



Village of River Grove, Illinois March 2022

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

First and foremost, thanks to all residents who participated in our most recent Red Cross Blood Drive. I am happy to report that all appointments were filled and we had a waiting list of people who were ready to go and fill in any cancellations. I saw many familiar faces at the event and also had the opportunity to meet some new friends. The strong participation by our village only reaffirms how engaged and supportive our community is.

Some may have noticed the demolition of the former Marmor property. In its prime, it was home to an auxiliary school house, mechanics garage and race car garage but over the past decades the abandoned building has fallen in to disrepair, becoming unsafe and blighted. Having years of unpaid property taxes, the village was able to obtain the property through the Cook County No Cash Bid (NCB) Program. The property will be converted into much needed municipal parking for the village and local businesses in our downtown area.

Phase 2 is underway at River Grove Station; the transit oriented development near our Metra Station. Many longtime residents remember Triton Towers as the "go to" office building back in the 70's and 80's. Unfortunately, with changing business needs and more modern options available this building was only 12 percent occupied over the past decade. Top floors will be converted to livable loft space while bottom floors will remain offices and a workout area for its tenants. This new modern space will also house a proposed yoga studio, restaurant space and hair salon in phase two of the development.

Being of Irish and Italian decent I always find time to celebrate St. Joseph's Day and St. Patrick's Day. These days are on the calendar as religious celebrations but they also bring to mind all the hard working ethnic groups who built our great country and live and work in our great Village.

I hope to see everyone at our River Grove Lions annual St. Patrick's day event on March 12th to benefit the club and its support of our local community. Please see insert for more info.

Best of luck to your favorite college team this March Madness and don't forget to move your clocks forward on March 13th!

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

Village Water Update – Access Water Consumption

Now that we have upgraded the water meter reading system, all of our water customers may access **EyeOnWater** which lets you connect to your water utility account so you can see how much water you're using and can even alert you to possible leaks on your property. Easy-to-understand consumption graphs and configurable leak notifications, provide timely, visual access to your water usage behavior. **EyeOnWater** is cloud-based, so you can access through a standard web browser or through the smartphone application. Your user login credentials provide secure access to your water consumption information.

Go to helpyeonwater.com for more information on creating an account and how to use this wonderful new tool.



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

Shout Out!

This Month's SHOUT OUT goes to **Betsy Clark**, the newest Building Department team member. Betsy is a life-long resident of River Grove. She and her husband Jim raised a son and daughter here as well. Her Grandfather, John Olsen, was a RG Police Officer and her Uncle, Donald Olsen, was the Chief of Police. She attended River Grove School, East Leyden High School and Triton College. Betsy has been giving blood every 8 weeks for the past several years. Additionally, Betsy walked 60 miles and raised \$5000 to bring awareness and help support breast cancer. She enjoys golfing, long walks and playing with her grandson. Welcome to Village Hall Betsy, we are glad to have you!



Water Update – From the Village Engineer Mark Lucas

The Village has begun to review its water and sewer rates for the upcoming year. The Village reviews the cost of the water purchased, the cost of the maintenance and operations associated with the system, the amount of water loss within the system, and the cost of its long-term water system improvements. The Village water rate is then determined by dividing these costs by the amount of water sold to its residential and commercial/institutional customers.

The Village's last water rate increase was in November of 2018. Due to the timing of that increase the Village absorbed the Chicago water rate increase in 2019. The Village again absorbed the Chicago water rate increase in 2020 and 2021 due to the uncertainty of the impacts that COVID-19 was having on its residents and businesses. The Village is anticipating another increase in the Chicago water rate again this year, which will become effective in June 2022.

The Village is also evaluating the costs to fund a Lead Service Line Replacement program based on the law passed by the State of Illinois in August of 2021. While overall, the Village will take advantage of every grant and funding opportunity available to address the issue, the magnitude of the cost to replace the number of lead service lines in Illinois far exceeds the funding amounts currently committed for assistance at the State and Federal levels to date. The Village is in the process of developing its overall policy regarding the cost to address this issue.

On the plus side of the equation, with the commercial meter replacement program nearing completion and the recent switch to the Beacon water reporting system, the Village has very accurate data regarding the water consumption on a daily basis. The increased accuracy helps the Village with its projections and to notice significant changes between the water pumped and the amount of water sold, which then alerts to water main leaks in the system. Having accurate and timely information allows the Village to reduce the overall cost of water from water main leaks by reducing the duration of the break. Additionally, with more accurate water reads, the Village has noticed that the overall amount of water sold in the system has increased which helps reduce the overall water rate it would charge to its customers.

River Grove Blood Drive

What better way to spread love than having a blood drive? That is what Mayor Guerin, the Village officials and the **American Red Cross** did this past Valentine's Day. It was held at the Recreation/American Legion building where they hosted 52 donors. Each donor received a \$10 Amazon card from the Red Cross and a heart shaped box of candy from Mayor Guerin to thank them for donating.



Village of River Grove – Friendly Reminders

- River Grove ordinance requires Christmas decorations to be taken down 60 days after the holiday. Please be a good neighbor and take them down.
- Remember that anything that does not fit in your garbage can needs to have a yellow tag on it for our garbage hauler to pick up. Yellow tags can be purchased at the Village Hall.

