



the *Current*

Stay Safe With Storm Spotter Training

What's that in the sky? A bird? A plane? No, it's a storm brewing. Learn how to spot them and what it takes to stay safe by attending Storm Spotter Training on Monday, March 25th.

Presented by meteorologists from the National Weather Service and jointly sponsored by the Emergency Management teams from the City of Riverside and Platte County, the training is free.

"When we sound the alarm during severe weather, we need residents to know what is going on, and what they need to do to protect themselves and their families," said Mike Shelton, the City's Operations Support Director. Storm Spotter Training can help keep residents safe even when beyond the reach of sirens, cell phones or broadcast messages. Participants will come out of the program knowing how to recognize a storm, respond appropriately and find suitable shelter.

"It's a great example of how dedicated the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are to keeping our residents safe, informed and prepared," Mike said. Thanks to city-sponsored Storm Spotter Training, many Riverside residents won't just see bad weather coming: they'll know what to do when it hits.

Don't miss Storm Spotter Training: Monday, March 25th, 7-9 p.m. at the Riverside Community Center!

Area Restaurant Clears the Air

Corner Cafe Goes Smoke Free

When you own a restaurant that is so popular it doubles as the neighborhood gathering spot, complete with devoted regulars, the term "don't mess with perfection" comes to mind. But when times change, and the preferences of your customers with them, you might be forced to adapt.

That's the situation the owners of the Corner Cafe discussed last fall at their annual family meeting. At each gathering, they ask themselves if there is anything they should be doing differently. At that meeting, there was a common concern: Each member revealed they had been approached, offsite, by numerous former customers who said they'd love to come back, but would not because of the Corner's smoking-friendly policy.

"As the laws in the surrounding cities changed, we saw more and more of our customers choose smoke-free establishments over us," said owner Jason Rule. That's when the family knew they had to address the issue. As a Mom-and-Pop shop, they couldn't afford fancy research, so the owners did it themselves by monitoring seating preferences and talking with customers over a few weeks. The results? Over 80% of the customers, including half of those who chose to sit in smoking rather than wait for a table, were actually non-smokers.



Corner Cafe

"We worried that we would lose our loyal smoking customers, and they mean a lot to us," Jason said. But the smoking change had already taken place in other communities, which meant most of those customers had adapted to smoke-free requirements elsewhere. Jason and Julie also worried that the change might cause business to fall off, which would in turn adversely affect the earnings of their servers. That hasn't been the case: in fact, business is up slightly.

"Thirty years ago, smoking was accepted. Fifteen years ago, it was tolerated. Today, it's become unacceptable to most restaurant goers," Jason explained. "This is our way of keeping up with the times to serve our customers and our business." ☺

Fitness Classes

The Riverside Community Center offers free fitness classes and league play during the week.

- M/W/F from 8 to 9:30 a.m. is Yoga/Cardio/Strength Class
- M/Th from 10 to 11 a.m. is Line Dancing and Weights
- M/Th from 6 to 9 p.m. is Adult Volleyball (open to all)
- Wed. from 10 to 11 a.m. is Stay Strong Stay Healthy Class
- Wed. from 6 to 9 p.m. is Pickleball
- Thurs. from 9 to 10 a.m. is Zumba

The Community Center is open for Open Gym hours, Monday-Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact the Community Center at 741-4172.

Stay Connected

www.RiversideMo.com

www.RiversideMo.com/blog/

City of Riverside (Facebook)

@RiversideMo (Twitter)

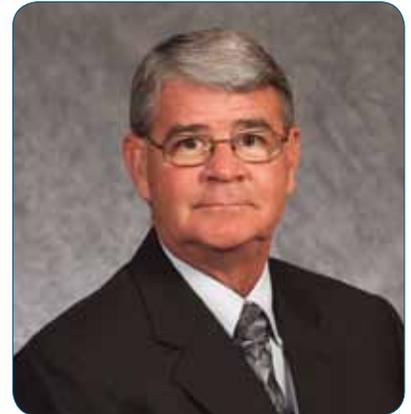
Trash & Recycling Schedule

Friday is trash/recycling pickup day in Riverside, regardless of holidays.

Recycle or trash it? Much of your metal, plastic and paper waste can be recycled curbside: See a complete list at www.RiversideMo.com/publicworks/recycling

Riverside Police Officer Retires

After 13 years with the Riverside Police department, officer Billy Aaron retired on February 15th. Billy's career started as a reserve officer and progressed to his last position as a detective with the Criminal Investigations Unit, with several milestones between. Billy served and protected the public in many ways over the years, serving as a patrol officer, Sergeant, shift supervisor, property officer and crime scene investigator. He was attached to the Metro Squad handling major crime investigations, and as a member of the United States Postal Inspectors Task Force for investigating identity theft and financial crimes, Billy was a deputized United States Marshal task force member.



Billy Aaron

When asked what he'll miss the most, Billy cited the people of Riverside. "I have had a wonderful experience with all the members of the city and have made some truly remarkable friends," he said.

Even though he's officially retired, Billy will continue to serve the public as a security provider for the R-3 School District and part-time reserve detective for the City. He plans to work some family and hobby time into his new schedule as well. 😊

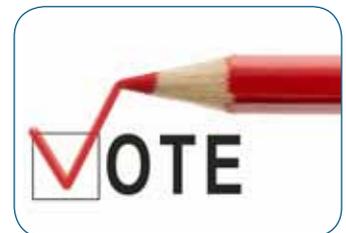
Municipal Elections are April 2nd!

Riverside voters will go to the polls on April 2nd for the Municipal Election. Candidate filing closed on January 15th, and the following individuals have declared their intent to run:

Ward 1: Mike Fuller, incumbent
Cindy Ecton

Ward 2: Aaron Thatcher, incumbent
Nicholas Welliver

Ward 3: Brad Cope, incumbent



Polls will be open at the Riverside Community Center from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Don't miss your chance to get out and vote!

Got the winter blues? Cheer up: The first day of Spring (Spring Equinox) is Wednesday, March 20th!

Riverside Welcomes New City Planner

Jackie Carlson Returns to Riverside

The City of Riverside recently announced that Jackie Carlson has joined the staff as City Planner. While her title does include the term “plan,” it doesn’t completely convey the exciting and essential work Jackie will be doing to foster the City’s business community.

In her role with Riverside, Jackie will work to move the city’s vision forward by implementing the ideas outlined in the Master Plan. Her work will include everything from jumpstarting downtown-area projects to working with existing business owners. That’s significant, because while most cities devote time and energy to recruiting new businesses, few work as hard at retaining the businesses they already have. That’s where Jackie comes in. As liaison between businesses and the City, Jackie will help identify barriers to growth, needs for expansion, and craft ways the City can help, from process to infrastructure and more.

According to Mike Duffy, Director of Community Development, Jackie is uniquely qualified to do this important job. No stranger to the City of Riverside, her previous experience with the City prepared her to make a difference from day one. Jackie initially served as an on-call consultant to the City in her capacity as Planning Director with Shafer Klein & Warren. “Jackie presented to our board, the planning commission, and provided mapping and demographic analysis. She knows the city as well as anybody,” Mike explained.



Jackie Carlson

Jackie most recently served as a business retention specialist with the Wyandotte Economic Development Council, and brings with her a proven background in business retention. She has developed a proven program that will be important in making sure the businesses currently in the city will stay in Riverside, which is essential in helping the City to realize its vision.

With Jackie on board, the Master Plan will go from ideas on paper to ideas in motion. It’s good for Riverside, and good for business. ☺

Hippity, Hoppity, Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

**Saturday, March 30th • E. H. Young Park
Hunt Begins at 10 a.m. sharp!**

Age Groups: 2-3 years, 4-7 years and 8-10 years



Join the City of Riverside and Riverside Fire/Police Athletic League for the Annual FREE Easter Egg Hunt, including pictures with the Easter Bunny! Bring your own Easter basket or a sack will be provided for you. For more information or weather cancellation, call **(816) 741-4172**. ☺

Upcoming Events

Riverside Branch Mid-Continent Public Library

2700 NW Vivion Road

- **Family Storytime**
Every Thursday @ 10 am
Read stories, sing songs, and make crafts; ages 0-5 welcome.
- **Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning**
Monday, March 4 @ 7 pm
Unravel the mystery of retirement planning and reach your goals. Registration required.
- **Thrift Store Fashion Show**
Monday, April 8 @ 7 pm
Learn to find fashionable outfits at great prices. Registration required.

Call **(816) 741-6288** to register today!

Senior Dance Schedule

Upcoming FREE Senior Dances, featuring the Ed Smith Band!

- Monday, March 25
- Monday April 29
- Monday, June 24

Dances begin at 1 p.m. at the Riverside Community Center, 4498 NW High Drive. Questions? Call Riverside Community Center at **741-4172**.

Calendar

March 5

Board of Aldermen
Meeting – 7 p.m.

March 6

Park Board Meeting – 6 p.m.

March 14

Planning and Zoning Commission
Meeting – 7 p.m.

March 19

Board of Aldermen
Meeting – 7 p.m.

March 25

Storm Spotter Training 7 – 9 p.m.

March 28

Planning and Zoning Commission
Meeting – 7 p.m.

Recycling Extravaganza—Save The Date!

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**6305 NW Riverpark Drive
(Off 9 Hwy between Riverside & Parkville)**

Don't want it? Recycle it, at the Riverside Recycling Extravaganza. It's an easy way to dispose of items not permitted in curbside recycling! For more info, visit [facebook.com/NorthlandRecyclingExtravaganza](https://www.facebook.com/NorthlandRecyclingExtravaganza)

Free collection for most items:

- Automobile Tires *4-tire limit per car/no rims*
- Bicycles
- Car & Ni-Cad Batteries
- Clothing
- Electronics *fee to recycle TVs*
- Furniture
- Glasses and Sunglasses
- Household Items
- Iron
- Oil and Antifreeze
- Paper Shredding *4-box limit per person*
- Prescription Drugs
- Tennis Balls
- Unusable Athletic Shoes
- Items for the Homeless: Gently used clothing, towels and washcloths; travel size soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion