

RIVER FOREST

Proud Heritage • Bright Future

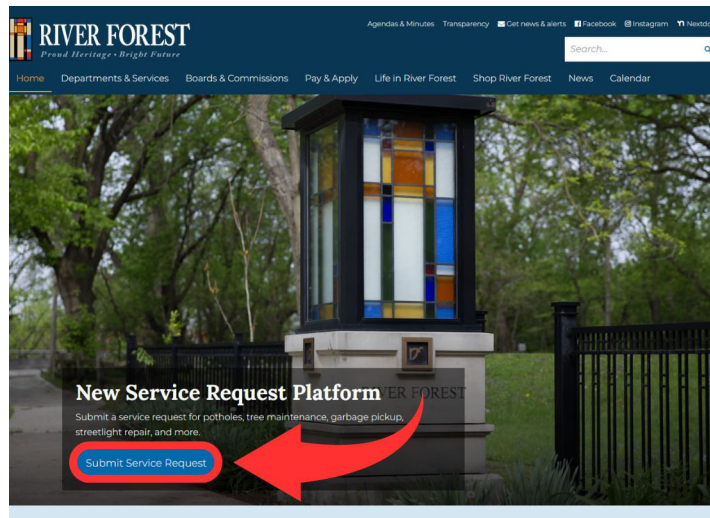
The Village of River Forest Newsletter | September, 2024



Use Our New Service Request Platform!

The Village is excited to announce a new and improved **Service Request platform**, that has just rolled out! This platform will make it easier for residents to submit inquiries and get the assistance they need. Whether it's requesting a garbage bin replacement, scheduling branch pickup, reporting road/sewer issues, or inquiring about water bills, this new system is designed to streamline the process to have requests addressed in a more timely manner. You can submit requests anonymously or create an account to track your requests! If you have any suggestions on how to improve the new system, please let us know!

A how-to video for this platform is now available to residents. **This video** provides users with instructions on how to utilize this new way of reaching out to the Village.



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From Village President Cathy Adduci

Dear River Forest residents,

Stabilizing property taxes through efficient government and less spending is one of the main priorities of the Village Board and myself. I'm excited to announce the launch of our new service request platform that will make it easier for residents to submit requests related to the wide range of services provided by the Village to our community. You can find more information about this platform and a link to a "how-to" video in the front-page article of this newsletter.

We've had a great response to our new "Neighborhood Dialogues" program so far. This initiative provides an opportunity for our community members to share their input in an informal setting on future development in River Forest. If you are a River Forest resident and would like to be a host, please see an article on page 4 of this newsletter for more information, and contact Village Administrator Matt Walsh at mwalsh@vrf.us.

Show your support for the annual 9/11 Charity **LemonAid** Stand on Wednesday, September 11, from 3-7 p.m. on the **700 block of Bonnie Brae**. Proceeds from this event will support two deserving charities: WonderWorks, a children's museum in Oak Park and the Collaboration for Early Childhood. Click [here](#) to learn more. I'm proud that our Village is home to so many positive, community focused initiatives!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who came out last Saturday for the "Casual Conversation with the Village President." I truly enjoy meeting with our community members and learning more about your priorities concerning the Village - including traffic issues, economic development, and lead service line replacements. Look for details in the coming weeks about the next event, which will be held quarterly.

Sincerely,

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

EV Grants

The Village has been awarded \$370,000 in grants for additional electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, in response to the rise in EV purchases by our residents. The River Forest Sustainability Commission has created an [EV Readiness Guide](#) to help you learn about EVs, charging stations, and the permitting and installation process. This represents yet another initiative that promotes sustainability in River Forest!



St. Vincent Ferrer Oktoberfest

Join St. Vincent Ferrer Parish for their annual Oktoberfest Saturday, October 5 from 6:30 - 10 p.m. in their Parish parking lot. The event will offer traditional German food from Edelweiss Restaurant, games, raffles, a DJ and more! You must be 21 years of age or older to attend this event - and more information and ticket links will be coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE!



Cub Scout Kick Off

Families with children in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to Cub Scout Pack 67's annual kickoff meeting on Monday, September 9, at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary School. New and returning Scouts, along with their siblings, can enjoy scouting games and activities, while parents meet the leaders and have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about scouting. For more information, [send an email](#).

Check out River Forest Cub Scout Pack 67!
Welcoming boys and girls, K thru 5th grades

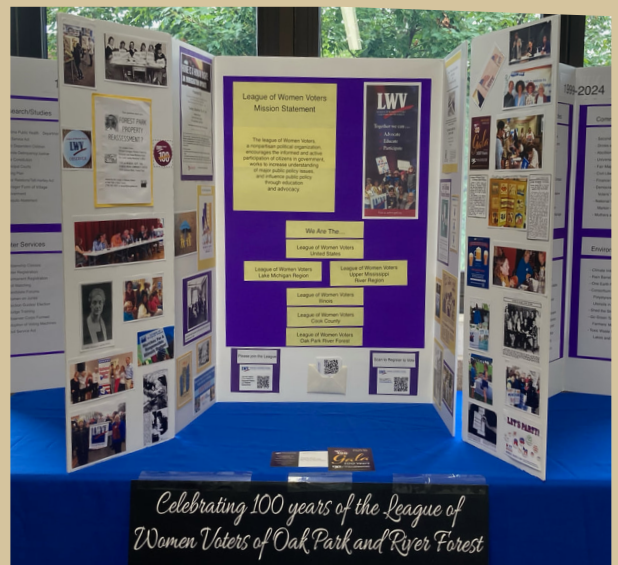
Kickoff meeting 7pm, Monday, September 9, 2024
Lincoln School, 511 Park, River Forest (enter on Franklin)
For more info contact rfpack67@gmail.com
<https://scouts67.wordpress.com>



League of Women Voters Centennial Gala

Join the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest for their Centennial Gala on Sunday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Nineteenth Century Club. Tickets are \$100 and include cocktails and dinner. Honorary co-chairs include River Forest Village President Cathy Adduci, Forest Park Mayor Rory Hoskins, and Oak Park Village President Vicky Scaman. Celebrate 100 years of this organization empowering voters and defending democracy!

For more details or to purchase tickets, click [here](#). And don't forget to visit the Oak Park River Forest Museum before the event to explore a variety of exhibits on the League's history.



Village Department News

Village Administration

Neighborhood Dialogues on Future Development in Town

Neighborhood Dialogues is a new initiative to continue to create engagement opportunities for all River Forest residents with the Village. This program is designed to provide an informal opportunity for residents - especially those near Madison and Lake Streets - to participate in discussions about future development. Hosted by River Forest residents in their homes and facilitated by longtime River Forest resident, Rick Jasculca, these small group conversations aim to gather input from community members to help shape the Village's future. To host a neighborhood dialogue, email [Village Administrator Matt Walsh](mailto:MattWalsh@villageofriverforest.com).

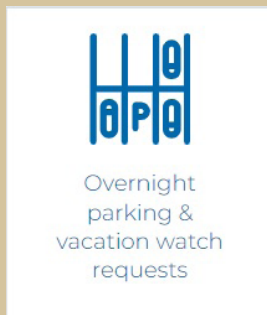
Police Department

Police Vacation Watches

The Police Department now offers extra patrols for your property through their "Vacation Watch" program. To sign up, visit their [website](#) and click on the blue button at the top of the page to fill out the form.

You can submit your request at least one week before you leave town. The Vacation Watch Program covers up to 90 days; for longer absences, you can re-submit the form after 90 days. Homes for sale are not included as part of this program. Additional home safety tips include:

- Notify a friend, relative or trusted neighbor that you'll be away.
- Ensure your doors, windows and gates are locked when you leave.
- Manually lock your garage door from the inside and disengage your electronic device to eliminate the possibility of thieves entering with garage door decoders.
- Stop your mail and your newspaper deliveries, or have a friend, relative or trusted neighbor bring it in for you daily.
- Utilize indoor lights and smart home features on automatic timers - this gives the illusion someone is home.
- Arrange for lawn care service while you're away.



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

Public Works

Electronic Waste Curbside Pickup – Sign up By September 11th



Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) is now accepting requests for pickup of electronics waste from your home, at no additional cost. Electronic Waste Collection will begin the week of September 16-18 on your regular pick-up day. The deadline for electronic pickup requests is Wednesday, September 11. LRS will collect up to seven (7) accepted items total, with no more than two (2) TV's or computer monitors per collection, per household.

Here's how it works:

1. Click on the Electronic Waste Pick-Up link in the upper right side of the [LRS webpage](#).
2. Once you've filled in your address information and selected the items you have for collection, click "submit" and a submission confirmation will appear.

3. Materials must be placed in the front of your home at the curb near the parkway no later than 7 a.m. on the day of collection.
4. Collection **does not take place in the alley** due to the nature of the materials.
5. Items are collected on your regular pick-up day, the week of your collection.
6. Small electronic items may be placed at the curb in a brown paper bag or a small cardboard box.
7. Mark the box or bag with a marker as "E-Waste" so the crew can easily see it.

LRS partners with E-Works from Elk Grove Village, an R2 state certified, non-profit electronics recycler to properly recycle and manage e-waste collected from your home. Please visit the [Village of River Forest E-Waste webpage](#) or the [LRS River Forest webpage](#) for further information, including a list of acceptable materials.

Survey Identifies Your Water Service Line Material

The Public Works and Engineering Department is diligently working to ensure the safety and quality of our water infrastructure and that it complies with the Lead Service Line Replacement Act. As part of this initiative, the Village is working to identify all residential water service line materials. Prior to the 1980's, water systems used lead or galvanized material for the water service line (or pipe) that runs from the Village water main to the water meter in a home or business.

The next step in this project is to identify the material of the pipe serving homes and businesses, and the Village needs information so these replacements can occur.

What Do I Need to Do?

1. Test and identify the material of your water pipes. (See the instructions at the [survey link](#)).
2. Tell the Village what you found from the test by completing the survey [here](#) or scan the QR code in the accompanying graphic.

Once the Village collects this information, a plan will be developed to systematically replace the lead service lines throughout the Village by coordinating directly with impacted property owners.

If lead is detected, you can [take these steps to reduce your exposure](#).

“Get the Lead Out”

This survey identifies the type of water supply line you have in your home.

TAKE THE SURVEY
vrf.us/leadsurvey

Village Department News

Fire Department

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT **OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday September 14, 2024
Time: 10:00am–2:00pm



TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Featuring

Fire Apparatus/Station Tours



River Forest Township



River Forest Police Department
Bicycle Registration / Child ID Kits

West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch
Center (911 Questions – Answered)

River Forest Public Works Department
“Touch a Bobcat loader”

River Forest International Association
of Firefighters IAFF Local 2391

Business Spotlight

Cava Mediterranean Restaurant, located at 7211 Lake Street, will host a grand opening at their new River Forest location today, (September 6). Cava serves delicious food, while taking care of the people and the environment that sustains us: the earth, farmers, purveyors, and team members. The restaurant is famous for its pitas, Mediterranean bowls and salads. Cava also has grocery products available at Whole Foods, offers catering, and has a downloadable app which offers rewards to customers. To learn more, visit <https://cava.com/>.

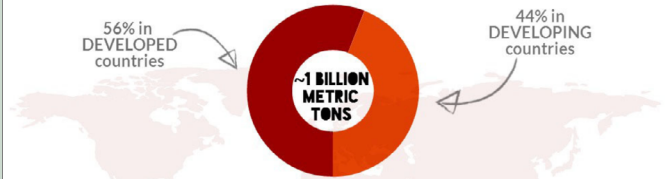
CAVA

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

1/4 TO 1/3 OF ALL FOOD PRODUCED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IS LOST OR WASTED

HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN:



THOSE LOST CALORIES COULD FILL HUNGER GAPS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD



LEARN MORE AT WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/FOODPRICEWATCH

SOURCES: FAO AND WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

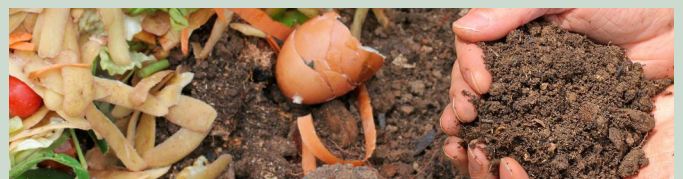
The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), part of the United Nations (UN), is dedicated to combating hunger. In 2019, the FAO reported that 14% of the world's food, worth about \$400 billion, is lost before reaching stores, and 17% is wasted in retail stores and by consumers. This wasted food could feed 1.26 billion people annually and generates harmful methane gas in landfills - unlike composting - which, when done properly, aerates and prevents the production of methane.

To combat this, the UN established September 29 as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

Here's how you can help:

- ♻️ Buy only what you need and plan your meals.
- ♻️ Use “ugly” produce that might otherwise be discarded.
- ♻️ Store food wisely and track what's in your fridge with clear containers and lists.
- ♻️ Understand food labels; “best before” isn't the same as “use by.”
- ♻️ Use leftovers creatively or freeze them.

You can also join the Village's curbside composting program. Subscription costs range from \$13.39 to \$17.51 per month, with an option to share a cart with a neighbor. Click [here](#) for more details.



Organizations Serving River Forest

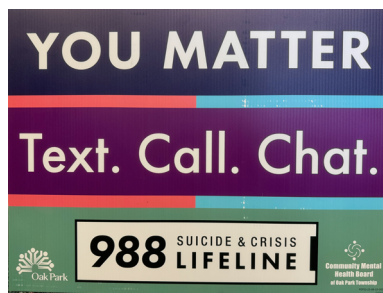


Township

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

September is Suicide Prevention Month

Pick up a free 988 Suicide and Crisis Yard Sign (in English and Spanish) at the [Township office](#) during its regular [office hours](#). The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention, and crisis resources. Learn more [here](#).



Coffee Monday is Rescheduled to September 9

Coffee Monday has been rescheduled to Monday, September 9 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the [River Forest Public Library](#). At the event, Brian Wolowitz, the Adult Librarian, will talk about new books that are coming out and Curtis Thomas, one of the regular participants, will talk about Chicago History.



Teen Vaping and Cannabis - Know the Facts

Parent's Night Out - Know the Facts on Vaping and Cannabis

Join the Township at this free event with light refreshments on Thursday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at the [Oak Park Township Conference Room](#). They'll discuss the risks involved from young people vaping. This safe space will allow parents to share their experiences. Learn more [here](#).



Voter Registration Day is September 19

Stop by the [Township office](#) on Voter Registration Day, September 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. to register to vote in the upcoming November 5 Presidential Election. Residents can also get help signing up to vote by mail. Those who need to register to vote for the upcoming election must have their registration postmarked by Tuesday, October 8 or anyone who wants to register online must do so by Monday, October 21. To learn more about voter registration deadlines, or to download a registration form, visit cookcountyclerk.com/votebymail.

Park District

Color Run

Join the River Forest Park District for their second annual 1-Mile [Color Run](#) around [Priory Park](#) on Saturday, September 21 at 8 a.m.! Volunteers will throw health conscious colored chalk as participants pass by a variety of color stations. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category. All participants will receive a white shirt, goodie bag, and participation certificate. Come for the [COLOR RUN](#), and stay for the After Party with a DJ and bagels for all. All net proceeds benefit the [West Suburban Special Recreation Association](#).



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: the Library has a New Look

The River Forest Public Library is thrilled to unveil its new logo, inspired by an open book. Beyond books, the design suggests a portal inviting you in, with the pages as pathways to discovery. The semi-circular shape echoes their garden courtyard, welcoming residents, while the warm color palette reflects inclusivity and evokes the joy of sunlight. Hopefully, residents will love it as much as the Library staff does!

Sunday hours are back: Beginning September 8, the Library will be open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Thursday, 9/12, 6-8 p.m.: Jigsaw Puzzle Race, All Ages: Test your puzzle speed in a timed competition! Teams of 2-4 people will each be given the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle. The team that completes the puzzle first, or gets closest within the two allotted hours, will be the winners and pizza will be served. [Registration is required.](#)

Sunday, 9/22, 2-3:30 p.m.: David Ellis Author Visit, Adult: The Library is excited to welcome bestselling local author David Ellis to celebrate the release of his new book, *The Best Lies*. David Ellis is a judge and an Edgar Award-winning author of ten crime fiction novels and eight bestselling books co-authored with James Patterson. His novels have been translated into more than ten languages worldwide. Copies of *The Best Lies* will be available to buy at the event, get yours signed by the author!

Saturday, 9/28, 10-11 a.m.: Comic Making Class, Grades 2-4: Do you love graphic novels? Do you love telling stories? Come to the Library's comic making class and learn to create your own amazing comics! [Registration is required.](#)

Organizations Serving River Forest



Oak Park and River Forest High School



Roosevelt Middle School



Willard Elementary School



Lincoln Elementary School

District 90

School is Back in Session in District 90



New staff learned all about District 90 schools and met their teacher mentors during orientation meetings in August.



All District 90 Schools welcomed students back for the first day of school on August 21.



At Lincoln Elementary School, students enjoyed a new playground on the Park Avenue side of the school - a gift from the Lincoln Parent Teacher Organization.

District 200

Social-Emotional Learning Key to Better Outcomes

When it comes to preparing students for success, social-emotional learning (SEL) has become a best practice in education. A wealth of research shows that helping students develop five core competencies—self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making—improves outcomes in academic performance, peer relationships, mental wellness, and in the school climate.

As part of Oak Park River Forest (OPRF) High School's focus on SEL, prevention and wellness coordinator Ginger Bencola worked with a team of teachers, counselors, and social workers to develop a series of Wellness Workshops, which are set to begin their third year. Each monthly workshop has a different theme and takes place during one period of the school day for all students.

Both students and teachers say they've found enormous value in practical skills taught in the workshops. Bencola says that one of the most popular was "Speaking Up," where students practiced responding to real-life scenarios of everyday bias and stereotyping.

"It's clear that our students are hungry for opportunities to practice being an upstander," Bencola says. "I heard from more students than ever on what a positive impact it had!"



Senior Isaac Felder says he's appreciated using what he learned in the session "Coping with Stress," where students each identified at least one new healthy coping strategy they wanted to try. "I'm pretty reserved," he says. "It was helpful to hear that sharing and showing feelings will help you in the long run."

English teacher Jamie Sieck says that in his opinion, "My Self-Care Plan" was the best workshop all year, because it took what can be a fuzzy, feel-good topic and broke it down into specific steps that students used to create their own personalized, self-care plans. "We go back to it all the time," he says. "On a Friday, I might ask, 'What are you going to do to practice self-care this weekend?' We're teaching kids that you have some power, some agency—and we're giving them actionable tools to use."

If you're interested in presenting at one of the OPRFHS professional days, email tgarrland@oprfs.org.



Junior Citizens' Police Academy



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.