



January 2020

Village of River Grove, Illinois

# Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee

Bob Thomas Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Friendly Neighbors,

It was wonderful to see all the beautiful Christmas and Holiday decorations to close out 2019! Happy New Year to one and all! The new year gives us chance to reflect on the past and look forward to the future.

This year flew by, and I am proud of the great things happening in our area. Our community continues to grow and is filled with positive energy. We are investing in infrastructure improvements, equipment upgrades, building repairs and human resources in an effort to improve our services and the quality of life for our residents. River Grove will remain a highly-desirable place to live thanks to these improvements.

We look forward to many great community events in 2020. I encourage all residents to join the fun at River Front Park, with many signature events incorporating live music, delicious food and libations. River Front Park is the toast of Leyden Township, even more so with our newest addition: the much-needed, \$250,000 rehabilitation of the kid's park. This renovation was only made possible thanks to the generous grants and private donations from our local Lions Club, which funded \$225,000 of the project's budget. The Lions Club will also help incorporate a one-of-a-kind "braille trail" for the vision impaired, making one of the nicest parks in the area one of the most inclusive as well. Parks and green space increase the value of your home and make the town more appealing to first-time homebuyers. That is why we will continue to enhance our parks, both existing and new, throughout the village.

Stay tuned for my second-annual State of the Village. This document will give a snapshot of where the village was, is and will be going. Most importantly, it will show you where your tax dollars are being spent. My staff, the village board and myself are committed to being transparent and fiscally responsible. I am proud of everything we, as a community, have accomplished in a relatively short timeframe with limited resources. Less than 24% of every tax dollar goes to the village, providing services like police protection, fire safety, paramedic service, public works, clean water, recreational opportunities and much more. Be sure to look for the State of the Village in your February water bill. I encourage you to share the information with your friends and neighbors.

I am always available for you, and I thank you for the privilege of being your public servant. I will continue to fight for our great village! *Here's to you and a healthy-and-happy year ahead!*

**David B. Guerin** Village President

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### From the River Grove Public Safety Team

By far, the most common cause for delay in emergency response is the lack of proper address markings. This is a serious problem that can be easily corrected. Here are some suggestions to help your fire, police and public works departments serve you better.

- If your home is visible from the street, place large numerals on the house in a position that is easily recognized. Use numerals as opposed to script. Script is often difficult to read quickly.
- If your home is set back, place your address numerals on a sign close to the street. Be sure that it can be easily read from any direction.
- If your residence has an alley, be sure to post address numerals in the back of your home as well as the front.
- If you place an emergency call from a neighbor's house, give the address where the emergency is, not where you are calling from.
- If possible, have someone meet us at the door or end of the driveway to guide us to the emergency.

*Remember, anything you can do to help us find you, is a good thing!*



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

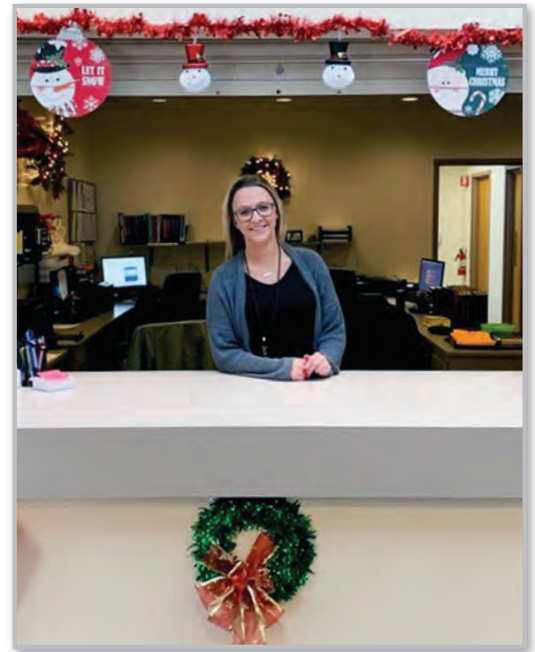


## Shout Out to Catherine Karda

The newest Building Department Administrator that will be helping residents at the front desk is Catherine Karda. Her duties include processing permits, keeping up with rental inspections, sending out certifications, and keeping the contractors licenses and certificates current in the files. Catherine enjoys working with and serving the public which she has been doing for the past 10 years by working in retail and as an assistant daycare teacher where she worked with and taught two year olds. Additionally, she worked at a local restaurant where she met and served many residents and

employees of River Grove. Catherine has been with the village for 9 months. She started as a part time employee and quickly moved into a full time slot when an opening became available. She enjoys her job working with the people of River Grove.

Catherine was born and raised in Chicago where she currently lives with her mother and sister and enjoys doing things with her family. Her favorite weekend activities include spending time with friends, going shopping, catching a new movie in theaters, and checking out restaurants and different types of food!



## 2019

### River Grove House Decorating Contest Winners!

The Village of River Grove looked amazing this past holiday season with all of the wonderfully decorated homes. Our judges had a very hard time trying to limit it to three winners.

That being said they did decide on the following:

**1st Place 2264 Elm Street**

**2nd Place 2523 Erie Street**

**3rd Place 2841 Forest Avenue**

All winners received a gift card to DaLuciano's. Thanks to all who decorated.



## From Public Works Director Brock Leder

Hello River Grove Resident's,

Our 2019 50/50 tree planting was a success this year. 29 residents got involved and we planted 32 trees this year on our village parkways. The trees included 1 Crab, 3 Redbuds, 2 Pears, 11 Autumn Blazes, 4 Lilacs, 1 Frontier Elm, 3 Accolade Elms, 2 Red Maples, 1 Sweet Gum, 2 Lindens, 1 Weeping Willow and a White Oak that was purchased by the River Grove Police Department in memory of 26 year retired River Grove Police Lieutenant Steve Oelkers.

Our 2019 50/50 Sidewalk replacement program was renamed the sidewalk liability replacement. It's been 10 years since we had this program in place and I thought that we should replace the damaged trip spots in town before the hairline cracks. There are many more trip spots in town, please be patient as we plan to get to them all as we keep this program a part of the budget.

## 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.**

