



Village of River Grove, Illinois December 2025

# Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor  
Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn M. Bjorkvik Trustee  
Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee  
Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee  
Frank J. Obaya Trustee

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving. In between the turkey and the football, I like to think of how thankful I am for my family, friends, and our great neighborhood.

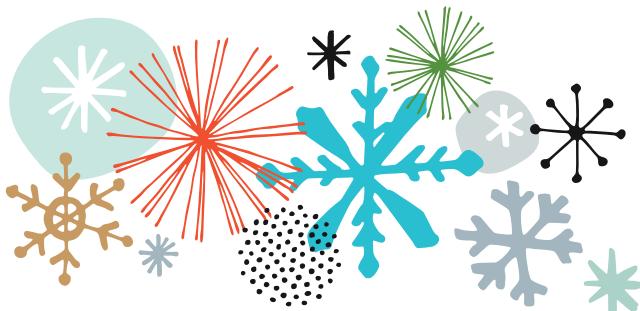
It's now the most wonderful time of the year, and by the time you are reading this, we will have lit up **River Front Park** at our annual tree lighting ceremony. We were joined with many residents on November 23rd as the village had its annual **Makers Market** event, where crafters were able to showcase wonderful items for sale.

Our dedicated public works did an amazing job, illuminating the park and gazebo. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by and visited with the River Grove kids! It truly is a magical time of year, and I always look forward to seeing all the houses decorated throughout town. Pride in ownership comes shining through every holiday season as neighbors take the time to decorate their homes and show off their Christmas cheer.

I would also like to thank our historical commission and the recreation team for hosting **Holiday Photos** at our **Historical House and Barn**. If you haven't taken a tour of the historical house, be sure to visit on one of their weekend tours next summer. The Christmas celebration continues with our annual **Santa Stop**. This tradition is brought to you by our wonderful fire department. Sign up to donate non-perishable food to the **River Grove Food Pantry**, and Santa will stop by your house in the fire engine, visit your family, take a picture, and pick up your donation. A BIG thanks to our fire department for continuing this annual holiday tradition.

In closing, **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Best wishes from my family to yours. May 2026 be your best year yet! My staff and I are always available to you. Feel free to reach out and contact me at: [mayor@rivergroveil.gov](mailto:mayor@rivergroveil.gov).

Your friend and neighbor, Dave Guerin



WISHING YOU

*Merry Christmas*



River Grove Mayor David B. Guerin and Commander Mike Warchol this past Veteran's Day at the River Grove Veterans Memorial.

## River Grove Flag Football Season

That's a wrap on the **River Grove Flag Football** season! The season concluded in late November with a celebration that included a party and fun on the field. This year's enrollment was strong, and the teams played at Rhodes School and at Ridgewood High School. According to River Grove Recreation Director Katie Muellner, "*This year's teams had lots of energy and seemed very engaged.*" She went on to say, "*We can't wait to see what the 2026 season will bring.*" A huge shout out and thank you to all who participated and our wonderful coaches.



## Holiday Safety Tips from the River Grove Fire Department

The River Grove Fire Department wants all of our residents to stay safe this holiday season. Here are a few reminders that will help you and your family:

- U.S fire departments respond to an estimated average of 832 home structure fires per year that began with Christmas decorations and electrical lighting equipment.
- Checking lights for damage before use, and unplugging all lights when leaving the house or going to bed, will help in keeping your home and family safe.
- Roughly two of every five (**42%**) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room.
- Candle fires peak in December and January.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- Keeping real Christmas trees watered daily and at least three (3) feet away from heat sources.
- Ensure that all exits are not blocked.



## River Grove Annual Santa Stop

To help kick off the holiday season, Mayor David B. Guerin and the River Grove Fire Department will be conducting their annual **Santa Stop Food Drive**. "Santa" and his helpers will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items, paper products, and toiletries for the River Grove Food Pantry. Canned vegetables, soup, chili, macaroni and cheese, diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, and toothpaste are among the items accepted.

Over the years, the generosity of our residents has been overwhelming, and everything collected stays within the community. Children love the visit from Santa, and are always excited when the fire engine arrives at their home to collect donations. Be sure to have your cameras ready—Santa's visit makes for great pictures and memories!

This year's Santa Stop event will take place on **Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Residents must be present for Santa's arrival. Santa is not permitted to enter any homes.

Any River Grove resident interested in scheduling a visit from Santa, for the purpose of contributing, should call the River Grove Fire Department at **(708) 716-5033** during normal business hours before **December 7, 2025**. Additionally, if you would like to donate food items or make a monetary contribution without a visit from Santa, donations can be dropped off at Village Hall during regular business hours.



MAYOR DAVID B. GUERIN  
and the Village Officials  
along with the Beautification Committee  
announce the



## River Grove Holiday House Decorating Contest

DECORATE YOUR HOME OR BLOCK TO BE THE BEST  
AND BRIGHTEST IN RIVER GROVE!

PRIZES AWARDED TO THE TOP 3 HOUSES

MUST BE REGISTERED BY DECEMBER 12TH BY 2PM TO BE  
ABLE TO PARTICIPATE

[WWW.RIVERGROVEIL.GOV/ACTIVITIES/](http://WWW.RIVERGROVEIL.GOV/ACTIVITIES/)

JUDGING WILL BEGIN SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED THE  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 15TH

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Call Village Hall 708-453-8000 press 0

## Santa Stop

Sunday, December 14  
10:00-1:00

Call 708-716-5033 to schedule a  
visit from Santa, who will pick up  
your non-perishable donation to the  
River Grove food pantry and pose  
for a picture with Santa outside.



Mayor David B. Guerin  
and the Village Officials  
invite you to make a

## Christmas Craft Project

Saturday Dec 20th

10-11:30 AM

At the Rec Center  
8664 W. Grand Ave

Open to River Grove residents  
and students of all ages

Call Katie for more info  
708-453-8000 x 303



## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mayor David B. Guerin

and the Village of River  
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Trustees

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