



Newsletter

Village of River Grove, Illinois December 2020



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn Bjorkvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Bob Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving. In between the turkey and the football, I like to think of how thankful I am for my family, friends, and our neighborhood. We all have been through a lot this year but we must not lose sight of what is important. Through a pandemic and a turbulent national election, River Grove stands united. We take comfort in knowing that once this passes, and it will pass, our neighbors are there for us no matter what.

Thank you to all who attended the Chicagoland Veterans Command Post, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars dedication. The weather was beautiful, the military band was unbelievable and the museum is a must see when you have time. Many local veterans are honored there as well as showcases full of memorabilia. Salute to Commander Fiorintino and his team for putting together such a phenomenal local attraction. Salute to our Veterans today and every day.

I would also like to thank Chief Flynn and our great fire department for partnering with Walgreens to provide flu shots for our seniors and staff. Our blood drive with Red Cross was also a big success with all of the 48 appointments available being filled early on. Thank you to all of our community volunteers, it only reaffirmed how compassionate and generous our residents are.

It's the official start of Christmas and it couldn't come soon enough for my kids. Christmas wishes and treats make December a special month. I have noticed many residents have already decorated for the holidays, I don't envy the judges in this year's house decorating competition as our town is getting quite the reputation for great holiday decorations.

In closing Merry Christmas, keep the faith, maintain your distance, mask up and support local business. Best wishes from my family to yours. Please remember I am always available, feel free to reach out and contact me at: mayor@rivergroveil.gov.

Your friend and neighbor, David B. Guerin, follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Winter Holiday Fire Facts shared by the River Grove Fire Department

Christmas Trees

- U.S. fire departments respond to an average 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in (44%) of home Christmas tree fires.
- Christmas tree fires, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.

Holiday Decorations

- U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment.

Candles

- Candle fires started when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, was too close to the candle.
- The two peak days for candle fires were Christmas and Christmas Eve.

Holiday Cooking

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and then Christmas Eve.
- Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (19%) of home decoration fires. This can happen when a decoration is left on or too close to a stove or other cooking equipment.



Shout Out!

Shout out to **John "Bucky" Bjorkvick**, Water Department Supervisor. Born and raised in River Grove, Bucky started working for River Grove as temporary summer help in 1978. He became a full time employee in 1979, working as a laborer for Public Works. In 1983 Bucky received his water operator's license and has been with the Water Department ever since. Back in the day water meters were read by someone from the water department coming into your house and physically reading your meter. That someone was more than likely Bucky. These visits combined with his friendly, helpful and outgoing nature allowed him to get to know and help residents in remarkable ways. In 1985 Bucky became a paid on-call fireman with the village. He currently has the most seniority in the Fire Department and serves as a lieutenant. From water main breaks to the occasional animal pest that needed a new home, to his work as a fireman, he has served the Village and its residents with a smile and is definitely a part of why River Grove is The Village of Friendly Neighbors! Bucky said "I am amazed at the transformation of the Village since I started over 40 years ago". Thanks for being a part of it Bucky!



Cook County Provides COVID-19 Relief Funding For River Grove

Cook County received approximately \$429 million from the U.S. Treasury from the **CARES Act**. Under the Act, units of local government with a population exceeding 500,000 are eligible to receive this funding and can distribute these funds to municipalities under this threshold for direct expenses related to coronavirus. Per the CARES Act, these funds are NOT eligible for loss of revenues many local jurisdictions are unfortunately facing and only authorized for direct COVID-19 expenses. Cook County allocated \$51 million of this relief among the municipalities located within Cook County. The Village of River Grove was allocated \$458,814 in September 2020 and an additional \$12,000 in October 2020.

Allocations to each municipality were determined through an equitable lens, with factors that included, but that were not limited to the following: immediate needs of the municipality to respond to the pandemic, municipal population, municipal median income and municipal public health statistics. It is important to note that each municipality was required to apply for this funding allocation and such allocation were contingent on eligible cost reimbursement. Expenditures submitted by the Village for reimbursement under this agreement were regular salaries incurred by public safety personnel (police and fire) for the period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020. This partial reimbursement of public safety salary expenditures allowed the Village, which is facing financial pressure due to the pandemic, to prevent furloughs or lay-offs of employees who are needed to assist with the Village's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding allowed the Village to maintain current service levels provided to the entire population of the Village. The Village of River Grove extends its sincere gratitude to the Cook County administration for providing this opportunity to participate as a sub recipient of the Corona Virus Relief Funds.

During the month of November, Mayor Guerin, the Village Officials and the RGFD sponsored an event where Flu shots were available to R.G. Seniors and Staff. The Village hosted a blood drive with the American Red Cross 2 days later. Twenty-four first time donors participated along with many others. **We want to thank all who participated!**

