



Village of River Grove, Illinois March 2024

Newsletter



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Christopher J. Lilly Trustee
Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

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From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

March is here! That means spring is on its way! This month we celebrate St. Pat's and St. Joseph's days all while cheering on our favorite college basketball team for March Madness. Join us on Saturday, March 16th at the Underpass Lounge for the River Grove Lions annual St. Patrick's Day event. The Lions have done so much for the community throughout the years including donating an ambulance, building a park and providing many scholarships for those in need. Check out the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

We are partnering with Veterans Park to bring a new Easter Egg Hunt to the Village. Make sure to stop by Trumbull Park on Saturday March 23 at 10 a.m. The Easter Bunny will be there and I am sure fun will be had by all!

Have you had the chance to check out River Grove's newest eatery? La Provincia is located at Grand and Clinton; serving great Colombian food and drinks in such an inviting atmosphere! They are a welcome new addition to the neighborhood.

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**

2024 International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th. It is a global day of celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 is **Inspire Inclusion**. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. When women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. We are very lucky at the Village of River Grove to have so many smart, strong and amazing women working for us. We gathered many of them for a picture so we could celebrate these very special ladies.



Important Information Regarding Vehicle and Pet Renewals

To better serve our residents, we have changed our vehicle and pet renewal season! Renewals for vehicles and pets will **NOW** be due in September! Your current sticker will be valid until **September 30**. Check your mail for your renewal form(s) in August. All prices will remain the same.

A Little Bit of River Grove History

If you have an opportunity to ride down Fullerton Ave. on the east side of River Grove, you may notice some additions to the area known as **Gedeon Field**.

This story starts with a phone call our Public Works Director Brock Leder received a few years ago from the maintenance manager of the former Holy Cross/Mother Guerin property. This was before the property was torn down. He mentioned that the school had a stone monument near the football field. As it turns out the monument was in memory of a River Grover who lost his life in Vietnam.

Sgt. Russell E. Gedeon was 23 years old when he was killed, while serving his country, on December 7th, 1969. Russell Gedeon was the star quarterback at Holy Cross High School and this monument was erected in his honor after his death. Director Leder picked up the monument and stored it at the River Grove Public Works. He then contacted Patty and Wayne Gedeon (Russell's sister and brother) to discuss what should be done with the monument. The field, adjacent to the Forest Preserve where Fullerton and Wood Street intersect has always been known as Gedeon's Field. They decided this would be the appropriate place for the monument to be placed. With Mayor Guerin's blessing, Public Works installed the monument and a flagpole. We offer a big thank you to River Grove Public Works for saving a little bit of River Grove's history while honoring the memory of a young resident who lost his life too early. Sgt. Gedeon is one of 2 residents who lost their life while serving their country in Vietnam. The other resident, Albert L. Lazzarotto, was 21 years old and passed away on September 11th, 1968 while serving his country.



From Police Chief Mike Konwinski

In a continued effort to promote gun safety, the Village of River Grove is offering free gun locks provided by **Project ChildSafe**. Residents of River Grove are urged to stop by the River Grove Police Department or the River Grove Village Hall to request free gun locks (limit 2 per request). Gun owners are also urged to visit <https://projectchildsafe.org> for tips on safe firearm handling and storage. Additionally, in partnership with **Hyundai/Kia**, the Village is offering free steering wheel locks to River Grove residents who own a Hyundai or Kia vehicle. River Grove residents may obtain a free steering wheel lock by visiting the River Grove Police Department or Village Hall. Proof of vehicle ownership is required (*some acceptable forms of vehicle ownership are vehicle registration, the vehicle insurance card, or the vehicle village sticker renewal form*).

River Grove School Benefit Basketball Benefit Game!

This past February the **River Grove First Responders (Police, Fire and Public Works)** participated in the annual **River Grove School Benefit Basketball Benefit game!** Our first responders took on the RGS Royals varsity team. A good time was had by all.



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