



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST E-NEWS

Thank you for taking the time to read the Village's E-News. These messages are sent approximately once per month and include timely information regarding Village events, news and other useful information. We strive to keep the content brief and relevant to the issues that matter most to the community.

Message from the Village President



Dear Residents of River Forest:

Welcome to March and an approaching spring.

I'd like to encourage residents to attend the March 14 Board of Trustees meeting where two important matters will be considered. The Board of Trustees and I believe these items will play prominent roles in community progress.

The Historic Preservation Commission will make its final presentation on proposed amendments to preserve and enhance architecturally and historically significant homes in River Forest. The Board is expected to vote on these changes. This endeavor came through the hard work and perseverance of the volunteers on the Historic Preservation Commission, and we thank them for their efforts. Our future depends on retaining the homes that, over the years, have made our motto "Proud Heritage, Bright Future" come alive. Click [here](#) to visit the Historic Preservation page on the Village's website and the work the Commission has accomplished. Click [here](#) to learn more about the proposed Ordinance amendments.

The Village Trustees and I will also discuss the redevelopment agreement for the corner of Lake Street and Lathrop Avenue on March 14th. This project will be a key anchor of the Village's plan to revitalize Lake Street as River Forest's downtown business district. In 2010, when I was a Trustee alongside Trustees Susan Conti and Mike Gibbs, the Village Board approved a contract with Keystone Ventures to craft a vision for this multiuse development and see it through to completion. The current Board of Trustees and I look forward to making this important piece of our economic development efforts a reality.

Looking ahead to April, the Village Trustees and I will commence the process to establish the Tax Increment Finance district for Madison Street. The Board will also adopt a balanced budget for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, which begins May 1.

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TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Forest Park will host the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 5. It will kick off at 1 p.m. at Madison Street and Van Buren and travel east on Madison into Forest Park. There will be travel and parking restrictions. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Please join me in congratulating River Forest resident and owner of the [Buzz Cafe](#), Laura Maychruk, who received the Excellence in Philanthropy Award in recognition of the Cafe's philanthropic contributions to the community. Ms. Maychruk received this honor during the recent annual meeting of the [Community Foundation of Oak Park and River Forest](#). This award is well deserved.

Please also join me in recognizing River Forest finalists in the fifth annual [One Earth Film Festival](#). Willard School students Miles Toppen and Carter Workman were winners in the elementary school category for their film "Pretty Nice Island The Movie." Honorable mention was awarded to Trinity students Kate Conneely, Emma Alm, Veronka Lubeck, Sarah Whiteside and Katherine Cusack for their film "Green Team." The Sustainability Committee, our local partner in making River Forest a more environmentally friendly community, will present them all with an *Excellent Achievement Award* during an upcoming Board Meeting. We look forward to meeting these outstanding students, who are role models in making this community and the world a better, healthier place to live.

As part of the One Earth Film festival, the [Good Earth GreenHouse](#) located at 7900 Madison St., in River Forest, will show the film Black Ice at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 5. The movie, which focuses on the efforts of Greenpeace activists, will be followed by a discussion.

This year's Presidential Primary Election is fast approaching. Early voting will take place until March 14 at [Oak Park Village Hall](#) which is located at 123 Madison St. A full schedule of hours and days is available by clicking [here](#). If you want to vote in person on Tuesday, March 15, but are unsure where to do so, please visit the [Cook County Board of Elections](#) website to find your polling place. Voting is one of our most important civic responsibilities. Please be sure to exercise your right to vote.

And on a final, lighthearted note, I am proud to report that River Forest was the winner of the LipSync battle with Oak Park and Forest Park. The trophy will be on display at the Village Hall. This contest was sponsored by the [Oak Park Arts League](#).

Best wishes and Happy St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's Day, Easter and Purim.

Cathy Adduci

Village President

Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Saturday March 5, 2016 Forest Park will be hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at 1:00P.M. at Madison St. and Van Buren and will travel East on Madison St. into Forest Park.

There will be parking on the east side only in the 000 and 100 blocks of Ashland and Franklin and in the 000 block of Park. There will be parking only on the south side of Vine from Lathrop

Dr. Tyra Manning
Presents *Where the
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Author Jane Hamilton
Introduces *The
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to Park. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic is expected to be heavy in this area from 12 noon until 2:00PM. Lathrop, Ashland, Franklin and Park will be open to local/resident traffic only and will be closed at Madison St. Madison St. will be closed from Lathrop to Park during the parade.

Voting and Election Information

The Presidential Primary Election will take place on March 15th, 2016. For more information including polling locations, please click [here](#).

Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department would like to remind and educate everyone on the importance of fire sprinklers, especially those homeowners with residential sprinkler systems. If you have a residential sprinkler system, please [click here](#) for a notice from the River Forest Fire Department.

Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Home Fire Sprinklers Fact and Fiction](#)
- [How Fire Sprinklers Work](#)
- [Home Sprinkler Safety Tips](#)
- [Know Your Sprinkler System](#)

Learn more about the importance of sprinkler systems [here](#)!

Know the Code!

The Village would like to remind you:

- Political yard signs may only be displayed on private property. They may not be placed in the public right-of-way such as parkways.
- It is important to remember that accessory structures on your property, such as a detached garage, must be maintained structurally sound and in good repair. The Village will be working with the owners of properties with non-compliant structures to identify issues and bring them into compliance. As always, the Village prefers to achieve voluntary compliance.
- Property must be kept free from accumulating trash. Trash must not be allowed to accumulate against fences and buildings or along sidewalks and in alley ways. As the snow melts, please be conscious of this to help keep River Forest beautiful!

A Message from OPRFHS

Oak Park and River Forest High School currently has two swimming pools, which were built in 1926. The normal lifespan of a pool is 40 to 50 years, and at 90 years old, the OPRF pools suffer from a host of serious issues. Neither of the pools meets current safety, ADA, competition, or spectator standards, and both structures have significant structural and mechanical deficits. The pools are at risk of developing issues that would render them permanently inoperable.

Last year, the board approved building a 50-meter pool on the site where the parking garage currently is located, at Scoville Avenue and Lake Street. The Board proposed financing the project with a combination of existing funds and bonds. However, the community voiced concerns about the approved project's cost, funding, and parking plan. In response, the Board has asked its architects for additional options, including drawings and cost estimates. The Board is preparing to seek community input about the new and existing pool options and costs and is considering a referendum for the November 8, 2016, election. The deadline for approving a resolution for that election is August 22, 2016.

To read a recent editorial about the pool from OPRF Board President Jeff Weissglass, please [click here](#).

GREEN NEWS

One Earth Film Festival, March 4-6

The One Earth Film Festival returns for its milestone 5th annual event. The festival will showcase 35+ thought-provoking films on a variety of environmental topics in the Chicagoland area. With more than 40 screenings, One Earth brings to you engaging films that will educate and inspire. Visit <http://www.greencommunityconnections.org/one-earth-film-fest/> for a list of films and tickets!

***Black Ice* screening and discussion with River Forest resident, Susan Lucci, at the Good Earth Green House, Saturday, March 5 at 7pm.**

Screening locally is the film, "Black Ice" which is appropriate for families with upper middle school and high school students. The film, which addresses the dangerous yet passionate work of Greenpeace activists, will feature a very interesting discussion after the screening. Kelly Mitchell, the Director of Climate Change for Greenpeace, will be one of the panelists and the discussion will be facilitated by Susan Lucci. Visit <http://www.greencommunityconnections.org/one-earth-film-fest/> for tickets

Also come out and support the Young Filmmakers Contest Awards & Films. D90 students Miles Toppen and Carter Workman from Willard Elementary School are winners for their film, Pretty Nice Island - The Movie. Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street, Sunday March 6 at 1:30pm

Compost Pick Up for March

March 8th and 22nd, next month we return to pick up every Tuesday. Want more information or to sign up for compost pick up click here <https://vrf.us/curbside-composting>

Winter Famers Market

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park

Earth Hour

<https://www.earthhour.org/> Saturday, March 19, 8:30-9:30 pm. Started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, Earth Hour is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential [lights](#) for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. their local time. Now over 7,000 communities

participate as a symbol of their commitment to the planet.

Save the Date-

April 23 - free compost pick up for all compost subscribers at the Depot. More information will be emailed to all subscribers.

April 23 - River + Woods (Des Plaines River Clean Up) from 8-10am

May 7 - Green4Good's Recycling Extravaganza

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Saturday, 3/5, 9:30-11:30 AM, Donuts for Dads, Children of All Ages and Caregivers

Our last Donuts for Dads. Grab Dad and join us at the Library for crafts, books, and board games as well as tasty breakfast treats and coffee from Blue Max. At 10:30 we'll all head upstairs for a fun story time by the fireplace. Moms, grandparents, and caregivers also welcome to attend with the children in their lives.

Sunday, 3/6, 2-3 PM, Meet Marie Antoinette

Did she really say "Let them eat cake!"? How did she go from beloved queen to the most hated woman in Europe? Shall she live or shall she die? This time, the audience gets to decide after a dynamic presentation of the life and times of Marie Antoinette, brought to us in costume by Martina Mathiesen of Edu-Tainment Living History. Join us to help kick off Women's History Month!

Monday, 3/7, 9 AM-12 PM, Morning PJ Party and Book Character Scavenger Hunt, Ages 2 and Up

Wake up and come straight to the Children's Room for a morning pajama party! You'll be warm and cozy as you hunt for your favorite book characters, enjoy breakfast treats, and cuddle up for some quality reading time. Drop in any time between 9 AM-12 PM for the fun. For ages 2 and up.

Monday, 3/7, 10-11:30 AM, Coffee Monday

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn about things going on in the community. This session will feature special guest Officer Glen Czernik from the River Forest Police Department, who will speak about common scams targeting seniors in our area. Coffee Mondays are supported by Blue Max Coffee and River Forest Township.

Tuesdays, 3/8, 3/22, 7-8:30 PM, Great Decisions

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Great Decisions promises to be an exciting series of discussions about international issues. Stop by the library to get a list of the issues to be discussed and to check out a briefing book. There will be eight issues discussed over eight sessions. The next two topics

are: The Future of Kurdistan and Migration.

Wednesday 3/9, 3/16, 10-11:30 AM, iPad Learning Lab

Drop in for some iPad help during the break between our Computer Learning Lab sessions. We can help you with basics of navigating your device as well as show you how to use it to download ebooks, stream video and listen to music from the library!

Monday, 3/14, 3:30-4:30 PM, Pi Day Celebration, Grades 5-8

Celebrate Pi Day at the River Forest Public Library with some tasty treats from Whole Foods. Advanced Registration Required.

Wednesday, 3/16, 2-3 PM, Fire Station Story Time, Ages 2 and Up

Visit the Fire Station for this special story time and tour. ** Note: Program is held at the River Forest Fire Station, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL 60305** For ages 2 and up.

Wednesdays, 3/2, 3/23, 3/30, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab

Does your computer drive you nuts? Does your tablet make you crazy? Come to our Computer Learning Lab -- whatever your tech issue, we can help you figure it out or get to the next step. These sessions are designed for the total beginner through intermediate home/personal user. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn on one of our laptops, or bring your own device.

Monday, 3/28- Friday, 4/1, All Day, Collaborative Teen Artwork

Drop in the RFPL during spring break and contribute to the MS/Teen Departments masterpiece.

Monday, 3/28, 10 AM-5 PM, Puppet Party, Children of all ages and caregivers

Stop by to create your own puppets and put on a spontaneous puppet show in the Children's Room. Supplies will be provided.

Tuesday, 3/29, 10 AM-5 PM, Games Galore, Children of all ages and caregivers

Challenge a friend or sibling to a fun board game. Games will be available all day in the Children's Room.

Wednesday, 3/30, 10 AM-5 PM, Freestyle Crafts, Children of all ages and caregivers

We've got the craft supplies; you've got the talent. Get those creative juices flowing! Supplies will be provided.

Thursday, 3/31, 10 AM-5 PM, Build a Fort, Children of all ages and caregivers

Turn the Children's Room into the fort of your dreams. Bring your own blankets and pillows or use what we have here to build a

cozy hideaway.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Tyra Manning Presents *Where the Water Meets the Sand*

Former District 90 Superintendent Dr. Tyra Manning will present her new book,

Where the Water Meets the Sand, on **Sunday, May 1, 2 pm**, at the River Forest Public Library. Dr. Manning's memoir imparts a message of hope while recounting her personal journey of mental illness, courage, perseverance and love. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township, its Mental Health Committee, and the River Forest Public Library. All are welcome to attend.

Author Jane Hamilton Introduces *The Excellent Lombards*

Award-winning novelist and native Oak Park resident Jane Hamilton returns to the area to introduce her new book, *The Excellent Lombards*. Ms. Hamilton, an internationally bestselling author, will speak on **Sunday, May 22, 2 pm** at the River Forest Library, to kickoff the Township's and Library's Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long spring series. *The Excellent Lombards* is a "coming of age" novel which takes place in an idyllic farm setting. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday Sibshops are Back!

River Forest Township has resumed its Saturday Sibshop program, specially designed for brothers and sisters of kids with special needs, including physical & developmental disabilities or emotional & mental health challenges. Saturdays, noon – 2pm, **March 12 and April 23**, at Thrive, 120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park (new location). For 1st-7th grade siblings. Parking is available next to the building. Please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan to register or if you have questions: 708.366.2029 or cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Regional Mental Health Conference to be held at Brooks Middle School

Saturday, 3/19, 8am - NAMI Illinois (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is hosting a regional mental health conference at Brooks Middle School entitled "Fostering Family Resilience". Open to parents, caregivers, social workers, teachers and mental health professionals. Informative speakers and panel discussions, plus Second City's "Improv for Wellness". Co-sponsored by River Forest Township. Register at www.namimetsub.org.

Rules of the Road

Seniors: come review driving "rules of the road" on **Wednesday, March 9 at 1:30 p.m.** The class will be held at Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Free of charge.

Let's Celebrate Seniors™ All Year Long!

"Let's Celebrate Seniors™ All Year Long", the joint program series co-sponsored by River Forest Township and the River Forest Public Library, continues on Sunday afternoons. Although the program is intended for seniors, all are welcome to attend the free sessions at the RF Library.

Sunday, March 6, 2 pm – Edu-tainer Martina Mathison, founder of Living History, re-enacts the life of Marie Antoinette in honor of Women's History Month.

Sunday, April 3, 2 pm – Tour the gardens of Holland with landscape photographer Linda Oyama Bryan.

Sunday, April 17, 2 pm – As a preview to the Wright Plus Housewalk in May, enjoy actress Ellie Presents' costumed interpretation of "Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Cheney Tells Her Story".

Seniors: Start your month with Coffee Mondays!

River Forest Library and River Forest Township have enhanced Coffee Mondays with some special topics of conversation, with time left over "just to chat". Meet at 10 am at the River Forest Library on the first Monday of each month:

- March 7- Tips from the River Forest Police Department
- April 4- Wellness through exercise

Celebrating Seniors™ Week is Coming!

Get ready for the 5th annual Celebrating Seniors™ Week, May 12-19! Activities include a full lineup of fun and informative programs for seniors plus Battle of the Bands, Pets in the Park, Calling all Collectors, 60 over 60 awards and the ever-popular closing lunch and guest speaker. Visit www.celebratingseniors.net for more details. A program schedule will be posted soon!

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Upcoming Events:

March Madness Open Gym

Come out for this fun evening of basketball competitions and games. Grab a few friends, show off your skills, and win prizes! For grades 3 - 8. *You must pre-register for this FREE event.*

Thursday, March 17

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Roosevelt Middle School North Gym

Breakfast with the Bunny

Ages 2-10 (with a parent)

A breakfast of pancakes will be served with orange juice and donuts. Children will have the opportunity to visit with the bunny.

and have a picture taken. After breakfast, join the Easter Bunny outside for our Easter Egg Hunt at Keystone Park West. *Each family member planning to attend must register and pay.* R\$10/NR\$12 per person

March 26, 9:00am - 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt

Ages 2-10 (with a parent)

The event is held in designated areas of Keystone Park West. Children ages 2-10 will be divided into groups according to age and will hunt for hundreds of candy and toy filled eggs. Children should also be on the look-out for special hidden eggs that are redeemable for prize baskets. Note: Children do not have to be registered for Breakfast with the Bunny to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. **FREE!**

****The hunt lasts for only five minutes, so it is recommended that you arrive a few minutes early to avoid disappointment.**

March 26, 10:00am - 10:15am

For more information on our programs and events, take a look at our [2016 Winter/Spring Fun Guide](#).

For online registration, [click here](#).



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