



## 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 River Forest Residents,

Welcome to May.

I am pleased to report that the River Forest Board of Trustees adopted the Village budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. Because of excellent management, prudent planning and careful monitoring of our bottom line, our budget again will be balanced. [Click here](#) to view the budget.

The Village remains financially stable and the budget includes modest revenue growth due to higher retail sales, permit fees and use fees. In addition, our use tax increased due to a tax imposed by the State on purchases made out of state but used in Illinois on Amazon.com.

Fiscal health is particularly important for the General Fund, which is the Village's major operating fund. Approximately 50 percent of the Village's total projected expenses are in the General Fund. This

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fund includes the salaries and benefits of Village employees, from the Police officer who responds to a traffic accident, to the firefighter/paramedic who comes to the aid of our residents, and the staff who respond to your questions when you come to Village Hall. It also includes the Village's contribution to the West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center, which represents a joint effort between River Forest, Elmwood Park, Oak Park and Park Ridge to offer this critical service in the most cost effective manner possible.

On the expense side, employer contributions for our Fire and Police Pension Fund obligations have risen significantly in order to meet the minimum required employer contribution required by state statute.

Sound business practices have allowed the Village to carry out the key goals that the Board of Trustees and I established late last year. Among those goals is the creation of an updated Comprehensive Plan that will update the long-term recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of the community as well as the improvements, developments and redevelopments desired. The current plan was first created in 2003 and updated in 2010 with the [Corridor Study](#). The Village will keep you apprised of this vital undertaking as all of you will have an opportunity to take part in its development.

The Board also set a goal to enhance and elevate the Village's existing communications efforts. Enhancements will include, for example, a more user-friendly website. The Village will also upgrade other areas of its information technology systems that are vital to the delivery of Village services.

The Board of Trustees and I extend our deepest debt of gratitude to our outstanding professional team for keeping us fiscally sound and secure: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Finance Director Joan Rock and Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner. Thanks also go to Trustee Carmela Corsini, Finance Chair, and the finance committee for helping make this a smooth process. Congratulations for a job well done.

Our entire budget continues to align with the four overall objectives the Board considers vital to our quality of life here in River Forest: Provide a safe community for residents, ensure a financially stable and effective government, increase property values for taxpayers and stabilize property taxes.

The Village will continue retrofitting its street lights with LEDs. It's a great investment for brighter and even safer streets and in a more cost effective way. Last year the Village upgraded the side streets and will continue on to Division Street, Chicago Avenue and Washington Boulevard from Thatcher east to Harlem Avenue this year. LED lighting allows the Village to improve street lighting at a

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lower upfront cost and use less electricity.

The Village is making progress on the proposed Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District on Madison Street. A community meeting to address residents' and business owners' concerns yielded valuable information. An audio recording of that meeting is available [here](#) and three important reports required for creation of the TIF are available by [clicking here](#). A webpage devoted to TIF will be online soon. Our next required meeting will be held on June 3 at 2 p.m. at the River Forest Village Hall (400 Park Avenue) with the Joint Review Board, representatives from each taxing district affected by the TIF. A public hearing on the proposed Madison Street TIF District will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12. The Board of Trustees could adopt ordinances establishing the TIF at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 25.

The Lake and Lathrop redevelopment agreement was signed in March. One of the major reasons the Village Board and I pursued this project was to clean up the soil contamination underneath the buildings and in the parkway. We want to assure you that removal will be done effectively and safely.

I would like to inform you that the Village has taken Fresh Thyme and MidAmerica Real Estate to court in hopes of compelling them to make permanent repairs to the structure of the former Dominick's store on North Avenue. Work has been on hold there since mid-February when part of a facade on the northeast wall gave way. Since that time, the Village has made numerous requests to get a structural engineers' report that details the condition of the building, which was finally received last week. The needed repairs have been identified and Village staff are working with all parties necessary to ensure the work begins in an expedited manner. The decision to use the courts to move this process along was difficult step to take, but one we believe is prudent to protect the interests of our residents. We hope to resolve this issue soon so the company and the landlord of the property can open it as a Fresh Thyme Farmers Market.

The Village Board and I had the privilege of honoring talented young residents and students at our April 11 Board Meeting. We presented Excellent Achievement Awards to the River Forest finalists in the fifth annual One Earth Film Festival. Please join me in congratulating Willard School students Miles Toppen and Carter Workman, who were winners in the elementary school category for their film "Pretty Nice Island The Movie," as well as Trinity students Kate Conneely, Emma Alm, Veronka Lubeck, Sarah Whiteside and Katherine Cusack for their film "Green Team." The Village Board was also proud to present Addison Osta Smith with a proclamation recognizing her as the youngest and first female winner of the cooking competition, Master Chef Junior.

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We hope you will take a bit of time from May 12 to May 19 to participate in the annual [Celebrating Seniors](#) events, which honor the many seniors who live in our community. They bring vitality and strength to River Forest, and we thank them for being here.

We hope to see you at the [Memorial Day parade](#), which will kick off at 10 a.m., Monday, May 30 from Constitution Park. The Grand Marshall of our 91st annual event will be Staff Sergeant Peter C. Trantow. It promises to be fun as always.

Please join us this Saturday, May 7, for the annual [Recycling Extravaganza](#) at River Forest United Methodist Church located on the corner of Thatcher and Lake Street. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Board of Trustees and I want to wish you a warm and wonderful Mother's Day. But we shouldn't just take oneday to honor her it should be every day!

Best wishes,  
Cathy Adduci  
Village President

### **Passage of Fiscal Year 2017 Budget**

The Budget is adopted by the Village Board and is the official financial plan for the Village's operating departments. In addition to financial information, the budget contains the Village Board goals, financial policies, and the five-year Capital Improvement Program. The Village's fiscal year begins on May 1st and ends April 30.

At the Monday, April 25th Village Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

To view the budget and other financial documents on the Village's website please [click here](#).

### **Pharmaceutical Drop-box Now Available**

A Pharmaceutical drop-box is now available at Village Hall. The program allows residents to properly and safely dispose of unused, unwanted and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications in a secured collection box that is located in the basement of the Village Hall, just outside the elevator doors. Residents can drop off these items during the Village's normal business hours (Monday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Residents may bring medications in a sealed container or bag. If there is any personal information on a label the resident should remove or conceal the information before bringing it in. Unacceptable items include loose medications, liquid medicines (such as cough syrup), hypodermics, sharps, biomedical waste (including wound dressings), radioactive medicines and other household hazardous waste. Once an item is placed inside the box it cannot be removed and Village staff cannot open the box. All medications collected are disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner and cannot be reused. On a periodic basis the box will be emptied by Cook County Sheriff's Office personnel, and the medications will be destroyed off-site.

It was once thought that flushing medications down the toilet was an acceptable practice, however, municipal water and sewer systems are not equipped to filter out some of those waste products. This program alleviates pharmaceutical waste from entering our landfills, water and waste-water systems.



## Upcoming Events in the Village

Look out for the following events taking place in the Village during the month of May!

- BlazeATrail 5k Run/Walk - Sponsored by the Celebrating Seniors Coalition - May 14 (Rain Date May 15th) - [Click here](#) for more info.
- Wright Plus House Walk - Sponsored by the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust - May 21 - [Click here](#) for more info.
- Memorial Day Parade - May 30 - [Click here](#) for more info.

## Free Rain Barrel Program

The Village of River Forest has partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago to offer free rain barrels to any resident who disconnects downspouts from the sewer system. Up to four rain barrels and hardware will be available per household. [Click here](#) for more info.

## Landscape Contractor Hours

As a reminder, please remember that landscape contractors are required to be licensed with the Village and abide by the work hour restrictions. Landscape contractors are permitted to work Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are not allowed to work on Sundays or holidays. Work conducted outside these hours could result in fines.

## Lawn and Garden Sprinkling

As a reminder, lawn sprinkling utilizing Lake Michigan water through the municipal water system is prohibited from May 15

through September 15 of each year between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and four o'clock P.M., Monday through Friday. If there is a danger of water shortage, the Village may restrict water usage further. [Click here](#) for some water saving tips.

## **2016 Annual Water Quality Report**

Please [click here](#) to view your 2016 annual water quality report and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2015. If you would like a paper copy of the 2016 Annual Water Quality Report mailed to your home, please call (708) 366-8500.

## **Protect Your Pets - Low Cost Vaccines and a Message from Cook County Animal Control**

River Forest Police are reporting an increase in the amount of calls received regarding sick raccoons. The Cook County Animal Control Department has issued a news item to remind pet owners to get their dogs and cats vaccinated. [Click here](#) for details.

## **Historic Preservation Award**

The Historic Preservation Commission is currently accepting applications for 2016 Historic Preservation Awards from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2011.

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of our Village. An awards program was established by the Commission in 2009 in order to support these efforts.

Nominations must be received on or before May 27, 2016. The awards will be announced at the Commission's regularly scheduled June 23, 2016 meeting. Multiple awards may be given each year. The nominated structure need not be in a historic district and may be a residential (single family or multiple unit), commercial, public/institutional or religious structure.

For more information or for an application, [click here](#).

## **Know the Code!**

The Village would like to remind all residents to be mindful with disposing of yard waste. In regards to code 6-3-6, the collection requirements for yard waste include the following:

- "Yard waste" is trees or tree branches (not exceeding four inches in diameter), brush, plant stalks and shrubs cut up and bound into bundles of no more than four feet in length

and fifty pounds in weight, which bundles shall be bound with biodegradable twine and shall have one universal solid waste tag affixed to each bundle. Yard waste is also grass clippings, leaves, twigs, weeds and all other materials of similar nature placed in biodegradable paper bags (up to thirty two gallons in capacity) as described in section 6-3-1 of this chapter affixed with one universal solid waste tag. It shall be unlawful for any person to mix yard waste with other garbage and refuse.

- For non-alley collections, properly packaged yard waste will be picked up "curbside", as defined in section 6-3-1 of this chapter. Materials placed for such collection shall not be put out prior to six o'clock P.M. on Monday (the day before yard waste collection) and will be picked up on Tuesday. For alley collection, properly packaged yard waste shall be placed for collection next to the regular garbage collection point. It shall be unlawful to place yard waste within the street, alley or walkway.

As always, residents can access the Village code via the Village website or by [clicking here](#).

## **GREEN NEWS**

### **May 7 Green4Good's Recycling Extravaganza 8am-1pm River Forest United Methodist Church, Lake and Thatcher**

PLEASE NOTE there will be an event fee charged to recycle TVs and monitors. There will be a \$10 fee for ONE television (plasma or CRTs) and ONE monitor. An additional fee will apply if there is more than one TV and one monitor. All other household electronics are free. In addition to electronics, they will accept scrap metal, household items, prescription medications, books, school supplies, CFL and fluorescents, corks, keys, ink cartridges and pet supplies at no charge. For questions or to volunteer at the event please contact [julie@4moller.com](mailto:julie@4moller.com)

### **Take the Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family pledge**

#### **[Click Here](#)**

It's spring and that means lawn and garden care. To learn about the hazards of chemically-laden lawns and landscapes, the River Forest Sustainability Committee encourages residents to reduce the volume of toxic materials used in landscaping, and learn about alternatives for creating a community with an understanding of our relationship with open spaces, the eco-system and its connection to human health.

### **Sign Up for Your Green Block Party**

#### **[Click Here](#)**

In addition to the Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family Campaign we will continue to promote the Village's Curbside Compost program. If you sign up for a 1 year compost subscription at your Green Block Party you will receive 2 months free, so reserve your block party date now!

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## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Mosaics for Marilyn Art Display in the Library Lobby - All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association**

Judy Steed will be displaying her stained glass mosaic artwork until May 31 in the library lobby. Her mother recently passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease and Judy has decided to donate 100% of any sales to the Alzheimer's Association in honor of her mother and in hopes that a cure is finally found for this devastating disease.

### **Celebrating Seniors Week at RFPL!**

#### **Saturday, 5/14, 1-2:30 PM, CELEBRATING SENIORS: Foreign Film Forum**

Join us for a screening and discussion of the French film My Mother's Castle. Snacks will be served.

#### **Sunday, 5/15, 2-3 PM, CELEBRATING SENIORS: The Amazing Amazon and its Rain Forest**

The Amazon River is amazing. Cutting 3900 miles through Peru and Brazil, this river contains more water than the 8 next largest rivers in the world combined. Join Bill Helmuth, world traveler, as he tells of his adventures exploring ancient villages wrapped deep in the dense, immense Rain Forest.

#### **Monday, 5/16, 10-11:30 AM, CELEBRATING SENIORS: Books & Bagels**

Come talk about books while enjoying delicious breakfast treats. We'll talk about new books at the library and share some of our favorites. We hope you'll bring your recommendations too!

#### **Monday, 5/16, 7-8:30 PM, CELEBRATING SENIORS: The Great Communicator: The Life of Ronald Reagan**

To this day, the Ronald Reagan presidency is repeatedly being used as a measuring stick for Republicans and Democrats alike. People listened when Reagan spoke; and for better or worse, his speaking style earned him his title, "The Great Communicator!" Jim Gibbons, historian, will present this fascinating presentation on the

life of Ronald Reagan. Jim has made a name for himself teaching the importance of history and we are excited that he will be sharing his passion for and strong knowledge of history with us.

**Monday, 5/16, 3:30-4:15 PM or 4:15-5 PM,  
Stop Motion Animation, Grades K-7**

Lights... Camera... Action! Join staff from Steve & Kate's Camp at the Library for an afternoon of stop motion animation. Children will create characters, design sets, and film stop-motion masterpieces on custom-built, tabletop iPad stations. All materials are provided—just bring your imagination! Advanced registration is required. Grades K-7.

**Sunday, 5/22, 2-4 PM, Author Visit: Jane Hamilton**

Join us for this exciting visit from critically acclaimed author Jane Hamilton! Ms. Hamilton, an Oak Park native, will read selections and discuss her new book, *The Excellent Lombards*. Copies of her books will be available for sale from The Book Table. Book signing to follow. This program is generously co-sponsored by the River Forest Township.

**Thursday, 5/26, 10-10:30 AM, Parachute Play, Ages 2-5**

Join us for fun with parachutes! Bounce, wiggle, and have fun as you play with our favorite prop. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver.

**Saturday, 5/28, 10 AM-3 PM, DIY Vacation Activities, Children of All Ages**

Going on a long car, plane, or train trip this summer? Stop by the Children's Room to assemble some great DIY activities that you can take with you on your journeys. For children of all ages with parent/caregiver.

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**TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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**Author Jane Hamilton Introduces *The Excellent Lombards***

Award-winning novelist and native Oak Parker 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.

Co-sponsored by RF Library and RF Township; all ages are invited to attend.

Space is limited; seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **Seniors: RF Township and RF Fire Department Introduce the ICE Packet**

RF Township, in partnership with the RF Fire Department, will be distributing the new ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet to seniors starting in May. The ICE Packet contains a Medical Information Form which seniors can complete and store in their freezer...right where the paramedics will know where to find it in case of emergency! A decal is also provided to place on the front of your freezer. To obtain your free ICE Packet, please contact Carla Sloan, RF Township Supervisor, at [cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com](mailto:cbsloan.rftownship@gmail.com) or 708.366.2029. ICE Packets will be also available for pickup at the Township offices (at the RF Community Center) during senior walk-in hours, Wednesday, May 18 and 25, 1-3 pm.

## **Celebrating Seniors™ Week is Finally Here!**

Celebrating Seniors™ Week is here, May 12-19! The Resource Guide will be in the May 4 *Wednesday Journal* and will also be distributed throughout River Forest, Oak Park and Forest Park. Also visit [www.celebratingseniors.net](http://www.celebratingseniors.net) for the schedule of events and other key details. Here are the programs sponsored by River Forest Township:

- **Thursday, 5/12, 10 am, RF Community Center** – “Keeping your Balance: A Falls Prevention Checklist” with RF paramedic David Bochenek
- **Friday, 5/13, 10 am, RF Community Center** – “Memoir Writing: Getting Started” with RF Township Senior Outreach Coordinator Cathaleen Roach
- **Sunday, 5/15, 2 pm, RF Library** – “Down the Amazon and through the Rainforest” with travel expert Bill Helmuth (co-sponsored with RF Library)
- **Monday, 5/16, 7 pm, RF Library** – “The Great Communicator: the Life of Ronald Reagan” with historian Jim Gibbons (co-sponsored with RF Library)
- **Thursday, 5/19, 10 am, RF Community Center** – “Advanced Directives (like Powers of Attorney): What They Look Like and Why We Need Them” with Tom Wendt from the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL)

## **Secretary of State “Mobile Driver Services” Comes to River Forest**

Township Senior Services hosts the IL Secretary of State “Mobile Drivers Services” unit on Monday, May 16, 10 am – 2 pm, at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, RF. Renew your driver’s license and state ID card, including vision screening

(2 forms of ID required). Sponsored by Township Senior Services. Bus transportation available through Senior Services; call 708.366.4806 at least 24 hours in advance

## **Announcing New Caregiver Support Group at Concordia**

A new caregiver support group is underway through Concordia's Center for Gerontology, in partnership with RF Township, and is open to all RF residents who are caregivers. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays (May 9 and 23), 4 pm, at the Koehnke Community Center on the Concordia campus. If interested, please contact Dr. Lydia Manning, [lydia.manning@cuchicago.edu](mailto:lydia.manning@cuchicago.edu) or 708.209.3218.

## **Seniors: Coffee Mondays Summer Schedule**

Coffee Mondays continue at the RF Library this summer at 10 am, featuring book chats by our own librarians, Mary Kay and Dana. Please note we will take a holiday break in July!

- **June 6** – "Hot Summer Reads"
- **August 1** – "Non-fiction that Reads Like Fiction"

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## **PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Celebrating Seniors Week**

The month of May is Older American's Month, and the Villages of Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park have proclaimed the week of May 12 - May 19 **Celebrating Seniors Week**. This week-long celebration will highlight and recognize the significant contributions older adults make to our communities. Over 15 community-wide organizations that offer services to seniors will be hosting special events during Celebrating Seniors Week, while local businesses show their support by offering discounts and promotions to older adults. Visit the Celebrating Seniors website for more information at [celebratingseniors.net](http://celebratingseniors.net).

### **Bocce Ball Social**

**Ages: 60 & up**

Celebrate Seniors Week at Memorial Parkway during a FREE introductory course on bocce play. The ancient game of bocce closely resembles bowling, requiring strategy and some luck. What a great game to play on a beautiful day with your friends and neighbors. Park District staff and volunteers will be on hand to teach the game of bocce ball, followed by open play. All equipment will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Register online

at [rfparks.com](http://rfparks.com) or RSVP by Wednesday, May 11 to Karen Stille at 708-366-6660 x105 or [kstille@rfparks.com](mailto:kstille@rfparks.com).

**Leader:** RFPD Staff & Bocce Enthusiasts

**Day:** Thursday

**Date:** May 12

**Time:** 5:00pm - 6:30pm

**Fee:** FREE!

**Location:** Memorial Parkway Bocce Courts  
(on Lake St. between Jackson & Monroe)

**Bring:** Lawn Chair

**Code:** 4302.100

## **Platform Tennis Social**

**Ages:** 60 & up

Come try out the new fastest-growing sport in the Midwest! Platform Tennis is a racquet sport derived from tennis, developed in 1928 in Scarsdale, NY. Platform Tennis is played with a solid paddle as opposed to a strung racquet, and a depressurized tennis ball is used along with an underhand serve. All equipment will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Register online at [rfparks.com](http://rfparks.com) or RSVP by Monday, May 16 to Karen Stille at 708-366-6660 x105 or [kstille@rfparks.com](mailto:kstille@rfparks.com).

**Leader:** RFPD Staff & Platform Tennis Instructor

**Day:** Tuesday

**Date:** May 17

**Time:** 5:00pm - 6:30pm

**Fee:** FREE!

**Location:** Keystone Park Platform Tennis Courts  
7920 Central Ave.

**Bring:** Wear sturdy gym shoes and comfortable clothing

**Code:** 4302.101

## **Party in the Park**

**Thursday, May 19 • 6:00 - 7:30pm**

Keystone Park

***MISS JAMIE'S FARM will perform!***

Kids and their families will go on an imaginative adventure where they can sing, dance, laugh, and learn about life down on the farm. In addition to the live entertainment, there will be face painting, a balloon twister, grilled hot dogs and frozen treats.

***Free! For All Ages.***

**\*\*Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.**

## **Memorial Day Parade**

The River Forest Service Club, River Forest Parks Foundation, River Forest Park District, and the Village of River Forest are proud sponsors of the 91st Annual Memorial Day Parade! The Parade begins at 10:00am traveling from Constitution Park, south on Ashland Avenue to Lake Street, then west to Keystone Park, and will finish with a **FREE** hotdog lunch.

Any individual or business interested in entering a float or walking in the parade should fill out the registration form by **Tuesday, May 24th**. Forms can be dropped off or mailed to The Depot (401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest), faxed to 708-366-6661, or emailed to [kstille@rfparks.com](mailto:kstille@rfparks.com).

For more information on the parade or to download a registration form, [click here](#).

If you no longer wish to receive this email please email [unsubscribe@vrf.us](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).