

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

The Village of River Forest Newsletter | October, 2024



Fall Leaf Collection

The Village’s fall leaf collection begins mid-month. Residents can rake leaves into the street where Village crews will collect them. Leaves should be piled near, but slightly away from the curb to ensure proper drainage if there is a rain event.

Prior to Monday, October 14 when the program starts, the Village streetsweeper will collect any light leaf fall that is raked into the street. From October 14 through the first week of December, Village crews will collect leaves throughout the workday based on the following schedule:

- **Monday:** Areas west of Thatcher Avenue, including Edgewood Place, and Auvergne Place, River Oaks Drive and Lake Street, and all streets south of the railroad tracks.
- **Tuesday:** All streets between William Street and Harlem Avenue.

- **Wednesday:** All streets between Lathrop and Monroe avenues (north of the railroad tracks).
- **Thursday:** All streets between Park and Ashland avenues (north of the railroad tracks).
- **Friday:** All streets between Thatcher and Forest avenues (north of the railroad tracks).

You can find a [map](#) of the collection schedule on the Village website [here](#). Please note that this program is for leaf collection only—grass clippings, brush, and other materials should be disposed of according to the Village’s **refuse** and **yard waste** guidelines. More information on the Village’s Curbside Composting Program, including a new option to share a cart with a neighbor and split the cost, can be found [here](#). If you would prefer to take part in the “Leave the Leaves” initiative, information can be found [here](#).

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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

Thank you to Bellwood Village President Andre Harvey for hosting this year's Tour de Proviso. This free event will be held tomorrow, Saturday, October 5 beginning at 7 a.m. As a reminder, for everyone's safety, I encourage all bicyclists to follow the rules of the road and be sure to wear a helmet while you are out and about!

I'm very pleased that our residents have been highly engaged with our new Neighborhood Dialogue events - which are meant to provide a place where input and feedback can be gathered to plan for the Village's future. This effort, in addition to the quarterly Casual Conversations, is aimed at strengthening connections between the Village and our community members.



The Village of River Forest hosted a well-attended Community Meeting this past Tuesday, seen above, to gather input for a potential on-street extension of the Des Plaines River Trail on Thatcher Avenue from North Avenue to Madison Street. Those who attended provided feedback on the project and provided an important first step in hearing from our community. A Village [web page](#) has more information, along with a link to a form to provide your feedback. **Please note** that comments are requested by October 15.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and early detection is key to survival. Be sure to schedule your screening appointment and perform regular self-exams. For more information on additional ways to detect breast cancer, click [here](#).

Sincerely,
Cathy

Cathy Adduci, Village President
Village of River Forest



Village Board Trustees



Erika Bachner



Kathleen Brennan



Lisa Gillis



Ken Johnson



Robert O'Connell



Respicio F. Vazquez

Village Clerk



Jonathan Keller

To contact the Village Board to submit a comment or question, click the button below

[Contact the Village Board](#)

News Around Town

Native Plant Sale

Bring native plants to your yard and help reverse biodiversity loss while attracting more butterflies and birds! A native plant sale will be held at Roosevelt Middle School tomorrow (Saturday, October 5) from 9 - 11 a.m., with plants priced between \$3 and \$10. These pesticide-free plants, grown locally from harvested seeds, are perfect for fall planting to bloom by spring 2025. The sale is organized by Roosevelt Green 4 Good, the PTO, Faculty, and the Eco-Warrior club, with proceeds benefiting Friends of the Forest Preserves.



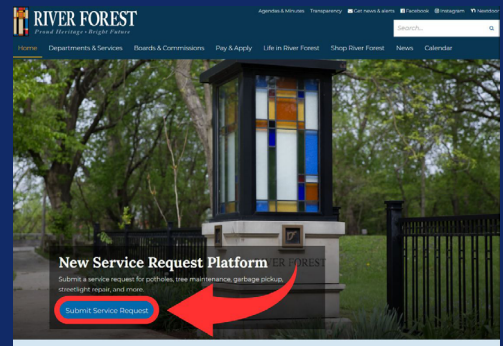
Community Paper Shredding

Join the River Forest Public Library for a free document shredding event on Saturday, October 5 from 2-4 p.m. If you have documents that need to be safely destroyed because they contain personal information, bring them to the Library on this day when a paper shredding company will be stationed in the parking lot. Please bring no more than three boxes' worth of documents per person and **DO NOT** bring documents that include binder clips, hanging file folders, photos, or any metal thicker than a paperclip. Learn more [here](#).



New Service Request Platform

The Village is thrilled to announce the launch of a new and improved Service Request platform! This system makes it easier for residents to submit and track requests, such as garbage bin replacement, branch pickup, road/sewer issues, water bill inquiries and much more. You can submit requests anonymously or create an account for tracking. If you have suggestions for improving the system, please reach out to the Village by calling **708-366-8500!** [A how-to video](#) is available to help residents get started!



Neighborhood Dialogues on Future Development

Thanks to the increasing interest and enthusiastic feedback surrounding the Neighborhood Dialogue series, the Village is excited to invite hosts from all neighborhoods in River Forest. The goal is to engage with more residents and learn about the issues that matter most to our community. So far there has been great feedback on economic development, along with feedback on restaurant recommendations, traffic, parking, and landscaping. If you're interested in hosting a Neighborhood Dialogue or want to learn more, please contact Village Administrator Matt Walsh at mwalsh@vrf.us. The Village is looking to schedule as many neighborhood dialogues as possible before the holiday season.

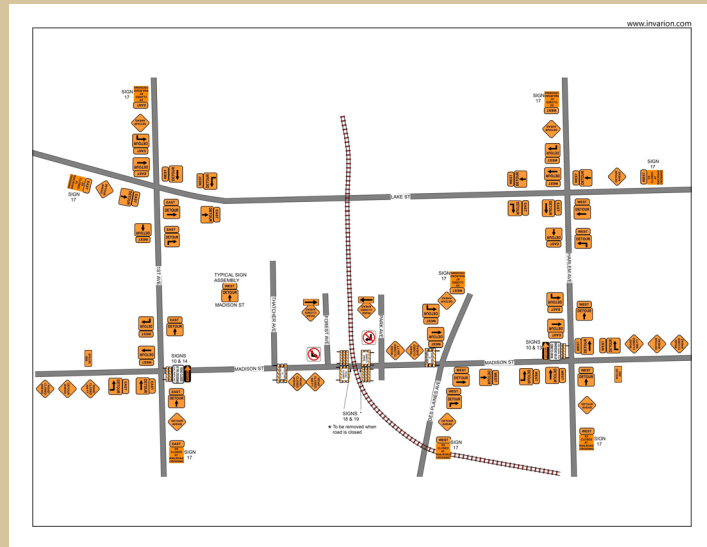


Village Department News

Village Administration

Traffic Alert: Upcoming Train Track Construction

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Canadian National (CN) Railroad will be replacing the track structure on Madison Street, east of Forest Avenue, from 9 a.m. starting Monday, October 14. The work will include the installation of a new rubber crossing surface. Madison Street will be closed, with traffic detoured via Lake Street, 1st Avenue, and Harlem Avenue. Detour signs will be posted leading up to the closures. In response to the detours, the Police Department will be running targeted traffic enforcement in the neighborhood to combat speeding and traffic concerns.



Public Works

Survey Identifies Your Water Service Line Material

The Public Works and Engineering Department is working diligently to ensure the safety and quality of the community's water infrastructure, and that it complies with the Lead Service Line Replacement Act, as required by the State of Illinois. As part of this initiative, you may see Village crews potholing along the parkway. This work is being done to identify all residential water service line materials.

You can help by testing and identifying the material on your side of the water pipes. Please see the instructions at the following link to communicate what is found from the test - by completing the [survey on-line](#) or scan the QR code below to access it.

Scan To Take Survey



Once the Village has collected this information, a plan will be developed to systematically replace lead service lines throughout River Forest and coordinate directly with impacted property owners.

If lead is detected, [take these steps to reduce your exposure](#). You can also click [here](#) for more information.

Police Department



Trick-or-Treating is on Thursday, October 31 from 3-7pm!
Halloween Safety Tips for kids and adults are provided by the Police Department below:

- 👁️ **Be seen!** Wear reflective costumes or add reflective tape to your outfit and carry a flashlight or glow stick to ensure visibility in the dark.
- 👗 **Choose Safe Costumes:** Make sure costumes fit well to avoid tripping and opt for face paint instead of masks to ensure clear vision.
- 🍬 **Inspect candy:** Check all treats for tampering and discard anything with broken seals or unusual packaging.
- 🚶 **Stay on Sidewalks:** Have trick or treaters walk on sidewalks and use crosswalks and avoid cutting across yards or streets.
- 👨 **Accompany young children:** Always supervise young trick-or-treaters and encourage older children to go in groups and stick to well-lit areas.
- 🏠 **Keep the Spooky Fun Outdoors:** Be sure trick or treaters do not enter anyone's home while trick-or-treating and have them only visit houses where you can see the porch light on.
- 🚗 **Drive Cautiously:** Slow down and be alert in residential areas and watch out for children darting into the street or across your driveway.
- 🕯️ **Use Safe Decorations:** Keep decorations away from open flames.
- 💡 **Safer Lighting:** Ensure outdoor lights are in good condition and not a tripping hazard.
- 🐾 **Pet Safety:** Keep pets inside or in a secure area away from the front door and avoid giving pets candy or treats.
- 🎃 **Have fun and be respectful!** Enjoy the festivities and remember to be courteous to neighbors and respect others' decorations and property.

Happy Halloween! Stay safe and enjoy the spook-tacular fun!

**AS ALWAYS - FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

Village Department News

Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week Is October 6-12

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced that this year's theme for Fire Prevention Week (October 6-12) is, "Smoke Alarms: make them work for you!" This year's focus on working smoke alarms comes in response to NFPA data, which shows that the majority of U.S. home fire deaths continue to occur in homes without smoke alarms or those with no working smoke alarms.

Key messages for this year's Fire Prevention Week theme include the following:

- 📞 Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (such as a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- 📞 Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- 📞 Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- 📞 Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old, or don't respond when tested.

National Fire Prevention Week is celebrated throughout North America every October and is the oldest U.S. public health observance on record. For more than 100 years, this awareness week aims at educating people about the risk of home fires and ways to minimize them. Local fire departments, schools, and community organizations play a key role in bringing National Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year to share critical fire safety messages. Learn more [here](#).

Business Spotlight



Mindful Family Management

Mindful Family Management offers expert childcare services, including potty training, sleep assistance and more. Its services are designed to cover various aspects of child development and parental challenges. For more details and a full list of services, click [here](#).

Please support local businesses whenever possible! If you have a business located in River Forest with a valid business license, it can be featured in the Village's business spotlight through weekly E-newsletters and on its social media channels. If you'd like your business to be featured, please send us an [email](#). You can find a listing of River Forest businesses on the Village's [Shop River Forest website](#).

Sustainability



Resident Guide to Going Solar

The sun is the most abundant renewable energy source available. By harnessing solar power, you can help create a cleaner planet for future generations while potentially saving money. There's plenty of sunlight to power your private solar system and enjoy the benefits of solar energy. The Sustainability Commission has explored both private and community solar options.

Private Solar: If your home's roof has an open area free from obstructions and you're able to make the initial investment, a private solar energy system might be the right choice for you. Solar panels are installed on the roof of the home which then connects to the smart grid. ComEd would still deliver energy to your home on days when your private solar energy system does not produce all the energy you need. Credits are received on energy bills when more energy than you need is produced. Over time, you can save a considerable amount on your electric supply bill with this option.

Incentives: There are currently several incentives available. Residential customers receive a rebate of \$300/kW for installed private solar energy systems and are also eligible for a rebate of \$300/kW for qualifying battery storage systems. You can learn more about the rebate incentives [here](#).

Community Solar: There is an alternative option if your roof is not ideal for a solar energy system, or if you rent your home or apartment. A community solar project is a "farm" of solar panels that is owned and operated by an independent Community Solar Developer. Energy generated by the community solar project flows to the energy grid to become part of the overall energy supply. ComEd continues to deliver the energy to your home. The Village is currently partnering with MC2 to make community solar available to you. Subscribers will save 10% of the community solar credits on the supply portion of their electricity bill. You can learn more about the Village's Community Solar Program [here](#).

Resources: A variety of easy-to-use interactive resources are available at [ComEd.com/Solar](https://www.comed.com/solar) to help you make an informed decision. For example, you can log in through your ComEd account and the Solar Calculator will automatically access your energy usage information to evaluate your specific needs.

Organizations Serving River Forest



Township

To learn more about Township programs and services, click [here](#), visit the River Forest [Community Calendar](#), or email [Supervisor John Becvar](#).

Opening on Youth & Family Committee

The Township has an opening on the Youth & Family Services Committee that meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. The Board relies on River Forest resident volunteers to evaluate programming. If you are interested in helping the Township by serving on the committee, contact [Supervisor John Becvar](#).

Creative Ways to Age in Our Communities - October 19

Join River Forest Township at their [office](#) on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for information from Northwest Housing Partnership on the Capable Program. Afterwards, participants will board the Township bus for a tour on examples of co-housing, accessory dwelling units and home sharing. Limited spots are available. RSVP to [Betsy Kelly](#) at 708-366-2029 x13.

Businesses Support Those With Disabilities - October 24

River Forest Township is proud to support Opportunity Knocks, who is hosting a free Zoom discussion for local businesses on Thursday, October 24 from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to Warriors who have disabilities discuss life and work within the local business community. Participants will learn about existing challenges for customers with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, along with a few easy-to-implement suggestions to improve their quality of life in local businesses. Please call the Township for more information at 708-366-2787.



Home Delivered Meal Program

Home Delivered Meal Program

The Home Delivered Meal Program is more than a nutritious meal - it's a friendly check-in from trusted Township staff or a Township volunteer who delivers them. Meals are provided for individuals 60 years of age and older (regardless of income) who have trouble getting around or preparing their own food. Special diets, including vegetarian, pescatarian, lactose-free, mechanical soft, and pureed meals are accommodated. The Township is also seeking volunteers who have access to a vehicle to deliver meals to older adults, two mornings per week for approximately two hours. Call 708-383-8060 to learn more.

File for Senior Exemptions

Did you turn 65 in 2024? If so, homeowners should file for their Senior Exemptions around mid-March 2025. You can file directly through the Cook County Assessor's website. Follow this link for details on what you'll need to apply for the Senior Exemption or the Senior Freeze Exemption. If your income was less than \$65,000 in 2023, you may qualify for the Senior Freeze. Call 708-366-2787 with any questions.

Park District

Park District Seeking Part-Time Administrative Position

Position Summary: The Administrative Assistant is the Park District's frontline customer service representative, responsible for managing all recreation program and event registration, as well as serving as administrator for the Park District's risk management program.

Working Hours: The Administrative Assistant is a part-time, non-exempt position which requires 20 hours of work per week. The scheduled work hours for this position are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Starting Salary Range: \$20.00 - \$22.88/HR

Click [here](#) for a full job description. Interested candidates should submit an application via email to [Karen Stille](#).

rfparks.com | 708-366-6660

Library



River Forest Public Library
Your journey starts here.

Visit the [calendar](#) to see everything happening at the Library. There are events and activities for all ages. Below are some highlights:

News: Residents can register to vote at the Library. No appointment is needed, but calling ahead to make sure the Deputy Registrar who registers voters is in the building is recommended. Call 708-366-5205 x316.

Library Foundation to Host After-Hours Event The River Forest Library Foundation is excited to host another fun evening, this time focused on travel. "After Hours for Travelers" will be held on Saturday, October 19 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and an RSVP is requested. Join the Foundation in support of the Library with presentations from two travel experts: Valerie Gugala on "Maximizing Your Disney Experience" and Theresa Goodman on "Using the Library for Travel Planning." Light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be served, with wine available for purchase. The event will be held upstairs in the Library by the fireplaces. The last event sold out quickly, so RSVP as soon as possible to secure your spot for this informative and social gathering!

Sunday, 10/6, 2-3:30 p.m.: Edgar Allan Poe: To Tell a Tale, Adult: Literary chills abound in this performance by actor Terry Lynch, taking on the role of legendary spine-tingler Edgar Allan Poe. As Poe, Terry will give a biographical sketch of the author and recite some of his most beloved poems and tales, including The Raven and The Tell-Tale Heart. Brought to you in partnership with the River Forest Township.

Wednesday, 10/16, 7-8 p.m.: The Sandwich Generation, Adult: Are you an adult caring for an elderly parent and your own children? If so, you are part of the "Sandwich Generation." This can be a stressful position to be in, so the Library is offering an informal discussion group for individuals to get support and learn about resources. The discussion will be led by Bridget Byrne from the Central Baptist Village retirement community and sandwiches will be served!

Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest High School



Roosevelt Middle School



Willard Elementary School



Lincoln Elementary School

District 90



Lincoln Elementary School held its annual back-to-school Bike Safety Workshop in partnership with the PTO and the Police Department. Students had fun while learning about bike safety to school, and brought along their bikes and helmets for a safety check.



Fifth-graders at Roosevelt Middle School participated in Adventure Education Day at YMCA Camp Duncan. Students worked in groups to complete team challenges as part of the program designed to help students build connections during their first year at Roosevelt.



Willard Elementary School was recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence using technology - and is one of only 32 schools in Illinois to receive this award! Congratulations to Willard students and faculty!

District 200

Geothermal Initiative Helps Meet Sustainability Goals

When it comes to reducing the carbon footprint of the Oak Park River Forest High School's (OPRFHS) vintage, million-square-foot building, the school district's Sustainability Policy has committed to some very ambitious goals. One of the most significant is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 45% of 2012 levels by 2030, and 100% by 2050.

This fall, the school will make significant strides toward achieving that goal when it installs a geothermal system under the football field, harnessing heat from the Earth's core to provide a renewable source of energy. The new geothermal system will provide 100% of the heating and cooling for the new Physical Education (PE) facilities being built at the southeast corner of the building, known as Project 2, which will be completed in the summer of 2026.

The 270 geothermal wells to be installed under the turf will contain 500-foot lengths of piping filled with fluid. Electric pumps will send the fluid in and out of the PE wing, moving heat energy from the building into the ground during the summer and pulling heat from the ground into the building during the winter.

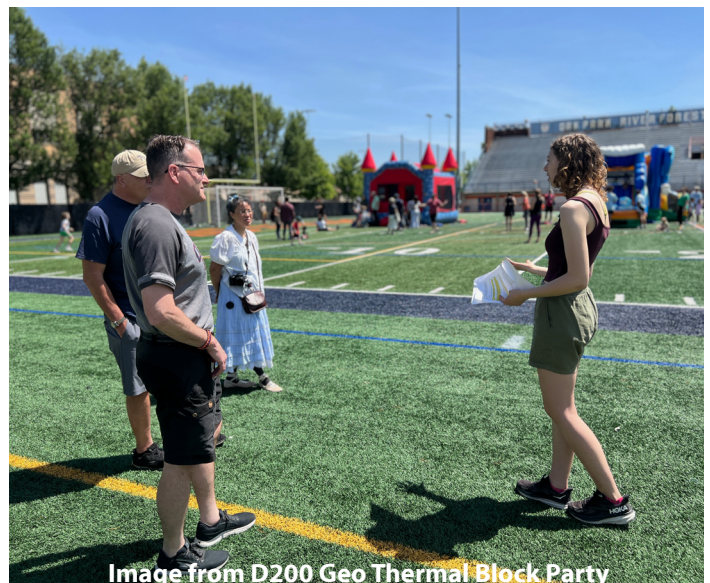


Image from D200 Geo Thermal Block Party

An analysis comparing the geothermal system to a more traditional boiler-and-chiller system found that geothermal will save the district roughly \$385,000 per year while reducing CO2 emissions by an amount equivalent to driving an average passenger car 504,984 miles.

The total cost of the geothermal project is \$26.3 million, but with federal tax incentives estimated at \$8.9 million, the net cost will be \$17 million, to be paid for with a combination of cash reserves, grants, and potential state funding.



FREE Event!
Families w/kids
10 yrs & younger

Halloween

HOOT 'n HOWL

Join the River Forest Park District & the Forest Preserves of Cook County Trailside Museum staff for an evening of fall family fun.

Activities include: Hay ride, Halloween inflatable, live music, pumpkin decorating, bonfire with s'mores, ghoulish games, boo bingo, craft, furs and skulls table, and will end with a Halloween costume contest! Wear your Halloween costume! Dress appropriately for this outdoor event.

Keystone Park | October 4 | 5:00-7:00pm

SPONSORED BY:
River Forest Public Library

TRUNK OR TREAT in SPACE



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
 NOON-2PM
 TRITON COLLEGE CERNAN
 EARTH & SPACE CENTER
 2000 5TH AVENUE
 RIVER GROVE, IL

October Fun In River Forest

TALE OF THE TOMBSTONES

33RD ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK






"Kindred Spirits"

Tour underwritten by
Conboy-Westchester Funeral Home
thrivent

SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 2024
FIRST TOUR GROUP LEAVES AT NOON;
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED

Tour of Forest Home Cemetery organized every October since 1992 by:
 **THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST**



Halloween Fun Run/Walk



Join us for a fun, family friendly community event to support Hephzibah Children's Association!

- Sunday, Oct. 27
- 9:00 Kids Warm-up
- 9:30 Run/Walk
- Constitution Park in River Forest, IL
- Distance: 1.5 miles



REGISTER



Trick or Treat Hours

Thursday, October 31
3pm - 7pm





RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

Follow the Village on
Social Media



Sign Up For Email and Alerts



River Forest Events



Village Contact Information

Village Administration
708-714-3563

Village Administrator
Matt Walsh

Finance Department
708-714-3524

Director Rosemary McAdams

Fire Department
708-714-3560
Chief Tom Gaertner

Public Works and Development Services
708-714-3551
Director Jack Bielak

Police Department
708-714-3540
Chief James O'Shea

Emergency Services
Dial 911

400 Park Avenue River Forest, IL 60305
708-366-8500
708-366-3702 (fax)
Monday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday- Friday 8a.m. – 4:30 p.m.