



Riverwoods

V I L L A G E V O I C E

Riverwoods Village Voice

Winter 2023

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Riverwoods.gov



Affordable Housing in Riverwoods: Balancing Values

*By Laurie Breitkopf, Chair
Riverwoods Plan Commission*

This article is intended to define and examine the effect of the adoption of an Affordable Housing Plan by the Village of Riverwoods to comply with the Illinois Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act. Implementation of the Plan is guided by Area Median Income and Income Limits, and the availability of new housing units. Affordable housing has recently stirred more interest in the Village as the Plan Commission has received a proposal for a new multi-family development.

Most people agree that humans need housing. Many people also would agree that there should be housing available for people who work locally at a range of income levels, and local housing stock should include affordable housing. Generally, “affordable housing” is

defined as housing for which a household pays no more than 30% of its gross annual income on all housing costs. The often-controversial question is where affordable housing should be constructed. We want affordable housing for local workers, but not in our backyards. Given the high cost of available land and single-family homes in Riverwoods, how do we balance the equally compelling values of providing affordable housing for local workers with our desire to maintain the beauty of our environment and single-family residential living?

This article will briefly discuss the status of affordable housing in Riverwoods. It will address common misunderstandings about “affordable housing” and describe the inclusion of such housing in a proposed Lexington Homes townhome development at the Federal Life property on Deerfield Road, which is now before the Riverwoods Plan Commission.

Affordable Housing in Illinois

For many years, there has been a significant deficit of moderately priced housing in many Illinois communities, including municipalities in Lake County. Growth in home values continues to outpace growth in household incomes throughout the Chicago region and many householders who are vital to local economies and who provide critical community services are unable to afford to live in or near the places they work. It is estimated that 25% of owner-occupied households in Lake County, and 47.8% of renter-occupied

Continued on page 4



VILLAGE
GOVERNMENT

Riverwoods Village Board

1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30pm.
February 7, 21, March 7 and 21.

Riverwoods Plan Commission

1st Thursdays at 7:30pm.
February 2, March 2 and April 6.

Meetings are generally held at Village Hall, 300 Portwine Road.

Meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

GET INVOLVED
IN RIVERWOODS

Riverwoods Preservation Council (RPC)

Randi Merel, President
RiverwoodsRPC@gmail.com

Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA)

Jill Kaplan
847-945-0062
jedma1@yahoo.com

Riverwoods Book Club

June Melber
847-940-7086
argos501@aol.com

Plant Sale Committee

Rich Koomjian
312-520-6370
rkoomjian@gmail.com

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods

Catherine Game
Executive Director
cgame@brushwoodcenter.org

Happy New Year!

This is the time of year we look forward – not just to spring – but to the possibilities the New Year brings. Last year we enjoyed a return to some of our favorite events like the Halloween Party. We also, hopefully, began some new ones, like the Community Garage Sale. Looking forward, we plan to design more events to bring our community together.

Riverwoods' history is one of an independent-minded, nature-focused community. Our Woodland Ordinance is like no other and often difficult to understand without the guidance of the Village Ecologist. This time of year you are likely to see tree removal, buckthorn removal or even burning to restore the natural environment of our woods. This is all work that requires a permit. Remember to engage our Village Ecologist as you plan work on your property. Your property contributes to the beauty of the natural surroundings of our community.

Another community note is that the paths around Village Hall have been restored and are now accessible. The Village Hall campus will also see the addition of a play area in 2023. The

play area has been designed to reflect our natural surroundings, taking into account the preferences expressed by families attending the Halloween event. We look forward to seeing our campus area become a meeting place for families.

Topics that continue to be discussed in 2023 are the availability of municipal water throughout Riverwoods and the potential development of the Federal Life property. Thoughtful, respectful dialogue on these topics is always welcome. For the facts surrounding these topics, visit the website to read minutes of Board and Plan Commission meetings, or attend these meetings in person at Village Hall. Meeting dates and times are posted on the website. By signing up on the website for the Village newsletter, you can receive information via email on upcoming meetings.

As always, support our local businesses where and when you can – and remember to be thoughtful of your neighbors as the snow flies!

Respectfully,

Kris Ford
Mayor of Riverwoods



Riverwoods Village Board of Trustees Meeting Notes

The following is a summary of topics and actions by the Board of Trustees from the November and December Board of Trustees meetings. Read the details in the minutes, including the current Police Reports and Plan Commission Reports on the Village of Riverwoods website at www.riverwoods.gov.

DEERFIELD ROAD WATER MAIN

Deerfield Road water main extension has been approved and permits issued. The construction will be completed in early January.

DEERFIELD ROAD PATH MILLING

The Board approved the Deerfield Road path milling at a cost not to exceed \$4000 and it should be completed early January.

FLATWOODS PLAY AREA

A proposal from Team Reil, Inc to design, and construct a play area in the Flatwoods Heritage Center for a cost of \$290,876. plus an annual inspection fee of \$1000. was voted on and approved by the Board. The Board believes that the ADA accessible play area addition will increase the overall usage of the Flatwoods Heritage Center and also serve as a resident gathering space.

WOODLAND PROTECTION

Our woodland ecologist, Steve Zimmerman summarized what has been going on this year with the woodlands. He reviewed and approved six developments, provided 38 residential consultations resulting in 43 cost share applications, reviewed 160 tree removal applications, reported seven woodland violations and reviewed the Tree and Woodlands Ordinance. Mr. Zimmerman explained he now has another ecologist working with him.

LEXINGTON PROPOSAL

Lexington Homes has asked for more time to revisit the plans for a Riverwoods Reserve townhome and affordable housing development proposed to be developed on the 10-acre parcel which now houses Federal Life.

There has been much discussion concerning woodlands, wildlife, and making exceptions to our long standing Woodland Protection Ordinance.

Residents are invited to attend the upcoming Board and Plan Commission meetings to more fully understand the project and how it may affect our community. Also residents may view complete schematics, designs and other relevant information about this project on the Village of Riverwoods website by going to: <https://www.riverwoods.gov/building/page/lexington-homes-riverwoods-reserve-project>

RIVERWOODS VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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kford@Riverwoods.gov

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847-945-1130
bdayno@Riverwoods.gov

Police Department
Non-Emergency 24/7
847-945-1820
Office (Records, Admin, or leave a message for officers) 847-945-1130
police@Riverwoods.gov

Emergency Police/Fire 911
Tom Krueger
Fire Chief
Lincolnshire/Riverwoods
Fire Protection District
847-634-2512

Village Voice Goes Quarterly

In an effort to keep you better informed and aligned with Village happenings, your favorite source for Riverwoods news and events, the *Riverwoods Village Voice* is announcing that it will begin publishing quarterly!

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COMMUNITY SERVICES
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Office (Records, Admin, or leave a message for officers) 847-945-1130
police@Riverwoods.gov
Emergency Police/Fire 911
Tom Krueger
Fire Chief
Lincolnshire/Riverwoods
Fire Protection District
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RIVERWOODS
VILLAGE VOICE

Riverwoods Village Voice is published bimonthly by the Village of Riverwoods. Its purpose is to provide a communication forum and information for residents. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Mayor or members of the Board of Trustees.

Editor: Jackie Borchew
Any resident wishing to become a newsletter staff volunteer please call the Village Hall at 847-945-3990 and leave your name and phone number.

SEND IN THOSE
LETTERS!

Letters from residents and Riverwoods homeowners' associations are invited and encouraged. Preferred length: approximately 250 words or less, typed. All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters may be printed, space permitting, but may be edited for grammar, clarity and length. If controversial topics are addressed, the editor will seek opposing viewpoints for balance.

Deadline for the
Spring 2023 issue:
March 1, 2023
Send to:
Editor
Riverwoods Village Voice
300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, IL 60015
or jackie@borchew.com

Affordable Housing; continued from the front cover

Market Indicators Data Portal 2021, at <https://www.housingstudies.org/data-portal/>.)

Because of this affordable housing deficit, in 2003 Illinois passed the Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act (Act). The Act required towns with at least 1,000 residents and with less than 10% affordable housing stock to submit affordable housing plans to the state by April 1, 2005. The Act primarily affects affluent communities that have less than the targeted threshold of affordable units within their boundaries.

The Act states:

“Affordable housing” means housing that has a value or cost or rental amount that is within the means of a household that may occupy moderate-income or low-income housing. In the case of owner-occupied dwelling units, housing that is affordable means housing in which mortgage, amortization, taxes, insurance, and condominium or association fees, if any, constitute no more than 30% of the gross annual household income for a household of the size that may occupy the unit. In the case of dwelling units for rent, housing that is affordable means housing for which the rent, any required parking, maintenance, landlord-imposed fees, and utilities constitute no more than 30% of the gross annual household income for a household of the size that may occupy the unit.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority, a state agency which is charged with the implementation of

the Act, publishes guidelines to inform communities on what qualifies as affordable housing.

There are two factors that generate the guidelines: (1) Area Median Income and (2) Income Limits. These factors vary among different agencies, because (a) median income is regularly updated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); (b) median income can be generated for different areas (a regional average or just Lake County), and (c) the target income limit varies with different affordable housing programs.

Area Median Income

The 2022 HUD figures for our area include the median income for households of 1, 2, 3 and more persons. According to HUD, the median income for a 3-person household in our area in 2022 was \$93,800. In other words, 50% of 3-person households in the area have income above and 50% have income below this Area Median Income (AMI). (See 2022 Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL HUD Metro FMR Area.)

Income Limits

The Act's definition of affordability is spending 30% or less of gross household income on housing and various related housing costs – but with a further qualification. This 30% spending threshold should be met by families that earn no more than 80% of the AMI. Families that earn between 50% and 80% of the AMI are defined as moderate income families under the Act.

Using 80% of AMI, the Illinois Housing Development Authority has determined that the affordable purchase price of a home in Lake County in 2022 for a 4-person household is \$207,083, and the affordable rent for a 3-bedroom unit is \$2,167 per month. At 60% AMI, the affordable rent for a 3-bedroom unit is \$1,626 per month.

For purposes of comparison, the median

value of a home in Riverwoods in 2020 was \$705,700. (U.S. Census Bureau (2021). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for Riverwoods, IL* <<http://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US1764538-riverwoods-il/>>.)

The Illinois Housing Development Authority encourages communities to create affordable housing not only for those earning below 80% AMI but for those earning below 50% or 60% AMI. Many housing programs seek to meet this challenge with multiple target incomes rather than applying a single yardstick. A number of affluent communities with costly housing have accepted a mix of affordable units to advance toward their goals, with some affordable units at 120% AMI and others at 80% AMI.

Riverwoods Affordable Housing Plan

Section 25(b)(iv) of the Act required that Riverwoods adopt one goal out of three affordable housing options:

- **Option #1: An affordable housing goal of a minimum of 15% of all new development or redevelopment within Riverwoods; or**
- **Option #2: A minimum of 3 percentage points increase in the overall percentage of affordable housing within Riverwoods; or**
- **Option #3: A minimum of a total of 10% affordable housing within Riverwoods.**

The Illinois Housing Development Authority determined in 2018 that there were 1,248 housing units in Riverwoods, of which only 71 (owned and rental combined) were classified as affordable using 80% AMI as the income limit, for an affordable housing percentage of 5.7%. (See <https://www.ihda.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2018-Statewide-AHPAAList.pdf>.)

Option #2 would have required 8.7% of all housing units in Riverwoods (109 units instead of 71) to be affordable. Option #3 would have required 125 units instead of 71 units in Riverwoods to be affordable.

Riverwoods could not realistically satisfy the second or third options (for example, by converting existing homes into affordable homes), so the Village adopted Option #1 as its housing goal when it adopted an affordable housing plan in 2005. The Village further revised its affordable housing plan in 2020.

The existing plan has not defined “affordable” in terms of AMI; however, 50% to 80% AMI (or \$46,900 to \$75,040) is considered moderate income for a 3-person household. As a point of reference, the salary for a teacher in Lake County, Illinois with 0 to 5 years of experience ranges from \$43,000 to \$57,439 depending on a variety of factors. (See Lake County School District Certified Staff Salary Schedule 2022-2023.)

It should be noted that adoption of the affordable housing goal was mandatory, but the means for achieving this goal was left to the targeted communities. The Act creates a State Appeals Board whereby a developer proposing a project with affordable units can appeal a negative zoning decision. It is possible that Riverwoods might eventually lose zoning control via the State Appeals Board if the Village does not satisfy its affordable housing plan. However, the State Appeals Board has not yet been materially implemented and has not reviewed any cases of noncompliance to date.

Does affordable housing have a negative impact on property values?

According to the Illinois Housing Development Authority:

In recent years, researchers have produced numerous studies with rigorous analytic methodologies to better understand the impact that affordable housing developments have on surrounding property values, local community safety and services. A review of the literature on the subject conducted in 2016 indicated that most studies do not find a negative impact related to affordable housing developments. The literature review also showed that affordable housing sited in economically strong communities and dispersed across metropolitan regions are the most successful and have the least negative impacts. Another study focused on affordable housing developments in suburban New Jersey, which has a State policy similar to the Affordable Housing Planning and Appeal Act, found that **affordable housing development was not associated with increased crime, decreased property values or increased taxes.**

(From *Illinois Housing Development Authority 2018 Non-Exempt Local Government Handbook, December 28, 2018, p. 19.*) (Emphasis added by author.)

The Lexington Homes Proposal

A proposal from Lexington Homes before the Plan Commission seeks to construct townhomes on the approximately 10-acre parcel now occupied by the Federal Life Insurance Company. A public hearing was opened on the application at our November meeting and is still in progress. It is not unusual for complex redevelopment proposals to require multiple appearances before the Plan Commission as questions are raised and responses and resubmissions offered. An important feature of public hearings is that we hear comments and questions from the public.

Lexington’s original application requested 69 units for sale, three of which were designated as affordable housing. The affordable townhomes would be interspersed in three of the twelve townhome buildings on the site. Lexington also proposed paying an “in-lieu” fee of \$125,000 per unit for four additional units rather than selling those units as affordable housing. The Village’s goal of 15% affordable housing in new developments would have recommended ten affordable housing units in a 69-unit Lexington project.

The Plan Commission has not yet explored the affordable housing component of the Lexington Homes proposal in any detail. Lexington Homes has indicated it is revising its application to avoid construction of townhomes in the woodland buffer between the Federal Life property and the Meadowlake subdivision.

The Plan Commission is waiting for Lexington’s revised application, since we wish to address the underlying zoning questions before considering the affordable housing component.

How Might Riverwoods Handle Affordable Housing Sales and Rentals?

Before the Lexington Homes application, Riverwoods had not received any zoning applications to include affordable housing within a proposed new development. Cities that accept fee-in-lieu donations often have Housing Commissions that invest the fees in community trusts or affordable housing projects.

Since Riverwoods does not have a Housing Commission, it is likely the Village would work with a local non-profit agency that specializes in administering activities related to the development, sale and rental of affordable housing. These activities might include helping with marketing, determining home buyer eligibility, managing waitlists, conducting home buyer education, facilitating sales and resales, and providing post-purchase support and consultation services. Affordable units in Riverwoods would be expected to remain affordable with long-lasting covenants; subsequent sales or rentals would continue to be made to people qualifying for affordable housing. These ongoing activities should be handled by specialists in affordable housing.

Lake County offers grants and forgivable loans to non-profit organizations, municipalities and developers for affordable housing projects and programs serving households with under 80% of AMI. Eligible projects and programs include acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction and home buyer assistance.

The Lake County Board funds the Lake County Affordable Housing Program with County dollars. This program promotes affordable housing activities for households that are ineligible under federal guidelines and meet the 80% - 100% AMI requirements. In addition to federal funding, prospective homeowners or renters may seek State of Illinois housing assistance funding.

In summary:

- **Riverwoods is required to develop an Affordable Housing Plan. The Village has done so establishing an affordable housing goal of a minimum of 15% of all new development or redevelopment within Riverwoods.**
- **The existing plan has not defined “affordable” in terms of Area Median Income (AMI); however, 50% to 80% AMI (or \$46,900 to \$75,040) is considered moderate income for a 3-person household.**
- **There are alternatives available for implementing an Affordable Housing Plan, including the engagement of non-profit organizations or contributions to projects with the ability to deliver more housing units.**
- **The current proposal before the Plan Commission has not yet addressed affordable housing.**

The Plan Commission regularly meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Riverwoods Village Hall. We encourage the public to attend.



Nomcom Update

Riverwoods Caucus Nominating Committee Introduces Nominees for upcoming Village Election

On December 5 the Riverwoods Nominating Committee held a townhall meeting to ballot nominees for three Village Trustee Positions. The three candidates who recieved the majority of the votes and will be on the April 4th ballot are: Jeff Smith, Michael Clayton, and Rick Jamerson.

Michael Clayton is a current Trustee sitting on the board for over three years. Michael said he is very appreciative of the Caucus' nomination and looks forward to the possibility of being reelected for a second term as Trustee. "It would be an honor to be able to continue to serve the community in this capacity. Riverwoods is a special place with a bright outlook, but we are also facing challenges that need to be addressed concerning development, population shifts, woodland protection, and maintaining our strong finances. I am particularly concerned with the impact of the widening of Deerfield Road. I believe that I have helped steer the Village through some tough economic times, led the reshaping of our financial operations, and contributed to the development of the Village's image and long term plans. I think I bring woodland values, a track record in community involvement, and skills and experience that can continue to help forge our future."

Rick Jamerson is currently on his 3rd term as a Trustee. Rick has had a significant hand in various aspects of the Village including bringing the current Village Hall to fruition. Rick articulated that he feels it is an especially important time in the Village's history for the community to participate in the local government and participation and volunteering is highly important and valuable which also takes significant dedication and time to be done and hopes for more community members to attend meetings and commit to serving the Village in the capacities they can. Rick stated, "I am grateful to have been selected by the Nominating Committee for the Trustee position. I have learned many things during my three terms as Trustee. I hope to be able to use the experience I have gained as a Trustee to help the Board make future decisions that benefit the residents of Riverwoods. I have worked with the Building Department during my tenure to improve its efficiency and I acted as the Owner's Representative during the construction of the Village Hall."

Jeff Smith grew up in Deerfield and said even back then that he loved going to his friends' homes in Riverwoods. Jeff says, "I loved and I continue to love the unique and natural environment of low-density, larger lots, unique homes and nature including oaks and the woodlands and wildlife including deer, toads, hawks, owls, birds, bats and coyotes. Jeff and his wife, Coleen, have been Riverwoods residents for the past 28 years. "We raised our son Dylan on a wooded large lot, hiking, biking, going to Ryerson and walking our dogs on the tree lined streets and paths of Riverwoods," Jeff stated. For the past eight years he has been a Senior Principal with the

human resource consultant Mercer (part of Marsh McLennan), which is the largest HR consulting and risk firm in the US and Globally, and previously a Senior Vice President with Hewitt Associates and then Aon." His career started with assessing risk for insurance companies and then modified to assessing risk for clients and developing strategies to manage that risk. "I work with small to large and private and public, for profit and not for profit entities. I have been successful in assessing the situation, determining potential enhancements / modifications or alternate solutions that solve the objective including pros and cons of each, using expert guidance / recommendations as needed, generating consensus and implementing changes for improved services or efficiencies." Jeff believes he has an unique background that would bring a significant contribution to the Riverwoods Community and hold the values and understanding of the Village's comprehensive plan. In closing Jeff remarked, "I believe what makes Riverwoods great is being unique, low density and protecting the woodlands. And that's why I would like the opportunity to become a Trustee and help guide Riverwoods into the future."

Our Village Caucus System

Our Village Caucus System is governed under the election laws of the State of Illinois and supervised by the Lake County Clerk. The "NomCom" is a committee of 13 Riverwoods residents appointed by the Advisory Council (per its bylaws) from the following groups of areas:

One member from each of the seven geographic areas as defined by the Riverwoods Caucus Party map and one additional member from Thorngate to balance the number of representatives by population.

Two members representing a combination of the key committees in the Village; A retired or retiring member of the Village Board who is not standing for re-election. A member representing either the Plan Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals. And three "At-large" members.

There can be no more than three members from any geographic area.

The Nominating Committee duties:

- Publicizes its formation and candidate search.
- Recruits residents to offer their candidacy for village office.
- Publishes a candidate application form and prepares a series of "Issues and Position" questions to which each candidate is asked to respond.
- Interviews all prospective candidates on the issues and positions.
- Selects (via secret ballot, in a closed meeting) one candidate for each office that needs to be filled.
- Calls for, publishes and runs the Caucus (Town Meeting) to officially nominate candidates.
- Finally, after candidates have been nominated, it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to support the candidates they selected in the general election.

To learn more about the Riverwoods Caucus System and how it works: <https://sites.google.com/view/riverwoods-caucus-party>

Community Services

By Russell Kraly, Director of Community Services

Happy New Year! As I write this, we've gone from -4 degrees last week to 52 degrees today. I hope that everyone's holidays were fun and safe, and this New Year brings excitement along with a fresh perspective.

So far, we've been lucky with the white stuff, not anything to speak of, mostly ice and frigid temperatures, but we all know it's coming. The poor people in Buffalo have had more than their fair share this year. Hopefully we'll never have to experience anything that horrific. When the snow does come, please do not shovel or have your contractors push the snow into the street, it causes problems and is dangerous. Also, if you live by or around a fire hydrant, please make sure to shovel out three or more feet around it so it can be easily seen and gotten to. If you can't do it, have your contractor keep it clean. The Fire Department thanks you. When there's an emergency, time is lost trying to locate and dig out the hydrants, and it could be the difference between saving you and/or your neighbor's property. Fire travels faster than you think, and every second they are delayed in doing their job costs someone unbelievable loss of property. Also, make sure there's enough room in front of your mailbox so the post office can deliver your mail safely.

We've got a couple of new businesses at the Shoppes of Riverwoods and Thorntons will be opening sometime in January. Please try and support these new establishments. They've invested time and thousands of dollars into our Village. If they succeed we get tax dollars which helps keep your property taxes down. Hope to see you in 2023!

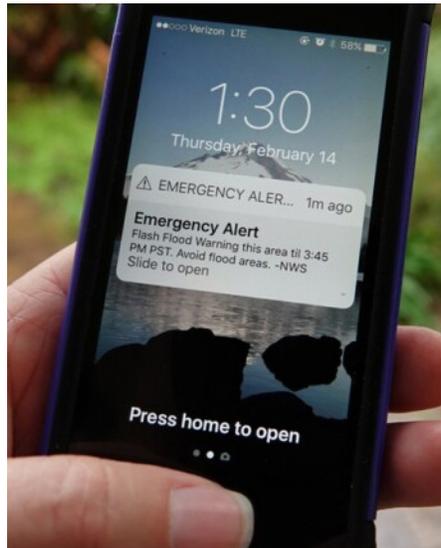
Police Report

Are You Aware of These Police Services?

By Bruce Dayno, Chief of Police

Are you traveling soon? Riverwoods Police Officers check vacant homes while residents are out-of-town. If you wish to utilize this free service, please fill out a request at <https://www.riverwoods.gov/public-safety/page/police-department>. You can also call the Police Department at (847) 945-1820 and have your information entered into our system. While house watches do not guarantee total crime prevention, they can be a significant safety measure.

If somebody is staying or regularly in your home while you are away, please do not place your home on house watch.



Emergency Telephone Notification System

The Village of Riverwoods contracts with the Blackboard Connect service for emergency resident notification. With this service, the Police Department is able to send personalized voice messages and

email alerts to residents and businesses with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as boil order alerts, missing persons, road closures, and other emergencies.

As a resident or business, you can opt-in to emergency messages, non-emergency messages or both. The information supplied will be sent to the Blackboard Connect system. If you have an unlisted telephone number, or if you have not previously signed up to be on the system, you may not be in our database. The system will only be used for emergencies and exigent circumstances. We know that your personal information is important; all usage of your personal information will be in compliance with the Village Privacy Policy.

To register, or for more information, go to: www.riverwoods.gov/public-safety. If you don't have Internet access and would like assistance, call the Police Department Records Section at 847-945-1130.

Remember to sign up for the Village e-Newsletter at <https://www.riverwoods.gov/newsletter/subscriptions>.

Crime Prevention

Our Crime Prevention Officer is available for presentations to residents and businesses on topics including, but not limited to, Bullying, Stranger Danger, Traffic Safety, Internet Safety, Identity Theft, Personal Safety, and Workplace Violence. Residents and businesses can schedule a home security survey, which will provide an assessment of security safeguards and risks observed at the residence. The homeowner or business will be provided guidance on how to correct safety deficiencies using crime prevention and environmental design. Contact Officer Al Maciareillo at 847-945-1130 ext. 231 or amaciareillo@riverwoods.gov for further information or to make an appointment.



Child Safety Seat Installation

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14. Correctly used child safety seats are extremely effective, reducing the risk of death by as much as 71 percent, but nearly 73 percent of child restraints are not installed or used correctly. Child Passenger Safety Technicians can ensure your child's seat is installed correctly. CPS Technicians put their knowledge to work through a variety of activities, including child safety seat checks where parents and caregivers receive education and hands-on assistance with the proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts.

Disabilities and Special Needs Premise Alert Registration

The Riverwoods Police Department, along with the Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District and the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District, offer a Disabilities and Special Needs Premise Alert Program in support of individuals living with disabilities or special needs as well as police and emergency medical personnel responding to calls at a related address. Individuals with disabilities or special needs wishing to participate in the program may supply information

to be kept in our computer aided dispatch (CAD) database free of charge. Information may also be supplied by the individual's family members, friends, caregivers, or medical personnel familiar with the individual. When a 911 operator sends police or emergency medical personnel to an address in the database, the information will be passed on to the emergency responders. The information gathered as part of PAP shall remain strictly confidential and will be used only to provide assistance to emergency medical and police responders. Individuals with disabilities are those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

Individuals with special needs are those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require mental health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by individuals generally.

The intent of the Premise Alert Program is to afford people with special needs or disabilities the same access to public safety services provided to all citizens. Provision of the information will not result in preferential treatment, but it will enhance the ability of emergency responders to effectively deal with those individuals.

To register, go to <https://www.riverwoods.gov/public-safety/page/police-department> or call Police Department Records at 847-945-1130.

The form must be filled out every two years. Information not renewed after two years will be removed.

For other Senior Services and Disability Programs offered by the Village of Riverwoods, go to <https://www.riverwoods.gov/rc/page/senior-services-disability-programs>.



Contact Officer Al Maciareillo at 847-945-1130 ext. 231 or amaciareillo@riverwoods.gov for an appointment to have your seat checked or receive installation assistance by a National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technician.

RPC IS PROUD TO CONTINUE A RIVERWOODS TRADITION

Riverwoods Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 13th
10am – 1:30pm

We will be offering perennials in one-pint containers or in flats of 18, popular shrubs in 1 and 3 gallon pots and trees in 5, 10, and 15 gallon containers. All are native to Riverwoods. We will have extra plants available at the sale on Saturday on a first come, first served basis.

Plants can be pre-ordered from the RPC website: RiverwoodsPreservation.com

Click on the current events tab at the top. Then click anywhere in the Plant Sale box. Follow instructions to order online.

Please note that inventory and pricing are subject to change due to current availability. Payment is due when you pick up your order. Checks only please.

Delivery of 10 and 15 gallon trees will be available for a cost of \$10 per tree.

The deadline for orders is April 15, 2023.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun filled day which will coincide with Village Cleanup Day and a Community BBQ lunch.

Riverwoods Community Garden

By Barb Shimberg

All residents are invited to participate in the Community Garden's 2023 lottery to be held at the end of February.

Please email BarbShimberg@gmail.com indicating your interest, including your address and preferred phone number.

This will be the Garden's 4th year with continued support from the Village, RPC and Verd Nolan of the Organic Gardener. The Garden was established in 2020 as a vision of the late Sheila Hollander.

Join our lottery and you just may be selected to be part of this important community effort.



The Green Corner

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our 2023 events.

Native Plant Sale & Village Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 13

Community Garage Sale

Saturday, June 24

Recycle-O-Rama

Saturday, September 30

Send Us Your Photos!

We want to feature residents' photos in our articles! Send local wildlife, landscape, or plant photos to Riverwoods Preservation Council at riverwoodspreservation@gmail.com for a chance to have them featured in an issue of Riverwoods Village Voice or on the RPC website. Please include your name for photo credit.

Ask RPC!

Do you have questions about living in the unique woodlands of Riverwoods? Send them to us! We will answer them in the next issue of Riverwoods Village Voice. Email your inquiries to riverwoodspreservation@gmail.com.





RRA - Join and Make a Difference!

The Riverwoods Residents Association (RRA) forms a support network within our Village. Membership is \$25 per family and includes two vehicle stickers. Mail your check to RRA, P.O. Box 341, Deerfield, IL 60015. For more information contact Jill Kaplan at jedma1@yahoo.com or call her directly at 847-945-0062.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

of extra stickers at \$5 each _____

Amount Enclosed _____



Letter to the Editor:

Thank you for the recent, timely article about light pollution. It can only be hoped that now, with no helpful foliage, people will realize that their driveway, house, and “decorative” lighting is not only intrusive to their neighbors, but also harmful to birds, insects, and plants, and obscures the view of our beautiful night sky.

June Melber
1100 Whigam Road

Toys for Tots Thanks Riverwoods!

Thank you to all who donated to the year’s successful holiday toy drive.



It’s Easy to Recycle Year Round

By Merleanne Rample, SWALCO

Each year, SWALCO, the Village of Riverwoods and the Riverwoods Preservation Council (RPC) partner to collect new and gently used clothing and textiles at our Recycle-O-Rama event.

We'll collect clothes/textiles for reuse and worn, torn, and stained items to be recycled, along with shoes for the Reuse-A-Shoe program. While the Village does not collect these items year-round currently, you can take these items at other times of the year to these locations who have permanent, year-round collection programs. Here are a few recycle sites to get you started:

Shoes:

Sachs Recreation Center, Deerfield

North Shore Unitarian Church,
Bannockburn/Deerfield

Sullivan Center, Vernon Hills Park District,
Vernon Hills

Clothing & Textiles:

Deerfield Golf Club & Learning Center,
Riverwoods/Deerfield

West Deerfield Township Offices, Deerfield

North Shore Unitarian Church,
Bannockburn/Deerfield

Patty Turner Center, Deerfield

St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church,
Indian Creek/Vernon Hills

Sullivan Center, Vernon Hills Park District,
Vernon Hills

Riverwoods Book Club News

By June Melber

The 2023 Book Club begins with ***The River of the Gods***, by Candice Millard, who is a book club favorite author. This narrative history tells the exciting story of the search for the Nile River by Richard Burton.

Resolve to do something new this year and join the book club for an interesting discussion. The book club is free, open to residents and non-residents, and refreshments are served. For more information you may reach out to June Melber at argos501@gmail.com.

Book Locations in Riverwoods

The Village Hall Book Shelf

Located inside Village Hall. Help yourself to this selection of books for loan, or take one and leave one.

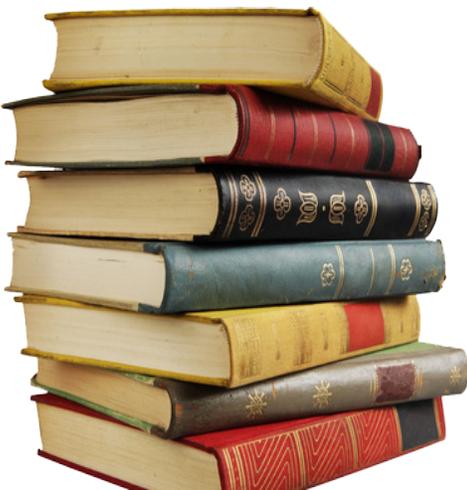
Please do not leave large quantities of books for the book exchange case at Village Hall. We don't have time to sort them and there is no storage space. Thanks for your understanding.

Riverwoods Village Little Free Library

Located in the Village Hall parking lot, the Little Free Library offers books for all ages. Take a book and leave a book.

Brushwood Center Little Free Library

Located next to Brushwood Center inside of Ryerson Forest Preserve, this library offers subjects for all ages. Take a book, or maybe a nature activity or item, and leave a book.



Village Curfew

The Village Curfew Ordinance, which affects youths under the age of 18, is 11:00pm during the week and 12:00am for holidays, Fridays and Saturdays.



Village Mailings

If you receive mail from the Village, it is important information and announcements that residents should be aware of. Please take the time to open and read.



Reminder to Keep Fire Hydrants Visible and Accessible in the Snow

The Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District would like to remind residents of the importance of having snow removed from around fire hydrants.

We would like to ask residents to assist the Fire Department by removing the snow from the fire hydrants if they are able. In the unfortunate event of a house fire, the time spent trying to locate a fire hydrant buried in snow can make a critical difference in the outcome.

Riverwoods Launches Electronic Newsletter

By Lilya Dikin, Riverwoods Trustee

The Village of Riverwoods is excited to announce the launch of our E-Newsletter. The new digital feature will help keep residents and news-subscribers informed of Village Events, Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes, Police Activity, Services Offered by the Village and the Police Department, Woodlands Restoration Cost-share Programs, as well as other seasonal reminders and alerts.

Residents can sign up to stay informed by visiting riverwoods.gov/newsletter and can unsubscribe at any time. The newsletter subscribers' emails will be stored confidentially and will never be shared or sold to third parties.

You may have previously signed up to receive alerts through the Blackboard Connect portal, which will be used only for Safety & Emergency Notifications going forward.

For questions, please contact Trustee Lilya Dikin at Ldikin@riverwoods.gov



In the Kitchen with Pastry Chef Gale Gand



Gale Gand is a Riverwoods resident and pastry chef and had the Michelin two-star restaurant, Tru, in Chicago. She hosted Food Network's show "Sweet Dreams", is the author of eight cook books, and worked with Julia Child on her book and PBS series, "Baking with Julia". Gale teaches cooking classes and makes Gale's Root Beer which is sold nationally. She has received two James Beard Awards, and was schooled in Paris at La Varenne. Gale appears at food and wine festivals, is a professional Pie and Food Competition Judge. She has three kids and plays the ukulele. Fun fact-She once made a Peach Cobbler for Aretha Franklin. For more info on Gale go to: www.galegand.com and kitchensisterscookingschool.com.

ESCAROLE AND SAUSAGE WITH BEANS

4 - 6 servings

1 pound bulk or link Italian sausage, sweet or hot (about 4 sausages)
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon red chili flakes
1 head escarole leaves washed, dried, and chopped into 2-inch pieces
2 15-ounce cans white beans
3 cups Chicken Stock or low-sodium canned chicken broth
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons freshly chopped parsley
1/2 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese
2 plum tomatoes, diced
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In a large skillet, break the sausage into 1-inch chunks. Cook the sausage pieces over medium-high heat until they begin to brown, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and chili flakes to the skillet and sauté over medium-high heat just until the garlic softens and becomes translucent, about 1 minute. Add the escarole and cook, stirring, until wilted, about 2 minutes. Add the beans and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add the stock and bring to a gentle boil then simmer for 5 minutes. Add the butter, the parsley, cheese, and tomatoes, mix to combine, and cook until the mixture is heated through, and the butter is melted. Add pepper, and taste. Adjust the seasoning if needed. Serve in bowls with crusty bread on the side to dip in the juice.

SWEEDISH SPICED MOLASSES COOKIES

When I had my tv show, **Sweet Dreams** on the Food Network, I had New York chef Marcus Samuelson on. He shared a recipe with me from his Swedish grandmother for these full-flavored, complex, chewy and moist spice cookies. Now I make them every year. I just love the bursts of orange flavor when I hit a chunk of orange rind.

WHAT A GREAT CAN-NUKAH!

A great time was had by all at the annual Riverwoods Chanukah Celebration at the Flatwoods Heritage Center adjacent to Village Hall.

This year's event featured a huge Menorah made out of food cans contributed by village residents. The cans were then donated to food pantries to help feed the poor.

Mayor Kris Ford kindled the lead candle and then the Menorah itself was lit. Guests also enjoyed delicious latkes and Chanukah treats, children's activities, and a one-of-a-kind LED robot. Most of all, residents loved the theme of helping others and everyone is looking forward to more events that share the holiday spirit with those in need.

Special thank you to Mayor Ford, Katie Bowne and everyone at Village Hall, Chief Dayno and the Riverwoods Police Department, Rabbi Shmuel & Shternie Notik, and Rabbi Ari & Chava Rendler.

The Riverwoods Chanukah Celebration was organized by Rabbi Sholom & Sarale Notik of Chabad Riverwoods & Synagogue FREE. Questions & comments are welcome at 847-208-8794 or rabbi@chabadriverwoods.com.



Makes 36 cookies

1 cup unsalted butter
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 cup light brown sugar
 1/3 cup molasses (not Black Strap)
 1 egg
 2 - 1/4 cups flour
 2 teaspoons baking soda
 2 teaspoons ground ginger
 1/2 teaspoon cardamom
 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
 1 cup chopped candied orange peel
 1/2 cup sugar for rolling

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

In a mixer with a paddle attachment, cream the butter. Add the two sugars and cream the mixture. Add the molasses and egg and beat well. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, cardamom, cloves, salt and white pepper. Add to the creamed butter mixture, mixing just until the dry ingredients are incorporated. Mix in the candied orange peel. Cover dough and chill 1 hour to make it easier to handle. Roll into 1-inch balls and roll in remaining sugar. Place on a parchment-lined sheet pan two inches apart. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes or until cookies are just set. Let cool slightly on the sheet pan, then remove to a wire rack to cool completely.





VILLAGE OF

RIVERWOODS

Village of Riverwoods
300 Portwine Road
Riverwoods, Illinois
60015-3898

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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year to Remove Invasive Buckthorn

Buckthorn is an invasive shrub that's found throughout most of North American forests. In the late 1800's buckthorn was imported from Europe. It was intended to be used as a hedgerow species because of its durability. While this goal was indeed accomplished, buckthorn began to spread uncontrollably to natural areas, such as forest preserves and prairies. Today buckthorn is classified as a noxious weed in various northern states and importing or transplanting buckthorn is considered illegal.

Riverwoods has a cost-share program to help remove buckthorn from your property and improve the ecological health of the woodlands. Winter is an excellent time to remove buckthorn because it's easy to spot. Experts recommend waiting until the ground is frozen to minimize damage to existing good plants.

The first step is to schedule an ecological consultation with our Village Ecologist, Steve Zimmerman. He will walk your property with you, identify the problem areas and approve your property's eligibility for the Invasive Shrub Removal Cost-Share Program. Then you may submit the application along with the \$100 fee. By spring, you'll enjoy a beautiful buckthorn free woodland and enjoy bird watching so much more!

Get started here: <https://www.riverwoods.gov/woodlands/page/ecological-cost-share-programs>.

