



Riverside Township

SPRING 2018

27 Riverside Road
Riverside, IL 60546

Township Office

Phone: (708) 442-4400

Fax: (708) 447-0302

Web:

www.toi.org/riversidetownship

E-mail:

mytownhall@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Assessor's Office

Phone: (708) 447-7700

Fax: (708) 447-6442

E-mail:

27rside@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Supervisor

Vera A. Wilt

Clerk

Liane J. Blauw

Assessor

Frances Sitkiewicz

Trustees

Mary Rob Clarke

Michael C. Dropka

Timothy Heilenbach

Tom Lupfer

Township Board Awards Grants

The Riverside Township Board reviews requests for funding from non-profit community organizations that provide programs within the Township. Grants are considered at monthly meetings each February, May, August, and November.

In November of 2017, the Township Board awarded grants to Aging Care Connections, BEDS Plus Care, the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, and Hauser Jr. High School's drama program. This past February, the Township Board approved grant funding for the Riverside Police Department, the Riverside Public Library, Riverside Arts Weekend, Sokol Spirit, and Best Buddies International.



The Riverside Township Board presents a grant check to representatives from Best Buddies International.

If your non-profit organization would like to apply for funding from the Township, then please call the office and arrange to pick up all the necessary paperwork, or download all the required forms from the Township website. Please note that your organization or community group must serve a need within the Township and your application must clearly describe the benefit to Township residents. It is suggested that a representative from any applying group be in attendance at the Township Board meeting at which the grant request is being presented.

Mental Health Board Assesses Needs

Led by a volunteer group of residents, the Riverside Township Mental Health Board's purpose is to plan, fund, and monitor the provision of services related to mental health, and developmental and intellectual disabilities, including substance abuse and addiction.

The Mental Health Board makes its decisions based on community needs, and to better understand the current state of those needs, a recent Community Needs Assessment was completed. The assessment was based on a questionnaire filled out by over 220 Township residents, and on the interviews of over 30 key members in the community, about what they all feel are the needs of the Township, in regards to mental health. The results of this informative survey will be released to the public sometime in April 2018.

Riverside Township Mental Health Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the **3rd Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, on the first floor of the Town Hall**. The Board does not meet in July, August, and December.

Property Tax Update From The Assessor

The Riverside Township Assessor's Office is here to assist property owners in navigating the Cook County property tax system. Here is what has occurred in 2018 so far and what taxpayers need to know going forward.

Exemptions for the 2017 Tax Year - Residents who were born in 1952 or prior should already have applied for their 2017 Senior Citizen Exemption. New homeowners who purchased their homes in 2016 must file for their 2017 Homeowner Exemption if they have not yet done so by this time. Residents who qualify for the Disabled Homeowner or Disabled Veteran's Exemption for the 2017 tax year should have also already applied for these exemptions.

Appeals - The first round of 2018 assessed valuation appeals with the Cook County Assessor ended on March 2nd. If you believe the assessed value of your property is too high, there will be another opportunity to file an appeal at the county level. The Cook County Board of Review usually takes appeals from Riverside Township in August.

Tax Bills - The 2017 first installment property tax bills were mailed at the end of January and were due March 1st. The first installment is an estimated tax and is legislated to be calculate at 55% of one's 2016 total property tax. The second installment for 2017 should be mailed by the Cook County Treasurer by July 1st and due 30 days after. It's important to remember that Riverside Township was reassessed in 2017. These new assessed values will be used to calculate the actual property tax due for the 2017 tax year, which will appear on the second installment property tax bills.

The Township Assessor and her staff are available to address any concerns Township residents may have regarding their property taxes. The Assessor is also available to give property tax presentations to local organizations. The Riverside Township Assessor's Office can be reached at **(708) 447-7700** or via email at 27rside@sbcglobal.net. If you wish to be added to the Assessor's Constant Contact email list, then please send a message to the aforementioned email address and include your name, phone number, and home address.



Food Pantry Accepts Donations

The Riverside Township Food Pantry is very grateful to its generous donors. Hauser Jr. High School students have been some of the Food Pantry's most dependable donors as of late. The various clubs at Hauser deliver about 15 cases of canned goods each month of the school year, with Lisa Gaynor coordinating the deliveries. Many do not realize what a relief the ability to pick up 2 tote bags of non-perishable items is for some 40 households in Riverside Township each month. At Thanksgiving, the Township was able to provide holiday turkey meals to 41 families, and at Christmas, 35 families were provided a family meal as well.



Hauser Jr. High School students carry food donations into the Town Hall.

The Township also appreciates the weekly volunteer efforts of Pattie Cheop, who organizes the pantry shelves, packs up ready-to-carry bags of balanced foods, and inventories the needs of specific items that must be purchased to supplement donations. The North Riverside Library also brought in several boxes of donated items after the holidays, and individuals regularly drop off items into the collection box located in the Town Hall lobby. Sometimes, the Township will ask for a voluntary donation as "admission" to our free programs, such as the recently held Opioid Epidemic presentation in February.

Please note that the Township cannot accept or distribute expired items. The Township will also accept monetary donations. The Food Pantry is open **Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm.** Please call the Township office for qualifying information.

Upcoming Health Screening



Riverside Township is pleased to host a preventative health screening event at the Town Hall on **Friday, June 15th, beginning at 9:00 am**. The event is hosted by and offered through Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, and they will be on site to conduct various tests for residents.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, abdominal aortic aneurysms, hardening of the arteries in the legs, atrial fibrillation, and osteoporosis in both men and women. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete, are performed by highly trained healthcare professionals, and results are reviewed by board-certified physicians to ensure the highest standards.

Pre-registration is required to partake in this event, so please contact Life Line by calling **1-888-653-6450** for more information or to schedule your appointment. One can also register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/community.

Free Weekly Movies

Every Thursday afternoon, Riverside Township hosts a free movie screening on the **first floor of the Town Hall, beginning at 12:30 pm**. The screenings are open to all, and one can enjoy free refreshments and popcorn while viewing a film selected from any year, from the classics of the 1940's up to recent, present-day releases. Here are the upcoming films planned for the month of April:

April 5 - **"I Confess"** (1953)

April 12 - **"Born Yesterday"** (1950)

April 19 - **"Woman of the Year"** (1942)

April 26 - **"Darkest Hour"** (2017)

For a more complete list of upcoming films, one can visit the Township website, call the Township Office, or drop in at one of the weekly screenings and pick up a list.



Free Exercise Class

Riverside Township Exercise Classes are held weekly in the auditorium of the Town Hall on **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays starting at noon**. The classes are **free** to Township residents, and you can walk in for any session; no registration needed. Although it is not exclusively for seniors, most of the participants are "mature" individuals who are looking for some strengthening, balance, mobility development, and maintenance. The class runs about an hour, and the Township provides bottled water for the participants.



The Riverside Township Seniors group also meets once per month, typically on the **1st Monday, at 1:00 pm** after that day's exercise class. Often, there is a speaker or entertaining presentation, and light refreshments.

Lions Club Chicken Dinner



The Riverside Township Lions Club has been hard at work, getting ready to host their Annual Chicken Dinner on **Sunday, April 15th, from 11:30 am until 5:30 pm**. This "all you can eat" event will take place in the 2nd floor auditorium of the Riverside Town Hall and will feature delicious fried chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, corn, bread, and light refreshments. Costs are **\$13 for adults and \$6 for children** (3-9 years).

Tickets will be available from Lions Club members, and at the door on the day of the event. Carry-outs will also be offered. So come on out and support your local Lions Club chapter!





Serving since 1870

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Annual Town Meeting

Riverside Township will hold its Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 10th, at 6:01 pm. The meeting will be held on the first floor of the Town Hall.

The Annual Town Meeting provides any registered voter in the Township with the opportunity to participate directly in township government.

Connect with us online!

Website: www.toi.org/riversidetownship

E-mail: mytownhall@sbcglobal.net

Township Co-Sponsors Seminar On Opioid Epidemic



Trustees Mary Rob Clarke and Timothy Heilenbach (2nd and 3rd from left) join a panel of speakers at the presentation on the opioid epidemic.

Over 125,000 people overdosed on opioids throughout the country in 2017, according to the CDC. On February 24th, Riverside Township and the Riverside Township Mental Health Board co-sponsored an informative program addressing this current crisis, titled "It's Happening Right In Front of You - The Opioid Epidemic", coordinated by Trustee Mary Rob Clarke.

We were fortunate to have Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti there to explain what the State of Illinois is doing about this prevalent problem in our society. Other speakers included: Village of Riverside's Deputy Chief of Police William Gutschick, Riverside Fire Department's EMS Coordinator Donald Michalik, Matt Quinn of Rosecrance, Samantha

Hicks of Pillars Community Health, and Ron Melka of Lyons Township. There were also compelling stories told from a recovering addict, a mother of an addict, and a person who accidentally learned how anyone can fall prey.

The program was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/pKgh40hQ6H8> or on the Riverside TV Commission's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/RTVNet6/videos/1868036063486779/>.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with an opioid addiction, you can call the 24-hour Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at **1-833-2FINDHELP**. For those affected by a loved one's addiction and are looking for support, you can contact the Nar-Anon Midwest Region at **1-800-477-6291** or visit their website at www.naranonmidwest.org.