



MAY 2019

Village of River Grove, Illinois

Newsletter

From the Mayor's Desk



David B. Guerin Mayor
Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Tracy D. Aller Trustee
Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee
Bob Thomas Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee
Michael L. Konwinski Trustee

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

You know the old saying: April showers, and sometimes snowstorms, bring May flowers. Join us Saturday, May 18 for planting day! Bring your whole family and volunteer for this wonderful event, where the beautification committee will assign you to an area of town to plant flowers. This is a great way to service your community and show pride in our village. If you can't make it that day, why not do a cleanup project in your neck of the woods and post the photos on our Facebook page for all to see? After all, a great-looking town is a TEAM effort.

I would like to personally thank the River Grove Lions Club for donating \$75,000 to a legacy project in our village. The money will be invested into the kiddie park at River Front Park, which hasn't been updated since I was a kid. I am involved in many organizations, but the Lions Club has held a special place in my heart over the last 20 years. It is made up of a diverse, hard-working group of men and women, and I am proud to call them my friends. I am honored to be a small part of such a big club that always puts River Grove first — whether it be helping a resident in need, supporting a local cause or throwing one heck of a party at its annual "Steak and Lobster Fest" in August. Be sure to mark your calendars for that event and support this great organization.

On Wednesday June 12 at 8 a.m., I am hosting a Meet Your Local Mayors Breakfast in the Elmer Wolf Center with the Chamber by O' Hare, and all residents are welcome to attend this free event. Residents can **RSVP at (708) 865-9520** or **register on line at chamberbyohare.org**. Local Mayors Barrett Pedersen and Nick Caiafa will be on hand to discuss all the exciting things happening in Leyden Township.

Thanks for taking time to read this, and I hope to see you out and about now that weather is nicer. You can now follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Warm Regards, Mayor David B. Guerin E-mail (mayor@rivergroveil.gov)



At the last village board meeting in April the **River Grove Lions Club** attended and presented the village with a very generous \$75,000 check. The money is earmarked for a new park in the River Front Park area by the gazebo. Besides offering new, improved and updated equipment the park will have some handicap accessible offerings. Brent Leder who is a member of the Lions Club stated that the club was looking at this as a "legacy project for the town" and that the organization was hoping to help in stewardship to the park. The Lions Club motto is "We Serve". They are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to serve local communities.

Arbor Day in River Grove

Every year on the last Friday in April the Village of River Grove celebrates Arbor Day. This annual tradition started in 1985 for the village. Brent Leder who also started the Beautification Committee in town is a tree care specialist and is instrumental in making sure River Grove continues its Tree City status, which has been awarded to our village for the last 24 years. This honor is due in part to all that Mr. Leder does to ensure we receive that status. Brent said, “our program helps kids understand the importance of trees and the role they have in our environment”. Brent feels that all of us should be “tree huggers”. The tradition around the River Grove Arbor Day celebration is a strong one. A place is designated every year to plant a new tree and the community gathers. This year the place was by the gazebo at River Front Park. The sixth grade students from River Grove and Rhodes Schools all paint bird houses which were displayed for all to see and vote on at the village hall the week before Arbor Day. At the ceremony a tree is planted and a guest is invited to speak to the 6th graders who are at the tree planting. This year, as in a few previous years, we had Cathy Blecker speak who is a Falconer that works at the Wild Life Rehab in the Spring Brook Nature Center. She brought an owl and talked about wild life and their role in the environment. The students all seemed to love the program and enjoyed all information as well as the owl!

As a community, we are dedicated to nurturing, caring for and preserving the beautiful trees in our village. The River Grove Tree Board was established in 1995 to oversee all aspects of our village tree population.



Play Ball!

River Grove Little League Baseball is back this season with a new energy and a new board. They are; Pat Iovinelli, Matt Lantgen, Lora Lantgen, Michaelene Bender, Jose Huguin and Lou Cozzi. Also this year the organization partnered with the Village in committing to build River Grove Baseball to a stronger organization. This year there are five teams ranging from Tball to 12 U. Many games are played at the historic Scheltens Field. River Grove Public Works has been working very hard to improve the grounds and it has paid off. The field looks spectacular. Be sure to stop out to the old ball field this season and grab a hot dog and a pop and enjoy a game.

This year Opening Day was honored to have **Wayne Messmer** singing the National Anthem. Despite the weather many were on hand to enjoy this incredible moment.



Shout Out!

This month we are welcoming Katie Ann Muellner who is our most recently elected village trustee. She is a lifelong resident, who graduated from River Grove School and East Leyden High School. After high school, she earned an Associate's Degree from Triton College and a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Administration from Dominican University.

After completing her studies in 1998, she commenced working full-time at Quasthoff's Flowers, where she had worked part-time for many years while attending school. In addition to Quasthoff's, Katie worked as a summer laborer with the River Grove Public Works Department (1995 and 1996), and taught religious education at St. Cyprian (1996 to 2002). She also has volunteered as a member of the Village of River Grove Beautification Committee and Tree Board for many years.

In addition to her new role of representing the Village of River Grove as a trustee, Katie has served as a director and treasurer of the Grand Corridor Chamber of Commerce which is dedicated to improving the commercial and business activities and development in River Grove and its neighboring communities. Katie's experience with operating a business on Grand Avenue and her horticultural background is of great benefit in serving the residents and businesses of the Village and Grand Corridor.

On a personal level, Katie continues to reside in her family's home on Center Street with her son, Sonny, and partner, Phil Suba. She has remained actively engaged with River Grove School and the River Grove Library where her son Sonny and her niece Anna have attended school and have used the extracurricular programs of the school and library. Katie currently is a member of the River Grove Music Organization and River Grove PTA.



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