

# Riverside Review

February / March 2016

## 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  
Museum 708-447-2542  
Library 708-442-6366  
**EMERGENCY 911**

**Village President**  
Benjamin Sells

**Board of Trustees**  
Joseph A. Ballerine  
Patricia Collins  
Ellen Hamilton  
Scott Lumsden  
Douglas Pollock  
Michael Sedivy

**Village Manager**  
Jessica Frances

**Village Clerk**  
Cathy Haley

## Village Board Meetings

*All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.  
(unless otherwise noted)*

**February 4, February 18  
March 3, March 17**

## Advisory Board & Commission Meetings

### February 2016

04 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 am  
08 Cable Comm., 7:00  
09 Bd. of Fire & Police, 7:00  
11 Preservation Comm., 7:00  
15 Historical Comm., 7:00  
17 Safe Environment, 7:00  
18 Police Adjudication, 6:00  
24 Planning and Zoning, 7:00

### March 2016

08 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00  
10 Economic Dev Comm., 7:00  
14 Cable Commission, 7:00  
16 Safe Environment, 7:00  
17 Police Adjudication, 6:00  
21 Historical Comm., 7:00  
21 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00  
23 Planning and Zoning, 7:00

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



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

## A Note from the Village President

The Village has received a number of compliments about the ongoing road repair and resurfacing program and greatly appreciates the patience and support of our residents as this much needed work progresses. For the first time, the Village has in hand comprehensive studies of our streets, sidewalks, and sewers that are being used to coordinate infrastructure work to reduce cost and minimize disruptions to our residents. This is also a good time to remember that our street program is financed by three sources: bonds passed by our residents in 2014; revenue from the Non-Home Rule Sales Tax; and revenue from the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT). The latter source, the MFT, comes from fuel purchased from gas stations within the Village limits --Amstar (Harlem and Quincy), Marathon (Harlem and Longcommon), and 7-Eleven (Harlem and 26th). Just as shopping at businesses within the Village benefits our local economy, buying fuel from Riverside gas stations also benefits our streets program. Yet another good reason to Shop Local!

## Riverside Police Here to Serve and Protect

The history of Riverside Police Department dates back to 1875 and continues to develop in terms of effectiveness and professionalism to this day. The Police Department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The Department currently employs 19 full time sworn officers consisting of a Chief, a Deputy Chief, a Lieutenant, 3 shift Sergeants, a Detective, a Detective Sergeant and 11 Patrol Officers. The Police Department employs four full time dispatchers and four part time dispatchers that provide dispatching not only for Police, but also for the Fire Department and ambulance. The Department has a secretary, a part time Community Service Officer, six part time Crossing Guards and a volunteer Auxiliary Corps of approximately five officers who assist the Department during major events.



According to the FBI Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) 2011, the average number of officers per 1,000 inhabitants in towns with a population of less than 10,000, in the Midwest, was 2.7 officers. Riverside Police Department is currently fully staffed and operating at 2.13 officers per 1,000 inhabitants. This may seem like a small difference, but it is really the difference between 24 officers and 19 officers, the department's current staffing level.

All officers are cross trained in several areas in order to be more efficient. Most officers are trained Evidence Technicians, Juvenile Officers, and Breath-a-lyzer certified and we have three officers who are trained in the area of Elder Service. The Department has a Bicycle Patrol unit, which is utilized in the warmer months, consisting of approximately seven officers. In addition to these internal units, the Riverside Police Department has officers who are assigned to various multi-jurisdictional task forces.

## Voter Registration

Online Voter Registration is now available on Cook County Clerk David Orr's website. It is now easier than ever to register to vote. Suburban Cook County residents can now register online or update voter registration at [ova.elections.il.gov](http://ova.elections.il.gov). As the March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary approaches, any citizen who can register, should register and vote! Residents can also download and print mail-in registration forms on the Cook County Clerk's website. Important information about key dates, early voting and voting by mail is also available at [cookcountyclerk.com](http://cookcountyclerk.com). Exercise your Right to Vote!

## Party Like a Superhero / Party Like a Princess

Are you looking for a fun, unique, and affordable party experience for your child's next birthday? The Parks & Recreation Department has everything you need to make your event special for your child and easy for you. Contact the office and speak to a party planner to find out more information regarding our SUPERHERO and PRINCESS party packages. The multi-purpose room in the Historic Water Tower is available for rent in 3 hour blocks. We'll take care of the set-up and clean-up...you just bring the fun. Rentals are based on availability, and arrangements must be made at least 2 weeks in advance. Contact the Parks & Recreation office for more information: (708) 442-7025.

The recently refurbished Scout Cabin on Fairbank Road is also available as a special event venue. The cabin has a refrigerator, microwave, stove, indoor fireplace and outdoor grill. Five (5) Picnic tables are available inside the cabin along with a storage space. The Cabin is equipped with separate men's and women's bathrooms. A double glass door entry way leads out to a beautiful forested area.

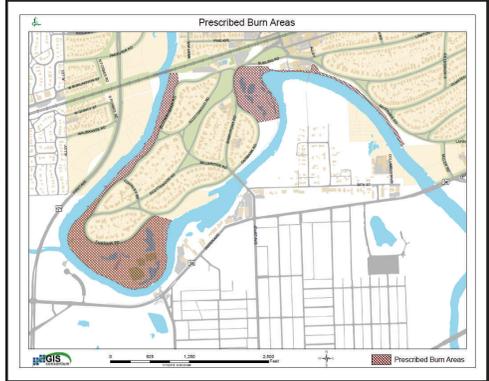
***Sign up for the E-flash today! Visit the website for details.***

**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](http://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.**

## **Ecological Prescription Burning Notification**

**Don't be alarmed! It's a prescribed fire and the Riverside Fire Department has been notified.**

The Village of Riverside will be implementing ecological prescription burning in selected areas highlighted on the map to the right. Prescribed fire will be applied in a skillful manner to vegetative fuels in our woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands to better manage and restore our natural landscape. The primary objective is to favor native vegetation and discourage the establishment of invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard along the Des Plaines River. Native vegetation has long been modified and maintained by fire. In fact, the Village has been utilizing this management technique for many years. We would like to inform the public regarding our intention to conduct prescribed fire in these areas.



Generally speaking, the fire events would likely take place in the early spring or late fall when weather conditions are favorable. Smoke management is the primary consideration and wind direction would also dictate the location selected for the prescribed burn. Due to the last minute timing associated with ever changing weather conditions, we would like to develop a contact list to provide daily notification to residents with conflicting health conditions impacted by smoke in their area. This will allow us to inform residents with serious health issues and avoid any potential inconvenience.

**If you have a significant health issue near the areas specified, the Department of Public Works would like to provide additional notification the morning of the burn.** Please contact the Department of Public Works at 708-442-3590 and provide your email and telephone information so we can keep you informed. Email is the preferred method of notification but other options are available. We appreciate your willingness to cooperate and your flexibility to help maintain and improve our natural landscape.

## **All About Infrastructure**



The Department of Public Works has 10 employees including the director and his administrative assistant, the village forester and water superintendent. Together, they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of village infrastructure. This includes: 35 miles of streets, 47 miles of sidewalks, 34 miles of water mains, 50 miles of sewer mains, 389 fire hydrants, 397 gas street lamps, 179 electric street lamps, 10 acres of parks, 206 acres of total green space and 3.5 acres of municipal parking lots. The forester is responsible for the care and maintenance of over 8,500 trees on public lands not including trees in natural areas along the Des Plaines River. The department's hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The department is also responsible for overseeing various green initiatives such as the recent pumpkin composting collection and ongoing electronics recycling. If you have a concern regarding damage to village infrastructure such as a broken gas lamp or a possible water main break, please contact the department at 708-442-3590.

## **Snow Removal and Being a Good Neighbor**

Snow removal has been a challenge this winter with exceptionally wet snow and fluctuating temperatures. In late December, there was a very wet snow followed quickly by a significant and prolonged drop in temperature. Residents who were unable to remove the snow immediately found themselves stuck with icy driveways and sidewalks. Although Riverside does not have an ordinance requiring residents to remove snow, the village encourages everyone to shovel or snow blow whenever possible to help keep sidewalks open and walkable for pedestrians. Please consider helping your neighbors with snow removal if you are able.



## **Questions? Please call...**

Residents occasionally 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
Flood Brothers (refuse, recycling & yard waste issues)	630-261-0400
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](http://www.earth911.com) for guidance on recycling various household items.

## **Summer Camp Registration Begins!**

Registration for the Parks & Recreation Department's summer camps begins February 1. This is a very popular program that always fills up quickly. Complete details regarding camp registration are available on pages 14-15 of the Winter/Spring Parks and Recreation brochure online.