



Village of River Grove, Illinois April 2025

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn M. Bjorvik Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Frank J. Obaya Trustee

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

A very happy Easter to all of my friendly neighbors in town. Easter signifies new beginnings along with hope and triumph over adversity. Easter is a symbol of renewal and the possibility of transformation. I like to take this time to reevaluate my goals, and set new ones. As the weather breaks and the sun begins to shine, flowers get ready to bloom and the birds return, I am thankful for my kids, my family, and the opportunity to represent my hometown. The Village comes alive in springtime as people get their homes ready for summer with a fresh coat of paint, new plantings or home improvements.

Join us April 12 for the Annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at Trumbull Park co-hosted with our friends at Veterans Park. This is a fun event for the whole family to watch, but to participate you must be 10 and under. We appreciate our partnership with Veterans Park District who operate two parks in our town. Check out their website at www.vdpark.org to see all of the great programs they have to offer.

One of my favorite days of the year is our annual **Arbor Day** event. Trees provide shade, soak up water to prevent flooding, and produce oxygen for us to breathe. Thanks to the tireless work of our beautification committee and our Public Works, the Village has been granted **Tree City USA status** for 30 consecutive years. The **Rhodes** and **River Grove School 6th graders** join us, as well as some animals natural to our forest preserves and members of the public. We hope you can join us on **April 25th at 10 a.m.** at the Veterans Memorial. An Old Chinese Proverb "the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second is today."

River Grove baseball has begun. I am happy to be the coach of my son's team this year with two members of our public works, Barron and Brandon. We are looking forward to celebrating opening day at the historic **Sheltens Field on April 26th at 10 a.m.** A big shout out to the baseball organizers, volunteers, coaches and players! **Let's Play Ball!**

Don't forget - River Front Fest is just around the corner, see the flyer in this water bill for a list of all the wonderful entertainment!

Your friend and neighbor, Dave Guerin

A Few Friendly Neighbor Reminders

- When outside with your dog, please keep them leashed and pick up after them. There are free lawn signs available at the Village Hall, if you need to remind people.
- When doing any home improvements, please be sure to call the **Building Department** at **(708) 453-8007** or stop by and see them at Village Hall, to check if you need a permit.
- River Front Fest sponsorships are available. Visit rivergroveil.gov for more details.
- Yard waste pick up began **April 1st**.
- **Electronics recycling** is the first Saturday of the month at **Public Works located at 2101 West**. Stop by with your electronic waste from **9 a.m. to noon**.



Mayor Dave Guerin, and his daughter Audrey, at the River Grove Recreation Father/Daughter Dance

Rest in Peace Chief Larry

The Village of River Grove lost a true gentleman this past March. Former Fire Chief Larry LaRiviere passed away, surrounded by his family. Chief Larry was born on April 2, 1948. He was a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Navy. Larry started his career in 1969 when he was hired as a firefighter with the Franklin Park Fire Department. Seven years later he left Franklin Park to become the Paramedic Coordinator for the Village of Lincolnwood Fire Department, where he eventually became a Battalion Chief.

Larry was appointed to the role of River Grove Fire Chief in July 2000 and he retired December 27, 2019. Chief Larry had 50 years in the fire service. While he was Chief in River Grove, Larry created the “round the clock” fire protection service program, the Santa Stop initiative, and our Smoke Detector program; just to name a few of his projects. Chief Larry positioned the RGFD in the right direction to be able to provide full-time fire protection with a part-time model. He was an anchor in the community, even after retiring from the RGFD. His presence will be greatly missed. Chief Larry is now reunited with his beloved wife Punky.



What is New in River Grove?

We are excited to announce the opening of some new businesses in town. At the corner of Thatcher and Center you will find **Blest Sofas & Beds** and **United Porte**. Blest Sofas and Beds features high end furniture and United Porte offers windows and doors. Both fill a unique niche that will hopefully attract many shoppers. The hours of operation for both stores are; Monday-Friday 10:00am-7:00pm and Saturday-Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm. Stop by and check them out! Right next to these stores you will find **The Station Café** located at 2801 Thatcher, Unit 1. This shop will feature all **Massa** products, including pizza, gelato, and espresso. Their opening date is TBD. You will find the **Drip and Sip** at the corner of Grand and Thatcher is in a “soft” open and boasts of a “**high quality coffee experience.**” Lastly, be sure and stop by **4 Jokers** located at 8347 W. Grand. They have a tasty menu of Indian food and American food including a Butter Chicken, Philly Steak Sandwich, chicken wings, shakes and more. They have live music and offer a variety of craft beers. We are wishing all these new businesses the best of luck being in our town and we encourage all of our residents to **SHOP LOCAL!**

Calling All Veterans

The Village of River Grove and Leyden Township have teamed up to offer information to our Veterans. This program began in March and will continue into June. There will be a representative from **Veterans Affairs** in the River Grove Village Hall to meet with our Veterans about benefits. The dates they will be in River Grove are: **April 14, May 12 and June 9**. Come in between 9 a.m. and noon and talk to our liaison.

