



Village of River Grove, Illinois October 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,

**Happy Birthday to the Village of River Grove.** We proudly boast that we are the oldest municipality in Leyden Township, so join us in wishing our great town a very happy 137th birthday on October 6th. A lot has changed since Grand Ave was called Whiskey Point Road, so this month we honor the past, enjoy the present, and look forward to our prosperous future. Please take the time to read Trustee Ramirez's historical highlights of our great town in this newsletter. By the time you read this, **Flannel Fest** has come and gone. Thank you to all the Village staff who made the event a success, and thank you to all the residents who attended. We hope to see you at our annual **Trunk or Treat** event on October 25th. This event is hosted by our Recreation Department and is exclusively for River Grove residents. Community organizations and elected officials dress up their vehicles and provide Halloween treats to the kids in the village. It's lots of fun and a Spooktacular time! October is Fire Prevention month, making it a perfect time to check your smoke detectors and change their batteries. The River Grove Fire Department (RGFD) offers free smoke detector installation for owner-occupants in single-family homes or condos. **To schedule an installation, please call (708) 716-5033.**

I would like to highlight an infrastructure upgrade that is so important to the health and wellness of our community. The street and water main improvements to 3000 and 3100 block of Elm St. are currently underway. This involves the installation of new water mains, the replacement of lead water services, new curbs, sidewalks and driveways at various locations. As well as roadway patching and landscaping. This project is scheduled for completion in early December.

In closing, it is my hope as the leader of our great community, that we as neighbors focus on issues that unite us and not divide us. We all want a safe community, a healthy family and opportunities for the next generation. We must always remember... We are the Village of Friendly Neighbors!

Best regards, your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**

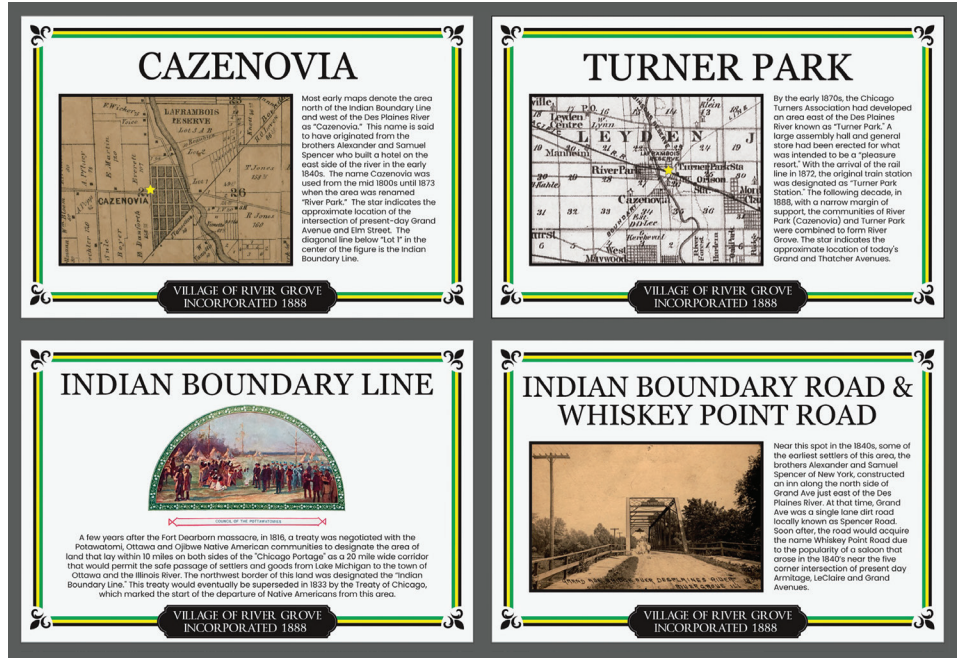
## New Street Maintenance Signs are Coming to River Grove

You may have already noticed new street maintenance signs being installed around town. It won't be long before they're placed on your street as well. Please note: your designated street maintenance day will remain the same. The main updates you'll see involve overnight resident parking and snow removal. These changes will take effect Village-wide starting November 1, 2025. The new resident-only overnight parking policy is being implemented to prevent unauthorized non-resident vehicles from parking on our streets. The goal is to keep overnight street parking available for River Grove residents. To park overnight on Village streets, vehicles must display a valid River Grove vehicle sticker and the vehicle must be registered to the resident. The snow removal signage has been updated for greater clarity. River Grove Public Works Director Brock Leder explained, **"We feel the new language for snow removal will help residents better understand when and where to move their car when it snows."** These changes are part of the Village's ongoing efforts to improve safety, accessibility, and quality of life for our residents.



## River Grove Historical Signs Information

Were you aware that the events during the Battle of Fort Dearborn on August 15, 1812, had a profound impact on the shape of our Village and much of the surrounding area. We are fortunate to reside in a Village with such a rich and diverse history. River Grove is the oldest Village in Leyden Township. Which is why it is important that we preserve our historical knowledge and heritage. Furthermore, we should feel compelled to inform our residents and educate our children and future generations about the history of our Village. One period of particular interest that is often overlooked or neglected is the pre-history of our Village: The events just before River Grove's incorporation that figuratively and literally shaped our Village. In an effort to further educate and enlighten residents, new and old, we have installed several historical signs around town. The 4 signs that have been installed thus far are shown in the image below. Additional signs are being considered for our schools and the oldest places of worship. Another goal/objective being pursued is to erect a special bronze sign that will commemorate Senf Hall, the site where our Village was incorporated back in 1888. This will likely require some fundraising and donation initiatives. Keep an eye out for the new historical information signs as you drive around town. To see the exact location of the signs or to learn more about how the events at Fort Dearborn influenced the history of our Village, visit this webpage <https://www.rivergroveil.gov/227/Historical-House-Barn>



## Kudos to the River Grove Fire Department Team!

This past summer, the River Grove Fire Department encountered a deaf resident while responding to an unfounded fire alarm at an apartment building in River Grove. The resident later contacted the firehouse through an interpreter to inquire about the visit and spoke with Kim Stewart, our Fire Administrator. During their conversation, Kim learned that the resident had a strobe light for fire alerts but lacked a bed shaker—a critical device for alerting individuals while they sleep. Kim researched available resources and discovered that the **Illinois Fire Safety Alliance/Camp I Am Me** could donate a bed shaker through their **Be Alarmed/Safe Awake Program** (Program Director: Jeff Zaleski). Once the department received it, RGFD Lt. Jeff Leiser personally installed the bed shaker in the resident's home. According to Chief Sean Flynn, the specialized alert system, which includes both a traditional smoke detector and a vibrating bed shaker, is designed to provide early warning in the event of a fire. It is especially vital for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and may not be able to hear standard alarms. The bed shaker activates simultaneously with the smoke detector, ensuring that residents are alerted even while asleep. Chief Flynn added, **“What a great program and what an outstanding team effort in making sure every member in our community is protected from fire, regardless of ability.”**



## Important Reminder and Helpful Hints:

- The deadline for the Village vehicle stickers to be on residents' cars **was September 30, 2025**. If you haven't yet purchased yours, please go to the Village Hall.
- **Here are some ideas to conserve water at home:** fix leaks, take shorter showers, turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving, and only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads. Additionally, visit the Village of River Grove website at [www.rivergroveil.gov](http://www.rivergroveil.gov) and search water for more tips on water savings.



**Please Remember**

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





 **RIVER GROVE LIONS CLUB**   
presents  
**BINGO NIGHT**  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**  
for River Grove Seniors at East Leyden HS

12 Games for \$30  
Side Games  
Split the Pot

**CASH PRIZES!**

FOOD Available For Purchase

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th**  
Doors Open at 6:00pm • Games Start at 6:45pm  
The Moose – River Park Lodge 2578  
8601 Fullerton Ave, River Grove, IL 60171  
[www.rivergrovelionsclub.com](http://www.rivergrovelionsclub.com)  
Call Lion Kurt For More Information 708-790-4449  
Sponsored By:  
**WINTRUST**

**MAYOR DAVID GUERIN**  
AND THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS  
PRESENT 

  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**  
**10AM-11:30AM**  
**RIVER FRONT PARK**  
**8701 W. GRAND AVE**  
**RIVER GROVE**  
**PARKING AVAILABLE AT NATIONAL FIELD**

**QUESTIONS: CALL KATIE**  
**708-453-8000 X303**

**THIS FREE, WALK THROUGH EVENT IS OPEN TO RIVER GROVE RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS**

Mayor David B. Guerin  
The Village Officials  
and the Historical House  
**INVITE ALL**  
**RIVER GROVE FAMILIES AND STUDENTS**  
**TO THE HISTORICAL HOUSE**  
**FOR HOLIDAY PHOTOS**  
*various backdrops will be available*  
**SATURDAY, NOV 15TH**  
**11 AM-2:30 PM**  
**RIVER GROVE HISTORICAL HOUSE AND BARN**  
**8455 W. GRAND**  
**THERE IS NO COST, AND WE WILL TAKE THE PHOTOS WITH YOUR PHONE/CAMERA.** 

**MAYOR DAVID B. GUERIN**  
**AND THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS**  
**INVITE YOU TO**   
**LIGHT UP THE GROVE**  
**AT THE CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET**

Get all your holiday shopping done under our cozy heated tent  
Browse with local crafters and check everything off your Christmas list!  
Stop by anytime between  
**3-7pm**  
*Sunday*  
**NOV 23 2025**  
**RIVER FRONT PARK**  
**8701 W Grand Ave**  
**River Grove IL 60171**  
**Tree Lighting starts at 6pm**  
[www.rivergroveil.gov](http://www.rivergroveil.gov)