



Village of River Grove, Illinois January 2023

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn M. Bjorvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas this holiday season. Our home was filled with Christmas spirit as Audrey and David Jr. hunted for the Elf on the shelf, hoping to see what mischief he got into the night before. The village was bustling with holiday cheer due to the Annual Tree Lighting, Santa Stop, and Holiday Tea at our historical home. I would like to extend a big thank you to all the participants in our home decorating contest and congratulations to all the winners! The town looked great with so many homes lit up. Now that the tree is down and the presents are unwrapped, 2023 is here and I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous year.

The new year gives us a fresh start; we are able to set new goals and reevaluate our life, whether it be our health, financial or relationship goals. This year I plan on eating healthier, reading more and being more patient with my kids. 2023 looks very bright for the Village of River Grove as we head into the new year with a balanced budget, over 14 million in infrastructure projects scheduled as well as enhanced community events in 2023. I encourage all residents to read our upcoming State of the Village in our February newsletter. This document gives you a snapshot of where the village was, is currently and will be in the upcoming year.

In 2022 the village applied and received a grant from the Chicagoland Metropolitan and Planning Agency to put together a village wide plan, this initiative is called Reimagine River Grove and we need your input. Please go to our website today to send us information on what you would like to see in the future for our great town. As residents, business owners, and other stakeholders it is important to me that your voice be heard.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**

Celebrating the Holidays, River Grove Style!

December was filled with many wonderful events in the Village of River Grove. There was the tree lighting and Santa visit at River Front Park as well as the River Grove Fire Department's annual Santa Stop. The tree lighting had a great turn out, including lots of children who wanted to visit Santa (despite the cold). Our Public Works team did a fantastic job lighting up the park. The Santa Stop showed just how generous our residents are. They donated food, gift cards and toys to the River Grove Food pantry for those in need, especially this time of the year. Fire Chief Sean Flynn said that this was the busiest year ever with a total of 68 stops made!



Shout Out! John Shields

Congratulations to long-time Public Works employee John Shields on his retirement from the Village of Friendly Neighbors. John graduated from East Leyden High School in 1978 and is a resident of Franklin Park. Before coming to the Village of River Grove he had various jobs including drywaller, truck driver, and lawn sprinkler installer. He came to the Village of River Grove in 1992 as a laborer. In 1997 John became our sweeper driver, driving our 1982 street sweeper until 2000, when a new sweeper was purchased. In his 30 year career he has driven 4 sweepers, including the new one purchased earlier this year. Besides street sweeping, John has also been a snow plow driver. In retirement John will spend time visiting family in Florida over the winter, escaping the worst of our snowy weather. We are grateful to John for his service to the Village of River Grove and wish him the best in his retirement.



From the Building Department: Snow Removal

- (A) Each owner or occupant of any premises shall keep the sidewalks abutting the premises free from snow and other obstructions. In the event that an owner or occupant of any premises is unable to maintain abutting sidewalks in such condition, the owner or occupant shall advise the Public Works Department in writing of the inability to perform such maintenance.
- (B) It shall be unlawful for any person, in any manner, to deposit snow on any street, alley or other public thoroughfare within the Village.
- (C) If any plowing of private driveways or parking lots is undertaken, any snow plowed from these areas shall be piled on the private property of the owner of these areas, and shall not be piled on any public street, alley, parkway or other public thoroughfare.
- (D) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a minimum fine of fifty dollars (**\$50.00**), and up to seven hundred fifty dollars (**\$750.00**) for each violation. (Ord. 2011-18, 9-1-2011)

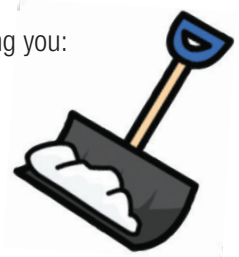
River Grove Senior Snow Removal Program

The Village of River Grove and East Leyden High School students have partnered to assist River Grove senior citizens with snow removal. A shovel may need to be provided, the Village will verify with the students. The rate will be \$10.00 per house and includes the following:

- A path from your front door to your sidewalk/street/stairs
- A path from your back door to your garage door
- Additional charges will apply for the following and will be discussed and handled with the student that is assisting you:
 - 1. Salting (resident must provide salt)
 - 2. Shoveling driveways, carport, parking space(s)

Payment must be made at the time of service.

Please contact Gina Leder at (708) 453-8000 ex. 308 and she will assign a student to assist.



From the Historical Commission:

The dates for the 2023 Open House tours have been moved to the third Sunday of every month.

Tours will resume in April and end in October. Open house hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. with the last tour beginning at 3:30 p.m. Here are the 2023 dates: April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, and October 15.

Please try and make it a point to visit the Historical House and spend some time learning about the history of River Grove.



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