

Riverside Review

October / November 2012

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

Michael C. Gorman

Board of Trustees

Joseph A. Ballerine
James D. Reynolds
Lonnie R. Sacchi
Benjamin Sells
Mark D. Shevitz
Jean Sussman

Village Clerk

Arlene Blaha

Village Board Meetings

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

October 1, October 15

November 5, November 19

Commission Meetings

October 2012

04 Economic Dev. Comm., 7:30
09 Cable Comm., 7:30
09 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
11 Preservation Comm., 7:30
16 Plan Commission 7:30
18 Police Adjudication, 6:00
22 Parks & Rec. Comm., 7:00
23 Historical Comm., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

November 2012

01 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 a.m.
01 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
08 Preservation Comm., 7:30
13 Cable Commission, 7:30
13 Fire & Police Comm., 7:00
13 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
15 Police Adjudication, 6:00
20 Plan Commission, 7:30
26 Parks & Rec. Comm., 7:00
27 Historical Comm., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

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



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

1,000 Tree Planting Project

This year marks the 6th year of Riverside's annual 1,000 Tree Planting Project. The project, an all-volunteer effort to plant 1,000 trees on one day every fall in Riverside, was begun in 2007 by Riverside resident Tom Sisulak.

"I had come back to Riverside to care for my parents, and I spent time jogging through the village," Sisulak says. "I saw that the trees that I grew up enjoying as a boy near the river were nearing the end of their life span. They had provided beauty, shade and oxygen for so many years. It seemed to me that it was time for other trees to take their place. That's how the 1,000 Tree Planting Project began."

Sisulak's next step was to connect with Mike Collins, the village forester, to share his plans for organizing a community effort to add to the village's tree population. With Collins' support for the project and the blessing of the village, Sisulak began researching tree varieties that should be planted for the project. Sisulak's original plan was to plant 1,000 seedlings, but concerns about flooding and mosquitoes changed Sisulak's original focus from planting 1,000 seedlings to planting 1,000 seeds. That meant Sisulak needed to gather close to 3,000 seeds, most of which he collected from the expansive green space in the Village. At the same time, he enlisted the help of the community to provide the manpower to get the planting done.

Members of the Riverside United Methodist Church got behind the project, as did local Boy Scouts and area families who saw it as an opportunity to support the environmental effort, enjoy time in nature and learn something in the process.

"Residents and staff in Riverside have a strong commitment to the urban canopy and the natural forest," Collins says. "This project supports that, provides a strong overall sense of community, and promotes environmental awareness."

The Riverside 1,000 Tree Planting Project will be held Saturday, November 17. Seeds and tools are provided, and planting techniques will be explained. For additional information, contact the Riverside United Methodist Church at (708) 447-1760.



Hofmann Dam / Swan Pond Update

The Hofmann Dam Project is more than 60% complete. The contractor, Illinois Constructors Corporation (ICC), has notched the dam, removed the legacy dam, removed 96 loads of sediment, installed toe stone on the Lyons side of the river and planted some of the required plantings on the Lyons side. In the coming weeks ICC will be installing the toe stone on the Riverside bank, and complete work on sealing the old bypass structure.

With regard to the Swan Pond portion of the project, ICC has made repairs to the WPA wall and recovered 90% of the original blocks that had fallen into the river. They have also cleared all of the invasive species and removed the tree stumps protruding from the wall. ComEd completed its connection and turned over the site to ICC who is now proceeding with excavation for the sewer structure, installation of the pipe, installation of the trail from Burling to Millbridge, and re-grading of the site.

Saving Money on Utility Bills

Energy Impact Illinois is a non-profit organization that helps homeowners take action to lower the cost of their energy bills and create a more comfortable home. Operated in conjunction with Nicor's Home Energy Savings Program, it is a program of CMAP, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy by a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Please visit www.energyimpactillinois.org/residential/ to talk to an energy efficiency expert and find out how to save money on your utility bills today.

Please mark your calendar:

The last yard waste collection of the year is Tuesday, November 27.

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.

Distracted Driving

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010, **3,092** people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver and an estimated additional 416,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.



What is distracted driving?

Distracted driving is any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract them from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing. Distractions include, talking or texting on a cell phone, grooming, eating or drinking, changing radio stations, or talking to passengers.

Teens are at the most risk!

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, more than homicide and suicide combined.
- The younger, inexperienced drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.
- According to the CTIA, the Wireless Association, an estimated 110 billion text messages were sent each month in 2008.
- Texting while driving is one of the most dangerous of all distracted driving activities, because it takes your hands off the wheel and eyes and mind off the road.
- Not surprisingly, drivers under the age of 20 text more than any other age group and the numbers are only increasing!

How can parents help?

- Talk to your teens
- Set clear "house rules"
- Remind your teenager that driving is a privilege - a privilege they will lose if they don't drive by your rules.
- Have your teen sign a House Rules Contract.
- Be a good example...show responsible driving behaviors starting when your children are young.

For more information or to download a House Rules Contract visit

www.distraction.gov



If you woke up to a fire in your home, how much time do you think you would have to get to safety? According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one-third of Americans households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. Unfortunately, the time available is much less.

Fire is FAST! There is little time. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house. That's why the Riverside Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2012, to urge residents to "Have Two Ways Out!" This year's theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

Have a Sound Fire Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, remember - time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

The Riverside Fire Department recommends the following tips for planning your family's escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room. (Do you have two means of escape from every room?) The best plans have two ways to get out of each room. If the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke, you will need a second way out.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan. Everyone in your home should know exactly where your meeting place is located and practice going there.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone living in your home.