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From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

First and foremost, congratulations to all of our graduates. You are the first class to ever utilize virtual learning as a generation. There is no question that these skills will stay with you the rest of your life. They will make you a stronger person once you enter the work force or as you continue your education. I would also like to congratulate the parents or guardians for adapting to home schooling during this most difficult time. As a parent of three, I understand the challenges that may arise and I salute all of you!

As our basements dry and the weather turns into the warmer months, the sounds and smells of summer are upon us. The scent of fresh grass clippings in the air mixed with our neighbor's BBQ. We enjoy a well-deserved ice-cold lemonade after completion of our house chores as the sun sets over the garage. The River Grove tree canopy provides its signature shade over our streets and creates an escape, if only for a minute as we wrestle with our problems of the day. Some big and some small, but we have faith as we know all things will pass, because they always do.

Summer in River Grove will be different this year and it is with great regret that we will be postponing the River Front Fest due to the Governors order banning gatherings of large groups. We thank all the volunteers, food vendors, carnival, and bands that were ready to go. I have great confidence that we will be celebrating together once this is lifted, at beautiful River Front Park.

As a reminder I want to humbly ask all resident to please complete their census so that we are accurately counted for. The 2020 Census is so important to our Village.

I would be remiss if I did not give a shout out to all of our essential workers, they are the real hero's! Here in River Grove, I would like to thank our Police, Fire, Public Works and Village staff who have done a fantastic job during these uncertain times. I would remind everyone to keep the faith! These past few months have had their challenges, but they have made us stronger. We will get through all of this because we are: #RIVERGROVESTRONG

As always, I am available if you need anything.

Your friend and neighbor, David B. Guerin E-mail (mayor@rivergroveil.gov), follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Planting Day 2020

River Grove's planting day looked a whole lot different this year. Public Works, the River Grove Lions Club and the Beautification Committee all assembled people that wore masks and did their best to practice social distancing. 13 years ago the Duran Family (see picture) began planting with the village on planting day and haven't missed one since. The Duran family would not consider missing this day of community service. Due to construction on the bridge, they were unable to plant in that area. However, next time you drive down Grand Ave., pass the village hall, gazebo or train station please notice the beautiful planter boxes and colorful flowers. Hopefully, they will brighten your day.



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



April showers bring May flowers... isn't that the way it is supposed to happen?

Apparently not in the Village of friendly neighbors! This past May brought record setting rain totals and River Grove paid the price. Many streets in town were impassable for days and many residents had flooded basements that required lots of clean up. The Village's public safety teams were working day and night to try and keep up and help as many residents as possible. Police, Fire and Public Works all did their best to make sure resident's safety was the top priority. Mayor Guerin stated, *"Although the river divides us geographically, it brings us together during floods. I am proud of the resiliency of our residents and businesses along River Road."*



Shout Out!

Once again, our monthly shout out goes to a true hero. River Grove Firefighter/Paramedic and EMS Coordinator Robert "David" Reisinger lost his life on April 29, 2020. He worked for the RGFD since 2002 and was a retired EMS Coordinator for Stroger Hospital. River Grove Fire Chief Sean Flynn said, *"Dave was a truly gentle soul who wanted to help everyone."* Dave was given the combined EMS and Public Educator Award. This is a great honor that was bestowed upon him from the Illinois Department of Public Health. It was awarded for his contributions made in public education and EMS instruction for emergency medical services in Illinois. The award was presented posthumously during Emergency Medical Services Week. This distinguished award recognized Dave for his selfless dedication in providing education to the EMS community as well as the public. The River Grove firehouse is like family and Dave's passing has had a huge impact on the RGFD. Everyone thought Dave was a great guy and he will be sorely missed. This is a tragedy that has affected not only the firehouse but our entire village. While our village mourns we send our thoughts and prayers to Dave's family.



Be a Friendly Neighbor

The weather is warming up which means the grass is growing and spring cleaning is in full swing!

Just a few reminders to help you be a good neighbor and to keep our village looking great:

- Grass/lawns need to be maintained and anything growing over the fence should be trimmed.
- Clean weeds and debris from your garage apron.
- Yard waste can go into 30 gallon Kraft paper bags or approved can marked with an X.
- Plastic bags of garbage should not be left outside of garbage cans.
- Hazardous waste such as motor oil or tires cannot be left out for pick up.
- Recycle what is acceptable.

For more information about waste collection and other residential services, go to www.rivergroveil.gov

One last note – a visible address on your garage door will make it easier for Police, Fire or any other Village service to help you. Please make sure your address is visible from the alley.