

# Riverside Review

December/January 2008-2009

## Village of Riverside

27 Riverside Road  
Riverside, IL 60546  
708-447-2700  
[www.riverside.il.us](http://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

### December 1

Board of Trustees, 7:30

### December 15

Board of Trustees, 7:30

### January 5

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

### January 20

Board of Trustees, 7:30

## Commission Meetings

### December 2008

04 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30

08 Cable Commission., 7:30

09 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00

11 Preservation Comm., 7:30

17 Plan Commission, 7:00

18 Police Adjudication, 6:30

22 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am

23 Historical Commission, 7:00

Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

### January 2009

05 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30

08 Preservation Comm., 7:30

12 Cable Commission, 7:30

13 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00

15 Police Adjudication, 6:30

20 Plan Commission, 7:30

26 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am

27 Historical Comm., 7:00

28 Police Pension Bd., 9:00 am

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](http://www.riverside.il.us)

## 2009 Budget Update

On November 8, the Village Board met to discuss the 2009 budget. Earlier this summer, the Board had identified service changes that would be implemented pending the outcome of the referendum. The property tax referendum provided no additional dollars, so the Village is required to reduce spending in a number of areas since no other revenue source is available. However, some previously identified service reductions were reinstated, including daytime manning at Fire Station #2 and the Police Department's Community Service Officer. Service reductions that will be implemented will diminish the Village's ability to communicate with residents, seek additional grants, provide support for Chamber of Commerce events, and enforce vehicle sticker ordinances.

The most dramatic service reduction will be significant scaling back of the Recreation Department, with half of the Department's property tax levy being eliminated. This change will redirect property tax revenue to other services, but will require the Recreation Department to focus on revenue-generating programs rather than community events. As such, in 2009 the Village will not be able to sponsor or support the July 3<sup>rd</sup> concert or the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and festivities.

The 2009 budget is scheduled for adoption on December 15. The current budget draft can be found at the Village Office, Riverside Public Library, or online at [www.riverside.il.us/budget](http://www.riverside.il.us/budget).

## Parks & Rec Department Goes Paperless!

The Parks & Recreation Department is going to a paperless brochure in January 2009!

Due to budget cuts, starting in 2009, the Parks & Recreation Department's program brochure will only be available online at [www.riverside.il.us](http://www.riverside.il.us). Please look for the brochure starting January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Registration for residents begins February 2<sup>nd</sup>, with non-resident registration starting the following week on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Salting and Snow Plowing Changes for 2009

Most are aware that road salt has become a scarce commodity in the Midwest after the extraordinary demand caused by last year's snow events. The Village of Riverside was fortunate this year to secure salt at a price substantially less than other area municipalities. Still, the Village saw a 50% increase from last year's salt prices to this year: from \$40 per ton to \$60 per ton. The impact of this increase is really felt when considering that the average amount of salt the Village purchases each year is 800 tons. At that quantity the difference between last year's and this year's total salt purchase is close to \$20,000.

With these costs in mind, the Public Works Department has redoubled its commitment to handling every ton of salt with consideration and moderation. Plowing operations will remain the same as in years past, and the Department will continue to respond to snow events in a timely manner; however, the application of salt has been slightly modified. In the past, the Department has applied salt liberally on every street throughout the town. This year, the Department will primarily focus its salt application on the main arterial roads and at intersections.

The Public Works Department still considers providing safe driving conditions a top priority and is prepared to provide this vital service for the community. We ask residents to exercise extra caution when driving this winter season and, in the process, help ensure safe roadways for everyone.

## Be a Responsible Pet Owner

Just as a reminder, Village ordinances require that dogs be on a leash at all times when out in the Village. In addition to wanting to comply with Village ordinances, being a responsible pet owner is just the right thing to do.

If you have questions about Village rules pertaining to pets or have specific concerns about violations, please contact the Riverside Police Department at 708-447-2125.



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](http://www.riverside.il.us/eflash).

# Fireplace and Wood Burning Stove Safety

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves and fireplaces is growing. While a fireplace or wood burning stove may be a great way to provide heat for your home, extreme care needs to be observed when using these heating devices. While they are a great source of heat, fireplaces and wood burning stoves are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you remain safe this winter.



- Be sure the fireplace or stove is properly installed. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36 inches) from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design. Purchase wood stoves evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- If using the stove frequently, the stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of Carbon Monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

## Finally . . .

- Be sure every level of your home has working smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms. Be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- If you have a question on home fire safety, contact the Riverside Fire Department at 708-447-2123.

## Refuse Rates Increased Effective December 1



The Village of Riverside's waste hauling agreement with Allied Waste calls for a rate increase to take effect on December 1 of each year. According to the franchise agreement, the annual increase must be less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year. Though the relevant CPI for this year was 4.4%, the total increase for collection, disposal, and recycling will only increase by 3.7% in 2009, or even less for certain service levels.

Effective December 1, the rate for *curbside* pickup for a single-family home will increase from \$21.05 per month to \$21.77 per month, while single family *backdoor* pickup will increase from \$29.20 to \$30.28 per month. Both rates include unlimited recycling and yard waste pickup.

The rates for two-unit buildings will increase from \$31.18 per month to \$31.78 per month for curbside pickup, while backdoor collection for two-unit buildings will increase from \$43.29 to \$44.42 per month. Again, these rates include unlimited recycling and yard waste pickup.

The Village's franchise agreement with Allied Waste also covers multi-family and commercial refuse pickup with the exception of commercial dumpster service. Those rates are individualized per customer based on the number and size of cans they use. To see the rate charts for multi-family and commercial pickup, please see the website.

As a reminder, the Village of Riverside has twice weekly refuse collection. This is an amenity that our residents have requested and strongly supported in the past and which the Village continues to provide. Refuse collection in Riverside will continue to occur on Tuesday and Friday.

The Village's existing refuse franchise agreement with Allied Waste expires in November 2009. Over the next year, the Village Board will be seeking feedback on the service in anticipation of establishing a successor agreement.

## Holiday Safety Tips For Your Home

When away for the holidays, the best way to defend your home against crime is to make your home look occupied:

- Discontinue ALL deliveries before you leave or have a trusted neighbor collect the mail and paper every day.
- Put several lights on timers that will light at different times of the day and night.
- Put a radio on a timer to make your house sound occupied.
- Lower the volume on the phone so no one will hear the phone go unanswered or the answering machine pick up.
- Leave a neutral message on your answering machine: NEVER indicate that you are away from home.
- Have a neighbor put trash outside of your home on trash day.
- Leave a car in your driveway or have a neighbor park their car in your driveway.
- Make sure the outside of your home is well lit to discourage a break-in.
- Make sure all doors and windows are securely locked.
- Have a trusted neighbor check your house on a daily basis, and make sure he/she knows how to reach you in case of emergency.