

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | November, 2021



New Sewer Lateral Subsidy Program

As part of the Village’s infrastructure management, each year the Public Works and Development Services Operations Department completes **sewer televising and cleaning** through a portion of the Village-owned sewer mains. Engineering Staff reviews the videos to determine which mains require spot repairs and lining, which enhances the integrity of the pipe materials and minimizes the need for sewer replacement. This annual undertaking improves the Village’s sewer system overall and mitigates repairs due to failing sewer mains. The work is done on the Village-owned sewer mains that connect to a larger, more regional sewer network that is owned and maintained by the **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District**.

Residents own the sewer lines that service their homes, from the building up to and including the connection to the Village’s sewer main. Earlier this month, the Village implemented a program to assist residents with the cost of repairing damage to their

lateral sewer lines. A sewer lateral is the pipe that carries wastewater from a home or building out to the Village’s sewer main, which is typically located under the center of the roadway (see diagram). Only **residential** properties experiencing **structural damage** of a sewer lateral **within the roadway** are eligible for this program. Other non-structural issues related to sewer laterals or those structural/non-structural issues occurring outside the limits of the roadway are not currently eligible for this subsidy program. Qualifying repairs may be eligible for reimbursement up to \$7,500. For additional details about the program, visit vrf.us/SewerLateralProgram. For information about stormwater and flooding, visit vrf.us/Flood.

How does sewer lateral damage occur?

Most sewer laterals in the Village were constructed decades ago with clay tile sewers, which, unfortunately, will deteriorate over time. New laterals are typically constructed with PVC piping. Tree and shrub roots

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Village Board Trustees



From Village President Cathy Adduci

All Village programs and services are provided with these guiding principles in mind:

- Providing a safe community.
- Making decisions that protect our property values.
- Working to stabilize property taxes.

These guiding principles are why the Village continues to focus on economic development and redevelopment, where appropriate, to strengthen its tax base by getting the highest and best use out of each property while maintaining its small-town charm. Commercial development is critical to stabilizing our property taxes and also helps provide resources to keep our community safe.

At our October 25 meeting, the Village Board of Trustees approved a final amendment to the Village's redevelopment agreement with Sedgwick Properties to start construction of an approved, mixed-use development at Lake and Lathrop which will contain 22 condominiums and 14,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. Sedgwick properties has until January 23, 2022 to begin construction, and 18 months to complete the project.

To meet the January 23, 2022 deadline, the Board and I required the developer to immediately obtain its building permit, which is ready to be issued, remove topsoil and excavate to install foundations on the site, close on construction financing, enter into contracts with the general contractor and subcontractors, and start work on the project's concrete footings.

Until bonafide construction commences, the Village retains the right to take the property back if needed. At all times, the Village will retain legal rights to ensure the property is safe and maintained in compliance with the Village's standards.

For more information about the project, including project updates, please visit vrf.us/LakeandLathrop. The developer will work to provide the Village and neighboring property owners with more information as construction gets underway.

For more information about the impact of economic development on property taxes, visit vrf.us/PropertyTax.

As Veterans Day approaches next week on Thursday, November 11, please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans as we honor all who served.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci, Village President
Village of River Forest



**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

Vaccine Cards

Residents who need to update or replace a COVID-19 vaccination card should contact their primary care physician or the entity that administered the vaccine. For instance, individuals who received the vaccine through a Village-sponsored clinic should contact Jewel-Osco. Health professionals may be able to verify an individual's vaccine status through a state database, assuming the data was uploaded correctly. Residents can also utilize the IDPH [Vax Verify portal](#) to view COVID-19 vaccination records digitally. Users will have access to a digital copy of their vaccination record if their physical copy is lost, damaged or forgotten. In order to download proof of vaccination, residents must complete an online identification verification process provided by Experian®, to gain access to their immunization history. Individuals with common names may have to complete additional steps to prove their identities.

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.



Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

EXAMPLE

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Date of birth _____ (Please print name and date from medical record or IIS record number)

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinician
1 st Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	



Ofc. Ransom shown here with his family.

River Forest Officer Receives Award

On October 28, Officer Ben Ransom received the Elderly Service Officer of the Year Award from Illinois TRIAD on behalf of the Illinois Attorney General's Office. TRIAD is a partnership of older adults, law enforcement agencies, and support/protective services who work together to reduce criminal senior victimization and enhance available senior services.

Officer Ransom is a specially trained police officer in the area of elder crime and quality of life issues. He has gone above and beyond in his efforts to protect and serve the older residents of the Village and the greater west suburban area using his unique skill set. Officer Ransom is deeply involved with the River Forest Dementia Friendly Illinois program, the Oak Park Township Senior Services Multi-Disciplinary Team and Adult Protective Services, as well as the [River Forest ID Bracelet Program](#). He also serves as the River Forest Crime Prevention Officer and often works with the U.S Securities and Exchange Commission to teach older adults how to avoid common scams and other crimes where seniors are often targeted. Officer Ransom is a highly valued asset to the police department and the entire Village. We would like to congratulate him for his hard work and recognize him for receiving this prestigious award.

HPC Proposes Ordinance Change

A public meeting will be held by the Village of River Forest Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on Wednesday, November 10, at 7 p.m., regarding a proposed change to the Village's Historic Preservation ordinance. The proposed change is to extend the maximum length of demolition delay from six months to twelve months, **only for significant properties that are zoned in the PRI Public, Recreational and Institutional District.**

A list of the properties that would be subject to this change and more information can be found vrf.us/HPCOrdinanceChange. Owners of these properties are being contacted directly to notify them of this proposed change. All are welcome to attend this public meeting to learn more and or provide comments on this proposed change.



515 Auvergne: William Winslow House and Stables, by Frank Lloyd Wright

Village Department News

Fire Department



Fire Prevention Week Recap

During Fire Prevention Week (October 3-9), State Farm Insurance provided the Fire Department with educational materials to help spread the message about fire safety. This year's theme was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." As people were home more often this past year, they may have heard different types of alarms.

"Recognizing the different sounds alarms make, and the action needed based on that sound, is critical to preventing injury and death from fire," according to the National Fire Protection Association. "This year's theme also pays particular attention to smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These include strobe lights, low frequency alarms, and bed/pillow shakers which activate at the sound of the alarm. For more information about fire safety, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7, so when changing your clocks, remember to **change your alarm batteries**. Visit vrf.us/FallFireSafety for additional tips on staying safe while keeping warm and decorating for the holidays.

Police Department

Lock Your Vehicle

The River Forest Police Department would like to remind residents to help prevent thefts by locking vehicles and removing valuables that are in plain sight when parked.



Fall Leaf Collection

Fall leaf cleanup is underway, which allows residents to rake leaves into the street where Village crews will collect them. The program runs from mid-September through the first week in December. Leaves should be piled near, but slightly away from the curb to ensure proper drainage during a rain event. Village crews will collect leaves throughout the workday based on the following schedule:

- **Mondays:** Area west of Thatcher, including Edgewood, Auvergne, River Oaks and Lake as well as all streets south of the UP railroad tracks.
- **Tuesdays:** All streets between William and Harlem.
- **Wednesdays:** All streets between Lathrop and Monroe (north of the railroad tracks).
- **Thursdays:** All streets between Park and Ashland (north of the railroad tracks).
- **Fridays:** All streets between Thatcher and Forest (north of the railroad tracks).

To download a copy of the leaf collection schedule and map, visit vrf.us/LeafCollection.

Please note, this program allows for the pick-up of **leaves only**. Grass clippings, brush and any other type of material should be disposed of in accordance with the Village's **refuse** and **yard waste** procedures. Anyone interested in participating in the Village's Curbside Composting Program can find additional information at vrf.us/Compost.



Village of River Forest Leaf Collection Map

Committee/ Commission Spotlight



Sustainability Commission

The function of the Sustainability Commission is to enhance the quality of life of River Forest residents through the study and promotion of sustainable practices that conserve natural resources and protect the environment. The Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Village Board of Trustees and is comprised of seven members who are residents of the Village, and who are appointed by the Village President with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees. The Commission's efforts include offering educational resources to the community and launching popular programs, such as curbside composting, green electric aggregation and green block parties.

The Commission is currently working on making solar power more accessible. Community Solar is a program that will offer the opportunity to obtain solar power credits to residents who may not own their homes or are otherwise unable to install solar panels. It is anticipated the program will be available to residents in early 2022, and more information will be available this winter. The Commission is always on the lookout for ways to make River Forest a greener community. Recommendations for programs and initiatives are forwarded to the Village Board for final consideration and approval.

Someone to Know

Sustainability Commission Chair Eric Simon has served the Village through his role on the Commission as an original member since its inception in 2017, and began serving as chair earlier this year. Six years ago, Eric moved to River Forest with his wife and two daughters, coming from Vail, Colorado, where he spent more than 20 years in the resort and recreation industry. An avid outdoorsman, Eric says he appreciates the beauty of the Village every day - and that his favorite part is the Village's old growth trees, as well as the beautiful architecture and parks.

Now, Eric runs a 93-year-old family business that is a niche distribution, logistics, and supply chain company, in addition to spending time volunteering and serving on nonprofit boards. A big proponent and advocate of solar energy, Eric powers his home with solar and installed one of the largest rooftop solar systems in the Midwest at his business - 6,000 panels! He says the most important part of the work the Commission does is that it positively impacts all residents while also ensuring the Village is doing its part to support local, regional, national and global efforts to combat climate change.



Eric Simon

Sustainable River Forest *Keeping River Forest Green!*

Leave the Leaves

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) says you can skip raking this fall, at least some of it. Leaving leaves in flower beds helps wildlife during the winter, as many insect and animal species rely on leaf layers. Leaves also form natural mulch, provide plants with a protective blanket in winter, conserve water year-round, and enrich the soil as the plant material decomposes. The NWF also recommends mulching leaves with a lawn mower and leaving the clippings on the lawn. Visit the [NWF website](#) to learn more.

TOMORROW :

Don't trash your pumpkin or place it in the street, compost it! Help keep pumpkins out of landfills by participating in the Annual **River Forest Pumpkin Smash**, Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m. - noon at Roosevelt Middle School on the corner of Oak and Jackson. Last year, River Forest composted 805 pumpkins - let's smash that record in 2021! Please encourage friends, family and neighbors to compost instead of trashing, which helps reduce greenhouse gases. Residents are encouraged to wear a mask and observe social distancing when dropping off pumpkins. The Pumpkin Smash is hosted by the D90 Green4Good Team with support from Lakeshore Recycling Services.



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.



Sibshops Continues In-Person

Sibshops is a program specially designed for siblings of kids with special needs, disabilities and health challenges. The goal is to have fun and share experiences with each other and specially trained facilitators. Lunch is provided. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m., 11/6, 11/20, 12/4, 12/18, at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park. There is a \$10 session fee and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, contact Laurie Johnson at 708-383-7500 x308 or ljohnson@thrivecc.org.

Seniors: Become More Connected Through Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is a new way to get together, meet new people and share experiences. The focus will be on exercise and wellness, arts & culture, and writing and reflection. The group will meet one hour per week for 12 weeks and is hosted by River Forest Township and Arbor West Neighbors. Contact Betsy Kelly at 708-366-2029 x13 or bkelly.rftownship@gmail.com with questions or if you are interested.



Seeking Township Youth Services Committee Member

River Forest Township is looking for a new volunteer member for its Township Youth Services Committee (meets most 1st Wednesdays, 6 p.m.). This Committee plays a strong advisory role in Township youth programs and funding. For more information, contact Supervisor Carla Sloan, supervisor@riverforesttownship.org or 708-366-2029 x11.



riverforesttownship.org - 708-366-2029 x11

Park District

Holiday Tree Trimming

Join the River Forest Park District on Thursday, December 2 from 4 p.m.-5 p.m. or 5 p.m.-6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season with festive music playing in the background while you trim the trees! Community businesses, organizations and neighborhoods are invited to sponsor a holiday tree that will be on display along Lake Street in Memorial Parkway. A tree with lights will be provided and sponsors will bring and hang their own decorations. The trees will be lit at 5p.m. Individually wrapped cookies will be provided and kids can bring their letters to put in Santa's mailbox. Visit RFParks.com to register.



Registration has begun for Youth Basketball Leagues



Youth Basketball is right around the corner and the deadline to register is November 22 at 12:00 p.m. Mandatory player evaluations will be held on December 4. Grades 1 and 2 will play on Saturdays only and grades 3-8 will practice once a week and play games on Saturdays. The Youth Basketball program stresses team building and basketball fundamentals. For details, visit the RFParks.com Autumn Fun Guide. We are also seeking volunteer coaches. Without you, we could not run this program. To volunteer, visit RFParks.com.

rfparks.com | 708-366-6660

Library

The Library has an exciting line-up of fall in-person programs such as story times for kids, crafting and gaming for teens, global films and coffee time for adults. Visit RiverForestLibrary.org for a full listing of programs, including some virtual offerings.

Visit the Fall Outdoor Photo Booth

Grab the family and take a fun, fall pic in the outdoor photo booth in the library garden! Please tag the library on social media so we can see your smiling faces!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Children of All Ages

Drop off your stuffed pal and say goodnight between 3-5 p.m. on Friday for some overnight fun at the library. Come back for a light breakfast and story time at 10 a.m. on Saturday and see what the stuffed animals were up to during their slumber party. **Advanced registration required.**

Sunday, 11/14, 2-3:30 p.m., Emancipation to Inauguration: Chicago's Black Experience, Adult

From Chicago's first settler to the nation's chief executive, the African American presence is deep, rich and proud. And that presence is in, out, up, down, and all around Chicago. Brought to you in partnership with River Forest Township.

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

In fall 2019, Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS) announced a significant change to the freshman curriculum, launching with the 2022-2023 school year. To increase access to rigorous coursework for *all* students, the high school will eliminate college-prep and honors level classes for freshman English, science, history and world languages, replacing them with a single, rigorous, high-level curriculum.

This change aligns with the district's strategic plan priorities, the first of which is racial equity. A comprehensive review of the freshman curriculum confirmed that a disproportionate number of Black and Brown students are enrolled in college prep courses while a disproportionate number of students enrolled in honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes are white.

The data also showed that this difference is *not* based on ability. A common concern with detracking is that the pace will be too slow for the highest achievers and too slow for others. However, 20% of OPRFHS honors students currently fall *below* the 50th percentile on a reading assessment. Teachers are already differentiating their instruction to ensure that students with a broad spectrum of abilities are succeeding. In addition, OPRFHS plans to maintain the pace for all learners through an array of enrichment opportunities.

Clearly, based on the data, the school district has not been providing enough opportunities for all students--specifically our Black and Brown students--to perform at the level of which they are capable. Considerable educational research supports detracking as a way to increase access and achievement.

The restructuring affects only the freshman curriculum. The district is *not* eliminating honors or AP classes for grades 10-12. In fact, by supporting success with the freshman year honors curriculum, the belief is that *more* students will go on to honors and AP classes in subsequent years, and part of the plan is to increase the number of AP classes in the future.

The first students to be directly affected by the restructuring are current 8th graders. The district will be doing outreach specifically for these families in November. For more information, including an FAQ, visit www.bit.ly/AccessOPRF.

oprffhs.org | 708-383-0700

District 90

Inclusion Preschool Lottery is Open

The lottery for the District 90 Inclusion Preschool for the 2022-2023 school year is available online **until December 3, at 11:59 p.m.** Students selected by the lottery will be invited to attend D90's Inclusion Preschool Program located at Willard School for the 2022-2023 school year. **If you know a family with a preschool child, please share this information with them.** Lottery results will be emailed to applicants by January 19, 2022.



Applicants can access an online lottery application by visiting the 2022 – 2023 **ONLINE LOTTERY APPLICATION until December 3**. The application takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. If your child is accepted, your email will contain an invitation to enroll and a list of documentation that you are required to submit. If your child is not accepted, they will be placed on the waiting list. To be considered for the preschool:

- Child must be 3 years old by September 1, 2022.
- Child must live within the District 90 residency boundaries.
- A separate application must be submitted for each child in a family.

The Inclusion Preschool classroom is comprised of 3, 4, and 5-year-old students who work and play with students of all abilities. The program provides students with a positive, nurturing environment that fosters social, emotional, physical and cognitive development that helps prepare them for Kindergarten. The students' diverse learning needs are met by having a low student-to-teacher ratio, which provides individual and small group attention opportunities. Additional information can be viewed at District90.org.

D90 Closed for Thanksgiving Recess

District 90 will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday recess from Wednesday, November 24 through Friday, November 26. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29. Have a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

district90.org | 708-771-8282



Business Corner

Saturday, November 27, is Small Business Saturday. The day celebrates small businesses and the positive impact they have on the community. Small businesses provide the community with unique products and services that represent the vibrant, unique elements of the Village and surrounding community. Business owners live locally, have a personal connection to the area, and invest in the long term prosperity of our community. Furthermore, small businesses benefit the local economy by creating and sustaining jobs, and reinvest customer dollars back into the community. Small businesses also pay taxes that fund emergency services, the local school district and local infrastructure projects. As the holiday shopping season begins, consider showing your support by patronizing the Village's ample selection of small businesses! Whether you are seeking retail products or looking for food and dining options, River Forest's small businesses have everything to suit your needs! For a list of local businesses, please visit vrf.us/ShopRF. For more businesses in the area, visit OPRFChamber.org.



Investing in our Alleys

Investing in the reconstruction of Village alleys not only has the benefit of replacing pavement to improve the driving surface and also addresses stormwater issues by improving drainage. The Village has a total of 32 alleys, each approximately one block in length. To date, 13 alleys have been reconstructed with some portion of permeable materials, which are porous and allow rain runoff to filter more slowly — effectively mitigating 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 instead to sustainably recharge groundwater.

Though the design of these alleys occasionally changes in regard to minor elements, the general application of an inward pavement slope, with a 3’-4’ width of permeable pavers along the alley centerline continues to be utilized throughout the Village.

As part of the Village’s Capital Improvement Program, the Village Board of Trustees prioritized the reconstruction of the 14 remaining non-permeable alleys, with one alley along Madison St being deferred as that area is designated for redevelopment. This year, the Village is completing the reconstruction of four alleys, as well as the design work to reconstruct the remaining 14 alleys. The construction of these alleys is anticipated to take place starting in 2022 with completion in early 2023.



Follow the Village on Social Media



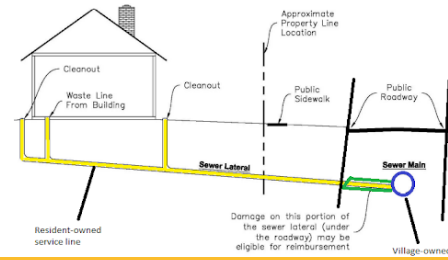
Sign Up For Email and Alerts



River Forest Events



Sewer Lateral Layout



Sewer Lateral Subsidy Program

continued from front page

seek moisture and can find their way into sewer laterals that may be cracked or in areas where joints are loose. These roots and other debris can cause backups, as well as structural damage in the lines. If not done carefully, rodding to clear the blockages can also damage the pipes.

What can residents do?

A sewer cleanout allows contractors access to televise the sewer lateral and perform maintenance. By having laterals televised, residents can better understand the condition of the lateral, as well as plan for future repairs. This is particularly important as part of a home inspection when purchasing a property, so that any needed or potential repairs can be negotiated with the seller.

Residents can also purchase additional insurance for their sewer lateral, typically available as a ‘rider’ or ‘endorsement’ to homeowner policies. There are also third party insurance products available (independent of a homeowner’s insurance policy) that can offer coverage for out-of-pocket costs associated with sewer lateral repairs. The Village recommends residents contact their homeowner’s insurance agent regarding this type of additional coverage. Make clear that you are seeking sewer lateral repair or replacement coverage, as well as coverage for the costs associated with a sewer backup. The Village of River Forest cannot recommend any one company and advises residents to carefully research each company before making a decision.

Village Contact Information

Village Administration
708-714-3520

Acting Village Administrator
Lisa Scheiner

Finance Department
708-714-3524

Director Rosemary McAdams

Fire Department
708-714-3560

Acting Fire Chief Bob Nortier

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.