



Village of River Grove, Illinois January 2024

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor
Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn M. Bjorkvik 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,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! As we begin the new year, we have some great news for the village. **Standard and Poor** elevated the village's bond rating three notches; to an **A+ stable**. This is equivalent to having a personal credit score of **800**. I want to personally thank our great finance team, department heads, village board and staff for making sound financial decisions on a daily basis to get us there. The village once again presented a balanced budget for 2024 without cutting any services or staff. We will continue to work hard for you, the resident, moving in to the new year.

One of the many highlights of our 2024 budget is a complete remodel of our firehouse. As many of you know the current firehouse once housed our court, village hall and police station. After 100 plus years, and many band-aids, I am proud to say we will upgrading the entire building with a new kitchen, bathrooms, showers and bunk rooms. We will be doing our best to preserve and enhance the vintage building, while respecting its rich history. I want to thank our firefighters for their patience throughout this process. It's my opinion we have the finest fire department in the country, and we thank them for always being there when we need them.

Reminder that Village Board meeting has been moved to Monday nights for easier access to residents and to not conflict with village events such as fests, school concerts and other happenings. Be sure to check out our website for meeting dates. We hope to see you at our village meetings, but remember my staff and I are always available via email or phone.

It's always my pleasure and honor to serve as your village president. I hope you and your family have a great start to 2024! May your new year be filled with health, happiness and prosperity!

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**

Happy New Year 2024

2023 River Grove Holiday House Decorating Contest

The River Grove Beautification Committee and the Public Works Department drove through the wonderfully decorated streets of River Grove in mid-December. They took pictures of the 17 houses that were registered for the 2023 River Grove Holiday House Decorating Contest. After much review and deliberation, the houses that won this year's competition are:

1st place: 2441 Erie Street 2nd place: 8760 Richard Street 3rd place: 2636 River Road

They all won gift certificates to local restaurants. Once again, this year and for the **third straight year** the **2400 block of Erie received the honors of best decorated block in River Grove**.

They earned bragging rights and they will get another sign to display on their block.

Thanks to all who participated. River Grove certainly was full of holiday cheer this year!

**Best Decorated Block:
2400 block of Erie**



1st place



2nd place



3rd place



RGFD Santa Stop

The RGFD Santa Stop was a huge success. Thank you to all of our residents who signed up to see Santa and donate food! Santa and his helpers collected so much for our food pantry; it will certainly help our families in need this Christmas season and beyond! Thank you to the RGFD for organizing this very special event. This year the fire department visited 53 houses, and Santa saw 130 grateful children.



Village Receives Standard & Poors Bond Rating Upgrade

In late November, Village Mayor David Guerin and finance personnel received very positive news from **Standard & Poors** the Village's bond rating agency. They had reviewed the Village's continued improvement in its financial management and solid budget practices and was raising its credit rating on the Village's outstanding debt from a BBB+ Positive Outlook to an **A+ Stable** Outlook. This upgrade will allow for the Village to receive better interest rates on any future debt it might issue resulting in lower costs and taxes to the residents and businesses of the community. The agency in its review cited the village's very strong liquidity and general fund reserves along with sound budget practices and financial management.

Mayor Guerin stated, *"I wish to acknowledge the hard work that staff and the Village Board has done over these last several years to achieve this significant upgrade in our credit rating. It also highlights that an independent agency, after discussions with our personnel and review of our finances, finds the Village of River Grove to be in great financial shape to continue to provide our residents with the best services possible."*

Copies of the full written report are available for viewing on the Village's website.



Grand Avenue Pavement Marking Removal

IDOT has removed the recently added parking and pavement markers on **Grand Avenue from Webster to River Road** in River Grove. The pavement markers were put in place in error by the Department of Transportation and its removal is required. Please keep in mind that Grand Avenue is an IDOT road and this is their decision. Parking is still available on Grand Ave. Please obey the signs.

As a Reminder - River Grove Senior Snow Removal Program

East Leyden High School students will be assisting our River Grove Seniors with snow removal. A shovel may need to be provided; the resident will verify with the student. **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)



The River Grove Senior resident must contact the student each time their services are needed and payment must be made at time of service. To have a student assigned to you, please contact **Gina Leder at (708) 453-8000 extension 308.**



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