



Village of River Grove, Illinois December 2023

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn M. Bjorvik Trustee

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

Frank J. Obaya Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmastime is officially here. While my family and I enjoyed autumn, my two kids are always happy for the Christmas season. We joined with other residents on November 19th as the village lit up the park. Our dedicated public works did an amazing job wrapping the trees with lights, setting up the Christmas tree and decorating the gazebo. Santa even stopped by and visited with the River Grove kids! It truly is a magical time of year, and I always look forward to seeing all the houses throughout town. Pride in ownership comes shining through every holiday season as neighbors take the time to decorate their homes and show off their Christmas cheer.

By the time you read this, work should be wrapping up in our commercial district on Palmer and West with new pavement, truck mitigation islands, and updated curb and gutter. This project was funded through funds from our sewer and water fund, Invest in Cook Grant and MFT Rebuild Illinois Grant. Work should also be wrapping up on three new parking lots; one on the former abandoned Marmor property (across from Village Hall) and one on the former Foley's Pub property on Erie Street, or some may remember as Murphy's and Murphy's Too, or more recently It's Greek To Me. This property was acquired by the Village through a No Cash Bid process, which allows municipalities to acquire properties due to delinquent taxes. The Erie lot will also include a sitting park for walkers to take a quick break on their travels. The third lot is located off the existing village parking lot, providing much needed parking for our downtown area. I want to publicly thank our staff for all the hard work they put in on a daily basis to get projects like this completed.

I would also like to thank our historical commission and the recreation team for hosting Holiday Photos at our Historical House and Barn. If you haven't taken a tour of the historical house, be sure to attend one when they resume next summer. The Christmas celebration continues with our annual Santa Stop. This tradition is brought to you by our wonderful fire department. Sign up to donate non-perishable food to the River Grove Food Pantry and Santa will stop by your house in the fire engine, visit your family and pick up your donation. Thanks to our fire department for continuing this great tradition.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2024 be your best year yet!

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**



Merry Christmas

AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR



Mayor Dave Guerin, Trustee's: Lora Langten, Lynn Bjorvik, Chris Lilly, Frank Obaya, Ben Ramirez and Village Clerk Marjorie Manchen

Shout Out! Jim Duffy

Chances are, if you have ever been to the River Grove Building Department, you have run into Jim Duffy. Jim has worked for the village for over 34 years; twenty-one of those years have been in the building department. He has served as an inspector, building commissioner, administrator and his current role as director. He can tell you just about everything regarding River Grove codes. He first started his career in River Grove as a police reserve and retired from there as a lieutenant. He also served on the River Grove Library Board as an elected trustee for 6 years as well as serving on various committees. Jim has been a resident of River Grove for 39 years. He has been married for 45 years and has 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Prior to working for River Grove, Jim worked for JC Penny's as a Personnel/Operations manager. We are lucky to have such a dedicated employee working for the Village!



River Grove Veterans Memorial

Mayor David B. Guerin has appointed several people to the newly created **Veterans Memorial Commission**. This team will oversee the development of the new Veterans Memorial which will be located at Indian Boundary and Grand Avenue in River Grove. The members of the Commission are: **Greg Peters (Village Finance)**, **Brock Leder (RGPW Director)**, **Mike Warchol (Veteran and past RG Commander)**, **Jonathan Zivojnovic (resident business)**, **Sherri Jones (resident post member and Veteran)**. Mayor Guerin said, *"The vision of the Veterans Memorial is to honor those who served in all six branches or the U.S. Armed Forces, that would include the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and, Space Force."*

Commission member Mike Warchol said that this has been a project in the making for the last 10 years. He went on to add: *"From an idea ten years ago to the present time, this project has been a challenge. We wanted to honor all Veterans...past, present and future. With the help of many individuals, our idea is beginning to evolve. Design concepts were provided by the architectural students at Triton College, combined into one preliminary model, revised many times. The property was acquired from the Forest Preserve with the help of Commissioner Silvestri, Mayor Guerin, Representative Lilly, and Senator Harmon. Now we enter the final stage of funding and building the Village of River Grove Veterans Memorial. Thanks to all. More to come later."*



CMAP is looking for Residents Input - Please help!

Help us build a plan for the future of the Village of Friendly Neighbors! The Reimagine River Grove Comprehensive Plan Team needs your help with developing recommendations for the future of the village. Share your thoughts by taking a survey, pinning a virtual map, or just posting your ideas on the plan's website, and keep a look out for future in-person opportunities to help build a vision for the future of River Grove! <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/river-grove-comprehensive-plan>



- Check to make sure smoke alarms are working
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Use battery-operated candles
- Check decorations for certification label
- Keep combustibles at least three feet away from heat sources

These safety tips are recommended by the International Association of Fire Fighters

- Never leave a source of fire or heat unattended
- Never use charcoal or gasoline-fueled devices indoors
- Water your tree daily
- Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when leaving the house or going to sleep
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking
- Close your doors when sleeping
- Drink responsibly and do not drink and drive