



# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | November, 2022



## Addressing Traffic Safety

The safety of our residents is a top priority and the Village is working diligently to address traffic concerns. Over the last six months, the Village's Traffic and Safety Commission has met twice to discuss recommendations for improvements based on the findings of the **Northeast Neighborhood Traffic Study**. This study was completed in the northeast area of the Village between Lathrop Avenue and Harlem Avenue - and from North Avenue to Greenfield Street. Five recommendations were proposed and then presented to the Village Board on October 10 for final approval. Upon review of the proposal, the Board approved the recommended safety measures and added the Greenfield Street/Harlem Avenue location as well. These modifications will first be initiated on a temporary basis, and their effectiveness will be measured before more permanent changes are implemented.

The six locations that will have these temporary measures resulting from the traffic safety, and what steps are being taken, include:

LeMoynes Parkway at Harlem Avenue - right turn only for eastbound traffic, no right turn for southbound traffic and one way and do not enter signage facing east.

Bonnie Brae at North Avenue - a cul-de-sac will be installed on Bonnie Brae at the south edge of the east/west alley.

Clinton Place at North Avenue - a partial cul-de-sac will be installed on Clinton Place at the south edge of the east/west alley.

Stop Sign Changes - The current two-way stop intersections of William Street/LeMoynes Parkway, and William Street/Greenfield Street will be converted to all-way stop intersections.

Crosswalk at Greenfield Street and Bonnie Brae - right turn only for eastbound traffic and no right turn for southbound traffic.

Greenfield Street at Harlem Avenue - right turn only for eastbound traffic and no right turn for southbound traffic.

To view more details on the traffic measures being implemented, or to view an exhibit showing these upcoming changes, [click here](#).

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# From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

**E**lection Day is Tuesday, November 8. If you want to have a say in your representation on the National, County and State level, get out and vote! Offices up for election include Senator, US Representative, Governor, State Senators and State Representatives, Cook County Commissioner and more. For a list of polling locations and a list of who's on your ballot, click [here](#). For those who wish to participate in early voting, the deadline is this coming Monday, November 7.

Cook County has reported that the second installment of property tax bills is expected to arrive in mailboxes around Thanksgiving. Although the timing is not ideal, residents should have an estimated due date of Saturday, December 31 to submit payments. The Village of River Forest is not responsible for your property tax bill preparation or distribution. Once property tax bills have been received, residents will have 30 days to submit payments. If you need more information or assistance with property tax bills, click [here](#) to visit the Cook County Assessor or [here](#) to visit the River Forest Township Assessor. For more information about how your tax bill is calculated visit [our website](#).

Remember to save your pumpkins for the annual Pumpkin Smash this Saturday, November 5 from 9 a.m. until noon at [Roosevelt Middle School](#). Additional Pumpkin Smash locations can be found [here](#). We ask that you DO NOT throw your pumpkins onto the street with the leaf pick-up, as it will contaminate the recycling of the leaves.

Although bike riding season is coming to a close shortly, we need to remember proper bike safety. [Village Code](#) requires that all children under sixteen years old wear a bike safety helmet. Wearing a helmet is the same as wearing a seatbelt, it is the safest thing to do! Our Police Department is collaborating with District 90 and other local schools to promote and expand our Bike Safety program.

Finally, we all should have received our new WaterSmart portal information. The water smart program is an investment the Village made to help our residents with managing their water bills. Now, by using your own personal designed portal, we all can help save money and minimize water waste. Please visit page 3 for more information.

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



## Watersmart

The Village has rolled out a product called WaterSmart as the last part of the Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project. This web-based software will allow each water customer to review current and past water consumption data, as well as set notifications to alert water customers to potential leaks. There will also be links available to make paying your water bill easier and there is no cost to sign up. The Village encourages everyone to sign up. Residents are able to view the new WaterSmart portal [here](#).

## Pumpkin Smash

Green your Halloween by taking your pumpkins to the Pumpkin Smash at Roosevelt Middle School on Saturday, November 5. This event is made possible by Green4Good and Lakeshore Recycling Systems and is available to our residents between 9 a.m. and noon. You can compost your pumpkins at the corner of Oak and Jackson avenues. Please remove candles and decorations. For additional locations, click [here](#).

**SCARCE**

**PUMPKIN SMASH**  
GREEN YOUR HALLOWEEN

COMPOST YOUR PUMPKIN AT THIS LOCATION:

**ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

In RIVER FOREST at the CORNER of OAK and JACKSON Avenues

📅 Saturday, November 5

🕒 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

📍 Find more locations near you: [SCARCE.ORG/PUMPKINS](https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins)

Remove candles and decorations.

**A BIG Thanks to our supporters:**



## River Forest Library Room Renovation Coming Soon

This fall, the Library Board of Trustees voted to accept a bid from Construction Solutions of Illinois to complete the first of a two-phase project to create 400 additional square feet of public space in the Library building. This first phase includes replacing aging air handling equipment with new and more efficient machinery outside of the library building, then bringing the former mechanical room, just off of the Children's Department, up to code for public use. The second (and most exciting!) phase will complete the room remodel and also construct an ADA accessible bathroom in the space.

The project is beginning this fall with the construction of an exterior masonry enclosure, designed to match the Library's façade. The machinery will arrive and be installed this coming spring, and the first phase of the room renovation will begin at that time. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting development!

# Village Department News

## Police Department

### How To Avoid Distracted Driving

The River Forest Police Department would like to share some tips to help residents avoid distracted driving. Tips include:

- Turn it off. Shut off your cell phone before you get in your car, then stow it out of sight and out of reach.
- Stop first. If you have to make a call, pull over to a safe area, such as a rest stop or oasis, to make your call.
- Ask a passenger. Have a passenger make a call or respond to a text for you.
- Spread the word. Record a message on your phone that warns callers you're driving and will get back to them later – or sign up for a service that offers this feature.
- Be prepared. Program navigational devices or review written directions before you start to drive.
- Finish first. Complete your personal grooming, dressing and eating before hitting the road.
- Buckle up. Secure children and pets before beginning to drive. If they need attention, pull over before tending to them.

## Fire Department

### Fall Fire Safety

Fall is a great time to think about fire safety before the cold temperatures of winter set in. Some safety tips are the same regardless of the time of year, but many can be seasonal.

Time Change means Smoke detector checks: When you change your clocks this Sunday, November 6, keep in mind that a new Smoke Detector Act will go into effect on January 1, 2023 throughout Illinois. The updated Act will require all Illinois residents to replace their older smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term 10-year sealed battery by the end of 2023. At the end of the 10-year life cycle, the new smoke alarms will automatically alert the homeowner to replace the alarm. It is still recommended that you continue to test your smoke detector every month.



### Decorate Safely!

Did you know that many Americans traditionally spend more money to decorate their homes for Halloween than they do for the rest of the holidays? As you plan for next year - or decorate for the holidays coming in December, remember the following safety tips:

- Consider battery operated lights for decorations and avoid using candles.
- Don't put decorations near open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Purchase decorations that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory (FM or UL).
- Examine each set of lights for broken sockets, frayed wires, loose connections and discard any damaged sets.
- Be careful not to overload circuits when plugging in lights and

other electronic decorations.

- Check that no decorations are blocking your home's exit pathways. Keep your escape routes clear.

### Home Heating Safety!

- Whatever type of device you use to heat your home, make sure your system is in good working condition. Get your fireplace, wood stove, furnace or heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified heating contractor every year before the cold weather sets in.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a silent, invisible gas that can kill if the percentage rises too high in your home. Be sure to install CO detectors, as required by law, on each level of your home.
- If you build frequent fires, keep your fires small. Do not overload your fireplace or wood stove.

For more information on fall safety, call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

## Public Works

### Alley Construction/Map

Are you curious about the status of a Village construction project? Please visit the Village's [Interactive Construction Map](#) to follow the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects throughout River Forest. Updates on street and alley improvements are regularly posted on this site by Public Works staff.

### Fall Leaf Cleanup Lasts Through Mid-December

Did you know that many Americans traditionally spend more money to decorate their homes for Halloween than they do for the rest of the holidays? As you plan for next year - or decorate for the holidays coming in December, remember the following safety tips: The fall leaf cleanup program runs through the first week of December. Leaves should be raked onto the street, 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:

**Monday:** Area west of Thatcher Avenue, including Edgewood Place, Auvergne Place, River Oaks Drive and Lake Street, as well as all streets south of the Union Pacific railroad tracks.

**Tuesday:** All streets between and including William Street and Harlem Avenue.

**Wednesday:** All streets between and including Lathrop Avenue and Monroe Avenue, north of the railroad tracks.

**Thursday:** All streets between and including Park Avenue and Ashland Avenue, north of the railroad tracks.

**Friday:** All streets between and including Thatcher Avenue and Forest Avenue, north of the railroad tracks.

A map of this schedule can be found on the Village website [here](#). 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 [here](#).

# Commission Updates

# River Forest Sustainability



## Traffic and Safety Commission

The Traffic and Safety Commission meets on the third Wednesday of alternate months at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall. The Commission reviewed the Northeast Traffic Study findings and made recommendations to the Village Board as described in the cover story of this newsletter. The next priority for the Commission will be analyzing the findings of the Village-wide traffic study

## Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at Village Hall. The Commission has recently focused on ideas for promoting River Forest's history, and for improving the accuracy of the Village's historic properties survey. The Commission is responsible for reviewing applications for landmark properties and any alterations or changes to existing significant properties.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group was established in 2021 to develop a diversity, equity and inclusion initiative for the Village of River Forest. In October, the Village hired a consultant to assess the organization's practices, policies and structures. Information and updates will be provided regarding this effort in future communications.

## Age Friendly Advisory Ad Hoc Committee

The Age Friendly Advisory Ad Hoc Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month on Zoom at 6 p.m. The Committee is drafting a report on the age-friendliness of the Village that will be submitted to AARP.

## Sustainability Commission

The Sustainability Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. The Commission's accomplishments include the recommendation for the adoption of the single-use foodware ordinance, and the Village's designation as a SolSmart silver community. The Commission is now focused on enhancing communication and education for community members on sustainability efforts and initiatives.

## Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Village Hall. The Commission is currently working with a consultant to explore potential zoning recommendations for the Madison Street and North Avenue corridors.

**R**iver Forest resident Marilee Unruh's yard has no lawn, just lots of perennials, including ground covers, and a few annual herbs. Why? Because, she says, "I always felt like making a new space where I could tinker and choose what to put in it - and the lawn didn't give me room to design my own plant combination creations."

The Village asked Marilee to tell us a little more about the perennial garden she created:

### What are Marilee's favorite plants?

- Alchemilla (holds glowing raindrops on its downy leaves), lenten rose/hellebore (blooms during winter) and catmint (attracts many bees and butterflies).
- Dark red plants (smoke bushes, ninebarks, beard-tongues, Japanese painted ferns and ajuga ground cover).
- Deer resistant bulbs like daffodils, iris and lots of alliums, instead of tulips

### What are some plants that didn't work and why?

- Hostas and hydrangeas, because the deer consumed them.
- Native Joe-Pye weed because it quickly self-seeded large areas.

**How is the garden maintained?** The converted garden is simple enough that she can do all of its maintenance herself, pretty much by hand. There is no need for fertilizers, weed-killers or other chemicals on these sturdy perennials that can handle partial sun or partial shade, somewhat clayish soil, and very cold temperatures and. In the garden, all that is needed is just topsoil, mulch, gravel, Village compost, and three rain barrels.

### What Marilee enjoys most about her garden:

- Seeing perennials come back every spring.
- Sitting on the ground and weeding and trimming with small tools with her bare hands.
- Using bricks to create paths and compartmentalize spaces with different feelings and character.

**What advice does Marilee have for someone thinking about converting their lawn to perennials?** Consider, as an easy first step, replacing parts of your lawn with ground covers like vinca, pachysandra, spurge, ajuga and sweet woodruff. Then research Lurie Garden plants on their website (plant list and sustainability section), and by visiting it in the summer.

# Organizations Serving River Forest



## Township

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

### From the Township Assessor...

The 2nd installment tax bills have been delayed. The Cook County Assessor has informed the Township Assessor that tax bills should come out by late November.

Sign up [Here](#) for the River Forest Township Assessor's notifications, to stay updated on information related to your property taxes, including:

- Exemption deadlines
- Assessment Appeal information
- Property tax bill information and due dates

Residents should know that the 2nd installment tax bills are delayed because they have not been calculated by the Cook County Assessor, who has informed Cook County assessors that the installment tax bill may come out as late as November or December.

### Parent University to be Held on November 10

All River Forest and Oak Park parents are cordially invited to attend the upcoming virtual Parent University on Thursday, November 10 from 6:30-9:15 pm. Parents will attend a series of webinar-style workshops, given by expert speakers on topics such as digital well-being, vaping, and supporting BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students. Parents can choose the sessions in which they are most interested. Parent University is a free event sponsored by Oak Park and River Forest High School, hosted by the D200 Mental Wellness Collaborative. Registration is required and can be completed [here](#).

### Fall Sibshops are Back in Person!

Sibshops is a program specially designed for siblings of kids with special needs, disabilities, and for those who have mental/physical health challenges. Siblings have FUN while sharing experiences with each other and specially trained facilitators. Sibshops are meeting IN-PERSON at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion Street, in Oak Park on the following Saturdays: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 pm. and you can choose the dates you can attend. Lunch is provided. The cost is \$10/session fee and scholarships are available. This program is funded by River Forest Township. Registration is required in advance so please visit <https://www.thrivecc.org/services/group-services/> to do so or for more information. You can also contact Amber Jackson at [sibshops@thrivecc.org](mailto:sibshops@thrivecc.org).

## Park District

### Holiday Tree Trimming

Join the River Forest Park District on Thursday, December 1 from 4 - 5 p.m. or from 5 - 6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season with festive music playing in the background while you trim the holiday 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 5 p.m.! Individually wrapped cookies will be provided and kids can bring their letters to put in Santa's mailbox. Click [here](#) to register.

### Registration for Youth Basketball Leagues Is Open

Youth Basketball is right around the corner and the deadline to register is November 18 at noon. Mandatory player evaluations will be held on December 10. Grades 1 & 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, click [here](#). The Park District is also seeking volunteer coaches. Without community volunteers, this program is made possible. To volunteer, click [here](#).

[rfparks.com](https://rfparks.com) | 708-366-6660

## Library

[Visit the library website to see everything happening at your library.](#) The library offers programs for all ages. See below for upcoming programs!



### Sunday, 11/6 at 2 p.m. for Historic Homes for America.

Take a tour of America's greatest historic houses with museum educator Paul Neumann.

### Sunday, 11/13 at 2 p.m.

Ojibwa author and speaker Kimberly Sigafus will present **Journeying Through the American Indian Way of Life**.



### Free Personal Hygiene Products at the Library

The Library's EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity) Committee is proud to announce that free menstruation items are now available to the public and staff at River Forest Public Library. These items can be found in all of our restrooms and are free for all.

# Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest  
High School



Roosevelt  
Middle School



Willard  
Elementary School



Lincoln  
Elementary School

## District 200

### New Mathematics Sequence Proposed

The Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS) Math Division will be transitioning to an integrated math curriculum. Currently, the OPRFHS math curriculum follows the traditional U.S. approach of teaching math topics separately from one another. Typically, a student takes Algebra 1 for a full year, followed by Geometry the next year, and then Algebra 2 the third year. With a 15-month gap between the two years of algebra instruction, teachers often spend several months at the beginning of Algebra 2 having to review previously taught concepts.

In an integrated math curriculum, each course--Math I, Math II, and Math III --incorporates many topics, including algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and more. Integrated math includes multiple opportunities to review, reteach, and introduce new concepts earlier than in the traditional curriculum. Lessons build on one another and get more advanced year after year.

Nearly everywhere outside the U.S., including Asia, Australia, Canada, and Europe, has integrated math as the standard. Schools in greater Chicago that are using an integrated math curriculum include Jones College Prep and Northside College Preparatory.

The integrated math curriculum will be phased in over a 4-year period, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year with freshmen (current 8th graders) only. Current OPRFHS students would not be affected by the transition to integrated math. The D200 team is creating the curriculum, and currently collaborating with the feeder school districts on articulation between the middle schools' math curricula and the high school's proposed Integrated Math curriculum.

Integrated math is not detracking. Math 1, Math II, and Math III would be offered in a range of levels, from supported to honors.

Moving to integrated math and eliminating a 15-month interruption in the continuity of algebra instruction would benefit all students, while still allowing the most advanced students to continue accessing advanced courses. OPRFHS currently offers Calculus III and will continue to have students taking Calculus III under the new math pathway.

Questions? Scan the QR code below to see an [FAQ on this initiative](#) on the D200 website.



[oprfs.org](http://oprfs.org) | 708-383-0700

## District 90

### Inclusion Preschool Lottery Open

The District 90 Inclusion Preschool lottery for the 2023-2024 school year is available online until November 18, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Students will be selected randomly through an electronic lottery process, with the results emailed to applicants by January 19, 2023. Students selected by the lottery will be invited to attend D90's Inclusion Preschool Program at Willard Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year. **If you know a family with a preschool child, please share this information with them.**

The preschool aims to provide students with a positive, nurturing environment that fosters social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth and development. This program also helps prepare preschool students for kindergarten. The classroom is made up of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students who learn and play with students of all abilities.

Applicants can access the online lottery application by visiting the [2023-2024 ONLINE LOTTERY APPLICATION](#). The application takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. **Lottery applications will NOT be accepted after November 18 at 11:59 p.m.** Every applicant will receive an email informing them of the lottery's result by January 20, 2023. If your child is accepted, your email will contain an invitation to enroll and a list of documents that you are required to submit. If your child is not accepted, you will be informed that they will be placed on the waiting list. Please click here for additional information about the Inclusion Preschool lottery and application process.



### No School Days in November

There are several days in November when students will not be attending.

### All District Offices and Schools are Closed:

- November 8 – Election Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 23 through 25 – Thanksgiving Recess

Students will not be in attendance on November 10 due to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

[district90.org](http://district90.org) | 708-771-8282

# Bocce League Champions

**R**iver Forest Village President Cathy Adduci celebrates with the Magliette Rosse bocce team which recently won its 20th championship in Park District Bocce League competition. From left to right: team mascot "Q", Don Adeli, Paige Adeli, Ed Voci (Captain), Pres. Cathy Adduci, Gina Voci, Chris Riley, Renanta Voci, Jared Johnson. Not pictured: Tim Cooke and Francesca Voci.



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.