



AUGUST 2019

Village of River Grove, Illinois

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Bob Thomas Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

Hot weekends, the smell of charcoal on a Weber grill and running through your neighbor's sprinkler on a nice summer afternoon walk. These are just a few of my favorite things about summertime in beautiful River Grove...The neighborhood comes alive as family get-togethers and block parties become part of the landscape. Kids become artists as they decorate the sidewalks with their chalk artwork and neighbors debate the umpire's call in last night's baseball game over their fence. There is such a wonderful sense of pride in our great little town. We celebrate our diverse backgrounds, different careers paths, and respect one another's differing opinions, because we all share one common ground. We are all Grover's!

I would like to personally take this opportunity to thank the coaches and volunteers from the **River Grove Rockets Softball** and **River Grove Baseball** programs. Without their commitment and involvement these programs would not exist.

We all share the same enthusiasm for living in one of the safest and affordable communities around. We see the business growth, we see our home values on the rise, and we all want what is best for our families and our community.

UnWined is just around the corner as we listen to great jazz, check out some great craft vendors and UnWined at beautiful River Front Park. Save the date for our first ever **Fall Flannel Fest** on October 5, 2019. We were able to book the **Alpine Thunder**, who are in high demand during Oktoberfest season. More details on that in the next newsletter.

Thank you and remember my department heads are here to serve you. Enjoy your summer, and I hope to see you soon. My staff and I are always available to you.

Warm Regards, Mayor David B. Guerin E-mail (mayor@rivergroveil.gov), follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

A Reminder From the River Grove Police Department!

Did you know, the use of a cell phone while driving increases your chance of getting into a crash by 400%? Texting while driving makes you 23 times more likely to crash (source - Illinois State Police). On July 1, 2019, the State of Illinois enacted a stricter law, with harsher penalties, to crack down on distracted driving. Here is what you should know:

The driver of any vehicle is prohibited from using a hand-held cellular phone or other electronic communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. Operating a motor vehicle is not only defined as physically driving, but a driver is also operating a motor vehicle when completely stopped in traffic at a traffic light, for example. In that case, if a driver is even holding an electronic communication device, the driver could be ticketed under the law. The use of hands-free talking devices is acceptable in most cases (there are exceptions), but to help prevent distractions with novice drivers, those persons 18 years and younger may not use a hands-free device at all.

The law also mandates that the offense of distracted driving is considered a moving violation. Now, warning tickets or compliance tickets will no longer be issued to violators. Fines increase incrementally from \$75.00 from the first offense to \$125.00 for the third offense and three moving violations in Illinois will get a driver's license suspended. Moreover, distracted drivers who become involved in a traffic crash, could face harsher penalties and/or jail time. The law does provide a few exceptions, one of which is that all drivers may use a communication device, that is not hands-free, to report an emergency.

The law was enhanced to bring awareness and help prevent distracted driving. Please put your devices down and pay attention to your surroundings when driving. The Village of River Grove thanks you for your attention to this important matter!

River Front Fest Recap The 2019 River Front Fest was a great success and very well attended. We were thrown for a loop on the first day the carnival rolled in when they tried to place their equipment in National Field and it began to sink! The special events team had to move into action and go to plan B. The carnival suggested the American Legion/Recreation lot. The only issue was that the library owns half of that lot. With a phone call to our Library board president Michael Prokop, he and his board graciously allowed the village to use the entire lot. The rest is history. We had four days of great music, fun carnival rides and the best food vendors. What most people don't see is all the planning and the behind the scenes work involved in putting the fest together. It all started with a vision that Mayor Guerin had when he took office over 2 years ago. He wanted to bring the Fest back. He had such great memories of the Fest growing up, and he wanted the village to experience that again. So with his direction the Fest began to take shape. Public Works, Police, Fire, the Village Officials, and the special events team all worked together to bring the Fest and the community together. We are also extremely lucky to have a great group of volunteers working at various jobs at the fest. We are already planning for next year and, you can be sure there will be a few new surprises!!!

Shout Out! *Kirstie Pawlik is our new Payroll Administrator/Accounting Support Specialist!* She provides pay related information to employees, maintains records of timekeeping information for the Village, processes payroll biweekly, and more. Kirstie's background is in finance and she has worked at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago from 2013 to 2018 and at our local community college, Triton College from 2010 to 2013. She has worked to help college students find ways to finance their education and assisted student employees in finding jobs. In the past year she worked in the Alliance for Lifelong Learning Department in Skokie helping students sign up for ESL classes, professional certification classes, senior emeritus classes, and many more. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Northeastern Illinois University and an Associate's Degree in Accounting from Triton College. She was part of the Model Illinois Government Club at Triton College and volunteered for RSVP Tax Counseling for the Elderly in 2012. She has a passion to serve her community being a 4th Generation resident of River Grove. She graduated from River Grove Elementary School and East Leyden High School. She currently resides very close to her family home in River Grove and frequently visits many family members that live close by.



**2019-2020
River Grove Senior Club Officers:**

In order of appearance from left to right:
Jane Pierri – First Vice President
Marianne Sammauro – President
Kathy Bertini – Second Vice President
Mike Prokop – Recording Secretary
Dave Guerin – River Grove Mayor
Joan Bischoff – Treasurer
Loretta Page – Corresponding Secretary (not pictured)



**OPEN TO
BOYS & GIRLS 1ST - 8TH GRADE**

**TEAM JERSEY IS PROVIDED.
\$40 PER PLAYER**



**ALL GAMES ARE SATURDAYS
AT RHODES SCHOOL ON THE GRASS**

**5 ON 5 GAMES FORMATS
★
TWO - 20 MINUTE HALVES**

REGISTRATION DATES

**Wednesday, Aug 14, 2019
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

**Wednesday, Aug 21, 2019
6:00PM - 8:00PM**

**Saturday, Aug 17, 2019
10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Saturday, Aug 24, 2019
10:00AM - 12:00PM**

REGISTER AT THE RIVER GROVE RECREATION CENTER, 8664 W GRAND AVE.

***COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!**

For more information, please contact Laura Jardine at (708) 453-8000 ext 303 or visit www.rivergroveil.gov