



2026 *River Grove*

David B. Guerin Mayor
Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk
Lynn M. Bjorvik Trustee
Robert C. Thomas Trustee
Christopher J. Lilly Trustee
Lora M. Lantgen Trustee
Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee
Frank J. Obaya Trustee

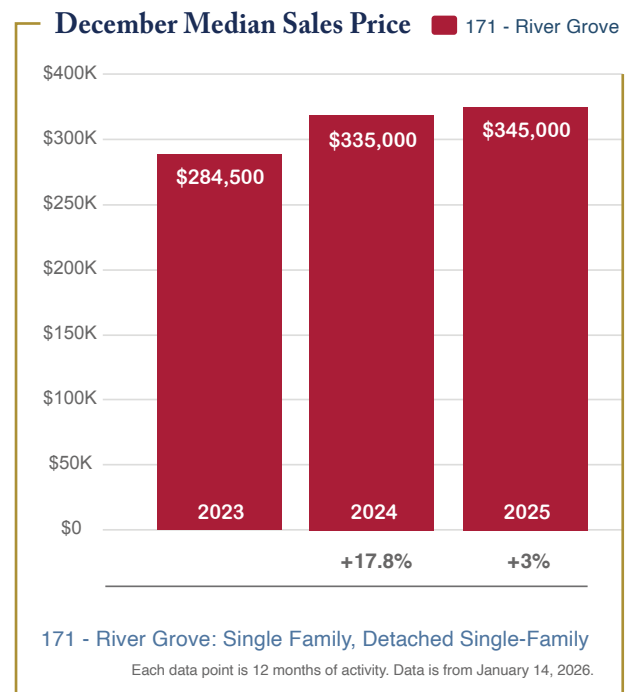
Dear Friendly Neighbors,

2025 was a fantastic year for the Village of River Grove. I am proud of the hard work and dedication that our village staff, public works, police, and fire departments put in on a daily basis. My goal is—and always has been—to maintain and grow the value of your home, keep our village safe and clean, and provide public services in an efficient manner while stretching your tax dollars.

Since being honored with the role of Village President, my fellow elected officials and I have acquired over \$11,979,331 in grants since 2017, with an additional \$2,261,000 scheduled for 2026. These funds, secured from federal, state, and county sources, have been used to improve infrastructure, remove blight, and enhance the overall quality of life for our residents. I take pride in developing long-term, nonpartisan relationships with elected officials, community stakeholders, and government partners at all levels. I am so proud of the continued improvement to our financial condition, as mentioned in prior newsletters, the Standard & Poor's rating agency increased the Village's rating from **BBB+ (Positive Outlook)** to an **A+ (Stable Outlook)**. This high rating allows the Village to receive more favorable interest rates on any borrowings we may consider. However, just as importantly, it indicates that our financial outlook, rated by an independent and national agency, remains strong and healthy.

The Village has been fortunate to offer a wide range of residential development options, including luxury townhomes, high-end condominiums, and market-rate rental properties. Our commercial sector—particularly warehouse and manufacturing uses—remains strong, with nearly 100 percent occupancy. However, we have been notably impacted on the restaurant front. While we value our existing restaurants, we have taken proactive steps to attract additional dining options through TIF incentives, and our focus in 2026 will be on expanding food and beverage opportunities within the Village. I would now ask you to take some time and read our annual State of the Village and judge for yourself how well the Village is doing.

This shows that in 2017, the median sale price of a home in River Grove was \$221,896. Last year, in 2025, the median sale price increased to \$345,000—a 55.4% increase. To me, this shows that our residents take great pride in their homes and neighborhood. They want to invest in their homes, and by doing so, they are investing in River Grove. This continued increase in the median sales price reflects River Grove residents' strong commitment to improving the community.

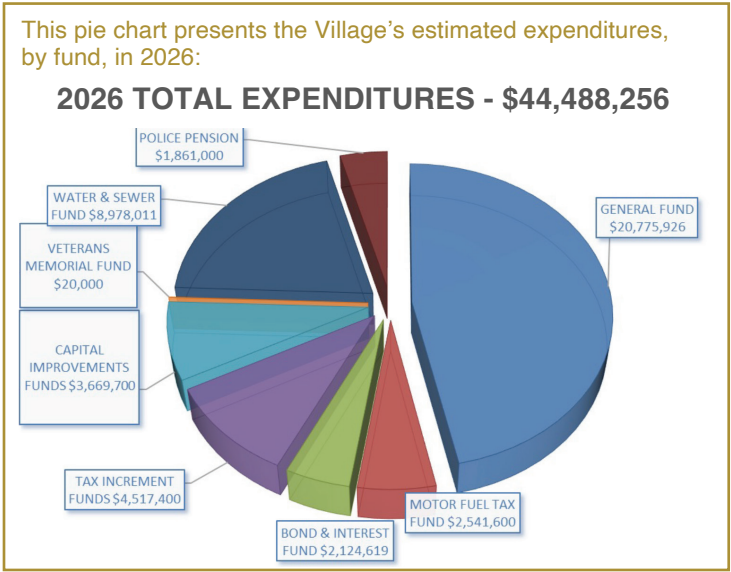
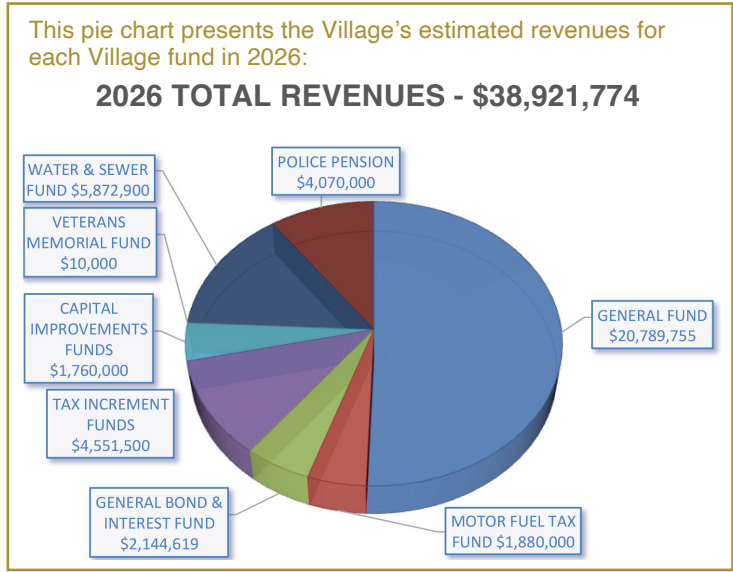


Finance The day-to-day services and capital projects funded by the Village can only be accomplished by maintaining strong and sustainable finances and prudent oversight of its expenses. 2025 Village finances continued to experience revenue growth in its intergovernmental revenues from sources such as state income taxes and local sales taxes and also continued to receive state and federal grant funding to offset several capital projects that would otherwise require local funding. For example, River Grove was the recipient of \$3 million from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the reconstruction and resurfacing of several streets and related water system improvements and in 2026, will be the recipient of over \$1,200,000 from federal, state; regional and county grant programs funds, again to offset street and parking lot projects.

River Grove continues to maintain a healthy fiscal condition in its main operating fund by prudent fiscal management. This, in turn, allows it to continue to provide the highest level of services to our residents and businesses in 2026. With the passage of the 2026 budget, the Village has now passed eight (8) consecutive balanced general fund budgets that provided for increased expenditures to capital improvements and for the Village’s fleet. Also, the Village has funded additional positions in both the Police and Public Works departments over this same time-frame. With the Village Board and staff’s financial oversight over expenditures during the year, the ending 2025 general fund balance is estimated to be \$12.3 million. For comparison purposes, the Village’s general operating fund balance on April 30, 2016 was \$1.7 million.

The 2026 expenditure budget for all funds totals \$44,488,256 with the General operating fund totaling \$20,775,926, a \$1,473,361 increase over 2025’s budgeted expenditures. The general fund includes a majority of costs for to fund the personnel and the equipment and facilities they require to provide the services residents expect from their local government including public safety, public works, code enforcement and general administration.

The positive trend of the Village in maintaining its percentage of expenditure to the general fund’s fund balance has also continued. The current projections are that the December 31, 2025 percentage will be 71.8%. Rating agencies recommend that general-purpose governments like River Grove maintain at least 20% or greater reserves. The Village has instead prudently maintained that measurement at no less than 40% for the past eight (8) fiscal years. In other funds, the existence of prior year carry-over surpluses allows for that fund to budget and spend more than it may receive in 2026. That is why 2026 overall expenditures exceeds projected 2026 revenues in the following chart.



While costs have increased due to personnel and material costs, the Village continues to maintain a lower-than-average tax rate per \$100 of assessed value as compared to other communities in our neighborhood, thus continuing to maintain a lower property tax burden on residents and businesses compared to our peers.

The following is comparing the village’s 2024 Tax Rate (most recent available) to other neighboring communities:

The Village’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (audit) has received the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) award for outstanding financial reporting of the Village’s finances. The award requires that the Village’s report format meet rigid standards for disclosure and financial transparency as well as ease of understanding for the reader. This report, as well as other financial documents, are available for viewing on the Village’s website at <https://www.rivergroveil.gov/214/Annual-Financial-Reports>.

2024 Tax Rate Impact Comparisons - Neighboring Municipalities		
Municipality	2024 Municipal Tax Rate	Levy Per Capita
Rosemont	2.626	\$ 5,222.61
Hillside	4.623	\$ 1,594.71
Maywood	8.241	\$ 1,219.03
Franklin Park	1.587	\$ 991.39
Schiller Park	2.267	\$ 945.68
River Grove	3.530	\$ 942.21
Bellwood	5.885	\$ 932.23
Elmwood Park	2.972	\$ 773.94
Stone Park	5.077	\$ 735.43
Melrose Park	1.852	\$ 724.02
Levy per Capita is based on a ratio of the government’s extended tax levy divided by the official population of the municipality. Communities with a higher percentage of industrial properties generally have a lower tax rate due to their higher assessed valuation.		

2026 Capital Improvement Plan

There will be significant construction activity throughout the Village in 2026, with more than \$9.5 million in improvements planned. The Village was successful in securing approximately \$2.0 million in grant funding, which will help extend the amount of work that can be completed using Village funds.

Below is a list of the major capital projects planned for the year, along with their anticipated timeframes. Residents are encouraged to visit the Village website for updates as projects progress.

Water Main Lining (March through July): The Village will complete the lining of water main crossings beneath the Des Plaines River this year. These three water main sections are critical infrastructure, as they provide water to the western half of the Village. This work will extend the service life of the existing pipes by a minimum of 60 years.

Grand Avenue Streetscape (April through August): The Village will complete streetscape improvements between Webster and Davisson. The work includes installing brick sidewalks, concrete parkways, landscape planters, and pedestrian lighting, enhancing the appearance of one of the Village's key entrances.

Fullerton Avenue Pavement Patching (June through July): This year, the Village will focus pavement patching efforts on the concrete pavement of Fullerton Avenue from Finley Street to River Road. The project is scheduled for June and July, after school is out for the summer, as the roadway will be reduced to one-way traffic during construction. This work will help maintain the integrity of the pavement for years to come.

Village Hall Green Parking Lot (May through mid-July): The Village will replace the existing Village Hall parking lot with a green parking lot, with assistance from a grant provided by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. This project will reduce runoff entering the combined storm sewer system. A portion of the parking lot will remain open to residents and visitors throughout construction.

2026 Paris Avenue Improvements (August through October): The Village will resurface Paris Avenue from O'Connor Drive to Belmont Avenue with assistance from a Cook County CDBG grant. The project will include traffic-calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds.

2026 O'Connor Drive Resurfacing (August through September): The Village will resurface O'Connor Drive from Paris Avenue to 80th Avenue. The project will include traffic-calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds.

2026 Elm Street Resurfacing (August through September): The Village will resurface Elm Street from Fullerton Avenue to Grand Avenue.

2026 Oak/Maple Improvement Project (March through August): The Village will complete improvements along the Maple and Oak corridors, including replacing water services and installing traffic-calming measures to slow traffic. The project is partially funded by grants from Cook County and the State of Illinois.

2026 Water Main Improvements (August through October): The Village will replace a portion of the water main near the Public Works Department. This project will also include an emergency connection to the Village of Melrose Park's water system, providing backup in the event of an emergency affecting the Village's water supply from the City of Chicago or its pump station. The project is partially funded by a grant from the State of Illinois.

Sidewalk Replacement Program: The Village has budgeted additional funds for replacing sidewalk trip hazards throughout the community. Please contact the Public Works Department to report any sidewalk panels of concern.

From The River Grove Police Department

As Mayor, I am proud of the strong partnership between Village management and the River Grove Police Department. In 2025, the Village entered into a four-year bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, reaffirming our commitment to supporting the men and women who serve our community. River Grove is a blue community. The Police Department continued to prioritize officer training in 2025, expanding in-house programs beyond state requirements. Officers participated in enhanced firearms training, less-than-lethal use-of-force instruction, and rapid response training. These efforts strengthen both officer readiness and public safety. For the fifth consecutive year, the River Grove Police Department earned Gold-level recognition through the Lexipol Connect Recognition Program for excellence in policy training and management—an achievement the department has maintained every year since 2020. The department also secured renewed grant funding, including the Department of Justice 50/50 Protective Vest Grant and Illinois Department of Transportation traffic enforcement and training grants, helping offset costs while enhancing services. Additionally, improvements in technology contributed to greater efficiency, resulting in a decrease in logged events while maintaining steady police activity. Including over 1,500 police contacts and more than 3,600 traffic-related enforcement actions in 2025.



From The River Grove Fire Department

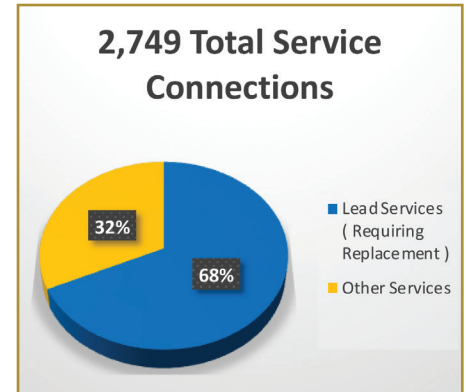
We are fortunate to have one of the best fire departments in the area. In 2025, the River Grove Fire Department responded to 2,200 calls and assisted in 631 mutual aid responses. Of those calls, 806 were fire-related, and 1,394 were EMS-related. The majority of the mutual aid responses were in Elmwood Park, Melrose Park, and Franklin Park. The RGFD conducted a total of 363 inspections and tests throughout the year, most of which included fire inspections, re-inspections, school inspections, and fire drills. The RGFD was also active in community service throughout 2025. Firefighters gave tours of the firehouse, held CPR classes for village staff, and conducted Fire Prevention Week visits at River Grove and Rhodes Schools, as well as Triton Day Care. They also visited Wyspa Dzieci School in Thatcher Woods. However, their annual Santa Stop continues to be a favorite among residents. This past December, the RGFD and Santa made 60 stops around town, visiting 142 children and 37 dogs (yes, treats were provided for the dogs too!). They did all of this while collecting food for the River Grove Food Pantry and delighting children with a visit from Santa.



From The Public Works and Water Department

Our River Grove Public Works Department has had a productive 2025. The department received a \$15,000 Illinois Community Canopy Planting Grant from Trees Forever. This funding is earmarked to help rebuild the Village's tree population and will allow River Grove to purchase more than 80 different species of trees to be planted along Village parkways. In the fall of 2025, Public Works planted 55 parkway trees, with the remaining 30 scheduled to be planted in the spring of 2026. We are excited to announce that River Grove celebrated 30 years as a Tree City USA community and also received its 11th Growth Award for planting more trees than were removed. We must continue doing our part to be environmentally friendly in River Grove—the next generation is counting on it. Over the past six years, the Village Board and I have worked diligently to rebuild the Public Works Department's aging fleet and equipment. With safety in mind, each vehicle serves multiple purposes and is equipped for both snow removal and general Village maintenance. While the Village sleeps, Public Works crews remain on call 24/7, responding to natural events and ensuring streets are clear and safe for travel the next day.

In 2025, River Grove also completed several important projects to maintain and upgrade its water infrastructure. The Village addressed water main breaks and repaired service leaks, including the replacement of lead service lines to ensure safer water delivery. Valves were replaced to improve system reliability, and three blocks of water main were upgraded. Additionally, nine water services were replaced—five of which were lead lines—further reducing potential risks to public health. The Village remains committed to minimizing non-revenue water, which is water lost before it reaches consumers, through proactive leak detection efforts and targeted infrastructure improvements. These initiatives help conserve valuable resources and ensure the efficient operation of our water system. Providing safe, reliable drinking water continues to be our highest priority for all residents and businesses in River Grove.



From the Building Department

2025 was a busy year for the Building Department. A total of 791 permits were issued, and 433 contractors were registered. Staff completed 143 transfer inspections and 345 rental inspections, with 127 properties sold during the year. The Building Department plays a vital role in protecting residents by issuing permits for home improvements and ensuring that contractors are properly licensed and insured. This oversight helps prevent substandard work and protects homeowners from unqualified or unscrupulous contractors.

River Grove Recreation

Our Recreation Department is led by strong leadership and continues to do an excellent job ensuring there are activities for everyone in River Grove. We are very proud of the success and growth of our Flag Football program; in 2025, it saw strong participation. Our girls' Rockets Softball program offers fast-pitch softball to girls ages 8 through 14. Additionally, the River Grove Baseball League provides programs ranging from T-ball for 4-year-olds through 12U teams. In 2025, the Recreation Department brought back our summer concerts in the park—something we had received many requests for and felt the time was right to return. We will be hosting three concerts again this summer, so watch for details. The Recreation Department has also done a great job offering seasonal crafts and activity programs for all age groups in our community. Lastly, we are proud of our affiliation with the West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA). Through our partnership with WSSRA and their staff, we can provide inclusive, year-round programs for residents of all ages, specifically designed to meet individual needs. These programs allow participants to build skills, form connections, and enjoy meaningful experiences in a supportive environment.



Mayors Closing Remarks

In closing, I want to thank you for reading this State of the Village, and I hope you have found it informative. You can stay informed with the Village by visiting our website at www.rivergroveil.gov, following us on Instagram and Facebook, checking out our YouTube channel and mobile app, or calling the Village to speak with someone in person. Your continued confidence in me as your Mayor is something I take very seriously. As a lifelong resident, I make every decision with respect for our past and thoughtful planning for our future. I am honored to serve as your Mayor, and as always, my staff and I are available to you. I am looking forward to a prosperous 2026! Please know you may contact me at mayor@rivergroveil.gov or by calling (708) 453-8000, ext. 308.

Together, we are the Village of Friendly Neighbors.

Dave Guerin



Village of River Grove

2026 Special Events

February 26 - RG Blood Drive

March 28 - Easter Egg Hunt

April 24 - RG Arbor Day

May 16 - Planting Day

May 28 - May 31 - River Front Fest

June 7 - RG Veterans Memorial

5KRun/Walk

June 13 - Shred Day

June 17 - Concert in the Park

July 22 - Concert in the Park

August 1 - Lions Club Steak & Lobster

August 4 - National Night Out

**August 21 - Back to School
Concert in the Park**

October 3 - Fall Flannel Fest

October 24 - Trunk or Treat

**November 22 - Light up the Park
Christmas Makers Market**

December 13 - Santa Stop





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MAYOR DAVID B. GUERIN AND THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS PRESENT

American Red Cross

RIVER GROVE BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, February 26th, 2026
9 am - 2pm
American Legion/ Recreation Center
8664 Grand Ave

Appointments are needed
Schedule online at:
www.redcrossblood.org
or call
1-800-RED-CROSS

\$20 E-GIFT CARD

BASEBALL

2026 SEASON REGISTRATION NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

SPRING SEASON

INCLUDES	T BALL - \$110
FULL UNIFORM	8U - \$120
SHIRT, PANTS, BELT AND SOCKS	10U - \$120
	12U \$150

CONTACT KATIE MUELLNER
708-453-8000 X 303
KMUELLNER@RIVERGROVEIL.GOV

REGISTER @ RIVERGROVEIL.GOV/ACTIVITIES

VOLUNTEER
COACHES WELCOME

GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

2026 SEASON REGISTRATION

8U, 10U, AND 12U - NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

REGISTER @ RIVERGROVEIL.GOV/ACTIVITIES

SPRING SEASON \$150
INCLUDES FULL UNIFORM
SHIRT, PANTS, BELT AND SOCKS

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