Riverside Township

FALL 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
clerk@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
Michael C. Dropka
Assessor
Frances Sitkiewicz
Trustees
Liane J. Blauw
Mary Rob Clarke
Timothy Heilenbach
Thomas A. Morrissey

COVID Vaccines Widely Available

Every individual age 12 and older is encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Due to the prevalence of the "Delta variant" and the current surge of infections across the state and country, it is now more important than ever to be vaccinated against the Coronavirus. With the FDA's recent full approval of Pfizer's vaccine, more and more places are beginning to require that individuals get vaccinated. Luckily, the vaccine is now widely available and easily obtained from any number of convenient locations.

The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines all continue to be offered at every Cook County Health facility, with the nearest location for Riverside Township residents being at **1800 S. Harlem Avenue in North Riverside**. The vaccine is safe, free, and no one will be turned away. Neither citizenship status nor insurance coverage is required to receive the shot. Walk-in hours at all Cook County Health locations are **8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday**. To find more Cook County vaccination sites, or to schedule a free ride to a vaccination appointment, call **(833) 308-1988** or visit **https://myshotcookcounty.com/**.

Vaccines are also widely available at most Walgreens, CVS, Jewel-Osco, Costco, and Walmart pharmacy locations. One can easily search for any and all vaccination sites by visiting **https://www.vaccines.gov/**.

Starting in late September, a third booster shot will become available to all individuals who already received a two-dose vaccine from Pfizer or Moderna. The booster shot is to be administered roughly eight months after an individual's second shot was received. Those considered to be immunocompromised can already receive a third dose.

It is important to receive your vaccine now, if you haven't already, especially with the number of new infections, breakthrough cases, and with the influenza season just around the corner. Vaccination is the most effective tool we have in beating COVID-19 and preventing unnecessary deaths.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has launched the Illinois Resident Immunization Portal that allows residents 18 years and older to check their COVID-19 vaccination record online at **https://idphportal.illinois.gov**.

Property Tax Bills Increase

Homeowners in parts of Cook County are now seeing the results of last year's reassessment on their property tax bills. The majority of residential property owners in Riverside Township have seen their property taxes increase anywhere from $1,400 to $6,000. This does not necessarily mean taxing bodies are receiving a windfall because the taxing bodies in Riverside Township are subject to tax caps.

The main reason for the overall property tax increase for residential properties in the Township is due to two unusual shifts in the property tax burden. One shift is resulting from the fact that assessed values of residential properties have been increasing while the assessed values of commercial properties have been decreasing. According to the Cook County Assessor's Office, the total assessed values of residential properties in Riverside Township were $160 million in 2019 and grew by about 5% to $168 million in 2020. Meanwhile, the total assessed values from commercial properties were $51 million in 2019 and $45 million in 2020; an 11.8% decline.

Another shift occurring is within the property tax burden between property types. Homes with 2,200 square feet or less make up the majority of the housing stock in Riverside Township. In 2020, the Cook County Assessor's model assessed these homes higher in proportion to their market values than larger homes. This has resulted in some rather large increases in property taxes for the housing stock under 2,200 square feet and not as big of an increase, and sometimes even a decrease, in property taxes for many homes over 2,200 square feet.

These factors have come together to provide a great deal of frustration to many taxpayers. Homeowners with large second installment property tax increases should also be prepared for larger 2021 first installments due in March of 2022. That bill will be 55% of the total paid in 2021. It is advised that all taxpayers examine their property bills carefully and make sure all appropriate exemptions are received. Taxpayers should also make sure that they are filing appeals with both the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review regularly. The Board of Review should be open for appeals from Riverside Township in late September or October. New residents to the Township should reach out to the Township Assessor's Office to make sure they have your contact information on their outreach list. The Township Assessor is always here to advocate for taxpayers and help them navigate the property tax system. The Riverside Township Assessor can always be reached by phone at **(708) 447-7700** or via email at: **assessor@riversidetownship.org**.

Resource Center Is Back In-Person

The Riverside Township Community Resource Center has returned to in-person office hours in order to better assist residents while providing guidance & referrals for aging services, benefits counseling (by appointment), intellectual and developmental disability services, mental health services, substance abuse services, and more. Current, in-person 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**. Office days and hours are subject to change, as the Resource Center re-evaluates in-person assistance during the ongoing pandemic. Any changes will be posted to the Township website and Facebook pages.

The Resource Center can always be reached by phone at **(708) 853-9578** or via email at: **crc@riversidetownship.org**. A Community Resource Guide has also been made available online as an information source for services and organizations throughout the community. The guide can be found on the Township's website here: **www.riversidetownship.org/community-resource-guide/**.

Weekly Movies Are Back

In-person, weekly movie screenings continue and are now back on the **1st Floor of the Town Hall**. The **FREE** movies begin **every Thursday at 12:30 pm**, and all are welcome to attend. Face masks are required at all times while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. Upcoming films:

September 16 - **"Rebel Without A Cause"** *(1955)*

September 23 - **"On The Town"** *(1949)*

September 30 - **"The Third Man"** *(1949)*

October 7 - **"The Father"** *(2020)*

October 14 - **"It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"** *(1963)*

Radio Players Return

The Riverside Township Radio Players return for their 23rd season of old time radio programs, to be presented in-person each month in the **2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. Performances are once a month, from September to May each year, and **begin at 7:30 pm**. Admission is **FREE** and all are welcome to attend these live performances of shows from the Golden Age of Radio. Face masks are currently required for all individuals while inside the Town Hall, regardless of vaccination status. Upcoming performance dates for 2021:

September 24, October 22, November 19, December 17.

For more information, one can visit their website at: **www.riversidetownshipradioplayers.com**.

Food Donations Needed

The Riverside Township Food Pantry could use your help! During the height of the pandemic, the community was very generous with monetary and non-perishable food donations. Hauser Jr. High School students and staff also brought monthly cases of food during the school year, even when in-person attendance was limited. As more individuals and families have discovered the Food Pantry and partake regularly, the increased demand has begun to put a strain on the Pantry's ability to provide food to those in need. Limited use of the Town Hall during the pandemic also meant fewer events that encouraged attendees to bring in donated items.

The Pantry relies heavily on non-perishable food donations from groups and individuals in the community, and while the Township budgets specifically for the Pantry, food prices have also risen. The Township also offers vouchers to Pantry participants during the summer months to redeem at the Riverside Farmers' Market for fresh foods. Please help out if you can by dropping off non-perishable, non-expired items in one of the designated Food Pantry drop boxes in the Town Hall. The Food Pantry accepts monetary donations as well.

Senior Exercise Class Resumes

The Township's Senior Exercise class has returned to in-person instruction! For now, **FREE** in-person classes are only **twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning at noon**. The classes will once again be led by fitness trainer Jerry Owen in the **2nd Floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. Currently, face masks are required for all individuals while inside the building, regardless of vaccination status.

Episodes of the exercise class that were filmed for home viewing during the height of the pandemic, are still available to view online. All of the past exercise and yoga class episodes can be seen anytime on the Township's website at: **www.riversidetownship.org/resident-services/exercise-classes/** or by visiting Riverside TV's playlists page on YouTube here: **www.youtube.com/user/rtvnet6/playlists**.

Serving since 1870

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Face Masks Required Indoors

In accordance with the latest mandates from the State of Illinois and the Cook County Department of Public Health, any individual age 2 and older, and able to medically tolerate a mask, **is required to wear a face mask when indoors in a public place, regardless of vaccination status**. This is now a statewide mandate and if you do not have a face mask when you visit the Town Hall, a free mask will be made available to you upon entry.

Visit us online! www.riversidetownship.org www.facebook.com/riversidetownshipIL

Get Ready For Another Shred-A-Thon

If you missed the Shred-A-Thon event held earlier this year, don't worry! Another one is just around the corner. The always popular paper shredding event will be held again on **Saturday, October 16th, from 9:00 am - Noon in the Riverside Masonic Lodge parking lot at 40 Forest Avenue in Riverside**.

As always, this event is **FREE** and only for Riverside Township residents. Only personal and confidential documents are allowed; no shredding of business documents. 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 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 disposed of securely.

This will continue to be a contactless, drive-up event.
Place your documents in the trunk of your car, follow the signs, and then simply pop the trunk.
There is no need to get out of your car.
We will remove the documents from your vehicle and shred them for you.