

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | May, 2023



Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony, and Community Picnic

The Village, Park District and the Kiwanis Club of River Forest-Oak Park are proud to present the 98th annual River Forest Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony and Community Picnic on Monday, May 29.

The parade kicks off at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Augusta Street and Ashland Avenue, and will travel south on Ashland Avenue to Lake Street, then west to **Keystone Park**. The parade will end at Keystone Park with a ceremony and FREE hotdog lunch. More than 100 entries participate annually in the Parade, with thousands of residents lining the route, making this day one of the year's highlights in River Forest.

The mission of the Parade is, "to recognize and honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces - especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice". Please click

[here](#) to add any residents, either active duty or veterans by Monday, May 22, to the 2023 Memorial Day Honor Roll. Any individual or business interested in entering a float or walking in the parade, must also register by May 22.



In This Issue

- Village President..... 2
- Village Board of Trustees.... 2
- News Around Town..... 3
- Department Updates..... 4-5
- Sustainability..... 5
- Local Organizations 6-7
- Green Town 8
- Village Contacts..... 8



From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

May is Older Americans Month, an observance that recognizes the contributions that our senior citizens make in communities across the country. Please consider attending - or sharing information with an older family member or resident about the following events meant to serve our seniors. The Celebrating Seniors Coalition has assembled a full week of programs and events that can be viewed [here](#). Among those events, the [River Forest Public Library](#) is hosting a presentation, "Nutrition for Aging" on Monday, May 15 at 1 p.m. and more details can be found [here](#). On the same day, the [River Forest Community Center](#) will host a Secretary of State Mobile event for seniors starting at 10 a.m. Learn more [here](#).

May also marks Jewish American Heritage Month - a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions that Jewish Americans have had on our rich culture, our county and in our communities.

Lastly, I'm excited to announce that a community staple for the last 98 years - the annual Memorial Day Parade - will be on Monday, May 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. After the parade, a Memorial Day Ceremony, hosted by the Village, Park District, and River Forest Kiwanis Club will take place. If you would like to nominate either an active duty member, or a veteran who has served in the armed forces to be recognized on the Honor Roll during the Ceremony, please click [here](#). The deadline to submit someone's name to be included in the Honor Roll is Monday, May 22, and that can be done [here](#).

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



Celebrating Seniors Week Is Back In-Person May 11-18!

Join in the festivities of Celebrating Seniors Week, May 11-18, as River Forest Township honors older adults from River Forest, Oak Park, Forest Park, and the surrounding communities. The Township is partnering to host several fun and informative programs, including:

May 11

1-3 p.m. River Forest Community Center: take a mahjong lesson!

6-7:30 p.m. River Forest Memorial Parkway bocce courts: Bocce Ball Social

May 13

2 p.m. River Forest Public Library: Terry Sullivan Trio

May 15

10 a.m.-1pm, River Forest Community Center: Secretary of State "Rules of the Road" Super Senior event

1 p.m., River Forest Public Library: "Nutrition for Aging" talk

6-7:30 p.m. Keystone Park: Platform Tennis Social

May 16

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Dominican University: "Only You Can Write Your Own Story" with Professor Julie Bach

1-3 p.m. River Forest Community Center: "Step Up to Stop Falls" talk and assessment

6-7:30 p.m. Washington Square Tennis Court: Pickleball Social

May 17

1-2pm, River Forest Community Center: Chair Yoga

These are just a few of the events taking place around the community! Events are free, and all are welcome. For more information, visit celebratingseniors.net/events. Questions? Call Betsy Kelly, 708-366-2029 ext.13 or email bkelly.rftownship@gmail.com.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, PICNIC, AND CEREMONY

**MONDAY, MAY 29
AT 9:30 AM**



FOREST PARK BANK



Village Department News

Police Department

Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" Campaign

The Police Department will step up enforcement for the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" campaign, which runs from May 19-30 and reminds motorists to buckle up for safety. "Click It or Ticket" leverages education and enforcement efforts to save lives.

"Seat belts have proven to be life-saving in the event of a crash," said Police Chief, James O'Shea. "Unfortunately, many individuals still don't buckle up. Worse yet, not wearing a seat belt is a habit that can be passed on to younger generations who follow the example set by their elders."

Since the Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of summer, it's a popular time for travel to visit family and friends. Whether you are heading down the block or across the country, make sure you buckle up every time. Wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of fatal injury by up to 45%. Seat belts save lives every day, but they're only effective if they're used.

While Illinois currently has a 93% seat belt use compliance rate, unbelted occupants still account for more than half of those killed in motor vehicle crashes. The simple click of a seat belt could save thousands of lives each year.



The "Click It or Ticket" campaign is administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation with federal highway safety funds.

Fire Department

May is National Electrical Safety Month

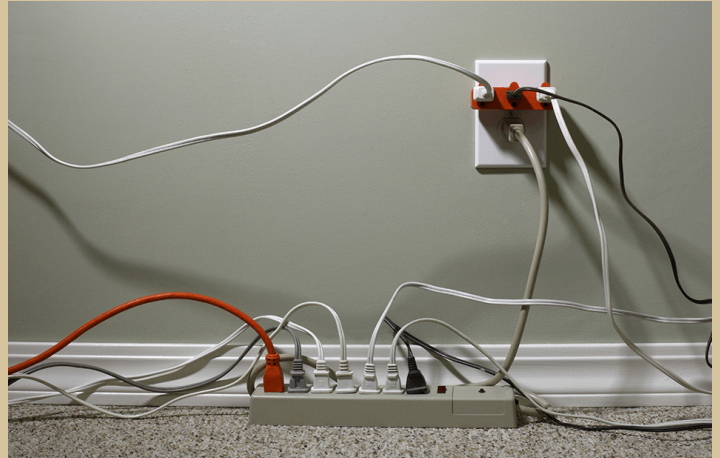
To commemorate Electric Safety Month, the Fire Department is educating residents about steps that can be taken to reduce the number of electrical-related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss.

Extension Cords

Every year, more than 3,000 home fires are caused by extension cords misuse.

- Only use tested and certified extension cords.
- Inspect your cords for damage. Do not use a damaged cord.
- Do not plug extension cords into one another.
- Make sure you're using the right type of extension cord; indoor extension cords for inside a structure, and outdoor cords for outdoors.
- Do not cut off the ground pin.
- Always plug into a GFCI protected outlet when using extension cords outdoors.
- Do not run extension cords under rugs, carpets, or through doors or windows.

- Extension cords should be used for temporary use only, and used for one device only.
- Unplug the cord by grasping the plug. Do not pull on the cord to unplug.



Lithium-ion Battery Safety

Lithium-ion batteries power many portable consumer electronics, electric vehicles, and even store power in energy storage systems. In normal applications, these batteries are safe, but if they are damaged or overheated, they can cause fires.

- Only use manufacturer-provided or authorized batteries and charging equipment. All equipment should be certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory.
- Remove the battery or charging device from power once the charging is complete to avoid overheating.
- Keep batteries and charge them at room temperature. Issues can occur below 32° F or above 105° F.
- Keep batteries and devices from heat sources or anything that can catch fire.
- Do not store batteries in vehicles or direct sunlight.
- All maintenance on batteries or e-mobility devices should be completed by a qualified professional.

Discontinue using devices or batteries that have an unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, or if they are leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.

Fall Prevention Seminar

The Fire Department in partnership with the Sheridan of River Forest is presenting a Fall Prevention Seminar.

When: Friday, May 19, 2023

Where: The Sheridan of River Forest, 800 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305

Time: 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Iwona Bochenek, will discuss the best practices on how to avoid the probability of a fall in your home. Dr. Bochenek is a Certified Senior Specialist. Fire Department paramedics will discuss what to expect when an ambulance arrives at your home if an individual were to fall and get injured.

A FREE Breakfast will be served by the Fire Department as part of this event. Please call **708-366-7629** to reserve your spot.

Village Department News

Administration and Finance

Get Your Pet License!

Pet licenses are now available at Village Hall (400 Park Avenue), and are valid from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Both dogs and cats are required to be registered with the Village. For more information and to download the pet license application - or to purchase your pet license online, please click [here](#).

Valid Monday, May 1 -
Tuesday, April 30, 2024



Public Works

Does your Project Need a Permit?

As the weather warms up - home improvement season begins! 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 view a list of those currently licensed with the Village. All contractors must be licensed to work in River Forest, 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 LAnd MAnagement), which can be accessed at riverforest.onlama.com or at vrf.us/permits. This software enables the Village to maintain precise records of permit submittals and contractor licenses, and helps to 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 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.



River Forest Sustainability

Green Alleys

This spring the Village is completing reconstruction of all alleys - a project that began in 2021. The Village has a total of 32 alleys; each alley has been reconstructed with some portion of permeable materials, which are porous and allow rain runoff to filter more slowly, which effectively mitigates stormwater impacts on nearby properties. These projects are often referred to as "Green Alleys" because the permeable pavers divert water from going into the Village's stormwater system, helping to sustainably recharge groundwater.



The reconstructed alleys contain concrete pavement sloped inward toward an approximately 3-foot wide strip of permeable pavers along the alley centerline that continues to be utilized throughout the Village. The pavers allow stormwater runoff to be conveyed to a stone reservoir underneath the pavement to help reduce flooding. There is also a perforated pipe within the stone reservoir which helps convey stormwater away from alleys during periods of excessive rainfall. The final alleys are being completed with the help of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago through a \$90,000 grant as part of their Green Infrastructure Partnership Program. River Forest was one of 10 communities selected as part of this year's program. Updates on the project can be found on the Village website [here](#).



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.



From the Township Assessor...

Property Tax Reassessments

All Township property owners were mailed a reassessment notice on April 27, 2023 by the Cook County Assessor's Office. This is the first year of a new triennial appeal cycle. Appealing can give residents a lower assessed value if records indicate the property is not assessed equitably. The Township Assessor is open for appeals with the Cook County Assessor until May 30 at 11:59 p.m. Homeowners can contact the office to request an appeal packet by following this link: [2023 APPEAL PACKET REQUEST](#)

The Assessor's Office is hosting a **Community Outreach** in conjunction with the Cook County Assessor's Office to help residents understand the property assessment and the appeal process. Please join the Township on **Tuesday, May 23** at 6 p.m. at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, Room 206.

All property tax exemption forms are available on line at: cookcountyassessor.com.

Two River Forest Residents Needed to Serve on Township Decennial Committee

The recently passed Local Government Efficiency Act requires all Illinois taxing bodies (except municipalities, school districts and counties) to form a Decennial Committee to study and report on local government efficiency. Two River Forest residents, plus the Township Board of Trustees, will make up this committee for the Township. The Committee will meet by June 10, 2023 and hold at least three meetings; the efficiency report must be completed within 18 months. Those who volunteer will learn more about the Township's many programs, services and partnerships! Those interested in serving on this committee should email Supervisor Carla Sloan cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Library

Visit the library website to see everything happening at your library. There's something for everyone at the library!

The Library's New Strategic Plan

The Library has launched a new strategic plan, which was completed through a comprehensive process with feedback from the community and its stakeholders. The plan focuses on five strategic directions: community; spaces; events, services and collections; staff; and resources. See the full plan [here](#).

The Library Celebrates Seniors Week

May 11-18 is Celebrating Seniors Week and the Library is offering some special programs. Join us!

Bingo,

Friday, May 12, 1-2 p.m.

Terry Sullivan Jazz Trio,

Saturday, May 13 from 2-3:30 p.m.

Adult Coloring Club,

Monday, May 15 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Nutrition for Aging,

Monday, May 15 from 1-2 p.m.



Terry Sullivan

Join the Library at the Memorial Day Parade

The Library is marching in the Memorial Parade again this year. Do you love the Library and want to join them as they march? Email library@riverforestlibrary.org if you'd like to participate.

Events: Visit the Library's [Calendar](#) to learn about everything that's happening!

May Highlights

Thursday, May 18 from 10-10:45 a.m. Nanny Nikki, Ages 0-6

Grammy® Nominated Artist, Nanny Nikki loves to sing, and to bring life to classic children's songs as well as some original music. Join her for a fun, high energy and interactive musical show including sing-along songs, dancing, puppets and more! Sing & Soar! In the library garden for ages 0-6. In the event of rain, this event will be moved indoors. [Advanced registration required.](#)

Sunday, May 21 from 2-3:30 p.m. Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair, Adults

Bestselling author William Hazelgrove joins the Library to share the fascinating Chicago true-crime story of Al Capone's connection to the 1933 World's Fair. Fans of Devil in the White City will be especially interested in this presentation, which is brought to you in 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



Board approves Funding for Imagine OPRF Project 2

At its meeting on April 27, the Board of Education unanimously approved funding the \$102 million cost of Imagine OPRF Project 2 with a combination of cash reserves, philanthropic donations, and debt certificates. The funding plan does not require a referendum and clears the way for the project to break ground in the summer of 2024, with an anticipated completion in the summer of 2026.

Project 2 is part of Imagine OPRF, the District's five-phase, long-term capital projects plan. It will replace the physical education wing at the southeast corner of the building, most of which was built in 1928. The new facility (which does not include any work on the Fieldhouse) includes:

- A 25-yard x 40-yard pool and spectator balcony
- Larger, flexible, multi-use gyms
- All-gender locker rooms for gender non-conforming students, as well as boys and girls locker rooms
- Performing arts dressing rooms (boys, girls, and all gender)
- An elevator that complies with accessibility requirements
- A multi-purpose/dance gym
- A weight room
- Boys locker rooms
- Girls locker
- PE classrooms, PE and athletics offices, PE equipment storage and a conference room
- Improvements to the performing arts green room
- Costume shop/storage, prop shop/storage
- An expanded treatment room for athletic trainers
- Student commons and pre-function space
- Green roof to manage stormwater runoff

The District's Community Finance Committee (CFC) presented the Board with three scenarios for funding the project cost. Two of the options required the community to vote on whether to issue referendum bonds; approval would have added a debt-service levy to property tax bills on top of the regular annual levy. Going to referendum also would have meant a year's delay in launching the project, increasing the estimated cost to \$108 million.

The approved option involves borrowing \$45.3 million in debt certificates, which do not require a referendum or create an additional tax levy. Instead, the debt certificates will be repaid from the district's annual operating budget in annual increments of \$3.5 million over a period of 20 years. The funding plan also includes \$44.2 million from cash reserves and \$12.5 million in donations raised by the Imagine Foundation. For more information, visit bit.ly/ImagineOPRF.

oprffhs.org | 708-383-0700

District 90

Registration for 2023-24 School Year is Open for Returning Students

Registration for current and returning District 90 students for the 2023-24 school year has begun. The student registration process is conducted online, and all registration forms can be found on the District's website, and within the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). All returning and new Kindergarten students who have confirmed their residency will be able to register. Families will need a Power School Parent Portal account to access the registration forms. Please complete the online registration forms no later than Thursday, June 15. On June 16, PowerSchool Parent Portal access will be closed to returning families in order to finalize preparations for the upcoming school year. Information about the registration process, creating a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, and other information can be accessed through the [District's website](#). The first day of class for students for the 2023/2024 school year is August 24, 2023.



District 90 May Non-Attendance Days

District 90 students will be dismissed from school early on Friday, May 26, with teachers and other instructional staff engaged in professional development activities and school improvement planning. On Monday, May 29, all District 90 schools and the Administration office will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday.



district90.org | 708-771-8282

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.



Dr. Tony G. Reames

River Forest Park District



Resident
Registration:
Monday, 3/20

Non-Resident
Registration:
Monday, 3/27



rfparks.com



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

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

Finance Department
708-714-3524
Director Rosemary McAdams

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

Fire Department
708-714-3560
Chief Tom Gaertner

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.