



## 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 September. Summer was busy, and we anticipate that the remainder of the year will be active as well.

#### Here's what happened in August

The Village Board of Trustees and I were honored to swear in Mike Smith to the position of Fire Lieutenant. Lieutenant Smith has spent 18 of his 21 years of fire service in River Forest. He has received numerous commendations for his outstanding work as a fire investigator and paramedic instructor. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.



Congratulations to the River Forest 12U baseball team for giving the community a summer to remember. For the first time in its 67-year history, the team captured its first 12U State Championship and advanced to the Little League Great Lakes Region Tournament. The Village hosted a watch party for both nationally televised games and held a parade and rally to recognize and congratulate the team. The Board of Trustees and I also recognized the team during our August 26 meeting. Congratulations to the team - you made us all proud!

Thanks to all of you who came out to Keystone Park on August 24 for the sixth 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.

The Village has issued a permit to start construction on the Chicago and Harlem Senior Care Community. Site demolition has begun and a ground-breaking is anticipated this fall. To read more and get project updates, click [here](#).

After hearing a presentation from staff and discussing the matter, the Village Board of Trustees decided to conduct a community meeting to get resident input and gather more information on whether we should allow cannabis business establishments (CBEs) in town. The discussion will center around a new state law, the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (CRTA), which allows adults to possess and consume recreational marijuana, with restrictions. The law also defines and establishes baseline regulations on CBEs and provides a framework for how they can obtain state licenses. Visit the Village's [website](#) to learn more, view the staff [presentation](#) that will be made on September 9, [listen to the August 26 Board discussion](#), and view a list of [FAQs](#). The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 9 at the Village Hall.

### Here's a preview of September

Following the 6 p.m. meeting and community discussion, if the Board chooses to move forward with permitting CBEs in River Forest, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will be directed to conduct a public hearing in October to consider changes to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow for a dispensary and craft growers. At the end of November, Trustees will consider the ZBA's recommendation and make a decision. Other Village Code amendments will be made before the law goes into effect on January 1, 2020. The Village Board would also need to consider an Ordinance imposing a 3% excise tax on cannabis sales in River Forest and would need to take final action on that Ordinance by October 1, 2019.

Also on September 9, at the request of the Park District, the Village Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the proposed turf at Keystone Park as a minor amendment to the Park District's planned development permit. Consistent with Village ordinance and past practice, turf installations that do not cause greater use of the Village's stormwater system are treated as minor amendments.

An update on deer is tentatively scheduled for discussion at the September 23 Village Board of Trustees meeting. Meeting information will be posted on the website and Facebook. Click [here](#) for the FAQ on deer maintenance.

Please join us for the 18th annual 9/11 Charity "LemonAid" Stand, from 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, September 11 on Bonnie Brae between Oak and Chicago. This year the funds that will be raised will benefit [Hephzibah Children's Association](#) and [Beat the Streets Chicago Wrestling](#). To find out more, visit the event [website](#).

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

### Bur Oak Blight

If you have Bur Oak trees exhibiting signs of browning leaves or plant disease, this may be Bur Oak Blight. Click [here](#) for more information on the symptoms and potential treatment.



### Fall Leaf Collection

The Village's annual Fall Leaf Collection Program runs from September 16 through November 29. The next opportunity to dispose of leaves after November 29th will be during the yard waste collection program which starts in April 2020. 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.

## River Forest Fire Department

**Fire Station Open House and Touch-A-Truck: Saturday, 10/12, 10 AM - 2 PM (400 Park Avenue)**

The River Forest Fire Department is hosting an Open House and Touch-A-Truck event next month. Bring a camera for this special tour and hop in the driver's seat of a fire engine or a Public Works bobcat. Ride a bicycle and get it registered, and take a moment to sign up for a library card. Click [here](#) for more information.



## River Forest Police Department

September 15 – 21 is Child Passenger Safety Week. The River Forest Police Department would like to remind the community that several officers are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and free inspections are offered at Village Hall. Click [here](#) for more information.

To schedule an appointment, stop in the office or contact Crime Prevention Officer Ben Ransom at 708-366-7125 x343 or via [email](#).

## River Forest District 90

### Willard Elementary School's 90th Anniversary Celebration

Help Willard Elementary School celebrate its [90th Anniversary](#) on **Saturday, 9/7, 9 AM - noon**, with a special assembly at 10 AM. Willard is located at 1250 Ashland Ave, River Forest. Students will make presentations about the 90 years of the school. Memorabilia has been donated by Willard alum and will be on display. The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest has been assisting with the celebration. We hope to see you there!



### Lincoln and Willard Open Houses

Lincoln and Willard Elementary Schools will hold their Open House events on **Thursday, 9/12** starting at 6:30 PM. Open Houses provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet one another. Teachers also explain their classroom procedures and offer guidance to parents on methods to support their students. Open Houses represent an important part of the school/family partnership that supports our families.

## GREEN NEWS



### New Map Highlight's River Forest's Commitment to Native Planting

The Sustainability Commission partnered with Green America to map native gardens on National Climate Victory Garden Day. Click [here](#) to find the online map of River Forest's native gardens. Amazingly, 26,000 square feet of native gardens are mapped in River Forest so

far! Interested in a free native garden? Sign up for a [green block party](#) and receive a free native garden. The program will continue through next year's block party season.

**Monday, 9/23 7:30 PM, free screening of *A Plastic Ocean*, Buzz Cafe (Oak Park)**

In the center of the Pacific Ocean gyre, researchers found more plastic than plankton. *A Plastic Ocean* documents the newest science, proving how plastics, once they enter the oceans, break up into small particulates that enter the food chain where they attract toxins like a magnet. These toxins are stored in seafoods' fatty tissues, and eventually are consumed by us. Discussion about how to live a plastic-free life will follow the screening.

## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT



### Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk

The River Forest Park District will host its 22nd Annual Byline Bank Makin' Tracks 5K Run/Walk on **Saturday, 9/21**. This race is presented by the Byline Bank of Oak Park River Forest, the River Forest Park District, Concordia University Chicago, and Fenwick High School. Proceeds from this event benefit the West Suburban Special Recreation Association. Register by September 6 to receive the early registration discount! Click [here](#) for event details and to register.

### Family Camp-Out at Priory Park

Family Camp-out is a free and green overnight camping experience. Camping will be **Friday 9/27, 6:30 PM - Saturday 9/28, 7:30 AM**. Look forward to a Solar System Ambassador, storytelling by River Forest Library staff, and a campfire with s'mores! All ages are welcome with at least one adult chaperone per group. The registration deadline is 9/26 by 4:30 PM. Click [here](#) to register or stop by the Depot.



## RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT



### September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

Sign up for a library card during September and receive a custom tote bag or a stylus pen. New and existing cardholders can be entered into our raffle when they guess the number of candies in the candy jar. Then, head out to several area businesses to take advantage of special offers for River Forest Library Card Holders. Click [here](#) for details on business offers.

### Construction to Begin Monday, September 9

The Library will be breaking ground on the lobby and 1st floor staff area renovation project on Monday, 9/9. The Library plans to remain open to the public during the anticipated 10-week construction period. Here are some things to be aware of:



- The main entrance will be closed. Patron traffic will be directed through the exterior Meeting Room door on the north side of the building.
- The Circulation desk and staff will move into the Barbara Hall Meeting

Room.

Click [here](#) to find out about all the library happenings.

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## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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To learn more about the programs and services provided by River Forest Township, please visit [www.RiverForestTownship.org](http://www.RiverForestTownship.org), or the River Forest Community Calendar at [www.RFHappenings.com](http://www.RFHappenings.com).



### Free Film and Discussion to Recognize National Recovery Month

Russell Brand's film, *From Addiction to Recovery*, will be shown on **Saturday, 9/14** at Concordia's Koehneke Community Center. This free program includes a poster presentation at 10 AM; movie and panel discussion at 11 AM; lunch and open mic at 12:30 PM. Hosted by the Addiction Recovery Team, in partnership with River Forest and Oak Park Townships. For more info, find Addiction Recovery Team on [Facebook](#) or call 708-358-8855.

### Meaningful Living Groups for Older Adults to Start September 24

Interested in enhancing your quality of life? Promoting meaningful living into older age? Connecting with others? Join a wellness group for older adults! Offered free of charge for 8 weeks, **Tuesdays 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM, September 24 – November 12**. Hosted by the Community Counseling Center of Concordia University (Christopher Center, Room 263, 7400 Augusta Ave, River Forest), in partnership with River Forest & Oak Park Townships. Parking is available directly in front of building. Call Township Senior Services to register 708-383-8060; space is limited to 12 participants. Transportation offered is through Township Senior Services; call 708-383-4806.

### Marijuana Town Hall Meeting on October 2

All are invited to attend a Marijuana Town Hall Meeting on **Wednesday, 10/2, 7:00 – 8:30 PM** at Percy Julian Middle School, 416 S. Ridgeland Ave, Oak Park. Join River Forest and Oak Park Townships and the League of Women Voters in a discussion about the new marijuana legislation, which takes effect 1/1/20. Learn what this new law means for the community. Hosted by Positive Youth Development.

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## AROUND RIVER FOREST

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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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