Riverside Township

FALL 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.

Community Resource Center

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.

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

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**. A Community Resource Guide has also been made available online as an information source for services and organizations throughout the community. You can access the guide by scanning the QR code above with your smartphone or you can download the guide by visiting the website here: **https://riversidetownship.org/community-resource-center/**.

Township Grants In The News

The Riverside-Brookfield Landmark newspaper recently featured Riverside Township and some of the financial grants that the Township Board has awarded this past year, namely to the Riverside Public Library and Riverside Brookfield High School.

The grant the Township awarded to the Library this past August will go towards digitizing 20 years worth of their newspaper archives, converting microfilm into a digital, searchable database online. You can read more about it here: **www.rblandmark.com/2022/08/16/riverside-library-to-digitize-its-rb-landmark-archive/**.

The other grant highlighted in the news was awarded to RB High School back in May of this year and will go towards the purchase of additional security cameras and a portable vape detector, both part of a larger security systems upgrade the school has planned. You can read about that grant as well, here: **www.rblandmark.com/2022/08/16/rbhs-oks-spending-140000-for-new-security-cameras/**.

Delay In Property Tax Bills

Second installment property tax bills that are usually due by August 1st are delayed for the second year in a row. The Cook County Assessor's office has been implementing information technology changes over the last few years that has caused numerous delays in the Cook County property tax cycle. The government offices involved in the property tax cycle are the Cook County Assessor, the Cook County Board of Review, the Cook County Clerk, and the Cook County Treasurer.

All 2021 assessed values in Cook County must be finalized by the Cook County Board of Review and the county Assessor's Office before the Cook County Clerk can calculate local tax rates. Once calculated, the Cook County Treasurer can then print and send tax bills to residents in order to collect payments. As of right now, 2021 assessed values have not yet been finalized and certified. In order for property tax bills to have gone out on time, all Cook County 2021 assessed values should have been certified back in April of this year.

Hopefully, Cook County taxpayers will be able to pay 2021 second installment property tax bills by December 31, 2022. Additionally, taxpayers should not expect an extension to a March 1, 2023 due date of 2022 first installment tax bills.

The 2022 appeal period with the Cook County Assessor has passed and the results of those appeals have not yet been published as of this time. Taxpayers who still believe the assessed values of their property are too high will have one more chance to file for an appeal this year with the Cook County Board of Review. Hopefully, that appeal session will open before the end of this year; however, there are no specific dates from the Board of Review at this time.

The Riverside Township Assessor, Fran Sitkiewicz, and her staff are available to provide assistance to residents who have questions and concerns regarding their property taxes. The Township Assessor's Office is open **Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm**. Residents should make sure that they are added to the Township Assessor's email and call list for future updates regarding the 2022 Board of Review appeal period. Please call their office at **(708) 447-7700** to be added to their contact list, or send an email to: **assessor@riversidetownship.org**.

Join The Popular Senior Exercise Class

Get out and get moving with Riverside Township's Senior Exercise Class! This **FREE** class is offered three times a week on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**. Classes are for **Township residents only** and **begin at noon** in the **2nd Floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. No registration is required and the class is first come, first served. Due to the sustained popularity of the class, an attendance limit may be enforced on certain days so that we may continue to provide attentive and valued instruction to all participants.

Select 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**. In person or online; no matter how, we hope you'll see why this exercise class has become such a popular service.

Radio Players Are Back!

The Riverside Township Radio Players return for their 24th season of old time radio programs, set to be presented each month in the **2nd floor Auditorium of the Town Hall**. Performances take place once a month, from September to May each year, and **begin at 7:30 pm**. All are welcome to attend these **FREE**, live performances of shows from the Golden Age of Radio.

Here are their upcoming performance dates for the 2022 half of the season:

September 23 | October 28 | November 18
December 16

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

Free Weekly Movies

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

September 15 - **"Road To Utopia"** *(1945)*
September 22 - **"Mr. Deeds Goes To Town"** *(1936)*
September 29 - **"Elvis"** *(2022)*
October 6 - **"Dial M For Murder"** *(1954)*
October 13 - **"Teacher's Pet"** *(1958)*
October 20 - **"Moonstruck"** *(1987)*

Mental Health Board Supports New Initiatives

This past July, the State of Illinois implemented the nationwide **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**, a toll-free phone number focused on suicide and crisis prevention. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the goal is to streamline access to mental health and substance abuse crisis centers by being able to **simply dial 9-8-8 nationwide**. Similar to how one can dial 9-1-1 for emergency police and fire services, 9-8-8 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to anyone experiencing a behavioral health emergency. Crisis calls in the Riverside Township area are followed up by Pillars Community Health, the identified local provider for residents.

The Riverside Township Mental Health Board has had the development of the 9-8-8 number on its agenda since it was first announced in the spring of 2021. Numerous courses of action to prepare and support the development of this crisis care system have been taken by the Mental Health Board in the time since, most notably offering a week-long Crisis Intervention Team training course at the Town Hall for local first responders back in February of this year.

Similarly, the Mental Health Board continues to fund and partner with Riverside Brookfield High School and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide student mental wellness support through the **Support4U** cell phone texting program. Support4U is a mental health-related prevention and support resource for students in which they can text licensed mental health clinicians any time of the day for assistance. Students can text a conversation on any mental health issue from anxiety, depression, and substance use, to thoughts on suicide, and bullying. The service is anonymous and can be reached by **texting "TALK" to (844) 670-5838**.

Riverside Township
27 Riverside Rd.
Riverside, IL 60546

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

Update On Bridge Repairs

The Riverside Township Board would like to apologize for the current aesthetic condition of the H. Wallace Caldwell Memorial Bridge, more commonly known as the "Swinging Bridge". The Board is conducting another round of bids for work related to the recoating of the bridge's surface. Unfortunately, previous attempts have brought no acceptable or affordable bidders. A delay in tax collections has also impacted the timeline of the project, so please be patient as we work to resolve this matter and restore this historic suspension bridge.

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

Paper Shredding Event In September

If you missed the Shred-A-Thon hosted earlier this year by the Township, don't worry! Another one is just around the corner. The always popular paper shredding event will be held once again on **Saturday, September 24th, from 9 am - Noon,** 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.

We ask that you please **bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Township Food Pantry as well!** The Food Pantry is always in need of donations of non-perishable, non-expired items from generous residents and groups in the community. Due to the recent rise in food prices, more individuals and families have come to rely on the Food Pantry, and this increase in demand has begun to put a strain on the Pantry's ability to provide food to those in need. Please donate an item if you can! We accept monetary donations as well; please make checks payable to "Riverside Township Food Pantry".