



## 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 of River Forest,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank all of you for watching or participating in our annual Memorial Day parade on May 30. The event included wonderful weather, great food and music. I'd also like to thank the River Forest Service Club and all of the sponsors who made the event possible. It was an inspirational way to honor the brave men and women who serve our country.

This summer the Village Board will be working on a few important economic development initiatives.

First, the process of redeveloping Lake and Lathrop will start this summer when a planned development application is compiled and submitted to the Development Review Board for review and consideration. A [redevelopment agreement](#) was approved in late March, 2016, to remove contaminated soil underneath certain buildings and areas in the parkway near this intersection. Removal of the contamination will be done effectively and safely. This redevelopment effort will become an important part of our

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economic landscape as we look ahead to begin rejuvenating our business district along Lake Street.

In addition, the Village Board will begin negotiating the redevelopment agreement with Keystone Ventures for the Village-owned property at the corner of Lake and Park.

The most exciting initiative before us is the establishment of the Madison Street TIF (Tax Increment Finance) District. The Village Board began examining the creation of a TIF District two years ago to expand the Village's tax base by redeveloping commercial properties. We continue to believe that a TIF District will benefit our community greatly by stabilizing our residential property tax burden and improving our quality of life. A TIF District on Madison Street will also enable existing businesses to improve their buildings, attract new businesses, and create opportunities for new shopping and dining destinations.

To keep you apprised of the process of considering the TIF District creation, and respond to the myriad of questions you may have, the Village will communicate with you more regularly about the reasons for considering this redevelopment tool. The Village will also add a list of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on a section of the Village's website dedicated to the [\*\*Madison Street TIF\*\*](#) ([click here to access the page](#)). Information will be updated regularly with reports, audio recordings of public meetings and other websites you can use to obtain other pertinent material. We encourage you to look at materials on our website and other sites that offer relevant information. We also urge you to read the letters we will send to you. Residents with relevant, factual information can help frame and move the debate forward.

Scheduled meetings, all of which will be open to the public, will be posted on the community calendar. On June 27 the Village Board of Trustees and I will meet to hear residents' concerns and discuss the TIF District. The Village will hold another meeting in July during which residents have an opportunity to comment. Trustees are scheduled to vote on the TIF District in early August.

The Village Board and I encourage open communication and discussion on any topic. Please reach out to your elected officials and Village Staff if you have other questions or concerns.

Please join me in welcoming the new principal at St. Luke Parish Elementary School, Timothy J. Wesley. River Forest's excellent educational institutions continue to attract educators with credentials like Principal Wesley's and we look forward to welcoming him to the community.

I hope you will come out and enjoy the [\*\*Garden Walk\*\*](#), from 10 AM to 4 PM, Sunday, June 26. This wonderful event is sponsored by the [\*\*Garden Club of Oak Park River Forest\*\*](#).

Pre-Party in the Park

Rope Warrior

Computer Learning Lab

Coffee Monday

Oak Park River Forest Garden Walk

Fourth of July Floral

Chocolate Olympics

Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction: Storm the Castle

Minecraft Madness

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Ninja Quest

Sporty Treats

Touch-A-Truck

Just Dance Wii Tournament

Balloon Sports

Larger Than Life Lawn Games

Sporty Story Time

Chicago Fire Soccer Clinic

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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New Caregiver Support Group

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Township Senior Services Committee

"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Announces Summer Programs

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Many of your children soon will head off to high school, college, graduate school or will begin their 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.

Finally, the Village Board of Trustees and I extend our wishes for a warm and wonderful Father's Day to you.

Best wishes,  
Cathy Adduci  
Village President

## 2016-2017 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:

- 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.
- Online at the Village Website by clicking [here](#).

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

## Muscular Dystrophy Association and River Forest Firefighters ask you to help "Fill the Boot"

River Forest Firefighters will be standing at Lake and Lathrop collecting for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on June 17th from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM for the annual "Fill the Boot" campaign.

River Forest Firefighters are committed to MDA's mission of saving and improving lives of those with muscle disease.

Please stop by, say "hi" and donate. If you are unable to drive by, please donate whatever you can by visiting the donation page via the River Forest Firefighters. Please [click here](#) for the link to the donation page.

To learn more about the history of Firefighters and their work on behalf of the MDA, please [click here](#). Thank you very much for

Summer Schedule  
Computer Classes

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

River Forest Park District Summer Camps begin June 13

Centennial Park Party

2016 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk

### Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)



your support!

## School District 90 Blended Preschool program at Willard School

River Forest School District is pleased to announce the opening of a Blended Preschool program. This program will be housed at Willard Elementary School for all qualifying District 90 students. This will be the first year of inclusive preschool programming for qualifying students ages 3, 4 and 5 in School District 90.

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

## OPRFHS Community Connector- Summer 2016

[Click here](#) for the summer issue of *Community Connector*, OPRF High School's quarterly community newsletter. This issue features updates on the pool project, the district's goal to reduce the fund balance, and more.

## New Principal for St. Luke School

St. Luke Parish is very pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Timothy J. Wesley as the new principal of the parish elementary school. Tim comes to St. Luke Parish from Loyola Academy in Wilmette, where he served the last four years as Assistant Principal for Academics.

To learn more, please [click here](#).

## Historic Preservation Ordinance Flow Charts

You've probably heard that River Forest's Historic Preservation Ordinance was recently updated. The most significant changes affect owners of significant properties.

- 1) The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will now review appropriateness of proposed window replacement for significant properties within 7 days.
- 2) The HPC now has the ability to delay demolition of significant properties up to six months in order to explore other alternatives with the property owner.

The HPC received multiple requests from village residents to respond to both issues. The historic preservation ordinance is published on the village website. If you click on the below link, the last few pages of the published ordinance include flow chart reference diagrams for both changes:

### [Historic Preservation Ordinance](#)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate [to contact](#) the Historic Preservation Commission via Assistant Village Administrator Lisa

Scheiner.

## Burglary and Theft Prevention Tips from the River Forest Police Department

As the weather warms up, River Forest and its surrounding areas have suffered a number of thefts and burglaries. The majority of these thefts and burglaries are preventable through basic practices. RFPD would like to remind residents of some strategies to prevent becoming a victim of theft.

- Always lock vehicles, whether they are parked outside or in a garage. This way, even if a garage door is inadvertently left open, access cannot be gained to the inside of the vehicle.
- Do not leave spare keys inside a vehicle. Cars made in the last fifteen years are nearly impossible to steal without a key or a tow truck. As such, cars are rarely stolen in our area, but when they are, it is typically because the thief had access to the vehicle's key.
- When investigating vehicle burglaries, we are occasionally told by victims that they left the vehicle doors unlocked so that a criminal would not damage their windows or doors to steal items. However, it is very rare for offenders in our area to damage vehicles to steal items as it greatly increases their likelihood of getting caught.
- In the rare event an offender damages the vehicle to gain entry, it is because the vehicle contains valuables visible from outside. As such, do not leave valuable items (including GPS devices) in your vehicle. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, make sure they are out of plain view from the outside.
- Keep garage doors closed and/or locked, even when you are home. We have seen cases where items were stolen from an open garage unbeknownst to homeowners inside the home.
- Invest in a quality bike lock, and keep your bikes locked even when parked inside your garage, yard, or house. U-Locks seem to be the strongest; avoid flexible rope or chain locks as they can be easily cut.
- Register your bike with the village. It is not required, but it is free, easy, and will help us recover your bike if it is lost or stolen.
- If your home is equipped with an alarm system, activate it when you leave home and consider activating a "stay" function (exterior alarmed but no interior motion detectors) when you are in bed. Keep windows and doors closed and locked when you are out of the home or in bed.

Feel free to contact Ofc. Czernik #148 [by email](#) or at 708-714-3543 if you have any questions or comments.

## **Safety for the Season**

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide everyone with these timely reminders. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Lightning Safety](#)
- [Grilling Safety Tips](#)
- [Fireworks Safety Tips](#)
- [Pool Safety](#)
- [Gasoline Safety Tips](#)
- [101 Critical Days of Summer Safety](#)
- [Don't Take a Vacation from Safety](#)

## **Know the Code!**

The Village would like to remind all residents to be mindful when disposing of yard waste. The collection requirements for yard waste includes the following ([see Village Code Title 6, Chapter 3](#)):

- "Yard waste" is trees or tree branches (not exceeding four inches in diameter), brush, plant stalks and shrubs cut up and bound into bundles of no more than four feet in length and fifty pounds in weight, which bundles shall be bound with biodegradable twine and shall have one universal solid waste tag affixed to each bundle. Yard waste is also grass clippings, leaves, twigs, weeds and all other materials of similar nature placed in biodegradable paper bags (up to thirty two gallons in capacity) as described in section 6-3-1 of this chapter affixed with one universal solid waste tag. It shall be unlawful for any person to mix yard waste with other garbage and refuse.
- For non-alley collections, properly packaged yard waste will be picked up "curbside", as defined in section 6-3-1 of this chapter. Materials placed for such collection shall not be put out prior to 6:00 PM on Monday (the day before yard waste collection) and will be picked up on Tuesday. For alley collection, properly packaged yard waste shall be placed for collection next to the regular garbage collection point. It shall be unlawful to place yard waste within the street, alley or walkway.

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

## **GREEN NEWS**

**Did you know your lawn doesn't need more than 1" of water per week? Take the Healthy Lawn/Healthy Family pledge!**

### **Click Here**

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

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

### **Click Here**

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

## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

### **Programs for all Ages**

**Summer Reading Programs for adults, teens and children run from June 3 through July 29. Sign up now!**

#### **Thursday, 6/16, 5:30-6:30 PM, Pre-Party in the Park, All Ages**

Join us at Centennial Park from 5:30-6:30 PM to do crafts, play games, and sign up for our summer reading program. The party continues at 6:30 with the River Forest Park District's Party in the Park featuring Animal Farm, face painting, balloon twisters, and food.

#### **Wednesday, 6/22, 4 PM, Rope Warrior, All Ages**

Come see Guinness World Record Holder David Fisher, aka The Rope Warrior, do incredible jump rope tricks, stunts, and record-breaking jumps in this awe-inspiring show. This is one event you won't want to miss! For all ages.

### **Adult Programs**

#### **Wednesdays 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab**

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, 6/6, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday**

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and learn about things going on in the community. In June, we will feature a "Hot Summer Reads" book talk presented by a librarian.

**Sunday, 6/26, 10 AM-4PM, Oak Park River Forest Garden Walk , All Ages**

The Library is one of the stops on the annual OPRF Garden Walk! Explore our beautiful Anne Smedinghoff Memorial Garden, participate in an interactive art project, read stories, do a scavenger hunt in the Children's Room, enjoy a frozen treat, and more.

**Thursday, 6/30, 7-8 PM, Fourth of July Floral, Adult**

Make a beautiful and patriotic bouquet just in time for the fourth of July! Peggy Garvin of Garvin Gardens will lead us in demonstration and hands-on creation of a bouquet of red, white, and blue flowers you can take home with you. Seating is limited and registration is required. To register, please bring cash or check of \$10 (for materials) to RFPL's second floor service desk.

## **Teen Programs**

**Tuesday, 6/14, 7 PM, Chocolate Olympics, Grades 5+**

Join us for an evening of chocolate fun! Test your speed and agility in relay races, pie eating contests, speed sorting and more! Bring your appetite and your friends. Registration Required.

**Thursday, 6/9, 7 PM, Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction: Storm the Castle, Grades 5+**

Come storm the castle with us! Transform everyday items into your own armory of catapults, crossbows, and more. Bombard the enemy with artillery and crumble their fortified castle to win.

**Thursday, 6/16, 3:30 PM, Minecraft Madness, Grades 5-7**

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to RFPL to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and compete on challenges to win prizes. Advanced registration required.

**Tuesday, 6/28, 7 PM, Trivia for the Win, 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 4 players or on your own and we'll help match you to a team. Registration Required.

**Thursday, 6/30, 3:30 PM, 8 Bit Perler Beads, Grades 5+**

Drop by, geek out, and make your own retro videogame pixel art with perler beads.

## **Children's Programs**

### **Wednesday, 6/8, 1-2:30 PM, Ninja Quest, Ages 4-7**

Calling all ninjas! Play games, do activities, and make a craft in this action packed hour of ninja fun. Advanced registration required.

### **Tuesday, 6/14, 3-4:30 PM, Sporty Treats, Grades 3-4**

Learn how to make and decorate sports-themed cake pops, candy pops, and more. Advanced Registration Required.

### **Wednesday, 6/15, 10 AM-12 PM, Touch-A-Truck, Children of All Ages**

Have you ever been up close and personal with a real fire truck or police car? Come explore the real thing and touch the trucks at the Library. This program will be held outside, weather permitting. Rain date: 6/17. For children of all ages with parent/caregiver.

### **Thursday, 6/16, 1-3 PM, Minecraft Madness, Grades 3-4**

Calling all Minecraft builders, warriors, and fans! Head to RFPL to play Minecraft in a shared realm, and compete on challenges to win prizes. Advanced registration required. Grades 3-4.

### **Tuesday, 6/21, 3-4:30 PM, Just Dance Wii Tournament, Grades K-4**

Can you move and groove to the music? Test out your dancing skills at this fun Wii game tournament. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

### **Thursday, 6/23, 3-4 PM, Balloon Sports, Grades K-4**

Have fun while you use balloons to play versions of your favorite games! Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

### **Thursday, 6/23, 3:30 PM, Larger Than Life Lawn Games, Grades 5+**

Join us on the lawn to play larger than life versions of your favorite games, including, Hungry Hungry Hippos, Kerplunk, Frisbee Tic Tac Toe, Angry Birds, and more!

### **Tuesday, 6/28, 10-11 AM, Sporty Story Time, Ages 3-6**

Read books, play games, and do a craft with a sports theme. Ages 3-6 with parent/caregiver.

### **Wednesday, 6/29, Chicago Fire Soccer Clinic, 2-3 PM (Ages 4-6), 3-4 PM (Ages 7-9)**

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. Advanced registration required.

## **TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

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

RF Township, in partnership with the RF Fire Department, is now distributing the new ICE Packet to River Forest seniors. The ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet contains a Medical Information Form which seniors can complete and store in their freezer...right where the paramedics will know where to find it in case of emergency! A decal is also provided to place on the front of your freezer.

ICE Packets are available for seniors to pick up at the Township offices (located at the RF Community Center), Village Hall and the RF Public Library.

If you are unable to pick one up, or if you have any questions, please contact [Carla Sloan](#), RF Township Supervisor, or at 708-366-2029. If the seniors in your condo building, apartment building, church group or other organization would like the ICE Packet, please let us know.

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

A new caregiver support group is underway through Concordia's Center for Gerontology, in partnership with RF Township, and is open to all RF residents who are caregivers. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 pm, at the Koehneke Community Center on the Concordia campus. If interested, please contact [Dr. Lydia Manning](#), by email or phone 708.209.3218.

A second Caregiver Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday, 10 AM – 12:30 PM at Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park. Caregivers living in OP and RF are welcome. If interested, please contact Steven Smith at 708-383-8060.

## **Opening on Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services Committee**

There is currently an opening on the OP & RF Township Senior Services Committee for a River Forest senior. The volunteer Committee, which meets once a quarter, has an advisory role to Senior Services and takes on senior-related projects. Interested residents should contact Carla Sloan, RF Township Supervisor, by June 30, at 708.366.2029 or [by email](#).

**"Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long"**  
**Announces Summer Programs**

Join us as we celebrate seniors all summer long! Co-sponsored by RF Township and RF Library. 6/30, 7/15 and 8/22 – held at the RF Library. 9/28 – held at the RF Community Center.

- Thursday, June 30, 7 PM – Flower Arranging: Red, White & Blue (fee required)
- Friday, July 15, 7:30 PM – Live music...dance to The Dooley Brothers
- Monday, August 22, 10 AM – Downsizing and Decluttering with Anna Glielmi
- Wednesday, September 28, 1:30 PM – Charles Troy dramatizes the story behind the making of *My Fair Lady*.

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

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

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

## **Computer Classes on Wednesdays**

Seniors: come in from the heat and join the Computer Learning Labs on Wednesday mornings at the RF Public Library, 10 – 11:30 AM. For the total beginner through intermediate user. Bring your own device or use one from the library. Co-sponsored by RF Library and RF Township.

## **PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT**

### **River Forest Park District Summer Camps begin June 13**

Our popular half-day Kidz Camp, Ultimate Sports Camp and Thrill Zone Camp begin Monday, June 13. Tot Camp begins June 20.

Camps do fill up. ***Register today to secure your spot in the camp of your choice!***

In addition to the half-day camps listed above, we offer 17 different afternoon Sports Camps and 15 afternoon Arts and Fun Camps. We're sure to have just the right camp for you!

For more information on our camps, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

## **Centennial Park Party**

Join us for music and fun!

**Thursday, June 16 • 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

***ANIMAL FARM Will Perform***

A colorful blend of original music, animal characters, storytelling, and audience participation, incorporating electric and acoustic instruments, costumes, and props!

***Library Fun!*** 6:00 - 7:00 PM - Visit the River Forest Public Library for crafts, games and summer reading program sign-up.

\*Bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

## **2016 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk**

Registration is now open for the **2016 Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk being held September 17, 2016, 8:00 AM**, starting at Concordia University Chicago.

For more information on this event, or to register, [\*\*click here\*\*](#).

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