



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:

Is it October already? Falling leaves and changing weather let us know that it is time to prepare for fall leaf raking, the Village's annual leaf collection program, as well as all the other outdoor activities that come this time of year. It is also time to get out the Halloween decorations. Trick-or-treating hours have been posted on

the [Village's website](http://www.vrf.us), www.vrf.us, and Halloween safety tips are provided later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, a final public hearing regarding the Madison Street Tax Increment Finance District will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board of Trustees on Oct. 24 at 7:00 PM. The Joint Review Board (JRB) met recently and recommended approval of the TIF by majority vote. The JRB's report, testimony from residents, and all other documents related to this initiative will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees for final approval in late November. Information on the TIF District remains available on a [special Village webpage](#). We hope you will continue to find it of value and encourage you to contact the Village Administrator or elected officials if you have questions or concerns.

Village auditors have reviewed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and have found that River Forest continues to be in good fiscal health and that all financial matters are being reported accurately. To view a copy of the current and previous CAFRs click [here](#).

After conducting a focus group and over 50 interviews of Village residents, elected officials, staff, commission and committee chairpersons, the Village's communications audit is complete.

It will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees and me during our October 10 Board Meeting. With the help of Jasculca Terman Strategic Communications, we have taken the last three months to assess what we are doing well and what could be doing better. This will allow us to serve you, our residents, better by

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getting you the information you want in the way that is most effective and efficient. A copy of the report is available [here](#). Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and participated in this process.

Residents can now access real-time River Forest weather conditions, forecasts, and safety conditions thanks to an Eagle Scout project led by David Snyder, a member of Boy Scout Troop 65 and a junior at Oak Park and River Forest High School. This information will be most valuable to residents as winter weather approaches. For more information, read below.

Congratulations to the 700 block of Bonnie Brae for another successful LemonAid. While the final tally is not yet in, funds raised during the 15th annual event are on target to match or exceed last year's total of \$37,000. We thank this year's co-chairs, Cate Best and Nick Henek, for their hard work as well as all the enthusiastic volunteers and sponsors who made this a marvelous event.

I had the honor of moderating a presentation by Village Administrator Eric Palm and Village attorneys Lane Malina and Greg Smith on intergovernmental relationships during this year's Illinois Municipal League conference. River Forest is recognized among its peers as one of the communities that has worked hard to improve working relationships and collaborative efforts among other units of government. This is a priority of our Board of Trustees and me. To view materials from the presentation, click [here](#).

In closing, the Board of Trustees and I would like to wish our Jewish friends and neighbors a warm and peaceful New Year.

Happy Halloween,

Cathy Adduci

Fire Department Open House

The River Forest Fire Department will be hosting an [Open House](#) on **Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 10 AM to 2 PM** to celebrate Fire Prevention Week. The event will be held at the Fire Department located at 400 Park Avenue. Department firefighters and paramedics will display fire apparatus, fire equipment and give tours of the fire station. It will also include home safety programs from the Police Department, a 9-1-1 practice station for children, and information from River Forest Citizen Corps, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler, and more! This event is free and open to the public.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2016 is "Don't Wait, Check the Date!". [Click here](#) for more.

Hydrant Flushing Notice

The River Forest Fire Department will be flushing hydrants in October! [Click here](#) for an announcement from Pluggie the fire hydrant.

Communications Audit Results Available

The Village recently completed a comprehensive audit of our communications efforts, with the assistance of Chicago-based public affairs firm Jasculca Terman Strategic Communications (JT).

Register to Vote in the November Election!

Volunteers Needed to Become Tax Preparers for the Upcoming Tax Season

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The goal of this audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of existing communication strategies, and to identify opportunities for improvement as well as new ways to reach Village residents. The full report is available for viewing and download by [clicking here](#).

To prepare the audit and strategic recommendations, the Village and JT considered the viewpoints and expertise of a wide range of audiences, including residents, local business owners and operators, Village Trustees, Village staff, chairs of Village commissions, representatives of neighboring government entities, and representatives of other Chicagoland municipalities.

The results of this process will be presented to the Village Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on Monday, October 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the River Forest Village Hall (400 Park Avenue, River Forest). The Village Board will consider an implementation plan at a later date, which will include, among other things, enhancements to the Village's website and popular e-newsletter, and an evaluation of the feasibility of a social media presence.

Trick or Treating Hours and Tips for a Safe Halloween

In order to have a safe and fun Halloween, the Village of River Forest has set official trick-or-treating hours from 3 PM to 7 PM on Monday, October 31. Residents are asked to try their best to participate within these hours.

Recently, there have been media reports of people dressed as clowns who have reportedly been chasing children, threatening harm and committing crimes. Many of the concerns have been driven by social media rumors and false reports to the police. The Police Department has been following the issue and has no reason to believe that Village residents face any immediate danger as a result of these incidents. However, reports like these, and the attention they generate, could lead to copycat incidents and/or situations that could be misinterpreted. The Village staff have received calls regarding the matter and whether there are any restrictions on costumes this year. While there are no restrictions, and no plans to implement them, residents are encouraged to consider the appropriateness of clown costumes this Halloween and select an alternative.

Additional Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips from the Village of River Forest:

- Make sure costumes are visible to vehicles and others.
- Instead of a candle to light a pumpkin, use a small flashlight or a liquid light stick that glows in the dark.
- Purchase only flame retardant or flame proof costumes and masks.
- Be sure costumes fit properly to prevent tripping or falling and wear masks that allow full vision.

Do not trick or treat alone.

- Only approach homes that are well lit and only approach the front door.
- Stay on sidewalks and obey traffic signs/signals.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Adults should check their child's candy before they eat it.

Please [click here](#) for additional fire safety tips!

Have a safe and fun Halloween!

Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs through November 30th. The next opportunity to dispose of leaves after November 30th will be during the yard waste collection program which starts in April 2017. Rake only leaves onto the street by 7 a.m. on your collection day, leaving the curb exposed, where Village and Strom crews will collect them. Grass clippings, brush or any other type of yard waste mixed with your leaves will not be collected. Leaves are collected on both sides of the street in accordance with the following schedule:

Mondays: The area west of Thatcher including Edgewood, Auvergne, River Oaks and Lake, and all streets south of the Union Pacific Rail Road tracks.

Tuesdays: Harlem through and including William.

Wednesdays: Monroe through and including Lathrop, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Thursdays: Ashland through and including Park, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Fridays: Forest through and including Thatcher, north of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Electronics Recycling Now Available in Burr Ridge!

All residents within the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency Region (which includes River Forest) will be able to drop off Electronics at the Village of Burr Ridge Public Works Department.

The address for drop off is: 451 Commerce Street, Burr Ridge, IL.

The site will be open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm and staff will be available to assist with the unloading of items. Please [click here](#) to learn which items are acceptable.

Know the Code!

The Village would like to remind you that political yard signs may only be displayed on private property. Please do not place any signs in the public right-of-way which includes all parkways.

River Forest WeatherBug Station at Roosevelt

Residents can now access real-time River Forest weather conditions, forecasts, and safety information on their computers and phones. A new WeatherBug weather station sits atop the North Gym at Roosevelt Middle School, overlooking the Park

District fields and the River Forest Public Library. Anyone with an internet connection or mobile app can get the local weather and view Centennial Park.

The station reports Current Conditions (temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed/direction, and pressure), Hourly and Daily Forecasts, Doppler radar, and recent Lightning Strikes in the surrounding area.

The weather station is an Eagle Scout Project led by David Snyder, a member of Boy Scout Troop 65 and a junior at OPRFHS (and proud Roosevelt/Lincoln alum). It is meant to ensure the outdoor comfort and safety of River Forest students, Park District participants, and anyone in the Oak Park / River Forest area. As a member station of the global WeatherBug network, it also provides District 90 teachers and students free access to STEM and other educational tools.

[Click here](#) to access the website or download the free WeatherBug app for your mobile device.

District 90's Parent/Teacher Conference Registration begins Monday, October 10

It is time to get ready for District 90 Parent-Teacher Conferences. Families can register for Parent- Teacher Conference starting on Monday, October 10 at 7 AM. Visit the District's website to register and for the dates and times for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Registration closes on Friday, November 4 at 11:59 PM. Teachers are looking forward to this important time with District families.

Oak Park River Forest High School News

OPRF Makes Investment for Future Generations

In its first major facilities upgrade since the 1960s, the Board of Education unanimously adopted a five-year facilities plan in August. The plan will add classroom space, replace the 88-year-old pools, and mitigate health and safety issues in locker rooms. The total cost of the project is \$44.5 million, and the Board has placed a referendum on the November 8 ballot, which will allow voters to determine if \$25 million in bonds should be issued to finance the project. The remaining \$20 million in funding would come from the district's cash reserves. [Click here](#) to learn more.

[Click here](#) for the fall issue of the OPRF High School community newsletter.

Green News You Can Use

- **Green Block Parties - Reserve the Blender Bike** New to the Village this fall, all "Green" Block Parties will include the [Blender Bike](#). Residents can enjoy pedaling up smoothies using this sustainable, green tool. To plan your October Block Party, please visit the [Village website](#).
- **Beyond the Bin - Recycling Opportunities** Ever wonder where to take items that do not go in your recycling bin but can be reused or recycled? The [Beyond the Bin guide](#) is your answer. The Village of Oak Park and River Forest's Sustainability Committee have teamed up to provide a

comprehensive list of locations where items will be accepted, such as school supplies, tires, electronics etc. Please [click here](#) to view the guide or more information about recycling in the Village.

- **Sustainability Committee Presentation** Members of the River Forest Parks Foundation Sustainability Committee will make a presentation during the regularly schedule Village Board of Trustees meeting on October 24, 2016 which begins at 7 PM. An overview of the Committee's work on environmental and wellness topics in the Village will be provided. The presentation will include information on the work that the Committee is currently doing, past accomplishments, and plans for future programs. Village Board of Trustees meetings are held at the River Forest Village Hall located at 400 Park Avenue.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

RFPL Now Has a "Drive-Through" Book Drop

For your convenience, our new "drive-through" book drop is open and ready to accept your library returns. The book drop is located at the exit of the south parking lot of Roosevelt Middle School on Lathrop Ave. **Please note** that the book drop is located in a one-way thoroughfare and is not accessible to cars during school drop-off (8-8:30 AM) and pick-up (3-3:30 PM) times.



Adult Programs

Wednesday, 10/19, 10/26, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab, Adult

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.

Sunday, 10/9, 2-3:30 PM, Pierre Salinger and the 1,000 Days of Kennedy's Camelot, Adult

Pierre Salinger was White House Press Secretary and one of the most trusted advisors of President John F. Kennedy. This

program, told through the eyes of Salinger, will not only cover the tragic events of November 22, 1963, but also the 1000 days that made up the Kennedy administration. Learn about the close relationship Salinger had with the President and the unique perspective he had on some of the most dangerous times in our country's history. This event is presented in partnership with River Forest Township as part of the Celebrating Seniors All Year Long series.

Sunday, 10/23, 2-4 PM, The Big Read: Into the Beautiful North book discussion and movie showing of The Magnificent Seven, Adult

Join us for a brief book discussion of Luis Alberto Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North* and a movie showing of *The Magnificent Seven*, a tie-in film referenced in the book. This program is part of this year's The Big Read: *Into the Beautiful North*.

Teen Programs

Wednesday, 10/12, 11:30, Chat N' Chew, Grades 5 - 12

Teens in grades 5 thru 12 are invited to join us for a lunch time book group. Bring a book (or two, or more!) to share while we share some light snacks. We will be also be discussing popular upcoming titles. Advanced Registration Required.

Monday, 10/31, 11:45 AM, 1/2 Day Halloween, Grades 5-8

Join us for an epic Halloween party full of pizza, scares, games, and sweet treats. Advanced Registration Required.

Children's Programs

Wednesday, 10/12, 3-4 PM, Elephant and Piggie Extravaganza!, Grades K-2

Come celebrate the enduring Elephant and Piggie book series with games, crafts, and a fun snack. Grades K-2.

Friday, 10/14, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM, Family Fireside Halloween, Birth- 10 years

Join River Forest Public Library and River Forest Park District for an evening of family-friendly Halloween fun. Enjoy live music, pumpkin painting (\$1), spooky stories, creepy crafts, s'mores, games, and more. For kids ages 10 and under with a parent/caregiver.

Monday, 10/17, 4-5 PM, Snack Attack, Grades K-4

Learn how to make a fun seasonal snack at this after school cooking program. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

For a complete listing of programs, visit the [library website](#).

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Sibshops Fall Sessions Continue

Sibshops will continue on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in October, November, and December: 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17. If you cannot attend all the sessions, you are welcome to attend those which work for you.

Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Sessions are geared around having fun and sharing information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

Held on Saturdays, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (including lunch), at Thrive, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. Free parking next to building for drop off and pickup. Priority is given to participants from River Forest and Oak Park.

Registration required in advance. \$10/session; need-based scholarships available. To sign up or for more information, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](#).

Register to Vote in the November Election!

Voter registration ends October 11, so be sure to register to vote in the November 8th Presidential Election!

The **Illinois State Board of Elections** and the **Cook County Clerk** websites can provide information on whether you are registered to vote, how to vote when you are out of town, how to update your voter registration, and a link for registering to vote. Follow the links below for more information.

[Cook County Clerk Elections Illinois](#)

Please contact the River Forest Township Clerk via [email](#) or 708-366-2029 should you need assistance.

Volunteers Needed to Become Tax Preparers for the Upcoming Tax Season

- **AARP Tax-Aide Program:** Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation program that offers free tax filing help for those who need it most, especially adults 60 and older, during the tax season. Volunteers are trained to become tax preparers and receive IRS certification. Visit [AARP website](#) and click on Volunteer; your info will be sent to the local TaxAide coordinator who will contact you with details.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program at Triton:** The TCE Program provides free tax preparation for seniors who qualify. Training sessions for preparers will be held on Saturdays, January 7-February 4, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM at Triton. Contact Kay Frey, by [email](#) or by phone at 708-456-0300, ext. 3603.

“Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long” Features History & Travel

Join us as we celebrate seniors throughout the fall! Co-sponsored by RF Township and RF Library. **All events are held at the RF Library.**

- **Sunday, October 9, 2 PM** – Historical portrayer Terry Lynch presents Pierre Salinger and the 1000 days of Kennedy's Camelot.
- **Sunday, November 6, 2:00 PM** – Edu-tainer

Martina Mathisen presents Cleopatra.

- **Sunday, November 13, 2:00 PM** – The Making of a Legend: Gone with the Wind with historical educator Leslie Goddard.
- **Saturday, December 3, 2:00 PM** – Christmas in the Holy Land with travel historian Bill Helmuth.

Medicare Part “D” Open Enrollment Assistance

Township Senior Services is offering screenings for persons interested in reviewing their Medicare Part “D” drug plan. For those who do not receive government assistance, this is the one time during the year when this is possible.

Friday, October 21 and Monday November 7: half-hour appointments are available. Schedule by phone 708-383-8060. 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park.

Bring a copy of your Medicare card and a list of your meds, including monthly quantity and dosage.

Rules of the Road

Township Senior Services is hosting a Rules of the Road seminar on **Wednesday, October 12 at 1:30 PM**, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park in the 2nd floor conference room. Call 708-383-8060 to reserve a spot.

Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays continue this fall at the RF Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM. Some sessions are just for conversation and sharing; other feature guest speakers with time left to chat!

- November 7 - Ayesha Akhtar from the Epilepsy Foundation speaks on epilepsy awareness
- December 5 – veteran journalist and communications expert Matt Baron presents (in a fun and engaging way!) how numbers are used and misused in the media

Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

Caregiver Support Groups

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, adult child or grandchild...support is available.

- **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.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

Seniors: Be Sure to Get an ICE Packet for Your Freezer

Seniors: River Forest Township and the River Forest Fire Department paramedics want to make sure you have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet in your freezer! The ICE Packet contains a Medical Information Form which you fill out and store in the freezer...right where the paramedics know to find it in an emergency! A decal is provided for the front of the freezer to alert paramedics that you have a completed ICE Packet.

ICE Packets are available for pick-up at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall and the River Forest Public Library.

If you are unable to get to either location, or if you have any questions, please contact Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor, via [email](#) or by phone at 708-366-2029. Quantities are available for block parties, church groups, organizations or condo/apartment buildings.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Family Fireside Halloween

Presented by the River Forest Park District and the River Forest Public Library.

Friday, October 14, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Children 12 & under, and their parents, are invited to this **FREE**, fun event!

Activities will include:

- Spooky Stories
- Glow Hunt
- Pumpkin Painting
- Live Music
- Creepy Craft
- Bonfire
- S'mores & Hot Chocolate

Wear your Halloween costume!

Location: The River Forest Public Library & Centennial Park

[Click here](#) for more information on this event.

Santa Express Tickets Go on Sale!

Tickets on sale starting October 10!

Join the River Forest Park District on a magical train ride to the North Pole. Every child will have a chance to meet Santa and give him their Christmas Wish List, enjoy cookies and chocolate milk, read the Polar Express story with the River Forest Public Library, play a holiday trivia game, and sing Christmas carols. Dress in your pajamas just like they did in the Polar Express story!

Saturday, November 26 - Train Departs at 12:58 PM

Sunday, November 27 - Train Departs at 12:58 PM

[Click here](#) for event details.

Upcoming Programs

Guitar Stars

Ages 7 - 12

Thursdays, Oct 13 - Nov 17, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Learn the fundamentals of guitar playing, including holding the guitar and pick, proper fret-hand finger position, sight reading, playing by ear, and playing basic songs.

Safe Sitter Babysitter Training Course

Ages 11 - 15

Saturday, Oct 15, 10:00am - 4:00 PM

This excellent babysitter training course, taught by a certified Safe Sitter Instructor, will help you land babysitting jobs and be prepared to babysit! Includes training in Infant & Child CPR.

Finding Your Creative Spirit

Ages 3 - 6

Wednesdays, Oct 19 - Nov 16, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Thursdays, Oct 20 - Nov 17, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Use various supplies, both art and non-art, to create your own personalized artwork!

Boys & Girls Hip Hop

Ages 6 - 10

Fridays, Oct 28 - Dec 16* at Lincoln School, 3:15 - 4:15 PM

*No class 11/11, 11/25

Mondays, Nov 7 - Dec 12 at Willard School, 3:15 - 4:15 PM

Learn a choreographed routine to perform for family members on the last day. Help create your own dance and share your own moves!

Upcoming Sports

Rec Basketball

To avoid disappointment, residents are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Registration fills up early!

Mandatory player evaluations are Saturday, Nov 12.

Dodgeball

Ages 8 - 13

Thursdays, Nov 3 - Dec 15*, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

*No class 11/10, 11/24

Learn the rules and strategies of dodgeball. This fast-paced class will have kids moving and dodging like never before!

Floor Hockey

Ages 4 - 6, 7 - 9

Thursdays, Nov 3 - Dec 15*, 4:30 - 5:30 PM (ages 4 - 6), 5:30 - 6:30 PM (ages 7 - 9)

*No class 11/10, 11/24

Players will learn the proper mechanics of stick handling, puck control, passing and shooting. Offensive and defensive strategies will also be covered.

Fall Fun Guide Now Online!

The **Fall Fun Guide** is available online. [Click here](#) to view the Guide.



If you no longer wish to receive this email please email unsubscribe@vrf.us.