



Village of River Grove, Illinois May 2023

# Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn M. Bjorkvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter...the sun was shining in River Grove and it was the perfect spring day! The nice weather sparked some spring fever; it was nice to see people throughout the town get outside and take advantage of the good weather.

Looking back on April, it was a very busy month; River Grove Baseball and Rockets Softball started in full swing, we celebrated Arbor Day by planting trees in one of our newest parks in the Thatcher Woods area, and voters came out for our local elections. There were five candidates running for three spots on the Village Board. Congratulations to Trustees; Lynn Bjorkvik, Bobby Thomas, and Ben Ramirez on maintaining their seats. I look forward to working with these dedicated public servants as we continue to advance our community. I salute all individuals involved with the process whether you were a candidate, voter or volunteer.

May is an important month with many special days, but two that I hold close to my heart. The first is Mother's Day on May 14th, a day when we honor the most important woman in our lives, our moms. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my mom, who has been my biggest supporter since day one, and still is my greatest advisor. Thank you Mom and I love you.

The second is Memorial Day on May 29th. In honor of the fallen men and women of our armed forces who made the ultimate sacrifice, we will be laying wreaths at the memorials located in front of our police station. Prayers go out to all of the Gold Star Families. Our local veteran organization will be posting American Flags on the gravestones of fallen soldiers in both of our cemeteries. Thank you to all who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms and maintaining this Nation as the land of opportunity.

#### Some dates to be aware of:

- Happy Cinco De Mayo to all, please celebrate safely and please support one of our great eating and drinking establishments!
- National Police Week is May 14 - 20th - Be sure to thank our local officers for keeping RG safe!
- Planting Day for the Village is May 13th - Meet at the Village Hall at 9 a.m. bring the whole family!
- Our Recreation Department is sponsoring Senior Line Dancing at the Gazebo on Tuesday May 16th.
- River Front Fest is June 1st - 4th. (Let us know if you would like to volunteer - email my office at [mayor@rivergroveil.gov](mailto:mayor@rivergroveil.gov)).
- River Grove FOP 5K will be held on Sunday June 4.
- Village of River Grove/Lions Shred Day will be Saturday June 17.

We are definitely getting into our busy season, and it is wonderful to see everyone out and about, enjoying our community events!

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**

### From the River Grove Police Department

The River Grove Police Department has collaborated with Kia and Hyundai motors to provide River Grove residents with free steering wheel locks. The RGPD has 100 of these locks to distribute to people who own a Kia or a Hyundai. They ask that residents bring proof of residency and vehicle registration to the police station. They will give a maximum of two per household; provided the resident shows proof vehicle ownership. If you have any questions please contact Det. Sgt. Balthazar at [Mbalthazar@rivergroveil.gov](mailto:Mbalthazar@rivergroveil.gov)



## Shout Out! Lisa Peters

Lisa Peters is the newest employee to join the River Grove Police Department staff. She was hired to serve as the Police Department's Records Administrator. Lisa brings with her over two decades experience as a 911 dispatcher at Norcomm Public Safety, which dispatches Police and Fire for the Village of River Grove. She is already proving to be a great asset to the Police Department. Lisa enjoys spending time with her adult children and four grandchildren. She is also an avid pet lover and dotes over her pet dogs. Next time you are in the Police Department offices, be sure to say "Hi" to Lisa and introduce yourself.



## Parkway Do's and Don'ts from Brock Leder, Director of Public Works

The parkway is the area of grass between the curb line and the public sidewalk. Though this area is Village property, homeowners and businessowners are required to maintain it by mowing the grass and keeping the area free from weeds and debris. Trees can be planted on the parkway, but only by the Public Works Department or the Village's outside contractor. Only single stem trees are allowed on parkways; bushes and evergreen trees, along with certain species such as Willow trees are not permitted. Additionally, brick retaining walls or decorative stones are not allowed on parkways. Trees are to be ringed by mulched areas only. Tree maintenance is performed by the Public Works Department, seasonally, on street maintenance days, or when needed in case of emergency. The Public Works Department is trained in the proper care of trees and has the tools and vehicles necessary to complete the task safely. Please do not attempt to trim parkway trees yourself. If you have a parkway tree that has been planted in recent years, you should begin watering your tree as soon as the freezing weather breaks. Trees should be watered at a slow trickle over the course of an hour, a few times a week. In hot weather, even established trees may require some water. The Village will place tree bags on young trees to aid in watering. If your tree has a green bag on the trunk, you may omit ground watering and just fill the tree bag a few times a week. Please refrain from hanging any type of decoration from your tree's lower limbs including chimes, bird feeders, or swings. For all tree related questions please call the **Public Works Department at (708)452-7055**.

## Vehicle Stickers

Mayor Guerin and the Village Officials are proud to announce that this year's Village Vehicle Sticker will be honoring the River Grove Rockets Softball Program. This is in tribute to past, present and future players, coaches and volunteers. Mayor Dave Guerin stated, "We are proud of all our Recreation Programs, but especially our River Grove Rockets! It's great to be home to one of the strongest softball programs in the area. Thanks to all of the coaches and volunteers throughout the years that have made this program a great success. I am proud to serve on the board with two past Rockets parents, Trustees Lynn Bjorvik and Bob Thomas." Watch for sticker renewals in the beginning of May. They are due back on or before June 30th.



## Fire Pit Safety from RG Fire Chief Sean Flynn

- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the fire
- Do not use any flammable liquid to start the fire
- Keep the fire at least 10 feet away from combustible items
- Extinguish with the drown-stir-drown method of dumping water on the fire
- If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave
- Remember, if your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll away from the fire while covering your face
- Be a good neighbor and keep smoke from entering your neighbor's house. Smoke can aggravate people's health issues



### Please Remember

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