



December 2019

Village of River Grove, Illinois

# Newsletter



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## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Friendly Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a beautiful Thanksgiving loaded with good food, family time and football! I am thankful for many things, but right now, I want to thank one person: you. That's right, you reading this newsletter. You could be living anywhere on Earth, and you chose River Grove to call home. We are thankful to have you as a friendly neighbor.

For many, December is the most wonderful time of the year. Christmas trees with bright lights, carols being sung by all, children scanning the sky for Santa and holiday gatherings with friends and family. We celebrate together in our safe town. We celebrate our neighbors, we celebrate our diversity, but most of all, we celebrate our loved ones. We remember our Christmas past and make new Christmas memories.

I hope to see you at any one of our many Christmas events, and I wish you the very best this holiday season. God Bless you and yours, from my family to yours. The new year is very bright, and I humbly thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a public servant.

***Merry Christmas, and best wishes in 2020!***

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

### December Safety Tips from the River Grove Fire Department:

**A Fire-Safe Holiday:** People gathering together is the real joy of the holiday season. Take a few moments to protect your friends and family from an unexpected tragedy. Test the smoke alarms in your home to make sure they're working, and be certain everyone in your family knows and practices your home fire escape plan.

**Candle Care:** Candles are a traditional and beautiful part of the holiday season. They are also a direct source of fire in your home, so be cautious with them. Use non-flammable holders and position candles a safe distance from your Christmas tree and other holiday decorations. Children are always fascinated by candles and are drawn to them, so place yours safely out of children's reach. **Christmas Tree Safety:** It's the holiday season and time to find just the right Christmas tree. Look for one that's fresh and green. The needles should bend and not snap between your fingers. At home, find a cool spot for your tree, away from heater vents and the fireplace. A dry tree is a serious fire hazard, so water yours often. After the holidays, dispose of the tree safely at a recycling center or with your pick-up service.

#### Plan ahead for cold weather:

- Plan ahead for the adversities of the winter season by taking a few simple preventative measures.
- Make certain your wood stove and heating system are always properly maintained and ready for extended use.
- For maintenance of your heating system contact your service person.
- Protect your water pipes from freezing by planning ahead.
- Turn off all outside faucets (preferably from an inside shut-off to each faucet).
- If no inside shut-off is provided, wrap the pipe with approved (UL) heating tape. You may also turn on any inside faucet, letting water drip slightly, allowing for expansion.
- Make certain that all vents from the crawl space under the house are closed or sealed to keep out cold air.
- **Note:** Should pipes become frozen do not use torches or other flame-producing equipment. A hair dryer often will thaw pipes, as will the application of warm water. Pay particular attention to the north and east sides of the house as they are vulnerable to freezing due to prevailing winds. In the event a broken pipe occurs, plan ahead by locating the main shut-off to the house and be prepared with a proper-fitting wrench.



**Holiday Fire Safety**



## Shout Out... Retiring Fire Chief Larry LaRiviere

After almost 20 years of service as the River Grove Fire Chief, Larry LaRiviere announced his retirement effective December 27, 2019. A second generation firefighter, Larry was first appointed as the River Grove fire chief in July 2000, bringing 30 years of emergency response experience to his new position. Chief Larry started his career in 1969 with the Franklin Park Fire Department where he attained both advanced firefighter and paramedic State certifications. Seven years later he took the job as paramedic coordinator for the

Village of Lincolnwood and eventually attained the rank of Battalion Chief in that town.

Chief Larry implemented a referendum providing around-the-clock paramedic and fire protection for the Village of River Grove. He restructured the rank of officers and department chain of command and is credited with the hiring of 50 new members and the remodeling of the station to accommodate additional personnel. He won several FEMA grant awards, upgraded department policies and procedures, expanded mutual aid agreements with neighboring municipalities, restructured and improved ambulance billing procedures and restructured the 2% fund to comply to state statutes. It was under Chief LaRiviere's command that the residential smoke detector program began, he was the one who began the Santa Stop food drive. He also conducted a "Boot Day" and other fund raisers for Illinois Burn Camp. He instituted the flu shot program, the senior blood pressure screening programs, vile of life program, the pet sticker program and the In-home oxygen alert stickers. The Chief can also be credited as being instrumental in the acquisition of new needed vehicles, air packs and protective firefighting gear. The village will miss Chief Larry's experience and expertise in running the fire department operations and wish him the best of luck in his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service to the village.



## River Grove Lions Park

The River Grove Lions Park located adjacent to the Gazebo at Carey Ave. and Ditka Dr. is near completion. The new playground is available to the residents of River Grove. The beautification of the park will take place in the spring but it can be used now, weather permitting. The River Grove Lions will be constructing a trail around the park and will be a showcase for all to enjoy for generations to come. The River Grove Lions Club donated a substantial amount of money for this park and obtained a matching grant from the Lions Club International. The village is so fortunate and extremely grateful to the Lions Club for their support in this evolving project. Dedication of this park will happen upon completion next spring.



## Senior Snow Service Program Reminder!

The village has partnered with Village Landscaping who is able to offer snow shovel service at a discounted rate to seniors. For more information **call Joe or Ralph at (708) 244-8443.**

