



Village of River Grove, Illinois Jan. 2022 Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Lynn Bjorvik Trustee

Michele M. Obaya Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Katie A. Muellner Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Friendly Neighbors,

It's here, we made it, it is 2022! Happy New Year to you and yours. I have much confidence that this year will be a great one; I always look forward to the sense of having a new beginning that the new year brings! Although I love the holidays, I enjoy things settling down and going back into a normal flow. January brings playoff football to the TV screen and New Year's resolutions are on our minds.

On January 17 we celebrate the life of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. We all admire his dedication to fighting for the civil rights of everyone. This great leader had many powerful quotes, but one of my favorites that has always given me guidance is: *"The time is always right to do what is right."* Those words have never been more true and so appropriate in these most unusual times.

The Village board is proud to present a balanced and on time budget while still providing top notch public safety and services to our community. We look forward to sharing the State of the Village with you in next month's newsletter. River Grove in great financial shape and has strong leadership running its departments and our employees work hard every day to make River Grove an even better place to live.

As the weather becomes colder and winter sets in, please take the time to check on our older neighbors. A quick call or knock on the door can go a long way to someone who is living alone or is not as mobile as they would like to be.

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



2021 Holiday House Decorating Contest

Once again, the judges of this year's contest had no easy task; everywhere they stopped the decorations were wonderful and the Village looked amazing this holiday season. Thank you to all who decorated. The top three houses were: **1st place: 9027, 9028, & 9030 Fullerton** (these three River Grove residences teamed up together to make a beautiful light display for all to enjoy).

2nd place 2344 Trumbull (decorated with the whole Peanuts crew celebrating the true meaning of Christmas). **3rd place 2570 Oak** (beautifully decorated in red and white lights and a mailbox for Santa Claus). Honorable mention goes to River Grove's very own **Hala Kahiki Tiki Bar & Lounge**.

All winners received a gift card to a local River Grove eatery. This year's block award winner wasn't easy to choose due to the fact that every block around town looked amazing. It came down to which one had the most decorated houses, so the **2400 block of Erie** was chosen as this year's winner.



1st place



2nd place



3rd place



Shout Out to River Grove School Teacher Deborah Floto!

Debbie Floto must be the most well-known teacher in River Grove! For 34 years she has been at River Grove Elementary School, making each one of her students feel special. Her kindergarten class is covered with smiley faces, her Instagram page for her class is “Miss Smiley Face”, and when both current and former students talk about her, they beam with smiles from ear to ear. They love her and she loves them. Over the years, Ms. Floto has had hundreds of students in her classes and certainly thousands have benefited from her contributions. Mayor Guerin commented, *“We are very proud of Ms. Floto and the positive impact that she has had on the community. We appreciate her hard work and dedication to the students of River Grove.”*



On December 13th, 2021 The Chicagoland Veterans Command Post and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5979 Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Floto. Congratulations and thank you for all you have done for our students - our future leaders!

Coming Soon...A New Park in Thatcher Woods Area, Paid for with 100% TIF Funds!

The Village of River Grove is excited to announce the development of a brand new park to be built in 2022 to service the residents of the Thatcher Woods area. This \$250,000 plus investment in our community will convert unused green space near Belmont and Cumberland into a very modern playground for all to enjoy. This park will be paid fully with Tax Incentive Funds (TIF) that were generated from the increased taxable value of the properties located within the district and not from the Village's regular operating funds.



Mayor Guerin stated, “The residents of the Thatcher Woods area have spoken and the village board is listening. While there are a lot of people living in or around the Thatcher Woods area, there are no parks for many of the young families in this area. As a father of young kids I know the importance of having recreational activities for our little ones, and if mom or dad stop to do some shopping while they are there, the village will gladly accept the extra tax dollars.” **Construction will start in Spring 2022.**

Village Board Finalizes Development Agreement

The closing of Holy Cross High School and then Guerin Prep High School have been huge disappointments to the community, as the schools created decades of great religious education to many in the area. With both schools closed, the land at Belmont and 80th Ave. became a burden on our public resources as well as a safety hazard. Discussions with Noah Properties began in 2019 with the closing of Guerin Prep. After many months of discussion and community input the village board has finalized a development agreement with Noah Properties, a visionary leader among Chicago's top real estate developers for more than two decades. Noah Properties has successfully built in Bloomingdale, Oak Park and Glencoe among other Chicagoland locations. The quarter billion-dollar investment at 80th and Belmont will put the 22 acres of abandoned property on the tax rolls for the first time ever. The property will be self-contained with townhomes, multi-family units and a 55 and over community with a clubhouse, exercise center, and many other amenities. Mayor Guerin said, “The Village Board welcomes such a significant investment in our community while offering very unique housing opportunities for our present and future residents. The area is long overdue for a 55 and over community, providing maintenance free living to those who love the area but don't want the work of a single family home. The townhomes have 3 bedrooms with 3 1/2 baths and a two car garage. Interested people are already calling and asking about them even before one wall has been constructed. While the general population of the state is shrinking, River Grove is growing, providing more consumers to our Thatcher Woods Shopping Center. Thank you for all the community input on this project.”



Annual River Grove Santa Stop

With the help of the River Grove Fire Department, Santa was able to stop at 52 houses Sunday December 12th for the 21st Annual Santa Stop. This event collects non-perishable food items for the River Grove Food Pantry. Not only does this show the overwhelming generosity of our residents but allows for a photo op with Santa! It was a beautiful day weather wise and certainly got everyone involved into the spirit of the season.



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