



THE RiverForester



Time To Renew Vehicle Stickers

Now is the time to renew your vehicle stickers. The price schedule for 2010-2011 is as follows:

- Passenger cars \$45.00
- Motorcycles and motorbikes \$45.00
- Trucks less than 5,000 lbs. \$50.00
- Trucks over 5,000 lbs. \$70.00
- Recreational vehicle (RV) \$50.00
- Senior citizen discount (1 vehicle per household) \$25.00

The Village is continuing to offer a discount to senior citizens on their vehicle sticker. The discounted price of \$15.00 is only available to those senior 65 years or older and only applies to one vehicle per household.

The following penalties apply if sticker is purchased after July 14th.

- July 15th to August 14th: \$10.00
- August 15th to October 14th: \$15.00
- After October 15th: \$20.00

Vehicles registered or housed (kept in a garage or rarely driven) within River Forest that do not have a sticker displayed are subject to police citations and fines. Please call our office at 708.366.8500 if you have any questions or need assistance in purchasing a vehicle sticker.

JR. CITIZENS POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY

July 26, 2010 to July 30, 2010
(8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

For kids between 10 and 15 years of age

(Who live or go to school in Forest Park, Oak Park and River Forest)

At the River Forest Police Department
400 Park Avenue, River Forest

(Just 1 Block South of Lake Street, Approx. 12 Blocks West of Harlem)

Space is limited.

Applications are available at:

River Forest Police Department 400 Park Avenue / 2nd floor
or call Officer Troy Fields at 708.366.8500 x 343
for more information.

Crime Prevention Tips

Recently the River Forest Police Department has been notified of several fraud cases involving renters and rental properties. As a result we are offering some tips about the do's and don'ts of renting.

When you are considering renting a property, research first:

- Ask for the condominium association's information to verify ownership and information regarding problems in the unit or on the property.
- Check with neighbors and tenants to determine if this building and neighborhood is best for you.
- Drive past the property at different hours to gauge noise levels and potential problems.

Remember to always ask:

- How much the rent is and whether it is paid weekly or monthly.
- The total deposit required.
- What period of notice you need to give at the end of the tenancy.
- How much the council tax/association assessment is.
- How the property is heated and how much the gas and/or electricity bills usually are.

Tips for avoiding apartment rental scams:

- Ask to see the landlord's ID, and record all the information you can from it.
- Use an internet search tool to check the person's name who you're dealing with. Be sure to add quotes around their name. You could add the words "fraud" or "scam" at the end of your search terms.
- Use reverse directory look up if the person has given you their true telephone number. It's important to double check that they are who they say they are.
- Visit the local county courthouse to look up property ownership for the apartment in question. Who really owns it? Is it the person you're dealing with or someone else?

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- Scan any provided photographs carefully. Do they match up with what you've seen in person? Do they look like they all came from the same place?
- If the landlord or leasing agent does not ask for an application or permission to check your credit that's a red flag!
- Considering the current state of our economy and the rise in foreclosures, ask the landlord if they're current on their mortgage payments, and then get their answer in writing.
- Consider using another method for obtaining a rental, i.e. real estate agent, going through a rental agency, etc...Most of these services are provided to renters at no charge.
- Use checks for all transactions and keep the records in case something happens.
- Photograph the unit before moving in, any damage you caused, and the unit again just prior to moving out.

Tips about what to do if you are the victim of fraud:

- Report the incident to police right away.
- Write down any and all information regarding the subject you dealt with and what problems may have happened.

Historic Preservation Update

At the April 27, 2010 Historic Preservation Commission meeting, the commission awarded several residents and organizations with the second Annual Preservation Awards. These awards recognized homeowners who help preserve the historic character of River Forest. The Village of River Forest was awarded the Restoration Award for its work on the Waller Gates. Other winners were:

- Ann and Ray Berens at 610 Thatcher
- John and Fran Dzuryak at 315 Forest
- River Forest Park District for the Metra Station Addition
- Marc and Heidi Kieselstein at 1001 Jackson
- Richard and Judy Deogracias at 1045 Jackson
- William and Cynthia Mastbrook at 735 Thatcher

The awards were presented on May 25, 2010 at a Ceremony in the River Forest Park District Building.

If you are planning to hold a block party, please fill out the Historic Preservation survey that is attached to the block party application. This survey will greatly aid the Historic Preservation Commission as they gather data for a comprehensive architectural survey of River Forest.

River Forest Library News

Summer Reading has arrived at the River Forest Public Library. This year's theme is "Make a Splash- READ", and we'll have fantastic programs for all ages at the library throughout the season. Summer Reading provides fun incentives to keep children and teens reading over the long school break, and it is also a great way for adults to get involved with the library during the lazy days of summer. Drop in through July 30th to join in the fun. This year we also welcome the return of the Friends of the River Forest Public Library Book Sale, to be held from June 25th-27th at



Roosevelt Middle School. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the River Forest Public Library. Looking for more ways to get involved at the library this summer? Sign up to "Adopt-A-Shelf" and help keep the library's collection in shape. For more information about Summer Reading, the Friends Book Sale, or "Adopt-A-Shelf", please visit our website at www.riverforestlibrary.org, or call 708.366.5205.





Fireworks Safety

Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks -devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death. In 2006, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 9,200 people for fireworks related injuries. 49% of the injuries were to the extremities and 46% were to the head. 55% of the 2006 fireworks injuries were burns, while 30% were contusions and lacerations. The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 10-14 compared to the general population.

Remember to get a Building Permit

Summer is a busy time for residential construction. So please keep in mind that the Village requires a building permit prior to starting any construction project. Village Code requires a permit for work that includes, but is not limited to, additions/remodeling of a residence or garage, new installation/remodeling of a fence, roof, driveway, deck and electrical and plumbing work. All contractors must be licensed and bonded with the Village of River Forest and a Building Permit must be issued prior to work commencing. Contact the Building Department at 708.366.8500 with any questions.



Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

The Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District (DVMAD) is responsible for mosquito abatement in River Forest and the surrounding area. The DVMAD offers several programs for controlling mosquitoes that include adult control "fog" spray events; treat catch basins with a larvicide oil; utilize a growth inhibitor known as "methoprene" in off-road catch basins; treat water ponding areas (river floodplains, ditches, retention areas, ponds, etc.); and collect and dispose of up to four automobile tires (not on rims) per residential household. For more information, contact the DVMAD at 708.447.1765 or visit their web site at www.desplainesvalleymad.com If you would like more information about the West Nile Virus, contact the Cook County Department of Public Health's West Nile Virus hotline at 708.492.2650.

Yard Waste Collection Reminder

Residents may set out bags of yard waste and bundles of brush/branches for collection. One River Forest Universal Solid Waste Tag must be affixed to each bag or bundle. Yard waste will be collected on Tuesdays curbside (in the parkway immediately behind the curb) – yard waste should not be placed in the street. All yard waste generated at residential locations receiving alley service will be collected at the edge of the alley in a clearly visible location. Yard waste must be set out for collection no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before collection and no later than 7:00 a.m. on collection day.



Village Hall Information:

400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708.366.8500
Fax: 708.366.3702
www.river-forest.us

Hours:

Monday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meetings:

2nd and 4th Mondays of month
All meetings at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall

River Forest Elected Officials:

Village President: John P. Rigas
Village Clerk: Roma Colwell-Steinke
Board of Trustees:

Catherine M. Adduci
Susan J. Conti
Stephen J. Dudek
Michael W. Gibbs
Stephen Hoke
James Winikates



Summer Tips for Bicycle Safety, Theft and Robbery Prevention

The River Forest Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit would like to remind all of our residents that this is the time of year where citizens can become victims of bicycle theft or robbery, or are injured in a bicycle related incident. We would like to provide some tips to our residents to assist in preventing these types of crime, and to assist in the recovery of your bicycle should it be taken.

- The police department is participating in this summer's All Heads in Helmets campaign, emphasizing bicycle safety and helmet use. Everyone should wear a helmet while riding, and village ordinance 9-4-8 requires that persons under the age of sixteen must wear a helmet while riding. Persons found in violation of this ordinance can be issued a warning citation.
- Register your bicycle with the River Forest Police Department. This can be done by any police officer. When you receive the copy of your bicycle registration card, make a copy of that card and put it into the seat post of the bicycle. Some theft offenders will peel off the registration sticker, but few look in the seat post.
- Never leave your bicycle unattended without locking it, no matter the time of day.
- If you store your bicycle in your garage, make sure that you close the overhead door and lock the pedestrian door.
- Always ride with a friend when possible, and ride in familiar areas.
- Always pay attention to your surroundings.
- Never allow someone you don't know to ride or touch your bicycle.
- Never stop and talk to a group of kids that you do not know.
- Call the police or have someone call the police for you if you see suspicious persons.
- Do not fight with someone to prevent them from taking your bicycle, yell for help and call the Police.
- If someone takes your bicycle, try to remember what they looked like, what clothing they are wearing, and what direction they went.

If you would like to register your bicycle, please visit the Police Department at Village Hall. We will also be holding bicycle safety events on certain Saturdays during the summer in cooperation with All Heads in Helmets and the River Forest Library. If you have any questions regarding bike safety, theft prevention, or for other crime prevention tips, you can call Sergeant Michael Thornley at 708.366.8500, ext. 342.