

Riverside Review

December 2015 / January 2016

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
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.
December 3, December 17
January 7, January 21

Advisory Board & Commission Meetings

December 2015

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

January 2016

11 Cable Commission, 7:00
12 Landscape Adv. Comm., 7:00
14 Economic Dev Comm., 7:00
14 Preservation Comm., 7:00
18 Historical Comm., 7:00
20 Safe Environment, 7:00
21 Police Adjudication, 6:00
25 Parks & Rec. Board, 7:00
27 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



Snow and Ice Control

The season for snow is upon us and the Department of Public Works has a Snow and Ice Management Plan that provides guidance and prioritizes roadways to ensure prompt and efficient snow removal. The department begins snow removal operations by clearing all major arterial streets, the Police, Fire Station and Township Hall parking lots and the Train Depot Platform. Secondary streets and sidewalks in the immediate vicinity of schools and all other parking lots are next. Cul-de-sacs, alleys and remaining sidewalks follow. Major arterial streets are Barrypoint Road, Burling Road, Riverside Road, Lionel Road, Delaplaine Road, East Quincy Street, Cowley Road, southbound Harlem Avenue, Golf Road, Ridgewood Road, Forest Avenue, West Avenue, East Avenue, Pine Street, Woodside Road, DesPlaines Avenue, eastbound 26th Street, Eastbound 31st Street, Longcommon Road, East Burlington Street.



Plow drivers will not begin work on secondary streets until all major arterial roads are clean and in satisfactory condition. For the purpose of snow removal operations, the Village is divided into three approximately equal sections with a plow truck and operator assigned to a specific section. The plow truck operators work together to clear the major arterial streets and once these major streets are cleared the operators disburse into their assigned sections. Depending upon the size and nature of the snow event, it may take 3 to 4 hours after the last snow flake has fallen for snow removal operations to be completed.

Residents are reminded that it is a violation of the Riverside Municipal Code to deposit any snow and ice from private premises on any street, alley, sidewalk, parkway, park or public place in the Village. Dumping snow from private property onto village streets:

- Increases the time and cost to complete snow removal operations.
- When struck by motorists, can cause loss of control resulting in accident or injury.
- When frozen to pavement, can break snow plow blades, cause the plow truck to veer out of control or cause the frozen material and new snow accumulation to become projectiles resulting in property damage or injury.

The Department of Public Works is taking steps to reduce the amount of rock salt used for snow and ice control. Beginning with the upcoming snow and ice season, staff will be applying a salt brine solution to major arterial streets in advance of a forecasted snow fall. The salt brine will help prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement which will result in faster removal by the plow trucks and reduce the amount of overall rock salt usage. For minor snow events the applied salt brine may be sufficient to melt the snow without a call of personnel and application of rock salt. Environmentally speaking, salt levels in the Des Plaines River watershed spike dramatically during the winter months, degrading the aquatic environment and salt has a generally corrosive effect throughout the natural and manmade environment. The Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted a rule in July of 2015 mandating the reduction of salt use within three years. The Department will be taking additional steps internally as well as working with outside agencies to lessen its environmental impact.

Theft Prevention During the Holiday Season

The Riverside Police Department asks for your assistance in protecting yourself and your neighbors by reporting suspicious activity immediately. Most thefts are crimes of opportunity. Packages left unattended are an attractive target for thieves, and Riverside has already seen an increase in this type of criminal activity in the weeks leading up to the holiday season. In order to prevent package theft:

- Consider adding a signature requirement to deliveries.
- Use a premium package control program. Both UPS and FedEx allow recipients to schedule delivery times or specify a delivery window.
- Have packages delivered to the Post Office and pick them up there.
- Have packages delivered to a friend who works from home.
- Have packages delivered to your office if your employer permits this.
- If you're at home, watch for the delivery truck. Sometimes the delivery person does not ring the doorbell.
- If you experience a theft, file a police report and notify your credit card company immediately.

Finally, if you witness any suspicious activity, please call the Riverside Police Department at 708-447-2127 or dial 911 for an emergency. The Riverside Police Department wants everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season.



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 and click on the Riverside E-flash link on the left side of the homepage or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Short Term Rentals of Property Prohibited

Residents should be aware that short term rentals of property, such as Airbnb or VRBO, are **not** currently permitted uses in the Village of Riverside. All short term hosts in the Village must discontinue this activity. The Village will issue citations to any property owner found to be offering short term rentals. The Village Board recently amended the Village Code to allow bed and breakfasts as special uses in residential districts and permitted uses in the Village's business districts, and adopted specific licensing requirements for bed and breakfast establishments. If you are interested in operating a bed and breakfast in your home, please check the licensing requirements in the Village Code and contact Sonya Abt, Community Development Director with any questions about the approval process and fees. She can be reached at 708-447-1241.

Winter Recreation Opportunities



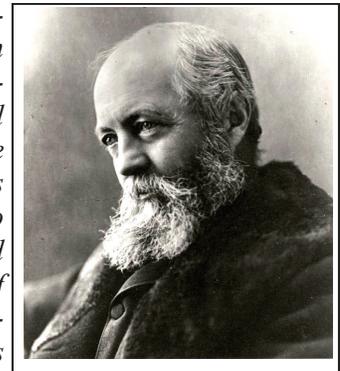
The **ice skating rink** in Big Ball Park will be available as weather permits. The hours for skating are from 8:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Please be courteous of other skaters and nearby residents. The color coded flag system will be used again this year to signify rink conditions as open or closed. Red indicates the rink is closed. Green means the rink is open. Once again, the Parks & Recreation Department would like to thank the “Big Chill Crew” for their stewardship of the rink. Without their support, there would be no ice rink in Big Ball Park.

The Parks & Recreation Department will once again be offering **Winter Break Mini Camps and events**. Please be sure to check out the Recreation Brochure online for more information and to register. The department is also accepting registrations for the **Villa Olivia Ski Trip** on February 19. This is a great event for teens!

A Brief History of the Riverside Landscape

The following information is found in “Landscaping in a Landmark Village, a guide for Riverside residents. Understanding, managing, and protecting the unique landscape of a historic landmark village.” This publication is available on the Village of Riverside website or in print format by request.

In 1868, a group of seven Chicago businessmen decided to purchase a piece of land for development. They had in mind a place where the residents would find a retreat from urban chaos and enjoy nature. The group formed The Riverside Improvement Company, purchased parts of a horse farm 10 miles west of Chicago, and hired the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, already famous for their design of the New York City's Central Park. These village planners decided to maintain a pastoral feel in a residential setting, so they planned the streets to follow the DesPlaines River and natural flow lines of the area's existing topography. They set up multiple parks throughout the village to create the feeling of open land and green space. The design was completed in 1869 and it combined the natural surroundings with a high degree of then modern conveniences: gas, water services, and paved streets. The design of Riverside, recognized as a pioneer of modern urban planning, was honored in 1970 with the registration as a Historic Landmark in the National Register of Historic Places.



One of the nation's first planned communities, Riverside has 44% of its area designated as public land. The Grand Park system uses several large “commons” as a foundation, with 41 smaller parks located at intersections throughout village. Frederick Law Olmsted felt that with favorable enhancements to the existing natural beauty of the public lands, a feeling of sylvan tranquility would nourish the health of Riverside's population. In addition, 900 acres of Cook County Forest Preserve surround Riverside. Public land and parks are under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department and under the care of the Village Forester. Any maintenance or changes within those areas must be authorized by the Village. Landscaping policies of Riverside preserve the Olmsted plan, prefer and promote native flora, and guard the precious heritage of Riverside's mature trees. Ordinances pertaining to this policy are available on the Village website.

The public parkway is an integral component of the Village's public land and National Historic Landmark designation. In surrounding communities, the public sidewalk typically delineates where public property ends and private property begins; however, this is not the case in Riverside. In many locations, a resident's private property begins somewhere between the public sidewalk and the front façade of the house. The land between the curb and each resident's private property is the parkway. The parkway is public land, not private property.

Permits are required for any plantings or hardscape installations on public land. Prior to starting a planting or hardscape project, residents should consult the plat of survey they received when they purchased their property to make sure the work they are undertaking is on their private property and not on public land or a neighbor's property. Permits are also required for any hardscape installation on private property such as a patio or fire pit. Please contact the Building Department at 708-447-1241 for guidance prior to starting any projects.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

The Village Board and staff thank all volunteers for their service to the community and wish all residents and business owners a safe and happy holiday season and a Joyful 2016! Village offices will be closed on December 24 & 25, 2015, and January 1, 2016. Sing up for eflash for up to the minute information on village happenings. Visit the village website and click on the Riverside E-Flash link.