

Riverside Review

August / September 2013

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
Museum 708-447-2542
Library 708-442-6366
EMERGENCY 911

Village President
Benjamin Sells

Board of Trustees
Joseph A. Ballerine
Patricia Collins
Michael Foley
Ellen Hamilton
Douglas Pollock
Jean Sussman

Village Manager
Peter Scalera

Village Clerk
Cathy Haley

Village Board Meetings
All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
August 1, August 15
September 5, September 19

Commission Meetings August 2013

01 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 a.m.
08 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
08 Preservation Comm., 7:30
12 Cable Comm., 7:30
13 Board of Fire & Police
Commissioners, 7:00
13 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
20 Plan Commission, 7:30
15 Police Adjudication, 6:00
26 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
27 Historical Commission, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As
called

September 2013

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

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



For more
Information,
please visit
www.riverside.il.us

Back to School — Please Drive Carefully

Riverside police will be stepping up traffic enforcement in school zones in the coming weeks. **Traffic and parking violations will not be tolerated.** Citations will be issued whenever police observe violations, especially in school zones.

Riverside police urge drivers to take the following steps to make safety the top priority in school zones throughout the village:

- Reduce speed in school zones, even if you're not dropping off or picking up.
- Stop for school buses that are loading and unloading students.
- Drive slowly in residential areas near schools and be alert for students who may be running late and not paying attention to traffic.
- Watch for bicycles.
- Get off the cell phone! Cell phone usage in school zones is against the law and extremely dangerous.

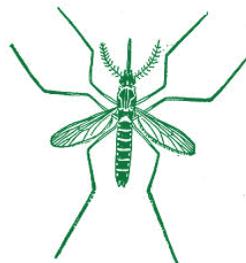


Other back-to-school safety precautions for parents and children:

- Be alert to increased, slow moving traffic when dropping off or picking up children.
- Properly restrain children in car seats and have older children sit in the back seat, especially in cars equipped with passenger-side air bags.
- Walk to school whenever possible and plan a route with the fewest streets to cross, low traffic volume and controlled intersections.
- Review safety rules with children.
- Dress children in light colored clothing to increase visibility by drivers.

Help Fight Mosquitoes

Illinois is home to more than 40 different species of mosquito. Each species has its' own habitat; however all mosquitoes require water to propagate, and it doesn't take much water for mosquitoes to develop. In order to prevent mosquitoes from ruining your outdoor events, please take the following steps to eliminate standing water:



- Properly dispose of all trash that can hold water.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent water from standing in gutters or on flat roofs.
- Change water in bird baths, wading pools and other water features at least once a week and maintain swimming pools properly.
- Eliminate debris on your property that can impede drainage.
- Screen rain barrels with mesh to prevent adult mosquitoes from depositing eggs on the water's surface.
- Store containers upside down.

The Village of Riverside is within the jurisdiction of the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District. The district monitors mosquito populations in Riverside and surrounding communities. Perhaps you've seen an orange jeep with the steering wheel on the right side driving through the village, stopping at catch basins? District employees treat catch basins with larvicide throughout the mosquito season and spray to control the adult mosquito population when needed. For more information on mosquitoes, please visit the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District website at www.desplainsvalleymad.com.

Budget Process Underway for 2014 and Beyond

The planning process for the 2014 budget and beyond has started. The process began in July with the evaluation of capital equipment and projects presented in the Village of Riverside's 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan 2023. In August, projects and purchases anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year will be reviewed in preparation of compiling the budget document for presentation in late September. In October, the estimate of the annual property tax levy will be presented to the Village Board. In November and December, the tax levy and budget hearings will be held, followed by consideration of the budget ordinances for 2014. Once the ordinances are adopted, the 2014 budget process will be concluded.



Farmers' Market in Full Swing

The Farmers' Market is held in the parking lot between the Library and the Township Hall each Wednesday from 2:30—7:00 p.m. and will conclude for the 2013 season on October 2. For the most up-to-date information on the market, visit the Farmers' Market facebook page at www.facebook.com/Riverside.Farmers.Mkt

Sign up for the E-flash today! Visit the website for details.

To get the latest news and developments about the Village of Riverside, please sign up for the E-Flash. To register, go to www.riverside.il.us and click on the Riverside E-flash link on the left side of the homepage or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Radon Awareness

The Cook County Radon Awareness Program is encouraging residents of Cook County to test their home for radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can seep into a house through cracks in the basement floor and walls, around the openings of the sump pump or through crawl spaces. It is easy to test for Radon and it is simple to fix your home, if necessary.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US. The United Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) states that radon is associated with 15,000 to 22,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. Almost 50% of the homes in Illinois and nearly 30% of the homes in Cook County that were tested by professionals had radon levels higher than what is recommended by the US EPA, according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The only way to know if you have radon in your home is by testing. The kit can be ordered for the low cost of \$7 via the Cook County Department of Environmental Control.

If you have questions, please call the Radon Awareness hot line 708-865-6177 and leave your Name, Address, and Phone Number; or to order a test kit, send a \$7.00 check to:

Cook County Department of Environmental Control
69 West Washington Street, Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60602



Foreclosure Prevention

Homeowners at risk of foreclosure who are struggling with mortgage payments and want to keep their homes should contact the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network. The IFPN brings together the services and resources of various state agencies and qualified participating non-profit agencies to guide Illinois residents through the process of weighing the options that may help families keep their homes. These services are free and include housing counseling agencies and other organizations that have helped thousands of Illinoisans keep their homes.



Residents facing unemployment or underemployment may qualify for temporary financial assistance under the Illinois Hardest Hit program. Thousands of homeowners have already been helped through the Illinois Hardest Hit program, but federal funds are almost exhausted. **The last day to apply for the Illinois Hardest Hit program is Monday, September 30, 2013.** Don't delay, act now. For more information, please visit: <http://www.keepyourhomeillinois.org/>

Proper Disposal of Prescription Medications

If your medicine cabinet is filled with expired prescriptions or medications you no longer use, most drugs can be disposed of in the household trash, but residents should take certain precautions before tossing them out, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Another option is to participate in the periodic community-based "take-back" events offered by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. To dispose of medications in the household trash, please follow these guidelines:

- Take all medications out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through your trash.
- Put medications in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag. These same disposal methods also apply to over-the-counter drugs.



Protecting Our Water Environment

The Village of Riverside is served by a combined sewer system. The same sewer lines carry wastewater and stormwater to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's sewerage treatment facility in Stickney. When the combined sewer system becomes inundated with sewerage or rainwater, flooding may occur. Here are some ways residents can help prevent flooding and protect the water environment:

- Reduce the amount of water entering the sewer system by avoiding washing dishes, doing laundry or bathing during or immediately after a storm event.
- Keep prescription medications out of the water supply. Sewerage treatment plants are not designed to process medications that have been flushed or poured down drains.
- Pick up after pets. Animal waste contains organic matter and bacteria which may find their way into waterways.
- Discard or recycle litter. If you see litter on your parkway, please pick it up so it doesn't find its way into sewers.
- Don't blow grass clippings or leaves into the street where they can block storm sewers.
- Don't use plastic bags if paper or reusable bags are an option. It takes hundreds of years for plastic to decompose and plastic bags often find their way into the water system where they pose a hazard for birds and fish.
- Incorporate "green" infrastructure into your landscaping by installing a rain garden, rain barrels and permeable surfaces where possible. Please visit www.mwrd.org for additional resources.