

Riverside Review

June / July 2009

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
Michael C. Gorman

Board of Trustees
James D. Reynolds
Lonnie R. Sacchi
John E. Scully
Ben Sells
Mark D. Shevitz
Jean Sussman

Village Clerk
Arlene Blaha

Village Board Meetings

June 1
Board of Trustees, 7:30
June 15
Board of Trustees, 7:30
July 20
Board of Trustees, 7:30

Commission Meetings

June 2009
04 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
08 Cable Commission, 7:30
09 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:00
11 Preservation Comm., 7:30
16 Plan Commission, 7:30
18 Police Adjudication, 6:30
22 Parks & Rec Brd., 7:00
23 Historical Commission, 7:00
Zoning Board of Appeals –As called

July 2009

02 Economic Dev Comm., 7:30
09 Preservation Comm., 7:30
13 Cable Commission, 7:30
14 Landscape Adv Comm., 7:30
16 Police Adjudication, 6:30
21 Plan Commission, 7:30
27 Parks & Rec Brd., 7:00
28 Historical Commission, 7:00
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*Please call 708-447-2700 x 254 to confirm the meeting you wish to attend.

For more information please visit
www.riverside.il.us

Farmers' Market Comes to Riverside

We are pleased to welcome a Farmers' Market back to our Village this summer. It has been many years since Riverside hosted a Farmers' Market, and the effort to bring this great community event back to our Village has been spearheaded by the Economic Development Commission, Eric Kollman, and resident / farmer Randy Brockway. The market will feature at least four vendors and will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Riverside Bank parking lot (17 East Burlington). The first Farmers' Market will be held July 1, and they will continue through summer into early November. We hope residents will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to purchase locally grown food without having to leave Riverside!

2009 Tree Planting Program

The Cooperative Tree Planting Program, sponsored by the Village of Riverside, accepts donations from residents for fall tree planting. Your donation will help to reforest public parkways and keep Riverside green for future generations to enjoy. The Village is offering a 50/50 price matching program that will cover half the cost of all trees planted on the parkway and public setback. The cost share will not be offered for public park areas but full price donations can be arranged with the Village Forester. Remember, donations are tax deductible!

If you are a Frederick Law Olmsted Society member, you may be eligible for a rebate on a portion of your purchase. Please contact the Olmsted Society President for details.

Tree prices differ based on the tree species selected, sizes available, and nursery or grower providing the plant material. All prices include free tree planting, mulch, and a guarantee, which expires July 1st, 2010. Tree descriptions and order forms are available at the Village Hall and on our website under the Public Works Department—Forestry.

Orders will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, starting on July 20th, 2009, and must be received by September 4th, 2009. Mail or bring a completed order form to the Riverside Village Hall, 27 Riverside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546. Payments will be refunded if the order can not be filled. For additional information, please visit the Village Hall to review plants available or call Village Forester, Mike Collins at (708) 442-3590 Extension 502. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Mulching 101

By Village Forester Mike Collins

As Village Forester, I have noticed several improperly mulched trees during my travels throughout the Village. Mulching can have such a tremendous effect on the health of trees that it is important that I pass along information for homeowners on the proper way to mulch in order to ensure the long-term health of the trees in our village.

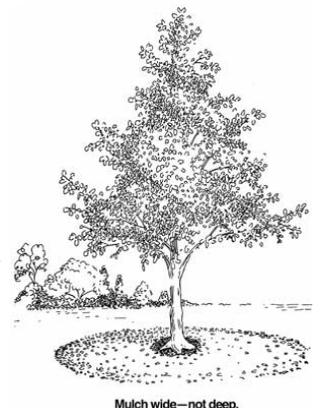
Mulches are materials placed over the soil surface to maintain moisture and improve soil conditions. Mulching is one of the most beneficial things a homeowner can do for the health of a tree. Mulch can reduce water loss from the soil, minimize weed and turf grass competition, and improve soil structure. Properly applied, mulch can give landscapes a handsome, well-groomed appearance. Mulch must be applied properly; if it is too deep or if the wrong material is used, it can actually cause significant harm to trees and other landscape plants. Most organic mulches are beneficial but the application of rock materials is strongly discouraged.

As beneficial as mulch is, too much can be harmful. The generally recommended mulching depth is 3 to 5 inches. Unfortunately, many landscapes are falling victim to a plague of over mulching. A new term, "mulch volcanoes," has emerged to describe mulch that has been piled up around the base of trees. Most organic mulches must be replenished, but the rate of decomposition varies. Some mulch, such as cypress mulch, remains intact for many years. Top dressing with new mulch annually (often for the sake of refreshing the color) creates a buildup to depths that can be unhealthy. Deep mulch can be effective in suppressing weeds and reducing maintenance, but it often causes additional problems. The most important piece of advice is DO NOT PILE MULCH AROUND THE TRUNK OF THE TREE. This will promote insect infestations, oxygen deprivation for the root system, and rodent damage.

The Village offers FREE mulch to any Riverside resident! The Department of Public Works welcomes you to pick up mulch during business hours (M-F 7:30 AM to 4:00PM). Please call if you need directions. If you would like to talk about mulching on your property, please contact the Village Forester at (708) 442-3590 for further advice.



"Mulch volcanoes" cause many problems for trees.



Mulch wide—not deep.

To get the latest news and developments about the Village of Riverside, please sign up for the E-Flash System. To register, please go to www.riverside.il.us/eflash.

Vehicle Stickers to be Displayed by July 1



Vehicle stickers for 2009-2010 are on sale now and must be displayed on your car prior to July 1, 2009. Sticker renewals are \$65 for passenger vehicles and motorcycles, \$70 for small trucks, and \$95 for trucks over 8,000 lbs. Stickers purchased after June 30 will incur fines of \$10 per month. As a convenience to our residents, vehicle stickers may be renewed three ways: in person at the Village Hall, via mail (or via the drop box outside Village Hall), or online. To renew your vehicle stickers online, please go to www.riverside.il.us/vehiclestickers prior to June 20 to allow time for processing and mailing. We ask that residents use the online renewal only if they have no changes to make to their contact or vehicle information.

Financial Update

The Village of Riverside is feeling the effects of the national economic crisis just as are residents and businesses. In this time of economic and financial uncertainty, the Village continues to monitor economic conditions as they relate to Riverside, and makes adjustments as necessary.

Village staff recently provided an economic update to the Village Board. The full report is posted on our website under Riverside and the National Economic Crisis, but is summarized here. The report contains many reasons for concern.

The Village's fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31. Using actual data for the current year to date, and comparing it to historical data and the budget for this year, we can extrapolate the numbers to see that revenues for this year will be short of budgeted amounts by about \$387,000, which is 4.6% of the \$8,285,388 in revenues budgeted for 2009. The revenues that are projected to fall short by the largest amounts include Income Tax Revenue (a revenue stream that is collected and redistributed by the State), Utility Tax (likely due to a heightened cost awareness and improved energy efficiency on the part of our residents), Sales Tax, and Building Permits. The latter two items are a direct reflection of the impact the economy has had on residents' personal activities. Expenditures for 2009 were budgeted at \$8,102,874, and seem to be largely aligning with earlier projections, aided in part by the delayed filling of vacant positions.

Looking ahead, future economic activity is uncertain, so budgetary projections beyond one year are more tenuous and less reliable than predicting for 2009 and 2010. Even activity in the near term is volatile and likely to change as the national economy rebounds (or doesn't). However, it is clear that with revenues declining and expenses remaining steady, the Village's Fund Balance (a.k.a. financial reserves or savings) will be asked to fund a greater share of operational needs in coming years. In other words, without changes, we will be using what in essence are "rainy day funds" just to cover daily operating expenses. This is not a sustainable way to run a Village (or a business or home). We will need to make significant changes in order to avoid further depletion of our Fund Balance and remain fiscally solvent in coming years. In that light, the Village Board will be analyzing various alternatives in coming months which may include additional service reductions to those that have already been made. Such service reductions may include reduced hours at Village Hall, not filling the currently vacant police officer, museum director, and/or public works maintenance positions, eliminating out-of-state travel expenses for Village staff, increasing ambulance fees, and implementing furlough days, among others. For the complete list of options offered for consideration, and for a more complete description of the Village's financial condition, please see the complete report on the Village website.

Property Maintenance Reminder

With summer upon us it is time again to clean up the outside of our properties and attend to property maintenance issues. As you return to the outdoors, please remember that: *grass and weed growth should be maintained no higher than 10 inches in height; exterior surfaces must be kept free of rot and decay, and free of loose and peeling paint; trash containers must be maintained with lids and properly placed away from the street; and exterior property and premises must be kept free from accumulation of garbage and debris.*

Riverside E-Flash Keeps on Growing!

The Village's E-flash email newsletter now goes out to 724 email addresses. That means that 686 individuals are now receiving news updates and reminders about everything from garbage pickup holiday reminders to emergency flooding notifications. Are you one of the 724? If not, please go to www.riverside.il.us and click on the E-Flash tab to sign up. We hope you sign up soon!

Fireworks Safety Tips

Fireworks are extremely dangerous and are the cause of thousands of injuries each year. This newsletter has often outlined the dangers involved when non-professionals use fireworks, so this summer we are focusing on the *legal* aspect of using fireworks in Riverside.



The Village of Riverside, via local ordinance, strictly prohibits the possession and/or ignition of fireworks. Residents and their guests for Independence Day must know the potential consequences for possession or ignition of fireworks.

Fireworks are NOT permitted in the Village of Riverside. "Fireworks" is a broad term, but in Riverside, it refers to blank cartridges, toy cannons in which explosives are used, balloons which require fire underneath to propel them, firecrackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, Roman candles, bombs or other explosives of like construction and any device containing any explosive compound for exhibitional purposes; or any tablets or other device containing any explosive substance, or containing combustible substances producing visual effects. These types of items may not be used or sold in the Village unless the user first obtains a permit from the Fire Chief.

"Fireworks" does not refer to, and the Village does not prohibit the use of, snake or glow worm pellets; smoke devices; sparklers; trick noisemakers known as "party poppers," "booby traps," "snappers," "trick matches," "cigarette loads," and "auto burglar alarms;" toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper or plastic caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive compound are used, provided they are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion

Anyone found in violation of the Village's fireworks ordinance will be fined at least \$50 and may be fined up to \$750.

The Village encourages our residents to be safe and be smart this Independence Day. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.