



Riverside Review

April / May 2018

Village of Riverside

27 Riverside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-2700
www.riverside.il.us

Community Dev. 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
Flood Brothers 630-261-0400
ComEd 800-334-7661
Nicor 800-642-6748

Village President
Benjamin Sells

Board of Trustees
Joseph Ballerine
Wendell Jisa
Scott Lumsden
Elizabeth Peters
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)*
April 5, April 19
May 3, May 17

**Advisory Board &
Commission Meetings**

April

09 Riverside TV Comm., 7:00
10 Landscape Advisory, 7:00
12 Preservation Comm., 7:00
16 Historical Comm., 7:00
19 Code Enforcement, 5:30
19 Police Adjudication, 6:00
25 Planning and Zoning 7:00

May

08 Bd. of Fire & Police, 7:00
08 Landscape Advisory, 7:00
10 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 am
10 Economic Development, 7:00
14 Riverside TV Commission, 7:00
17 Code Enforcement, 5:30
17 Police Adjudication, 6:00
21 Historical Commission, 7:00
21 Parks & Recreation, 6:30
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.

Village Board Approves Water & Sewer Fee

At the March 15 Regular Meeting, the Village Board passed an Ordinance imposing a bi-monthly Water and Sewer System Infrastructure Maintenance Fee which will be added to utility bills effective April 1, 2018. Raising fees is always a difficult decision; however providing quality Water and Sewer services to residents and businesses is an essential service.

The Village funds water and sewer operations completely from user fees for services and receives no property tax revenue for these operations. User fees must cover the cost of operations including the cost of water, personnel, and debt service. Any remaining funds are used for Water and Sewer related Capital Improvements.

Over the past 10 years, operating expenses have increased 52% while the offsetting revenues have increased only 36%. The major factor in the increases of operating expenses is the cost of water which has doubled. The Village utilizes Lake Michigan water supplied by the City of Chicago and purchased from the Village of McCook.

The Village has used operational surplus to fund capital improvements such as the First Division Sewer Separation Project on a cash basis. However, the projects outlined in the Village's 5 year Capital Improvement Plan will decrease the fund balance in the Water and Sewer Fund to below minimum levels by 2021. The infrastructure fee will afford the Village the ability to complete the current projects outlined as well as other much needed improvements to our aging system.

The Board understands that rate increases are difficult and this decision was not taken lightly. In order to provide a healthy water and sewer system in our community, it is vital that we take a proactive approach to maintain and improve our water and sewer infrastructure. If you have any questions or comments please contact us at WSInfrastructureFee@riverside.il.us.

All About Utility Easements

Even though you own the property on which your home rests, utility companies might have the right to use parts of it. When you purchased your home, you might have been notified of a utility easement on the property. This is the case for many properties that are connected to a power grid, sewer or water system.

Utility easements are areas of a property that have been designated for use by utility companies. They are designated for overhead electric, telephone and television lines and underground electric, water, sewer, telephone, and cable lines. While it is rare to have multiple utility easements on a property, water lines and electrical lines do, in some cases, run along different easements.

Utility easements exist for the good of the community. It is much *more cost effective and efficient* to run utility lines in straight lines through neighborhoods than it is to run them around individual parcels of land. Easements allow utility companies to keep costs down by significantly reducing the amount of raw materials needed to provide service to a community. With fewer feet of line to maintain, maintenance costs are also significantly lower.

The presence of a utility easement on your property does not mean that utility companies can do whatever they want, it just means that they have the right to use the area in a way that is advantageous to the community as a whole. This means they do have the right to put up utility poles or put in underground lines. But an easement also means that there are certain things that you, as the property owner, cannot do to your own property.

If an easement allows for utility lines to be installed across your property, there may be restrictions on planting tall growing trees in the easement area because of the interference they may cause. If there are already trees in an easement, the utility company can trim them in any fashion they need to make sure the utility lines are not compromised. Similarly, if there are underground lines running through an easement you might not be able to install an in-ground pool.

Yard waste and compost collection resumes Thursday, April 5. For more information on composting, please contact the Village office.



Sign Up for Email Notifications Today!

Please visit the new village website at www.riverside.il.us and click on **Connect** to sign up for the **Riverside Alert System**, create an account in **Riverside Responds** or sign up for **Email Notifications** for upcoming meetings and community events.

Combined Dispatch Center to go live in May

In June of 2015, the Illinois General Assembly Passed Public Act #099-0006 which required communities, including the Village of Riverside, to consolidate emergency communication services. To meet the requirements imposed by the state, Brookfield, McCook, North Riverside, and Riverside will be consolidating their emergency communications centers into one combined dispatch center. That center has been named West Central Consolidated Communications, or WC3. The new WC3 will be housed in the North Riverside Police Department facility located at 2359 S. Des Plaines Avenue, and Jason Rodgers has been selected as the WC3 Executive Director. Mr. Rodgers has 16 years of experience in a combined dispatch setting. He comes to WC3 after serving a Communications Supervisor and Telecommunicator at Du-Comm, one of the largest 9-1-1 centers in the state of Illinois.



The Riverside Communications Center has provided outstanding service to the community for a very long time and there has been some anxiety expressed that the consolidation will result in a reduction in the service currently provided by Riverside's experienced communications staff. Please rest assured that this will not be the case. Personnel from Riverside will be answering calls alongside their counterparts from all WC3 communities and residents from all of the WC3 member communities will receive the same excellent service that Riverside residents have always received.

Residents should not notice any changes when placing a 9-1-1 call. Our Police and Fire Departments will still respond promptly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The only recognizable difference that residents may notice will be changes to the Riverside Police Department lobby. Records requests will need to be made online or during regular business hours. The target start date for WC3 is May 8, 2018.

Vehicles, Cats and Dogs

Vehicle stickers and pet licenses for 2018-2019 will soon be available. Renewal applications will be mailed mid-May. If you come to the office to purchase your stickers, **PLEASE BRING YOUR RENEWAL PAPERWORK WITH YOU.** Licenses are now required for cats and dogs. Residents may remit forms and payment for vehicle stickers and pet licenses in person, by mail or in the drop box in front of the Township Hall. Online renewal for vehicle licenses is also available. Details follow.

- **If there are no changes to the vehicles for your household, please consider renewing your vehicle stickers ONLINE to avoid waiting IN LINE.** There is no additional fee for processing your renewals online. Payments will be accepted online until Saturday, June 30 at midnight.
- Residents may drop off applications and payments in the silver drop box in front of the Township Hall (no postage necessary). Payments will be accepted and considered on time as long as they have been placed in the lock box prior to 8 a.m. on Monday, July 2, when the office opens for the day.
- Residents may also mail applications and payments to the Village. Mail must arrive prior to July 1 to avoid the \$10 late fee.
- Residents may purchase stickers at the reception desk through June 30 at 12:00 p.m. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. The office will also be open from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays in JUNE for the purchase of vehicle stickers and pet licenses only.



All vehicles registered to a Riverside address or housed in the village require a village vehicle sticker. A \$10 late fee will apply to all applications received after the office opens on Monday, July 2.

Online renewal of pet licenses is not available at this time. Pet licenses must be purchased at the Village Office and proof of a current rabies vaccination must accompany the application. If the rabies inoculation on your pre-printed pet license renewal expires prior to June 30, 2018, please bring in proof of a current rabies inoculation. Online renewals of vehicle stickers will begin after forms are mailed out.

Spring Events in Riverside

Spring is finally here and there are plenty of fun local events to look forward to:

- ♦ **Team Trivia Night at Riverside Presbyterian Church**—Saturday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. Call 708-447-1520 for more information or to register a team.
- ♦ **Riverside Township Lions Club Annual Chicken Dinner**—Sunday, April 15 from 11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m. in the Township Auditorium. Contact your favorite local Lions Club member to purchase tickets.
- ♦ **Riverside Arts Weekend** returns to Guthrie Park—Saturday and Sunday, May 19 & 20. There will be juried artwork for sale, music and refreshments, all under the trees in beautiful Guthrie Park. Watch for this year's spectacle in the weeks leading up to RAW.
- ♦ And the **Riverside Farmers' Market** will return to Centennial Plaza on Wednesday, June 6!

Volunteer Opportunities!

- ♦ **Hauser Food Drive / Feed Our Community Day**— The 47th Annual Hauser Food Drive runs March 23 —April 30. Feed Our Community Day is Saturday, April 14 at Hauser. All are welcome. Visit <http://www.feed6.org/hauser.html/> for more information.
- ♦ **RBHS Day of Service**— April 28—Parents and community members are needed to accompany students from 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at various locations throughout Riverside and Brookfield. Visit www.rbhs208.net for details.
- ♦ **Landscape Workdays**—The Department of Public Works and Frederick Law Olmsted Society have numerous volunteer days scheduled in the coming months. Visit www.riverside.il.us or www.olmstedsociety.org for details.