



## 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,

Summer was busy and fall promises to be active as well.

#### This is what happened in August:

The Village Board of Trustees approved the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for North Avenue. The TIF District is an economic development tool that allows government to improve property that might not otherwise be developed. In other words, this tool allows us to accelerate economic development to strengthen property values and stabilize property taxes. Please refer to this [FAQ](#) for more information.

For two businesses that will be displaced by the Lake and Lathrop project and who expressed a desire to stay in River Forest, the Village Board and I are considering offering some *modest* Madison Street TIF money so these businesses can move to another location on the north side of Madison Street. It is anticipated that the funds will be used for some build-out and moving expenses. Details are still in the works, but this demonstrates the Village's strong commitment to help businesses that want to remain in our community.

The Development Review Board has voted to recommend that the Village Board of Trustees approve (with certain conditions) the mixed-use development proposed at Lake and Lathrop. The Development Review Board is an advisory body that consists of 7 volunteer residents. Village Trustees will be debating and voting on the recommendation for the project at the September 17 meeting. To learn more about the project please visit [vrf.us/lakeandlathrop](http://vrf.us/lakeandlathrop).

Please note that the next meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be at 7 p.m., **Monday, September 17** in the **Oak Park River Forest Room of the Koehneke Community Center at Concordia University, 7400 August Ave.**

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### Also in September:

The Development Review Board concluded the public hearing process last night and recommended approval (with certain conditions) of a senior care community at the northwest corner of Chicago and Harlem. The proposed development includes assisted living and memory care units. I anticipate that the Development Review Board's recommendation will be considered by the Village Board in October. To learn more about the project please visit [vrf.us/chicagoandharlem](http://vrf.us/chicagoandharlem).

Join us for the 17th annual 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand, from 3 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, September 11 on Bonnie Brae between Oak and Chicago. This year the funds that will be raised will benefit [New Moms](#) and [A House in Austin](#). To find out more, visit the event [website](#).

### Thanks to the volunteers:

Thanks to all of you who came out to Keystone Park on August 26 for the fifth annual Food Truck Rally. This event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Park, the Village and the River Forest Park District, was a big success. We thank the organizations and all of the volunteers who made it happen.

Our first community garden, a successful example of collaboration, is nearly completed for the year. This year 12 plots were rented; more may be planned for 2019. A lot of people played a role in making this a reality: the village allowed use of land near the Pump House for the gardens; the Public Works crew supplied the water; the River Forest Park District created the plots; the Sustainability Commission brought the idea forward and oversaw the project.



Congratulations to David Burns whose home at 146 Keystone was previously chosen for a Historic Preservation Award. We thank David for his efforts and the pride he has shown to ensure that historic preservation is a River Forest value. To see the marvelous work he has accomplished, watch this [video](#).

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

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci

Village President

## New Bike Racks

The Village has completed the installation of new and improved bike racks near the Metra station along Keystone, Central, and Hawthorne. Ride your bike to the train and check them out!



## Safety for the Season

Please [click here](#) and read important and timely safety tips from the River Forest Fire Department.

## Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from September 17th 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 2019. 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.

## Fire Department Open House

**Saturday, October 13, 10 AM - 2 PM, River Forest Fire Department, 400 Park Avenue**

The River Forest Fire Department will host an open house using the theme "Look. Listen. Learn." Fire station tours and activities will be available. [Click here](#) for full details.

## GREEN NEWS



There is still time to sign up for a Green Block Party and Receive a Beautiful Pollinator Garden for your Block's Parkway.

During your Green Block Party you and your neighbors will create a garden on your block as part of the "Parkways for Pollinators" program. Learn about native plants and create your own neighborhood garden. The Village has partnered with the Deep Roots Project to help residents plant native flower gardens on parkways in River Forest. These "Parkways for Pollinators" gardens are offered for free to all RF Green Block Parties. Kids and adults alike will have a dirt load of fun planting a 4' x 10' ft native flower garden that will attract butterflies, humming birds and other pollinators to your block. The plants are perennials, so your block can enjoy its pollinator garden for years to come. [Click here](#) for more information.

#### **Volunteer at the LemonAid Stand**

LemonAid is in need of volunteers for the waste stations at the 9/11 event. [Click here](#) to sign-up. Learn how to properly sort while having fun at the event. Be a part of the success! Last year LemonAid succeeded in diverting 93% of its waste from the landfill and the vast majority was compost!!

#### **Wild Ones Native Shrub and Tree Sale**

This year's Native Shrub & Tree sale, which is sponsored by Green Community Connections in collaboration with West Cook Wild Ones, offers 22 species of shrubs and trees that are listed on the Audubon Native Plants Database for this area. The database shows which birds are attracted to which species. [Click here](#) for more information.

#### **Receive Free LED lights**

What if someone told you they would give you over \$100 worth of LED light bulbs, install them at no charge, each bulb would last 22 years, and this would save you over \$100 annually on your electric bill, as well as 900 kilowatt hours of electricity each year. You would say, "I'll take it." Right? Just set up an appointment by calling 888-652-2955. Commonwealth Edison, in collaboration with your gas company, offers an Energy Efficiency Program with lots of freebies, in addition to LED light bulb. For more information, [click here](#).

**The next Sustainability Commission meeting** will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7PM. Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue. All are welcome. For more information on the Sustainability Commission, please [click here](#).



## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

### Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K

Saturday, September 15, 8 AM, Concordia University  
Chicago



The 21st Annual Community Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk will be held on September 15, 2018. Proceeds from the event benefit the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA). For event details, [click here](#).

### Halloween Hoot 'n Howl

Friday, October 12, 5:30PM - 8PM, Trailside Museum, 738  
Thatcher Ave, River Forest



Join the River Forest Park District, Trailside Museum, and the River Forest Public Library for an evening of fall family fun. Children 10 and under, and their parents, are invited to this FREE, fun event! Activities will include:

- Live Music
- Pumpkin Painting
- Live Native Animals
- Spooky Stories
- Bonfire
- S'mores & Hot Chocolate
- Telescope Star Viewing
- Night Safari Flashlight Hike
- Animal Food Preparation
- Taxidermy
- Boo Bingo
- Lantern Making and Parade

For event details, [click here](#).

### Platform Tennis

Platform Tennis Memberships are now available for purchase for the 2018 - 2019 Platform Tennis Season. Memberships can be purchased online or at The Depot, 401 Thatcher Avenue, Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

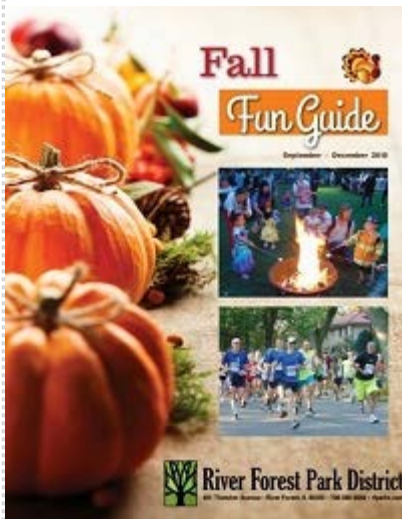
## Register Now for Rec Basketball!

Registration usually fills up before the registration deadline, so don't wait! Since we are limited by gym space, we are unable to add more teams after reaching our maximum numbers.

FOR ALL LEAGUES:

- Resident Registration - Now Open!
- Non-Resident Registration Opens - October 1
- Registration Deadline: November 30 at noon

## Registration is open for our fall programs!



To view the Fall Fun Guide, [click here](#). To register for programs, [click here](#).

## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Here are some highlights of programs at the Library in September. For a complete listing of programs, visit the Library website at [riverforestlibrary.org](http://riverforestlibrary.org)

## September is Library Card Sign-up Month and We're Celebrating in Many Ways!

### Partnerships with area businesses

Show you library card at these area businesses to get special offers during September:

- Cycle Bar
- Good Earth Greenhouse
- Kinslahger Brewing Company
- My Gym River Forest
- River Forest Chocolates

### **Bookmark Art Competition**

Design a bookmark using the theme "what's incredible about your library?". There are 4 age groups: Preschoolers, Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, Grades 9-adult. Pick up an entry form at the library for more details.

### **Candy Jar Raffle and Giveaways**

Cardholders can guess how many candies are in the jar to be entered into a raffle for a fantastic prize! Sign up for a card in September and receive a special gift.

## **Adults**

### **Saturday, 9/8, 1:30-3:30 PM, Foreign Film Forum, Adult**

Head to the River Forest Library for a free viewing of a foreign film on our big screen. Snacks will be served. In September, we will show the Italian film *The Salt of Life*.

### **Wednesday, 9/12, 7-8:30 PM, How to Pay for College without Going Broke, Grades 9-Adult**

Experienced professionals share their knowledge and expertise to guide you through action steps you can take to reduce college costs and still attend the college of your choice. Discover creative, little-known financial and academic strategies to reduce college costs while finding the best-fit college for your child. Both parents are encouraged to attend this free, 90-minute seminar presented by My College Planning Team. [Advanced registration required.](#)

## **Middle School and Teen**

### **Thursday, 9/13, 3:30-5:30 PM, Pages to Pictures: *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*, Grades 5-8**

Which is better, the book or the movie? Check out and read a copy of this month's title from the circulation desk and joins us as we watch the film and compare! In September, we will read and watch *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* (Rated PG | 1h 32min)

### **Friday, 9/28, 11:30 AM-2 PM, 1/2 Day Pizza and Mammals Encounter, Grades 5-8**

Middle Schoolers enjoy your half day with a pizza lunch and an opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the world's most unique creatures with Flying Fox Conservation Fund's Mammal's and More. [Advanced registration required.](#)

## **Children**

### **Sunday, 9/16, 1-2:30 PM, Family Egg Drop, Kids of All Ages**

Work together with your family to see if you can drop an egg from towering heights without letting it crack. Materials will be provided. Best for families with kids ages 4 and up.

### **Monday, 9/24, 4-5 PM, Amazing Artists: Vincent van Gogh, Grades K-4**

Learn about world famous artist Vincent van Gogh, and create your own art piece inspired by his unique style. Supplies will be provided. [Advanced registration required.](#)

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**EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY THE RIVER  
FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY AND RIVER**

## FOREST TOWNSHIP

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The following events are co-sponsored by the River Forest Public Library and River Forest township. **All programs are held at the Library unless otherwise noted.**

### **Sunday, 9/9, 2-3:30 PM, Very Smart People: Windows 10 Basics, Adult**

Join Very Smart People to learn everything you need to get started with Windows 10, including the new Start menu, Edge, Cortana, and basic customization. You won't want to miss this informative lesson!

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

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. This month features a representative from Wellness House.

### **Wednesday, 9/12, 10-11:30 AM, Connect With Tech, Adult**

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.

### **Friday, 9/21, 12-2:30 PM, Film Lover Fridays, Adult**

Join other movie lovers on the 3rd Friday of every month to watch popular and entertaining films! This fall we'll be showing Jimmy Stewart movies! Today we'll be watching *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy before the film starts. Light refreshments will be served.

### **Sunday, 9/23, 2-3:30 PM, The Six Wives of Henry VIII, Adult**

Six women and six stories. These fascinating women led equally fascinating lives—apart from the manner in which they ended. Educational entertainer Martina Mathisen artfully interweaves tales of power, personality, and politics. Do these six famous wives deserve their popular labels? Meet the six wives of Henry VIII and decide for yourself!

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## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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### **Sibshops Start September 15**

Sibshops, a program specially designed for siblings of those with special needs, disabilities and health challenges, starts on **Saturday, September 15, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM**, at Thrive Counseling Center, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. For 1st-7th grade siblings. Lunch is provided.

Sibshops will meet on subsequent 1st and 3rd Saturdays as follows: 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15. \$10 per session; need-based scholarships available.

Registration is required in advance; for more info or to register,



call River Forest Township at 708-366-2029 or email [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org).

### **Township Day, Friday, September 21, 4-7 PM**

Join in the festivities as River Forest and Oak Park Townships celebrate Township Day, part of a state-wide outreach to share with residents the many services provided by Townships. **Friday, September 21, 4-7 PM**, at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Bring a food donation to "fill the senior bus" for the OPRF Food Pantry. Enjoy live music and refreshments, receive a free oak sapling, and learn what your Township does for you!

### **"Support4U" Program Rolls out to Middle and High Schools**

A new program and cell phone "app" called "Support4U" are being rolled out this fall to middle and high school students in Oak Park and River Forest. Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource for students, by which they can text licensed mental health clinicians for assistance or guidance on such issues as anxiety, depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, bullying, or any other mental health-related topic.

Support4U is anonymous and available to students 24/7. We thank Districts 90, 97 and 200 for their support of this program on behalf of their students.

Please share this information with D90 and D200 students! The Support4U texting number is 844-670-5838. District 90 students will also text the word "SAFE" and District 200 students will text the word "CARE".

Support4U is sponsored by River Forest Township, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, NAMI, and the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club.

For more information, please contact your school administration or Supervisor Carla Sloan at [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

### **Senior Wellness Group to Promote More Meaningful Living**

Seniors: Gather with other older adults to share and learn ways to enhance meaningful living, including mental wellness and longevity. Oak Park and River Forest Township Senior Services is partnering with Concordia University to host a free 8-week wellness group at Concordia in the Christopher Center, 7400 Augusta Ave., room #263. **Tuesdays, September 11 thru October 30**, 3:30 – 4:30 PM or 6:30 – 7:30 PM. For more info or to register, contact River Forest Township Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or [supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org](mailto:supervisor@RiverForestTownship.org).

### **Encore Senior Chorale Starting the Fall Season**

Registration is still open for the fall 2018 Oak Park and River Forest Encore senior chorale, one of 7 Encore chorale groups across Chicagoland. People aged 55+ are welcome; no audition required. Rehearsals have already begun at the Nineteenth Century Club at 178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park. (Note: this is a change in location from Trinity High School.)

The fall session culminates in a December 8 concert. Cost is \$175; need-based scholarships are available from River Forest Township upon request. To register, [click here](#). Questions?

Email [registration@encoreillinois.org](mailto:registration@encoreillinois.org).

### **Introducing the Great Neighbors Program**

A local partnership, consisting of Arbor West Neighbors, Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, and Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, is introducing the Great Neighbors Program in the River Forest and Oak Park community. Through this program, which fosters “intergenerational connectedness”, River Forest and Oak Park residents aged 18+ can volunteer to become a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior in their neighborhood.

One or more “Friendly Neighbor” volunteers will be matched with a senior, with whom they will connect and share on a regular basis. Brief training and screening are required. The time commitment is flexible.

Great Neighbors is a program of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and has had much success in Chicago!

If you are interested in becoming a “Friendly Neighbor” to a senior, or if you are a senior and would like to connect with other adult neighbors on a more regular basis through this program, please contact Supervisor Carla Sloan, 708-366-2029 or [supervisor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:supervisor@riverforesttownship.org).

### **“SHIP” Senior Health Insurance Counseling Moves to River Forest on 1st Fridays**

Free Senior Health Insurance (SHIP) counseling will now be available at the River Forest Township offices on the first Friday of each month, located at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street, 2nd floor. SHIP counseling will still be available on the other Fridays at Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park. Call 708-383-8060 to schedule an appointment.

### **Seeking Full-Time or Part-Time Employment?**

Excellent free employment resources are available to all, including those age 50+, at the West Suburban Cook County American Job Center, 1701 South 1st Avenue, Maywood. Resume and interviewing skills...job re-training...job opportunities...all are available at this center. For more information, contact Laina at 708-223-2652.

There is a special hiring fair for the hospitality industry in downtown Chicago on Wednesday, September 19. Call the Job Center for a required pre-interview; Job Center will then assist with registration for the hiring fair for those who qualify after the pre-interview.

### **Seniors and Free/Reduced RTA Fares**

River Forest Township has been receiving many calls regarding senior fares on the RTA, which includes CTA, Metra and PACE. Seniors are entitled to an automatic 50% fare reduction when they turn 65 and complete the application process. Disabled seniors or reduced-income seniors are eligible to apply for free fares. Visit [www.rtachicago.org](http://www.rtachicago.org) or call 312-913-3110.

Seniors can also ride the Township Senior Services bus here in Oak Park, River Forest, and some nearby locations. Ride Monday through Friday, 7:45 AM – 4 PM; reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance and scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Suggested donation \$1 per ride. Call 708-383-4806 for

more info.

### **Support Group for Those Who Have Lost a Loved One to Suicide**

A monthly drop-in support group is held in River Forest for adults aged 18 and over who are suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide. The group is run by LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) and is led by a licensed clinical social worker.

**The group meets on the third Monday of each month, 6-8 PM. Next meeting is September 17.**

The group is hosted by the 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](http://www.catholiccharities.net/loss).

The previously held teen group is no longer meeting in River Forest. However, if anyone you know is interested in participating in a teen group, please contact the number above.

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



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