

**River Forest Township  
Supervisor's Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2019 (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019)**

**2019 Annual Town Meeting, 4/9/19**

**SUMMARY**

Fiscal Year 2019 was another busy and productive year for River Forest Township. We continued to:

- **actively grow awareness** of the Township and its human services-related programs through outreach and enhanced communication;
- **develop new programs and services and enhance existing ones;**
- **strengthen ongoing relationships** with organizations and other government entities;
- seek and develop **new partnerships**.

In addition, the **Assessor's office remained very active** providing personal service and assistance to hundreds of residents, including many of our seniors.

**Overall, we continued to focus heavily on demonstrating and communicating *the unique and strong value* provided to residents by the Township in the areas of youth, mental health, senior and assessor services.**

The Township's most significant accomplishments were, with our community partners:

- introduction and implementation of "**the HUB**", [www.healthconnectionhub.org](http://www.healthconnectionhub.org), our new point of entry/closed loop referral software system for mental health resources;
- introduction and implementation of **Support4U**, a 24/7 anonymous texting resource for middle school and high school students with mental health needs;
- introduction of the **Great Neighbors Program** to Oak Park and River Forest, connecting seniors with those seeking to be "friendly neighbors" with seniors.

Efforts in FY2020 will focus on:

- development of a **new Township website**;
- further implementation of “**the Hub**”;
- enhanced support of the **Dementia Friendly River Forest** initiative;
- further implementation of the **health needs assessment plan**; and
- enhanced **senior outreach efforts**;
- development of **partnership with new Youth Services Director** to evaluate youth programming, enhance data collection, and enhance community engagement of Youth Services;
- development of **new communication alternatives**;
- development of an **Emergency Assistance program**;
- participation in the **RFCCA Feasibility Study process** and determination of **direction for RFCCA Building**.

## **FY2019: YEAR IN REVIEW**

FY2019 was characterized by a positive local environment of collaboration, cooperation and communication. Activities included:

**Financial and Reporting** – completed the following financial reports per deadline, submitted final reports to required places and posted/publicized as required:

- FY19 Budget
- FY18 Audit
- FY18 Annual Treasurer’s Report
- FY18 Annual Financial Report (AFR)
- 2018 Levy
- FY19 Annual Report of Revenues and Expenditures

## **River Forest Township Board-Related Activities**

- **Recognized by proclamation**: Deb DiChinistso, former Deputy Assessor; Dementia Friendly River Forest (DFRF) leaders and process
- Established **Clerk Attestation to Payments**, per new IL statute
- Renewed **Notary Public certification**

**Regular Meeting Commitments** – attended and provided status reports at the following:

- **Monthly:** RF Township Board of Trustees, RF Administrators Forum, RF Mental Health Committee, OP & RF Township Youth Services Committee, Success of All Youth (SAY), IMPACT/IMPACT School Committee, OPRF Workgroup for Positive Youth Development (PYD)/Leadership Committee (underage drinking grant), Suicide Prevention Task Force, Opioid Task Force.
- **Quarterly:** RF Council of Government (COG), OP & RF Business Managers Meeting, OP & RF Township Senior Services Committee, OP & RF Community Foundation Communityworks Advisory Board and Guidance Team.
- **Twice per year:** RFCCA Capital Improvement Committee.

### **RF Civic Center Authority (RFCCA)**

- Member of **RFCCA Board of Managers.**
- Attended **North Avenue TIF** meeting at VRF.
- Extensively involved in **feasibility study** regarding expansion/renovation/rebuilding of RFCCA Building.
- **Presented to initial consultant** on above project regarding Township space needs and RFCCA Building background/history
- Staffed RFCCA Building as **warming center** during deep freeze

### **General Communications/Awareness**

- Participated in and sponsored **Rotary Food Truck Rally 2018**; had successful booth with Wheel of Services, Abraham Lincoln, senior bus.
- Participated in **2018 Township Day** in partnership with Oak Park Township.
- Developed Township calendar for input to **RFhappenings.com community calendar.**
- **Developed new flier** to communicate overall Township services, utilizing new graphics.
- **Revised/updated 100 year logo** to reflect values of Caring, Connection, and Community.
- **Worked with Assessor** to create outreach packets for seniors and design flier for Assessor mailings.
- Maintained **display racks** at RFCCA Building and Village Hall for all Township materials
- Maintained dedicated **Township bulletin boards** at RFCCA Building.

- Continued work with **Inside Edge communications** firm to issue press releases, maintain facebook and twitter social media, and other projects. Ensured strong promotion of Township-sponsored events.
- Continued to **promote Township events and services** in monthly RF Village eNews, quarterly RF Park District Fun Guide, quarterly Township Seniors Services News & Views newsletter.
- Continued to **maintain current Township website**.
- Marched in **2018 Memorial Day Parade** with senior bus.
- Maintained **communication with local media**.

### **Community Outreach**

- Attended the following **community events**:
  - ✓ Rotary lunch (suicide prevention training)
  - ✓ RFPL Strategic Planning session
  - ✓ Annual Rotary award breakfast
  - ✓ New Moms ribbon cutting
  - ✓ Sarah's Inn breakfast
  - ✓ OPRF CF Big Idea event
  - ✓ OPRF Food Pantry fundraiser
  - ✓ OP RF Education Foundation
  - ✓ NAMI Living Room grand opening
  - ✓ OPRF CF Leadership Lab graduation
  - ✓ Suicide Prevention Conference reception by Riveredge Hospital
  - ✓ OP CMHB open house
  - ✓ Chamber of Commerce networking event
  - ✓ YEMBA fundraiser
  - ✓ OPRF CF Women in Philanthropy suicide prevention panel
  - ✓ Encore Chorale holiday concert

### **Mental Health Services (with Mental Health Administrator)**

- Attended monthly ***RF Mental Committee (MHC) meetings***; provided status report.
- Continued implementation of the ***Health Needs Assessment Plan*** with OP CMHB, Oak Park Health Dept and community partners.
- With OP CMHB and Healthy Communities Foundation, participated in vendor selection process for **point of entry/closed loop referral software system**; selected Aunt Bertha as vendor. Participated in naming

www.healthconnectionhub.org, **the HUB**; developed logo, marketing to agencies, training and implementation.

- In partnership with Concordia University departments of counseling and gerontology, OP CMHB, and Township Senior Services, sponsored and did outreach for **Meaningful Living Groups for older adults**.
- In partnership with Concordia University departments of counseling and gerontology, OP CMHB, and Township Senior Services, developed and conducted **National Older Adult Mental Awareness Day**, including screenings and follow up.
- Served on **Suicide Prevention Task Force** and with community partners, sponsored and rolled out the **Support 4U texting program** for OP and RF middle and high school students.
- Made **packets for the homeless** with paramedics; connected first responders with Housing Forward.
- Continued to do outreach and administration for **Sibshops** program, in partnership with Thrive Counseling Center.
- Continued partnership with **LOSS from Catholic Charities** to co-sponsor non-denominational support group for those who have lost loved ones to suicide; provided space; helped with publicity.
- Worked to promote **safe disposal of medications**.
- Continued and strengthened relationship with Oak Park CMHB Youth and Family **Behavioral Health Consortium**; co-sponsored annual breakfast; attended quarterly meetings.
- Participated in **Developmental Disabilities Consortium** and helped fund parent outreach and education program; attended quarterly meetings.
- Attended **mental health funders group** meeting with L. DeVivo.
- Provided space and AV support for **Strengthening Families** program.

### **Senior Services (with Senior Outreach Coordinator)**

- Attended quarterly **Senior Services Committee** meetings when Trustee Taubman and/or Cathaleen Roach were unable; provided status report.
- Filled 1 vacant position on the **OP RF Township Senior Services Committee**.
- With Township Senior Services, Arbor West Neighbors and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, developed and introduced the **Great Neighbors Program**
- Served on Dementia Friendly River Forest (DFRF) task force, to support VRF initiative and be active stakeholder in implementation
- Continued to co-sponsor **Gather, Discover, Engage** with RF Public Library, including Coffee Monday, Connect with Tech, Film Lovers Friday and Social Stitching.

- With RFPL, continued to co-sponsor and further expand ***Celebrating Seniors All Year Long*** monthly series of programs and lectures.
- Co-sponsored and supported ***2018 Celebrating Seniors Week***; attended 2018 CSW “60 over 60 rib fest”, CSW closing lunch; sponsored 2018 programs and secured space for other programs.
- Helped plan programs for ***2019 CSW*** and assisted with “60 over 60” award process.
- Sponsored and attended “**Changing Aging**” lunch and program, spearheaded by Marc Blesoff and *Wednesday Journal*.
- Continued indoor ***pickleball*** for seniors at Tennis and Fitness Centre in Oak Park
- Continued partnership with ***OP RF Encore Chorale*** senior choir; offered scholarships; did outreach and publicity.
- Continued partnership with ***Arbor West Neighbors***; participated in Asset Mapping project.
- Moved **SHIP** here one Friday per month
- Continued **partnership with AARP and Triton** to offer free income tax assistance to qualifying seniors; helped with outreach and publicity.
- Met with **Senior Lifestyle representatives**; developer of new assisted living facility in RF

### Youth Services

- Attended **monthly Youth Services Committee meetings** as Township liaison; provided status report.
- Supported and promoted **renewal of the Youth Interventionist Program IGA** to RF taxing bodies.
- Received **Lt. Governor’s award for collaboration “best practices”** for Youth Interventionist Program
- Member of OP & RF Community Foundation’s **Success of All Youth (SAY)** Steering Committee.
- Participated in interview and selection process for **new Township Youth Services Director**, M. Traficano.

### General Assistance

- **Supported GA Administrator’s efforts** to work with GA client, GA candidates and others in financial need.
- **Raised monthly GA flat grant** from \$300 to \$350.

## Oak Park Township

- Maintained **ongoing positive relationship** and met regularly with Oak Park Township Supervisor, Manager and staff.
- Co-sponsored and participated in **OP RF Township Volunteer Breakfast**.
- Marched with **Oak Park Township in July 4 parade** in Oak Park.
- Participated in development of **OPT strategic plan**.

## Substance Prevention

- Continued relationship with **IMP.A.C.T. community coalition**, as their goal of addressing underage substance use directly aligns with the Township's youth and mental health mission.
- Sponsored and attended PYD/OPRF HS/IMPACT **vaping parent forum** at OPRF HS, spring 2018.
- Sponsored, funded and planned with PYD/OPRF/IMPACT the 4/25/19 "**Hidden in Plain Sight**" **parent forum** and panel event.
- Continued to serve on **PYD School Committee** and PYD general steering committee; collaborated with OPRF HS student prevention programs
- Joined **Opioid Task Force** with community partners, as part of IMPACT grant from OPRF Community Foundation for opioid/prescription drug prevention.
- Continued **in-kind support of IMP.A.C.T.** in terms of office space, phone, etc.

## Holiday Food and Gift Basket

- Continued **in-kind support of Holiday Food and Gift Basket**, as it fulfills the Township mission of serving youth, seniors and those receiving General Assistance, including office and conference space, computer, copier, storage.
- Continued **grant support to HFGB** for RF residents.

## Training- completed the following:

- 3-day TOI Conference in Springfield.
- Suicide Prevention Conference at Loyola Medical School
- Women in Leadership conference at Riveredge Hospital
- Thrive Talk on dementia
- Dementia Friendly Live Training
- Assessing Impacts of Funding (OPRF CF)

## TOCC/TOI

- Attended **Township Topics Day in Springfield**; met with legislators and other Townships regarding Township-related legislation.
- Member **TOCC Board**; co-chair of **TOCC legislative committee**.
- Attended TOCC Board meetings, TOCC conferences and TOCC Supervisor Division meetings.
- Contributed to TOCC monthly magazine.