



Village of River Forest
E-News



RIVER FOREST
Proud Heritage • Bright Future

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 July. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful Independence Day.

Here is what happened at our June Board Meeting...

The Trustees and I had an informative presentation on June 24 regarding deer and other wildlife that are increasingly wandering through our neighborhoods. Click [here](#) to watch the presentation.

By a unanimous vote, River Forest adopted the state law raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21. An ordinance adopted by Trustees also will raise the minimum age for possession of tobacco products to 21. This is a public health issue that affects us all.

Much of the rest of the newsletter will be devoted to addressing how River Forest will become an age-friendly community. We need to mold and weave this question throughout each and every facet of the community, into every unit of government and every public and private institution here in River Forest.

Let me explain what I mean by "age friendly." An age-friendly community enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of age. It is a place that makes it easy for aging people to stay connected to those who are important to them. It also helps people stay healthy and active and provides appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves. For instance, aging residents may need:

- Housing alternatives if they can no longer maintain their property or they may need assistance with simple chores like raking leaves, shoveling snow from their sidewalks or completing simple home repairs.
- Transportation because they can't drive as much or as far.
- Special recreation facilities and parks if they are not designed for users of all ages.
- Emergency services, with increased calls, including from more residents with memory issues. This point alone is

the reason Trustees in February passed a resolution declaring River Forest a [Dementia-Friendly Community](#), making us the fifth governmental agency in Illinois to be so recognized by Dementia Friendly America. In March, I signed a [pledge](#) approved by Trustees to make River Forest a place for successful aging. This also



led us to foster an [ID bracelet program](#), which is intended to give public safety personnel a means of quickly locating necessary information to help residents in emergencies, while maintaining sensitivity and confidentiality of personal data. Firefighters, police officers and library employees also

have taken 'Dementia Live' training to understand what people with dementia can experience.

- Opportunities for outreach from younger generations and intergenerational activities so older adults can remain socially connected. This will prevent isolation.

Our demographics are changing and people are living longer. Adults over the age of 85 are growing faster than any other age group. By 2030, it is estimated that nearly 20% of the population will be older than 65. By 2050, it is estimated that more than 1 million Americans will be older than 100. By that year, which is when millennials will enter retirement age, many of their parents will still be alive. This is not just about the Baby Boomers; it's about all generations of our residents.

River Forest will be engaged in this vital enterprise. I am chairing a committee for the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus that will define policies that can solidify these aims for us. Trustee Respicio Vazquez will head this initiative for us at the village level. Together, we will have a solid direction on where we should be going.

Other news...



Four of River Forest's Prairie School homes that are on the market were featured in a recent issue of [Chicago Magazine](#). It's an interesting and informative article.

Our quarterly community crime prevention meeting will be at 6 p.m., July 24 at the River Forest Public Library. It is free and open to the public. We will also be live streaming the meeting on Facebook Live and the Village's website.

For some fun for the whole family, check out our very own River Forest resident and business woman Andrea Lissuzzo (www.andreatheyogi.com) who leads goat yoga classes at www.glennartfarm.com which is located near Lake and Austin in Chicago.

On July 9, the Sustainability Commission will be meeting with businesses to discuss the reduction of single-use plastic in River Forest in favor of more sustainable materials. This effort is in support of "Charlotte and McKenzie Reusable Bag Day" (July 9), a day so named in 2018 to recognize the efforts of two 8th graders from Roosevelt Middle School who advocated for the use of reusable materials in the lunchroom to divert waste and reduce single-use plastic.

Finally, summer is here! Please be mindful of those in need. Keep an eye on your neighbors and make sure they are comfortable and cool in their surroundings. Click [here](#) for tips on keeping cool in hot weather.

Happy 4th and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci
Village President

Follow the Village of River Forest on Instagram!

The Village of River Forest is now on Instagram! Follow along to see all of the great things going on in River Forest. [@villageofriverforest](#)

Overnight Parking Ban Lifted for Independence Day Weekend

Overnight parking will be allowed on Village streets from 12:01 AM Thursday, July 4, 2019 through 9:00 AM Monday, July 8, 2019. No overnight parking waivers will be required during this period. All other parking regulations remain in effect.

Drop It And Drive

The Illinois Tollway has joined forces with elected officials and the transportation industry launching the Drop It And Drive campaign in an effort to raise awareness of the dangers and penalties for holding a phone while driving. On July 1, a new state law



went into effect that treats the use of any hand-held mobile device while driving as a moving violation with stiff penalties. Click [here](#) to learn more about the enhanced distracted driving law.



Safe Routes to School Implementation Schedule

The Village will be installing new signs, including stop signs, to complete the implementation of the Safe Routes to School recommendations. To learn more about the Safe Routes to School plan, click [here](#). To view a map with the new sign locations, click [here](#). Installations of the new signage are scheduled to take place north of Chicago Avenue between **July 15 and August 2** and south of Chicago Avenue between **August 5 and August 23**.

Upcoming Construction Around River Forest

With the summer comes construction season. For a full list of Village improvement projects, visit [vrf.us/construction](#) and view the list of projects or map. Click on any specific project to be redirected to an interactive map complete with the most recent construction updates.

Additionally, the Village will continue to make updates and information regarding the planned development projects at the corners of Chicago and Harlem and Lake and Lathrop available online at [vrf.us/ChicagoandHarlem](#) and [vrf.us/LakeandLathrop](#).

Township Assessor Pamela Kende - Cook County Board of Review Community Outreach

River Forest will be open for appeals with the Cook County Board of Review from July 1 - July 30. The River Forest Township will be hosting a Community Outreach meeting with the Board of Review on **Thursday, 7/25 at 6:00 PM** at the River Forest Community Center located at 8020 Madison St. Room 206. Please bring a tax bill with you and you will be able to submit your appeal to the Board of Review at the meeting. This appeal

period is starting over a month earlier than previous years. You can also appeal online at: www.cookcountyboardofreview.com. The Township Assessor office can assist with the appeal process.

The Township Assessor office will be extremely busy during the month of July. Appointments are necessary unless you come in during walk-in office hours: Thursday's 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Appointments are available throughout the week. Please call 708-366-2787 and leave your name, address, phone number twice and your concern.

Fireworks Safety

The River Forest Fire Department and the Illinois State Fire Marshal recommends that fireworks be left to professionals for a safe Fourth of July celebration. Please click [here](#) for more information on fireworks safety.



Additionally, the [United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) has notified area Police and Fire departments of a potentially dangerous situation with fireworks and have issued a recalls for many firework products, including some sold in [Indiana](#) and [Michigan](#). Please stay safe this holiday and if you do choose to enjoy a firework show, leave it to professionals.

Nearest July 4 Fireworks, beginning at dusk:

Oak Park: OPRF High School (201 Scoville Ave.)

Forest Park: Park District (7329 W. Harrison St.)

Elmwood Park: Elmwood Park High School (8201 W. Fullerton Ave.)

River Forest ordinances prohibit any person from using, selling, delivering, exploding or possessing fireworks in the village all year round. The term "fireworks" includes firecrackers, cherry bombs, M-80's, bottle rockets and Roman candles. Remember, the laws in Illinois do not change over the July 4 holiday or for any other holiday.

Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation Commission has extended its deadline for accepting applications for 2019 Historic Preservation Awards from homeowners, architects or contractors who have completed qualifying jobs in River Forest since January 1, 2014. **Nominations must be received on or before July 19, 2019.** For full details and an application, click [here](#).

The Village's Historic Preservation Commission completed a Village Wide Architectural and Historical Survey of all properties in 2013. The report was made available as a searchable database to aid in the research of individual properties. To view the searchable database of properties and learn more about preservation, visit vrf.us/historicpreservation.



Historical Society House Walk

The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest will host a house walk called "West Side Stories: People and Architecture that Shaped River Forest". The walk will be on **Saturday, 7/13** from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM starting at the Trailside Museum. For tickets and full information, please click [here](#).

2019-2020 Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers for 2019-2020 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:

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

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.

Stickers are \$45 for passenger vehicles and \$25 for motorcycles, antique vehicles and senior citizens (one senior citizen vehicle sticker per household). Vehicle sticker applications were recently mailed. If you receive an application for a vehicle that you no longer own or a duplicate application, please notify the Village by either calling, or returning the application noting the vehicle's status in the enclosed envelope, so that the vehicle will be removed from our records.

For additional information please contact Village Hall at 708-366-8500 or click [here](#).

River Forest School District 90

The last day of District 90 Summer School is **Friday, 7/12**. There will be no Summer School on July 4. Students have been learning and enjoying themselves during this summer learning experience. School starts for students in District 90 on **Wednesday, 8/28**.

GREEN NEWS

Plastic Free July Challenge

Join members of the Oak Park-River Forest community as many of us pledge to reduce our plastic use in July. Visit www.plasticfreejuly.org to pledge and get ideas to help you (and millions around the world) reduce single-use plastic every day at home, work and leisure. For more information, visit vrf.us/sustainability.



PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



Party in the Park - Mr. Singer & The Sharp Cookies

Thursday, 7/18 (rain date 8/1) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
at Constitution Park

Mr. Singer leads Chicago's most energetic band that rocks for kids. The songs are clever originals augmented by fun, punky favorites, all amplified by a larger-than-life performer and his bandmates: Kerry Appleberry and Marius Mustard! In addition to the live entertainment, there will be face painting, a balloon twister, grilled hot dogs and frozen treats. Lou Malnati's will also provide free pizza slices! Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, and enjoy the fun! Free event for all ages. Click [here](#) for details.

Register Now for Summer Camp!

In addition to the popular half-day morning camps (Tot Camp, Kidz Camp, and Ultimate Sports Camp), the Park District offers a large variety of afternoon specialty camps. Thrill Zone is a field trip based camp for kids ages 10 - 14. Click [here](#) to check out the variety of fun summer camps.



RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Summer Fun at the Library

Summer is in full swing at the library! The Summer Reading



Program kicked off with an awesome party and almost 500 attendees! Adults, teens and children can sign up anytime, and the Program runs until **8/21**. Log the books you read and be eligible for great prizes (really great prizes, even for adults). This year's theme, "a universe of stories", has inspired lots of spaced-themed programs for all ages. There's something fun happening pretty much every day, so stop on by. Check the [calendar](#) to see all events or to register for special programs.

Events Not to Be Missed

Monday, 7/15, 4:00 PM: Kids of all ages, *The Magic of the Spellbinder*.

Saturday, 7/20, 3:30 PM: Adults, *Apollo 11: One Giant Leap, A Series of Firsts*.

Tuesday, 7/23, 2:00 PM: Kids of all ages, *Owl Mania* (with a live owl). Sign-up [here](#).

Monday, 7/29, 3:00 PM: Grades K - 4, *Talk to a NASA Expert*. Sign-up [here](#).

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

To learn more about the programs and services provided by River Forest Township, please visit the website, www.RiverForestTownship.org, or the River Forest Community Calendar at www.RFHappenings.com.

Second Installment Tax Bills

Second installment tax bills will be mailed out on time. You should have received your tax bill by 7/5. You can look up your tax bill, your exemptions, and pay online (with no additional fees) at: www.cookcountytreasurer.com. If you need assistance or are missing an exemption you are entitled to, our office can assist you.

School Supply Drive

Youth Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships is hosting a school supply drive to benefit local youth in need. Drop off school supply donations at the main Oak Park Public Library or at River Forest Public Library from **6/17 - 8/7**. Cash and Amazon donations accepted at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. Please contact Township Youth Services with questions at 708-445-2727 or by [email](#).

Older Adults: Time for Summer Camp!

A new and exciting Summer Camp for Seniors will be held **8/5 - 8/9** at Concordia University (in the Christopher Center). The camp includes daily speakers, fun activities, lunch and one field trip during the session. For more info, [email Carol Nelson](#), Camp Director.

AROUND RIVER FOREST

Still looking for more River Forest info? Click below.

[River Forest Community Calendar – RFHappenings.com](#)

[Village of River Forest](#)

[River Forest School District 90](#)

[OPRF High School District 200](#)

[River Forest Park District](#)

[River Forest Public Library](#)

[River Forest Township](#)



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