

Riverside Review

August/September 2008

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
Harold J. Wiaduck

Board of Trustees
Candice Grace
John E. Scully
Ben Sells
Thomas C. Shields
Kevin F. Smith
Jean Sussman

Village Clerk
Arlene Blaha
Village Manager
Kathleen F. Rush

Village Board Meetings

August 18

Board of Trustees, 7:30

September 15

Board of Trustees, 7:30

October 6

C.O.W. & Regular Meeting, 7:30

Commission Meetings

August 2008

05 Plan Commission., 7:30
07 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
11 Cable Commission., 7:30
12 Fire & Police Comm., 7:00
12 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
14 Preservation Comm., 7:30
21 Police Adjudication, 6:30
25 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am
26 Historical Commission, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

September 2008

02 Plan Commission, 7:30
04 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
08 Cable Commission, 7:30
09 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
11 Preservation Comm., 7:30
18 Police Adjudication, 6:30
22 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am
23 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

Village Proposes Property Tax Hike

On November 4, 2008 residents will be asked to consider a property tax increase that will allow for continuation of the current level of services provided by the Village and will also allow the Village to provide the following additional services:

- Add a Detective in the Police Department to provide that a detective can be available outside of regular business hours.
- Allow for creation of a joint police dispatch system with our neighboring villages by providing the necessary dollars to ensure that record keeping and clerical services for this system are retained in Riverside
- Improve the care of our parks and wilderness areas by implementing vegetation control and pest (gypsy moth, emerald ash borer) management
- Improve our code enforcement efforts focusing on commercial district compliance with property maintenance standards
- Improve the appearance of the Central Business District by continuing the improved landscape effort and implementing a façade maintenance program
- Provide sufficient funds to maintain sidewalks throughout the Village on a consistent repair schedule
- Support the information technology needs of the Village, and in particular those of the Police and Fire departments

The referendum will also provide sufficient funds so that the Village can 1) offer a need-based discount for senior citizen vehicle stickers, 2) reduce the cost of vehicle stickers to the previous \$45/car price, and 3) eliminate the recently enacted Places for Eating Tax.

This measure, if approved, will increase taxes paid in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. To calculate the impact of the requested increase on your home in 2009, multiply \$46.86 for each \$100,000 of your home's market value. (Example: The owner of a home with a market value of \$450,000 would pay approximately 4.5 x \$46.86 = \$210.87 more in taxes in 2009.) To calculate the average annual increase in taxes over the four years, multiply \$90.59 for each \$100,000 of your home's market value. Education sessions on this proposed tax increase will be held in September and October. If you are interested in arranging a visit to a gathering of your neighbors or community organization meeting, please contact the Village office at (708) 447-2700x254.

Riverside Public Safety: Always There

The Riverside Police and Fire Departments work hard to serve you. Did you know that nearly all of the 21,000 emergency dispatch calls were answered in less than half a second? Or that over 3,900 of those calls were emergencies? The statistics are impressive, but they do not tell the full story.

The Police Department was short between two and four patrol officers the past couple years. The optimal staffing level is 21 officers. With two new hires this year the Department will be up to the budgeted staff allocation of 19 officers. During the lean times the Department operated by working together to staff shifts and work overtime. Police Chief Tom Weitzel stated, "Resiliency and working together is what we pride ourselves on." While short-staffed and stretched, Weitzel's Department decreased the number of Type I Offenses (i.e. aggravated assault, theft, burglary) by nearly 42%.

The Fire Department also faces its own unique challenges with its staffing and capital improvements. That has drastically changed where now only a small percentage live in town. Converting to a fully staffed fire department is just not possible as a typical 24 hour operation will cost an additional 1.5 million dollars more than the current Fire Department budget. Other challenges include budgeting for capital improvements where current facilities are severely limited. For example, a new fire engine is replaced about every 20 years and while Riverside can maintain the engines beyond the standard, the cost associated with maintenance and replacement parts skyrockets. Secondly, as the newer trucks capabilities have increased, their size has too. Most departments can accommodate larger equipment, but our Department is severely limited because of the age and size of the current stations. Regardless the Fire Department works through its limitations to provide you with the best service.

Public safety is about meeting everyday challenges and ensuring the public is well protected. So the next time you hear the engines and sirens blaring, remember there is more to keeping you safe than what you hear. For more information on either department, please visit www.riverside.il.us.

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.

Independence Day Festivities



The Annual Independence Day Parade and 5k Run were successes. Thousands of people lined the streets of downtown Riverside to watch the fire engines, police cars, and community organizations march and celebrate our nation's independence. The festivities were kicked off by the annual 5k run. Over 400 runners came ready to race through Riverside. Parks and Recreation Director Laure Kosey stated, "The Independence Day Festivities is really a great time to showcase our community and come together." If you would like to view the race results or see some of the pictures from the parade, please visit the Riverside homepage at www.riverside.il.us. To find out more about next year's events and activities, make sure you have also registered for the Village's E-Flash system. Via the E-Flash system, each Department can keep you updated on any new developments. Hope to see you at the parade or 5k run next year!

Bicycle Safety



The Riverside Police Department would like to remind residents to follow bicycle safety rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. See the tips below:

Always Wear an Approved Bicycle Helmet:

The helmet should sit low on the forehead, just above your eyebrows. It should fit snugly and the two side plastic pieces on the straps should fit just under the ears. The buckle should be just under the chin, with one finger's width of space between the strap and chin. The helmet must always be buckled while riding. The helmet should not move more than ½ inch in any direction.

Know and Follow the Rules of the Road:

Be sure to know and follow the rules of the road contained within the Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC). Vehicle Code handbooks can be obtained at the Riverside Police Department or Illinois Secretary of State Bicycle Services Office. Remember, bicyclists must obey the same laws as drivers of motor vehicles.

Ride with the Flow of Traffic:

When riding, always follow lane markings and use appropriate hand signals. Ride single-file when in heavily congested areas.

Avoid Riding at Night:

If it is necessary to ride your bicycle at night, wear light-colored or reflective clothing. Also make sure your bicycle is properly equipped with reflectors and a front light.

Be Alert While Riding:

Watch for cars, pedestrians, and hazards in the roadway such as potholes and drain grates. Do not assume other people will yield to you and give the right-of-way to other bicycles and pedestrians. Do not use a cell phone while riding.

Walk Your Bike when Crossing A Street in a Crosswalk:

Remember to always look left, right, and then left again when you cross.

Power Outage Procedures

Powerful storms may sweep through Riverside resulting in power outages to many in the area. In August of 2007, many Riverside residents experienced power outages for a few days. A concern to the Village is making sure that residents get accurate and prompt information. The Village has worked with ComEd to establish the proper procedures to get power-outage information and updates:

- If your house is without power report it directly to ComEd at 1-800-Edison1 (1-800-334-7661).
- If you want an update as to when power will be restored, call ComEd directly.
- Do NOT assume that a ComEd power truck near your residence means that ComEd is aware your home is without power. Call ComEd and report your outage.
- If there are downed power lines near your home call 911. Then call ComEd.

For additional information about power outages and some of the steps you can take to prepare for power outages, please visit www.riverside.il.us/poweroutage. There, you can download and print information, claims forms, and other emergency information.

Airport Noise

Recently, the Village has received an inquiry about flight patterns and excessive noise from airplanes flying overhead. During the summer months we spend more time outside and the noise generated from aircraft flying into O'Hare International Airport and Midway can be disruptive. If you would like to register a complaint, please call the City of Chicago's Aviation Noise Hotline at 1-800-435-9569. The City will log your complaints and comments and file them with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Village is currently overhauling the website. You will see new features and style changes in the coming weeks. Visit www.riverside.il.us
- The Recreation Department serves over 5,000 children annually through its various programs
- New Riverside Wear hats are available at Village Hall for \$20—while supplies last
- You can view regular updates on the Village on NET 6—Tune in to see the Riverside Bulletin