



# RIVER FOREST

*Proud Heritage • Bright Future*

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | September, 2023



## River Forest Police Department Receives First Place Award

Police Chief James O'Shea is pleased to announce that our Police Department won first place in the Municipal Police Department category for agencies with 26-35 sworn personnel in the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police 2022-2023 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge (ITSC). This honor was received for the Department's commitment to road safety in the community. The ITSC is a competition between similar size and type law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois. The Challenge provides parameters for law enforcement agencies to identify traffic issues, plan strategies, reduce social harm and improve the quality of life in our communities, and helps agencies demonstrate successes to their government officials, community leaders and citizens. The Challenge also provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to contribute to the Illinois' Strategic Highway Safety Plan and have a significant impact on the reduction

of crashes, deaths, and injuries associated with vehicle accidents across the state.



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## From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

At Monday's Village Board meeting, the Board approved an agreement with Lake Lathrop Partners LLC regarding the development at Lake & Lathrop. The agreement issues a conditional building permit through August 30, 2024. You can read more about the project's status and agreement on Page 3. Each weekly and monthly newsletter will include an article dedicated to this important topic.

I am pleased to announce that the River Forest Police Department won first place in their category for the 2023 Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. This award is a testament of the Police Department's commitment and excellence on traffic safety for our community and we are so proud of their hard work and achievement. More information about this award can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Speaking of safety, please make sure that our school-age children are wearing their helmets while biking! Our friendly police officers are patrolling the streets looking to reward kids for observing this important safety rule.

The 22nd annual 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand will take place Monday, September 11 from 3-7 p.m. in the 700 block of Bonnie Brae. This event will feature lemonade, popcorn, a photo booth, music, games and more! Proceeds will benefit two well-deserving charities - the Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network and the Youth Educational Mentoring Basketball Association. To learn more about these organizations and this annual event, click [here](#). I am proud to know that our Village is home to such strong organizations that focus on giving back to our community.

And lastly, please have a happy and safe Labor Day weekend! Village offices will be closed on Monday, September 4 and refuse pick up will be delayed by one day throughout all of next week. Village Hall will reopen on Tuesday, September 5 starting at 8 a.m.

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

### Local Spotlight Display - Tiny Clay Books

Julie Simon began creating tiny clay items during the height of the pandemic, inspired by an article in The New York Times featuring tiny foods made of clay. An avid reader and book lover, Julie decided to make tiny clay books. After creating her first tiny clay book, Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, she just kept on going. She made replicas of all the books she read in 2020, posting her creations on Instagram along with her thoughtful book reviews. Julie's hope is that Tiny Clay Books bring you as much joy as they have brought her. Check our [calendar](#) for a "Meet the Artist" event in September, date TBD.



## Upcoming Library Events

Visit the Library's [Calendar](#) to see everything happening at your Library!

Now that school is back in session, regular story times are back, as well as the after-school Middle School Crafting program on Tuesdays at the Library.

Below are some additional highlights:

**Saturday, 9/16, 7:30-9 p.m., Dooley Band Concert, Adult**

The annual tradition returns! Enjoy the outdoors in the garden for live music by River Forest locals, the Dooley Band, who've been entertaining Chicagoland for more than five decades. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held indoors. Sponsored by the River Forest Public Library Foundation.



**Wednesday, 9/20, 7-8 p.m., Paying for College without Going Broke, Grades 7-12**

Explore the complex world of need-based and merit based financial aid. Parents and students will learn strategies for lowering their EFC (Expected Family Contribution), the new FAFSA rules, and tips for optimizing college admissions and scholarships. This webinar is recommended for parents of middle school and/or high school students. [Registration is required.](#)

**Thursday, 9/21, 7-8 p.m., Trivia Night, Adult**

Test your knowledge at an evening of competitive trivia just for adults! This event will be facilitated by the Chicago Trivia Guys and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required. Participants can bring teammates or come on their own; for those with teams, please make sure each team member is registered. For individuals with children who would like to play trivia as a family, check out Family Trivia Night on November 17.



## The Lake & Lathrop Project

At the August 28, 2023 Village Board meeting, the Village Board approved a redevelopment agreement amendment with Sedgwick Properties regarding the project at Lake & Lathrop. The amendment issues a conditional building permit extension through August 30, 2024.

The permit will be revoked if the developer does not meet the following conditions by September 15, 2023.

1. The developer must secure viable financing and provide proof of such financing to the Village. The developer must also resolve the pending litigation with Beverly Bank, an affiliate of Wintrust Bank.
2. The developer must pay the Village \$98,905.32 for the permit extension fee.
3. The developer must pay all outstanding property taxes.

Sedgwick Properties remains confident that the residential units will be completed by August 30, 2024. If that deadline is not met, the Village will collect significant additional permit fees and fines. Sedgwick was initially issued a building permit in February 2022, following extensive environmental remediation that was required at the site.

You can read more about the project's history, status updates and redevelopment agreement [here](#).



# Village Department News

## Police Department Vacation Watch Program

The Police Department's Vacation Watch Program is available to River Forest residents to ensure if they are out of town for periods of up to 90 days, that patrols will visit the residence periodically to prevent burglaries and other thefts. Watches can also be conducted at homes that are for sale, but also for a limited period of 90 days or less. If a Vacation Watch or patrols around a home for sale goes beyond the 90 day period, an additional request will need to be made.

Requests must be submitted at least one week prior to when a Vacation Watch is desired. Vacation Watch requests can be made by clicking on [this link](#).

Please review the following additional vacation safety measures provided by the Police Department:

- Notify a friend, relative or trusted neighbor that you'll be away and leave emergency phone numbers with them.
- Ensure your doors, windows and gates are locked when you leave.
- Manually lock your garage door from the inside and disengage your electronic device. This eliminates the possibility of thieves entering with garage door decoders.
- Stop your mail and your newspaper deliveries, or have a friend, relative or trusted neighbor bring it in for you daily.
- Utilize indoor lights and smart home features that are on automatic timers - which gives the illusion someone is home.
- Arrange for lawn care service while you are away.

## Fire Department National Preparedness Month

The United States observes National Preparedness Month each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

- Massive snowfalls
- Flooding and landslides due to melting snow
- Wildfires in Canada and The United States
- Health Hazards across the US due to Wildfire Smoke
- Severe Storms across the US
- Torrential Rains
- Tornadoes and Wind damage
- Extreme Heat across the US

All of these National Emergencies could be devastating if you're not prepared. Visit [Ready.gov](#) for more information and advice on being prepared for disasters and emergencies



## FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test for October 4, 2023

FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a **nationwide test** of the **Emergency Alert System** (EAS) and **Wireless Emergency Alerts** (WEA) this fall.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, October 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

The purpose of the test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In case the October 4 test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the back-up testing date is October 11.

## Public Works

### Electronic Waste Curbside Pickup – Sign up By September 18

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) is now accepting requests for electronic waste pickup from your home, at no extra cost as part of the Village's annual contract.

Electronic Waste Collection will take place on your regular refuse pick-up day the week of September 18-20. Please note: the deadline for electronics pickup requests is September 13. LRS will collect up to seven (7) accepted items (total), with no more than two (2) TV's or computer monitors per collection, per household.

Here's how it works:

- Click on the "Schedule E-Waste Pickup" link on the right side of the [LRS webpage](#).
- Once you have filled in your address information and selected the items you have for collection, click submit and a submission confirmation will appear.
- Materials must be placed in the front of your home at the curb near the parkway no later than 7 a.m. on the day of your normal refuse collection.
- Collection does not take place in the alley due to the nature of the materials.
- Items will be collected on your regular pick up day the week of collection.
- Small electronic items may be placed at the curb in a brown paper bag or a small cardboard box.
- Remember to write "E-Waste" with a dark marker so the crew can easily see it.

LRS partners with E-Works from Elk Grove Village, an R2 state certified, non-profit electronics recycler to properly recycle and manage E-waste collected from your home. Please visit the [Village of River Forest E-Waste webpage](#) or the [LRS River Forest webpage](#) for further information, including a list of acceptable materials.



# Organizations Serving River Forest



## Township

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



### Seniors: Time for Fall Home Repairs!

Are you 60+ and live in River Forest or Oak Park? Are you looking to do some minor home repairs before winter...grab bars, door locks, sink/faucet repair, window repair? Call the Senior Home Repair Program! Repairs are done by insured and reliable professionals. Fees are \$20-40/hour, depending on income. Call **847-969-0561** for more information or to schedule an appointment. Sponsored by River Forest and Oak Park Townships and the Villages of River Forest and Oak Park.

### Emergency Assistance Available for Qualifying Residents

If you are a RF or OP resident experiencing financial hardship and can't pay rent, utilities, or other expenses, you may qualify for Emergency Assistance (EA). EA is a one-time benefit to help cover a cost that solves challenges such as eviction or utility shutdown. Grants are paid directly to the business or landlord owed by an applicant. As an option, you may qualify for General Assistance (GA), a temporary monthly grant. (SSI and TANF recipients are not eligible for EA or GA.) For more information, please call Supervisor Carla Sloan, **708-366-2029 x 11** or email [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

### LOSS support group meets 3rd Mondays

LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) is a monthly support group for adults (18+) who are suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. The group is led by a licensed clinical social worker. LOSS is a non-denominational program of Catholic Charities.

**LOSS meets on the third Monday of each month, 6-8 pm, at River Forest Township, 8020 Madison Street, RF. The next meeting is September 18.**

All are welcome to attend. Please call **312-655-7283** or visit [www.catholiccharities.net/loss](http://www.catholiccharities.net/loss) for more information or to register.

[riverforesttownship.org](http://riverforesttownship.org) - 708-366-2029 x11

## Park District

### Color Run Is Saturday, September 16

Join the Park District for their inaugural 1-Mile COLOR RUN around Priory Park! Volunteers will throw colored chalk as participants pass by a variety of color stations. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category. All participants will receive a white shirt, goodie bag and a certificate. Come for this event, and stay for the after party that will include a DJ, bagels and Bloody Mary's. All net proceeds will benefit the **West Suburban Special Recreation Association**. Learn more about how this organization serves our community [here](#).

### Family Campout Is Friday, September 29

Join the Park District for a GREEN overnight family camping experience for all ages! Please note that one adult per family must attend this campout. Camping equipment is not provided, so those that participate must bring their own tent and sleeping bag. This event will include a campfire and S'mores.

### View the Fall Fun Guide and Register Now!

Registration is now open for Fall programs at the Park District! [Click here](#) to view the Fall Fun Guide.



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

## Library

### Phase One Library Construction Nearing Completion

**Alert:** Air conditioning is back at the Library, and the Children's Room is also now fully open!

The first phase of the Library's improvement project to add a second program/meeting room is nearly complete! A new air handler has been installed outside and is now circulating cool air throughout the building. All mechanical equipment has been removed from the new space, and work continues to bring it up to code for future occupancy. The remainder of construction will be done within the room itself. The new room will be in a "vanilla box" state, meaning it is up to code with plumbing, lighting, and drywall. Phase one also included plumbing and framing work for an ADA-accessible bathroom in the Children's Room and is expected to be fully complete sometime this September. The Library is delighted to be able to take down the plastic sheeting in the Children's Room, by opening the space up again for local families to enjoy.

Phase two will include finishing the bathroom renovation as well as elements to complete the look and functionality of the room, such as painting, new furniture, cabinetry and technology. The phase two timeline is now in development. The Library thanks community members for their patience while construction is ongoing, and looks forward to the final completion of this new space for community members. For any questions, please call the Library at **708-366-5205**.

[riverforestlibrary.org](http://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

### OPRFHS Teacher Named Illinois History Teacher of the Year

Oak Park River Forest High School's (OPRF) Dr. Tyrone Williams, Jr., has been named the 2023 Illinois History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. This institute is the nation's leading organization dedicated to K-12 American history education. The annual award honors exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school.

"Every year I'm copied on emails from parents writing to thank Dr. Williams for the impact he has had on their children," said OPRF History Division Head Amy Hill, a colleague of Williams for the past 18 years. "His passion for American history is evident each time I step into his classroom. He's eager for students to learn lesser-known chapters in U.S. history that will intrigue and excite them."

For the past two years, for instance, he spearheaded an effort to bring award-winning historian Dr. Anna-Lisa Cox to the high school to share with students her research about free Black settlers of Illinois in the antebellum era. In 2022, Mr. Larry Curry, a direct descendant of the Morris family that settled Illinois in the early 19th century, accompanied Dr. Cox and shared his own research regarding his family and other Black Illinois settlers. Many students were surprised to learn that the founding citizens of Illinois were African Americans, given that African American history has tended to focus primarily on enslavement and its legacies.

"I am grateful for the mentors, colleagues, and students who have shared knowledge and wisdom generously on this journey," Dr. Williams said. "This award also means having a platform that allows me to collaborate with other educators throughout the country, especially in countering the forces diametrically opposed to maintaining a healthy democracy." Dr. Williams is now a finalist for the 2023 National History Teacher of the Year Award.



## District 90

### Drive Safely Through School Traffic Zones!

District 90 (D90) is reminding motorists to pay attention in school traffic zones as students throughout the Village establish routines traveling to and from school. Please pay greater attention to the reduced speed in school zones, the increase of pedestrian and bicyclist traffic, and the return of specially marked one-way streets during school hours.

In addition, D90 schools have now been in session for several weeks as students and teachers return to the important work of learning and teaching. Extracurricular activities and field trips often supplement students' experiences with classroom instruction and continue to offer these opportunities for students. Depending on the grade level and/or classroom activity, students will be participating in Back-to-School family activities, supplementing classroom instruction with outside activities, and taking part in a variety of extracurricular activities, including various sports teams, band and orchestra, and academic competitions, as well as other endeavors.

### Revisions to D90 Board of Education Procedures

To improve District 90 (D90) Board of Education's efforts to conduct a deliberative process and return to pre-pandemic meeting practices, the Board has revised its meeting procedures. Beginning with the September Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting September 5 and the regular Board of Education meeting September 18, the revisions for all Board of Education and Committee of the Whole meetings include the following:

Meetings will now be held in the **Roosevelt Middle School** Library Learning Center, located on the school's second floor. The lift for people with physical disabilities has been modified to allow "on-demand" operation for accessing and departing from the second floor. Meetings anticipating high attendance levels, such as Town Hall Forums, may be scheduled for the Roosevelt Auditorium, as needed.

Board and COW meetings will continue to be live-streamed in a webinar format in order to facilitate community engagement. Continuation of this approach will allow community members to attend meetings remotely in real-time. Meetings will also continue to be recorded/archived and made available for public viewing on the school district's website at [district90.org](http://district90.org).

Public Comments from community members will be delivered in person to the Board of Education at Board and Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings. Both electronic and written communications can be submitted to the Board at any time. However, public comments will not be read publicly at Board or COW meetings by District staff in lieu of in-person delivery, as was permitted during the pandemic. Please be assured that the return to this practice is not intended to stem public engagement or discourse in any way. Instead, the goal is to provide for improved personal engagement between the Board and community members, and to allow the Board to request clarification about public comments, if necessary.

The Board of Education will continue encouraging the public's attendance and engagement with D90 and is grateful for strong community collaboration.



# River Forest Sustainability

## Help to Reduce Light Pollution

The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial light, known as light pollution, can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife and our climate. Research has shown that the night sky has steadily gotten brighter by roughly 10% each year for the past 10 years.

**Light pollution wastes money and energy.** As much as 50% of outdoor lighting is wasted, which increases greenhouse gas emissions, contributes to climate change, and renders us all more energy-dependent.

**Light pollution can make you less safe.** There is no clear scientific evidence that increased outdoor lighting deters crime. Poorly thought-out outdoor lighting can decrease personal safety by making victims and property more visible to criminals.

**Light pollution may harm your health.** Studies suggest that artificial light at night negatively affects human health by increasing risks for obesity, sleep disorders, depression, diabetes, and other diseases.

**Light pollution devastates wildlife.** Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily light and dark cycles to enjoy life-sustaining behaviors. Research shows that artificial light at night has adverse, and even deadly effects on many animal and plant species.

Fortunately, light pollution is easily reversible. Unlike other forms of pollution, light pollution is a problem with immediate solutions that are easy to implement. The International Dark Sky Association recommends the following practices:

## Principles for Outdoor Lighting

**Useful:** Install lighting only when and where it is needed.

**Targeted:** Shield your lights so they shine down on the ground, which both reduces harmful glare and decreases skyglow.

**Low Light Levels:** Light should not be brighter than necessary.

**Controlled:** Use controls such as timers, dimmers, and motion sensors for outdoor lights.

**Appropriate Color:** Use warm color lights where possible. Limit the use of harmful blue wavelength lighting.

## Sustainability Commission Seeks Student Applicants for Commissioner

The Sustainability Commission is seeking applicants for student commissioners for the 2023-2024 school year (the term runs through 8/31/24). Click here for the application Completed applications should be submitted to Seth Jansen at [sjansen@vrf.us](mailto:sjansen@vrf.us).

**NPS**

## I DIDN'T KNOW THAT! Light Pollution

**Light pollution affects our ability to see the night sky**

One third of humanity cannot see the Milky Way due to light pollution.

**Migratory birds and nocturnal animals depend on the dark.**

Artificial light can disrupt reproduction and feeding habits. It can draw animals and insects towards the light causing collisions, disrupting migration, and making them easy prey.

**Light pollution is completely reversible!**

Follow these tips to help dim your lights:

- 1 Only light: if needed, when needed, & where needed.
- 2 Color matters. Use warm-white or amber lights.
- 3 Keep it low & shielded.

**idkt!** [go.nps.gov/idkt](http://go.nps.gov/idkt)

## WHAT CAUSES LIGHT POLLUTION?

**LIGHT TRESPASSING**

Light trespassing is when light from one house or property is improperly controlled and crosses boundaries. Trespassing light interferes with the darkness of other properties or even brightens the inside of another person's home.

# Bonnie Brae LemonAid Stand

The 22nd annual Bonnie Brae 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand will take place Monday, September 11 from 3-7 p.m. in the **700 block of Bonnie Brae**. Participants are required to make a small donation to benefit this year's charities, which then gives them full access to all of the festivities, including unlimited lemonade courtesy of Oak Park Arms, popcorn and cotton candy, along with a photo booth, music, games and more! Additional attractions will include a DJ and live music at the entertainment stage, activities for children, storytelling by the River Forest Library, and places for families to sit and relax.

The goal of the fundraiser is to raise awareness and funds for local charities that serve children in our community. The group has raised more than \$500,000 for River Forest area children's charities over the years the event has taken place. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the **Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network (PTMAN)** and the **Youth Educational Mentoring Basketball Association (YEMBA)**. PTMAN provides valuable work experience to Proviso community youth each summer with a goal to develop a strong work ethic in children through paid work experience, along with money management skills. YEMBA provides mentors, junior mentors, and staff for one-on-one and group mentoring, homework help, life-skills workshops, exploration workshops, and recreational activities.

The annual Bonnie Brae lemonAid stand was founded after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to cast a spotlight on this tragic day in our history - but also to provide opportunities to do something good in its aftermath. The fundraiser is held each year on this solemn anniversary date, and residents remember this day by doing something positive in the community. More than 80 Bonnie Brae residents, mostly

children, participate to organize and successfully manage the LemonAid event, which has become a community-wide extravaganza! If you are unable to attend the event, online donations are accepted. To learn more or make an online donation, [click here](#).



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

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.