



north riversider

providing better and affordable services for all

SPRING 2017

**HISTORIC
PROGRESS**

**RAISING
CANE'S**

**AFTER 50 YEARS:
A BIKE PATH**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WE'VE MADE IT EASY TO TAKE NOTE OF SOME OF THE VILLAGE'S BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY MARKING THEM WITH THIS RED STAR. IN NEARLY ALL AREAS OF VILLAGE SERVICE, GREAT THINGS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

YOUR BIKE PATH IS FINISHED



It was a cold but very historic day as key players gathered on First Avenue along the now-finished bike path. Efforts to establish a bike path date back nearly 50 years when longtime North Riverside resident and Komarek board member Jim Marousek pitched the idea for safer passage for R-B High School students to Richard B. Ogilvie, President of the Cook County Board way back on March 27, 1968. Staffers promised to get back to him but never did. A few weeks ago, the 97-year old Village resident (who went so far as to even submit a hand-drawn map of his proposed path to help students and pedestrians "traverse this region with its high vehicular traffic") was on hand for the long-awaited ribbon cutting of the project that finally came to fruition, thanks to an unprecedented and extraordinary partnership between numerous agencies.

Story continues on page 4.

Pictured, left to right: North Riverside Village Clerk Kathy Ranieri; Kevin Skinkis, Superintendent of Riverside-Brookfield High School; District 208 Board of Education President Mike Welch; Jim Marousek; Riverside Village President Ben Sells; 16th District Cook County Commissioner Jeffrey Tobolski; North Riverside Mayor Hubert Hermanek; North Riverside Fire Chief Brian Bask; and Bryant Rouleau from the North Riverside Parks and Recreation Department. The route of the path connects 31st and 26th along First Avenue/Golfview Avenue.



Tuesday, January 31, 2017, was historic for the Village of North Riverside in two ways: Raising Cane's opened its first location in the State of Illinois and the final Costco outlet was completed! Pictured, left to right: Trustees Matt Decosola and Joe Mengoni, General Manager Hinesh Patel, Mayor Hubert Hermanek, Trustees Debbie Czajka and Vera Wilt and Village Clerk Kathy Ranieri. More on page 4.

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Just a reminder to our North Riverside students that Youth Scholarship applications will be available at the Village Commons starting April 1st. Deadline for filing applications is May 1. The 2017 annual Youth Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 12 at Riverside Golf Club so save the date and join us as we recognize future greatness—this year's scholarship recipients!

STATE ★ OF YOUR ★ VILLAGE



From the Mayor Hubert Hermanek, Jr.

This issue of your newsletter is slightly larger than usual for a very simple reason: we continue to make positive things happen and we need to share that good news with you. Some outsiders might say North Riverside is “lucky” because of our location near some of the busiest intersections in the State of Illinois, our exceptional schools and the North Riverside Park Mall. While those statements are true, our greatest successes have come not because of luck but because of a unified effort combined with hard work and determination. Since this is the time of year when our President and Governor both address constituents with their State of the Union and State of the State messages, I felt compelled to look back, gather facts together and present a package of just some of Village’s enviable strengths and achievements and remind residents and business owners alike that each of these missions accomplished are the direct result of an administration comprised of dedicated and focused Trustees and department heads who are all on the same page when it comes to providing excellent services and programs while keeping our eyes on the budget at all times. I look around me and see amazing things that are all part of our daily lives now—but they were huge challenges that we had to face and work through before we could cross them off of our “to do” list.

★ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Working with developers and owners/operators requires patience, knowledge and paying careful attention to every detail to ensure that the Village of North Riverside benefits from every new deal. We were devastated when Edward Don Company decided to relocate but when one door closes another one often opens. Nearly every person in the Village administration from fire, police, code, finance, attorneys and even recreation played important roles in making partnerships such as Costco, Red Robin, ATI, Raising Cane’s, Chik-fil-A, the re-opening of Carson’s, Miller’s Ale House and even the smallest businesses such as Spins and Lacey’s a reality. At the grand opening events of nearly every new establishment, we are thrilled to hear the most gratifying words any Village government official could hear: *“It has been an absolute pleasure working with the Village of North Riverside.”*

★ PUBLIC WORKS

Few municipalities have a Public Works Department as small and mighty as North Riverside’s. With only 8 full-time employees, these dedicated individuals oversee everything that is important to all of us: sewer lines, snowplowing, road paving, tree planting and tree trimming, park maintenance, street lights, fire hydrants and, of course, our extremely-successful Handyman Program. Most recently, at my direction, the Village took on the most comprehensive paving campaign in its history—a three-month, \$2.1 million project that, thanks to cooperation from residents, brought every deteriorated street in our town back to like-new condition.



Pictured with PW Director Tim Kutt, Trustees Bianco, Czajka and Mengoni, this is one of the finest moments of my tenure as your Mayor.

STATE ★ OF YOUR ★ VILLAGE



★ PUBLIC SAFETY: FIRE UPGRADES

The tedious planning and number-crunching that went into the purchase of the Fire Department's new Pierce Velocity Aerial Platform Ladder Truck delivered in July is another example of a mission accomplished. This new truck ensures our ability to continue to provide exceptional service to all residents—and to nearby communities when they need our assistance. Presented with all of the facts from our experienced Finance Director, Fire Chief and Trustees, I was able to authorize this much-needed purchase that will benefit the Village for years to come.

★ PUBLIC SAFETY: POLICE PROGRESS

Under the direction of our Police Chief and Deputy Chiefs, the North Riverside Police Department has never been more pro-active in fighting crime, more diligent in seeking out grants and alternate resources or more active in the community. The NRPD has contributed greatly to the dispatch center merger between North Riverside, Riverside and Brookfield which will launch this summer. The West Central Consolidated Communications department (WC3) will be another feather in the cap of the men and women who protect and serve our residents.



★ RECREATION: RECORD GROWTH

The appointment of Teresa Mrozik as Director of Parks and Recreation has taken the Village's efforts to provide more than fun and games for the community to the next level in a big way. Teresa and her staff work hard to meet the growing needs of our community with over 30 special events and over 140 programs per year, including the upcoming Senior Fair which continues to break records. Nearly 400 people attended last year alone. Soon, they hope to add SRA options for residents as well.



★ 4TH OF JULY AND AUTUMN FEST SUCCESSES

The small town with the big heart is home to a few amazing events that some of the biggest communities around only wish they had! Because we make a concerted effort to work closely with our business partners throughout the year, they willingly join with us in making great things happen. Our annual 4th of July celebration partners with Riverside Golf Club for spectacular fireworks; our annual Autumn Fest and Chili Cook-Off continues to draw bigger crowds each year and we light up the Fall sky with fireworks paid for by outside contributions.

★ YOUTH PROGRAM & EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Working closely with Teresa and the Youth Program and Educational Scholarship Committee, it has been an honor for me to advance the tradition of helping less fortunate young residents participate in Rec programs and providing grants to students seeking to pursue higher education. To date, over \$460,000 has been raised, assisting 900 North Riverside residents experience recreation at its finest and continue with their studies.

★ RESIDENTS LOVE OUR PACE BUS SERVICE

Speaking of exceeding expectations, residents love this program! *My administration is proud to offer these achievements and so much more to the people of North Riverside who truly deserve the very best programs and services from a fiscally-responsible and transparent Village administration. Here's to continued success!*



" IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIP & A PROMISE KEPT." ~MAYOR HERMANEK

continued from the front cover

"County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and 16th District Cook County Commissioner Jeffrey Tobolski made the \$750,000 appropriation needed to finish the project possible, but this is about so much more than money," said Mayor Hubert Hermanek. "For me personally, it's the fact that the Cook County Board, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, Illinois Department of Transportation, Brookfield Zoo, the Village of North Riverside, Village of Riverside and Riverside-Brookfield High School were able to cut through decades of red tape and work together to make this 50-year old proposal by Jim Marousek happen. It was a truly great moment for everyone."



Pictured, 97-year old North Riverside resident Jim Marousek and Mayor Hubert Hermanek display the both the letter and rendering that Jim submitted to the Cook County Board President back in March 1968 when he first proposed the bike path concept.

RAISING CANE'S CHOOSES NORTH RIVERSIDE AS ITS FIRST ILLINOIS "HOME"

It was a big day for a small store as Raising Cane's, the popular Louisiana-based restaurant company known for its ONE LOVE® quality chicken finger meals opened its first restaurant in Illinois on Tuesday, January 31st. Located at 2514 Harlem Avenue, the opening of Raising Cane's completes the development of the Costco outlot properties. Founded in 1996, there are more than 300 Raising Cane's restaurants in 23 states.

Mayor Hermanek, Village Clerk Kathy Ranieri and Village Trustees Matt Decosola, Joe Mengoni, Vera Wilt and Debbie Czajka were on hand with Village Administrator Guy Belmonte as well as Berwyn Mayor Robert J. Lovero and Berwyn Development Corporation President Jousef Mondragon. Representatives from PAV YMCA in Berwyn and Komarek Elementary School were presented with generous checks as part of the company's pre-opening service project. "We're excited about getting involved with the schools and other great organizations in the weeks, months and years ahead," said General Manager Hinesh Patel. Mayor Hermanek expressed his gratitude



for their special interest in supporting the Mayor's Youth Scholarship Golf Outing which provides academic and recreation scholarships to Village residents. As part of the high-energy celebration, the first 20 paying, dine-in customers age 13 and older received FREE Cane's for a year.

In addition, the first 100 paying dine-in customers received a limited edition Cane's Chicagoland t-shirt and a voucher for a free Box Combo. Pictured above with Mayor Hubert Hermanek is Steve Tzeng from Chicago who was the first customer through the door when Raising Cane's opened. Tzeng arrived in North Riverside at 1 am and camped out in the cold to win the top prize. Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday, 10 am to 11 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10 am to Midnight. Visit www.raisingcanes.com.



taking care of business

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



Office phone: 447-4211
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Guy Belmonte Village Administrator

HANDY MAGNETS. Watch the mail—we are in the process of sending out new magnets from the Mayor’s office that indicate the 2017 holiday garbage pick-up schedule, making it convenient for you to know when our waste hauler will be in town. If you haven’t received one, magnets are available at the Village Hall—just stop in and staff will be happy to provide you with a magnet.

SPRING CLEANING. Getting rid of big, bulky items is easier than you think. If you’re getting ready to trash old cabinets, dressers, carpets, mattresses, washers/dryers, water heaters, stoves, etc., all you have to do is contact our waste hauler, Roy Strom, at 708-344-5000. It’s free and it’s fast.

CodeRED. The number of people enrolled has improved since I last mentioned it in my newsletter column but there are still many others who only stand to benefit from the emergency and informational service that CodeRED provides.

It’s a free service and it only takes minutes to sign up online or in person. If you aren’t signed up, we can’t reach you with important information, such as boil orders, event reminders, etc. that are sent to parts of the town or all of the town through our high-speed telephone system.

MEMORIAL DAY. In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, please be advised that the Village offices will be closed on Saturday and Monday, May 27 and 29.

OUR BUSES ARE THE BEST!

One of the highlights of the last year has been the launch of our new Pace bus program which is geared toward serving the needs of resident senior citizens and those with disabilities. Each rider is charged only \$1.00 per ride. Exact fare is required. To schedule a ride, call 708-373-2922. Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance.



Sue Scarpiniti Finance Director



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Email: Sues@northriverside-il.org

This will just take a few minutes: look at any actual tax bill from a homeowner in North Riverside. Note that the 1st installment is only an estimated tax bill but the 2nd installment is always the actual bill. The information I need to share with all residents in this issue can be conveyed better with a pie chart rather than a lengthy explanation. The pie chart graphic on this page was created from an actual resident’s \$3,536 tax bill, based upon a home with a fair market value of \$145,600. This pie chart highlights an extremely important **FACT:** the Village of North Riverside’s portion of the tax bill is a mere **2%**—or less than \$75 of the total tax bill of \$3,536. The Village receives very little of the total taxes paid.

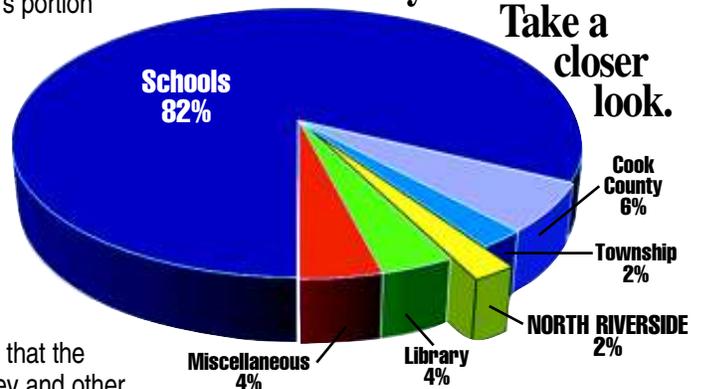
More importantly, this small percentage to North Riverside has remained very consistent over the past 25 years! As part of our continued effort to provide fiscally-responsible and transparent government, residents need to know that the Village primarily uses sales tax money and other

revenues to pay for Village programs and services and **NOT** your tax dollars. The Village only collects a total of about \$500,000 in property taxes from all residents and businesses annually to support its total operating budget of \$30 million. In short, the lion’s share goes to local schools and other taxing bodies, **NOT** the Village.



Who gets the lion’s share of your tax dollars?

Take a closer look.



**LET'S
RECYCLE****SATURDAY
April 22, 12-3pm**

Clean out unnecessary items and help Mother Nature out by doing it right with the NRPRD Spring Clean Event! There will be a Document Shredding/Recycling Container and shredding truck for getting rid of personal and unwanted paper items. There will also be a collection for prescription glasses and unwanted cell phones for those in need. Bring your worn and torn American flags to be disposed of properly and respectfully. Or bring as much as you want to donate to the Salvation Army!



Parks & Recreation

Connect with us!

Phone: 708/442-5515 • Fax: 708/442-7310

Web: www.northriverside-il.orgEmail: recreation@northriverside-il.orgFacebook: www.facebook.com/NRRRecreation**SUMMER CAMP BEGINS JUNE 13TH!**

Sign up for one or all nine weeks of fun! Call the Rec office at 442-5515 for availability. Spots are filling up fast!

SPRING-O-BINGO FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 7-9PM

Play bingo with family and friends for hundreds of prizes! Children and adults will get a bingo sheet with three chances plus unlimited popcorn!

Refreshments available for a nominal charge; additional bingo sheets (three chances per sheet) will be sold for only 50¢ per sheet, making this fun AND affordable. Play approximately 8-10 rounds with multiple prizes per game. Admission is \$9 per person in advance or \$16 per person at the door (if space is available).

KIDS INDOOR FLEA MARKET SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 9AM-1PM

Come out to the Kids Indoor Flea Market to sell gently-used or new/unwanted items. Vendors get a table and two chairs for each space rented. A full list of allowable items is available upon registration. Fee is \$15 per space.

TRANSPORTATION EXPLORATION DAY THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 4-6PM

Kids who are infatuated with motors and wheels will be blown away by larger-than-life realities! Children will have a chance to explore many modes of transportation that excite the senses. Make lights flash, honk the horns, sound the siren and uncover the mysteries of BIG vehicles at North Riverside's 3rd Annual Transportation Exploration Day.

MOTHER & SON SPRING FLING DINNER-DANCE FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 6:30-8PM

Treat yourselves to some Mommy-son memories with delicious food, boogie time on the dance floor, a fun project and sweet treats. Ages 6-12, \$20 per couple. Additional siblings, \$10 each.

**JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR ADULT SOCIALS**

Active adults have a blast at our adult social events so we just keep creating new ways to bring old friends and new friends together!

Sign up for one or all of the upcoming dates:

Cards with a Twist on April 26 at 12:30 pm. \$5. Celebrate National Pretzel Day!

Play your choice of board games at Games and Goodies Day on May 16 starting at 11:30 am. Fee is \$11.

Come out once each month for Birthday Bingo! Next dates are April 11 and May 2 from 1:30 to 3 pm. Fee is \$5 per date.

IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE FOR YOU

REGISTER TODAY!

UPCOMING TRIPS

Disney's Aladdin: Bring the family to the Cadillac Palace on June 21, 6 to 10:30 pm. Fee: \$86.

Pigeon Forge & The Smoky Mountains: Travel with us October 8-14. Call the Rec office for details.

SPORTS & MORE

Youth Soccer League:

Registration begins June 15 for preschoolers-8th grade. Sign up early at the Rec office.

Youth Sports:

Check out Martial Arts, Floor Hockey, Mighty Hitters, Jr. Sluggers, All Star Jr. Hoopsters and Tiny Tacklers Flag Football.

Do Something Different!

Teens: Battle Royale on April 8; Chicago Limo Bus on May 13; End-of-School BBQ on June 10. *Adult Fitness:* Zumba, Piloxing, Cardio Kickboxing, Fit over 50, Seated Yoga, Tae Kwon Do and more!

over **900** students assisted to date

and over **\$460,000**

raised for academic & recreation grants for our young residents

Mayor's Annual Golf Outing

The 2017 Mayor's Golf Outing will once again be held at the Riverside Golf Club. Proceeds from the event go to

the North Riverside Youth Program and Educational Scholarship Fund, Inc. This Fund provides great opportunities for the Village's youth to enroll and participate in various recreational activities and

programs as well as advance their academic pursuits through scholarships for higher education. For more information, to be a sponsor, golf or to make a donation, call the Rec Office at 442-5515.

PRESCHOOL & JR. KINDERGARTEN

Sign up now for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration is in progress and space is limited. Classes begin the week of August 28, which may seem a long way away but don't miss the chance to get a head start on learning!



VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE SENIOR FAIR 2017

FREE resources for our community seniors and caregivers

SECRETARY OF STATE MOBILE UNIT
10 am until 2 pm

FREE Rules of the Road Class at 11:30 am to 1 pm
Pre-register by calling (708) 442-5515

FREE Hot Dog Lunch at 11:45 am

- Free Health Screenings
- Home Health Agencies
- Health Specialists
- Medical Companies
- Insurance Companies
- Community Groups
- Housing Options
- Legal Advisors
- Financial Advisors
- And so much more!



THURSDAY • MAY 11 • 10am-NOON
2401 DESPLAINES • (708) 442-5515



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

Teresa Mrozik Recreation Director

RECORD GROWTH!

I have to say this has been a phenomenal year (as we close out our fiscal year)! The department as a whole has seen so much growth. We still have a month to go and have already had over **3,800** registrations. These playful registrants range from 1 year to 94 years old! With the influx of new and familiar faces, we have added several fresh programs to satisfy our community's wants and needs. We have our Munchkins in Motion, Book & Cook and S.T.E.M. classes for our early childhood group. We offer Pokemon Battles, jewelry classes and mindfulness classes for the school-aged; getaways and our popular Open Gym for teens; and, of course, more luncheons, seminars and social time for our active adults. We are currently discussing opportunities with a local Special Recreation Association (SRA) and I will be sure to keep you posted on the details.

Summer is soon to be upon us! Our concerts flow with great beats, good food and delicious drinks. NR's Biggest Block Party will be back on July 29th and we have an extraordinary musical line-up followed by the best of the best in



September, our season finale: Autumn Fest. These events are an absolute "must" for your summer and Indian summer schedule! Combined, we had over **6,000** people in attendance!

If you haven't noticed already, our Pace buses have been extremely busy around town! In their inaugural year, they have completed over **3,000** rides. Our residents are truly in love with this service and our wonderful drivers give above and beyond service with a smile while delivering quality transportation. Come on, give us a try!

Our sports classes and leagues have begun to take off! Since 2014, we have increased our basketball league registration by over 150 participants with **355** total children and 39 teams competing for fun.

With all our programs and events combined, our plan of making the Village Commons building a social hub once more has been realized. Of course, with the support of Mayor Hermanek, our Village Board and amazing residents, we don't plan on stopping the progress anytime soon.

Don't miss the upcoming annual Senior Fair set for Thursday, May 11 at the Commons. And be on the lookout for our SUMMER FUN GUIDE to hit mailboxes in mid-April.



Office phone: 762-5900
 Email:
 kbyrne@northriverside-il.org

Karyn Byrne Community Development

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Development of the parcels on the northwest corner of Harlem Avenue and 26th Street was completed with the grand opening of Raising Cane's. The Planned Unit Development (PUD), consisting of 19.28 acres of land began in 2013 with the demolition of the old Edward Don building and the construction of a new COSTCO store. The approved PUD included four outlots along Harlem Avenue, which brought two new retail food establishments along with various other retail and service businesses.

Additional development of commercial properties include an addition and renovations of the existing building at the southeast corner of Cermak and Desplaines Avenue. The property had been vacant for years due to foreclosure action and it became a blight to the area. New owners filed a petition with the Village for variances to the zoning ordinances, allowing for an addition to the existing structure. The owners have now hired a commercial real estate firm to market the nine available tenant spaces to nationwide businesses; the property will be available for occupancy in Spring 2017.



NORTH RIVERSIDE PARK MALL UPDATES

Heading to North Riverside Park Mall? Don't be surprised if you don't see stores in their usual tenant spaces! Due to remodeling and expansion of Bath & Body Works to incorporate White Barn into their products, several other stores were relocated to new spaces.

Additionally, Claire's is relocating to a larger space to expand their merchandise area.

All area residents are invited to the Mall's Easter Dance Eggstravaganza set for Saturday, April 8, 8:30 to 10 am in the food court. The first 100 kids receive a free bunny plush toy. Visit www.northriversideparkmall.com for details.



Lane Niemann Police Chief

Let's work and play together as a community!

When someone says "North Riverside," I always think of a community that works together—starting with Mayor Hermanek's office. With support from the Mayor and Trustees, we strive to be one of the safest communities in the State but we still need you to work with us. I realize many people are often reluctant to call the



police about suspicions or gut feelings about things that just don't "look right" but please make that call anyway. Quite often your hunches turn out to be valuable information that police can use; all information you provide will be held in strict confidence, giving you peace of mind.

As we continue to build one of the most effective Police Departments in the area, we welcomed Peter Weitzel to the force recently. Hopefully, you will have a chance to meet him and our other fine men and women in blue at the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15 starting at 10 am at the Commons. See if you can find the eggs with a prize ticket inside! After the hunt, everyone gets a hot dog, chips, soda and dessert.

Remember, for all emergencies, dial 9-1-1; for all other matters, call us at 447-9191.



Office phone: 447-9191

Email:

Lneimann@northriverside-il.org

Brian Basek Fire Chief

Proud to introduce our new Deputy Fire Chief Tom Gaertner



WELCOME!

It is an honor and a privilege to introduce to the community our new Deputy Fire Chief Tom Gaertner (pictured with Mayor Hermanek at left). We are incredibly fortunate to have an individual who brings extensive knowledge and experience to our

department. From his humble and patriotic beginning as a firefighter with the U.S. Air Force, he then signed on with the Broadview Fire Department, holding every rank including Fire Chief. His understanding of hazardous materials, technical rescue, search and rescue, staffing, budgets and community service is profound. As a Captain, he received the State of Illinois Medal of Valor for rescuing two elderly people trapped in an early morning fire. Furthermore, he has served in numerous leadership positions with the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs, President of MABAS Division 20, Deputy Director of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy and was one of the founding coordinators of the NIPSTA Fire Academy where he trained new recruits in all areas of fire service. Thanks to Mayor Hermanek and the Village Board of Trustees, Deputy Chief Gaertner's years of training and insight are now available to the NRRFD.

KNOX HOMEBOX RAPID ACCESS.

The North Riverside Fire Department is happy to announce that the Village of North Riverside is now part of the Knox HomeBox Program. This is a rapid access system which consists of a key lockbox that is located on a homeowners' premises so that emergency medical services and/or fire personnel can gain access into your residence without property damage. The Knox HomeBox also makes re-securing accessed property reliable, easier and faster since there is no damage to doors, windows and locks.

Your North Riverside Fire Department has been a participant in the system for commercial buildings and businesses since 1984. Now, the Knox HomeBox is more affordable than ever

before which is significant because the North Riverside

Fire Department does not recognize any other key lock system for security reasons.

For more information on current products, visit the website at www.KnoxHomeBox.com or feel free to contact the

NRRFD at 447-1981.



Office phone: 447-1981

Email: Bbasek@northriverside-il.org



taking care of business

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

Tim Kutt Public Works Director



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For a small crew, your Public Works Department, accomplishes great things throughout the year. With one director, two foremen (one for streets and one Certified Water Operator), one mechanic who maintains all Village equipment and four laborers—one of which is also the Handyman—we run a tight ship and do our very best for the residents of North Riverside and even the people passing through our town. Here's just a glimpse of what we maintain:

4,900 trees and plants in town (200 new parkway trees in the last four years)

33.93 miles of Water Main throughout the Village of North Riverside

370 fire hydrants ready for emergencies at all times

20.8 miles of sewer line televised, cleaned and repaired

489 inspection manholes

33.165 miles of sidewalk

394 street lights for public safety

55 blocks of roadway paved during the Village's most comprehensive improvement project

Furthermore, Public Works does most of the internal repair projects for the Police and Fire Departments and within the Village Commons while maintaining 51 pieces of important and valuable equipment from fire trucks, dump trucks, tractors and all gas-powered hand tools. We oversee the landscaping and repairs at Veterans Park, Commons Park and the Tot Spot to make sure everything is always running smoothly for residents of all ages. We were especially proud to contribute to the Village's most comprehensive street paving project ever, bringing the massive effort to completion right on time. We constantly strive to do our best work while saving the Village as much money as possible. At the end of every day and at the end of every year, it's a win-win for everyone.

When the Spring season rolls around...

BRANCH COLLECTION TIME

The branch collection program in North Riverside is offered every Tuesday from the second week of April to the second week of November; however, with the above normal temperatures we experienced during the month of February, many residents actively got a jump-start on spring clean-ups so we decided to start branch pick-up a little earlier this year on March 14. For the next several months, PW crews will travel down every street picking up clippings. We **DO NOT** pick up debris left behind from contractors—it is their responsibility to remove any debris generated by their service.

The chipper equipment cannot take dirt, roots or weeds. Clippings are tree branches and/or bushes trimmed properly and placed with the cut ends facing the street curbside. This service is intended for minor trimming, not complete tree removal and there is no alley pick-up.

STREET SWEEPING

Street sweeping is operated Monday through Friday from March until the first snowfall. Every curb within the town is swept once per week with alleys cleaned once each month. Please exercise caution when passing the sweeper.



One of the best programs anywhere: The North Riverside Handyman!

When longtime resident Jim Marousek's smoke alarm went off recently, he knew that getting on a chair to silence the constant beeping was a bad idea so he called Vince Ranieri, the Handyman, for help. To be eligible for the Handyman service, you must be a North Riverside senior citizen or handicapped resident who owns their own property. Stay safe! For repairs, simple tasks or guidance with larger repairs, call the Handyman at 762-5885.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Public Works, 708-762-5800.

TREES WE TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY

200 PARKWAY TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED



IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS

This Spring, Public Works will plant parkway trees throughout the Village as part of the annual **FREE** parkway tree program. The Village's Tree Program is coordinated by Rose Titus and the North Riverside Garden Club; they select 4-6 different trees native to our region from which residents can choose. Their expertise has helped residents understand how trees conserve energy, prevent water pollution, shield children from ultra-violet rays and even improve property values!



TREE TRIMMING

All parkway trees are owned and maintained by the Village of North Riverside. If a tree is dead or diseased, Public Works will have it removed. The Director of Public Works conducts regular surveys during the Spring and Fall months to monitor trimming needs, which are completed by a certified contractor (paid for by Public Works) to ensure Village equipment can operate without damaging the equipment or tree, clear pedestrian walkways and bike routes and remove branches hitting rooftops.



The best time to plant a tree was
TWENTY
years ago.
The next best time is today.
—Chinese Proverb—

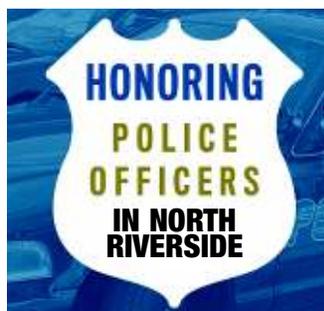
If you are a North Riverside resident interested in a **FREE** parkway tree, please contact the Public Works Department to be placed on the early Fall planting list. The Village recently joined the Suburban Tree Consortium to facilitate getting quality trees at a much better price!

NORTH RIVERSIDE = BEST RESULTS

Once again this year, North Riverside Public Works crews will be injecting Ash trees to protect against the Emerald Ash Borer. According to the Department of Agriculture (Bureau of Environmental Programs, Emerald Ash Borer Program), North Riverside has sustained the **BEST** results within the region of saving Ash trees against this destructive Asian beetle.



NEW BLUE PLANTER



In addition to the many efforts to provide new trees and maintain existing trees to beautify the community, the Garden Club will soon dedicate its newest effort to the men and women in blue: the North Riverside Police Department! Watch for the unveiling of the Blue Planter that honors those who protect and serve us.

code

Most residents are familiar with the Village's codes and permit process and we appreciate their cooperation very much. But make a note of this info, dates and the codes that affect us all.

'Tis the Season!



Just a friendly reminder to everyone: it's that time of year to remove any holiday lights and decorations from structures within the Village! 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. Thank you!

Garbage & Recycling

Upcoming holiday pick-up information and dates for 2017

Memorial Day: Pick-Up Date is June 3

4th of July: Pick-Up Date is July 8th

Labor Day: Pick-Up Date is September 9th

Thanksgiving: Pick-Up Date is November 25

Christmas Day: Pick-Up Date December 30

Other than these dates, refuse and recyclables are collected each Friday; items may be placed at curbs and alleys after 6 pm on the day prior to collection.

Yard Waste pickup begins the first Friday in April. Remember to pick up your tag when you visit the Commons!



Please comply with ordinances regarding your pets to ensure that our town is clean and safe for everyone!

3. With Spring and Summer upon us, maintain grass and weeds at a height not to exceed six inches.

4. Garbage/recycling containers, along with bulk items, cannot be placed on the parkway for scavenger pick-up prior to 6 pm of the day preceding collection and must be removed by 7 pm the day of collection.

General questions?

Call 447-4211. For specific questions, call 708-762-5900.

! Good Neighbor Codes

Read THESE reminders

1. Maintain sump pump and gutter discharge locations a minimum of five feet from all property lines and not to direct the discharge toward any adjoining properties.

2. Dogs **MUST** be leashed! You **MUST** clean up after your dogs! And your dog must be licensed!

Garage Sale Season

It's FREE to have a Garage Sale in North Riverside!

Just be sure to pick up the required permit at the Village Hall first or download it from the website!

nr bulletin board

news you should know about

Poetry Month at **North Riverside Library**

Kids, tweens and teens: Celebrate Poetry Month on Saturday, April 29 from 1 to 2:30 pm at the Library. All kinds of poetically-fantastic activities plus snacks! For other upcoming programs and events, stop in, call 447-0869 or visit www.northriversidelibrary.org.

It's time! **Things Are Getting Batty**

In an effort to help preserve the local bat population, the North Riverside Garden Club has purchased and erected a bat house along 26th Street adjacent to the Forest Preserve. Due to urbanization and natural habitat loss, these beneficial little creatures are diminishing in number. Bats can eat up to 4,500 insects per hour and can help decrease the need for pesticide. A special thanks goes out to PW Director Tim Kutt, Bob Skupa, Kyle Georgopoulos and Buzz for helping with the bat house installation.

Cheer on **The North Riverside Players!**

Help the Players Win the Competition

As the North Riverside Players prepare for regional competition in Champaign, Illinois April 29-30 against theater groups from Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, please consider attending the final dress rehearsal/ fundraiser of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Wednesday, April 26 at the Village Commons, 7:30 pm. Enjoy the 60-minute competition version of this classic followed by complimentary beer, wine, appetizers and mingling with the cast and staff. \$20 cash or check donations will be accepted at the door to help defray the many competition expenses.

Don't miss Kiss Me, Kate

**Kiss Me,
Kate** 

Kiss Me Kate is about a man and his ex-wife forced to play opposite one another in a new production of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*; combine gangsters and romantic entanglements and you get a dazzling Broadway classic that earned the first Tony Award for Best Musical!

Performance dates are set for March 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 at the Scheck Village Commons. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 pm; on Sundays, see the show at 2:30 pm. This Spring production is directed by Sam Buonomo and Jay Fontanetta.

For individual and group ticket information, order by phone at 708-512-7015 or conveniently and safely order online at www.nrplayers.com.

Board Meeting Highlights

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mayor Hermanek provided updates from Community Development on presales totaling \$2,082.52 in revenue and permits totaling \$7,357.40 in revenue; the Mayor also gave a brief summary of the accomplishments of Thomas Gaertner who was appointed Deputy Fire Chief (story on page 9).

JANUARY 16, 2017

Trustee Mengoni announced that, as part of the dispatch center merger with the Villages of Riverside and Brookfield (The West Central Consolidated Communications or WC3), Jason Rogers has been hired as executive director. Rogers will work with all three towns to ensure a smooth transition on July 1, 2017.

Mayor Hermanek reported that North Riverside's pension issues were discussed on 560-AM Talk Radio and he encouraged residents to listen to the segment via the radio's website. The Mayor also sadly announced the passing of Aggie Kubik, wife of Jack Kubik. The Kubiks have been long-time friends of North Riverside. Mark Egger was appointed to the Plan Commission. Peter Weitzel was congratulated on his graduation from the Police Academy and sworn into office. Seguin Services presented the Village of North Riverside with an award in recognition of an "Employment First" Initiative Partnership for assisting individuals with disabilities to lead an enriched and meaningful life.

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Trustee Decosola shared statistics from Parks and Recreation noting that this year's basketball league enrollment experienced 20% growth and, as of February 1st, Adventure and Action summer camps were over 43% full already. Trustee Mengoni explained that the Fire Department's new Hurst eDraulic Combination Spreader/Cutter was put into service on Truck 806.

Mayor Hermanek reported the presale and permit total revenue and updates on the opening of Raising Cane's, Krispy Krunchy Chicken in the Mall, Footlocker remodeling plans and Home Line Furniture at 7229 W. 24th Street.

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Trustee Czajka and PW Director Tim Kutt presented the benefits of joining the West Central Municipal Conference Suburban Tree Consortium consisting of 42 municipalities, providing increased savings and greater awareness through membership.

Mayor Hermanek took the opportunity to publicly thank, applaud and congratulate Joe Rizza on his retirement. "No one person or business has done more for the Village, its residents and its youth," stressed the Mayor. At the same time, the Mayor welcomed the LaFevere family, owners of McCarthy Ford, which now operates at Harlem and Cermak.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW! **Taking center stage in recent weeks...**



Thank You! Vera & Matt

Mayor Hubert Hermanek, on behalf of the Village Board, department heads and staff, extends a big thank you to two very unselfish residents—Vera Wilt and Matt Decosola—for their service as Village Trustees. Vera brought a wealth of life experience to the Village Board from her roles as Riverside Township Clerk, an attorney and a veteran in the insurance industry. She will be taking on new and greater responsibilities as Riverside Township Supervisor in April. Matt Decosola, former Chairman of the North Riverside Plan Commission and Little League volunteer before winning a spot on the Village Board, will continue to remain involved in North Riverside civic and charitable events. Both Vera and Matt have played key roles in the significant progress the Village has made in recent years.



Eagle Scouts Honored

At the December 12, 2016 Village Board meeting, two young men were honored for attaining the highest achievement in the Boy Scouts of America program—Eagle Scout. Only a very small percentage of Scouts ever attain this rank, which requires years of leadership and service as well as the completion of an extensive project. Mayor Hermanek (center in the photo) proudly recognized the accomplishments of Killian Klotz (at left) and Erik Hartwig with certificates and Keys to the City for their accomplishments.



Komarek's 80th

Komarek School's 80th Anniversary Committee is hard at work creating an event that celebrates many years of education and love. To help defray costs of the event set for Friday, April 28 at 6 pm, Komarek is selling a commemorative t-shirt. T-shirts can be ordered online by credit card using the EPAY link under the Community or Parent tabs on the website at www.komarekschool.org. You can also conveniently download the flyer (click the t-shirt image to access the form) and pay by cash or check. Last day to order is Friday, April 7. Watch for more details on the upcoming festivities on the school website or follow Komarek on Facebook.



Accurate Ribbon Cutting

Accurate Personnel, with over 30 years in business in the Chicagoland area, recently invited Mayor Hermanek to preside over the grand opening of their newest location, 9259 W. Cermak in North Riverside. Founded by Anthony and Debbie Migliore in 1978, Accurate Personnel has become one of the premier staffing services in Illinois. Named by Staffing Industry Analysts (SIA) as one of the fastest-growing services in 2014-2016 and among the best staffing firms to work for, Accurate specializes in placing people in the areas of light industrial and clerical staffing. Among those at the ribbon cutting with Mayor Hermanek were Rob Migliore, CEO; Mike Savarese, COO; Vikki Rood, Director of Business Development; and Blake Dondlinger, Associate Director of Operations. For more information, call (708) 714-5050.

Neighborhood Services

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

Make Someone Happy

The other day, I thought of a song I used to know long ago and it seemed so relevant these days. Maybe you've heard the words: *Make someone happy, just one person happy and you'll be happy, too.* The song gave me hope to continue to reach out to my neighbors and I hope it inspires you to reach out to others just as these fellow residents did:

♥ Denise Swallow, a real angel, inspired us all during her fight with ALS. Residents made meals, helped raise money through the Bucket Challenge and helped out with words and actions. Though Denise passed away recently and our hearts are sad, we are grateful that we had the chance to know her and learn from her.

♥ One angel cheers those around her with a big artificial tree that she decorates for almost every holiday—Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and more!

♥ This angel looked for winter clothes for the child she watches and another angel bought snow clothes, too, because they could not bear to see any child suffer from the cold.

♥ A man angel brought over a canned ham not knowing that someone asked for food for Christmas and we finally had something to give to the family.

♥ A recently-widowed resident called a block captain about an angel family that had made her so happy. They reached out to her during this difficult time and are taking care of many of her needs.

♥ An angel and a friend shoveled sidewalks, the driveway and even backyard when a neighbor had health problems. They expected nothing in return.

♥ One angel sent \$50 each month to pay back the Neighbors' Fund for paying her moving costs, even though she had suffered the loss of her mom and other hardships.



Neighbors are like Family

Recently, my husband Frank had a bout with a very contagious stomach flu. Because our severely disabled son David can't be left alone, I was unable to leave the house. It was Christmas eve—we asked a neighbor for some help and she gave it freely. Another neighbor who was an hour away stopped for over-the-counter medicine on her way home. Two others prayed. One neighbor offered to take Frank to the hospital; eventually, he did have to go to the ER because he was in terrible pain and the neighbor stayed with him for several hours until our daughter was able to bring Frank home. I don't know what we would have done without our compassionate neighbors. It was the best Christmas ever. Our neighbors are truly our angels, our family.

Thank you.



One of our greatest accomplishments is COMMUNITY.

North Riverside residents contributed over \$225 through the Giving Tree to help less fortunate neighbors. Their donations were wisely used to help pay bills, buy food and give surprises to some needy children. Some residents bought food and lotions which were shared with Riverside Township, Housing Forward and the Cicero Anti-Hunger Group. Thank you to everyone in the small town with a very big heart who truly care about others at the holidays and throughout the year.

North Riverside Park Mall. For the gift cards from Carson's, Sears, Old Navy and other stores. People who couldn't buy things cried because now they could.

Mother's Day Restaurant.

For making one couple so happy to go out to eat.

Classic Cinemas. Four complimentary tickets were given to those who were so grateful to finally see a movie.

Christmas for a Cause. Supplied meals for neighbors and even winter clothes for a very young resident.

Castle Buick. The toy drive at Castle helped a local church distribute gifts to those with very little.

OUR
TOWN
CARES

THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE HELPED

THANKS TO MAYOR
HERMANEK'S
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
COMMITTEE,
GENEROUS RESIDENTS
& BUSINESSES

GOOD TO KNOW

Lions Club. There is a box in the Commons across from B & C Room for anyone wanting to donate hearing aids, cell phones or eyeglasses.

At the Library. Drop ink cartridges in the collection box near the circulation desk to keep them out of landfills.

At Veterans Park. Make use of the outdoor fitness equipment, walk and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

At the Mall. The Walkers Club at the Mall often provides free and interesting speakers and a great place to walk when the weather isn't pleasant.

New Block Captains.

A big welcome to Frank and Karen and Terri for volunteering to help! We still need captains on the 2500 block of Westover, 2200 block of 2nd, 2200 blocks of 7th and 8th.

Published by the Village of
North Riverside

2401 S. Des Plaines Avenue
North Riverside, IL 60546-1596

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Awards**

County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski honors resident Kathy Donahue-Coia

In observance of Women's History Month, the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board of Commissioners joined together on March 2 at the Chicago Cultural Center to host the 20th annual Cook County Unsung Heroine Awards Breakfast. Each year the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues sponsors the award and honors one woman from each of the 17 Cook County Districts whose contributions have silently, yet notably, made a positive impact on their communities.

This year, Commissioner Jeff Tobolski and Women's Commissioner Terri Rivera selected North Riverside resident Kathy Donahue-Coia as the 2017 recipient for the 16th District. Ms. Donahue-Coia was recognized for her 32 years of service as a licensed clinical social worker for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, one of the largest not-for-profit social service agencies in the Midwest. "We are honored to have selected Ms. Donahue-Coia for her outstanding leadership and commitment to serving our most vulnerable, not only in Cook County, but the State of Illinois," said Commissioner Tobolski. "She is a valuable and well-respected member of our community who makes an enormous difference addressing issues of poverty, homelessness and hunger."

Pictured, left to right: Ron Coia, Kathy Donahue-Coia, Monsignor Michael M. Boland, John Ryan, Elida Hernandez, Michele Bianchi and Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski. Many residents will remember Monsignor Boland from his years of service to Mater Christi parish.

