

Riverside Review

December 2014 / January 2015

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

Interim Village Manager
Jessica Frances

Village Clerk
Cathy Haley

Village Board Meetings
All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
December 4, December 18
January 15

**Advisory Board &
Commission Meetings**
December 2014

08 Cable Comm., 7:00
09 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
11 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
11 Preservation Comm., 7:30
15 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
17 Safe Environment, 7:30
17 Planning and Zoning, 7:00
18 Police Adjudication, 6:00

January 2015

08 Preservation Comm., 7:30
08 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
12 Cable Commission, 7:00
13 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
15 Police Adjudication, 6:00
21 Safe Environment, 7:30
26 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
27 Historical Comm., 7:00
28 Planning and Zoning, 7:00

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

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



Winter Home Safety



Though the weather outside may be frightful, a warm, cozy home is always delightful. As Winter approaches, residents are encouraged to prepare for the cold weather in order to prevent weather related emergencies. According to the National Fire Protection Association, half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February. Furnaces should be inspected by a qualified professional once a year to ensure that they are functioning properly. Chimneys and vents should also be inspected and cleaned annually and cooled ashes from fireplaces should be disposed of in a covered metal container that is kept at least 10 feet away from any structure. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should be tested to ensure they are working properly. Portable space heaters should always be plugged

directly into an outlet, and placed at least three feet away from anything combustible. Never use an extension cord with a space heater and always turn a space heater off when leaving a room or going to bed.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is another concern during winter months. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil or methane burn incompletely. Malfunctioning home heating and cooking equipment are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Generators and vehicles also produce carbon monoxide. Never run a vehicle or generator inside a garage. Never use a stove or oven to heat a living space. During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are free of accumulated snow.

In the event of another Polar Vortex, here's a tip for preventing frozen pipes. It's not unusual for plumbing running to a kitchen sink on an exterior wall to be extremely vulnerable to the cold because the wall may not be adequately insulated. Open the cabinet doors along that wall to project heat into the space. If necessary, place an electric heater in front of the cabinets for an extra measure of cold protection. The pipes don't need to be warmed to room temperature, they just need to be warm enough to keep the water in them from freezing.

Residents in rental housing should be aware that building owners are required to provide heat from September 15 of each year through June 1 of the succeeding year. Anyone with concerns regarding inadequate heat in a rental unit should contact the Building Department at 708-447-1241. Information regarding heating requirements is also available on the Village of Riverside website: www.riverside.il.us, in Section 4-2-2: HEATING REQUIREMENTS of the Municipal Code online.

Snow Removal

During the snow and ice season, it is the goal of the Public Works Department to maintain Village roadways at bare pavement condition curb-to-curb in order to ensure delivery of emergency services and provide access to the motoring public. The department will begin plowing all major arterial streets when salt is no longer providing effective melting and snow has accumulated to a depth of 1 inch. Arterials (main roads that run through the village), the Central Business District, village parking lots, train station platforms and streets near schools will be cleared first. Secondary streets and all other parking lots will be cleared next. Cul-de-sacs, alleys, dead-ends and sidewalks in the CBD will be cleared after that. Snow from private property must not be deposited on public roadways. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 708-442-3590 with questions or concerns about snow plowing.



Residents are reminded that refuse and recycling containers should not be placed in roadways when snow plowing is necessary. Please place containers on the parkway or driveway apron. For questions/concerns regarding refuse collection, please call Republic Services at 708-345-7050.

Parks & Recreation Information

The Parks & Recreation Department serves 6,000 patrons each year. In any given year, the Department offers over 200 programs aimed at both children and adults. Classes fill quickly, so register early. Visit the village website to peruse the Autumn/Winter programming catalog. Online registration is available. Be sure to visit the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RiversideRec.

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.

Burlington Streetscape Improvements

The Village of Riverside presented the plan for the new Burlington Street central business district streetscape at a Town Hall meeting on November 12. A group of about 50 residents attended to hear the presentation by Doug Gotham, the landscape architect who is leading the design team, and Orion Galey, the Village's engineer.

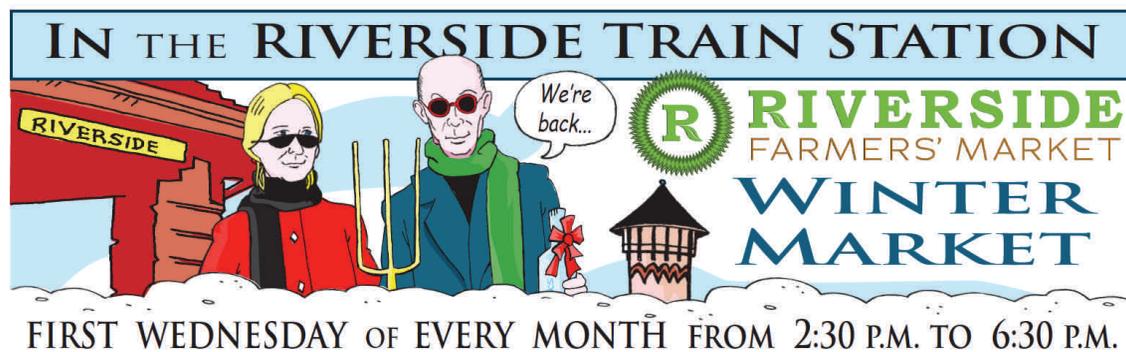
The streetscape plan is part of the design phase of a \$754,660 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant that was awarded to the Village in April of 2014. The ITEP grant was awarded in conjunction with an existing Surface Transportation Program grant for the resurfacing of Burlington Street from Harlem Avenue to Longcommon Road.

The streetscape plan was designed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, a leader in innovative designs for revitalizing suburban business districts. The plan was reviewed by Gibbs Planning Group, one of the foremost urban planning consultants in the United States that specializes in enhancing retail development for historic towns and villages.

"We were excited to present this plan to our residents," said Riverside Village President Ben Sells. "It is the result of an excellent design team, guided by input from the Village Board of Trustees, advisory commissions, staff, and local businesses. It marks a dramatic step forward in revitalizing our central business district."

The plan features permeable sidewalk pavers to help manage surface water runoff, hand constructed limestone planters, and new street furnishings to create a welcoming space for residents and visitors. It includes design elements reflecting Riverside's connection to the Des Plaines River and its landmark landscape and architecture. "We asked for a design that was uniquely Riverside," said Sells, "one both historic and progressive as befits our legacy."

The plan is on display outside the Village office and additional renderings are available at the library. Information is also available on the homepage of the Village website: www.riverside.il.us. The public is encouraged to view the plans and provide comments and suggestions to the Village Board. Construction will begin in August 2015 with a completion date in mid-November.



The Winter Farmers' Market is held on the 1st Wednesday of the months of November, December, February, March, April and May, from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Riverside Train Station. For up to the minute information on events and special promotions, please visit the Farmers' Market Blog at JUSTEATLOCAL.WORDPRESS.COM, like the market on facebook at www.facebook.com/Riverside.Farmers.Mkt or follow the market on Twitter @RiversideFarmMkt.

Tree Pruning in Winter

Winter is a good time to prune trees. The village recently completed tree trimming in public right of ways bounded by Longcommon and the BNSF railroad tracks. This was part of a Cyclic Pruning program in which all village trees are pruned every five years on a rotational basis. Pruning during winter dormancy is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in spring.

Because each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree, no branch should be removed without a good reason. Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches, to improve form, and to reduce risk. Trees may also be pruned to increase light and air penetration to the inside of the tree's crown or to the landscape below. There are many outside considerations, however, that make it necessary to prune trees. Safety, clearance, and compatibility with other components of a landscape are all major concerns. Proper pruning can maintain good tree health and structure while enhancing the aesthetic and economic values of our landscapes. A general rule would be that young trees are pruned to improve structure and mature trees are pruned to ensure long term health by the removal of deadwood.

Pruning trees can be dangerous. If pruning involves working above the ground or using power equipment, it is best to hire a professional arborist. An arborist can determine the type of pruning necessary to improve the health, appearance, and safety of your trees. A professional arborist can also provide the services of a trained crew with the required safety equipment and liability insurance.

Please visit <http://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx> to search for an arborist in our area.

Winter Holidays

Village offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25 and Thursday, January 1. There will be no change in the refuse collection schedule. The Village Board of Trustees and staff wish all residents a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.