



Village of River Grove, Illinois June 2022



Newsletter

David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

By the time you read this letter, our annual River Front Fest will be underway. Great music, food trucks, cold beverages and carnival rides spark feelings of nostalgia. The sights and smells at River Front Park are a sure sign that summer is on its way, bringing our community together.

June 5th is the Rodger Loni FOP 5K Run/Walk so put on your running shoes and take a jog, walk or brisk run through town. Our police department hosts this event and we thank our them for keeping our town safe.

Our village mourns the loss of a great public servant with the passing of one of our former mayors, Marilynn May. Marilynn was a longtime family friend, having graduated high school with my mother and both of her deceased sons were dear friends of mine. Mayor May had a love for our village and the people that lived here. She touched many lives throughout her years and spent many years serving the community. She will be missed and we take comfort in knowing she is in heaven with her loved ones.

The Village and Lions Club are once again hosting a Shred Day on June 18th. This is a great day to get rid of any sensitive documents or bank statements. We will also be disposing of paint, old tires and old medications. Remember if it can be read, it must be shred! Please try to join us on June 23 at 10 a.m. at the grand opening and park dedication of Thatcher Woods Park. This is our newest park and is located in the Thatcher Wood Shopping Center area. TIF funds generated by the Thatcher Woods TIF district paid for the new park.

Thanks for making River Grove your home. My staff is always available to you if we can be of any assistance. We are just a phone call or e-mail away. Enjoy your summer.

Warm regards and see you at River Front Fest, David B. Guerin, follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Planting Day 2022!

Employees and volunteers gathered to help during Village Planting Day. They planted at the Village Hall, "the Bridge" and up and down Grand Ave. We look forward to seeing all the colors soon!

Thanks to all!



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

Remembering Marilynn May

Former Village President Marilynn J. May was an active member of the River Grove community for over 39 years. She raised two sons, the late Anthony and the late Nicholas in River Grove. While raising her sons, she became involved with a wide variety of community organizations such as River Grove baseball and softball, the local PTA's, River Grove Beautification Committee, River Front Fest, Cub Scouts Troop 142, River Grove Lions, River Grove Moose Lodge #780/River Park Moose Lodge #2578, American Legion Auxiliary and Friends of River Grove.

Not only was Marilynn involved in the community on a volunteer basis, she has served the village professionally in many capacities. She held the titles of Assistant to the President, Deputy Village Clerk, and Director of Personnel. In May of 2000, she began her service as a trustee on the Village Board and was re-elected in 2001, serving as License and Ordinance Committee and Public Works Committee. She was appointed as Acting Village President in 2004 and elected President in April of 2005. Her commitment to the community branched out to encompass Leyden Township when she was elected to the township board in 1993. She was also a past Executive Board West Cook Solid Waste Agency Member, sat on the executive Board of the West Central Municipal Conference, and was a member of the Cook County Community Development Advisory Council.



Marilynn was acknowledged for her many accomplishments throughout her career including being presented with the Illinois Woman of Achievement Award from the State of Illinois, in partnership with the League of Women Voters and the Illinois Municipal League. She received the Leonardo DaVinci Award for Outstanding Achievement in Government from the Order of the Sons of Italy Grand Lodge. She was also honored as Woman of the Year by the Triton College Foundation for her commitment to education and public service. Through both her professional and community work she had contributed her time, knowledge and experience to the people of River Grove. She was a true public servant, always willing to help with a smile on her face and many times a beautiful hat on her head! Rest in Peace Marilynn.

Water Update

The Village has experienced increases in the rates it is charged by the City of Chicago for water it sells to residents, businesses and inhabitants. For the last 3 years, the Village has deferred from passing these costs on to our residents. Primarily due to the pandemic. We have come to a point where that is no longer possible. Here are some interesting facts regarding the Village water usage:

- The Village's water system provides potable water to approximately 10,000 residents and employees of 100 businesses each day.
- Additionally the Village supplies water for a high school, two elementary schools, Triton College and the Oak Park Country Club.
- The Village system is also utilized to provide fire protection for approximately 500 residential, commercial and institutional structures within the Village limits.

The following are some key facts regarding the water and sewer rate:

- The Village last increased its water rate in October of 2018. The sewer rate has been unchanged since 2006.
- The Village recently received its annual increase from the City of Chicago, the fourth such increase since the Village last adjusted its water rate in October of 2018.
- The Village deferred adjusting the rate in 2019 due to its proximity to the 2018 adjustment.
- The Village deferred adjusting in 2020 and 2021 rate adjustments due to uncertainties of the impact of COVID on its residents.
- During the last two years review of the Village – General Funds expenses, which are used to determine the Village's tax levy, it was noted that certain costs related to the operations of the sewer and water had historically been under the general fund and that these costs were more appropriately reclassified as to the Water & Sewer Enterprise fund.

From Police Chief Michael Konwinski - Distracted Driving Enforcement Results

During the month of April, the River Grove Police Department participated in the state sponsored **Distracted Driving Awareness Month** campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to heighten awareness to the importance for motorists to pay attention while driving, and not to drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The campaign resulted in River Grove officers;

- 457 total contacts made including,
- 5 impaired driving arrests, 1 of which was during daytime hours,
- 12 traffic and 3 criminal arrests,
- Issuance of 552 citations including 120 occupant protection, 159 speeding and 198 distracted driving citations.

The River Grove Police Department joined forces with state, local law enforcement and highway safety partners with the common goal of reminding motorists to drive safely. River Grove Police will continue traffic enforcement efforts throughout the year, and motorists traveling through River Grove are reminded to buckle up, put the phone and electronics down, and don't drive while intoxicated.

From Code Enforcement

Spring is here and summer is on its way. Be a good neighbor and make sure to keep your grass cut and keep up with lawn maintenance. The Village trash company will only pick up grass, leaf and yard waste in brown kraft paper recyclable bags (you can purchase at ACE, Menards or any hardware store). **You can also use your own garbage can as long as it is marked with a red X. Our trash company will not pick up yard waste in a plastic bag. Have a great summer!**