



north riversider

providing better and affordable services for all

Winter 2017-2018



Join us!
Save the date
for the Village's

**Everyone's
invited!**

Annual Christmas Celebration

**Thursday, December 14
5:30-7:30 pm**

at the Commons

Refreshments

Face Painter • Music

Magician • Buddy the Elf

**And Santa will have treats
for every child!**

**Mingle with friends &
neighbors!**





GREAT FOR THE VILLAGE!

When the Cook County Health and Hospital System looked for a spacious new suburban location with plenty of parking and accessibility to public transportation they found it in North Riverside at 1800 Harlem Avenue in the space vacated by Sports Authority.

The North Riverside project, which will replace the center in Cicero, has been in the works since August and is expected to open (Summer 2018) once all approvals and renovations are accomplished, bringing a staff of 10-12 doctors, 30 exam rooms, dental services, OB-GYN care, conference rooms and comprehensive medical care to people of the area.



Yes, he's coming to town!

Have you been good this year? Santa Claus will be making his annual special trip through North Riverside on Saturday, December 23, bringing holiday cheer to all boys and girls and traveling through the Village on the fire engine!

Here's the route that Santa will take—keep it handy!

9:05 am • 23rd & Park Avenue
 9:20 am • 23rd & Hainsworth
 9:35 am • Traube & Hainsworth
 9:50 am • 25th & Burr Oak
 10:05 am • 25th & Forest
 10:20 am • 30th & Lincoln
 10:35 am • 24th & 4th Avenue
 10:50 am • 24th & 7th Avenue
 11:05 am • Komarek School
 11:20 am • 23rd & 15th Avenue

After meeting all the good kids in town, Santa Claus will head to his last stop—Caledonia Senior Living and Memory Care—for a chance to spend some time with all of the wonderful senior citizens who live there.

Santa's 2017 trip is sponsored by the North Riverside Fire Department in cooperation with the North Riverside Village Board.

FROM THE MAYOR

Hubert Hermanek, Jr.

From Chili to Chilly... We're Ready!



Events, like our Autumn Fest and Chili Cook-Off, with their record attendance numbers, are gratifying in many ways. First, congratulations to the Cub Scouts of North Riverside on winning the Judge's Choice title in this year's chili competition and thank you to everyone who came out in huge numbers for food, fun and fireworks. Events like these are the best opportunities to get input from residents and non-residents alike and I was thrilled to hear from so many people who are using and loving the finished Bike Path for fitness runs and bike rides, to commute to school and even to the Zoo.

In this issue, we wish the very best to two of the finest public servants I have ever known: Chief Lane Niemann retired from the Police Department and Chief Brian Basek retired from the Fire Department effective November 30th. Appointing Lane as Chief was one of the best decisions of my administration. He totally changed the morale and shaped one of the finest departments in the western suburbs. Debbie Garcia, our first female Police Chief, will no doubt serve with the same passion and expertise. One of Lane's final duties was to oversee the promotion of Detective Kyle Pinelli to Sergeant (at left) and he will be a great addition to the department's supervisory team. As for Brian, he has been a tremendous asset to the Village, growing up here and putting his heart into every decision. His work ethic was without compare and the department is a better place because of Brian's leadership, always inspiring others to do their best.

We've packed a lot into this small issue: Cook County Health and Hospital System is coming to town; we've been accepted into the WSSRA, which is exceptional news for all residents with special needs; our Public Works

Department is ready for anything winter might throw our way; our tax levy request is minimal; and, our huge, new Binny's Beverage Depot (the largest in the area) is NOW OPEN on Cermak, just in time to do some holiday shopping.

I hope that you will make every effort to celebrate the holidays with us. Your Village holiday party invitation is on the front cover! The Fire Department's annual Santa Claus Run on Saturday, December 23. Also, see Carol Spale's column on page 11 for details on the many ways you might be able to help someone less fortunate this holiday season. There are collection boxes at the Commons, wish lists and our own Giving Tree is available to lend a hand to people who live in town who are struggling. You can always contact the Rec office at 442-5515 for information on giving or receiving help.

From the Hermanek family to yours, we wish every resident a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and always happiness, health and prosperity.

**WE HAVE SOME
EXCITING
NEWS**

In October, Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Mrozik attended the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) Board meeting. It was at this meeting that the Village of North Riverside was accepted as a new member and, beginning in January 2018, our special needs residents will have access to greater quality programming by trained staff, with all of the necessary accommodations and optional transportation. Director Mrozik invites residents to an Open House set for Wednesday, January 10 starting at 6:30 pm in the Community Room; presentation begins at 7 pm. Register on-site. You can also register for WSSRA Day Camp at this time.

WSSRA

enriching lives through recreation

As an extension of the NORTH RIVERSIDE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, WSSRA offers our residents therapeutic recreation programs. Persons with disabilities, of all ages and ability levels are served by WSSRA.



WSSRA programs are designed and supervised by Recreation Specialists who have educational backgrounds in working with persons with disabilities. Activities are adapted to allow all participants to be successful.



West Suburban Special Recreation Association

Programs include fitness, art, Special Olympics, social, camp, swim and excursion programs. Participants gain skills, make friends, increase self confidence, visit new places and have fun in WSSRA programs!

A LEKOTEK family based toy lending/play program is also available.

Registration for WSSRA Day Camp and Winter/Spring programs starts mid December go to wssra.net for more info!

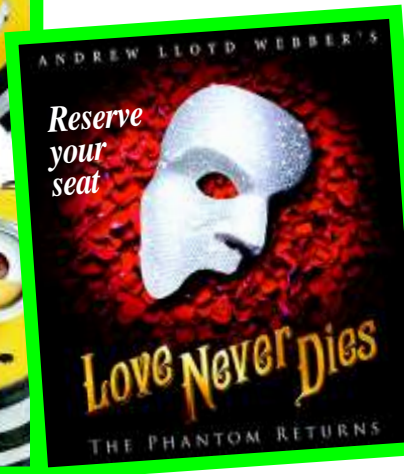




Parks & Recreation!

Trips, luncheons, classes and more!

Call us at 442-5515 for info and details



YOUTH PROGRAMS

So many programs for children ages 1-1/2 through 12! Check the Fun Guide for all the details on Urban Hip Hop; Tiny Tunes Music Class; Fresh Chefs; Ballet; Shining Stars; Book & Cook; Primp Like A Princess; Little Ninjas Tae Kwon Do and much more.

TEEN NIGHTS OUT

For ages 12-15, our trips include transportation and admission/fees. Don't miss our trips detailed in the Winter/Spring 2018 Recreation Fun Guide including: Rockin' Jump—The Ultimate Trampoline Park and Battle Royale (laser tag in the park). To get on the list, send an email to bryantr@northriverside-il.org.

NEW YEAR: NEW ADULT FITNESS

Tone up, reduce stress and create a healthier mind and body in the new year. Parks and Recreation has it all including Zumba, Piloxing, Cardio-Kickboxing, Seated Yoga and new in 2018 check out Restorative, Power and Slow Flow Yoga plus Fit Over 50.

ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES

A variety of Adult Leagues for fun and fitness are lined up and ready for you to sign up: Men's 21 & Over 4-on-4 Basketball League; Women's 18 & Over 4-on-4 Basketball League; 4-on-4 Co-Ed Volleyball League; SSA Spring Men's Softball League; Co-Ed Softball; Adult Power Volleyball.

ADULT SPECIALTY CLASSES

Watercolor Classes; Private Piano Lessons; DIY Door Hanger Workshop; Adult Sewing; Embossed Fondant Cupcakes; Preparing & Decorating Great Cakes; and even Adult Hip Hop!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SAT. JANUARY 6

Wear your PJs and get comfy with the family while watching the movie *Despicable Me 3* on Saturday, January 6, 7 to 9 pm in the gym. Popcorn specials and concessions sold all night. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times.



2017
Christmas
Lights
& bragging rights!

there's still time!

to enter our North Riverside

Home Decorating

..... CONTEST

JUDGING DATE IS
DECEMBER 15

..... FREE TO ENTER

Winners will receive a lawn sign declaring their triumphant status as well as a trophy. Just call the Recreation Office at 442-5515 to register—there's NO fee.

IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE FOR YOU

5

THINK SPRING! BUNNY BINGO

It's cold outside now but we're thinking ahead to Spring already. Hop on over to the Village Commons with friends and family and win your Easter dinner and all the trimmings. Play bingo for hundreds of prizes! Children and adults will get a bingo sheet with three games on it plus unlimited popcorn. Refreshments available for a nominal fee and additional bingo sheets will be sold for 50¢ per sheet. Sign up now for this event on Friday, March 23, 7 to 9 pm in the gym. Fee is \$9 per person in advance.

ADULT SOCIALS

Join friends or resolve to make some new friends at the Village Commons in 2018. Fun and delicious monthly luncheons are planned including Theme-O Bingo; Ornament Exchange Lunch; Bingo and Bountiful Bread Bonanza; Forever Young Senior Prom; Lovely Valentine Lunch and Games; St. Patrick's Day of Fun and Feast; Spring Fling & Craft; Kentucky Derby Party and Make Your Own Terrarium.

ADULT SERVICES & WORKSHOPS

You might also be interested in these informative workshops and helpful services that we've planned such as Senior Nutrition; Take Charge of Your Health; Fall Prevention Part 2 and Senior Haircuts. To save your seat at any of these programs, just call the staff at the Recreation Department at 442-5515.

HIT THE ROAD WITH US!

You're gonna love these trips! Sign up for *Love Never Dies*, the sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*; Washington, DC trip; Transworld Jewelry, Fashion & Accessories Show; Four Winds Casino; Explore Tuscany trip and more. We don't have to tell you that seats fill up fast so sign up early and you won't be disappointed!



KIDS INDOOR FLEA MARKET

Save the date and tell the kids to start cleaning out their closets and toy boxes to earn some extra cash. Sell gently-used or new unwanted items. Get a full list of allowable items from Parks and Recreation when you stop in to register.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

9 am to 1 pm
in the Village Commons gym



MOTHER & SON SPRING FLING DANCE

There's nothing more special than the bond between a mother and son. Treat yourselves to some precious time together with delicious food, some dancing, a fun project and sweet treats on Friday, March 16 from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Commons gym. Registration deadline is March 7 (if space is still available).



DADDY- DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

Bring your special little sweetheart out for an enchanting evening together as you enjoy dinner, dancing, fun games and a special visit from our princesses! Grandfathers, uncles and brothers are welcome to bring their favorite little girl to the party on February 16, 6:30 to 9 pm. Deadline is February 2 (if space is still available).



FOLLOW REC EVENTS ON FACEBOOK
OR WWW.NORTHRIVERSIDE-IL.ORG



taking care of business

A new addition to our newsletter...regular updates from each Department Head

Guy Belmonte Village Administrator



Office phone: 447-4211
Email: Guyb@northriverside-il.org

Congratulations. I, too, would like to publicly thank retired Police Chief Lane Niemann and retired Fire Chief Brian Basek for their decades of service to our Village. Both men have exceeded expectations in making North Riverside a safer place to live and work and we should all be grateful for their dedication. Always striving to always move their departments forward, keep morale high and provide personnel with state-of-the-art equipment utilizing their budgets and grant funding, these two men have done an outstanding job for all of us and we wish them all the best.

Office Closing Dates. The Village will be closed on December 23 and 25 for the Christmas holiday and December 30 and January 1, 2018 for the New Year holiday.

Holiday Garbage Schedule Reminder.

While everyone should have received a magnet with their November-December water bills, making it convenient to remember the 2018 holiday garbage pick-up dates, make a note that the New Year's Day pick-up date will be January 6. If you still need a magnet, there are limited quantities at the Village Hall. Stop in.

Exceeding Expectations. Because everything we do is aimed at improving the quality of life for Village residents, we are clearly doing something right! Our mini-bus program continues to have a phenomenal response and, as we near the end of 2017, our Handyman Program calls are up from last year, tallying 171 calls as this issue goes to press. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Sue Scarpiniti Finance Director



Office phone: 447-4211
Email: Sues@northriverside-il.org

2017 Tax Levy. Writing this column each quarter gives me the opportunity that most municipal finance directors don't have—or maybe don't even want—and that is to provide all of our residents with a transparent, inside look at how our budget works, how funds are spent and even how we compare to other taxing bodies.

The Village's Finance Committee met on November 6th to discuss the 2017 tax levy request, which tells the County how much money the Village needs to collect from property taxes that year. Keep in mind that our Village, like every town, is limited in the amount it can raise from additional property taxes because it is capped by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and assessment limits.

Our 2017 tax levy request is \$550,000, just 1.5% higher than last year. That money goes toward funding the over \$33 million in expenses for the Village. Final approval of the levy is expected to happen on December 11 and all required documentation must be filed with the Cook County Clerk's office by December 26. No public hearing is required because our request is less than 5%, further demonstrating our day-to-day focus on finance, staying within our budget,

while providing residents with the best possible services from every department.

Furthermore, because our levy request is less than 5%, it gives me great pleasure to tell residents that they will see very little impact on their upcoming 2018 property tax bills. In fact, it will be just a few dollars.

I can never stress this enough: it's always important to remember that the Village of North Riverside makes up only 2% of your total tax bill. While it's a common, knee-jerk reaction to assume that the Village is the bulk of the bill, a closer look will prove otherwise. The greatest portion, 98%, is paid to school districts,

Cook County, Riverside Township, Proviso Township and the Library District. If you live in Riverside Township, an average resident paid \$5,300; if you live in Proviso, the average resident paid \$4,500—from that, only \$110 came to the Village. And, if you are a senior citizen, only \$87 came our way. We are extremely proud of our diligence!

In the coming new year, you can count on me and my office to continue to keep it simple, honest and real. Wishing all of our residents a safe, happy, healthy, prosperous new year.

Keep it simple.
Keep it honest.
Keep it real.

TWO OF OUR FINEST PUBLIC SERVANTS RETIRE

Lane Niemann Police Chief

Leaving North Riverside safer and in very capable hands

Time flies. I could have never imagined back in the 1980's that my career would take many twists and turns and I would end up as your Police Chief. Thanks to Bob Uphues, who told my story in the October 17th issue of the *Riverside-Brookfield Landmark*, many now know I never had my sights set on a long career in law enforcement. It just happened that way by chance and I am very fortunate and blessed that it did.

Serving the people of North Riverside, working alongside Mayor Hermanek, the Board of Trustees, Administrator Belmonte and Finance Director Sue Scarpiniti has been life-changing for me and my family and, hopefully, our efforts have changed and improved the lives of the thousands who live here, visit here and simply pass through our community each day. I have been privileged to lead a most accomplished and dedicated team of law enforcement professionals, from our newest, highly-trained probationary officers to Deputy Chief Deborah Garcia, who, I am proud to say, will

become the first female to serve as Police Chief in the Village of North Riverside. As I stated in the *Landmark* story, "She brings tremendous leadership quality to the position and her integrity is unquestionable."

It has been said that my "hands-on" style worked well for me as your Chief. My door was always open to residents and to staff and their input has been invaluable as community policing these days is full of challenges. Achieving the goal of having two Police Commanders, Carlos Garcia and Christian Ehrenberg, is one of the highlights of my service and it paves the way to the next successful chapter for the Village.

We are a safe community, protected by the most intelligent, well-trained, compassionate and dedicated individuals anywhere and we have the strong support of many partner agencies so I confidently leave the town in good hands. Thank you, North Riverside, for your faith in me. I am honored to have been your Chief.



**34 Years of
Dedicated
Service**

Brian Basek Fire Chief

Proud of many accomplishments and the progress we've made

Thank you. As my tour of duty with the North Riverside Fire Department came to a close after 36 years on November 30, all I could think to myself was "thank you." I have shared some of the same goals as those who led the Department before me: 1) Moving the Department forward at every level and at every opportunity and 2) Making sure that everyone in the Department ultimately went home safe to their families after every shift.

I've been fortunate in many ways. Following in my dad's and my brother's footsteps, I began as a Paid-on-Call firefighter and worked my way up through the ranks, achieving what would be any firefighter's dream—to earn the rank of Chief. Serving the people and the businesses of the Village in that position over the last 4-1/2 years has been all-consuming and gratifying at the same time.

With support from Mayor Hermanek and the Village Board, your Fire Department has made tremendous progress. Gaining an ISO 2 rating is one of the highlights of my service. After our August 2017 ISO PPC survey process, NRRFD was granted an ISO Public Classification of 2, which

placed our department as one of only 1,324 fire departments nationwide. The last time the NRRFD was rated an ISO 2 was 1996. The improved ISO could result in lowering insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses. Progress like this is only made through partnerships and I am grateful to have had exceptional partners: North Riverside Central Dispatch, NR Public Works and members of the NRRFD for helping our department to achieve this excellent classification which is based on equipment, staffing levels, training, availability and adequacy of water supply, emergency communication centers, fire prevention and public fire safety education.

Residents should be as proud of the NRRFD as I am—of its highly-trained first responders, our state-of-the-art equipment (including a new ladder truck and a new pumper), the grant money that we applied for and received to support our efforts and the morale of an exceptional crew. I hand over the reins now to Deputy Chief Thomas Gaertner and have complete faith in his leadership ability. Thank you, everyone, and may God bless the NRRFD and the Village of North Riverside.



**36 Years of
Dedicated
Service**



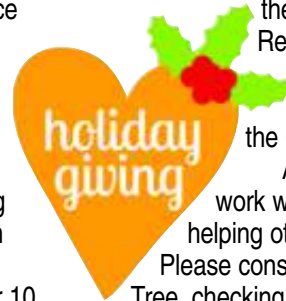
Teresa Mrozik Recreation Director

What a summer it was! We hope you had a chance to come out and visit the Recreation staff during our concerts in the park, 4th of July parade and festival in the park, or perhaps for the outdoor movie.

With amazing weather for both the Biggest Block Party and our Autumn Fest and Chili Cook-Off, we saw record numbers of attendees enjoying musical entertainment, great food and fun with friendly neighbors. Highlighting the events were the food trucks, the area's most popular bands, a pie-eating contest, our fierce chili competitors, and of course, the spectacular fireworks. As we brace the cold, we will surely reminisce on all the fun that was had!

We have a lot in store for the holiday season in North Riverside. Parents can finish off last-minute shopping, run off for a night on the town or hang in their jammies after dropping the little ones off at the Holiday Drop & Shop on December 9th. Warm up the season with Breakfast with Santa taking place on December 10 with crafts, games and the big man himself! All residents are invited. Lastly, don't forget to register for our Holly-Day Camp and the Kiddie New Year Party to battle the cabin fever.

Our 2018 Winter/Spring Fun Guide will be out soon. Please be sure to look through the book thoroughly as we are always adding new and exciting elements. Perhaps the most exciting news of 2017 is our new membership in the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA). This membership provides our community with three additional recreation guides for any and all special recreation participants. For more information, see page 3; watch for our Winter/Spring brochure; call 847-455-2100; or visit the website at www.wssra.net. Please visit us at the North Riverside Parks and Recreation Department and WSSRA Open House set for January 10 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room.



As always, we are proud to work with Neighborhood Services in helping others throughout the year. Please consider donating to the Giving Tree, checking out the collection boxes at the Commons or contact us if you or someone you know needs assistance. We will always do our best to help. Happy holidays from all of us at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Office phone: 442-5515
Email: teresam@northriverside-il.org



Karyn Byrne Community Development

The holidays are here! It's the perfect time to visit some of the new and newly-remodeled stores in North Riverside! Check out Bath & Body Works (which has combined with White Barn), the newly-remodeled Victoria's Secret, Pink by VS, all at North Riverside Park Mall and, our newest success story—Binny's opening in the old HH Gregg location (see the back cover)!

Winter also means cold temperatures and snow and winter weather can be tough on a house. Consider these tips to protect your home from freezing temperatures and related problems. Shut off water to outside spigots and drain the lines. Check exterior walls for holes where cable or phone lines enter and use affordable foam insulation to plug them up and use weather-stripping to seal any cracks around your doors. Clear a path to your main water shut off; rearrange your basement so it will be easily accessible in case of a plumbing emergency. Keep your garage door closed and keep your gutters clean. Also, keep spare batteries on hand for your thermostat. These small details can save the day!

Ordinance Reminders

Snow shoveling onto roadway or neighboring properties. Code 8.18.010 (Consent of land owner required) states that no person, firm or corporation shall place or dump any litter, trash, refuse, rubbish, garbage or debris, including snow and ice, grass clippings and yard waste onto any land located within the corporate boundaries of the Village which is not owned by the individual engaged in such activity without having first obtained consent of the owner of such land. However, snow or ice may be placed on the land owned by the Village known as the "parkway" except where there is a fire hydrant—no snow or ice shall be placed on or about the fire hydrant.

Holiday decorations and lights left up for an extended period of time is also a violation of Article 590, Section 590.3 (B) of the National Electrical Code/Time Constraints. 90 days is the limit for decorative lighting and similar purposes.

Feeding of Feral Animals. Just don't do it, please, as it can cause damage to property or a hazard to public health. No person shall conduct any activity or create any condition on property under such person's control, including but not limited to the feeding of wild or feral animals.

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taking care of business

A new addition to our newsletter...regular updates from each Department Head

Tim Kutt Public Works Director



PROJECT UPDATES

In February 2018, PW will start the final phase of the Sewer Lining Project. Five years ago, we began a mission to televise the entire town, high-pressure clean all the main sewer lines, clean every single catch basin and make every needed repair in an effort to give our collection system an extra 40-60 years of additional life and to maximize our storage capacity to move water as quickly as possible. Our next step is to start all over to see if any new repairs are necessary. Mayor Hermanek and the Village Board are committed to making sure the operation of our Combined Sewer System is at maximum flow.

Water main replacement on Cermak will also continue until the system is completely upgraded.



You may not be ready for winter but we are! Your Public Works Department is once again on FULL ALERT and prepared for anything that Old Man Winter might send our way. We start preparing for snow removal in late fall, stockpiling road salt year-round behind the Public Works facility. In late fall, we start installing the salt spreaders and snow plows in case of an early or unexpected snowfall or freeze-ups. Public Works provides snow removal and/or de-icing techniques throughout the season. Both longtime and new residents should read the information below to better understand how we handle snow events in North Riverside. Here's how we roll:

1 All state or main roadways first. This includes Harlem Avenue, DesPlaines Avenue, 31st Street and 26th Street. This operation takes place with a "Blitz" formation—four trucks working together to take up the entire roadway. This procedure does not allow cars to make their way in the middle of the truck operation nor leaves any wind-roll for cars to drive through, which is the safest way to proceed.

2 Now the trucks split off in 2x2 fashion and start cleaning the side streets. While this

plowing is taking place, we have four small pick-up trucks out clearing alleys, dead-end roads, off-street parking along with the Municipal Campus.

3 Once streets are cleared of all snow, we apply salt to prevent freeze-ups. Salt is also applied on our first pass to break the bond of snow to the roadway to allow the plows to remove the snow down to the pavement. Salt is spread in an eight-foot path using the pitch of the roads to drain the melted snow and clear to the curbline, also melting ice spots to the curb.

4 Once the snow stops falling doesn't mean Public Works crews can go home! It means that now we must start going through town clearing snow where cars have moved. We also send out multiple tractors to start opening up corners, main line perimeter walks and bike paths around town so that all have a safe passageway.

We need your help with the following:

- Keep your vehicle off the roadway allowing us to clear snow from curb to curb.
- DO NOT throw snow back into the street—those piles freeze up causing potential accidents.
- Please DO NOT PASS SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT as they can't always see you.
- If you have a hydrant on your property, clear a path to the hydrant to ensure easy access in case of emergencies.

Happy holidays from your Handyman and all of us at Public Works!

CALL THE HANDYMAN!

North Riverside seniors and handicapped residents are urged to eliminate the stress and sometimes danger they face when they need minor repairs around their home but can no longer do the work on their own. Your Handyman Program provides assistance with simple, general repairs. Handyman Vince Ranieri from Public Works can also provide a list of qualified contractors and assist in securing quotes for bigger projects. For all the details, call **762-5885**.

Winter CHECKLIST

It's so much better to be safe than sorry

Together with Community Development, Public Works wants you to take precautions ahead of time. Buy a snow shovel and have it handy before bad weather hits and keep extra canned goods in the house just in case. An emergency supply kit is never a bad idea: three days of non-perishable food and water, a battery-powered radio with extra batteries and a first aid kit are items everyone should have on hand. Make a plan in case of a weather emergency for your family and your pets, too. Record all medical information as well.

Replace the filter in your furnace and consider hiring a heating/cooling professional to check your furnace's efficiency on a regular basis. Also, have a contractor check for damaged roof shingles and loose gutters. Make sure your chimneys are cleaned to keep your home and family safe.

To find more PW information, visit the Village's website.

nr bulletin board

news you should know about

from North Riverside Players

11th Annual Murder Mystery Brunch Fundraiser Planned

North Riverside Players have announced the details for the 11th Annual Murder Mystery Brunch Fundraiser which will be held on Sunday, January 28 at 1 pm at the Scheck Village Commons. Reservations are \$45 per person if paid by Friday, January 19, 2018. After January 19, reservations are \$50 per person. Tables seat eight with a maximum seating capacity of 200.

Reservations for this popular event may be called in to Al Meyer at 708-447-6263 or by mail with name, address, home/cell number, email address and number of reservations. All reservations must be paid by the reservation deadline of January 24, 2018 or seats will be released to the waiting list. Send a check made payable to *North Riverside Recreation* to Al Meyer, 2436 S. 6th Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546. Table assignments will be held at the door. Reservation confirmations will be emailed and will include the brunch menu.

A new chapter begins

Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care

Since it was founded more than a century ago in 1845 as part of the Illinois Saint Andrew Society, seniors and their families have turned to the Scottish Home in North Riverside for exceptional care and an inspiring family atmosphere. Always looking for ways to better serve Chicagoland seniors, they extended their reach to people living with Alzheimer's disease and memory loss, adding the Caledonian House to the campus in 2016.



In an effort to reflect the fact that the two homes both offer an expanded range of services on the same property at 2800 Des Plaines Avenue, President Gus Noble announced that effective October 16, 2017 the campus would be renamed Caledonia Senior Living and Memory Care. "The new brand identity embodies the priorities and preferences of our community," said Noble. "It exemplifies our core values and it presents our campus accurately as "A Place for Everyone, Where Friends Become Family." We remain committed to exceptional personalized care and uplifting experiences for all who turn to us for care." For more information about services provided and the rebirth of the Scottish Home, visit www.caledoniaseniorliving.org or call 708-447-5092.

Board Meeting Highlights

OCTOBER 2, 2017

Trustee Czajka served as Mayor Pro-Tem while Mayor Hermanek attended a conference in Washington, DC with the West Central Municipal Conference, which serves 51 entities in the Cook County area. Bills submitted were approved by a unanimous vote.

OCTOBER 16, 2017

Cash receipts for the month of September in the amount of \$1,652,449.53 were approved.

Trustee Czajka reported on some exciting news related to the Parks and Recreation Department. Director Teresa Mrozik attended a recent West Suburban Special Recreation Association Board meeting and, at this meeting, learned that the Village of North Riverside had been accepted as a new member. Beginning in January 2018, the Village's special needs residents will have access to much more quality programming. See the full page on page 3 for more details.

In the Mayor's Report, presale inspections resulted in \$5,778 in revenue; permit totals were \$12,092.15 and JL Nail Spa and Murphy Security submitted drawings for their commercial spaces. Mayor Hermanek and Police Chief Niemann also presented commendations and applauded Officers Raul Pelayo, David Kopka, Kyle Pinelli and Oscar Velazquez for their outstanding performance at a recent robbery at TCF Bank. Several other officers, PSAs and dispatchers were recognized for their participation as well.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Trustee Flores informed residents that the new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Fire Department has been ordered with the bulk of the funding coming from an FY2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Nearly \$150,000 of the cost was covered by the AFG and the Village's cost, after negotiations, was just \$6,545.00.

Mayor Hermanek reported on presales, totalling \$5,278.50 in revenue; permit totals of \$4,607.25; ALDO retail clothing plans to move back into North Riverside Park Mall; and permit applications requested by Sears for the first and second floors of the property.

Correspondence included letters from the Recreation Director of Western Springs thanking North Riverside Parks and Recreation; from Rosann Lorenz thanking the Village, Fire Department, Public Works and especially the Handyman Program for the years they assisted her mother, Olga.

Bills were unanimously approved and an ordinance establishing the 2018 meeting schedule for the Board of Trustees was also passed.

Neighborhood Services

by Coordinator Carol Spale & block captains
Information and Building Blocks of Kindness

Christmas spirit is about making others happy and serving our family, friends and neighbors every day, not just on December 25.

Who is the angel? Do you know?

Who is the angel who bought a coat to help a teen in town? Who brought an airbed to give-away to someone in need? Who made her family happy by coming over to talk and play games? Who gave extra-special treats to kids who came trick-or-treating this year? Who was it that gave of her precious time to drive a friend, help someone set up his new home and make a home-made pie? Do you know who it was that helped a friend celebrate his 80th birthday with special cards, cupcakes and phone calls? Someone helped out a family by delivering a ready-made dinner and someone else decorated the outside of their home just to make others happy. Do you know the former resident who had so many pieces of extra furniture that he wanted to give

some of it away to people in town? Do you know who it was that gave a generous donation to help those in need this holiday season? It doesn't matter that we don't know their names. What matters is that we are ALL rich in what we can give to relatives, friends and our neighbors. A hand, a push, an ear, some hope, courage, time, a smile, even an apology—these gifts make all of us angels!

Welcome, new block captains!

And we need block captains

Ricardo H. and Dina K. have joined us! Thanks, Fernando, for recruiting them! We still need block captains on the 2200 block of 7th and 8th, 2500 block of Westover, 2300 and 2400 blocks of 8th Avenue. Call Carol at 447-4932 if you have questions or are interested in trying it out. All that's required is a caring heart. Families, individuals or single parents who believe in the Golden Rule, I hope you will join us. Neighborhood services meets only three times each year.

EVER HEARD OF CHRISTMAS CHEER?

One way to spread holiday spirit to thousands of people is to join with the Christmas Cheer Foundation, a volunteer charitable organization whose purpose it is to generate contributions in order to provide food, gifts and a sense of community spirit to those in need in the metro Chicago area. For over 30 years, the group, which was founded in 1981 in Oak Park, grows larger each year. On Christmas Day alone, over 20,000 people receive delivered meals, new books and beanie babies in Chicago as well as over 45 suburbs. Most pre-holiday work is done at Dominican University's Priory Campus in River Forest. Visit the website at www.christmascheer.org to learn all about his locally-based program and how you can help and volunteer!

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Collection boxes are conveniently located at the Village Commons.

Housing Forward. Wish list includes underwear, sneakers, toiletries and more. Visit www.housingforward.org/give. The box in the Commons has a full list of needs or call 442-5515.

Animal Care League. To care for abandoned pets, the ACL could use your donations of sturdy dog and cat toys and more. Visit www.animalcareleague.org.

Riverside Food Pantry. All donations of UNEXPIRED non-perishable food are welcome and needed.

Toys for Tots. New, unwrapped toys. No stuffed animals, please.

Ronald McDonald House. Anyone collecting pop tabs is encouraged to drop them off in the Commons. Thank you!



There are so many ways you can help others during the holidays and throughout the year. Encourage children to get involved, too. If you need help or know of someone who does, call Teresa at the Recreation office at 442-5515 or Carol at 447-4932.

The North Riverside Giving Tree. Choose an envelope, mark off one choice, put in whatever money you can afford and then return the envelope to staff at the Recreation Department office.

Cicero/Berwyn Surprises for the Homeless. We are currently collecting small items such as lotions, jewelry, zippered purses, bags and more. Drop off at 2300 S. 5th Avenue (side door) or call Carol at 447-4932 for more details.

National and International Giving. Sometimes it's easier to make a donation online. Visit www.heifer.org, which works to end world hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Also, non-profits such as the American Red Cross (redcross.org) needs help in responding to emergencies such as hurricane victims and Catholic Relief Services (www.crs.org) serves those most in need around the world.

Volunteer. Consider volunteering at Cantata, visiting with senior residents for a day or sending cards/note. Call Cantata at 387-8366 or feel free to send an email to George.columbus@cantata.org.

SEASON OF GIVING

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While it was bad news that HH Gregg went out of business, it was a reason to celebrate for

Binny's Beverage Depot, which jumped at the chance to open up in the 30,000 square foot retail space at 7250 Cermak. Binny's, the Midwest's largest retailer of fine wines, spirits, beers and cigars, adds North Riverside to its list of over 30 stores in Illinois. NOW OPEN, choose Binny's for gifts and everything you need for the holiday parties and celebrations throughout the year. Founded in 1948 by Harold Binstein in the Wrigleyville area, the current Binny's empire is the creation of CEO Michael Binstein, son of the founder. While the stores carry many specialty spirits and craft beers, wine is the top seller with red wines ranging in price from \$10 or less to bottles costing more than \$200 each. Knowledgeable staff, one-hour store pick-up, delivery and arty planning are among the features of the new Binny's. Gift cards are perfect for gift-giving. Cards range in denominations from \$10, \$25, \$50 to \$100.

Gift Baskets are also available in-store and online!

Hours are Mon-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 10am-6pm. Call 443-7901 and watch for the dates and times of upcoming tastings, celebrity signings and other special events at www.binny.com.



WE'RE PROUD TO WELCOME BINNY'S TO NORTH RIVERSIDE!