



October 2019

Village of River Grove, Illinois

# Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

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## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Friendly Neighbors,

September is a humbling month as we reflect and remember 9/11. The tragedy is permanently stamped in our minds. We all remember where we were and what we were doing. It's still difficult to take in such a tragedy and imagine how there could be so much evil in this world.

What I focus on, though, is September 12: a nation unified under one flag, all Americans rowing the boat in the same direction and everyone cheering for the same TEAM. Although River Grove makes up just a small sliver of this great country, our village is united. We are committed to working together to make our town an even better place to live.

This past month, I was contacted by a long-time resident who made an anonymous donation of a couple thousand dollars to our food pantry. Although this person wishes to remain anonymous, I would like to publicly acknowledge their act of kindness and hope they are reading this now. Thank you.

Sue, Billie and Susan – our dedicated food pantry operators – were pleased, as this will go a long way in helping River Grove families in need. Actions like these make me so proud to be mayor of our great town. Remember, donations to the food pantry can be dropped off at anytime during normal business hours. No donation is too big or small – whether it be monetary, food or toiletries.

I hope to see you at this year's **Fall Flannel Fest** on **October 5**. Alpine Thunder will be on the Gazebo Stage, and we invite you to participate in River Grove's first-ever Stein Hoisting competition. There will be plenty of fall activities for kids, too, such as pony rides and a petting zoo.

**Remember, Halloween is right around the corner. Please enjoy the holiday and be safe!**

*Warm Regards, Mayor David B. Guerin* E-mail ([mayor@rivergroveil.gov](mailto:mayor@rivergroveil.gov)), follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

### Halloween Safety in River Grove

It is the village's recommendation that trick or treat hours be from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. We would also encourage parents or guardians to accompany all minor children and ask the smaller children wear some sort of reflective clothing or shoes, if they intend on crossing neighborhood streets. We also recommend that adults inspect candy and report any suspicious treats to the police.

For those residents who have pets, make sure the pets are secured, in the home, when opening doors to hand out treats. Proper collars, with pet names and owner information, should also be worn by cats and dogs in case they run out of the home.



### From the River Grove Fire Department

**Fire Prevention:** All the success in fire prevention we have experienced over the past few years is the reason we must keep trying to better educate our citizens.

#### Fire Facts:

- A fire is reported to fire departments in the U.S. every 15 seconds.
- Fire kills in the U.S. every 97 minutes.
- Smoking materials are the number one cause of home fire fatalities in the U.S.
- Heating equipment is the number one cause of home fires in the U.S.
- Cooking equipment is the number one cause of home fire injuries in the U.S.
- Most home fires (nearly two-thirds) begin in kitchens, chimneys, bedrooms, or living rooms.
- The peak period for home fires is 6:00–7:00 p.m.; the peak period for home fire deaths is 2:00–3:00 a.m.
- Both home fires and home fire deaths peak in the cold-weather months.

#### What can you do?

- Have a home evacuation plan for your family; and practice it.
- Check your smoke detectors and change batteries if applicable.
- Smoke detectors in your home reduces your risk of dying in a home fire by 50%.  
The Village of River Grove's "Smoke Alarm Program" is always available; so there is no reason to delay. To protect your family simply call the non-emergency fire department which is: **708-453-1429**.

**Shout Out!** **Bart A. Smith** graduated from River Grove Elementary School, Fenwick High School, and continued on to the University of Colorado-Boulder where he graduated with honors and a bachelor's degree in political science and geography. After working for the University of Colorado for three years, Bart returned to school and received his law degree from ITT Chicago-Kent College of Law, graduating with high honors in 1988, and was admitted to the Order of the Coif. Following law school, Bart served as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Robert E. DeMascio of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, and then as an associate attorney with the firm of Hardy, Lewis, Pollard & Page in Birmingham, Michigan. Bart returned to Illinois in 1991 and has served as the firm's managing partner since that time. His practice is concentrated in the areas of business and estate, municipal law, and probate matters. In addition to his private practice, Bart has served as corporation counsel to the Village of River Grove and its Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals for over 25 years, and previously served as counsel to the Schiller Park Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

In addition to being an attorney, Bart is the secretary and a board member of the Triton College Foundation, a director with the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce, and the former treasurer of the River Grove Lions Club and a former director of the Leyden Area United Way. Over the years, has organized, promoted and operated numerous events for local charitable and political causes. More recently, the past two years he has organized two teams of bicyclists to complete the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI), a week long 500 miles ride across the hilly terrain between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; and has participated in June each year in the Great Cycle Challenge benefiting the Children's Cancer Research Foundation during which he has pedaled over 1,190 miles and raised over \$16,655. He finds the Great Cycle Challenge a most rewarding experience not only for the benefits it provides to fighting kid's cancer, but experiencing the amazing support he has received from family, friends and the community. When he signed up for this challenge, he pledged to ride 500 miles and raise \$500 ... little did he expect to raise that \$500 the first day and have it turn into \$6,110 in 2018, and \$10,545 in 2019. Bart and his wife Marjorie continue to reside in town, and remain committed to making River Grove a better place for all of us to live, work and play.



## Project Update from the Village Engineer

**Pardon Our Dust** – The Village has a busy fall schedule for the its capital Improvements programs. While each project may cause some short-term to inconvenience the improvements will long be appreciated by affected residents. The following project are soon to be underway:

**2019 Green Alleys** – Final plans and environmental clearances were obtained, and the Village will be constructing three new “green alleys” in River Grove. The work is being done in the area between Oak Street and Forest View Avenue from Fullerton Avenue to Roosevelt Lane. In total the project will remove 150,000 gallons of runoff from storms from our sewer system. “Green Alleys” use a permeable brick paver and an aggregate base to store runoff from storm events. The runoff is infiltrated into the soils based on the natural percolation rates of the soils below the permeable pavers system. The removal of the reduces the frequency and duration of the sewers being full, which can lead to sewer back-ups into basements. Work will begin in mid-October and be completed in November. The project is partially funded with \$385,000 grant the village received from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

**2019 Fullerton Avenue Improvements** – The reconstruction of Fullerton Avenue between Maple Avenue and First Avenue is set to begin in October. The Village will replace the old deteriorated water main from First Avenue to Maple Avenue, which has been a cause of leaks every winter for the last few years. After the water main is replaced work will begin on installing curb and gutter, new sidewalk and completing the reconstruction the pavement including new base and asphalt. During the project the work will be phased to allow for parents to access the drop-off area for River Grove School. The work will include re-alignment of the road and traffic improvements to help reduce the speed along this section of roadway. The Village has received a grant in the amount of \$265,000 from Cook County to help fund the project improvements.

**2019 Alley Parking Lot Improvements** – The village has opened bids and will begin on the construction in the second week of October. The north Grand Avenue alley between Marwood and Budd Streets will be replaced with a concrete alley pavement, and new diagonal parking stalls on Tarpey Lane north of Grand Avenue to accommodate parking from apartments along Grand Avenue constructed.

**Demolition Project:** The Village will be clearing its property of two structures it has acquired recently. 2743 Marwood Street is a single-family residential home that will be cleared in order to provide better access as part of the old Public Works sites redevelopment. 8135 Grand Avenue is an old commercial site that has been vacant for many years that Village acquired through Cook County. Both properties will be cleared and will remained vacant landscaped parcels for the near future as plans are developed in these locations.



**Please Remember STOP Speeding...STOP Littering...and STOP at Stop Signs...FOR OUR KIDS!**