



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 River Forest Residents,

Welcome to 2016! The Board of Trustees and I hope you had a warm and wonderful holiday season.

In the upcoming months, the Board and I, in consultation with our administration and staff, will be presenting the Village's budget for the next fiscal year. We will discuss the operating budget, which will spell out our programs and services and how they will be funded. This budget will include the following key goals that the Board of Trustees and I set out late last year: updating the Village's comprehensive plan, enhancing the Village's communication efforts, expanding our use of technology and continuing to collaborate with other taxing bodies.

These, as well as all other budget initiatives, will align with one of four overall objectives:

- Provide a safe community for residents.
- Ensure a financially stable and effective government.
- Increase property values for taxpayers.
- Stabilize property taxes.

Advance notice of meetings when budget discussions will occur will be posted on the Village's website and at Village Hall. We encourage you to attend these Board meetings so you can learn how the Village delivers efficient and effective government services

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the community has come to expect each and every day.

Starting this month, we will be exploring the reinvigoration of Madison Street and North Avenue through the creation of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts. The Village Board and staff will hear from our planners that residential and retail will be the best uses for the property on these important roadways. Public hearings will be held prior to implementation of these important tools in the Village's efforts to boost redevelopment efforts. As a landlocked community, we need to make use of economic tools such as TIF to ensure that that we are looking at the highest and best use of these properties.

This winter, we also will be discussing new measures to protect our historical and architectural heritage, and we hope to hear more about the progress that the all-taxing body subcommittee on collaboration is making toward resolving some of our pressing community issues.

I will keep you apprised of these efforts as they arise.

Recently, the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Office released an important report that can be read [here](#) regarding the elimination of unfunded mandates. The state has imposed unfunded mandates on local governments such as villages, school districts and park districts while providing no source of funding to comply with the requirements. The study also recommends reducing the number of units of government, noting that Illinois has nearly 7,000, more than any other state. Both factors contribute to Illinois residents paying some of the highest property taxes in the country, with property tax revenue accounting for 61.3% of all local revenue in the state. This burden, as you are well aware, is becoming untenable for all of us. The Village has made the identification of other revenue sources for programs and services a priority, but we also have to govern simpler and smarter. It will be one of our future challenges, and I am confident that River Forest will find ways to address it.

Feel free to contact me or any of the Trustees with comments, concerns and questions by going to our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Cathy Adduci

New this Month - Park District Spotlight!

This month's edition of the Village of River Forest E-News includes a River Forest Park District Spotlight section. Please be sure to see this section for information on great community events and programs!

New Crossing Signs at Lake and Forest

In an effort to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Lake Street, the Village has installed new, solar powered crossing signs at the intersection of Lake and Forest. Pressing the button on the signs will initiate the flashing lights, alerting drivers that a pedestrian is trying to cross.

Seniors: Try something new at the Computer Learning Lab!

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Useful Links

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Thank You for Your Donations

Thank you to everyone in the community for the donations to Toys for Tots and Sarah's Inn. All of the toys and goods collected helped make the holiday season special for those less fortunate. A special thanks goes out to Willard Elementary School's, Willard's Kindly Wizards! The collection drive was organized by the River Forest Police Department



Register to Vote

The final day to register to vote in the March 15th, 2016 Presidential Primary Election is February 16th, 2016. For more information and other key dates, **please contact the Cook County Clerk's Office** or visit their website by [clicking here](#).

Alert: Ruse Entry Burglary and Home Repair Fraud

Due to some recent occurrences in neighboring suburbs, the River



Forest Police Department reminds residents to protect themselves from two common types of scams— “ruse entry burglaries” and “home repair fraud”.

Ruse Entry Burglary

Whereas most residential burglaries occur when homes are unoccupied, a ruse entry burglary is distinguished by the fact that offenders target occupied residences and use a ruse to distract homeowners while a theft occurs.

Home Repair Fraud

Home repair fraud is a completely different from ruse burglary; however the Police Department has found that it is often committed by the same crews of offenders who commit ruse burglaries. The common theme is that the offenders use quick, convincing conversations to trick the victim and gain trust.

Please take time to educate yourself on these important issues by reading [the full bulletin](#) provide by the River Forest Police Department.

Safety for the Season

The River Forest Fire Department would like to provide everyone with these timely reminders. Please take time to read the following safety tips:

- [Hover Board](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#)
- [Fire Escape Planning Tips](#)
- [Fire Escape Planning Grid](#)

Know the Code!

As the winter moves forward, 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.

Community Connector

[Click here](#) to read the Oak Park and River Forest High School's Winter 2016 Community Connector.

GREEN NEWS

Holiday Wreaths, Trees and Garland

Collection Schedule

Roy Strom will collect Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland on the following Tuesdays:

- January 12th
- January 19th
- January 26th

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.

Holiday Lights Recycling

Residents can recycle their holiday lights at a Village collection site located on Central Avenue between Park Avenue and Keystone Avenue under the viaduct. The collection site will be open 24/7 until further notice.

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

RIVER FOREST LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Sophia Anastos Stepping Down as Library Director - Farewell Celebration on Sunday, January 10, 3-5 PM

It is with great sadness that we announce that Sophia Anastos has decided to step down from her role as Director of the River Forest Public Library. Effective January 2016, Sophia will take a leave of absence for health reasons. The Library Board has named Sue Quinn to serve as Interim Director pending a search for a new Director. There will be a farewell celebration in her honor on Sunday, January 10 from 3-5 PM at the River Forest Public Library. This is open to all members of the community and we hope you will join us.



Sunday, 1/10, 2-3 PM, Iran

With a longevity of over 3000 years, Iran has had a historically bumpy road. Join Bill Helmuth, world traveler, for this travelogue with photos to better understand Iranian society, governmental relations, and conflicts with neighboring states. Bill is back by popular demand. Come to learn and be amazed!

Saturdays, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 9:30-11:30 AM, Donuts for Dads, Children of All Ages and Caregivers

Grab Dad and join us at the Library for crafts, books, and board games as well as tasty breakfast treats and coffee from Blue Max. At 10:30 we'll all head upstairs for a fun story time by the fireplace. Moms, grandparents, and caregivers are also welcome to attend with the children in their lives.

Monday, 1/18, 10-11 AM, Crochet Away!

Adults, enjoy company as you crochet! Bring your projects and questions and learn from the group. All levels welcome.

Friday, 1/22, 6-8 PM, Family Trivia Night, Ages 6 and up

Calling trivia buffs of all ages! Come share your expert knowledge, win prizes, and have a blast! Teams of 4-6 players are invited to participate in a fun night of family friendly trivia. A pizza dinner will be served. If you want to play but don't have a full team, we will find you some great teammates. Advanced registration required. For ages 6 through adult.

Tuesday, 1/26, 3:30-4:30PM, What's Poppin'?, Grades 5-8

Pop on over to RFPL to sample a variety of different flavored popcorn and unleash your kernels of popcorn knowledge.

TOWNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long!

"Let's Celebrate Seniors All Year Long", the joint program series co-sponsored by River Forest Township and the River Forest Public Library, will continue throughout the winter months! Although the program is directed at seniors, all are welcome to attend the free sessions, to be held at the RF Library on weekend afternoons.

Sunday, January 10, 2 pm - Renowned storyteller, writer and world traveler Bill Helmuth takes us to Iran, its rich past and complex present day.

Saturday, February 20, 2 pm - "Talk Intelligently about Art" with Chicago art historian and guide Jeff Mishur.

Sunday, March 6, 2 pm - Edu-tainer Martina Mathison, founder of Living History, re-enacts the life of Marie Antoinette in honor of Women's History Month.

Sunday, April 3, 2 pm - Tour the gardens of Holland with landscape photographer Linda Oyama Bryan.

Sunday, April 17, 2 pm - As a preview to the Wright Plus Housewalk in May, enjoy actress Ellie Presents' costumed interpretation of "Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Cheney Tells Her Story".

Seniors: Come in from the cold on Coffee Mondays!

River Forest Library and River Forest Township are pleased to "warm up" this winter's Coffee Mondays with some special topics of conversation, with time left over "just to chat". Meet at 10 am at the River Forest Library on the first Monday of each month*:

- February 1- Love songs performed by the A Cappella Fellas
- March 7- Tips from the River Forest Police Department
- April 4- Silver Sneakers exercise class

Seniors: Try something new at the Computer Learning Lab!

Search your family history on the web... learn to Skype with your grandchildren... connect with old friends by email...

Come to the Computer Learning Lab at the River Forest Public Library! For beginners through intermediate home/personal users; directed at seniors but all are welcome. Individualized, hands-on instruction. No need to sign up in advance. Use one of the library laptops or bring your own. Co-sponsored by RF Public Library and RF Township.

- Wednesdays, January 13 through May 11, 10:00-11:30am*

***For Coffee Mondays and Computer Learning Labs, 1-hour weekday parking is available to library patrons in the Roosevelt School *middle* lot on Lathrop.**

Valentine's Day Poetry "from the Heart"

All seniors are cordially invited to the annual Valentine's Day Poetry Recital, sponsored by Township Senior Services, on Friday, February 12 at 9:30 am at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street.

Calling all River Forest 5th-7th graders to the Park District's "Rock-In"

The RF Park District is hosting a Rock-In night of fun for 5th-7th graders on Friday, January 22 at Roosevelt Middle School. Featuring dodgeball, DJ, karaoke, candy bar bingo, pizza...

Check-in 6:45-7:15 pm; doors locked 7:15-9:15 pm; check-out 9:15-9:30 pm.

\$10/person. **Pre-registration required** (no drop-ins accepted), so sign up today!

Save the Date: Regional Mental Health Conference to be held at Brooks Middle School

Saturday, March 19, 8am - NAMI Illinois (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is hosting a regional mental health conference at Brooks Middle School entitled "How Children's Mental Health/Mental Illness Affects Home, School and Community". Open to parents, caregivers, social workers, teachers and mental health professionals. Registration info will be available next month.

IM.P.A.C.T. meets on January 25

The next meeting of IM.P.A.C.T., the community coalition which addresses underage alcohol and drug use in our community, will be held on Monday, January 25, 4:00 pm at the River Forest Community Center, 8020 Madison Street. Parents and other interested community members are invited to attend and become involved. Discussion focuses on addressing substance abuse issues and making healthy choices.

PARK DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

Adult Fitness in the New Year – Two New Classes for 2016!

Hatha Yoga and Meditation

Ages 14 & up

This class will begin with hatha yoga asanas followed by pranayama (breathing techniques) and guided meditation. Expand your yoga practice and unwind from the day by learning the ancient techniques in an enjoyable, comfortable environment. Open to students of all levels.

January 4 - February 1 (Session I)

Latin Explosion

Ages 14 & up

Enjoy the rhythms of Latin America, while engaging in a high-powered workout. If you like Zumba, but want to kick it up a few notches, then this class is for you! This fusion class combines sizzling Latin dance moves with elements from the Brazilian martial art Capoeira and Cardio-Kickboxing, all designed to create a fun total-body workout that is guaranteed to blast you out of your comfort zone and into a new level! This class is suitable for all fitness levels.

January 9 - May 21

For more information on our fitness classes, take a look at our [2016 Winter/Spring Fun Guide](#).

For online registration, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events:

Pixie Tea Party

Join us for a Pixie Tea Party complete with songs, games, dancing, storytime, and a visit from a Pixie! January is National Hot Tea Month, so come and warm up with some hot tea and a dinner as a Pixie entertains us.

Sunday • January 31 • 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Bring your favorite tea cup!

Registration Deadline: January 27

For more information, [click here](#).

3-on-3 Pond Hockey Event

Participate in this fast-paced Pond Hockey Tournament.

Each 15 minute period will see teams of three showing off their skills and scoring goals. Safety comes first in this friendly Tournament, with no checking allowed. A fun day for budding or more experienced hockey players alike. Teams of three to six players.

Ages 9-12

FREE!

Registration Deadline: February 1 (Team Captain must register their team.)

[Click here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Programs:

Sandlot Games *New!*

This multi-sport program will feature a variety of sports and classic playground games in a productive, positive, and fun environment. These classes are the perfect outlet for kids to be active after the school day is over.

Jan 12 - Feb 9 • 4:30 - 5:15pm **(for ages 3-4)**

Jan 12 - Feb 9 • 5:30 - 6:15pm (for ages 5-6)

Basketball Skills and Games *New!*

Come out and play as we have fun learning the fundamentals of the game with inventive drills, games, and contests that will keep your child active after school. 3Point Athletics' team of engaging and knowledgeable instructors will blend the perfect amount of skill instruction with organized games and fun activities to create a program that is productive, positive, and fun!

Jan 13 - Feb 17 • 4:00 - 4:45pm (for ages 3-4)

Jan 13 - Feb 17 • 5:00 - 5:55pm (for ages 5-6)

Cheerleading & Poms

Ages: 6 - 10

Develop and further your cheering, dancing, and jumping skills, with an emphasis on participation, safety, and fun. Cheer and Pom routines will be learned. A performance will be held at the last class of the session. Poms are provided.

Tuesdays • Jan 19 - Feb 16 • 3:15 - 4:15pm (at Lincoln School Auditorium)

Thursdays • Jan 21 - Feb 18 • 3:15 - 4:15pm (at Willard School Auditorium)

Storybook Ballet & Tap Recital

Ages: 3 - 4, 5 - 7 (parent drop-off)

In this combination class, enjoy ballet, tap, and storybooks! **Ballet:** The ballet program focuses on classical instruction, technical skills, and terminology with upbeat, modern music. **Tap:** Terminology and techniques will be taught.

Tuesdays • Jan 19 - Apr 26 • 4:45 - 5:45pm (ages 5 - 7)

Thursdays • Jan 21 - Apr 28 • 4:45 - 5:45pm (ages 3 - 4)

*No class 3/29, 3/31

Ballet, Tap & Jazz Recital

Ages: 3 - 4, 5 - 7 (parent drop-off)

Get a taste of all 3 styles of dance in this fun class! Technical skills and terminology are taught with upbeat, modern music.

Tuesdays • Jan 19 - Apr 26 • 3:30 - 4:30pm (ages 3 - 4)

Thursdays • Jan 21 - Apr 28 • 3:30 - 4:30pm (ages 5 - 7)

*No class 3/29, 3/31

For more information on our programs and events, take a look at our [2016 Winter/Spring Fun Guide](#).

