



Village of River Grove, Illinois JULY 2021

Newsletter



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From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rodger Loni FOP 5K June 6th and Senior Bingo June 14th. Both events had wonderful turnouts. It was also great to see everyone at our Lions Park dedication, Concert in the Park and POP UP Carnival. The food trucks were great and offered some good summer eats. It was so nice to see dads celebrating Father's Day with their kids, enjoying some of the classic carnival rides. What a beautiful weekend in River Grove!

Now that we have entered Phase 5 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, we are really looking forward to our upcoming events including our Saturday in the Park – July 17th, UnWined Jazz/Craft event August 29th, and of course our Fall version of River Front Fest Sept 30th – October 3rd. How nice it will be to spend time with friends, family and neighbors again!

In closing, I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Fourth of July, and I ask that as we celebrate our freedom that this great nation has to offer, let us not forget the veterans who fought for those freedoms and those who continue to protect them.

As always, my staff and I are available to address any questions or concerns.

Your friend and neighbor, David B. Guerin (E-mail: mayor@rivergroveil.gov, Twitter: [@davidbguerin](https://twitter.com/davidbguerin))

Concert in the Park

On June 19th River Grove became alive again! We started the evening with the official dedication of Lions Park and we followed it with a night of music from the popular band Hi-Infidelity. People from young and old filled River Front Park to enjoy the warm night. It was great to see everyone out and having fun.



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

Shout Out! John Paczesny

This month's Shout Out goes to River Grove Fire Captain; John Paczesny. John recently reached his 30-year anniversary with the RGFD. He began his career on June 1st, 1991, as a probationary paid on call firefighter/EMT. Paid on call meant fire staff came straight from home whenever they had a call. Many old time River Grover's will remember the siren on the roof of the firehouse going off and the firemen would have to leave their houses and go straight to the firehouse to get their gear. If there was a fire call, you did not want to be on the streets when the fire personnel were on their way to the firehouse, it was a race to get to the rig! River Grove then passed a referendum to have 2 paramedics in the firehouse at all times and then years after it was changed so that we had firefighters around the clock. John said, *"It has been an honor working 27 years with some of the best firefighters the fire service can have"*. John held the position of firefighter and then engineer (driver of the fire engine) for many years, and then he was promoted to Lieutenant. In March of 2018 John experienced a serious medical issue that looked like his time in River Grove was up. Fortunately, then Fire Chief Larry LaRiviere and now Fire Chief Sean Flynn, re-purposed and redesigned John's responsibilities and he is now working with the fire prevention bureau and supporting the building department as a rental inspector. He is learning new things every day and has taken many classes and has done a lot of on-the-job training. He has recently moved from the firehouse to the village hall. He says, *"the welcoming village hall family made the move as easy as it could be"*. So, if you see him on the street John wants you to know that he works for you, the residents of River Grove. He feels that he is a small part of what makes this village safe and a great place to live.



River Grove Construction Updates

Due to Covid-19 the Village had been conservative with its construction plan in 2020. Now, in 2021, we have several capital projects that will be starting in late July and August.

Finley Street Improvements Fullerton Avenue to Elm Street: The Village will be replacing one of the worst sections of water main with regards to having a history of breaks. The work will include the partial replacement of the water services, which will be followed with roadway improvements including new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks along the east/north side of the street.

West & Palmer Streets Improvements: The Village will be replacing the pavement on West Street south of Palmer Street and Palmer Street between Elm Street and Leyden Avenue. This project is partially funded with a grant from Cook County. Included in the work are some "traffic calming islands" meant to help deter truck traffic on West Street north of Palmer, Palmer Street west of West Street and Palmer Street east of Leyden Avenue.

2021 Paving Program: The Village will be completing the following sections of roadway under this program:

- Palmer Street from Leyden to Fifth Avenue
- Trumbull Avenue from Palmer Street to Belden Avenue
- Belden Avenue from Trumbull Avenue to Fifth Avenue
- Beulah Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Franklin Avenue

The Village will also be completing its annual Sidewalk Replacement Program in the Fall of 2021.

Electric Cars Have Arrived in the Village!

The Building Department is the first department in the Village using electric vehicles. The two 2021 Chevrolet Bolt EV cars replace two of our older gas cars used for Inspectional Services. The Chevrolet Bolt EV is an affordable electric car that has thoroughly transformed the meaning of what an eco-friendly vehicle can be. It is the total package, pairing innovation and technology. Offering an EPA – estimated 238 miles with a full charge and a strong acceleration that can send you from 0 to 60 in 6.5 seconds, this all-electric car is equipped for prolonged travel. You can also shift gears electronically in the Chevrolet Bolt EV, resulting in a seamless and accurate experience as you drive. Also, it provides increased space for front passengers and the storage room to accommodate larger items. One of the top aspects of the Chevrolet Bolt EV is that it is possible to charge the battery as much or as little as you want. Overall, it can take anywhere from an hour and 20 minutes to a full day to charge depending on how low the battery is. They are especially convenient for use in the building department because there are no more trips to the gas station and are low maintenance.

