

Riverside Review

December 2013 / January 2014

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.
December 5, December 19
January 2, January 16

Commission Meetings

December 2013

09 Cable Comm., 7:00
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
18 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

January 2014

09 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
09 Preservation Comm., 7:30
13 Cable Commission, 7:00
14 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
16 Police Adjudication, 6:00
21 Plan Commission, 7:30
27 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
28 Historical Comm., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

January meeting dates are tentative and subject to change. Please call 708-447-2700 ext. 254 to confirm the meeting you wish to attend.



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

Important Changes to Water Billing, Water Rates and Water Shut Off Procedures

On November 7, the Village Board approved changes to the Village Code regarding property owner responsibility for final water bills, tagging fees; fees for reconnecting water service after hours and fees/penalties associated with illegal water connections.



The revised code now states that it is a property owner's responsibility to pay all outstanding bills prior to closing as well as obtain a final payment certificate from the Village. If a property owner sells a property, but does not obtain the certificate and provide it to the buyer at closing, any unpaid balance will become the responsibility of the new property owner. This ordinance has been filed against all Property Index Numbers (PIN #s) within Riverside. When a title search is done prior to or at closing, the ordinance will appear in the title search and the individual selling the property will be required to provide a copy of their final payment certificate confirming that all outstanding bills with the Village have been paid. This ordinance ensures that the Village is paid for services rendered and will reduce the number of individuals that close on properties in Riverside without

obtaining the required Certificates of Compliance.

The procedure for tagging properties for shut-off has also been amended. In the past, the Village charged \$50 to shut off water service at a property; however, prior to tagging a property for shut off, staff sent out two notifications of an outstanding bill in addition to the original water bill. In most instances, the property owner would pay the outstanding bill once the property was tagged for shut off. Unfortunately, significant Village resources had already been used to tag the property and there was no way to recoup these costs. Beginning in 2014, the village will charge a \$50 tagging fee for single family homes, rather than a \$50 shut off fee. Multi-unit properties will have an escalating tagging schedule based on the number of units that must be notified. A \$75 reconnection fee will still apply. An additional fee will be charged if the reconnection occurs after hours or on the weekend.

Finally, anyone who connects to the village's water system illegally, without a water meter, will be assessed a bill for estimated consumption plus a penalty assessed by the Village Manager. These amendments to the Village Code will impact few residents, as most pay their water bills on time; however, they will ensure that the village is paid for services rendered and resources used.

Water Rate Increase

As most residents will recall, the City of Chicago increased the water rate charged to suburban municipalities by 25% in 2012. This rate increase resulted in higher water bills for Riverside residents. At that time, Chicago also announced plans to further increase water rates by 15% annually in 2013, 2014 and 2015. These increases will apply to each of the 130 suburbs that purchase water directly from Chicago or through intermediaries, so residents should expect to see the increase in the water rate in the next billing cycle.

2014 Holiday Schedule for Village Offices

Village offices will be closed on the following days in 2014: New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1; Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20; Spring Holiday, Friday, April 18, Memorial Day, Monday, May 26; Independence Day, Friday, July 4; Labor Day, Monday, September 1; Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28; and Christmas Holiday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 24 and 25.

Refuse collection will be delayed by one day due to the following holidays in 2014: Memorial Day and Labor Day. Please note that refuse collection **WILL NOT** be affected by the following holidays in 2014: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Independence Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Riverside TV is on the air and Streaming

Tune in to Riverside TV to watch Village Board Meetings, Riverside Township Board Meetings, District 96 Board of Education Meetings and more. Village Board Meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable Channel 6 at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. DVDs of meetings are also available to check out at the Riverside Public Library and streaming video is available on the Riverside TV and Village websites.



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.

Riverside Police Department is now on Twitter

The Riverside Police Department will now be sharing information via Twitter with tweets of high-profile incidents and other police related notifications. Follow the Riverside Police on Twitter @pdriverside. Remember: Social media should not be used to report crimes or emergencies. Anyone with an emergency that requires an immediate response should dial 9-1-1.

I Got it in Riverside!



The Village of Riverside and Riverside Chamber of Commerce encourage you to support local businesses and help attract new businesses by doing your holiday shopping in Riverside. Known for its history, scenery, and architecture, Riverside is a joyful break from the malls and mass merchandise for the savvy shopper too. In fact, you could probably fulfill your entire shopping list without even leaving the borders of this village that's been an American original since 1875. Riverside merchants offer a wide variety of offerings including stained glass products showcased at the White House from Colorsmith, educational trips around the world from Blueprint Tours, award-winning dining at The Chew Chew Restaurant, world renowned artworks from Higgins Glass Studio, fine small-batch artisanal spirits from Quincy Street Distillery, flights of craft beers and savory flatbreads from Riverside Tap Room, fine estate and contemporary jewelry at Arcade Jewelers, more than 10,000 titles from Comic Collector, lessons in mixology from the American Professional Bartender School, innumerable ways to split haircuts between Salon D'Amore and Salon Elia, the authentic taste of Argentina from Empanadus, memberships to the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, and so much more.

"I Got It In Riverside" is more than just a shop local campaign. It's a way for village leaders, merchants, residents and visitors to collaborate and celebrate all that is good about Riverside, particularly during this holiday season. Special thanks goes out to the Economic Development Commission, creative agency Sticky Worldwide, Twenty-Seven and a Half Photography and the Riverside Chamber of Commerce for planning and developing this campaign. To learn more about this effort and to view the entire poster gallery, please visit the "I Got it in Riverside" website at www.igotitinriverside.com.

Local business owners, many of whom are also Riverside residents, make significant contributions to our community throughout the year in terms of philanthropic support of community groups and through payment of property and sales tax. In order for those businesses to remain viable and grow, they need our support. Please also be sure to visit the Riverside Chamber of Commerce website at www.riversidechamberofcommerce.com to learn more about all of the fantastic local businesses and merchants who call Riverside home.

Thank You Volunteers!

The village board of trustees, village manager and staff wish to thank everyone who volunteered their time and talents in service to the community in 2013. Whether you volunteered at Riverside Arts Weekend, during the Independence Day festivities, at the Farmers' Market, as part of the Riverside Springs Ahead effort to beautify the downtown business district, as a youth sports coach or at one of the many, many Landscape Work Days organized by the public works department and the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, we thank you for your efforts.

The Village also wishes to acknowledge the recent \$5,000 donation by the Riverside Garden Club to be used for planting parkway trees in 2014. This donation will enable the village to replant a variety of trees on public lands to ensure the regrowth of Riverside's urban tree canopy which saw the loss of many ash and elm trees in 2013.

Residents may be interested to know that the Landscape Advisory Commission recently recommended the inclusion of the Accolade Elm tree on the village's recommended planting list. The Accolade Elm (*Ulmus Morton*) was selected as the Urban Tree of the Year by the Society of Municipal Arborists in 2012 because it is highly tolerant of a variety of soil conditions, grows rapidly and is extremely hardy and beautiful. It was also recently included in the Chicago Botanic Garden's Trees for 2050.



Safety is Always in Season

Each year in the United States, an estimated 800,000 children are reported missing. Of that number, it is estimated that 200,000 are abducted by family members and about 58,000 are abducted by non-family members. The remainder are reported as missing or runaways. It is estimated that 115 children annually are victims of the most serious abductions; they are taken by non-family members and murdered, hurt, sold, ransomed or taken with the intent to keep. An analysis of attempted abduction cases by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children found that in 84% of cases, children escaped would-be abductors through their own actions. The Riverside Police Department urges you to teach your children about safety. Visit www.missingkids.com for more information.