

Riverside Review

October/November 2008

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

Harold J. Wiaduck

Board of Trustees

Candice Grace
John E. Scully
Ben Sells
Thomas C. Shields
Kevin F. Smith
Jean Sussman

Village Clerk

Arlene Blaha
Village Manager
Kathleen F. Rush

Village Board Meetings

October 6 & 20
Regular Meeting, 7:30

October 6

CIP Workshop 6:00

October 25

Budget Workshop, 8:00 am

November 3 & 17

Board of Trustees, 7:30

December 1 & 15

Board of Trustees. 7:30

Commission Meetings

October 2008

02 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
09 Preservation Comm., 7:30
14 Cable Commission., 7:30
14 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
21 Plan Commission., 7:30
16 Police Adjudication, 6:30
27 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am
28 Historical Commission, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

November 2008

02 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
04 Fire & Police, 7:00
12 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
13 Preservation Comm., 7:30
14 Cable Commission, 7:30
18 Plan Commission, 7:30
20 Police Adjudication, 6:30
24 Parks & Rec Brd., 8:30 am
25 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.

The Green Question

Throughout the country municipalities are considering ways to conserve energy and take measures to preserve the environment. The Olmsted legacy has instilled a community-wide sense of preservation and an appreciation for green-space. Still, there is more work to do. On November 4th, the Village of Riverside has placed a non-binding green referendum question for your consideration. The purpose of the question is raise consciousness of various green initiatives we can initiate as a community. The Village Staff has already taken many steps to conserve energy and resources. Some examples include: lowering fuel consumption and maximizing fuel efficiency, switching from bottled water to a reverse osmosis system, expanding municipal recycling, and deploying technology to lower paper consumption. There are a host of other initiatives the Village has undertaken and we are putting together the information for you on a new web page.

Do you know some of the steps you can take to continue the greening efforts?

Here are some you can implement today:

- Purchase a rain barrel— recycle the water to save \$\$\$ and conserve energy
- Enroll in a ride-share program
- When you remodel, don't forget to look for recycling and reuse programs for your household items—windows, doors, tile, etc. New technology has enabled some companies to recycle old porcelain toilets and tubs into beautiful counter tops and tile
- Compost food scraps instead of using your garbage disposal. You'll save gallons of water every time and have a great soil amendment for your garden
- Use a ceiling fan to cool off a room or house. It consumes as little energy as a 60-watt bulb, which is about 98 percent less energy than most central air conditioners

Going green is more than just recycling; it is a lifestyle! If you would like more info on the green question, visit us on the web at www.riverside.il.us.

Cold Weather—Around the Corner

The winter season is just around the corner! It is important to remember that heavy snows, icy conditions and dangerously cold temperatures can occur at any time. To protect you and your loved ones from the effects of harsh winter weather, follow these safety tips:

- Keep an emergency supply kit in your home that includes a battery-powered radio with extra batteries, canned food and a manual can opener, flashlights and battery-powered lamps for power failures, wood for fireplaces, and rock salt to melt ice and sand to improve traction. A three-day supply of water (one gallon of water per person, per day) is also recommended.
 - Make sure your car is in proper working condition and includes blankets, warm clothing, booster cables and tools, bottled water, dried fruits and nuts, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, flashlights and batteries, a shovel and ice scraper.
 - Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite. Wind speed can create dangerously cold conditions even when the temperature is not that low. If possible, dress in layers so you can adjust to changing conditions. Avoid overdressing or overexertion that can lead to heat illness.
- Traveling and winter can be a dangerous combination. Allow extra time when traveling. Monitor weather conditions carefully and adhere to travel advisories. Keep a winter storm survival kit in your car. This should include blankets, food, flares, gloves and first aid supplies.

Visit us at www.riverside.il.us and navigate to the Fire Department section for additional information.

Comments & Suggestions

The Village is looking for your feedback. Whether its related to the website or operations, we are looking to you for comments, concerns, or questions. Your input is valued and it helps us better serve **you!**

Emergency Preparedness

Both the Police and Fire departments are there to serve you in times of emergencies—but there are steps you can take to better prepare. The Village recently launched a revamped website. Under the 'For Residents' tab, you will see that the Fire and Police Department's have posted information related to emergency preparedness and response. Last month, our region was inundated with record rainfall. As a result, the Des Plaines River flooded parts of Riverside. In August of 2007, heavy rains and thunderstorms caused flooding and knocked down power lines. Recognizing a need for getting information to residents, a new webpage details how you can prepare your family. There is information on developing an emergency evacuation plan for your family, pets, and steps you can take after a disaster. Another major resource is the ComED claims form and power outage information. Please make sure you visit the page and download the documents in advance so that you can begin preparing your family for emergencies. You can visit the webpage at: www.riverside.il.us/emergencies.

Radon Testing

The Cook County Board is urging residents to take advantage of the Department of Environment's Radon Awareness Program. Exposure to radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon related. Radon, a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas comes from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the earth's soil and can accumulate to dangerous levels in your home. The EPA and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety indicate that approximately 15% of homes in Cook County have radon levels of 4 pCi/L or more, which is the EPA 'Action Level'. The EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the 3rd floor for radon. It is the only way to know for sure if the levels are sufficiently low and that your family is safe from the long term effects of radon. The Cook County program, while supplies last, will provide vouchers for free radon detectors to residents. To obtain a free radon testing kit or for more information on radon, please contact the Cook County Department of Environment Control's Radon Hotline at 708-865-6177.

Halloween Safety Info on Web

Most people think of Halloween as a time for fun and treats. Falls are a leading cause of injuries among children on Halloween. Many Halloween-related injuries can be prevented if parents closely supervise school-aged children during trick-or-treat activities. To avoid the many dangers children face while trick-or-treating, use common sense. Be aware of potential Halloween hazards and take precautions to eliminate them. To learn more about what you can do to make your Halloween safe and fun, please visit our website at www.riverside.il.us/Halloween.

For more information on Halloween trick-or-treat hours, check the Police Department's webpage located at www.riverside.il.us/police.

E-Flash Registration

You may have noticed that the Village's website has a new look. We sent out a reminder E-Flash to remind registrants to re-register their email addresses with the Village. If you have not already done so, please visit www.riverside.il.us/eflash to register. We would also like to invite new E-Flash registrants. The Village E-Flash system is the quickest way to learn about Village news, meeting notices, and other events. Also during times of an emergency, the E-Flash system is a quick way to update you. Register today!

Fall Lawn Care

Red, orange, yellow and brown – it's time for autumn leaves to start falling in Riverside! To promote the return of a lush lawn come spring, it is recommended that the leaves covering the majority of your lawn be cleared away. Removal of leaves is also an effective way to control various insect pests, which survive the winter buried in the soil or on its surface. When gathering leaves and other yard debris, take special care that the foliage is not spread into the Village's streets. Remember, leaves can be left under trees and shrubs where they will compost themselves, creating a natural mulched area.

Winterizing Trees

As the fall season gives way to winter, help protect plants by properly preparing them for the cold months ahead. Make sure plants have a sufficient supply of soil moisture before the ground freezes. This is especially necessary for evergreens. Once the ground is frozen, trees are unable to take up enough water through their roots to replace what they are losing through their needles or leaves. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples, are susceptible to bark splitting from frost cracks and sun scalds during extreme daily temperature fluctuations in winter. Provide protection by wrapping the trunk with a commercial tree wrap in late fall and removing it in the spring. Mice and rabbits often damage young trees in winter by feeding on the bark, girdling branches and trunks. To prevent damage, construct temporary barriers made of hardware cloth or wire fencing. Place high enough above the possible snow line, and a few inches below the ground line to prevent entry.