



Newsletter

Village of River Grove, Illinois MAY 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

May Day May Day! Our trees, parks and flowers are in full bloom. The break in the weather has been highly anticipated as many River Grovers have been stuck inside due to State guidelines. Along with the beautiful weather returning so are some classic River Grove events that we have all come to know and love over the years.

Green thumbs wanted! Planting day is on Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. and is open to anyone who likes to get their hands dirty. Our residents are encouraged to participate in our annual planting day. Plant some flowers in designated parts of town and watch them provide beauty to all throughout the season. All you need to bring is yourself, as the beautification committee will guide you through the rest. Be the reason that River Grove is considered one of the most beautiful suburbs of Chicago!

I am proud to announce that River Grove has once again been awarded Tree City USA for the 26th year in a row. This is a huge accomplishment for our village. We were presented with this honor at our last board meeting.

Shout out to our local Lion's Club for bringing back Shred Day on Saturday, June 5 from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Recreation/VFW Center. It is at this event where you can destroy those sensitive documents, dispose of unused medicine, recycle old electronics and get rid of tires and paint that have been cluttering your garage. Remember if it can be read it must be shredded!

Mark those calendars for our Concerts in the Park, Unwined jazz and craft event and the River Front Fest and carnival this fall. I hope to see many of you throughout the summer and remember I am always available to listen to and address your concerns.

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



River Grove Fire Department Providing Smoke Alarms

The River Grove Fire Department is working cooperatively with the nonprofit Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide no-cost smoke alarms to residents of River Grove. These are available to owner-occupants either in single family homes or condos. The Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation program provides smoke alarms and fire prevention materials to Illinois fire departments in an effort to both educate residents on fire safety as well as to provide them with life-saving devices in their home. The program was developed to educate residents on the dangers of fire, how to prevent fire from occurring in the home, and to ensure there are working smoke alarms properly installed in homes. By utilizing 10-year concealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device. "Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device there is," says River Grove Fire Chief Sean Flynn. "By merely having a working smoke alarm in your home, it reduces your chance of dying in a reported fire in half." "Our goal is to make sure residents have the protection of a smoke alarm," says Chief Flynn. "Because smoke alarms alone won't prevent every fire death our program includes educating residents on how to create a home fire escape plan so they know what to do if their smoke alarm sounds."

Residents who wish to receive more information about River Grove's smoke alarm installation program should contact Captain John Paczesny at 630-606-1729

Congratulations to the RGPD

River Grove P.D. has achieved Gold level recognition for 2020 as part of the Lexipol Connect Customer Recognition Program, which recognizes law enforcement agencies for excellence in policy maintenance and training. Up-to-date policy and ongoing training are a priority for our agency and we are honored and excited to be recognized for our continued commitment to serving the community of River Grove in this way. This recognition would not be possible without the dedication of all our personnel to reading, understanding and acknowledging policy updates and completing Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs). This is the highest level of recognition currently offered by Lexipol.

Shout Out! Roger Sewell - River Grove Trustee

Roger Sewell has served as a trustee in the Village of River Grove since May 7, 2009. Prior to that he served as a member of the River Grove Zoning Board of Appeals from 2005-2009. As a Trustee, Roger started as the Buildings and Grounds committee chairperson in 2009 and served as Recreation committee chairperson before being appointed as the chairperson for the newly formed IT Committee in 2017. It was here where Roger played an instrumental role in the launching of our now professional website which can be found at www.rivergroveil.gov



Roger was born in Oak Park and graduated from Fenwick High School in 1988. He went on to North Central College where he played varsity football and wrote for the school newspaper. He graduated in 1993 with a B.A. in English. Roger and his wife Margret were married on November 9, 1996. They will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this fall! They have two children, Summer Belle and Roger Clay. Roger spent 13 years at Veterans Park District in Cook County, beginning as summer help and finishing as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. He spent the next 13 years as a Facility Manager for the law firm of Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery in Chicago. He is currently the grounds Supervisor at Graceland Cemetery and Arboretum in Chicago.

Roger has been a member of the River Park Moose Lodge since 2001 where he served as an elected officer twice as well as poker chairperson for four years; has been a member of the River Grove Nationals since 2001; has been a member of the River Grove Lions for the last ten years; served as co-Athletic Director at St. Cyprian with his wife, Margret, from 2010-2012; Roger was also a lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Cyprian's; He coached AYSO youth soccer in Elmwood Park; served as the Vice-President of River Grove T-Ball from 2005-2009; coached River Grove Flag Football for the first three years of the program. Roger's hobbies include playing bocce ball at Trumbull Park, attending weekend festivals, cooking and attending board game conventions all over the Midwest. When he's not doing any of these things, you can usually find him in his backyard with his family, gathered around the fire pit, telling tall tales and enjoying a nice cold beverage.

The Village will miss having Roger on our board, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors. We thank him for his service to the Village of River Grove for the past 12 years and know that he will continue to support River Grove in any way possible.



Community Camera Registration

The River Grove Police Department recognizes that we are all stakeholders in the community. Many of our residents and business owners utilize security cameras to deter crime. However, when crimes occur, cameras provide valuable evidence or information that could aid in an investigation. The River Grove Police Department is offering a voluntary camera registration program which is open to residents and businesses. This community camera program will allow us to know that you have working security cameras AND that you are willing to share video footage, or still images, if we are investigating a crime in the area. Registering your camera system is completely free and voluntary. The River Grove Police Department WILL NOT have direct access to your cameras. Additionally, your personal information will remain confidential and you can contact the program director or detective division to withdraw your registration at any time. There will be more information to come on this in the next few weeks. Please feel free to check the police webpage at www.rivergroveil.gov for additional information and updates

Warmer weather reminders

The weather is warming up and we'd like to take this opportunity to remind our residents:

- Be a good neighbor.
- Grass/lawns need to be maintained.
- Keep your garage apron free from weeds and debris.
- Yard waste can be put out in 30 gallon Kraft paper bags or waterproof cans marked with an "X" that have handles and a lid. Cans must not exceed 32 gallons in capacity or weigh more than 50 pounds when full.
- When walking your dog please keep them leashed and pick up after them.
- Get outside and enjoy!



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