

Riverside Review

December 2009 / January 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

December 7
Board of Trustees, 7:30
December 21
Board of Trustees, 7:30
January 4
Board of Trustees, 7:30
January 19 (Tuesday)
Board of Trustees, 7:30

Commission Meetings

December 2009
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
18 Police Adjudication, 6:30
22 Historical Commission, 7:00
28 Parks & Rec Bd., 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

January 2010

07 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
11 Cable Commission, 7:30
12 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:30
14 Preservation Comm., 7:30
19 Plan Commission, 7:30
21 Police Adjudication, 6:30
25 Parks & Rec Bd., 7:00
26 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

Reflecting Back : Looking Ahead

As 2009 slips into our rear view mirror, it is a good time to reflect back and look ahead.

As Village President, I have found that my professional and personal experiences serve as valuable touchstones. However, there are differences between the worlds of business and local government. When weighing a decision (i.e. public safety, sewer and water, parking), I have learned to ask questions beyond the traditional ones asked in the private sector. Instead of asking if a proposal will make a profit, the question becomes how many residents are affected? What will it cost? How can we design it to benefit the most residents? Can the private sector provide this service better than local government? What if we do not provide the service?

While we are all affected by government decisions on the federal and state level, there are some decisions made at the local level that can impact our daily lives even more. On behalf of the Village Board, I will tell you that we all look forward to steering Riverside through the challenges of 2010 and beyond so the impact of these decisions will be positive ones for all of us.

I also want to thank the many residents that have stepped forward with ideas to help our Village and the many who have volunteered their time. Thank you for your support.

Michael Gorman
Village President

New Parking Configuration for CBD

The Village of Riverside recently opened a parking lot for employees of businesses in Riverside's Central Business District (CBD). The lot, which runs along the north side of the train tracks, behind the businesses on Burlington Street, can accommodate 43 cars. With employees now having designated off-street parking, residents and other visitors to the CBD should find more available spots on the street and in the public parking lots adjacent to Riverside Bank and the Riverside Post Office. New signage identifying these lots as public parking has been created.



The Village also recently reconfigured the commuter parking lot near the Riverside Swim Club to move the quarterly permit parking spots, which are used mostly by Riverside residents, closer to the Riverside train station. New signage was also placed in this lot to make it easier to determine which spots are permit and which are metered.

Debris Removed from Des Plaines River

With the help of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and working with Riverside Residents for Flood Prevention, the Riverside Public Works Department has been clearing debris in the Des Plaines River around the Forest Avenue bridge and the Burlington Northern train trestle. In keeping these areas clear of debris, the Village hopes to mitigate water flow backups that lead to flooding of homes along the river after heavy rains. The Village will continue to work to keep these areas clear of floating debris that can create situations that contribute to flooding along the river.

Historical Commission News

The Riverside Historical Commission wants to thank Chuck Soumar of the Soumar Upholstering Shop, 3238 Harlem Avenue, Riverside for donating labor costs for installing our fabric on the museum door panels. The museum now has a new look because of Chuck's donation and the Public Works Department's painting of the walls and ceiling. We would like to invite all villagers to stop in and visit us. The museum is once again open on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Museum is now selling our 2010 calendar, which is a tribute to the Arcade Building. Calendars can be purchased at the Village office, Riverside Public Library and at the Museum. The water tower ornament designed by resident artist Gretchen McCarthy can also be purchased at the Library and the Museum.

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.

Parks & Recreation Department Upcoming Programs

- *Music & Movement Classes* – (Ages 3 months to 5 years). Starting in January.
- *Dance Classes* – (Ages 3 to 8 years). Starting in January.
- *First Aid/C.P.R. Classes* – (All Ages). December 5 and January 9.
- *Magic Classes* – (Ages 5 to 12 years). December 23 and January 22.
- *Computer Classes* – (Ages 3 to 12 years). Starting January 13.
- *Gap Day* – (Ages 5 to 12 years). January 18.
- *Public Speaking* – (Ages 10 to 15 years). Starting January 14.
- *Youth Ski Trips to Wilmot and Cascade Mountains* (6th grade – High school seniors). January 17 and February 7.

For more information on these and other programs for the whole family, please contact the Recreation Office at (708)442-7025, and be sure to look for our new brochure online January 25th!

Census 2010 - Be Ready to Be Counted!

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. Our next census will be conducted in March 2010, and your participation is vital to the financial future of Riverside and the accurate measuring of our entire region.

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services



The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We can't move forward until you mail it back.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker who will ask you the questions from the form. The confidentiality of any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

While more information about Census 2010 will be distributed in the coming months, here is just a reminder of some of the many ways census data will be used:

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| Designing public safety strategies | Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts |
| Forecasting future transportation needs | Analyzing local trends |
| Planning urban land use. | Developing "intelligent" maps for government and business |
| Researching historical areas | Understanding labor supply |
| Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people | |

Protect Your Children from Lead Poisoning

Lead is a neurotoxin which has been known to cause learning disabilities, behavioral problems, lowered IQ, and even death at high levels. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), residents who live within the zip code 60546, which includes the Village of Riverside, live in a high-risk area for lead poisoning. **IDPH mandates that children who live in the zip code 60546 be tested for lead level at one and two years of age because of the high-risk for lead poisoning.**

Most cases of lead poisoning occur through exposure to house dust which contains lead from chipping or peeling lead-based paint. 75% of all homes built in the U.S. before 1978 have lead-based paint in them. 97% of homes in Riverside were built before 1980; therefore most homes in Riverside are likely to contain lead-based paint. On occasion, children have contracted lead poisoning through exposure to toys containing high levels of lead. Information on children's products which have been recalled for various reasons, including lead content, can be obtained at www.recalls.gov.

Lead poisoning is preventable. There are steps for adults to take to protect children from lead poisoning. These include:

- keeping them away from chipping or peeling paint
- not using hot tap water for cooking or drinking
- serving frequent meals and snacks which include foods high in iron, calcium, and Vitamin C
- keeping floors, carpets, toys, and children's hands clean

For more information about lead poisoning, contact the Cook County Department of Public Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit at 708-492-2076 or visit: www.cookcountypublichealth.org.