



RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | June, 2023



State Budget Supports River Forest Capital Improvements

The Illinois General Assembly concluded their 2023 spring legislative session with passage of the state budget last week. The budget bill, Senate Bill 250, includes several provisions that benefit the Village. Included in the budget are:

- Increased funding for the Local Government Distribution Fund. Earlier this year, Village President Adduci testified at a House Committee hearing in support of this increase. These funds ensure that state income taxes paid by Village residents are returned to the community to fund a range of services provided to the community.
- \$1.5 Million in funding for the Chicago Transit Authority for the demolition of the water tower near Harlem Avenue and Central Avenue.

- Funding for capital projects in the Village includes:
 - ◊ \$750,000 in new funds for capital improvement projects.
 - ◊ Reappropriation of \$350,000 for the demolition of property on Madison Street.
 - ◊ Reappropriation of \$21,400,000 for the Village and surrounding communities for streetscape improvements and business development along North Avenue.
 - ◊ Reappropriation of \$1,387,800 for the installation of automated metering infrastructure.
 - ◊ Reappropriation of \$4,000,000 for capital improvements.

Capital improvements include “fixed” assets that benefit the entire community and enable the Village to fund important maintenance. These improvements include those for streets, utilities and drainage systems, facilities, buildings, vehicles and equipment.

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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Welcome to June,

Over the last several months, the Village has been working with our state leaders to help fund key projects that benefit River Forest and meet our Board goal, which include strengthening our property values while stabilizing our property taxes. I am pleased to report that this year, we have been awarded significant appropriations from the State budget that will help make our key projects possible. On page 1 of this newsletter you will find the list of appropriations or reappropriations given to our Village. I want to thank our Village representatives for making this happen; the President of the State Senate, Senator Harmon, Majority Leader, Senator Lightford, Speaker of the Illinois House, Representative Chris Welch, and Representative Camille Lilly.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Village's annual Memorial Day celebrations. Thousands of residents attended the event that honored the men and women who have sacrificed their lives through serving our country in the armed forces. A list of those who were honored during the Memorial Honor Roll Ceremony can be found [here](#).

At the last Village Board meeting, a resolution was signed designating June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth in River Forest. To commemorate this date, the Village will be flying the Juneteenth flag below the State flag on the flagpole outside of Village Hall and the library for one week beginning Monday, June 12. More information on the flag raising ceremony can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

We have had some exciting additions, promotions and an accolade for public safety personnel, and I am thrilled to announce both the Police and Fire departments are now fully staffed. Please help me welcome Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Kyles, and congratulate David Bochenek on his promotion to Deputy Fire Chief. Other promotions include Quentin Boyd as our new Fire Lieutenant and Michael Swierczynski is now the Police Patrol Commander. Congratulations are also in order for Sean Heneghan, who has won the Police Officer of the Year award for the second consecutive year.

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

Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony

Join the Village and the River Forest Public Library for The Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday, June 12 starting at 11 a.m. until noon at the [River Forest Public Library](#). This event commemorates the date in 1865 when General Order #3 proclaimed the freedom of the enslaved people in Texas.

After the ceremony, refreshments will be served until 12:30 p.m. Participants are invited to check out the Juneteenth Traveling Museum, which offers exhibits, art, and reenactments focused on the rich history of African Americans in 1865. To learn more, click [here](#).



JUNETEENTH

RIVER FOREST FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

MONDAY, JUNE 12
11 AM-12 PM
AT RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY
735 LATHROP AVE., RIVER FOREST

JUNETEENTH TRAVELING MUSEUM
AFRIWARE BOOKS
REFRESHMENTS SERVED 12-12:30 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

EDUCATE | COMMEMORATE | HONOR | EDUCATE | COMMEMORATE | HONOR

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, 6/3, 2 - 3:30 p.m.: Before the Chicago Cubs: Baseball Comes to the Windy City, Adult

Historian Bruce Allardice takes a look at the National Pastime during the 1850s and 1860s in Chicago. He focuses on how baseball spread locally, who played it, how the Civil War affected

the development of the game, and how the Chicago Cubs were formed! This program is brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

Saturday, 6/3, 3-4:30 p.m.: 10th Anniversary Rededication of Anne T. Smedinghoff Memorial Garden – hosted by the River Forest Public Library Foundation. Ceremony begins at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, 6/16, 10-10:45 a.m.: Chris Fascione: Juggling Funny Stories!, Grades preschool-4

Join the Library for this special story time with nationally-known family entertainer Chris Fascione. You'll be laughing out loud as Chris brings children's stories to life with his high-spirited and innovative performances that are full of energy, humor and imagination. Chris creates colorful characters through his unique combination of acting, storytelling, comedy, and juggling. For preschool-4th grade with a caregiver and [advanced registration required](#).

Saturday, 6/17, 2-3:30 p.m.: Live Music in the Library: Hungrytown, Adult

Internationally touring folk music duo Hungrytown stops at the Library for an intimate concert! Hungrytown's music has received worldwide radio airplay and been featured on television shows such as The Daily Show and Portlandia.

Greentown

GreenTown: The Future of Community is coming to Triton College Thursday, June 22 for the entire day! Attendees will see presentations from inspiring speakers, such as Dr. Tony G. Reames, who is the Deputy Director for Energy Justice at the U.S. Department of Energy. Participants will also learn from case studies and discuss actionable steps to make communities more sustainable and equitable. The focus for this year's event will be on communities in the Chicago metro area that are working together to achieve climate, equity and sustainability outcomes - with a focus on energy, waste, workforce development, technology innovation, equitable solutions to the climate crisis and more. Click [here](#) for more information.



Village Department News

Police Department



Junior Citizens Police Academy

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

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 [Village Hall](#) and the [Oak Park Police Department](#). The Academy will run from August 7 – 11 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and is hosted at the [River Forest Police Department](#).

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

Administration and Finance

Vehicle Stickers Required by July 14

Vehicle Sticker renewal notices will be mailed out next week. 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, please visit <https://www.vrf.us/forms/form/12>.

Fire Department

From the Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day holiday, we enjoy all types of warm-weather events, but summer is also a critical time for injuries. In fact, more mishaps occur during these 101 days than they do the rest of the entire year. The Village of River Forest and the River Forest Fire Department wish everyone a Happy and Safe Summer Season.



Grilling Safety

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.



Charcoal Grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

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.



Backpack and School Supply Drive Through August 4!

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

School supplies that are requested for donations include scissors, rulers, notebooks, folders, crayons, pencils, sharpies, highlighters, and more. Please bring donations to Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park, or scan the QR code to directly purchase supplies on Amazon and have them shipped to Oak Park Township. For more information, call Oak Park Township at 708-445-2727 or email youth@oakparktownship.org. Residents are thanked in advance for their support of this important program to help children with limited resources have a great start for the upcoming school year!

Older Adults: Join a Reminiscing Project This Summer!

Dominican University Professor Julie Bach and her social work graduate students invite older adults to participate in an enjoyable project this summer about creative reminiscing. Class will meet four times at the University. For more information, contact Betsy Kelly, Senior Outreach Coordinator, via email at bkelly.rftownship@gmail.com or call 708-366-2029 x13.



Transportation to Oak Park Farmers' Market

Older adults and those with disabilities can now take the River Forest Township bus to and from the Oak Park Farmers' Market, Saturdays through October, from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.. Reserve your curb-to-curb ride by calling 708-383-4806, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$1.

riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Historical Society



OAK PARK
RIVER FOREST
MUSEUM

Historical Society Sidewalk Tour

The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest will present their next sidewalk tour on Saturday, June 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. The theme will be "West Side Stories: People and Architecture that Shaped River Forest!" The walk will begin at the northeast corner of [Lake Street and Edgewood Place](#). For more information and to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

oprfmuseum.org | 708-848-6755

Library



Summer Reading Program

It's summer reading time at the Library! Summer reading kicks off Thursday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m. with the Library's Summer Reading Kickoff Party - and all are welcome!

Sign up for the summer reading program and you'll receive a ticket for a free scoop of Brown Cow Ice Cream! Festivities at the kick off event will include a live music performance by School of Rock Oak Park, face painting, and a bubble performance. Get ready to read All Together Now this summer!

The Library has summer reading programs for all ages, including adults. Residents can register in the summer reading app called [Beanstack](#). Logging in can be completed either in the app, or there are paper reading logs that can be picked up at the Library. Children and teens can win prizes, and adults and teens can earn raffle entries for grand prizes.

The RFPL Summer Reading Kickoff Party is generously sponsored by The River Forest Public Library Foundation. *In case of rain, the event will be held inside.

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



Mural to Celebrate 150th Anniversary of OPRFHS

The Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) Huskie Booster Club has generously donated \$50,000 for a legacy item to honor the sesquicentennial - which is the 150th anniversary of the high school, which will be celebrated throughout the 2023-2024 school year. The donation will be used to fund a mosaic mural on the west side of the building, created by OPRFHS art teacher Tracy Van Duinen, local artist Carolyn Elaine, and OPRFHS students.

Van Duinen is an award-winning, internationally recognized mosaic artist, whose large-scale murals have been commissioned in locations across the country, including several Lake Shore Drive underpasses. Elaine is a Chicago artist and educator known for her culturally relevant mosaic murals and public art installations, who has produced mosaic installations for more than 50 Chicago and suburban schools.

For the sesquicentennial project, the mural creators will be partnering with the Oak Park Area Arts Council and its Off the Wall program, which hires young adults ages 16-22 to apprentice with master artists to design, construct, and install mosaic and bricolage murals in local communities. The six-week project will employ 13 current OPRFHS students and two alumni to build the mural in sections in the OPRFHS auto shop. The mural will be completed in time for the next school year!



oprfhhs.org | 708-383-0700

District 90

Congratulations to District 90's 8th-Grade Graduates

Congratulations to Roosevelt Middle School's 164 graduating 8th grade students! The 2023 graduating class will receive their diplomas in the Oak Park and River Forest High School Auditorium on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, starting at 7 p.m. Along with the pomp and ceremony of the commencement exercise, there will be student speakers and greetings from the Board of Education President Stacey Williams, Superintendent Ed Condon, and Roosevelt Principal Larry Garstki. The Roosevelt Orchestra and Band will also be performing. Be sure to congratulate any graduating 8th grade student you encounter on their hard work and future aspirations!



Last Day of School and Summer Hours for District 90

The last day of school in District 90 is Thursday, June 8. The Administrative Office will begin observing summer hours on Monday, June 12. Summer hours are Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please note: District 90 will be closed for the Juneteenth Holiday on Monday, June 19. The last day for summer hours will be Friday, August 11. Regular office hours will resume Monday, August 14, from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. In addition to walk-in service, please contact the District Office with questions for assistance at **708-771-8282** or visit the District 90 website at district90.org for more information.

Register for the 2023-24 School Year – Registration Closes June 16 – August 1

Be sure to register your current D90 student, incoming Kindergarten student, and students new to D90 for the upcoming school year. It is important that you register student(s) before June 15, 2023. Starting June 16, through August 1 the PowerSchool Parent Portal will be closed to finalize details for the upcoming school year. Building Principals need accurate enrollment information to hire teachers, order supplies, and make accurate plans for the 2023-24 school year. Current students return to school and full-day kindergarten starts Thursday, August 24. Students turning five years old on or before September 1, are eligible to register and attend kindergarten.

For registration information, please visit the District 90 website at district90.org or contact the D90 Registrar, Devin Howe, at howed@district90.org.

district90.org | 708-771-8282

River Forest Sustainability

River Forest recognized by U.S. Conference of Mayors

On Friday, June 2, Village President Adduci accepted the 2023 Small City Mayors' Climate Protection Awards from the U.S. Conference of Mayors on behalf of the Village of River Forest and the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4). President Adduci and Denver, Colorado Mayor Michael Hancock, are the 17th class of mayors being recognized by The U.S. Conference of Mayors for actions that reduce carbon use and emissions in their cities. River Forest beat out fellow finalists Brookhaven, Georgia; Central Falls, Rhode Island; Duluth, Minnesota; and Largo, Florida to win this honor in the Small City Category.

In June of 2022, the Village, along with the villages of Oak Park and Broadview, launched C4 - which is a partnership between the municipalities and other near west suburbs to address climate change and achieve equity outcomes. The partnership now includes 14 communities and is designed to bring together Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and non-minority communities across income lines to share ideas, secure resources, and drive large-scale projects within, and across communities that achieve agreed upon greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, equity and sustainability goals. C4 projects include community solar through Illinois' "Solar for All" program that provides reduced-rate electricity for low-to-moderate income residents. It additionally provides EV Infrastructure plans and funding for C4 communities, workforce development training and jobs for BIPOC residents related to solar and EV project development, residential curbside food scrap collection and school-based Zero Waste Schools programs. Sustainability working groups/commissions in C4 communities were also created to ensure community engagement for the important initiative meant to protect our climate.



**CROSS
COMMUNITY
CLIMATE
COLLABORATIVE**

State Sustainability Legislation

The Illinois General Assembly's spring legislative session has now concluded. The Village, along with the River Forest Sustainability Commission are highlighting the approval of a bill and resolution that both supported. Senate Bill 58 prohibits State agencies from procuring, and state vendors from providing food containers made of polystyrene foam, commonly known as Styrofoam, beginning in 2026. The Village expects Governor Pritzker to sign this legislation into law later this summer. Additionally, Senate Resolution 62 was adopted unanimously and declared the week of May 7 through May 13, 2023 as "Compost Awareness Week". This resolution was an initiative of the Illinois Food Scrap and Compost Coalition, of which the Sustainability Commission is a member. The Village adopted a similar proclamation locally. Both of these items are supported by the Village as measures to reduce landfill waste and promote the use of compostable and recyclable materials.



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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.