



# River Forest Township News

## Fall, 2008

### Township Officials Staff & Volunteers

#### Trustees

Jerry Davis  
Mark Kelty  
Anna Marie Romeo  
Mary O'Brien

#### Supervisor

Veronica Krawczyk

#### Assessor

Pamela Kende

#### Clerk

Elizabeth "Buff" Martin

#### Staff

Social Worker:

Josie Lynn

Admin. Asst.:

Angelika Davis

#### Mental Health Committee

Lisa DeVivo, Dir  
Helene Connolly  
Margaret Tafilaw  
Susan Klock  
Linda Gusloff  
Patti Marino  
Jim Hartzler  
Andrea Lissuzzo  
Richard Lim  
Paul Nijensohn

#### Youth Committee

John FS Williams, Dir  
John Hagensick  
Ann Pepper  
James Fitch  
Ange Davis  
Connie Geocaris  
Kelly Taira  
Richard Barrett  
Kathy Rigali

#### Senior Committee

Desiree Scully, Dir  
Donald Pochly  
Mary T. Small  
Peggi Mizen  
GeorgAnn Zussman  
Mary Bozzi  
Diana Berg  
Jim Flanagan

Periodically articles appear questioning the need for Township government. The Township unit of government focuses on services to enhance the health and well being of community residents - via direct service offerings, referral for service, and financial support of programs and services offered by local organizations. River Forest is a township encompassing only this community. All tax funds collected by the River Forest Township benefit only our residents. The budget comprises .095% of your real estate tax bill. Hundreds of residents utilize over 20 service providers supported by these tax dollars. Partnerships with other local governing agencies and organizations maximize the effective use of tax revenues. The Township Board works diligently to maintain and provide the highest quality of service to residents, and strives to keep the tax levy low. Be assured that River Forest residents get a lot of bang for every buck.

Community involvement drives the array of services supported by your tax dollars. Residents are needed to serve on volunteer advisory committees to oversee Youth Services, Senior Services or Mental Health Services. Please contact me at 708.366.2029 if you would like further information on how you may help.

**Holiday Food and Gift Basket** season is fast approaching. Last year, over 900 families benefited by the generosity of residents, business, schools, churches and other organizations who donated funds, "adopted" families or individuals, delivered gifts. Thank you to all for making this outreach so successful! If you would like to help make the coming season brighter for those less fortunate, please contact **Holiday Food and Gift Basket workers at 708.771.6159x244.**

Last but not least, the Township board welcomes Lisa Devivo to the post of Mental Health Director. Lisa comes to us from Proviso Township with 12 years of experience. Welcome Lisa!

~~~~ *Veronica Krawczyk, Township Supervisor 708-366-2029x1*

- **Township office hours:** Monday – Clerk Elizabeth “Buff” Martin - 10am to 12pm  
Wednesday – Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk – 9:30am to 2pm. (Please call for appt. outside these hours.)  
Thursday – Assessor Pamela Kende – 10:00am to 12pm.
- **Senior Dine-Out program** – The participating restaurants are *MAPLE TREE*, a long standing partner, and *ROBINSON'S NO. 1 RIBS*. The suggested donation for the Dine-Out coupons is \$3.50.
- **Senior Discount Metra Pass** – \$3.50 for picture ID - Wednesdays 9am to noon at Oak Park Township Offices, 105 S Oak Park Ave. - 383-8005 – Must show Driver's License, Passport or State ID.
- **Handicapped Parking** – *temporary cards* valid for up to 90 days or *permanent parking placards* - Please phone the Township Supervisor to request applications.
- **WalkIn Ministry** – referral service. Mon-Sat. 10-11am at 848 Lake St. 708.386.1946
- **Attention Voters!** –The National Federal Election will be on Tuesday, Nov 4, 2008.
  - **Last day to Register to Vote - Oct 7, 2008** -Call Clerk Elizabeth "Buff" Martin at 708.771.3355 for **in-home registration before Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**, OR register at the Village office (400 Park, 708.366.8500, Mon 8am-7pm, Tues-Fri 8am-4:30pm).
  - **Applications for mail-in absentee voting** -now available at the River Forest Library (750 Lathrop), Village office (400 Park), Township office (8020 Madison). If you used the Motor Voter registration and this is your first time to vote, you must vote in person and show identification.
  - **In-Person Absentee Voting - October 13-30<sup>th</sup>** at Maybrook (Maywood Courthouse), Whitcomb Bldg (1311 Maybrook Sq, Rm 109, 708.865.6010 Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm, Wed to 7pm). Or Cook County Bldg (69 W Washington Rm 500, Chicago, 312.603.0900 Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm. Remember to bring your voter's registration card with you.

#### Assessor's Corner

***Pamela Kende, Assessor 708-366-2787***

All taxpayers should have their tax bill in their own name and address. The correct name and address on a tax bill aids in the process of confirming who is "in-district" for school enrollment and homeowner exemptions. Name changes forms can be downloaded at [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) or contact this office and we will send one out to you. The form must then be notarized and mailed in. A name change will not effect your property assessment in any way.

Upon receipt, check your tax bill to be sure you see all the exemptions to which you are entitled. If you notice any are missing (Homeowner, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Person, Disabled Veteran, Returning Veteran), please contact me.

Please note that the Assessor's contact number printed in the **ANSWER BOOK is INCORRECT.**

Contact me or leave messages only at 708.366.2787. I look forward to helping you.

**Your Needs are important to us! Contact the Supervisor at 708-366-2029, #1.**

**For Property Tax Information, call the Assessor at 708-366-2787.**

Visit our site: [www.riverforesttownship.org](http://www.riverforesttownship.org)

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# Guide to Township Supported Services . . .

(All phone numbers are in area code 708.)

Meals at Home: call 485-3422 to arrange for meal delivery to the homebound - \$4.75 per meal.

## **Contact the following agencies directly to inquire about services, or call the Mental Health Committee at 358-8855.**

**Mission:** *To enhance the mental health and developmental potential of residents, establish an appropriate continuum of community support services, and manage local resources in a fiscally responsible manner.*

- NAMI (National Alliance for Mentally Ill), 524-2582 Drop-in Center - Supervised opportunities for recreation and socialization.
- Community Support Services, 354-4547 A respite service for the developmentally disabled and their families.
- Family Service and Mental Health Center, 383-7500 Marital/Family Counseling; Youth Services; 24-hour Crisis; Psychiatric Care; Medicaid, Medicare & Major Insurance accepted; Psychiatric Rehab Recovery Services.
- Oak/Leyden, 524-1050 Training program for adults with developmental disability who require vocational training and social services. Also, early intervention for children from birth to age 3 who are at risk of developmental disability. The program facilitates a normal development pattern in children who demonstrate a special or general delay in one or more abilities.
- Parenthesis/Parateen, 848-2227 Parent-child center offering support services and educational opportunities to families with preschool children. The Parateen program serves teen families including the parenting teens, their parents and children at weekly sessions which provide a shared meal, transportation, workshops on self-development and parent education on childcare.
- Sarah's Inn, 24 hour Hot Line 386-4225 Comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence. Evening counseling is available. Group treatment program for abusers.
- Seguin Services, 863-3803 Client and family support program for persons over the age of 14 with developmental disabilities. Links individuals and/or families with the services needed to prevent institutionalization.
- Aspire, 547-3550 Early intervention service for children with developmental disabilities, birth to age 3; pediatric therapies for ages 3 to 8.
- Pillars, 386-2100 Outpatient psychotherapy for children ages 3 to 18 and families who are experiencing serious emotional difficulties.
- Suburban Access, 799-9190 Individual MR/DD services, point of entry for purchase of service programs.
- Hephzibah, 386-8417 A child welfare and day care agency providing assessment services, crisis intervention, foster care, group homes and school-age childcare.
- Way Back Inn, 848-2065 Provides rehabilitation and support services to address the special needs of women who are suffering from alcoholism or drug dependence.

## **Targeting Youth . . .**

**Mission:** *To enhance the social and emotional development of youth and their families, and to work for the prevention of juvenile delinquency by addressing the needs of youth at risk of becoming involved in inappropriate or illegal activities.*

- Peer Power 383-0700, focuses on the ability of youth to discuss life problems/issues and to support to each other.
- Intramural Sports at OPRF High School 383-0700, serves a diverse youth population and also engages identified at-risk youth in positive, consistent supervised activity, linked to school performance, models conflict resolution skills.
- Summer School Work Study 383-0700, for high school students, encourages responsibility while obtaining job related skills; builds self-esteem and benefits local agencies by providing volunteer support.
- ASK After School at the River Forest Library.
- I-Search 386-1841, enables elementary school students to learn about and discuss personal safety related issues with police officers and other community resource workers.
- TIME (Teen Initiative Meeting Expectations) 386-3393, early intervention program targeting at-risk youth.
- ENUF 386-393, educates teen offenders / at-risk youth on the dangers and risks associated with use of alcohol and drugs.
- Youth Connect 386-393, one to one mentoring of at-risk youth ages 12-17. Youth are generally referred to this program.
- Financial Aid Scholarship 445-2727, helps children of families within income guidelines, to participate in activities.

## **Especially for Seniors . . .**

**Mission:** *To enhance the quality of life for seniors in our community by providing a broad array of supportive services that promote the values of independence, self-esteem and dignity.*

- Transportation: Blue or Red Cab books 771-6159 x200 / Bus service 383-4806 - call 24 hours in advance to arrange pickup.
- Call Senior Services at 383-8060 or visit the office at 418 Oak Park Avenue – 6<sup>th</sup> floor for:

|                        |                            |                         |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Information & Referral | Senior Lunch Program       | Senior Advocate Program | Are You OK? TeleCare Reassurance |
| Case Management        | Home Delivered Meals       | Affordable Wills        | Elder Abuse Intervention         |
| Community Care Program | Dine Out Program           | Tax-Aide                | Carrier Watch                    |
| Transportation         | Health/Wellness Activities | Circuit Breaker         | Senior Health Insurance Program  |
| Money Management**     | Chore Program              | Energy Assistance       | News & Views newsletter          |
- (\*\*Money Management Program assists low income older persons who have difficulty with household budgets, paying bills, keeping track of bank records, intervening with creditors, completing medical forms and other personal financial issues.)
- Senior Discount Metra Pass at 105 S Oak Park Ave., Wednesdays 9-12am, \$3.50. Identification required. Call 383-8005.
- Avoid Financial Exploitation – (The unauthorized or illegal use of an adult's funds, property or resources by a family member, friend or stranger which causes a monetary or property loss - even as small as \$20 per month.) If you are being exploited by someone you know, contact Steven Smith at 383-8060 or the IL Dept on Aging at 1-888-206-1327.
- Recreational Activities: Call the River Forest Community Center at 771-6159 and / or  
The Senior Citizen's Center of Oak Park and River Forest at 848-5251.