



Village of River Grove, Illinois AUGUST 2020

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Roger V. Sewell Trustee

Bob Thomas Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

We are now in the dog days of summer and boy is it hot! No fests or large gatherings are happening, but we are doing our best to beat the heat and enjoy a "socially distanced" August. For some it means grilling and chilling in the back yard and putting the sprinkler out to let the kids run through; for others, it's trying to stay hydrated as they are riding their bike through our trails or on a walk to River Front Park to enjoy the newly opened Lions Park. Cooling centers are always available to our residents who may be in distress during these scorching summer days. Call our police non-emergency at **(708) 453-2121/22** if you are in need.

I salute our residents and business leaders as they continue to practice the three **W's**

1. Wear a mask
2. Wash your hands
3. Watch your distance

Following these steps is being a friendly neighbor and makes financial sense as we do want to keep our local businesses up and running.

I am proud to say that we have kept the village services available to our residents during these most unusual times. Thank you to the staff and department heads for their diligence. Please contact the village hall if we can be of any assistance to you or your family.

The village board and I are dedicated to advancing our community, keeping your costs down and providing you with the best municipal service around. Thank you for living or doing business in our diverse and welcoming community. Send me an email with what is on your mind at mayor@rivergroveil.gov. I would love to hear from you!

Your friend and neighbor, David B. Guerin, follow me on twitter @davidbguerin

Stand Up and Be Counted River Grove!

The 2020 Census is upon us. Responding to the census is not only your civic duty but it affects the amount of funding that River Grove receives, how we plan for the future, and our representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census is used to: ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments; plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods. It also determines how many seats our state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

5 big reasons to fill out your Census:

- 1) **Help your River Grove Thrive!** Census numbers can help our community workout public improvement strategies.
- 2) **Get help in times of need.** Many 911 emergency systems are based on maps developed for the last census. Census information helps health providers predict the spread of disease through communities with children or elderly people.
- 3) **Make your government work for you!** It is a good way to tell our state and national leaders who we are and what we need. The numbers are used to help determine the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal and state funds. Funding that can be used for hospitals, highways, stadiums and school lunch programs.
- 4) **Reduce risk for American business.** Because census numbers help industry reduce financial risk and locate potential markets, businesses are able to produce the products you want.
- 5) **Help yourself and your Family.** Individual records are held confidential for 72 years. You can request a certificate from past censuses that can be used as proof to establish your age, residence or relationship, information that could help you qualify for a pension, establish citizenship or obtain an inheritance.

Additionally, the Census Bureau will never ask for: social security numbers, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party. **Please, please, please fill out your Census!**



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



Shout Out!

Congratulations to **Officer Marshon Balthazar** on being promoted to Detective on the River Grove Police Force. Officer Balthazar began his law enforcement career nearly two decades ago with the Triton College Police Department in 2000. During Officer Balthazar's time with the Triton College Police Department he was certified by the Police Training Institute in Champaign Illinois and designated as Triton's shooting range officer. Officer Balthazar remained

with the Triton College Police Department for almost two years before he applied and was hired by the River Grove Police Department in 2002. In 2019 Officer Balthazar was certified as a Field Training Officer. This position is responsible for training police officers that have recently graduated from the police academy. Officer Balthazar was elated with being selected for the position of field training officer and feels that he can help new officers in achieving success in their law enforcement careers. Officer Balthazar prides himself on education and obtaining useful knowledge which is demonstrated in his recent enrollment into Concordia University where he maintains a 4.0 grade point average as a full time student. Being selected for the position of detective in the police department is the biggest step in Officer Balthazar's law enforcement career, an appointment that he doesn't take lightly. He believes that life, like public safety often presents challenges, but with patience and diligence goals can be achieved. Looking forward to the near future he expects continued success while working towards a spring graduation and using that knowledge to bolster the investigations unit. Much of Officer Balthazar's free time is spent with his wife and 7-month old son. When he isn't hanging with his family he enjoys motorcycle trips, car shows, and any sort of DIY project.



R.G.F.D. Purchases New PPE for Water Rescues

Mayor Dave Guerin participated with Fire Chief Sean Flynn and members of the River Grove Fire Department in doing drills on swift water rescue using the newly purchased PPE (personal protective equipment) for water rescues. Having a community on the river made the purchase truly essential.



2020 Roadway Improvements Project

The Village of River Grove is excited to begin construction on the 2020 Roadway Improvements Project, which **includes Budd Street and Hessing Street north of Grand Avenue**.

The project construction cost, \$362,000, is being funded with \$150,000 in funds through a grant from Cook County's Community Development Block Grant and the balance of the roadway improvement costs are being covered by Motor Fuel Tax funds.

Construction will begin the week of July 13th and parking will be affected. There will several instances when parking will not be allowed on Budd Street and Hessing Street north of Grand Avenue during the day, including the off street parking stalls. The contractor will be posting NO PARKING signs as needed. Weather permitting, construction will be completed in approximately six weeks.



Parking will be available on adjacent streets during construction. Parking restrictions on adjacent streets regarding street sweeping will be temporarily lifted during construction. The village will enhance its traffic patrol of the area to ensure that traffic is compliant with the speed and stop sign regulations during construction.

Work will include surface removal and resurfacing, replacing defective curb & gutter and sidewalk, concrete parking stall installation, and restoration. Garbage collection will not be affected and will continue as normal.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Brock Leder, Director of Public Works at (708) 452-7055.