

Riverside Review

April / May 2011

Village of Riverside

27 Riverside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-2700
www.riverside.il.us

Building Dept. 708-447-1241
Fire Admin. 708-447-2123
Parks & Rec. 708-442-7025
Police Admin 708-447-2127
Public Works 708-442-3590
EMERGENCY 911

Village President
Michael C. Gorman

Board of Trustees
James D. Reynolds
Lonnie R. Sacchi
John E. Scully
Ben Sells
Mark D. Shevitz
Jean Sussman

Village Clerk
Arlene Blaha

Village Board Meetings

All meetings begin at 7:30

April 4
April 19
May 2
May 16

Commission Meetings

April 2011

07 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
11 Cable Commission, 7:30
12 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
14 Preservation Comm., 7:30
19 Plan Commission, 7:30
21 Police Adjudication, 6:30
25 Parks & Rec Comm., 7:00
26 Historical Comm., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

May 2011

04 Fire & Police Comm., 7:00
05 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 a.m.
05 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
09 Cable Commission, 7:30
10 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
12 Preservation Comm., 7:30
17 Plan Commission, 7:30
19 Police Adjudication, 6:30
23 Parks & Rec Comm., 7:00
24 Historical Comm., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

*Please call 708-447-2700 x 254 to confirm the meeting you wish to attend.

For more information please visit www.riverside.il.us

A Sense of Place

As the calendar moves from Winter snowflakes to Spring showers, from cloudy and grey to sunshine and green...PAUSE for a moment...and reflect on the Sense of Place that is our National Historic Landmark Village.

Riverside is not simply a place to live. It is a community. It is where friendships can last a lifetime. As a 32-year Riverside resident, many of my friendships were developed here in concert with my wife and three children. As Riversiders, we all develop our friendships as we progress through our schools and the playgrounds, the gymnasiums and the ball fields, our civic clubs and our cultural organizations. Each one is special – for children, teens, young adults and seniors. Riverside truly yields a Sense of Place.

Contribute your unique personality to Riverside. Find a piece of your daily routine where you can take part. VOLUNTEER – for a civic group or for a Village Commission. Have you thought about being a team coach or a recreation instructor? Maybe you have a “green thumb”. We can use that, too! By getting involved with what makes you happy, you can share that experience and strengthen our community.

Spring is here. Celebrate Riverside. Shop Local. Eat Local. Live Local. If you have ideas for more local choices, share them with me or Village Manager Peter Scalera at pscalera@riverside.il.us

Let’s continue to enjoy everything Riverside offers. I know that I will continue to do just that.

Sincerely, Mike Gorman

New Parks & Recreation Programs

The Riverside Parks & Recreation Department is doing new and exciting things and wants you to be a part of the action!

Tantalize your taste buds and satisfy your craving for fun with friends, old and new, on our **Tours & Tastings Series!** We have several different irresistible trips planned! A chocolate tasting tour, a beer tasting tour and trip to a spy themed restaurant. Call us for more details at (708) 442-7025.

Ready, set, SHOP! Pack up and head out on a 3-day shopping and touring adventure to Shipshewana and their **49th Annual Amish Acres Festival** with over 800 vendors. This is a pleasure-packed getaway!

Find out what we are all about at the **Riverside Parks & Recreation Open House** on Sunday, May 22nd from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. We will have free class demonstrations, tours, activities, treats and more for all who come. This is an exciting opportunity you won’t want to miss!

Being a Responsible Dog Owner

A canine companion is a wonderful addition to a home and with Spring in the air, residents will be spending more time outside with their dogs. Please be considerate of others and exercise good judgment when out with your dog. The Village of Riverside requires all dogs to have a Village issued license tag and to wear a collar at all times. Dog tags must be purchased once a dog reaches six months of age and annually thereafter prior to June 30. Dog license renewals will be mailed out in mid May.

Please also keep the following in mind:

- When walking your dog, your dog **MUST** be on a leash. Letting your dog walk unleashed does not allow you any control over your animal. Other people do not know your dog and should feel safe when out enjoying our village. Similarly, dogs must be on a leash if on private property but accessible to the public. (on a front porch, in the front yard, etc.)
- Dogs are not permitted on Village tennis courts, baseball fields or tot lots. This is a matter of public health and safety.
- Dog owners are required to immediately remove excrement left by their dog from any public way or property not owned by the dog owner.
- Owners of dogs who bark excessively may be fined from \$25—\$100 per day.

To get the latest news and developments about the Village of Riverside, please sign up for the E-Flash System. To register, please go to www.riverside.il.us/eflash.

Improve the Value, Comfort, and Energy Savings of your Home

Riverside single family homeowners are the first in the nation to have access to MyHomeEQ, a new online tool that can help homeowners save money and improve the value and comfort of their homes. MyHomeEQ.com provides home energy efficiency ratings and offers customized recommendations for energy saving improvements. Homeowners can also use the tool to connect with contractors and find energy efficiency rebates and other incentives.

Until April 30, Riverside homeowners can use MyHomeEQ to connect with programs from Nicor Gas that offer discounted home energy evaluations and funding to help cover the cost of energy saving home improvements. The program offers:

- **A professional home energy evaluation for only \$50.** A professional energy auditor will evaluate your home and recommend the most effective energy saving home improvements. (This service typically costs \$400 - \$600.)
- **\$40 worth of free upgrades included with the energy audit.** This includes installation of faucet aerators, an efficient shower head, and up to 10 free compact fluorescent light bulbs provided by ComEd.
- An opportunity to qualify for **funding from the Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program that covers 50% (up to \$1,250) of the cost of making energy-saving home improvements** recommended in the home energy evaluation.

Learn more at myHomeEQ.com!

Building Permit Requirements

The Building department would like to remind residents that all building and construction projects, including alterations, repairs and demolitions that cost more than \$500.00, require a building permit PRIOR to work beginning. Building permit fees vary depending on the cost of the project, inspections required and plan review costs. The minimum cost is \$75.00, which covers the first \$500.00 to \$7,500.00 worth of the project's value. Permit fees increase \$15.00 for every \$1,000.00 above the initial \$7,500.00. Please feel free to contact the building department at (708) 447-1241 if you have questions or visit our website at www.riverside.il.us.

Vehicle Sticker Reminder

Renewal forms will be mailed out in mid-May. Stickers must be purchased and displayed no later than June 30 to avoid penalties. Current stickers are required for all vehicles registered (with the secretary of state) to a Riverside address or housed in Riverside. Vehicles with no changes can be renewed on-line before June 20. You may also return your renewals by mail, in person, or use the silver drop box in located in front of the village office.

New this year, if a vehicle is to be removed from the roll, you must provide the village with a copy of the bill of sale, disposal record such as an insurance report or secretary of state registration showing that the vehicle is no longer registered in Riverside. If a vehicle remains registered in Riverside but is used out of town (such as with a college student or second home), it still must have a Riverside vehicle sticker.

Home and Car Burglary Prevention Tips

When the weather turns warm, home and car burglaries tend to increase. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Most thieves look for an easy target. The majority of all thefts in Riverside happen when people leave doors or windows unlocked. Don't become a victim! Make it difficult for a thief to target you by following these simple theft prevention tips:

Keep an eye on an open garage. Each month, patrol units report open unattended garages. It only takes a moment for criminals to remove valuable items such as golf clubs, bicycles, lawn mowers and tools. Worse yet, a thief could enter your unlocked home or steal your car. Always close your garage door unless it is within immediate sight.

Lock and secure all doors. Make sure you have deadbolts on all doors leading into your home. To secure sliding glass doors, install a bar or special lock.

Secure your vehicle. Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even when it is parked in the garage or driveway. Never leave keys or valuables, such as cell phones, computers, purses or money in plain view. Remember, if a criminal breaks into your vehicle and steals your garage door opener or house keys, he now has easy access to your home.

Leave on the light. It only costs "a nickel a night" to leave on your front and back outside lights. Well-lit areas deter criminals from taking advantage of the cover of darkness.

Be aware, alert and active. Citizen participation is essential to combat crime. Always report suspicious or unusual activity to the police. Get your neighbors together to start a Neighborhood Watch Program.

For more information on crime prevention programs such as Neighborhood Watch or for a free home security survey, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 708 447-2127.

