Riverside Township

SPRING 2022

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
John P. Carroll, Jr.

Paper Shredding Event In April

There's no better way to jumpstart your spring cleaning efforts than by purging old documents cluttering up your home. Come on out and join Riverside Township as we host another "Shred-A-Thon" event on **Saturday, April 30th, from 9 am - Noon**. The always popular paper shredding event will again be held in the parking lot of the **Riverside Masonic Lodge at 40 Forest Avenue in Riverside**.

This **FREE** event is only for Riverside Township residents and only for personal, confidential documents. No shredding of business documents allowed. Each household will be restricted to **no more than 3 boxes of paper**, and all documents will be securely destroyed and disposed of 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. As always, this will be a contactless, drive-up event. No need to get out of your car; place your documents in your trunk, follow the signs at the event and then simply pop the trunk. We will remove the documents from your vehicle and shred them for you. **Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Township Food Pantry as well!** Donations are always needed.

Senior Exercise Class Continues

The Township's Senior Exercise class has resumed in-person instruction full time! The **FREE** classes are back to their original schedule of three times a week on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**. Classes still **begin at noon** and are held in the **2nd Floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. Face masks and proof of vaccination status are no longer required since the suspension of state mandates at the end of February. Any individual may still choose to wear a face mask if they wish.

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

Update On Property Tax Bills

March 1, 2022 was the deadline for payment of 2021 first installment property taxes. State statute dictates first installment bills to be 55% of the previous year's total property taxes; this makes the first installment an **estimated** partial payment. Taxpayers often mistakenly believe the first installment bill applies to the current year's property taxes.

Local tax rates are calculated by the Cook County Clerk after all assessed values in Cook County have been certified by the Cook County Assessor and the Board of Review. Second installment tax bills are calculated using two factors, which vary each year; the local tax rate and the state equalization rate (multiplier). The assessed value changes every 3 years unless the taxpayer effects a change through the appeals process each year. Riverside Township was reassessed in 2020; the city of Chicago was reassessed in 2021 and their values are still going through appeals and certifications.

This year, the appeals and the certifications from those appeal periods are drastically behind schedule due to various reasons and COVID shutdowns at the county level. This means that second installment tax bills will almost certainly be late. The problem with issuing a delayed second installment bill is that it could force some taxing districts to borrow money while waiting for tax payments.

Exemptions for 2021 will appear on second installment bills and the Cook County Assessor is renewing most exemptions automatically again this year due to COVID-19. Taxpayers who are applying for any exemption for the first time will find applications online at the Cook County Assessor's website: **www.cookcountyassessor.com**. The Township Assessor, Fran Sitkiewicz, and her staff are available to provide assistance to residents who would like help with their exemption applications. The Riverside Township Assessor's Office is open **Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm**.

The Cook County Assessor determines the beginning of the appeal periods each year. Due to the delay of last year's session, there will also be a delay this year. At this time, there has been no word as to when the 2022 appeal period will begin. If you would like to be added to the Township Assessor's contact list for future updates, call their office at **(708) 447-7700** to be added to their list, or send an email to: **assessor@riversidetownship.org**.

Food Pantry Donations Needed

The Riverside Township Food Pantry could always use donations of non-perishable, non-expired items from generous members of the community. As more individuals and families have come to rely on the Food Pantry, the increase in demand, as well as the significant rise in food prices, has begun to put a strain on the Pantry's ability to provide food to those in need. Over 80 families within the Township were served monthly by the Food Pantry last year, and the Township also offers vouchers to Pantry participants during the summer months to redeem at the Riverside Farmers' Market for fresh food items.

The Pantry relies heavily on donations from groups and individuals in the area, and the Township is grateful to be one of the recipients of donated food collected by the Hauser Jr. High School community at their 52nd Annual Food Drive that was held throughout the month of March. Various student groups from Hauser also donate and deliver food items on a monthly basis throughout the school year.

Please help out if you can by dropping off non-perishable items in one of the designated Food Pantry drop boxes in the Town Hall during regular business hours. The Food Pantry accepts monetary donations as well; please make checks payable to "Riverside Township Food Pantry".

Resource Center Provides Assistance

Scan the QR code with your phone to view the Community Resource Guide.

The Riverside Township Community Resource Center can help residents who are in need of information or assistance access numerous services and support systems within the Township. A Community Resource Specialist can provide individuals with guidance and referrals for any number of concerns, including the need for aging services, benefits counseling (by appointment), intellectual and developmental disability services, mental health services, substance abuse services, and more. Here are some examples of how staff from the Community Resource Center have helped members of the Riverside Township community:

- *A Riverside Township resident recently came to the Community Resource Center in the hopes of receiving assistance for a much needed surgery. With help from CRC Specialists, he was connected to a medical card program, making his healthcare more affordable and accessible.*
- *A community member came to the Resource Center requesting help filling out online job applications, as he did not have his own computer and was in desperate need of employment. With ongoing assistance from a Community Resource Specialist, he was able to apply for multiple jobs - and was ultimately hired by a local employer.*
- *A Riverside Township resident was worried about an elderly neighbor and contacted the CRC to inquire about how to access needed resources and supports on her behalf. A CRC Specialist was able to connect the older adult to home-delivered meals, a low-cost housekeeping program for seniors, and transportation services, all of which allowed her to remain independently in her home.*

The CRC staff is available **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 11:00 am and from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, as well as on Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**. Feel free to reach out to the CRC by phone at **(708) 853-9578** and schedule an in-person appointment, or send an email to: **crc@riversidetownship.org**.

News From The Mental Health Board

- In February, 17 first responders took part in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training at the Riverside Town Hall. This week-long program provided area first responders with training on how to handle crisis situations without using physical interaction. Through community partnerships, CIT improves communication, identifies mental health resources for those in crisis, and ensures the safety of both officers and the members of the community. It is now a state law that all officers be CIT trained, and the Riverside Township Mental Health Board was proud to provide the funding necessary to offer this required training to first responders from numerous local communities.

- The Community Resource Center in the Town Hall was awarded the honor of **"Innovative Senior Program of the Year"** in late 2021 by the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees. Every year, ITASCSC awards individuals & organizations that provide outstanding commitment to meeting the needs of older adults within their various township communities. Congratulations to the CRC staff and to all those involved from partnering agencies that contributed to making the CRC a success. The Resource Center is fully funded by the Riverside Township Mental Health Board and is the only center of its kind in the state to provide this service.

Supervisor Vera A. Wilt presents the Innovative Senior Program of the Year award to CRC staff members.

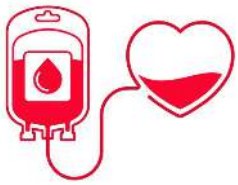
- Coming soon: Part 2 of the Mental Health Board's presentation on the **"Mental Health Implications of Caregiving"** was recorded in February, with the assistance of Riverside TV. Video links will be posted soon to the Township's website and Facebook page. Also, look for the Mental Health Board to sponsor a **Wellness Fair this June**. More details to follow; check the Township website and Facebook page for updates on this upcoming event.

Riverside Township
27 Riverside Rd.
Riverside, IL 60546

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

Upcoming Blood Drive

Riverside Township and the Riverside Public Library will be co-sponsoring a blood drive to be held by the American Red Cross on **Thursday, June 9th, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**. The event will take place in the **2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall** and pre-registration will be required with the Red Cross in order to donate. Registration details and further info will be forthcoming; keep an eye out on the Township's website and Facebook page for event updates.



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

Weekly Movies Continue

FREE weekly movie screenings continue **every Thursday at 12:30 pm**, on the **1st floor of the Town Hall**, and all are welcome to attend. With COVID mandates dropped at the end of February, face masks and proof of vaccination are no longer required to attend the weekly films.

So come on out and enjoy some free popcorn and light refreshments while viewing a film selected from any year, from the classics of the 1940's up to recent, present day releases. Here are some of the upcoming films:

April 7 - **"His Girl Friday"** *(1940)*
April 14 - **"West Side Story"** *(2021)*
April 21 - **"Mrs. Miniver"** *(1942)*
April 28 - **"Vertigo"** *(1958)*
May 5 - **"The Lady Eve"** *(1941)*

Radio Players End Season

The Riverside Township Radio Players look to close out their 23rd season with their final two shows scheduled in April and May. Shows take place in the **2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall at 7:30 pm** and admission is **FREE!** All are welcome to attend and face masks are no longer required. For more info, visit: **www.riversidetownshipradioplayers.com**.

The Radio Players will return again in September, but for now, here are their final two shows of the current season:

April 22 - **The Quiz Kids:** *"Guest, Vanessa Brown"*
Crime Club: *"No Time For Murder"*
May 20 - **Fibber McGee & Molly:** *"Fibber, Stuck In Fresh Pavement"*
Our Miss Brooks: *"Hurricane Warning"*