

# Riverside Review

February / March 2011

## 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

Michael C. Gorman

### Board of Trustees

James D. Reynolds  
Lonnie R. Sacchi  
John E. Scully  
Ben Sells  
Mark D. Shevitz  
Jean Sussman

### Village Clerk

Arlene Blaha

## Village Board Meetings

All meetings begin at 7:30

February 7

February 21

March 7

March 21

## Commission Meetings

### February 2011

02 Fire & Police Comm., 7:00  
03 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 am  
03 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30  
08 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00  
10 Preservation Comm., 7:30  
14 Cable Commission, 7:30  
15 Plan Commission, 7:30  
17 Police Adjudication, 6:30  
22 Historical Comm., 7:00  
28 Parks & Rec Bd., 7:00  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
-As called

### March 2011

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08 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00  
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\*Please call 708-447-2700  
x 254 to confirm the meet-  
ing you wish to attend.

For more information please visit  
[www.riverside.il.us](http://www.riverside.il.us)

## Continuing Forward

As I complete my second year as your Village President, I feel as privileged as I did on the day you elected me and my fellow Trustees. It is an even more rewarding experience than I had hoped and the Village is on a positive course.

I believe that whether we compromise, collaborate or simply do what we were elected to do, once the Village Board makes a decision on behalf of all of us, we need to make it work and move ahead. Hanging on to "My way is right" is not in the best interests of the Village. There are just too many challenges still facing Riverside in today's economic environment to put one's personal point of view over the entire community.

Looking ahead, I will continue to advocate for Riverside and use my personal and professional experiences to improve our Village and its government. This includes building relationships with our local business community, businesses in neighboring communities and developing close working relationships with elected representatives of our municipal neighbors and State and Federal officials.

As your Village President, I serve on the Legislative Committee of the West Central Municipal Conference and the Service Delivery Task Force of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. In January I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). CMAP is charged with the statutory responsibility for planning activities for the seven county northeastern Illinois metropolitan region that includes Cook County and the Village of Riverside. "GO TO 2040", adopted in October 2010, is the region's first comprehensive plan since Daniel Burnham's in 1909. The plan's implementation will now be led by CMAP. Serving on these Committees and the CMAP Board provides a wealth of knowledge and information that, in turn, allows me to be a more effective Village President.

Compromising, collaborating, doing what we were elected to do, balancing all competing interests including those of the taxpayer. Simple? Not always. But that is the essence of serving as an elected official. And for that...I Thank You!

Please feel free to contact me via the Village Office at 708-447-2700 or email to:

[mgorman@riverside.il.us](mailto:mgorman@riverside.il.us).

## Help Beautify Riverside—Adopt a Planting Bed!

The Landscape Advisory Commission has been working with volunteers in the Central Business District and other parts of the village to beautify some of the beds through weeding, mulching and in some cases planting. Volunteers have been working in the Central Business District, at the Library and Village Hall, along Riverside Road, at the Bartram and Northgate triangle and at the Longcommon and Kent triangle.

This is an opportunity to meet some of your neighbors and improve your community. If you are interested in joining a work group or forming your own, please contact the village office at 447-2700. The Adopt-a-Planting Bed program is open to any village resident or organization. Please visit the Landscape Advisory Commission page of the village website for more information. Spring is just around the corner!



## E-Billing is Here!

Did you know that you can receive your Village of Riverside utility bill through e-mail? Visit [www.riverside.il.us/ebill](http://www.riverside.il.us/ebill) and you are just a few keystrokes from receiving your next bill electronically!

While you are at it, why not sign up for direct debit to fully automate your bill payment? Your utility bill will be paid directly from your bank account on the due date. *No checks. No late fees. No worries.*

**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).**

# Municipal Energy Profile Project

The Municipal Energy Profile Project (MEPP) is a new program that provides all municipalities in the seven-county Chicago metropolitan region with annual citywide energy consumption, vehicle miles traveled and emissions data. Each profile is designed to give the municipality information about how energy is consumed by residents and businesses in the community and to help the municipality prioritize strategies for energy efficiency and conservation. Municipalities can use the energy use profile to develop programs that effectively reduce energy use and to measure the impact of the programs, as well as to tap into existing regional and state resources that pertain to energy use. The project is funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, and data is provided through the cooperation of ComEd, Nicor, People's Gas, North Shore Gas, and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

## **Electricity Consumption in Riverside:**

Electricity consumption in both the residential and commercial / industrial (C&I) sectors is currently increasing nationwide. Growth in consumer electronics and information technology equipment, as well as an increase in home size and air conditioning use are prominent reasons for consumption increases in the residential sector. In the commercial / industrial sector, increasing consumption is driven by telecommunication and network equipment along with specialized technologies such as medical imaging advancements. Electricity is measured in kilowatt (kWh) hours.

In 2007, the amount of electricity consumed in Riverside was 50 million kWh. 68% of the village's electricity consumption occurred in the residential sector; the remaining 32% was consumed in the C & I sector.

In the residential sector, the village's average annual consumption per household is 10,283 kWh. Factors that affect electricity usage include square footage, presence and efficiency of air conditioning, efficiency of lighting, appliances and systems, and occupant behavior. See the table at right for a comparison of the average annual consumption and cost per household in Riverside to that of the county as a whole.

In the next newsletter, we will take a look at the data analyzing Riverside's natural gas consumption and vehicle miles traveled.

Residential Electricity Consumption & Costs		
	Riverside	Cook County
# of households	3,312	1,939,190
Ave. kWh per household	10,283	7,692
Ave. annual \$ per household	\$1,106	\$828

## What Our Water's Worth

How we use our water resources—including what we conserve, how much we waste, and what we choose to invest in water quality—is up to all of us. With that in mind, the Metropolitan Planning Council and Openlands have joined forces to create an ongoing campaign called, "What Our Water's Worth" to raise awareness about the value of water in northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana. Knowing that lots of small actions can add up to a significant result, we offer the following Conservation Tips for Riverside residents to consider:

**Think before you flush, Part 1:** A family of four switching to a .28 gallons per flush [WaterSense](#) toilet can save 17,000 gallons of water per year.

**Think before you flush, Part 2:** Pharmaceuticals are not removed during waste water treatment. Any medicine you flush down the toilet could end up in a waterway, harming wildlife and downstream water quality. Return expired drugs to a pharmacist or official disposal site, like the [Fox Metro Water Reclamation District's Medication Take-Back Program](#) for City of Aurora residents.

**Commit to the tap:** If you're hosting a meeting or party, first provide tap water in pitchers, then talk with people about the water, if only for a few seconds. Raising awareness is the first step toward investment and stewardship.

## Using a cell phone while driving in a school zone is illegal!

Tragedies occur when drivers don't know or follow the rules of the road. When drivers engage in distracted driving behaviors, such as talking on a cell phone or texting, they are not only a danger to themselves, but to everyone else on the road around them.

### Drivers Simply Can't Do Two Things At Once

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers who use hand-held devices while driving are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves or others.

In 2008 alone, nearly 6,000 people died and more than half-a-million injuries occurred simply because people were not paying attention to the road. Conversations can wait. The chances of causing a crash that can ruin lives is too great.

*Did you know...* Illinois banned the use of cell phones while driving in a school zone or highway construction zone. Bus drivers and novice drivers are not allowed to use cell phones while driving. Texting while driving is against the law. The message is simple. Stop engaging in other activities, especially using your cell phone or other electronic device while driving. Your primary responsibility as a driver is to operate your motor vehicle and to do it safely! Be safe. Concentrate on the road.

