



Village of River Grove, Illinois September 2025

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,

September is here and the entire village is getting their flannels ready for the **Fall Flannel Fest on Saturday October 4, 2025**. Don't miss out on this fun family event, with food, family activities including a petting zoo, pony rides, inflatables, face painter and much more! There will be live music at the Gazebo featuring **52nd Street** who will be playing the music of Billy Joel, and **ARRA** playing the very best of classic rock. Our annual Mayor's Stein Hoisting event will take place at Flannel Fest as well. There will be both a Men's and Women's contest to see who can "hoist" a full beer stein the longest. The winner of each contest wins bragging rights and a gift card to a local establishment. It is free to participate-sign up on the Village website.

River Grove Recreation programs are in full swing with **Tee-ball, Rockets Softball and Flag Football**. Come out and cheer on our kids! Stay tuned for spring programs.

We are proud to announce that the Village of River Grove is the recipient of more grants. This past month we have received the following in grant monies: \$300,000 from CDBG to resurface Paris Avenue, \$550,000 from Invest in Cook to resurface North Oak Street, Herrick Avenue, and Maple Street and lastly, we received a \$15,000 Illinois Community Canopy Planting Grant from the Trees Forever Foundation. There will be more on this in upcoming newsletters.

There is a lot going on in the Village, we ask that you pardon our dust as we demo the former Auto Barn property and former Dave's Auto body. Additionally, there is new retail space available at the Thatcher Woods mall through our TIF program at the former Hanging Gardens. In closing wishing all the River Grove students, teachers, administration and parents a successful 2025\2026 school year.

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**



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

Important Update for River Grove Residents

The Village of River Grove is committed to keeping costs down while ensuring fiscal responsibility. However, due to rising costs and state and federal mandates, we must make some necessary adjustments. As such, the Village is introducing new water rates and also addressing the state-mandated lead service line replacement program. Please read this entire newsletter to understand the measures we are taking to manage these increases.

New Water Rates Effective November 1, 2025. These new rates will take effect on November 1, 2025, and are as follows: **Water Rate:** Residential: \$13.50 per 1,000 gallons (minimum \$13.50/month). **Commercial:** \$15.18 per 1,000 gallons. **Sewer Usage:** 15% of the water bill. **Lead Water Service Line Replacement Rate:** \$0.0027 per gallon or \$2.77 per 1,000 gallons. If you would go to the grocery store to buy a bottle of water that would cost you at least \$1.00 for 16 ounces! **Why Are Water Rates Increasing?** The Village last raised water rates in November 2022. Since then, the cost of purchasing water from the City of Chicago has increased by 13%. Additionally, the cost of construction needed to repair and replace sections of water mains has risen by 9.5%. The Village initially absorbed these increases, but continuing to do so has depleted funds needed for essential water main improvements and the maintenance of our aging infrastructure.

Lead Water Service Line Replacement As part of the Lead Service Line Replacement Act – a federal and state mandate – the Village is required to replace all known lead or galvanized water service lines by 2044. There are currently **1,881 lead or galvanized services** in River Grove. The estimated cost to replace these lines is **\$28.3 million**. Since 2021, the law mandates full replacement of lead service lines encountered during water main repairs or replacements. The cost to replace one lead service line ranges from **\$6,000 to \$16,000**.

Why Will the Village Cover the Entire Cost of Replacing the Lead Line? Although the Village's responsibility, by ordinance, ends at the water service box in the parkway, full replacement of lead service lines is necessary for several reasons: **1) Legal Compliance:** To comply with state and federal law. **2) Funding Eligibility:** To qualify for low-interest loans and grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the State Revolving Fund. **3) Loan Forgiveness:** To be eligible for loan forgiveness in economically disadvantaged areas. **4) Financial Fairness:** To avoid placing the financial burden on current homeowners, many of whom did not choose the type of service line in their homes. Though the actual cost to replace these lines would require a rate of **\$6.93 per 1,000 gallons**. The Village is only introducing a temporary rate of **\$2.77 per 1,000 gallons** to begin generating necessary funds and to demonstrate financial readiness to repay a low-interest loan and pursue additional grant funding. Please note: These loans will be competitive and are based on both the Village's application and economic need of the community determined by U.S. Census data. There is no guarantee that the Village will receive full funding. As a result, this rate may need to be adjusted in the next two years to meet the mandated replacement schedule.

How Does the Village Water and Sewer Systems Operate? The Village purchases water from the City of Chicago. Once received, the Village is responsible for the operation, maintenance, repairs and replacement of the water infrastructure throughout River Grove. Sewage treatment and storm water management are handled by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). However, the Village is responsible for sanitary and storm sewer systems and reservoirs, creeks, and related infrastructure.



What Is an Enterprise Fund? The Village accounts for all water and sewer-related revenues and expenses through its Utility Fund, an Enterprise Fund (also known as a Business Fund). Enterprise Funds are used to manage business-like municipal services (e.g., water and sewer). They are designed to be self-sustaining and primarily funded by user charges, which in River Grove are billed every month. Currently, those user charges are insufficient to cover the growing costs of maintaining and replacing our aging underground infrastructure – particularly the state-mandated lead service line replacements.

While we understand this is a lot to take in and will affect all of us, the Village has done its best to avoid increasing these rates. However, with the state and federal mandated deadlines, deferring these projects will only lead to higher costs in the future.

More Water Information

Did you know that River Grove residents can monitor their water usage with the touch of an APP or online? **EyeOnWater** is a free mobile and web application that allows River Grove customers who participate to monitor their water consumption, detect leaks, and manage usage. The app provides access to detailed water usage data, enabling users to better understand their consumption patterns and identify potential issues. Here is how to get started: **1) Be sure to have your Water Bill account number** **2) Go to Eyeonwater.com** **3) Create Account** **4) Follow the steps on the screen to log in** **5) Once logged in you will be asked to reply to a verification email** **6) Open your email – Click the “Click here” link on the page** **7) Go back to the home page and log in** **8) Here you can access your water usage.** You can also log into the Village website at www.rivergroveil.gov to find more things that the **EyeOnWater** app can do for you.



MAYOR DAVID B GUERIN
AND THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS
PRESENT

MOVIE IN THE PARK



FREE POPCORN
FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
LAWN CHAIRS +
BLANKETS ENCOURAGED

WHAT'S PLAYING:

ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD

SEPT 5, 2025

Starting @ Dusk
Approx. 6:30PM

Scheltons Field
8592 Herrick River Grove IL 60171



Mayor Dave B. Guerin
and the Village of River
Grove Present

Fall Flannel Fest

Saturday, October 4th
2 PM to 10:30 PM at
River Front Park
8701 W. Grand Ave, River Grove

Fun for the whole family with food
booths, live music, petting zoo, face
painting, pony rides and inflatables!

52nd Street: The Music
of Billy Joel - 5-7 PM

ARRA - 8:30-10:30 PM

Mayor's Stein Hoisting Contest 7-8 PM

Be sure to wear your favorite flannel!



HISTORICAL HOUSE 2025 OPEN HOUSE DATES

Sunday, September 21 2025

Sunday, October 19 2025

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Last tour starts at 3:30

Please contact Village Hall with any
inquiries 708-453-8000

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

10/4/25
FALL FLANNEL FEST

10/25/25
TRUNK OR
TREAT

11/15/25
Thanksgiving
Craft

11/23/25
LIGHT UP THE PARK &
Christmas Makers Market

12/14/25
SANTA STOP

12/20/25
Christmas Craft
Visit our website!
rivergroveil.gov



Take a free tour and learn about life
in River Grove in the 1880's.