



Newsletter

Village of River Grove, Illinois January 2021



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee

Bob Thomas Trustee

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

From the Mayor's Desk

This past year has definitely been one for the books! For all of our sakes I hope we never experience a year like that again. Although we are not yet out of the woods, things are looking positive with the vaccine being distributed throughout the country and the world. We need to continue to be diligent about handwashing and wearing a mask when unable to keep a distance of 6 feet between people. I am very proud of the steps our businesses and residents have taken to protect the wellness of our community.

The new year is a time for great reflection and a chance to set new resolutions. This year I resolve to spend more quality time with my family and close friends. I will strive to build and grow my business relationships, be a better listener, and give a voice to those who do not have one. Please check out the New Year's resolutions of the elected officials and department heads in this newsletter.

While everyone was busy enjoying the holidays your Village Officials have been busy preparing our 2021 budget. Although Covid-19 has directly impacted everyone's budget both at home and in business, I am proud to say that through close monitoring and prudent financial decisions, the Village of River Grove is in great financial shape.

The Village Board met with the department Directors in early December to go over the departmental requests for the 2021 budget. Comptroller Greg Peters presented the board with the current status of the 2020 fiscal year ending on December 31st. One of the most noteworthy items in the presentation was; because of steps taken by the Village to curb expenditures, the Village ended 2020 with an increase in its cash position (approximately \$1.7 million) going forward into 2021. Much of those "savings" were due to deferred capital spending that in many cases, were added again to the 2021 spending plan. We are very proud of the budget we are presenting and I invite all of you to read my 2021 annual State of the Village address which will give you a more comprehensive look at our Village. I will continue to work hard on behalf of our residents and I am always available to address any questions you may have.

On behalf of the entire Village Staff and my family, may 2021 be a great year for all!

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

River Grove Police Chief...Giving Back

Each police chief in the 4th Court District was challenged by Ruth Gudino, the Assistant States Attorney Supervisor, to purchase one Christmas gift suitable for a child and donate that gift to the Proviso Children's Advocacy Center. The advocacy center works with all police departments in the district, it follows a specific protocol to interview child victims of sexual and physical abuse. Chief Mike Konwinski personally purchased a gift to donate on behalf of RGPD. **Thanks Chief, for making River Grove a contributor and helping the less fortunate!**

River Grove Annual Santa Stop

Sunday December 11th was a cold and very rainy day in River Grove but, to the delight of many children, that did not stop the River Grove Fire Department from taking Santa to 51 different houses in town. This annual event supporting the River Grove Food Pantry brings Santa by for a quick visit while the RGFD picks up non-perishable food donations. This year's event was a huge success. Not only was a record amount of food donated, they also collected a \$500 donation from the Homestretch Inn, in honor of the late Myron Legg.



Shout Out!

This month's shout out is to **Gina Leder**. Gina has been the Chief Mayoral Aide for the Village of River Grove since 2017. She is also the Deputy Clerk and responsible for issuing all business, liquor, and gaming licenses. Gina also manages the front office and is happy to help out any other department when needed. She grew up in Melrose Park and attended Immaculate Conception High School in Elmhurst, IL. She graduated from Triton College with a degree in Travel and Tourism and proceeded to work with European travel for 16 years. Needing a change of careers, Gina and her years of experience joined us at the Village Hall. Gina and her husband Brock have been married since September 2011. They moved to River Grove in December 2011 and currently reside on the west side of the river. They have two children; Brody is 6 years old and Payton is 5 years old. Gina enjoys spending time with family and friends and helping out at our many River Grove events.



Fire Training

These are pictures of the training in Schiller Park that RGFD participated in. It was coordinated through MABAS Division XX (surrounding towns) Department Chiefs/Training Officers in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Cornerstone Program. Funding for Cornerstone Program Courses is supported through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) so training is delivered at no cost.

Departments should routinely train with their neighboring mutual aid departments, "You play like you practice". These exercises enable members to share experiences that will benefit each department when called upon to operate together on future incident scenes. This training enables firefighters to respond more efficiently and provides firefighters with needed experience that will only benefit the towns they serve.

Thank you to the Village of Schiller Park, IL OSFM, IFSI and MABAS Division XX for this great opportunity.



New Year's Resolutions, from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Mayor David B. Guerin has asked all of the elected officials and his Department Heads for their 2021 New Year's Resolutions. Here they are:

Trustee Lynn Bjorvik: "I will do my best each day to have a positive impact on others!"

Trustee Roger Sewell: "I resolve to turn off the TV, to take long walks in the evening, to read more books, and to find new trails to explore by bike. In the words of David Bowie, "I don't know where I'm going from here but I promise it won't be boring."

Trustee Bobby Thomas: "I resolve to eliminate negative thoughts and maintain a positive attitude. "Good thoughts, good words, good deeds."

Trustee Michele Obaya: "I resolve to remove negativity from my life, strengthen my personal relationships, and be patient, loving and kind to anyone who's path I cross."

Trustee Katie Muellner: "My resolution is for patience. "Patience is a virtue"; I say it is more like a gift. It's a gift to give to others, and it's a gift that others have given us."

Trustee Chris Lilly: "I resolve to shake the hand of every police officer and firefighter in the village who has worked through the roughest year in memory."

Fire Chief Sean Flynn: "If 2020 taught me anything it is to put more emphasis on family and my religion."

Police Chief Mike Konwinski: "I resolve to stress less over those things that are truly beyond my control."

Public Works Director Brock Leder: "My resolution for 2021 is to light up the whole town for the Holidays!"

Building Commissioner Jim Duffy: "My resolution is to STOP SMOKING!!!!!!"

Chief Mayoral Aide Gina Leder: "Take more vacations, as long as the pandemic is over – this WILL be happening!"

Shawn Campbell Communications Director: "I resolve to take more time to listen to people and to try and remember every day is gift."

Clerk Margie Manchen: "My 2021 Resolution - To never forget the lessons learned from 2020, the year of the pandemic: expect less from others and more of myself, and never forget the lives and things we lost and how much more valuable lives, family members and friends are than things."

