



## 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,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017!

To start off the year, the Village Board and I will discuss several important topics such as the Village budget, Board goals and our efforts to **improve communications with residents**. We will keep you apprised of these issues in the coming months.

Among the most important things the Village Board does is to determine **how taxpayer dollars are spent** and to set goals that will raise property values, stabilize the property tax burden and ensure a high quality of life and excellent services. I encourage you to **learn more** about Village Board goals, finances and **attend budget review meetings** in March and April. Important meeting dates will be announced in future newsletters.

- The Village Board and I met in November, 2016, to discuss our goals and will formally adopt them at an upcoming meeting. An audio recording of the discussion is

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available [here](#).

- These goals can be used to help prioritize projects and prepare the Village's annual capital improvement plan (CIP) and budget.
- The Village Board will review the CIP at its January 23, 2017 meeting. The document will be available online [here](#) on January 9, along with other past and present financial documents.
- The Village Board will then review the annual budget in early March and approve it in April.
- When you **patronize businesses in River Forest your tax dollars stay here** and help fund the high quality services you receive. Whether you're buying groceries or gasoline, I encourage you to do it in River Forest.

Speaking of local businesses, if you're looking to fulfill a New Year's resolution, check out a new business, [Cyclebar](#), and help me welcome them to the community. This exciting premium indoor cycling studio is located at 7513 W. Lake Street next to the River Forest Animal Hospital.

On January 23, the Village Board and I will continue deliberations and address Trustees' questions regarding the Sustainability Committee's recommendation that the Village create a Sustainability Commission. In October, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Village Board regarding the need to create a Commission that would provide the community with long-term solutions that would **improve River Forest's environmental stewardship**.

Many thanks to all of the residents who participated in our social media survey in November. We were pleased to find that so many of you are active on social media, and are interested engaging with the Village in new ways. We will report the results and share more news this spring.

[Roy Strom](#) will continue to collect your Christmas trees, wreaths and garland **every Tuesday** for the month of January. Please be sure to remove all ornaments and lights.

Check the website for more news that you can use. Let your neighbors know about the newsletter, and encourage them to sign up for it, if they don't already receive it. For more information, click [here](#).

Best,  
Cathy Adduci  
Village President

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## Holiday Wreaths, Trees and Garland Collection Schedule

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on the following Tuesdays:

- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31

Residents should remove all decorations, lights, metal wiring and place holiday greens on the parkway by 7 AM on the above days. Please note - this does not include yard waste and/or leaves. These collections are for "holiday greens" only.

## Lights in the Mirror - How to Conduct Yourself during a Traffic Stop

The Village of River Forest Police Department would like to share resources with residents regarding contact with law enforcement officials. "Lights in the Mirror - How to Conduct Yourself during a Traffic Stop", is a video that was put together by a partnership of the Illinois State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and other law enforcement agencies.

[Click here](#) to view the video on YouTube.

Please contact River Forest Police Department Officer Glen Czernik (708-714-3543, or via [email](#)), with any questions regarding citizen contacts with law enforcement.

## IRS Warns Taxpayers of Numerous Tax Scams Nationwide

As tax season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service, state governments and the tax industry reminded taxpayers to be on the lookout for an array of evolving tax scams related to identity theft and refund fraud.

Every tax season, there is an increase in schemes that target innocent taxpayers by email, by phone and on-line. The IRS and Security Summit partners remind taxpayers and tax professionals to be on the lookout for these deceptive schemes.

Please [click here](#) to read the full summary of the most recent schemes and other helpful information.

## River Forest Police Department - Notes for the New Year

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The River Forest Police Department hopes everyone enjoyed the holidays and received everything on their wish lists. Now that December 26, the unofficial "National Day of Returns" has passed, we assume you want to keep and protect your new gifts and gadgets. One simple but important step to protecting your property is to determine if an item possesses a unique serial number, and if so, to notate that serial number in a safe location. Vehicles, bicycles, tools, and most electronics will possess a serial number etched, stamped or affixed on them in some way. By notating the serial numbers, you can provide them to police if the items are ever lost or stolen. This is crucial because law enforcement officials can enter the item's serial number into the state-wide stolen property database. If any officers encounter your property and check the serial number in the database, not only will they immediately be able to identify it as lost or stolen, but they will be able to find out where it was reported stolen so that it can be returned to you. Having the serial number also helps police locate property that has been sold to a pawn shop.

Bicycle serial numbers are usually located on the underside of the bottom bracket (where the pedals connect to the bike frame). Some mobile devices with removable batteries will have the serial number printed inside the device under the battery. Other mobile devices which cannot be opened (such as iPhones) may have the serial number listed on the packaging, otherwise it may be found within the software of the device. If you cannot find a serial number, refer to your owner's manual or research online to determine the location. Just make sure that the number you notate is the unique serial number and not the common model number.

### **New Law of Note for 2017**

#### **Approaching Disabled Vehicles (ILCS 625 5/11-907.5)**

Drivers on a highway of at least four-lanes, with two lanes proceeding in the same direction, approaching a disabled vehicle with its hazard lights flashing, must make a lane change into the lane not adjacent to the vehicle. If it would be unsafe or impossible to make the lane change, the driver must reduce speed of vehicle.

This law is an addition to an already existing law called "Scott's Law", which mandates drivers to move over or slow down for stopped emergency vehicles. Scott's Law was named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed by an intoxicated driver while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway. Harlem Avenue and North Avenue are examples of four-lane highways which would apply under this law.

Feel free to contact River Forest Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Glen Czernik via [email](#) or by phone at 708-714-

3543 with any questions.

## Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department wants everyone to enjoy the Winter safely. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Electric Outlet Safety](#)
- [Fire Extinguisher Tips](#)
- [Laundry Machine Safety](#)
- [Kitchen Safety](#)

## Help the River Forest Fire Department - Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow!



# pluggie



**Needs your help with the snow**  
**Please clear a path to and around your hydrant**



Please help me and the Firefighters by clearing away the snow. Thanks



For more information, Please call the River Forest Fire Department at 708-366-7629

## Know the Code!

With the winter continuing, the Village would like to remind you:

- Village code requires residents and business owners to

remove snow and ice from sidewalks in front of and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after an event.

- Snow or ice frozen on sidewalks that cannot be removed without injury to the pavement should be treated with an abrasive material until weather permits further clean-up.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited after snow exceeds two inches in depth, and for an eight hour period following the cessation of the snowfall.
- Snow removal contractors are prohibited from using snow blowers between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- The placement of snow or ice on any Village owned street, alley or sidewalk is prohibited.

## **OPRF High School Board Hires Permanent Superintendent**

The District 200 Board of Education is pleased to announce that it has unanimously approved the hiring of Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Ed.D., as permanent superintendent. Dr. Pruitt-Adams, who has been serving as interim superintendent since July 1, 2016, was chosen after a months-long national search that drew 48 candidates from 12 states and sought input from several dozen local stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, administrators, parents, and community members. Dr. Pruitt-Adams' new contract began January 1, 2017, and runs through June 30, 2020. [Read more.](#)



**GREEN NEWS**

## **Holiday Lights Recycling**

Residents can recycle their holiday lights at a Village collection site located on Central Avenue between Park Avenue and Keystone Avenue. The collection site will be open 24/7 through January 15th. Holiday light recycling includes:

- Italian mini lights
- Traditional lights
- LED lights
- Rope lighting
- Extension cords

Please **DO NOT** place fluorescent bulbs or CFL's in the Holiday Light Recycling.

## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

For registration and a complete listing of programs, visit the library website at [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org).

### **Family Fun**

**Friday, 1/27, 6 PM, Family Trivia, Ages 8+**  
Calling trivia buffs of all ages! Come share your expert knowledge, win prizes, and have a blast! Teams of four to six 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. For ages 8 through adult.

### **Children**

**Sunday, 1/8, 4 PM, Kindermusik, 1-4 years**  
Miss Pat shares songs and more in this fun Kindermusik program. Advanced registration required. For ages 1-4 with caregiver.

**Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 AM, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, Donuts for Dads, Kids of All Ages**

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

**Monday, 1/16, 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.

**Thursday, 1/26, 10-11 AM, Movers and Shakers, Birth-6**

## **years**

Join My Gym at the Library for fun movement activities using puppets, bubbles, and more! For kids birth-6 years with parent/caregiver.

### **Friday, 1/27, 9:30-10:30 AM, Free Play Friday, Birth-6 years**

Play and learn as you explore engaging sensory stations. For birth-6 years with parent/caregiver.

### **Saturday, 1/28, 2-3 PM, Kid Fit, Grades K-4**

Stay active all winter long at the Library. Wear comfy clothes and prepare to sweat as you have fun! Grades K-4.

## **Teens**

### **Saturday, 1/14, 3:30-4:30 PM, Tween Yoga, Grades 5-8**

Help your tween find their balance. Please register in advance at the Library, as space is limited. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring a yoga mat. Namaste.

### **Monday, 1/16, 1-2:30 PM, Quick Quilling, Grades 5-12**

Come learn how to roll, loop, curl, twist, and manipulate paper strips into beautiful intricate decorations. Registration Required.

## **Adult**

### **Wednesdays, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25**

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

### **Monday, 1/9, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday, Adult**

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. Adult Services Manager Mary Kay Akers-Stiff will give a booktalk entitled Books You'll Love in the New Year! 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.

### **Digital Library Drop-In Sessions, Tuesday, 1/10, 12-2 PM, Sunday, 1/15, 2:30-4:30 PM, Tuesday, 1/24, 5:30-7:30 PM**

Did you recently receive a new gadget this holiday season? Come and learn how to use your new tablet or smartphone to access RFPL's digital library! We can teach you how to download our apps, including hoopla movies and music, Overdrive ebooks and

audiobooks, Flipster magazines, Lynda instructional lessons, and tools for learning languages.

**Saturday, 1/14, 1-2:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum**

Join us every month for a foreign film screening. In January we will be showing The Bicycle Thief, 1948 Italian film directed by Vittorio De Sica. Snacks will be served.

**Sunday, 1/22, 2-3 PM, Famous First Ladies**

Join Jenny Riddle as she dramatizes, in character, the personal lives of three remarkable First Ladies. Hillary Clinton makes a surprise visit at the end and even sings a song!

**Sunday, 1/29, 2-3 PM, Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt, Adult**

This talk, by Dr. Foy Scalf, will discuss how the ancient Egyptians viewed these magic and medicine by surveying the surviving evidence for the practice of magic and medicine.

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## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Sibshops Announces Winter/Spring Session**

Sibshops will resume on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month: 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18. The final Sibshop will held on April 22 to accommodate spring break and Easter.

Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Siblings do fun activities and share information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

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 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](mailto:Supervisor Carla Sloan).

### **River Forest Seniors: Your Input is Vital to the Arbor West Survey**

Arbor West Neighbors is a local grass roots organization committed to enhancing the livability of our community for older adults. Arbor West is asking River Forest seniors (as well as those in Oak Park, Forest Park and the Austin neighborhood) to complete a brief survey by January 15, to help guide future strategies and programs. [Email Arbor West Neighbors](mailto:Arbor West Neighbors) to complete the survey electronically. Paper surveys are also available at River Forest Village Hall and the River Forest Community Center. Thank you in

advance for your support!

## **New Grief Support Group Being Offered in River Forest**

The LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) Program is offering a six-week grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to suicide. LOSS is a no-denominational program of Catholic Charities. Run by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the group will meet on six Thursdays, March 2 – April 6, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, at the River Forest Township offices, located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison St., 2nd floor. Registration is required in advance. Please call 312-655-7283 for more info or to register. Offered in partnership with River Forest Township.

## **Seeking a New Member for the Township Youth Services Committee**

River Forest Township is seeking a River Forest resident to fill a vacancy on the volunteer OPRF Township Youth Services Committee (YSC). The YSC provides input to developing and funding local youth programming. Experience with youth is a plus but not required. The YSC meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:45 PM. If interested, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:carla.sloan@riverforest.org).

## **Need Income Tax Preparation Assistance?**

River Forest Township supports two local initiatives for low-moderate income seniors (age 60+) who would like free income tax preparation assistance. Call as early as possible to schedule an appointment, as time slots fill very quickly.

- **AARP Tax-Aide Program:** Forest Park or Franklin Park locations. Call 708-771-7737.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program at Triton:** Call 708-456-0300 x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

## **Encore Chorale Seeks New Members for Spring Session**

River Forest Township partners with the Oak Park/River Forest Encore Chorale, the largest and fastest-growing choral program for older adults (age 55+) in the U.S.

Register now for the spring session beginning January 17. No audition. Rehearsals at Trinity High School in River Forest, Tuesdays, 9-10:30 AM. \$175 fee for 15-week session, with concert in May. Partial scholarships available through River Forest

Township for River Forest residents with demonstrated need. To register please [email Encore Illinois](#), or contact Linda Crabtree Powell at 312-342-7227 or [via email](#).

## **“Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long” Features History, Travel & the Movies**

2017 programs kick off with the January/February lineup:

- **Sunday, 1/22, 2 PM** – Famous First Ladies with Jenny Riddle
- **Sunday, 1/29, 2 PM** – Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt with Dr. Foy Scalf
- **Monday, 2/13, 10 AM** – Presidential Libraries with Ed White
- **Sunday, 2/19, 2 PM** – Oscar Prediction Party with Brain Tallerico

Programs are held at the River Forest Library at no charge. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library.

### **Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays**

Coffee Mondays are held at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM, featuring guest speakers and time left to chat! Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **January 9** (moved due to the Jan. 2 New Year’s holiday) – River Forest Library Mary Kay Akers-Stiff shares “Books You Will Love in the New Year”.
- **February 6** – Experience a special visit from our own local “Abraham Lincoln”, in commemoration of his birthday.

### **Computer Learning Labs Can Help the Winter Blues!**

Seniors: have you been wanting to build your computer skills? Work with photos? Research your family tree? Come to the weekly Computer Learning Lab at the River Forest Public Library, Wednesdays in January and February, 10-11:30 AM. For the beginner thru intermediate home/personal user. Use one of the library’s laptops or bring your own device. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Public 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 at 708-383-8060

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

Seniors: 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 River Forest 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 inside.

Pick up ICE Packets at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall and the River Forest Public Library.

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

## **Message from the Township Assessor**

The triennial reassessment for River Forest Township will be coming up. The Township has not yet been given a date as to when the reassessment notices will be mailed to residents. Taxpayers will receive the reassessment notice directly from the Cook County Assessor's office. Receipt of this notice will indicate that River Forest Township will be open for property assessment appeals for 30 days. Residents may contact our office at 708-366-2787 for assistance with the appeal process.

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## **PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

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### **Rock- In 2017!**

Enjoy a night of fun with your friends! Participate in a dodgeball tournament, Karaoke & DJ entertainment, Candy Bar BINGO, and more! Pizza will be provided. **Pre-registration is required**, no drop-ins will be accepted. (Registration deadline is January 25).

**For:** River Forest 5th - 7th Graders

**Location:** Roosevelt Middle School

**Date:** Friday, January 27

**Time:** Check-in is 6:45 - 7:15PM. Doors will be locked 7:15 - 9:15PM. Check-out is 9:15 - 9:30PM.

**Cost:** \$10 per person

## **Guitar Stars**

Ages: 6 - 12  
Students will 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. As the children progress, they will have the opportunity to test for "Guitar Belts," a fun motivational system patterned after martial arts. Each child will receive a participation award and guitar-related prizes.

**Thursdays, Jan 12 - Feb 16:** 6:00PM - 7:00PM

## **Scientifically Science**

Ages: 3 - 6

Learn all about what a real scientist does. Use scientific tools! Observe and predict what happens when you mix chemicals together. Take home a real magnifying glass.

**Wednesdays, Jan 18 - Feb 15:** 1:00PM - 2:30PM

**Thursdays, Jan 19 - Feb 16:** 9:30AM - 11:00AM

## **Kindermusik Classes**

We offer four different Kindermusik classes, for various age groups from newborn to 5 1/2 years. For details, see page 12 of our Winter-Spring Guide.

**Beginning: Thursday, Jan 19**

The River Forest Park District [Winter-Spring Fun Guide](#) is available online.

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