

Riverside Review

June / July 2010

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
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

June 7

June 21

July 19

Commission Meetings

June 2010

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 Commission, 7:00
28 Parks & Rec Bd., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

July 2010

01 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., 7:00
27 Historical Comm., 7:00
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

Riverside Independence Day Activities



The Fourth of July is coming, which means it is almost time again for Riverside's annual celebration of Independence Day. Changes to this year's festivities include:

*The Concert in the Park will be on **Friday, July 2** from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and the Parade and Guthrie Park Festival will be held on **Saturday, July 3rd** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

*The start time for the Parade has been moved to 9:00 a.m.

*This year's parade will follow the same route as in years past.

*The Grand Marshalls of the parade will be Riverside's Local Businesses.

*More food vendors will be available both on the 2nd and the 3rd so that residents will have plenty of food and drink options. We encourage festival-goers to please support these vendors!

For more information about the Independence Day festivities or to make a donation toward the event, please visit www.friendsofthefourth.com.

Yard Waste Collection Reminders

Yard waste collection occurs once a week on Tuesday. All containers and bundles should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. Yard waste is collected in heavy-duty paper bags or smaller garbage cans. To be used for yard waste, garbage cans must have two handles and be no larger than 35 gallons. If a can is used, it must be marked for "Yard Waste" and the marking must be visible from the street. Yard waste decals are available at no charge at Village Hall. Cans or bags should weigh no more than 50 pounds. Oversize and overweight cans are the largest cause of injury to garbage truck drivers. When you purchase a garbage can, please verify its size. **Oversize cans will not be emptied.** Unfortunately, Allied Waste trucks cannot empty the garbage carts sold by retailers because their design is incompatible with its equipment.

If you would prefer to use a larger garbage cart as an alternative to multiple garbage cans, Allied Waste leases 64-gallon wheeled carts designated for yard waste disposal. Please contact Allied Waste at (708) 345-7050 for information on charges and availability.

Allied Waste collects bundled brush along with other yard waste. Brush and branches must be securely bundled with bio-degradable twine or rope. Each bundle must be no more than four feet in length, two feet in diameter and weigh no more than 50 pounds. Individual branches must be no larger than three inches in diameter.

Dirt, soil, root balls, food waste and tree branches larger than three inches in diameter are not considered yard waste. Small volumes of these materials may be placed out for collection with your regular household refuse. If you have larger volumes of these materials, dumpsters are available from Allied Waste or other licensed dumpster providers. A list of licensed dumpster providers is available at Village Hall.

Please call the Village of Riverside at 447-2700 or Allied Waste at (708) 345-7050 if you have any questions.

New Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule

Beginning in April of 2010, contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paints in homes, child-care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified thru the County and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. This new RRP Rule is issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and is aimed at preventing lead poisoning among children and adults. *When hiring a contractor be sure that your contractor is RRP Certified before a renovation job is performed.*

For more information about the RRP Rule contact the Cook County Department of Public Health at 708-492-2076 or log onto www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm.

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.

Mulching 101

By Village Forester Mike Collins

In my travels back and forth throughout Riverside, I have noticed several improperly mulched trees on the parkway and on private property. I am not naming names but would like to pass along some information for homeowners to help correct the problem and promote awareness for the maintenance of trees in our village.

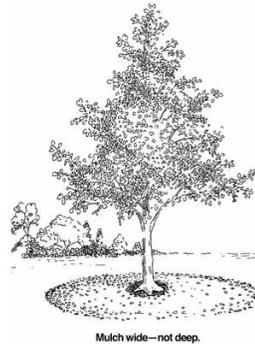
Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed and turf grass competition for nutrients and water, and improve overall soil structure. Properly applied, mulch can also give landscapes an attractive, well-groomed appearance. Mulch must be applied properly; if applied too thick or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants. Most organic mulches are beneficial but the application of rock material is strongly discouraged.

TOO MUCH MULCH CAN BE HARMFUL TO TREES. The recommended mulching depth is 3 to 5 inches. Unfortunately, many landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over-mulching. A new term, “mulch volcanoes,” has emerged to describe mulch that has been piled up around the base of trees. Please talk with your landscape contractor to ensure the proper amount of mulch is applied. This may help reduce costs associated with landscape maintenance by decreasing the cost of mulch material purchased.

Most organic mulches must be replenished, but the rate of decomposition varies. Some mulch, such as cypress mulch, remains intact for many years. Top dressing with new mulch annually (often for the sake of refreshing the color) creates a buildup to depths that can be unhealthy. Deep mulch can be effective in suppressing weeds and reducing maintenance, but it often causes additional problems. The most important piece of advice is **DO NOT PILE MULCH AGAINST THE TRUNK OF THE TREE.** Piled mulch on the trunk of the tree will promote insect infestations, rodent damage, and potentially suffocate the root system.

Please refer to the mulch pictures provided below for proper and improper mulching techniques.

Mulch is free for any Riverside resident! The Department of Public Works welcomes you to pick up mulch during business hours (M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00PM). Please call if you need directions to stop in and see us. If you would like to talk about mulching on your property, please contact the Village Forester at (708) 442-3590 for further advice.



Vehicle Stickers & Water Rates

Vehicle Stickers: Vehicle sticker renewals are due June 30, 2010. All vehicles registered to a Riverside address or housed in Riverside must have a current vehicle sticker. Village offices will be open Saturdays in June from 9 a.m. to noon to accommodate vehicle sticker purchases. Most stickers (for vehicles without changes) can be made on-line at www.riverside.il.us via on-line bill pay.

Water Rate Increase: Water rates will increase on July 1, 2010 to fund the IEPA/ARRA funded water projects. Rates will be phased in on bills due in September and October, 2010.

Vacation Safety Tips

Your vacation should be a pleasant experience for you and your family. Take a few simple steps to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim of a burglary or other criminal acts against your home. The time spent preparing your home for vacation could save you money later. Before you leave for your trip:

- Notify local police of the departure and return dates of your trip and provide the name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative to notify in the event of an emergency.
- Place a “vacation hold” on newspaper subscriptions, mail delivery and include the start and ending dates.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up newspapers and mail if the “vacation hold” was not followed. Ask them to remove throw away papers and circulars from the doorway and mailbox.
- Place interior lights and a radio on timers to give the appearance that the home is occupied.
- Have front exterior lights on photocells that activate in the evening and shut off at daybreak.
- Notify neighbors of your absence and encourage them to contact the police regarding any suspicious activity at your home.
- Arrange to have the grass cut and watered, leaves raked and the sidewalk and driveway shoveled during the winter.
- Remove all tools, lawn implements, garbage cans and yard furniture to the garage, basement or shed.
- Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances such as computers, fans, televisions, washer and dryers to avoid damage from electrical storms.
- Be sure the sump pump is functioning properly and free from debris to avoid basement flooding.
- Set the home thermostat at a reasonable temperature-85 degrees in the summer and 50 degrees in the winter.
- Make sure all entry points into the home are secure.
- Close the fireplace flue to prevent birds and animals from entering.
- If you have an alarm system, leave a current list of contacts with the alarm company in case of system activations. False alarms may be fined.
- Disconnect the electric garage door opener and lock the garage door.



Provide quality municipal services to our residents and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with our Village's historic tradition and community atmosphere.