



Village of River Grove, Illinois November 2024

# Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn M. Bjorkvik Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Frank J. Obaya Trustee

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Neighbors and Friends,

What a beautiful time of year as the leaves start to change and the temperature begins to cool. It's hard to believe that **Thanksgiving** is only a few weeks away, and after that we will be full swing into the **Christmas Season**. I am humbled and thankful for the great honor and responsibility of representing my home town as your Mayor. I am also thankful for my staff at the Village of River Grove who work hard daily to improve the quality of life and service to our residents. Most importantly I am thankful for my two children David and Audrey, who motivate me to work hard and make good decisions for the future of our great town.

Join us on **Veterans Day** 2024 at 11:11 as we dedicate the River Grove Veterans Memorial. This project has been years in the making, and thanks to the **Veterans Memorial Committee** and many supporters it has become a reality. This memorial will be an everlasting tribute, honoring veterans from all branches of the armed forces. Check out our website at [rivergroveil.gov/365](http://rivergroveil.gov/365) to learn more, purchase a memorial brick or donate to this project. God Bless our Veterans, their families, and those who have lost someone serving to protect our way of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We have an exciting announcement this year! The Village of River Grove will be hosting a **craft fair** in tandem with our annual tree lighting ceremony at River Front Park. So, mark your calendars now for November 24th from 3 to 7 p.m. Local vendors will be under a heated tent featuring their crafts and homemade goods for purchase. It's going to be a fun time as we light up the park and **Santa** stops by to visit all the local kids! I hope to see everyone at **Light Up The Grove** and with Christmas right around the corner it's time to start thinking about our annual Christmas house decorating contest. Which block will be the most decorated?

There is an election coming up and I am not talking about the Presidential Election; both Rhodes and River Grove 8th grade students are running for local elections as Mayor, Trustee, or one of the department heads. The winners will shadow River Grove elected officials and serve as that official in an honorary position at an upcoming board meeting on November 18th. This is an awesome way to teach kids about local elections and the importance of civic duty. Thank you to our recreation department and school administration for keeping this annual tradition alive. Good luck to all the students!

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Your friend and neighbor, Dave Guerin



### River Grove Finance Team Receives Certificate of Excellence Award

For the second year in a row the **River Grove Finance Team** has been awarded the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the **Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)**. They received this award for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive **"spirit of full disclosure"** to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Mayor Guerin said, **"Congratulations to all who helped get the Village to this point. This is a huge accomplishment for our Village and I am very proud of the individuals who helped the Village get this prestigious award."**

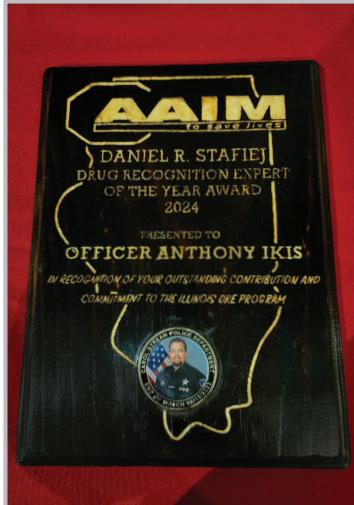


## Officer Tony Ikitis Receives AAIM Recognition

Congratulations to Officer Tony Ikitis who was the recipient of the **2024 Drug Recognition Expert of the Year Award** presented by the **Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorist (AAIM)**.

Tony was presented with the **Daniel R. Stafiej Memorial DRE award** at AAIM's annual banquet. Officer Tony Ikitis is approaching 2000 DUI arrests.

Pictured left to right - **RGPD Chief, Mike Konwinski with Officer Ikitis.**



## River Grove Food Pantry

Thanksgiving time is here and we don't want any of our families to go hungry. We want our residents to know that the **River Grove Food Pantry** is ready to help if you need them. First-time food pantry recipients will be asked to fill out a form for residency verification. You must be a River Grove resident and able to furnish 2 proofs of residency. The food pantry is funded by donations from local organizations as well as residents of River Grove. The River Grove Food Pantry is located at the **Elmer Wolf Community Center** at **2607 N. Thatcher** and their phone number is **(708) 453-8000 ext. 327**. The hours of operation are **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m.** They are closed Election Day as the food pantry is a polling place.

Pictured left to right - **Family Services Co-Directors Janice Campbell and Darlene Bauman**



## River Grove Senior Snow Removal Program

Students from East Leyden High School will be assisting our River Grove Seniors with snow removal. A shovel may need to be provided - residents will verify this with the student. The established rate of **\$10.00 per house includes** a path from your front door to your sidewalk/street/stairs and a path from your back door to your garage door. Additional charges apply for salting (**residents must provide salt**), shoveling driveways, carports and or parking spaces. It is up to the resident to handle payment with the student. The resident must contact the student each time their services are needed. Also, please note that payment must be made at time of service. **If any of our seniors wish to have a student assigned to them, please contact at (708) 453-8000 extension 308.**



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