

Riverside Review

October / November 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.
October 3, October 17
November 7, November 21

Commission Meetings

October 2013

08 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
10 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
10 Preservation Comm., 7:30
15 Cable Comm., 7:30
15 Plan Commission, 7:30
17 Police Adjudication, 6:00
22 Historical Commission, 7:00
28 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

November 2013

07 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 a.m.
12 Cable Commission, 7:30
12 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
12 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners, 7:00
14 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
14 Preservation Comm., 7:30
19 Plan Commission, 7:30
21 Police Adjudication, 6:00
25 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
26 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

ComEd Installing Smart Meters in Riverside

ComEd crews began installing smart meters at homes and businesses in Riverside in September. Installations are expected to be completed in November 2013. Smart meters are digital electric meters that collect usage information and securely send it to ComEd wirelessly. This helps eliminate estimated bills. Because a smart meter provides customers with access to more information on their electricity use, customers will be able to make changes that can save them money on monthly electric bills. Smart meters are important building blocks of the smart grid that can help ComEd know when an outage occurs and when power is restored, resulting in cost savings that will be passed on to consumers.

ComEd plans to install approximately 4 million smart meters in all homes and businesses across its service territory. The installation of these meters is expected to be complete by 2021. Homes and businesses scheduled for smart meter installations will receive information from ComEd explaining how the installation process will work and how customers can use smart meters to manage their energy use. For more information, visit ComEd.com/SmartMeter.



1,000 Tree Planting Project

Just as they have every November since 2007, volunteers will fan out across the village to plant 1,000 tree seeds in a single day. The effort, known as the “1,000 Tree Planting Project” is now in its seventh year and communities across the country are taking notice. Anyone with an interest in the reforestation of Riverside’s natural areas is welcome to take part in this annual activity which begins with a short seminar by Village Forester Michael Collins and project organizer Tom Sisulak. The event will once again be hosted by Riverside United Methodist Church, 82 Woodside Road and volunteers are asked to meet at the church on Saturday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers will plant Oak, Black Walnut, Shag Bark Hickory, Ohio Buckeye and Bald Cypress seeds.

Riverside’s Ash trees have been devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer during the past several years. This project will help renew the tree canopy which will be enjoyed by Riverside residents, visitors, song birds and local wildlife for years to come. Once planting has been completed, volunteers are invited to attend a free chili dinner at the church. For more information, please contact Riverside United Methodist Church at 708-447-1760.



Property Maintenance Impacts Everyone

One of the negative impacts of the economic downturn that began several years ago is an increase in foreclosures in Riverside. As many families have learned to live with less, property maintenance has not always received the attention it had in the past. In an effort to keep Riverside looking beautiful and maintain property values, the Village’s property maintenance officer has begun a village wide property maintenance code enforcement effort to remind residential and commercial property owners that certain standards of upkeep are required by the municipal code. If you receive a Code Enforcement Courtesy Notice from the property maintenance officer, please make an effort to address any issues noted on the form and bring your property into compliance as soon as possible. Small property maintenance issues which are relatively easy to address can grow into larger, more complex and expensive problems if left unattended. Currently, property maintenance concerns are handled in Maybrook Court and the process for securing compliance can be time consuming and frustrating. In an effort to expedite the process, the Village Board of Trustees recently directed that the municipal code be amended to bring the adjudication process in house. This will allow for more timely resolutions to property maintenance concerns.



Final Yard Waste Collection of 2013

Residents are reminded that the final yard waste collection of 2013 will be Tuesday, December 3. This is the Tuesday AFTER the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Holiday Stroll

Hours for Trick-or-Treating in Riverside are from 3:00 — 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31. Make **Halloween** a memorable holiday. Here are some easy tips to keep children safe.

- Young children should always trick or treat in the company of a responsible adult.
- If older children will be trick-or-treating with friends, agree on a route so you know where they are at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to trick-or-treat without adult supervision. Make sure unaccompanied older children have a cell phone with them if possible.
- Respect others and their property. Don't cut through yards or across lawns. Stay on sidewalks.
- Instruct children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by a parent or guardian. This way you can check for any problem candy and get the pick of the best stuff!
- Instruct children that they should never enter the home of a stranger or get into a car with a stranger. Explain why this is not a good idea and what to do if someone they do not know approaches them and tries to talk to them.



Please note that Village and Township offices will be closed for the **Thanksgiving** holiday on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29, 2013. Village offices will reopen on Monday, December 2 at 8:00 a.m. The Village Board and staff wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Save the date! The 39th Annual Riverside Chamber of Commerce **Holiday Stroll** will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013 in downtown Riverside. This is always a memorable event and a great way to get into the holiday spirit. Please visit www.riversidechamberofcommerce.com for details.

Winterization: Tips for Staying Warm & Saving Money



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, winter heating costs are expected to average of 10% higher in 2013/2014 than in 2012/2013. Winterize your home before the cold winds blow and you'll be comfortably warm and save money on energy costs. Some simple things you can do to prevent heat loss are:

- Fill in cracks in walls and seal gaps around windows, doors and vents. Make sure cold air isn't finding a way in between the floor and baseboards.
- Insulate electrical outlets and switches with pre-cut foam seals available at most hardware and home improvement stores or online.
- Use shrink-to-fit window insulation on older windows that don't keep the cold out.
- Replace disposable furnace filters monthly or consider upgrading to a permanent filter which can be cleaned and reused. Disposable filters only trap 10-40% of pollutants while permanent filters can trap 90%. A clean furnace runs more efficiently, reduces energy consumption and extends the life of appliance.
- Heat the house when you're there, not while you're away. If you're away from the house all day, program the thermostat to lower the temperature while you're away and increase the temperature shortly before your typical return home. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, consider upgrading. The cost is about \$30 and installation is not complicated. According to People's Gas, using a programmable thermostat can save up to 20% on heating costs.
- Lower the temperature of the hot water heater to 120 degrees and wrap the tank with an insulating blanket. Adding insulation can reduce standby heat losses by 25-45%, for a savings of 4-9% in water heating costs.
- Operate ceiling fans in reverse at the lowest speed. Recirculating warm air that's pooled at the ceiling can reduce energy costs by as much as 10%.

For more helpful information on conservation and sustainability, please visit the EcoMyths Alliance website at <http://www.ecomythsalliance.org/>.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3, 2013. Be sure to set clocks back one hour and change batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Coming Attractions

Thanks to a grant from the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus, the Village of Riverside was able to work with CGI Communications to produce a video about Riverside which will soon be available on the Village website and Riverside TV. The video will showcase Riverside's unique character, architecture, housing stock, local businesses and excellent schools. Working with Village staff and local business owners, representatives from CGI Communications were recently in the village to film on location. The finished product will be available sometime in October.



Parks & Recreation Offerings

The Parks & Recreation Department's Autumn/Winter brochure is now available on the Village website. Please check it out on the homepage of the website at: www.riverside.il.us.