



## 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 Residents of River Forest,

Our tax increment finance district for Madison Street is now in effect. This has been a long process, but through it all, the Board of Trustees, Village staff and I focused on taking the necessary steps to expand and add vibrancy to our commercial tax base to move River Forest ahead. Reinvigorating our commercial base is vital to our community's progress. That means we must strengthen the value of our commercial properties to lessen the property tax burden on our residents. A TIF district will help shift the tax burden away from homeowners, allowing our neighbors, especially seniors on a fixed income, to remain here in River Forest. It is the right thing to do and in the long run it will improve the quality of life for all of us. I want to thank residents who participated in this process. Government exists to serve the community and I believe that resident involvement has enhanced the process.

What will happen next? At the beginning of the 2017 the Village will formulate a strategy to attract potential developers to River Forest. While we do not yet know what kind of businesses will come, we hope to see a white tablecloth restaurant that many residents desire. Guiding our efforts will be the marketing plan, 2010 corridor study and comprehensive plan. The Village Board and Staff will continue to work with volunteer commissions including the Economic Development Commission and the Development Review Board as well. To see all of the TIF documents, please click [here](#). To see the corridor study, please click [here](#).

Citizens Corp, the Village's go-to volunteer emergency response team, needs a new co-leader and I hope a River Forest resident will consider taking on this important responsibility. Since its inception in 2009 Ron Sherman has led this group admirably, and staff, the Board of Trustees and I want to thank Ron for his inspired, unflinching and dedicated leadership. For more information about the Corps, what it does and how volunteers can apply,

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click [here](#).

Recently, I made a presentation about local government to Lincoln School third graders. The children asked a lot of good questions and were quite interested in their community and the environment. I want to thank the teachers, children and parents for this opportunity. Click [here](#) to view my presentation.



I hope you will tune in to the Doris Davenport Show on WPNA Radio 1490 AM from 6:30 to 8 PM, Dec. 18 when I will talk live about village issues, concerns and upcoming events. You can also live stream the broadcast on [www.radiowpna.com](http://www.radiowpna.com).

At 8 AM, December 8, I will present the State of the Village at the 5th Annual PlanITGreen Institutional Leaders Forum. It will be held at the 19th Century Club. Watch for the presentation on our website.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Village Clerk, Village Staff and myself, we would like to wish you and your families and friends a warm and wonderful Holiday Season and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci

Village President

## **Sarah's Inn**

Once again, Village Hall is serving as a drop off location for Sarah's Inn. Your donation can help bring hope and support to a family affected by domestic violence this holiday season. Drop off donations of unwrapped toys and gift cards by December 15, 2016 at the River Forest Village Hall Front Desk.

Unwrapped toys and gift cards should be new and within the approximate value range of \$10 - \$25. Please consider gifts that promote non-violence and positive self-image.

### **Don't have time to shop or need gift ideas?**

Visit [www.sarahsinn.org](http://www.sarahsinn.org) to learn more about this project and follow a link to the Amazon Holiday Gift Project wish list. Purchase

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a gift online in seconds and have it directly shipped to Sarah's Inn!

## Toys for Tots

The River Forest Police Department will again be participating in the Toys for Tots program during the Holiday season. The program runs now through December 21. Simply drop off a new, unwrapped toy at the front desk in Village Hall and we'll add it to the collection box for Toys for Tots! Please note that all donated toys must be new and sealed in its original package. Stuffed animals are not allowed due to dust and allergy concerns. Also, donated toys should not be gift wrapped. All donations given at Village Hall will be distributed locally in the Chicagoland area. To learn more about Toys for Tots, please visit their website by [clicking here](#). Thank you for your generosity!

## River Forest Citizen Corps Seeks New Chairperson

The River Forest Citizen Corps (RFCC) is a small volunteer organization sponsored by the Village of River Forest that operates under the motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The RFCC is now searching for a new Chairperson. The group seeks an action-oriented individual with the energy and willingness to maintain and grow the current volunteer group, maintain the ability to provide First Aid and CPR training to the community, encourage family and community preparedness and support responses to all types of large scale emergencies. The Chairperson will be responsible for the administration of the organization and work with the leader of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). To learn more about Citizen Corps, please [click here](#).

This is an exciting, volunteer position with the ability to perform almost all duties from home at an average of one or two hours a week. Training and support will be provided. If interested, please [contact Ron Sherman](#).

## Overnight Parking Ban Lifted for Christmas and New Year's Holidays

Overnight parking will be allowed on Village streets from 12:01 AM Friday, December 16, 2016 through 12:01 AM Tuesday, January 3, 2017. No overnight parking waivers will be required during this period.

**Reminder - parking is not permitted on any Village street after two inches of snow or more has accumulated on the street, and for up to eight hours after the snowfall ends, to allow snow plows to safely clear the street.**

## Holiday Season Village Hall Closures

The Village Board and staff wish all residents a very safe and happy holiday season. Please note Village Hall will be closed Friday December 23, Monday December 26, and Monday January 2.

## Holiday Wreaths, Trees and Garland Collection Schedule

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on

### Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

[Additional](#)

[Village News](#)

[Village Board](#)

[Agendas](#)

[Emergency](#)

[Notification](#)

[Sign-up](#)

the following Tuesdays:

- January 3
- January 10
- January 17
- January 24
- January 31

Residents should remove all decorations, lights, metal wiring and place holiday greens on the parkway by 7 AM on the above days. Please note - this does not include yard waste and/or leaves. These collections are for "holiday greens" only.

## **River Forest Police Department - Protect Your Home When You're Not There**

The Village of River Forest Police Department would like to remind you of the following **Do's** and **Don'ts** for protecting your home when you're not there.

**Do** ask a friend or trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your house while you are gone and leave a key with them so they can check both inside and out. If you have an alarm, make sure they have the alarm code and know how to use the alarm system. Also make sure to notify the alarm company of who will be checking in on the home, in case they set off the alarm accidentally.

**Don't** leave spare keys (even hidden) out on your property. Make sure all windows and doors are locked (and set your alarm if you have one) before you leave.

**Do** call West Suburban Central Dispatch Center (708-366-7125) to ensure they have correct information tied to your address for who should be contacted in an emergency, including yourself and any other "keyholders".

**Don't** leave interior lights on for your entire time away, as it wastes energy and is not a deterrent if it is obvious that no one is home to turn off the lights.

**Do** invest in a plug-in programmable timer switch to turn select lights on and off. These are available at hardware and department stores for \$5-\$20. You can use more than one switch to change which lights are on at different times.

**Don't** let mail or newspapers pile up in front of your home.

**Do** ask a friend or neighbor to collect them for you, or contact the post office and/or newspaper to stop delivery during your time away.

**Don't** broadcast the fact that your house will be vacant for an extended period. Be careful about what you and your family share on public forums like Facebook or other social media that would let strangers know you will be away.

**Do** let the River Forest Police Department know you will be out of town. We will be happy to conduct a "vacation watch" of your home. Please include dates you will be away, and also let us know who if someone will be checking on your house so we know they are ok if we find them there.

Feel free to contact Crime Prevention Officer Glen Czernik

via [email](#) or by phone at 708-714-3543 with any questions.

## Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department wants everyone to enjoy the season and holidays safely. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- ['Twas the Night Before Christmas...](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#)
- [Winter Holiday Safety](#)
- [Holiday Entertaining Safety](#)
- [Christmas Tree Safety](#)
- [Heating Safety](#)
- [Top 10 Winter Freeze Tips](#)
- [Religious Candle Safety](#)
- [Shabbat Fire Safety](#)
- [Candle Safety Tips](#)



**Help the River Forest Fire Department - Keep Hydrants Clear of Snow!**



# pluggie



**Needs your help with the snow**  
**Please clear a path to and around your hydrant**



Please help me and the Firefighters by clearing away the snow. Thanks



For more information, Please call the River Forest Fire Department at 708-366-7629

## Keep the Wreath Red

As we approach the holiday season, the Village of River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you to keep your holiday safe and happy. The Fire Department will once again team up with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and neighboring fire departments in the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. This year, the program will run from Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2016 through Sunday, January 8, 2017.

"Keep the Wreath Red" is a holiday fire safety program designed to increase fire safety awareness. In the event of a holiday-related fire, firefighters will replace one of the red bulbs with a white one. The goal is to keep the bulbs on that wreath red.

For full information, [click here](#) for the press release and look for the River Forest Red Wreath!



## **Know the Code!**

With snow on its way the Village would like to remind you:

- Village code requires residents and business owners to remove snow and ice from sidewalks in front of and adjacent to their property within 24 hours after an event.
- Snow or ice frozen on sidewalks that cannot be removed without injury to the pavement should be treated with an abrasive material until weather permits further clean-up.
- Parking on Village streets is prohibited after snow exceeds two inches in depth, and for an eight hour period following the cessation of the snowfall.
- Snow removal contractors are prohibited from using snow blowers between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- The placement of snow or ice on any Village owned street, alley or sidewalk is prohibited.

## **Message from School District 90 - Town Hall Forum**

The entire District 90 community is invited to a Town Hall Forum on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. at Roosevelt Middle School, 7560 Oak Avenue. The normally scheduled Committee of the Whole Meeting will be reorganized into the Town Hall format. The topic of discussion will be the "Student Achievement Report and Assessment in District 90." The Town Hall Forum will include a briefing about the role and types of assessments used in District 90. Information will be provided on how to interpret results, how to remain engaged with teachers and schools, and how to help students' social and emotional development. Please bring your questions and a friend. We hope to see you there!

## **Message from OPRFHS District 200 - Post-Referendum Update**

On Election Day, Oak Park and River Forest residents voted down a bond issue of up to \$25 million by Oak Park and River Forest

High School District 200. According to results posted by the Cook County Board of Elections, out of 35,674 ballots cast, those opposed to the bond issue prevailed by a margin of 30 votes, 0.08%. The bonds were intended to help fund a facilities plan that included adding and improving classroom space, replacing the school's two 88-year-old pools and mitigating health and safety issues in boys locker rooms. With the failure of the referendum, many community members have asked, what's next? As the Board stated in a Sept. 22, 2016, resolution, it did not endorse any alternative plan and does not intend to pursue previously considered options to rebuild the existing pools in their current locations. The administration will come back to the Dec. 13 Special Board meeting with suggestions on a process for moving forward.

## **GREEN NEWS**

### **Holiday Lights Recycling**

Residents can recycle their holiday lights at a Village collection site located on Central Avenue between Park Avenue and Keystone Avenue. The collection site will be open 24/7 from December 15th through January 15th. Holiday light recycling includes:

- Italian mini lights
- Traditional lights
- LED lights
- Rope lighting
- Extension cords

Please **DO NOT** place fluorescent bulbs or CFL's in the Holiday Light Recycling.

### **Compost Subscribers Pick Up Begins Every Other Tuesday**

Compost pick-up will now take place every other week beginning December 1st through March 31st. The pick up will take place on Tuesdays (except the first week of January when pick up is delayed to Wednesday because of the holiday). The winter compost collection dates are as follows: 12/6/16, 12/20/16, 1/4/17, 1/17/17, 1/31/17, 2/14/17, 2/28/17, 3/14/17, 3/28/17.

## **RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT**

For registration information and a complete listing of Library programs, visit [www.riverforestlibrary.org](http://www.riverforestlibrary.org)!

### **Adults**

#### **Saturday, 12/3, 2-3:30 PM, Christmas in the Holy Land**

Join Bill Helmuth and visually visit the actual sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem where the Christmas story was created 2,000 years ago. Here, a child was born who gave his followers a direct connection with a Heavenly Father and astute, loving guidance during their daily lives. The Bible comes down to earth. Come and be amazed. For those who are not Christians, this program is historically accurate.

#### **Monday, 12/5, 10-11 AM, Coffee Monday**

Come to the library on the first Monday morning of every month.



for coffee, breakfast snacks and conversation. Today, Veteran journalist/strategic communications expert Matt Baron will present on how numbers are used (and misused) in today's media. Coffee Mondays are supported by Blue Max Coffee and River Forest Township.

**Wednesday, 12/7, 12/14, 10-11:30 AM, Computer Learning Lab, Adult**

Does your computer drive you nuts? Does your tablet make you crazy? Come to our Computer Learning Lab -- whatever your tech issue, we can help you figure it out or get to the next step. These sessions are designed for the total beginner through intermediate home/personal user. No need to sign up, just drop in anytime during the session to learn on one of our laptops, or bring your own device.

**Monday, 12/19-3/12, Adult Winter Reading**

Adult readers, get rewarded! Register for our Adult Winter Reading program with your RFPL card number. Every book you read gets you an entry in our grand prize drawing for a \$100 Exit Strategy gift certificate! There's more: Log just one book, and you may collect a special prize at our second floor service desk. Participants 21 and over who read at least one book can also pick up a ticket to a special after-hours event on Friday, April 7, including drinks and hors d'oeuvres, to celebrate with us the kick-off of National Library Week!

## Teens

**Sunday, 12/4, 2-3:30 PM, Marbleize, Grades 5-12**

Learn how to turn plain white paper into vibrant swirly masterpieces suitable for holiday notecards, bookmarks, or to be hung on the wall. Advanced Registration Required.

**Friday, 12/16, 6-8 PM, Interactive Movie: Elf, Grades 5-12**

Don't miss the opportunity to snack, sing, and shout along with the characters in the movie Elf. Advanced Registration Required.

**Friday, 12/23, 2:45-4 PM, Gingerbread Houses, Grades 5-8**

Make a gingerbread house that will be both great to look at and tasty to eat! All materials are provided. Advanced Registration Required.

**Monday, 12/19 - 2/28, Teen Winter Reading, Grades 5-12**

When facing a new year filled with so many possibilities for resolutions, sometimes it's hard to know where to start. Bingo—that's where! Read books and win prizes! Grab your Reading Bingo card at the RFPL and get reading!

## Children

**Saturday, 12/10, 10 AM-3 PM, Stories with Santa, Birth-8 years**

Santa is visiting RFPL! Our annual holiday program for children features stories, crafts, and visits with Santa upstairs by the fireplace. Pictures taken with Santa will be posted to the RFPL website. Caregivers are encouraged to snap their own keepsake photos as well. This is a drop-in, free, fun family program. For kids ages 8 and under with a parent/caregiver.

**Saturday, 12/17, 2-3 PM, LEGO Club, Grades K-4**

LEGO fans will be given a new LEGO building challenge each time we meet. LEGO bricks will be provided. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

**Monday, 12/19, 4-5 PM, Snack Attack, Grades K-4**

Learn how to make a fun seasonal snack at this after school cooking program. Advanced registration required. Grades K-4.

**Thursday, 12/29, & Friday, 12/30, 9 AM-5 PM, Thank You Note Workshop, Grades K-4**

Drop by the Children's Room to write your own personalized holiday thank you cards. Supplies will be provided. Grades K-4.

**Saturday, 12/31, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, Noon Year's Eve Party, Kids of All Ages**

Happy New Year! Be the first to celebrate as you count down to 2017 with activities, games, and snacks with a festive flair. For kids of all ages with a caregiver.

**Monday, 12/19-2/28, Children's Winter Reading, 2-10 years**

Days off from school= extra time to read! Pick up a Winter Reading BINGO sheet in the Children's Room and start reading now! Earn BINGO by completing five squares in a row on your BINGO sheet. Everyone wins! Pick up your special Winter Reading prize mug in the Children's Room by Feb. 28. For ages 2-10.

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## TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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### Sibshops Wraps Up the Fall Session

Sibshops will finish 2016 with Saturday sessions on 12/3 and 12/17. Contact us if you want to try a session before signing up for the winter program. Winter dates will be announced soon.

Sibshops is a program for siblings of kids with disabilities and emotional/mental health challenges. Siblings do fun activities and share information and ideas with other kids, with the help of specially trained facilitators.

11:30 AM-1:30 PM (including lunch), at Thrive, 120 S. Marion St, Oak Park. Free parking next to building for drop off and pickup. Priority given to participants from River Forest and Oak Park.

Registration required in advance. \$10/session; need-based scholarships available. To sign up or for more information, please [email Supervisor Carla Sloan](mailto:Supervisor Carla Sloan).

### Need Income Tax Preparation Assistance?

River Forest Township supports two local initiatives for low-moderate income seniors (age 60+) who would like free income tax preparation assistance. Call as early as possible to schedule an appointment, as time slots fill very quickly.

- **AARP Tax-Aide Program:** Forest Park or Franklin Park locations. Call 708-771-7737.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program at Triton:** Call 708-456-0300 x3895 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

To become a volunteer tax preparer for these programs:

- Visit the AARP Tax-Aide Program [website](#) and click on "Volunteer".
- TCE Program at Triton: Contact Kay Frey via [email](#) or by 708-456-0300, x3603.

## Encore Chorale Hosts Concert and Seeks New Members

River Forest Township partners with the Oak Park River Forest Chorale, the largest and fastest-growing choral program for older adults (age 55+) in the U.S.

- **Winter Concert (free of charge): Saturday, December 10, 4 PM**, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph St, Oak Park.
- **New Members Invited:** Register now for the spring session beginning January 17. No audition. Rehearsals at Trinity High School in River Forest, Tuesdays, 9-10:30 AM. \$175 fee for 15-week session, with concert in May. Partial scholarships available through River Forest Township for River Forest residents with demonstrated need. To register online please send an [email](#) to Encore Illinois or contact Linda Crabtree Powell via [email](#) or by phone at 312-342-7227.

## "Celebrating Seniors™ All Year Long" Features History & Travel

The final "Celebrating Seniors All Year Long" event for the year will be held on **Saturday, December 3, at 2:00 PM**. Travel historian Bill Helmuth returns to take us on a special tour of "Christmas in the Holy Land".

Winter programs kick off with the January lineup:

- **Sunday, 1/22, 2 PM** – Famous First Ladies with Jenny Riddle
- **Sunday, 1/29, 2 PM** – Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt with Dr. Foy Scalf

Programs are held at the River Forest Library. Co-sponsored by River Forest Township and River Forest Library.

## Seniors: Warm up with Coffee Mondays

Coffee Mondays are held at the River Forest Library on the first Mondays at 10 AM, featuring guest speakers and time left to chat! Coffee provided by Blue Max; co-sponsored by the Township and Library.

- **December 5** – veteran journalist and communications expert Matt Baron presents (in a fun and engaging way!) how numbers are used and misused in the media.

- **January 9** (moved due to the Jan. 2 New Year's holiday) – River Forest Library Mary Kay Akers-Stiff shares "Books You Will Love in the New Year".

## Caregiver Support Groups

Whether you are caring for a family member or are a paid caregiver...whether you are caring for a senior, adult child or grandchild...support is available.

- **2nd and 4th Mondays, 4 PM**, Koehneke Community Center/Concordia Campus. Sponsored by Concordia's Center for Gerontology (in partnership with River Forest Township). Contact Dr. Lydia Manning via [email](#) or by phone 708-209-3218.
- **2nd and 4th Fridays, 10 AM**, Oak Park & River Forest Township Senior Services, 130 S. Oak Park Avenue. Contact Steve Smith, 708-383-8060.

## Seniors: Be Sure to Get an ICE Packet for Your Freezer

Seniors: Make sure you have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) Packet in your freezer! The ICE Packet contains a Medical Information Form which you fill out and store in the freezer...right where the River Forest paramedics know to find it in an emergency! A decal is provided for the front of the freezer to alert paramedics that you have a completed ICE Packet inside.

Pick up ICE Packets at the Township offices (at the River Forest Community Center), Village Hall and the River Forest Public Library.

If you are unable to pick one up, or if you have any questions, please contact Carla Sloan, River Forest Township Supervisor via [email](#) or by phone at 708-366-2029. Quantities are available for block parties, church groups, organizations or condo/apartment buildings.

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## PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

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### Upcoming LEGO® Programs

#### Holiday Winter Fun

Ages: 5 - 10

Join Bricks 4 Kidz® this winter as we celebrate the Holiday Season using LEGO® bricks. This workshop is packed full of fun LEGO® based holiday activities, games, take-homes and building! Kids will use our proprietary model kits, including technic LEGO® components, motors, battery packs, and remote controls to construct holiday-themed creations!

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### Jedi Engineering

Ages: 5 - 6

The Force Awakens in this introductory engineering course for young Jedi! Join Play-Well TEKologies as we explore engineering

principles by designing and building projects such as LEGO® X-Wings, R2 Units, Energy Catapults, Defense Turrets, and Settlements from a galaxy far, far away. Create motorized and architectural projects with imagination and engineering to defeat the Empire!

Saturday, December 10, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### **Jedi Master Engineering**

Ages: 7 - 12

The Force Awakens in this advanced engineering course for young Jedi! Join Play-Well TEKnologies to discover key engineering concepts such as gear trains, worm drives, pneumatics, and eccentric motion. Build LEGO X-Wings, AT-AT walkers, Pod Racers, Star Destroyers, Cloud Cities, Settlements, Fortresses, and other complex machines and structures from a galaxy far, far away.

Saturday, December 10, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

### **Magic Classes of Gary Kantor (co-op with Oak Park)**

Grades: 5 - 12

Children are guaranteed to have a great time as they learn fascinating tricks from a professional magician! Amaze family and friends with tricks that involve cards, ropes, coins, mind-reading, and more. While the tricks may appear difficult, you will discover that they are easy to learn and perform. All materials are provided, and each child will receive a magic kit to take home. Children are grouped together by age and always learn tricks that are age-appropriate. Brand new tricks are taught each session!

The event fee is \$20 for River Forest residents or \$25 for non-residents and will be held at the Park District of Oak Park Anderson Center.

Friday, December 9, 6:45 PM - 7:40 PM

### **Winter-Spring Fun Guide is Online!**

[The Winter-Spring Fun Guide is now available online.](#) The guide will be delivered to residents' homes on December 5. Resident registration begins December 12. Non-resident registration begins December 27.



If you no longer wish to receive this email please email [unsubscribe@vrf.us](mailto:unsubscribe@vrf.us).