Riverside Township

SPRING 2021

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

E-mail: crc@riversidetownship.org

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

COVID-19 Vaccinations Underway

At the end of January, Cook County entered into Phase 1B of its COVID-19 vaccine rollout, which makes the vaccine available to frontline essential workers and to all Illinois residents age 65 and older. Some of those classified as eligible essential workers are first responders, teachers, grocery store workers, postal workers, public transit workers, and those that work in the food service, agriculture, and manufacturing industries.

Illinois further expanded Phase 1B eligibility on February 25th to include those age 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, or pregnancy. However, at the time of this article, Cook County has opted not to join the rest of the state in this expansion of eligibility, citing limited vaccine supply.

The administration of the vaccine to residents throughout Riverside Township is under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois and the Cook County Department of Public Health. Demand is high and as the vaccine continues to remain in limited supply, it will be administered **by appointment only**.

To sign-up for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment through Cook County, you can visit: **https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov/**. You can also try calling their Vaccine Sign-up Hotline at **(833) 308-1988**, Monday – Friday, from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.

The nearest state-supported vaccination site is the Cook County Health Center in North Riverside, located at 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, and is **by appointment only**, Monday – Saturday, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Several local health systems also offer vaccines to their patients, including myLoyola and Oak Street Health. Walgreens, Jewel-Osco, and Walmart locations are taking vaccination appointments for those eligible under Phase 1B as well. You can make an online appointment with them through these links:

Walgreens: **https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19**
Jewel-Osco: **https://www.mhealthappointments.com/covidappt**
Walmart: **https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302**

To find other vaccination sites and links to schedule an appointment, one can search: **https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location**.

Important Property Tax Info

The Riverside Township Assessor's Office is committed to helping taxpayers stay informed and proactive about keeping their property taxes as low as possible. The largest savings in property taxes comes from Homeowner, Senior Citizen, and Senior Citizen Freeze exemptions. Additional savings can be had for veterans and for individuals with disabilities. Property taxes are based on assessed values determined every 3 years by the Cook County Assessor and all exemptions appear on 2nd installment property tax bills. Taxpayers who believe the assessed value of their home is not fair should file an appeal either with the Cook County Assessor or later in the year with the Cook County Board of Review.

In an effort to make exemption applications as easy as possible, the Cook County Assessor's Office has provided taxpayers with the ability to **apply for all exemptions online** using the Docu-Sign process. Taxpayers who think they may qualify for an exemption, or would like help in filing for one, should contact the Riverside Township Assessor's Office for in-person or over the phone guidance. Due to the implementation of the new online application process, **paper applications are no longer available**.

2020 first installment property taxes were due by Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the Cook County Treasurer is waiving late penalties through May 3, 2021. Taxpayers who did not receive their first installment tax bill may find them online at the Cook County Treasurer's website: **www.cookcountytreasurer.com**. Payments may also be made via their website.

The appeal period for Riverside Township will begin sometime in March. Taxpayers wishing to appeal the assessed value of their property will have a 30-day window to file an appeal, which can easily be processed online. The Township Assessor, Fran Sitkiewicz, is available to provide assistance and comparables for residential properties within the Township.

The Riverside Township Assessor's Office remains open and fully staffed to continue to serve taxpayers, with health and safety measures in place. The office is open for walk-ins; however, it would be preferable to schedule an appointment first by calling **(708) 447-7700** or sending an email to: **assessor@riversidetownship.org**.

Resource Center Provides Guidance

The Riverside Township Community Resource Center remains open and available by phone or email to provide guidance and referrals for aging services, benefits counseling (by appointment), intellectual and developmental disability services, mental health services, substance abuse services, and more. An informational postcard for the Community Resource Center should have been received by Township residents in the mail recently. The postcard includes a QR code that you can scan with your cell phone, which will link you directly to the new Community Resource Guide online. The guide is an information and referral resource for services and organizations throughout the entire community, and can also be found on the Township website: **www.riversidetownship.org/community-resource-guide/**.

If you are in need of assistance in any of the above areas, or just need someone to talk to, please call at the Resource Center at **(708) 853-9578** or get in touch via email at: **crc@riversidetownship.org**. Office hours are **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am - 11:00 am & 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and Saturday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**.

Weekly Movies To Resume

Riverside Township is pleased to be able to resume this **FREE** community program once again in March! Weekly movie screenings will still be **every Thursday at 12:30 pm**, and be held upstairs in the **2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall** to allow for proper social distancing. Movie-goers must sit at least 6 feet apart and face masks will be required at all times while inside the building. Here are some of the upcoming films:

March 18 - **"To Catch A Thief"** *(1955)*
March 25 - **"Father of the Bride"** *(1950)*
April 1 - **"Easter Parade"** *(1948)*
April 8 - **"Born Yesterday"** *(1950)*
April 15 - **"To Kill A Mockingbird"** *(1962)*

Radio Players Continue On

The Riverside Township Radio Players perform **every month in the 2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall at 7:30 pm**. Due to the pandemic, the attendance of a live audience has not been allowed, though as state restrictions continue to ease, that may change. In the meantime, the Radio Players have video recorded their performances to be watched online. Past performances can be seen via the YouTube link on their website: **www.riversidetownshipradioplayers.com**. Final shows for the season are as follows:

March 26 - *Candy Matson* - **"The Cable Car Case"**
David Harding Counterspy - **"Washington Woman Spy"**

April 23 - *Mr. & Mrs. North* - **"Die Hard"**
Ozzie & Harriet - **"Exaggeration Troubles"**

May 21 - *Fibber McGee & Molly* - **"Scrap Drive"**
Life With Luigi - **"Luigi's Toothache"**

New Senior Exercise Classes

With the COVID-19 Pandemic ongoing, the Township will continue to temporarily postpone its 3-times-a-week Senior Exercise class at the Town Hall. In lieu of having in-person classes, the Township currently offers this program "virtually" so that seniors can follow along and stay active from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

The recording of these instructional exercise videos was temporarily halted over the winter, but we are pleased to announce that **all new episodes will start recording at the beginning of March!** The new episodes will also have a new look and location, but they will still feature a familiar face with fitness trainer Jerry Owen. In addition to the regular exercise classes, we will also start to offer a whole new series of **Senior Yoga** classes with instructor Kim Wade of Inner Gaze Yoga, to be filmed mid-March. **All new episodes of both classes should start airing on Riverside TV towards the end of March**. Check for updates on the Township website and Facebook page for more information on exactly when the all new episodes of exercise and yoga classes will broadcast.

In the meantime, past episodes of these **FREE** exercise classes can still be viewed as they re-run **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**. If you don't have cable TV, but do have internet access, then you can view all of the past exercise class episodes anytime online by going to the Township's website at: **www.riversidetownship.org/resident-services/exercise-classes/** or by visiting the episode playlist on Riverside TV's YouTube channel here: **https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNQcDWEw_qdfDIOfVv83b_sV3GtJOVfDi**.

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Serving since 1870

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

The Riverside Township Mental Health Board continues to offer timely topics via video presentations. In December, the topic was Suicide Prevention & Coping With Depression and Anxiety. The discussion featured presenters from area organizations affiliated with the Mental Health Board, such as Pillars Community Health, The Way Back Inn, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The video can be found online at: **https://youtu.be/pFAGEzagvRc**, or viewed on the Township website. Keep an eye out for a whole new presentation on the topic of Caregiving and its Mental Health Implications, coming in late spring.

Connect with us online! www.riversidetownship.org www.facebook.com/riversidetownshipIL

Paper Shredding Event Planned In March

To celebrate the first day of Spring, Riverside Township will be hosting another "Shred-A-Thon" event on **Saturday, March 20th, from 9:00 am - Noon**. The always popular event will once again be held in the **Riverside Masonic Lodge parking lot at 40 Forest Avenue in Riverside**. What better way to jumpstart your spring cleaning efforts than by purging old documents cluttering up your storage space?

This **FREE** event is only for Riverside Township residents and only for personal, confidential documents. No business shredding. Each household will be restricted to **no more than 3 boxes of paper**, and all 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 the trunk. No need to get out of your car; we will remove the documents from your vehicle and shred them.