



27 Riverside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Township Office

Phone: (708) 442-4400
Fax: (708) 447-0302

Website:

www.riversidetownship.org

E-mail:

supervisor@riversidetownship.org

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fri 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Assessor's Office

Phone: (708) 447-7700
Fax: (708) 447-6442

E-mail:

assessor@riversidetownship.org

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Community Resource Center

Phone: (708) 853-9578

Office Hours:

Mon, Weds, Thurs
9 am - 11 am & 4 pm - 6 pm

Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

Supervisor

Vera A. Wilt

Clerk

Liane J. Blauw

Assessor

Frances Sitkiewicz

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke

Michael C. Dropka

Timothy Heilenbach

Tom Lupfer

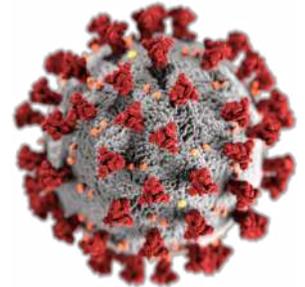
Riverside Township

SUMMER 2020

Safely Providing Services

The world has changed drastically over the past few months in the wake of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, but the Riverside Township office has remained available throughout these difficult times to provide essential services to residents. Health and safety guidelines laid out by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC have been implemented throughout the Town Hall building. Enforced social distancing measures are also in place and a face mask is required for every individual that enters the Town Hall. If you are in need of a face mask, the Township has **FREE**, disposable masks on hand for residents. Call the office to arrange a pick-up, or if needed, we can have masks delivered to your home. Supplies are limited.

With new safeguards in place, Riverside Township is still providing its services to the community, especially those that assist individuals who may have fallen on hard times during the pandemic. Some of our main services are highlighted below, but for a complete list, please visit our website.



General Assistance - Temporary financial support for those looking for jobs, but not qualifying for, or waiting for a decision on unemployment, disability, or other government programs. Call the office first to make an appointment with the Supervisor.

Emergency Assistance - A one time award to alleviate a health and/or welfare crisis. Cannot be given more than one time in any 12-month period. The amount available is limited and only granted if the crisis would be averted. Call to make an appointment.

Food Pantry - Individuals in need can pick up 2 tote bags of non-perishable food items once per month. Proof of residency within the Township is required - no other questions asked. The Food Pantry always accepts donations of non-perishable, non-expired items.

Nurse's Closet - Durable medical equipment is available to Township residents at no charge for a temporary loan of up to 3 months. Equipment such as: walkers, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, shower benches, toilet risers, and commodes.

Community Resource Center - Makes referrals and can help residents navigate the process for assistance in regards to aging, benefits counseling, developmental disabilities, mental health and addictions. Currently only available by phone at **(708) 853-9578**.

Notary Public - Services are available for **FREE** during regular office hours.

Time For Property Tax Appeals

The Cook County Board of Review has begun the 2020

appeal session for Riverside Township, with a set **deadline to file by Friday, August 28th**. The Township Assessor's Office is available to assist residential taxpayers with all their inquiries and needs regarding filing a property tax appeal.

Common reasons for filing an appeal are:

- **Lack of Uniformity** - Your property is assessed higher than other properties of similar size, style, and construction in your neighborhood.
- **Market Value** - The Assessor's stated market value is higher than the property's actual market value if the property was purchased after January 1, 2017.
- **Uninhabitable** - Your property was uninhabitable for all, or part of the year due to fire, flood, or interior demolition.
- **Error In Property Description** - Such as an incorrect square footage of living space.



Under current Covid-19 restrictions, it would be impossible for the Township Assessor's Office to see in person the same number of property owners now as we were able to in the past. Therefore, the number of in-person appointments must be limited and walks-ins are discouraged.

Property owners who have a computer and internet access are encouraged to file an appeal on their own online at: <https://cookcountyboardofreview.com/>. The Board of Review has made the process fairly easy and we believe a great system is in place to ensure all property owners will be able to file their appeal in time before the deadline.

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the process of filing an appeal online, then please give the Riverside Township Assessor's Office a call at **(708) 447-7700**. Staff is always available to assist over the phone or by email via assessor@riversidetownship.org. Remember, if you require in-person assistance, it is best to make an appointment with the office first instead of just walking in. This will help the office ensure that capacity and social distancing measures are safely followed. A face mask will be required at all times in the Town Hall and in the Assessor's Office for any in-person visits.

Postponed since March due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic, Riverside Township is pleased to now be

Free Weekly Movies To Resume

able to resume this **FREE** community program once again in August, albeit with some changes. In order to maintain social distancing and provide a safe and comfortable environment, the Thursday movie screenings have been moved upstairs to the **2nd Floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. Movie-goers will be required to sit at least 6 feet apart from one another, unless of the same household. Face masks will also be required for each individual while inside the Town Hall at all times.



Everything else about the movie screenings will remain the same. Still **every Thursday, beginning at 12:30 pm** and featuring films from almost any decade, from the 1930's all the way up to present day releases. Here are some of the upcoming films:

August 20 - **"A Beautiful Day In the Neighborhood"** (2019)

August 27 - **"Singin' In The Rain"** (1952) | September 3 - **"Roman Holiday"** (1953)

September 10 - **"Sunset Boulevard"** (1950) | September 17 - **"Little Women"** (2019)

September 24 - **"Airplane!"** (1980)

Anniversary Events Postponed

This September is the **150th Anniversary** of the Township and unfortunately, due to the Covid-19

Pandemic, multiple events leading up to, and including the main celebration itself, have been postponed for the foreseeable future. It is the hope that some events can be resumed at a time when it is once again safe to celebrate in large gatherings. The Township did manage two re-worked events during the shutdown however. On May 7th, there was a planting of pollinator seeds in open areas of Riverside Lawn. Initially planned to involve community participation, the Township Board instead did the planting alone. On June 6th, a document shredding event was held at the Masonic Lodge in Riverside, but with social distancing measures in place.

Riverside Township was established on September 24, 1870 when around four square miles of the southeast corner of Proviso Township were legally separated from Proviso by the Cook County Board. The Township is bound by Harlem Avenue on the east, 22nd Street on the north, 39th Street on the south, and 9th Avenue in North Riverside, through the forest preserve, Brookfield Zoo, and the Hollywood section of Brookfield on the west.



Township government can be confusing in northern Illinois because it overlaps with municipalities, but it is efficient, close to the people, and provides direct government by the people in an Annual Town Meeting. By law, there are 3 mandatory functions of a Township: administering a General Assistance Program (Riverside Township also provides Emergency Assistance), maintaining Township roads, district highways, and bridges (applies to the Swinging Bridge and streets of Riverside Lawn), and Assessor services. Also, as allowed by law, Townships provide senior & youth services and programs, along with other societal needs. In Riverside Township, that includes a Food Pantry, Nurse's Closet, exercise classes, community usage of the Town Hall building, free weekly movies, and notary services. There is also the Riverside Township Mental Health Board, which provides a Community Resource Center and supports numerous mental health agencies and initiatives throughout the area.

Seniors Can Exercise From Home

Since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic and

government-ordered shutdowns back in March, the Township had to temporarily cancel its 3-times-a-week exercise class held in the Town Hall, attended regularly by seniors. While some restrictions have been lifted and the state has reopened to some degree, at this time the Township still feels that it would be unwise to resume these classes in person, especially since the elderly are considered a high risk group for contracting the virus. The health and safety of our residents is a top priority.



In lieu of having in-person classes, the Township has worked out a way to continue to offer this program, but "virtually" so that seniors can follow along and stay active from the safety and comfort of their own homes. With the help of Riverside TV, fitness trainer Jerry Owen has been filming instructional exercise videos each week. These **FREE** exercise classes can be viewed as they broadcast **every Monday and Wednesday at Noon** on Riverside TV's cable channel, which can be found on **Comcast Xfinity channel 6**, or on **AT&T U-Verse channel 99**. New episodes air every week now until at least the end of September, so make sure to tune in!

If you don't have cable TV, but do have internet access and a computer, then you can view all of the exercise class episodes anytime online by going to the Township's website at: www.riversidetownship.org/resident-services/exercise-classes/ or by visiting Riverside TV's website here: <https://riversidetv.us/>.

Experiencing these classes in this manner may not be the same as in person, but this is the best way for seniors to exercise and enjoy being active until a time when we can safely resume this program in person.



Serving since 1870

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The Mental Health Consequences of Covid-19

The Riverside Township Mental Health Board sponsored a video recorded presentation regarding the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the human mind, featuring lecturers from various community mental health agencies. The presentation will be available on-demand soon at facebook.com/RTVNet6 and at youtube.com/RTVNet6. The presentation will also broadcast on **Xfinity cable channel 6** and **AT&T U-Verse channel 99**. Check your local listings on RiversideTV.us to see when it will air.

Connect with us online!

www.riversidetownship.org

www.facebook.com/riversidetownshipIL

Shred-A-Thon Event Planned For September

Due to popular demand, Riverside Township has arranged for another “Shred-A-Thon” event to take place on **Saturday, September 12th, from 9:00 am - Noon**. The event will be held in the **Riverside Masonic Lodge parking lot at 40 Forest Avenue in Riverside**.

This **FREE** event is only for Riverside Township residents and only for personal, confidential documents. **No business shredding**. Each household is restricted to **no more than 3 boxes of paper**. Your documents will be securely destroyed on site by American Mobile Shredding and Recycling.



Please note: be sure to remove all paper clips, binder clips, and spiral binders before you bring your items. Do not bring magazines, newspapers, junk mail, or other items that belong in traditional recycling. This shredding event is only for confidential papers with personal information that you wish to have destroyed and disposed of securely.

For your health and safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic, this will be a contactless, drive-up event. Place your documents in the trunk of your car, follow the signs and then simply pop your trunk. No need to get out of your car; we will remove the documents from your vehicle and shred them.