



# Riverside Review

October / November 2020 

## Village of Riverside

27 Riverside Road  
Riverside, IL 60546  
708-447-2700  
[www.riverside.il.us](http://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  
**WC3 Dispatch 708-853-1384**  
Pay-by-Phone 844-937-0132

### EMERGENCY 911

Flood Brothers 630-261-0400  
ComEd 800-334-7661  
Nicor 888-642-6748

### Village President

Benjamin Sells

### Board of Trustees

Patricia Collins  
Cristin Evans  
Alexander Gallegos  
Edward Hannon  
Wendell Jisa  
Douglas Pollock

### Village Manager

Jessica Frances

### Village Clerk

Cathy Haley

### Village Board Meetings

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

**October 1, October 15**

**November 5, November 19**

### Advisory Board & Commission Meetings

#### October 2020

08 Preservation Comm., 7:00 \*  
12 Riverside TV Comm., 7:00 \*  
13 Landscape Advisory, 7:00 \*  
15 Code Enforcement, 5:15 \*  
15 Police Adjudication, 6:00 \*  
19 Historical Commission, 7:00 \*  
28 Planning and Zoning 7:00 \*

#### November 2020

09 Riverside TV Comm., 7:00 \*  
10 Bd. of Fire & Police, 7:00\*  
12 Police Pension Bd., 8:00 am\*  
12 Economic Development, 7:00 \*  
16 Historical Commission, 7:00 \*  
19 Code Enforcement, 5:15 \*  
19 Police Adjudication, 6:00 \*  
23 Parks & Recreation, 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). Due to COVID-19, some meetings may be held by teleconference or Zoom.

## Voting in the November 3 Presidential Election

There are several ways for Riverside residents to cast a ballot in the upcoming Presidential Election. Early Voting begins locally on October 19, 2020. The Early Voting locations closest to Riverside are: **Brookfield Village Hall**, 8820 Brookfield Avenue, Brookfield and **Lyons Village Hall**, 4200 S. Lawndale, Lyons. Hours for Early Voting are Monday—Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Early Voting is available at these locations through Monday, November 2, 2020. Residents frequently ask why there are no early voting locations in Riverside. Unfortunately, the Village does not have a handicap accessible facility that can accommodate a polling place for two weeks. The Cook County Clerk's office is the local election authority for Riverside and all of suburban Cook County, and as such, determines where polling places are located throughout suburban Cook County. For a complete list of Early Voting locations, please visit: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/early-voting-locations>.



Voting by Mail is another option for residents. Applications for mail ballots are available at the Village office or online at: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail>. Completed ballot requests must be returned to the Cook County Clerk's



office, **not the village office**. Once the Cook County Clerk receives a request for a ballot, they will mail a ballot that can be completed and returned by mail or returned to a Ballot Drop Box. The Drop Box locations closest to Riverside are the Brookfield Village Hall or Lyons Village Hall. Ballots will be collected from Drop Boxes daily. If you plan to return your ballot by mail, please allow sufficient time for delivery. Voters who apply for a ballot online will receive an email advising that a ballot is being mailed to them. They will also receive an email notifying them when their completed ballot has been received by the Cook County Clerk.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, residents are strongly encouraged to vote early or vote by mail to avoid having to stand in line at their regular polling place on Election Day. Residents are also encouraged to confirm their voter registration status and polling place location by visiting the **Your Voter Information** page of the Cook County Clerk's website: <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/your-voter-information>.

## ArbNet Accreditation Renewed

The Village is pleased to announce that ArbNet has renewed the Village's accreditation as a Level II Arboretum for another five years! The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta which facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta meet their institutional goals as they work to raise professional standards. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by [The Morton Arboretum](#), is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards which include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting and conservation. The Village is also recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta. [Learn more about the Riverside Arboretum by taking a virtual tree tour of Riverside on the village website.](#) Zoom in to see all the tree labels on a block. You can also [view enhanced data about trees in Guthrie Park](#). Better yet, Autumn is the best time to take a walk among the trees in Guthrie Park and throughout the village. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors!



## Sign Up for Email Notifications Today!

Please visit the village website at [www.riverside.il.us](http://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.



## Community Policing Update

Ongoing concern regarding incidents of police brutality throughout the country have called attention to this important issue and caused many to contemplate the role of police in the communities they serve. Fortunately, the Riverside Police Department has not been subject to allegations of police brutality and use of excessive force. This is not an accident. It is the result of ongoing training, education, leadership and accountability. Every member of the Riverside Police Department completes training on topics as varied as diversity, human rights, de-escalation techniques, procedural justice and legal updates. The vast majority of modern police work requires the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, and the Riverside Police Department believes that communication is the foundation necessary to de-escalate all tense situations.



Officers make significant efforts to interact with the community on a daily basis. This type of intentional relationship building allows the department to solidify a foundation of trust with residents and respond to community needs proactively, rather than waiting until something escalates. Officers are encouraged to get out in the community whenever they can in non-enforcement situations and build relationships. The Riverside Police Department remains committed to providing this community with police services that recognize the dignity and respect for all residents and visitors of the Village of Riverside. If you have questions, concerns or ideas for improvement, the Department wants to hear them. Please email Police Chief Tom Weitzel at [tweitzel@riverside.il.us](mailto:tweitzel@riverside.il.us) or call the department at 708-447-2127.

## Fire Pit Safety

As the cooler Autumn weather arrives, many homeowners will want to spend time outside enjoying their backyards and utilizing outdoor fireplaces or fire pits. An outdoor fireplace or fire pit is a great way to add warmth and ambiance to the back yard, but remember, playing with fire can injure people, cause property damage and endanger others. Please observe these Fire Department safety tips for outdoor fireplaces and fire pits to ensure an enjoyable experience for family, friends and neighbors.

- ◆ Never place an outdoor fireplace inside a structure.
- ◆ Keep a fire pit at least 15 feet away from overhead branches and other foliage.
- ◆ Keep an outdoor fireplace at least 10 feet away from property lines and all combustibles including houses, fences and decks.
- ◆ Place an outdoor fireplace on a level non-combustible brick, stone or concrete surface.
- ◆ Always use a mesh spark screen to cover an outdoor fireplace to prevent any stray embers from escaping.
- ◆ When the fire is out, douse the ashes with water until all the ashes are cold.
- ◆ Only burn dry seasoned wood.
- ◆ Do not burn dangerous materials such as plastic, painted or treated wood or rubber.
- ◆ Do not burn any waste such as leaves, grass, pallets or garbage. Dispose of these items properly.
- ◆ Always read instructions and fully understand how to operate an outdoor fire place before lighting the fire.
- ◆ Do not wear loose fitting clothing around an outdoor fireplace and keep all hair secured.
- ◆ Do not use accelerants to start a fire. Use kindling to start a fire slowly.
- ◆ Do not leave children unattended near a fire pit. Children require adult supervision near a fire at all times.



The Riverside Fire Department encourages everyone to follow these safety tips to prevent injuries and unintended fires and provide for a safe and enjoyable backyard experience this Fall.

## Fall Clean Up Time!

It is illegal for homeowners or lawn services to rake or blow fallen leaves into the street in Riverside. Clogged catch basins can lead to street flooding when it rains. Most of Riverside has combined sewers, and leaves in the sewer system can also contribute to basement backups during major storm events. The village sewer system operates under a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permit issued by the Illinois EPA and must work aggressively to prevent leaves and branches from entering the storm sewer system.

There is no limit to the amount of yard waste residents can place at the curb for collection each week, but leaves must be contained in paper bags or approved yard waste containers with YARD WASTE ONLY stickers which are available at the village office free of charge. **The final yard waste collection of the year is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, the week following Thanksgiving.**

Rather than bagging all those leaves, consider mulching them into lawns and raking them into planting beds and gardens to decompose during the Winter months. This process returns vital nutrients to the soil and helps protect perennials from the cold.

Residents are also reminded that no yard waste, recycling or refuse should be placed at the curb prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day before collection. Residents are entitled to place three bulk items out for collection each week as well, but bulk items are collected by a separate truck. Please call Flood Brothers at 630-261-0400 to schedule a bulk item pickup.