from student speakers and greetings from Board of Education President Barb Hickey, Superintendent Ed Condon, and Roosevelt Principal Larry Garstki.

The Roosevelt Band will perform musical selections. The entire event will offer opportunities to celebrate the students’ hard work and future plans. Congratulations, Roosevelt eighth graders.

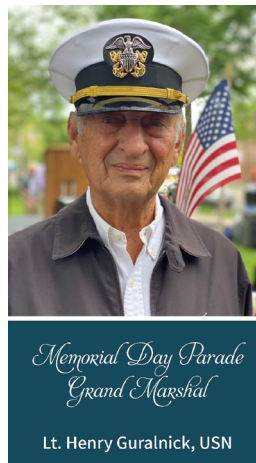


Last Day of School and Summer Hours

The last day of the regular school year in District 90 will be Friday, June 10. The Administrative Office will begin observing summer hours on Monday, June 13. Summer hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The last day for summer hours will be Friday, August 12, with regular office hours resuming on Monday, August 15 from 7:30 a.m. – to 4:30 p.m. Have questions or need assistance? Visit the District 90 website at district90.org or call the office at (708) 771-8282.



Memorial Day Celebration



*Memorial Day Parade
Grand Marshal*

Lt. Henry Guralnick, USN



Follow the Village on
Social Media



Sign Up For Email and Alerts



River Forest Events



Village Contact Information

Village Administration
708-714-3520

Village Administrator
Brian Murphy

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.