



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 June. Here's to looking ahead to a great summer.

During my recent state of the village address, I focused on the need to commit some of our municipal government resources to address the growing needs of our aging population. Nearly one-quarter of our seniors need some form of assistance and those needs will only continue to grow in the years to come. Improving the quality of life so that residents enjoy living in River Forest will only strengthen property values and help us stabilize property taxes. I will keep you apprised of our progress. To hear my complete State of the Village address please click [here](#).

The Board of Trustees and I congratulate Captain John Gall for being the Grand Marshal of the 92nd River Forest Memorial Day Parade. Capt. Gall was in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1972 and we thank him and all the service men and women for serving our country and protecting our freedom. It was a great day, the weather cooperated, and the crowd might have been our largest crowd ever. If you missed getting one of the complimentary reusable tote bags that the Village handed out you are welcome to pick up one at Village Hall. To view footage of the parade please visit the Village's [Facebook page](#).

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Union Pacific has begun work on seven of the 20 separate portions of the viaducts around the village that need fresh cement and maintenance so they are in keeping with River Forest's character. Work should be finished by the end of this year's construction season. Thanks to Union Pacific for helping ensure that this remains a beautiful community.



The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will announce this year's Preservation awards at its next meeting. To find out more about the HPC, its work, and their next meeting visit our website www.vrf.us or click [here](#). Residents are encouraged to attend to see what residents are doing to preserve the historic character of the Village.

I hope you will come out and enjoy the [Garden Walk](#), from 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday, June 25. This wonderful event is sponsored by the [Garden Club of Oak Park River Forest](#).

Congratulations to our new Trustees Respicio Vazquez and Patty Henek and to Village Clerk Kathleen White. Tom Cargie was reelected as Village Trustee and I was reelected as Village President. Together we will make River Forest a better, stronger community.

Human Services

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Thank you to former Trustees Roma Colwell-Steinke and Tom Dwyer and Village Clerk Sharon Halperin for their distinguished service.



Tropical Sno, a seasonal business that serves shaved-ice cones, recently opened at the Forest Preserve Headquarters at the corner of Lake and Harlem. I hope you will stop by and grab a taste. Check out the Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

We also hope you will stop by Fresh Thyme Farmers Market on June 21 when the store at 7501 W. North Ave. opens its doors at 7 a.m. The ribbon-cutting will be at 3:45 p.m., June 20, with loads of festivities planned. We look forward to a long and healthy relationship with the store.

Many of your children soon will head off to high school, college, graduate school or begin careers. The Board of Trustees and I would like to send our heartiest congratulations and best of luck to you and your graduates. They all have done River Forest proud.

A warm and wonderful Father's Day to you all.

Best,

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Village President

2017-2018 Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers are now available for purchase and must be affixed to your windshield by July 14 to avoid late fees and citations. All vehicles registered in the State of Illinois with a River Forest address must also be registered with the Village through the purchase of a vehicle sticker license. Payment may be made as follows:

- Online at the Village Website by [clicking here](#).
- By mail using the envelope received from the Village (the application can also be downloaded [here](#)).
- In person at the Village Hall during regular business hours or after hours using the drop box located outside the Village Hall.

Stickers cost \$45 for passenger vehicles and \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens (one senior citizen vehicle sticker per household). For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or [click here](#).

Railroad Safety from River Forest Police Department

River Forest has two sets of railroad tracks that stretch across the village, one of which sees far more train traffic than the other. However, both sets are active railways owned and maintained by railroad companies. In light of recent tragedies that have occurred both near and outside River Forest involving railroad tracks, the River Forest Police Department would like to remind everyone of some basic rail safety information.

According to Operation Lifesaver, in 2015, 511 people were killed or injured in the United States while trespassing on railroad property, and 244 people were killed or injured at highway rail grade crossings. On average, a pedestrian or vehicle was struck by a train every three hours. 95% of rail-related deaths involved a driver trying to beat a train or people trespassing on railroad tracks.

Trespassing on railroad property is not only dangerous, it is illegal. Illinois state law (625 ILCS 5/18c-7503) gives police officers the ability to cite or arrest any person found on railroad property unless that person is a fare-paying customer, a railroad employee, or is a pedestrian crossing the tracks at a marked crossing.

The River Forest Police Department will be increasing patrols around railroad property in the Village in order to deter trespassing on railroad property. Anyone found on any railroad tracks, embankments, or train bridges in River Forest may find themselves cited or arrested for trespassing on railroad property. Please keep this information in mind, share it with your neighbors, and stay off the tracks. If you would like more information about rail safety, you can visit the [Operation Lifesaver website](#).

Summertime Safety

As the weather warms and outdoor activities increase, it is important to take special safety precautions. For safety tips from

the River Forest Fire Department regarding pools, camp fires, travel, and more, [click here](#).

Summer School - Parking and One-Ways

Please note that summer school will be in session at Willard and Roosevelt Schools from June 14 - July 14, at Trinity High School from June 12 - July 28, and at Keystone Montessori from June 5 - June 30. During summer school, parking restrictions and one-way streets surrounding these school areas will be in effect.

GREEN NEWS

Did you know it is UNLAWFUL to knowingly place flimsy plastic and plastic bags in household recycling bins?

As of July 1, 2017 House Bill 3014 makes it unlawful to place flimsy plastic and plastic bags in your household-recycling bin. Other items that should not be placed in the home recycling bin are: household sharps; plastic bags, plastic sheets, plastic tarps, or plastic wrap; polystyrene or Styrofoam; landscape waste; food scrap; and motor oil containers or other hazardous waste. To recycle flimsy plastic and plastic bags many retail stores offer drop-off containers such as Jewel on Lake Street in River Forest and many Target stores.

Got Batteries?

Thanks to Roy Strom Company and the Village of River Forest, you can drop your household batteries off during regular business hours. Please use the container found by the front desk located in the second floor lobby of the Village Hall.

Next Meeting for the River Forest Sustainability Commission

The next meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission will be held Tuesday, June 13, 7 PM at Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Have a Lawn Like a Park- Join River Forest Park District in Having a Healthy, Pesticide-free Lawn

Join the many River Forest residents and the River Forest Park District who have made a commitment to a sustainable and resilient lawn. In doing so, you will contribute to a healthier environment for your family, pets, insect pollinators and the Des Plaines River. [Click here](#) for more information.

Need a Pinch of Oregano or Basil at the last minute?

Visit the organic community herb garden at the corner of Keystone and Augusta. The garden was just planted with an array of herbs for residents' use.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Summer Reading for All Ages - 6/8-8/4

The Library is again offering summer reading programs for kids, teens and adults. Patrons of all ages, who sign up and read, will be eligible for great prizes. Stop in the Library or [visit our website](#) to find out more details.

This year's theme for summer reading, "Reading By Design" is reflected in the exciting programming we are offering throughout the summer. Whether it's creating a recycled robot, making a t-

shirt tote, or learning more about Frank Lloyd Wright, we have something for everyone to enjoy. See our [complete calendar here](#).

Children's Highlights

Tuesday, 6/13, 2-3 PM, Frank Lloyd Wright: Stained Glass Windows, Grades K-4

Design like Frank Lloyd Wright as you create colorful glass windows that interact with nature and light. Advanced registration required.

Thursday, 6/15, 10-11 AM, Ralph's World Concert, Kids of All Ages

Move and groove to the music as you rock and roll with indie rocker, songwriter, and children's author Ralph Covert in this fun live concert! This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Rain location: Roosevelt Middle School gym.

Thursday, 6/22, 3-4 PM, Smarty Pants Balloon Show, Kids of All Ages

The always entertaining Smarty Pants is here to show off his amazing giant balloon designs in The Mouse Trap Machine Show. This fun and interactive show is STEM oriented and great for all ages. This program will be held in the Roosevelt Middle School gym.

Wednesday, 6/28, Chicago Fire Soccer Clinic, 2-3 PM, 4-6 years & 3-4 PM, 7-10 years

Practice your soccer skills with the pros! Join the Chicago Fire Community Ambassadors for a fun soccer workshop. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Rain location: Roosevelt Middle School gym. Advanced registration required.

Middle School and Teen Highlights

Tuesday, 6/13, 2-4 PM, Edible Explosions, Grades 5-12

Who can resist an oozing, colorful, erupting, oh and did we mention aromatic science activity? Join us to make watermelons explode, lemons erupt, and electrify gummy eels.

Wednesday, 6/14, 6:30-8:30 PM, Henna History, Grades 5-12

Learn about the ancient art of henna at this exciting event. Artist Allison Halver will be creating free, safe, temporary henna tattoos for you! Advanced Registration Required.

Thursday, 6/22, 7-8:30 PM, Teen Trivia, Grades 6+

Kids & teens entering grades 6-12: Test your knowledge and have a blast at Teen Trivia. We'll have fun, snacks, and prizes! Come with a team of up to four players or on your own and we'll help match you to a team. Advanced registration required.

Tuesday, 6/27, 3:30-5 PM, Color Wars, Grades 5-12

Join us for colorful Capture the Flag, Sharks and Minnows, and a Color War. Please wear an old white shirt and gym shoes as you will be messy! Advanced registration required.

Adult Highlights

Saturday, 6/3, 2-3 PM, Frank Lloyd Wright at 150

June 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Wright's birth! Stop by the library for this celebratory presentation by art historian Jeff Mishur and learn more about Wright himself and his architecture.

in the Midwest and elsewhere. This program is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Monday, 6/5, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday (with special guest)

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. High school student Ethan Baehrend will give an exciting presentation on how to use a 3D printer! It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn about things going on in the community. Coffee Mondays are supported by Blue Max Coffee and River Forest Township.

Wednesday, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21, 6/28, 10-11:30 AM, Connect with Tech

Get connected through technology! Have questions about your phone, tablet, Kindle, or computer? Bring your questions and we can help you figure it out. For beginners through intermediate users. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn. We'll have laptops available, or you can bring your own device.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

River Forest Township: Building on 100 Years of Vital Human Services

River Forest Township turns 100 in 2017! Your Township funds and supports a full array of vital human services to youth, seniors, those with mental health needs, and those in financial need...in addition to our active Assessor's office.

In April 1917, River Forest (with a population of 3,000 at that time) voted by referendum to create its own township, thereby separating from Proviso Township. The River Forest Village Board passed the necessary resolution in June 1917 in support of the referendum. The Cook County Board formally approved the new River Forest Township in October 1917, making it official.

Fun fact #1: Your Township funds transportation options for seniors, including the senior bus and cab coupon books. *Fun fact #2:* Your Township funds provide care support for children with developmental disabilities and give parents and caretakers much-needed respite. For more info, please call 708-366-2029 or visit www.riverforesttownship.org.

Your Township continues to ensure that funds are preserved and allocated for the necessary human services and assessor services in our community.

Save the date for your Township's 100th anniversary celebration on **Thursday, September 21, 4 PM**. Festivities will include an ice cream social and live entertainment from local youth and seniors.

"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs

Join us for these informative and engaging programs at the River Forest Public Library throughout the summer:

- **Saturday, 6/3, 2 PM – Frank Lloyd Wright at 150**

- with Jeff Mishur
- **Friday, 7/14, 7:30 PM** – Dooley Brothers Concert on the library lawn
 - **Thursday, 8/3, 7 PM** – Solar Eclipse is Coming with Michelle Nicholas

Programs are free of charge and are co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. People of all ages from all communities are welcome!

Seniors: Iced Coffee Anyone?

Coffee Mondays continue this summer at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM, Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library. No Coffee Monday in July due to the holiday weekend.

- **June 5** – exciting student demonstration of the new 3D printer
- **August 7** – snacks and summer conversation
- **September 11** - update on the new Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest by local historian Jan Dressel (held on 2nd Monday due to 9/4 Labor Day)

"Connect with Tech" this Summer!

Work on your tech skills this summer in the cool of the River Forest Library, including tablets, e-readers, smartphones...learn to use Facebook, search ancestry websites, and download books. Help is available on Wednesdays, 10 AM - 11:30 AM, May 24-July 12. No sessions in August. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. Free of charge; all are welcome.

Are there specific skills you would like to learn in the tech help sessions? Share your ideas with us on Monday, June 5 at the end of the 10 AM Coffee Monday. Participants will be entered in a drawing for an exciting prize.

Sign up for Encore Chorale's Fall Season

Oak Park-River Forest Encore Chorale, for singers age 55 and up, will start its fall season on Tuesday, September 5. The local Encore group, over 40 members strong, is part of the largest chorale organization for older adults in the country. All are invited to join this musically talented group; no audition is required. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM at Trinity High School. For more info, contact Linda Crabtree Powell [via email](#). Need-based scholarships for River Forest resident Encore members are available through River Forest Township.

Get on the Bus!

Seniors 60+ and residents with disabilities: accessible small buses and vans are ready to take you where you need to go in River Forest and Oak Park and some surrounding areas. Reservations required at least 24 hours in advance; rides available Monday-Friday during the day. \$1 per ride suggested but not required. Please call 708-383-4806 for more info.

New Restaurant Added to Senior "Dine-Out Program"

Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services announces the addition of a 4th Oak Park restaurant in the "Dine-Out Program", which offers seniors a tasty, affordable, well-balanced meal at specified local restaurants. Geppetto's now joins Robinson's Ribs, Cozy Corner and Grape Leaves in the program's restaurant lineup.

Purchase Dine-Out Program coupons for \$4/meal at Township Senior Services (130 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park). Use coupons to purchase meals at participating restaurants from a pre-approved healthy menu.

Register first at Township Senior Services in Oak Park and obtain a program ID. Purchase coupons there on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 9 AM - noon, or by mail.

Only coupons can be used to pay for Dine-Out Program meals, but please consider tipping the wait staff. Questions: please call Township Senior Services at 708-383-8060.

Condo Association meeting? Block Party? Distribute ICE Packets to Seniors!

If you have a condo association meeting or a block party coming up soon, your Township staff is happy to attend and deliver free ICE Packets for senior residents.

What is an ICE Packet? The ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet contains a Medical Information Form which seniors fill out and store in the freezer...right where the River Forest paramedics know to find it! A decal is provided for the front of the freezer to alert paramedics that a completed ICE Packet is inside.

ICE Packets are also available at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall and the River Forest Public Library. Questions? Please contact Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor, [via email](#) or 708-366-2029.

Free Legal Document Preparation for Qualifying Seniors

Attorneys from the Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL) are available to prepare "advanced directive" documents for seniors (60+) and persons with disabilities, with qualifying income. This free legal service includes Powers of Attorney for both Health Care and Property, as well as Living Will Declarations. **2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons**, Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. By appointment only; call 708-383-8060 for questions and to pre-register.

Caregiver Support Groups

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, grandchild, or person with special needs...support is available.

The support group at Concordia University will not meet in May, June and July. **Meetings will resume in August on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 PM**, Koehneke Community Center/Concordia Campus. Sponsored by Concordia's Center for

Gerontology (in partnership with River Forest Township). Contact Dr. Lydia Manning, [via email](#) or by phone at 708-209-3218.

The support group at Township Senior Services will continue to meet during the summer on **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Summer Camps Start June 12

Register today! Our popular half-day morning camps (Kidz Camp, Ultimate Sports Camp and Thrill Zone Camp) are starting Monday, June 12. Tot Camp starts June 19.

In addition to the half-day morning camps, we offer a large variety of afternoon camps. Each week, different arts camps, fun camps and sport camps are available. There's something for everyone! Thrill Zone Camp will be going to Vertical Endeavors, Brunswick Zone, Main Event Entertainment, Oakton Ice Arena, Monkey Island, and Enchanted Castle for its June Field trips. To see all Thrill Zone Field Trips, [click here](#).



[Click here](#) to view our Summer Fun Guide Online.

[Click here](#) for more information on our Summer Camps.

To register online, [click here](#).

Party in the Park - Centennial Park

Thursday, 6/15, 6-7:30 PM - Centennial Park

Performance by: JASON KOLLUM - The Comedy Variety Juggling & Balancing Show

This show will WOW kids of all ages and their families, as different objects are flying through the air! 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.



2017 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk

Registration for the 2017 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk is now open. The event is **September 16, 2017, 8 AM**, starting at Concordia University Chicago. [Click here](#) for more information on this event. [Click here](#) to register.



Upcoming Youth Sports Programs

Dominican University Co-ed Basketball Camp, 6/12-6/16, 9 AM - 12 PM, Grades (in fall): 2 - 4, 5 - 8

Campers will be exposed to all aspects of the game while focusing on the basic fundamentals of each skill. Shooting, passing, dribbling, footwork, and agility will be emphasized. Coaches will incorporate these skills into fun, game-like scenarios throughout camp. All of these activities will be taught by Dominican University coaches and athletes.

Chicago Edge Soccer Academy Camp, 6/12-6/16, 1 PM - 3 PM (ages 5 - 7), 1 PM - 4 PM (ages 8 - 14)

The Chicago Edge Soccer Academy presents a soccer camp created to teach both new and more experienced soccer players. Using fun exercises and games, fundamental skills such as dribbling, passing, ball control, shooting, and exciting new moves will be taught. Campers will learn about the important concepts of teamwork and sportsmanship. Each camper will receive a t-shirt.

Upcoming Adult Sports Programs

Adult Co-ed Bocce Summer League, 6/6 - 8/1 (No games 7/4), 6, 7 & 8 PM, Ages: 18 & Up

Calling all Men & Women! Bocce is an ancient game of skill, accuracy, and strategy. It's fun to play, simple to learn, a good game to socialize with friends, and no training or gear are needed. Teams are made up of four players per team. There will be an eight-week schedule.

**Must sign up as a team of four. If you are an individual wanting to register, please call the Park District at 708-366-6660, and we will add you to a free agent list. If there are enough people on the list to form a team of four, we will add you to a team.*

Adult Co-ed Sand Volleyball League, 6/11 - 7/30 4, 5 & 6 PM, Ages: 18 & up

Come play sand volleyball at Constitution Park on Ashland Ave. This is a fun way for men and women to stay active. Teams are made up of six - ten adults, with six players on the sand court at one time. This is a Recreational Division that will play seven weeks, with a seeded single elimination playoff at the end. There will be a Sand Volleyball Coordinator on-site facilitating the games and maintaining the courts. All players are responsible for calling their own fouls and managing the game. There is plenty of opportunity to meet other players on and off the court. It will be a great, inexpensive recreational opportunity on Sunday evenings.

Register Today! [Click here](#) to register for programs.



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