



Riverside Review

February / March 2021 

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
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)

February 4, February 18
March 4, March 18

Advisory Board & Commission Meetings

February

08 Riverside TV Comm. 7:00
09 Landscape Advisory 7:00
11 Preservation Comm 7:00
15 Historical Comm. 7:00
24 Planning and Zoning 7:00
25 Code Enforcement 5:15
25 Police Adjudication 6:00

March

08 Riverside TV Comm., 7:00
09 Landscape Advisory, 7:00
11 Economic Development, 7:00
15 Historical Commission, 7:00
24 Planning and Zoning, 7:00
25 Code Enforcement, 5:15
25 Police Adjudication, 6:00
29 Parks & Recreation, 7:00

Due to COVID-19, meetings may be held by teleconference or Zoom. Please call 708-447-2700 ext. 254 to confirm the meeting you wish to attend.



COVID-19 Update from President Sells

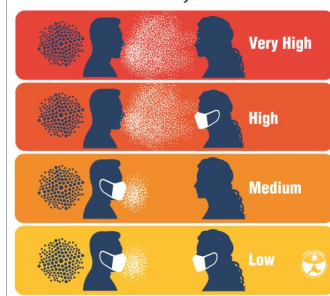


As the vaccine for COVID-19 starts to be administered, we must be careful not to let down our guard. As Dr. Fauci has pointed out, we will not reach the necessary numbers to create herd immunity until approximately 85% of our population has been vaccinated. In addition, it is also known that even those who have received a vaccine can still carry and transmit the virus. So let us all pull together during this final stretch to keep one another safe. If we continue to practice the three Ws—Wash hands, Wear a facial covering, Watch your distance—we can get to the goal of herd immunity with fewer cases and fewer casualties. Let us make sure that none of our friends or family get sick because we just got tired. The days are getting longer and summer is coming. We will soon be able to enjoy outdoor activities again. If all goes according to plan, we can start getting back to normal then. But for now we must stay the course!

On January 25, 2021, the State of Illinois entered Phase 1B of the Illinois Vaccination Administration Plan. This includes the administration of vaccinations to front-line essential workers who carry a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure because of their work duties, often because they are unable to work from home, and/or they must work closely to others without being able to socially distance. Phase 1B includes first responders, those who work in education, food service, agriculture, manufacturing, corrections workers and inmates, postal workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and staff at shelters and day care centers. Phase 1B also includes residents over the age of 65.

The Village of Riverside does not have a health department. Vaccine administration for Riverside residents is under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health and State of Illinois. In a Press Release dated January 25, 2021, Gov. Pritzker announced the launch of the Coronavirus.illinois.gov website where residents can find nearby vaccination sites, information on how to make an appointment to receive the vaccine, updates on the state's plan and eligibility, and answers to frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. Gov. Pritzker stated that the website will "serve as a hub of all vaccine-related information, directing residents to the appointment booking homepages of 97 local health departments and pharmacy partners, which will total hundreds of locations statewide." The website will be updated as more state-run sites and hundreds of additional local options come online.

Reduce the risk, wear a mask



It is important to note that vaccine remains in short supply nationwide and every state is facing a large demand for the vaccine and shortage of supply. Residents are encouraged to check the website regularly for available appointments and in the continue to **Wash** your hands, **Wear** a face covering and **Watch** your distance.

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Resources for Seniors

Despite the pandemic, Aging Care Connections continues to offer opportunities for seniors to interact. Many programs and classes are now available online via Zoom. These programs and classes are free and no registration is required. Simply join the Zoom meeting. Please visit the Aging Well Neighborhood Online Classes page of the Aging Care Connections website to see the complete list of offerings. Email questions to AWN@agingcareconnections.org or call 708-354-1323.

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.

Community Policing Update

Last August, in response to the peaceful protests and civil unrest that followed the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other troubling revelations of police brutality nationwide, the Riverside Police Department hosted a Community Conversation to address resident concerns and answer resident questions about policing in Riverside. Since then, the department has taken additional steps to ensure that the Riverside Police Department continues to have a positive impact in the community which includes honorable and just service to the public while remaining in compliance with all current state and federal laws related to overall policing, training, education and the use of force. To that end, Chief Weitzel, Deputy Chief Gutschick, Lieutenant Lara and the entire Riverside Police Department wish to inform residents of the following:

- ◆ The Riverside Police Department has obtained certification under the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the NAACP's "10 Shared Principles." Every officer in Riverside has signed off on the 10 Shared Principles and been trained on those principles.
- ◆ The department has been federally certified by the Department of Justice that our Use of Force Policy is in full compliance with federal regulations.
- ◆ The department's command staff have held meetings with Riverside Township on mental health services. Brookfield Police Chief Ed Petrak and North Riverside Police Chief Carlos Garcia and his designee also participated in these meetings. The Department will be implementing new procedures for mental health police responses.
- ◆ The Department was "Gold Standard" certified by Lexipol, the policy and procedures authority for police officers. Lexipol policies are reviewed by attorneys and updated whenever Illinois and/or federal laws change as they relate to law enforcement. Lexipol policies are also reviewed by the village's insurance carrier.
- ◆ The Riverside Police Department was featured nationally in cooperation with the National Sheriff's Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police for our Pandemic Policy.
- ◆ The department continues to train employees in restorative justice and mental health response, and the department is advocating for new mental health response guidelines through possible legislation in Springfield.
- ◆ The department has made updates to the Juvenile Memorandum of Understanding relating to juvenile matters handled by patrol officers.
- ◆ The department has made updates to the Aging Care Connections police officer notification and referral program.



The Riverside Police Department remains committed to enhancing the quality of life in Riverside through community based policing that provides police services in a fair, conscientious and professional manner. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Riverside Police Department, please contact Chief Weitzel at tweitzel@riverside.il.us or call 708-447-2127.

Winter Recreation News

Everyone's life has been impacted by the pandemic, and many in the community have experienced anxiety and uncertainty. One of the best ways to combat those feelings is by maintaining a sense of connection. The Riverside Parks & Recreation Department has been having fun coming up with new and innovative ways to engage with the public and provide enriching and safe opportunities for residents to interact with friends and neighbors. The department is offering a School Year Program for District 96 students enrolled in the Hybrid Program this year to help students complete their school day. This program offers safe and socially distant engagement and support for students. Additionally, online registration is now open for the following:

- ◆ Spring Soccer: Registration begins in February/March.
- ◆ After School Classes: 5 week sessions beginning early February. Registration available now!
- ◆ Virtual & Outdoor Programming: Variety of program offerings. Registration available now!
- ◆ Follow the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RiversideRec for the latest updates.
- ◆ Register for programs and learn more at <https://www.riverside.il.us/173/Parks-Recreation>.

Spring is just around the Corner!

Now is the time to start thinking about your garden. The Chicago Botanic Garden and West Cook Wild Ones are great sources for inspiration.

For monthly tips on trees, shrubs, indoor plants and general gardening:
<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/checklist>

For information on attracting pollinators to your garden:
<https://westcook.wildones.org/2019/07/21/nativepollinatorbasics/>

For information on starting a Native Garden:
<https://westcook.wildones.org/getting-started-with-a-native-garden/>

