



April 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 is difficult to find the words to express how to feel in today's ever changing environment with the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone is affected by it. Whether you or your spouse or family members are in the health care field, a first responder, have your kids home from school, have had your business shut down or been laid off, difficult times and challenges are being experienced by all of us.

As your Mayor, the safety of our residents and employees is my number one priority. The Village has implemented a COVID-19 action plan which may be reviewed on the village website at www.rivergroveil.gov. Also, in this newsletter is information on how to sign up for the most up-to-date information from around our village. I encourage all residents to sign up for these alerts, and if you are having problems doing so, please call the village hall and the staff will be happy to assist you. As tough as the challenges before us may appear, we will pull through this together.

In closing, I wish you and your family a Happy Easter, and remember that I am always available to address any questions or concerns you might have.

Thank you, David B. Guerin E-mail (mayor@rivergroveil.gov), follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Sign up for messages and alerts from the Village of River Grove

Communication is so important to our Village. Mayor Guerin, Village Officials and Department heads want to make sure that our village is informed with accurate information at all times. The Village of River Grove has partnered with Civic Ready to provide village administrators the ability to reach local residents within minutes, through a single phone call. Connect CTY, Civic Ready will allow the village officials and department heads to communicate with residents about time-sensitive matters, such as unforeseen events or emergencies, as well as to provide other community related information deemed to be in the public interest. It is so important in today's environment to have real time information. Please register by going to: <https://www.rivergroveil.gov/EmergencyAlerts>

Just follow the prompts to sign up for emergency alerts and routine notifications.

Reminders to River Grove Residents:

- The River Grove Food Pantry is open twice a week on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. This is a service offered to River Grove residents. If you find yourself in an emergency situation and need the food pantry's services, please call the Village Hall at 708-453-8000.
- Need a ride somewhere? If you are a River Grove Senior, you can call the Village at 708-453-8000 and schedule a ride on our PACE bus. The cost is \$1 each way.
- The River Grove Public Works is open the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon for electronics drop off.
- All garbage that is not put in your garbage container must be tagged with a yellow village sticker. These can be purchased at the Village Hall for \$2 per sticker.
- If you are a Senior citizen in the Village of River Grove and in need of grass cutting this summer, call Village Landscaping at 708-214-0879 (Joe) or 708-244-8443 (Ralph). Make sure you ask for the special River Grove Senior rate!
- Just a friendly reminder – the annual renewal deadline for pet licenses is June 30th. For the safety of our residents and pets, we require that owners purchase an annual pet license which requires proof of rabies vaccination. The fee for the license is \$5. Those in violation could be subject to a fine.



Construction Update The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is investing in the repair of the Grand Avenue bridge in River Grove. This project has started and completion time is looking like summer 2020. Please be alert to traffic delays and the traffic patterns. IDOT has installed new traffic signals at Grand and River Road. They will be repairing the sidewalks to make them ADA compatible and repairing the cracking concrete and asphalt on the bridges structure. We apologize for any inconvenience this project may cause. We thank you in advance for your patience.



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

Shout Out!

The Village of River Grove is very happy to welcome Sean Flynn as our new Fire Chief, which was effective in the beginning of 2020. Sean Flynn started his career in the fire service almost 30 years ago as a contract paramedic with the Franklin Park Fire Department. He also worked as a contract paramedic for the Leyden Fire Protection District and the Norwood Park Fire Protection District. In June of 1994, he was hired as a Paramedic for the Village of River Grove's new Paramedic program. In Sean's 25-year career, he has risen through the ranks as a: Paramedic, Firefighter-Paramedic, EMS Coordinator, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief and now the Fire Chief. Sean's education is commensurate with his positions within the Fire Service. He recently achieved the highest fire officer certification within the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM), Chief Fire Officer. Sean is also an OSFM Fire Instructor III and an IDPH EMS Lead Instructor that allows him to teach both Emergency Medical and Fire Science Classes at Triton Community College. Sean has been a Triton faculty member for over 5 years now. Sean has also earned an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science Management and is completing his Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration. He is also a member of the River Grove's Moose Lodge and the River Grove Lions Club. Sean previously served on the Guerin Prep High School Booster Club where all of his male children attended. Sean is committed to the Village of River Grove and is especially interested in assisting the River Grove Food Pantry and carrying on the legacy of Myron Legg. Sean wants the Fire Department to be a strong pillar in the community. Sean is also a 24-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department where he currently holds the position of Assistant Deputy Chief Paramedic.



Stuck at Home? Looking for ideas for what to do around the house when you're avoiding crowds in an attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus? We thought it would be helpful to share these useful ideas!

Check on relatives and neighbors This is a great time to make sure people are okay and safe. Have the kids write a letter or send a card to a relative or person who might need a little pick me up.

Explore your backyard Sure, you're in a de facto state of staycationing already, but make it special. Set up a tent and camp in the backyard. Have the space for a garden? Create one, or at least an area for potted plants. Buy some outdoor games, such as ladderball, cornhole or KanJam.

Redecorate Does your kid want a fun, colorful room that reflects his or her interests? Is your young teen ready to grow out of those bright pink or baby blue walls? Make it happen. Redo some walls, swap out some furniture or shop for a rug or lighting. Plus, can you come up with a more fun excuse to have them completely clean their rooms? It could even be time to reorganize the playroom and set up a system for containing all those toys.

Binge watch This isn't a novel suggestion, but there's simply too much content out there to have possibly watched everything you and your kids want to see. Take a day or two to turn into such a couch potato that your brain gets mashed. Maybe use this as a good excuse to try Disney+ if you haven't already, or any of the numerous streaming services available.

Create a craft Use those art supplies. It could be time to make those bird boxes you were thinking about, or try some painting. There are thousands of crafts you could create from just a few affordable supplies, using your imagination (and maybe Pinterest).

Break out the board games You can get a lot of mileage out of a few smart board games, even if your family members claim they're not competitive. Break out the classics, such as Life or Monopoly, or buy some new ones — it's hard to go wrong. Or you can see if your kids want to design their own games. If your family wants something on the more calming side, there are always puzzles.

Reintroduce reading If your kid complains about how boring reading is, clearly you need to introduce them to some good literature. If you can't visit a public library or bookstore, don't forget about the digital books available on most tablet apps.

Act it out Do you have some budding thespians in your home? If so, put their acting skills and imagination to use by breaking out some old Halloween costumes. Your kids can write their own scripts and act out their parts while in costume.

Keep school skills fresh Help younger kids keep their learning skills fresh with grade-appropriate activities. Look for fun math problem books, science experiment kits and writing prompts for kids, available online. *Taken from The Dallas Morning News



Why the Census Matters to River Grove

Information from the census shapes our communities and influences our village voice in Congress. The census tells us who we are as a nation and what we need. The data collected is used to determine what resources River Grove and other communities need. Funds are provided to state and local governments who then use that money to fund programs and infrastructure needs. An accurate census ensures equal political representation and fair allocation of government resources. For example, census data can determine how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives, and to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts. River Grove relies on population counts to make important decisions about local policies and funding. You should have received a mailing regarding the Census already. However, you may also fill out the Census online at www.my2020census.gov



River Grove employees took on the 8th grade **River Grove Royals** basketball team. It was a tough battle and a good time was had by all. The employee team was coached by Mayor Dave Guerin. Pictured from left to right: John Camardo, Rudy Krall, Kevin Kross, Steve Shragal, Katie Muellner, Jerry Casamassimo, Matt Kelly, Lynn Bjorvik, Michelle Styrczula, John "Bucky" Bjorvik.