



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 September. It promises to be a busy month.

The Board of Trustees has begun the process of creating a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District along North Avenue from Thatcher to Harlem. The Village will host community meetings for residents and business owners throughout the process both as required by law and also beyond what is required. The first meeting will occur in late September with notice of the meeting posted on the Village's website and mailed to properties within the proposed TIF. The Village will also send responses to the most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to these properties. The Village will have a separate web page with material for you to peruse. To glimpse at what you can expect from the new page, [click here](#).



What River Forest will look like in the future will be based on what comes out of the Village's Comprehensive Plan update. This will be the Village's official policy for land use and development. It will also set forth long-range recommendations for the maintenance and enhancement of the community along with desirable improvements, developments and redevelopments in selected

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locations. The success of updating this plan depends on your input, and the Village Board of Trustees and I encourage you to share your thoughts through surveys, the [project website](#), community meetings and events. Please also use the [map.social](#) tool to create maps of the issues and opportunities facing River Forest. We look forward to receiving your comments and invite you to contact us if you have questions or concerns.



During the next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees on September 11, the Trustees and I will review the [PlanItGreen 2016 Report Card](#), a guide that tells us how far we have come - and how far we need to go - to become a greener, healthier community. This document will be a roadmap for our new Sustainability Commission, which is already looking at how River Forest can improve its recycling opportunities.

One of the most popular fundraisers in River Forest, the 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand, will take place on Monday, September 11 from 3 to 7 p.m. . This 16th annual event will be held on Bonnie Brae between Oak and Chicago. This year's recipient of proceeds from the event will be [Kidz Express](#), an organization that strives to develop mentoring relationships among youth in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago. To find out more about "LemonAid," check out the event's [Facebook](#) page.

Thanks to all of you who came out to Keystone Park on August 26 to be part of the fourth annual Food Truck Rally, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Park, the Village and the Park District. We thank the organizations and all of the volunteers who made it a great event.

Recently, Governor Rauner signed and vetoed several pieces of legislation, some of which are noteworthy for River Forest residents. [Senate Bill 1947](#), which impacts school funding was signed, [Senate Bill 81](#), which would have raised the minimum wage in Illinois, was vetoed, and [Senate Bill 31](#), which would prohibit the River Forest Police Department from detaining any individual solely on the basis of any immigration detainer or administrative warrant, was signed.

To catch up on all the latest news, please like our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofRiverForest/>

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

Best,

Cathy Adduci
Village President

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No Refuse Pick-Up on Labor Day

No refuse pick-up on Monday, September 4th due to the Labor Day Holiday! All pick-up will be delayed one day.

Pavement Rejuvenation

The Village will be working with a contractor to perform pavement rejuvenation work during the month of September. A more specific timeline is still being coordinated with the contractor. The project consists of applying a liquid onto selected asphalt streets with a truck-mounted sprayer in an effort to prevent pavement deterioration. The liquid soaks into the pavement and "rejuvenates" it by restoring flexibility lost during exposure to the elements. The application only takes minutes but it can take up to a few hours for the liquid to dry. Streets will be blocked off during this time and will be reopened once access is restored.

The product that will be applied to the pavement is called Biorestor. This is an eco-friendly product that performs similarly to other pavement rejuvenators but is much safer for the environment. While environmentally friendly, it is accompanied by an odor that some may find unpleasant. While this odor is not typical of most construction projects, there is no cause for concern and no special action that must be taken. The odor fades once the liquid is dry but it can temporarily return during hot weather or rain events for a few weeks after the project is complete. Additional information on this and other construction projects can be found on the Village website [here](#).

Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from September 18th 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 2018. Rake only leaves onto the street by 7 AM 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.

Counterfeit Garbage Stickers

The Village has recently been made aware of the sale of counterfeit garbage stickers, sold by individuals claiming that they no longer needed them. Residents should never purchase stickers from individuals on the street.

Residents can identify these counterfeit stickers by comparing graphic images on the stickers and looking for sequential, not identical, sticker numbers. If you have purchased a counterfeit sticker, or if you know anything about the situation - please call Code Enforcement at 708-714-3523.

River Forest ID Bracelet Program

Later this year, the River Forest Police Department will begin offering a new service for River Forest residents. Mirrored from a similar program started by Oak Park PD in the summer of 2017, RFPD will provide free, personalized bracelets to residents with disabilities, medical conditions, or other special needs. The bracelets are intended to give officers a means of quickly locating necessary information to help these residents in emergencies, while maintaining sensitivity and confidentiality of personal data. Contact Officer Glen Czernik [via email](#) for more information.

New Employees

At their August 21, 2017 meeting, the Village Board of Trustees welcomed Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Buchholz to the Village staff. Buchholz has been a certified Firefighter for seven years, and a licensed paramedic for nine years. He lives in Gilberts, IL with his wife Bethany and 15 month old son Matthew.



This Labor Day, the River Forest Police Department Reminds Motorists to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

The end of summer is traditionally marked by the Labor Day holiday, often celebrated through picnics, pool parties and other

gatherings. Sadly, the Labor Day holiday also can be one of the deadliest because of motor vehicle crashes related to drunk and drug-impaired drivers.

Once again, the River Forest Police Department is joining the Illinois Department of Transportation to stop drunk and drug-impaired drivers and help save lives. The high-visibility enforcement campaign, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," runs from Aug. 21 through the early morning hours of Sept. 5. During this period, law enforcement across the state will show zero tolerance for impaired driving. Officers also will be looking for seat-belt law violators. This comprehensive effort aims to reduce impaired driving and help make zero fatalities a reality on Illinois roads.

National statistics show a frightening trend in drunk driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10,265 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2015, an increase from 9,967 people killed in 2014. This is why the River Forest Police Department is working with IDOT to remind drivers that drunk driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life and death.

"Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is a massive problem in Illinois with more than 300 people dying annually," said River Forest Deputy Police Chief James O'Shea. "Alcohol- or drug-impaired driving is not acceptable behavior. It is essential to plan a sober ride home before you go out. We make zero exceptions for impaired driving. There are just no excuses."

The River Forest Police Department recommends the following safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

- If you will be drinking, designate a sober driver before you go out.
- Plan to use public transportation, call a cab or use a ride-sharing service to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911.
- Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

The 2017 Labor Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is funded by federal highway safety funds from NHTSA and managed through IDOT.

GREEN NEWS

Volunteer Opportunity for LemonAid Stand

The 700 block of Bonnie Brae in River Forest is once again hosting a charity [LemonAid](#) event on 9/11 this year, from 3-7 PM. **They need your help to make the event as "zero waste" as possible!** LemonAid has gone green in the past few years, with remarkable success. Just last year, 60% of the event's waste was composted, 26% was recycled, and only 14% went to the landfill — these numbers reflect an event that hosted more than 3,000 people. This year, the LemonAid team could use dedicated "waste diversion engineers" to staff the three sets of waste stations, and help guide the waste of attendees into the correct receptacles. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Katie Brennan [via email](#). This year's beneficiary is [Kids](#)

[Express](#) in Austin.

Sort It Out

In an effort to assist residents in hosting “greener,” more sustainable events, the Village of River Forest is offering Sort It Out waste stations to villagers, free of charge, for their private events. These waste stations can be borrowed from Village Hall during regular business hours, on a first come, first served basis.

You may already be familiar with the Sort It Out stations, as they have been featured at River Forest’s Green Block Parties, the 9/11 LemonAid charity event, some Flamingo Friday parties, and private events in town. Questions? Contact MarySusan (River Forest Sustainability Commissioner) at [via email](#) or 708-702-8987.

Green Block Party

It’s Green Block Party Season When reserving your Block Party check the box and make it GREEN. Green Block Party participants will enjoy a demonstration by Sugar Beet School House and create seed bombs for your garden. There is also a choice of a honey tasting or making a refreshing lavender lemonade. [Click here](#) to learn how to make your party green.

The Next Meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission Tuesday, September 12 at 7 PM at Village Hall.

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Please visit the [Library website](#) for a complete listing of our programs and services.

Multi-Age Programs

Friday, 9/15, 6-8 PM, Family Trivia , Ages 8+

Calling trivia buffs of all ages! Come share your expert knowledge, win prizes, and have a blast! Teams of 4-6 players are invited to participate in a fun night of family friendly trivia. A pizza dinner will be served. If you want to play but don't have a full team, we will find you some great teammates. Advanced registration required.

Wednesday, 9/20, 7 PM, Finding the Right College and Tips on How to Pay for It, Grades 9-Adult

This workshop takes you through the complex world of admissions and financial aid to help you understand how admissions decisions are made as well as what the admissions committee really considers in deciding who get in and who receives what financial awards. The workshop will also unveil important strategies you can use to get into-and afford-the college of your choice. Both parents are encouraged to attend this free 90-minute seminar presented by My College Planning Team.

For Adults

Wednesday, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27, 10-11:30 AM, Connect with Tech

Are you a local senior who wants to get more out of your smartphone, eReader, tablet, or personal computer? Would you like to explore better ways to connect electronically with family? Concerned about internet safety? Then join us for Connect with Tech, which helps beginner tech users in a small, intimate group setting. Bring your questions and devices, or use one of the laptops provided. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during

the session to learn.



Sunday , 9/10, 2-4 PM, Local Author Visit: Janis Clark Johnston

Join us for this exciting visit from Janis Clark Johnston, EdD, a well-known local psychologist and author of *Midlife Maze: A Map to Recovery and Rediscovery After Loss*. She has written articles for a variety of professional journals and has published two books to date. Ms. Johnston will discuss her book and sign copies for patrons. This program is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Sunday, 9/17, 2-3 PM, The Ancient Mesopotamian Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum

The Oriental Institute Museum houses a world-class collection of artifacts from Mesopotamia. At this event, Ph.D. candidate Sam Harris will give a presentation that highlights this collection to discuss the people and societies of ancient Mesopotamia as well as the often fascinating histories of the objects themselves. This program is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Saturday, 9/23, 6-8 PM, Fireside Fall Concert: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Join us for this very special celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15- October 15)! Enjoy tasty treats and live South American music from performers of the Gasse School of Music. This program is open to all and registration is required. Attendance is limited to 60 participants so [advanced registration is required](#). Generously sponsored by the River Forest Public Library Foundation.

Saturday, 9/30, 2-3:30 PM, Lady Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales

Lady Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales was one of the most beloved figures around the world whose life and death were made highly public through the media. This year marks the 20th anniversary of her tragic death. Historian Jim Gibbons will discuss her life, marriage, and motherhood, as well as her royal presence and death, which still remains controversial today. This program is brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

For Teens

Thursday, 9/7, 3:30-5 PM, Crochet Club, Grades 5-8

You may have been inspired by amazing creations on Pinterest, or the beautiful keepsake your granny made you, no matter your skill level, we'll get you started and on the fast track to Etsy fame! New patterns available each month. September is Crochet 101.

Friday, 9/22, 11:45-2:30, 1/2 Day Pizza and Percy Jackson, Grades 5-8

Middle Schoolers come Greek out with pizza and all things Percy Jackson! Advanced registration required. Grades 5-8

For Children

Saturday, 9/9, 10 AM-12 PM, All About Trains, Kids of All Ages with parent/caregiver.

All aboard! Go on a real train ride and explore all things trains in this fun multi-station program. Chugga-chugga-choo-choo your way over to the Library for a morning you won't want to miss.

Monday, 9/18, 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.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

2017 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk

Early Bird Registration ends Friday!

- **Early Bird Registration** (by 9/1) - 5K Run/Walk (7 years & older) **\$25**
- **Late Registration** (9/2 - 9/14) - 5K Run/Walk (7 years & older) **\$30**
- **Race Day Registration** (9/16) - 5K Run/Walk (7 years & older) **\$35**

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.

Platform Tennis Membership

Platform Tennis Memberships are available for purchase for the 2017 - 2018 Platform Tennis Season!

Memberships can be purchased at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM or online at rfparks.com. Membership includes: access to the Platform Tennis Courts and Paddle Hut, the opportunity to schedule court time via the online reservation system, the opportunity to register for Platform Tennis league play, and Platform Tennis social opportunities.

Memberships are for one year, from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. **Register Today!**

[Click here](#) for more information on Platform Tennis.

[Click here](#) to register for membership.

Bocce Bash

Saturday, September 9, 2 PM - 6 PM, Ages 12 & up
- Memorial Parkway Bocce Courts (Lake Street between Jackson &

Monroe)

Join a team of four and compete for the coveted "Bocce Bash Cup" in this fun bocce tournament! This event is a fundraiser for the River Forest Parks Foundation. **Registration is required by September 7 at 4:30 PM.** The fee is \$60 per 4-person team.

[Click here](#) to register.



Family Campout

Friday, September 22 • 6:30 PM to Saturday, September 23 • 7:30 AM, All Ages (at least 1 adult chaperone per family group) - Priory Park

A green overnight family camping experience. There will be musical entertainment and a campfire with s'mores! The event is **FREE!**

Pre-register online or at the Depot. **Registration deadline:** September 21 at 4:30 PM



Possible Community Recreation Center Collaboration Being Explored

The Board of Park Commissioners for the River Forest Park District, the Board of Park Commissioners for the Park District of Oak Park, and the Board of Education for Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 have all approved a Memorandum of Understanding to explore partnership opportunities for construction of a Community Recreation Center (CRC).

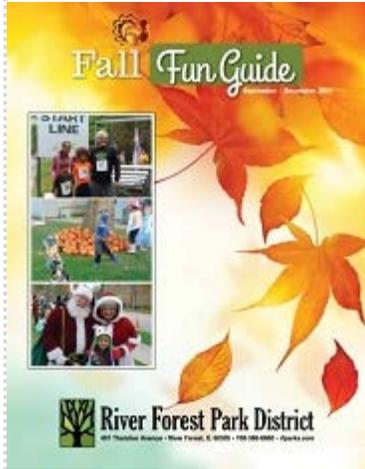
Discussions are exploratory with no expenditures being made, and

the group has set a December 1, 2018 deadline to decide if a facility can be agreed upon.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fall Fun Guide

The [Fall Fun Guide](#) is now available online. Check out all the fun programs and events we have this fall!



TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating 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*.

Fun fact #1: In partnership with Oak Park Township, your Township provides important services for River Forest seniors like Meals on Wheels, bus transportation around town, and money management assistance. *Fun fact #2:* Your Township funds a popular Robotics summer camp at Concordia University for our middle school youth, who attend free of charge.

Visit www.RiverForestTownship.org to view more Township programs and services and to see upcoming events, or call 708-366-2029.

Sibshops Return this Fall

Sibshops are back! Sibshops is a program specially designed for siblings of kids with disabilities and mental/physical health challenges. Siblings engage in fun activities and share conversation with each other and trained Sibshop facilitators.

The kickoff session is **Saturday, September 30**, followed by the 1st and 3rd Saturdays as follows: **10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16. 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**, at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion St. in Oak Park. Lunch is provided.

Pre-registration is required. \$10 per session. Need-based scholarships are available. For more info, please [email Carla Sloan](#), River Forest Township Supervisor, or call 708-366-2029.

Author Atul Gawande live webinar on September 25

Join Arbor West Neighbors as they host a free live webinar by Atul Gawande MD, MPH, renowned author of *Being Mortal*. Dr. Gawande will speak about the value of community and choices as we grow older.

Monday, September 25 at the Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Ave, Oak Park, 3 – 6 PM, with webinar at 4 PM. To register: visit www.arborwestneighbors.org/news-and-events and click Registration, [email](#) or call 708-613-0152. Limited space on day of event. Co-hosted by Township Senior Services and Nineteenth Century Charitable Association.

New Support Group for Those Losing a Loved One to Suicide

A new monthly drop-in support group starts in River Forest on **Monday, October 16** for adults age 18+ who have lost a loved one to suicide. The group is hosted by LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) and is led by a licensed clinical social worker.

Meetings will be held the **third Monday of each month, 7-9 PM**, at River Forest Township, located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street. Please call 312-655-7283 for more information and to register, or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss.

All are welcome to try the group. LOSS is a completely non-denominational program of Catholic Charities.

Township Launches “Brain Health Initiative” on October 28

In commemoration of its 100th anniversary, River Forest Township, in partnership with Oak Park-River Forest Township Senior Services and the Village of River Forest, is introducing the “Brain Health Initiative”, a multi-faceted program aimed at education, outreach, support and safety related to brain health, memory and dementia.

The kickoff events recognize National Memory Screening Month in November:

- **Saturday, October 28, 10 AM - 11:30 AM:** *“Health Living for your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research”*. Speaker Mayra Ligeza from the Alzheimer’s Association presents ways to keep your brain and memory healthy. To register, call 708-366-2027 or [email](#).
- **Friday, November 17, 10 AM – noon:** *“Alzheimer’s Research: Embracing the Future”*. Speakers Dean Hervochon and Steve Satek from Great Lakes Clinical Trials discuss the latest research and the role of clinical trials. To register: Contact Steve Smith 708-383-8060.

Both events will be held at River Forest Township (located at the River Forest Community Center), 8020 Madison Street. Light

refreshments will be served.

The Alzheimers Association is a valuable resource for those interested in learning more about brain health, for those experiencing symptoms of dementia, or their caregivers. Call their 24-7 HELpline, 1-800-272-3900, staffed by licensed clinical social workers. Visit www.alzheimers-illinois.org for information and support group locations.

Safe Disposal of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications

Safely dispose of unused or expired medications in the secure box in the basement of River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue. Pills/tablets only. No liquids/creams/hazardous items; no loose items. Pills can be disposed of in bulk in re-closeable plastic bags.

This safe action removes potentially dangerous medications from the home and helps the environment. The program is sponsored by the Cook County Sheriff's Department and is hosted by the River Forest Fire Department. A second secure collection box is located in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department at Oak Park Village Hall, 123 Madison Street.

New Information Assistance Program for Seniors and their Caregivers

Trained staff from Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services are available to talk with seniors and their caregivers about various local, state and federally funded senior-related programs, on Thursdays at two locations:

Thursday, September 7 and 21, 10 AM – 12:30 PM,
River Forest Medical Campus, 7411 Lake Street, River Forest, Building A, Community Room, Office-1104.

Thursday, September 14 and 28, 10 AM – 12:30 PM,
West Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, Oak Park, first floor, room 1062.

Please call to register for an appointment: 844-794-4301.

"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Programs: September Line-up

Seniors: Join us for these informative and engaging free programs, held at the River Forest Public Library!

Sunday, 9/10, 2 PM – *Midlife Maze: a Map to Recovery and Rediscovery After Loss* by local author Janis Clark Johnston

Sunday, 9/17, 2 PM – Mesopotamia Collection of the Oriental Institute with Sam Harris, PhD

Saturday, 9/30, 2 PM – *Lady Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales* by historian Jim Gibbons

Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library. People of all ages from all communities are welcome!

Seniors: Start the Week with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays continue at the River Forest Library on the **first Mondays at 10 AM**, Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored

by the Township and Library.

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)

October 2- presentation on genealogy by resident expert Abby Schmelling

Caregiver Support

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.

Township Seniors Services is hosting a 6-week educational series entitled "Powerful Tools for Caregivers", designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for an older relative or friend. **Mondays, October 2- November 13, 10 AM - 12:30 PM**, at 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. \$25 donation is suggested to help defray book cost. Class size is limited; registration is required. Contact Steve Smith 708-383-8060.

In addition, regular caregiver support groups continue:

The support group at Concordia University will meet 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 at 708-209-3218.

The support group at Township Senior Services will meet on the **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: Navigate the Health Insurance Maze

Open enrollment for Medicare is October 15- December 7. Free SHIP counseling (State Health Insurance Program) can help!

SHIP services are available for all River Forest residents aged 60+. Trained counselors will answer questions about accessing Medicare, Medicare Supplement choices, and Medicaid. Whether you are a first time Medicare applicant, or are choosing a supplement plan, call for an appointment, held on Fridays at the Township Senior Services building, 130 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, 708-383-8060.



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