

Riverside Review

February / March 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

Village Manager

Jessica Frances

Village Clerk

Cathy Haley

Village Board Meetings

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
February 5, February 19
March 5, March 19

Advisory Board & Commission Meetings

February 2015

09 Cable Comm., 7:00
10 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
10 Bd. of Police & Fire, 7:00
12 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
12 Preservation Comm., 7:30
18 Safe Environment, 7:30
19 Police Adjudication, 6:00
19 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 a.m.
23 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
24 Historical Comm., 7:00
25 Planning and Zoning, 7:00

March 2015

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



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

Register and Vote: It's Your Civic Duty



The Village of Riverside and Riverside Township encourage all residents to register and vote in every election. The next local election will be Tuesday, April 7, 2015. Voters will elect village trustees, library trustees and school board members on April 7, and although not every race is contested, it is still important for residents to exercise their right to vote. If you are not registered to vote, please stop by the village or township office to register. Registrants must provide two pieces of identification including one with their current address. Acceptable forms of identification include: Illinois drivers license, Illinois state ID, social security card, utility bill in the applicant's name, valid US passport, employee or student ID card, birth certificate, credit card or mail postmarked to the applicant. If you have moved within suburban Cook County, you must transfer your registration by re-registering at your new address. Please visit the "Register to Vote" page in the "Elections—Suburban Cook County" drop down menu of Cook County Clerk David Orr's website for additional information: www.cookcountyclerk.com.

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. Residents should expect to see the increase in the water rate in the next billing cycle.

The Village of Riverside is increasing its rate from \$8.93 per unit (100 cubic feet of water or 748 gallons) to \$9.34 per unit in 2015. The total combined water rate, which includes sewer charges, will be \$10.59 per unit. The village is only increasing the rate for the cost of water. The village's sewer rate has been the same since 2004.



Sump Pump Discharge

Winter is here and with the cold comes ice. Village code prohibits sump pumps and downspouts from discharging onto sidewalks and streets since the water freezes and creates hazardous conditions. The ice can also form a dam that may prevent melting snow from reaching storm sewers. Please take a moment to ensure that your sump pump discharge and downspouts are in compliance. A good rule of thumb is that water discharged from sump pumps or downspouts should be at least 25 feet back from the front property line.

New "Sign and Drive" Law Takes Effect

Effective January 1, 2015, posting of a driver's license for bail is no longer required for certain traffic offices in Illinois. Most driver's licenses act as official identification and now drivers will be able to keep their license and just "sign and drive" for certain violations. Signing the citation will act as a guarantee that the motorist will comply with the terms of the citation. Failure to comply, will still allow the Secretary of State to suspend driving privileges if warranted.

Free Rain Barrels from MWRD

At their January 15 Regular Meeting, the Village Board of Trustees approved an Inter-governmental Agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) for the distribution of free rain barrels to Riverside residents. In order to qualify for a free rain barrel, residents must meet the following four criteria: 1) They must have downspouts that are currently connected to the sewer system. 2) They must agree to disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system. 3) They must agree to connect rain barrels to their downspouts. 4) They must agree to properly maintain the rain barrels.



Once the agreement has been executed by MWRD representatives, the village will begin implementing the MWRD Free Rain Barrel program. Please watch for e-flash updates and updates on the village website. Residents who do not qualify for a free rain barrel can purchase rain barrels online from the MWRD website. Color options are: black, gray, terra cotta and blue and the cost is \$58.00 per unit.

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.



Winter Farmers' Market Continues!

The Riverside Farmers' Market Winter Market will be held in the warm and cozy Riverside Train Station from 2:30—6:30 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of February, March, April and May. Please stop by the train station to purchase products from your favorite summer market vendors and some exciting new vendors. Visit the Farmers' Market facebook page for the latest information on what vendors will be attending and what products they will have available: www.facebook.com/Riverside.Farmers.Mkt.

Electric Aggregation Update

Many residents have called the village office in recent months to report that they are receiving phone calls from various electrical suppliers offering different electrical rates and programs. Since passage of the Power Agency Act, over 640 Illinois municipalities have initiated Municipal Aggregation programs for their residents. Over 3,100 residences and small businesses were originally enrolled in the Riverside program. Through the end of December 2014, the average household in Riverside has saved \$308 due to lower rates achieved by the village's aggregation program. The collective savings achieved for residents of the village totals \$936,532 to date – achieved with no service interruption.

When Riverside voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum question in 2012 establishing a Municipal Aggregation Program, the village worked with the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) to negotiate a two year contract. The village again worked with NIMEC to renew the aggregation program in 2014, and again found an electrical supplier that offered a 100% renewable energy option. The current electrical supplier for the Village of Riverside is First Energy, with a renewable energy rate of 7.81 cents per kilowatt hour. The contract negotiated with First Energy allows the village to terminate the contract or suspend the contract and return residents to the lower ComEd rate with no penalty should the ComEd rate drop to a certain level; however, this will mean that residents will no longer be receiving "green" energy, because ComEd does not currently offer a green energy option.



At their January 15 Regular Meeting, the Village Board directed staff to work with NIMEC to solicit bids from electrical suppliers in hopes of reducing the current electrical rate while still maintaining the green energy supply. Residents may opt out of the aggregation program on an individual basis at any time with no penalty if they find an electrical supplier that they would prefer to use; however, the village urges residents to be cautious when entertaining offers from companies over the phone. If the village board votes to terminate the contract with First Energy, all participants in the aggregation program will be notified by mail.

Parks & Recreation News

Riverside Opportunities for Adaptive Recreation (ROAR) is the Parks and Recreation Department's initiative to provide recreational opportunities for developmentally disabled residents. The village seeks to provide services and opportunities that improve all of our residents' quality of life in a fiscally responsible manner. Since the Village of Riverside Parks & Recreation Department is not a member of a special recreation association, such as Gateway SRA, when a Riverside resident is able to participate in a program offered by this type of agency, it is usually at a higher cost to them. The Riverside Parks & Recreation Board has established a policy whereas the difference between the member versus non-member fee will be reimbursed to the participant providing the proper procedure is followed. For further information regarding this policy, please call Ron Malchiodi, Director of Parks & Recreation at 442-7025.

Please visit the homepage of the village website to review the Winter/Spring Program Brochure to familiarize yourself with the many programs being offered by the department.

Questions? Please call...

Many times, residents call the village office with concerns that are better addressed by other local government entities or private companies. Some commonly requested phone numbers follow:

ComEd (to report an electrical outage)	800-334-7661
NICOR Gas (to report a gas leak)	888-642-6748
Republic Services (refuse, recycling & yard waste issues)	708-345-7050
J.U.L.I.E. (Call before you dig!)	800-892-0123
Riverside Township (Food Pantry, Nurse's Closet)	708-442-4400
Riverside Township Assessor (property tax questions)	708-447-7700
Riverside Post Office	708-447-8320
Riverside Public Library	708-442-6366
Riverside Train Station (Hours: 5:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., M-F)	708-447-5375
Metra Passenger Services	312-322-6777

Please visit: www.earth911.com for guidance on recycling various household items.

Thank you!

Whether you served on a village board or commission, planted trees or pulled weeds, volunteered as a coach, a farmers' market manager or a race day course monitor, the Village Board and Staff thank you for your service to the community in 2014. Your involvement is what makes Riverside such a special place to live and we look forward to your continued participation in 2015.