



Village of River Grove, Illinois October 2023

# Newsletter



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

## From the Mayor's Desk

### Dear Friends,

Fall is here! We, as a village, celebrated fall's arrival at our annual **Fall Flannel Fest** and **UnWined**. Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed the bands, food, craft vendors and music. I'd like to send out a big thanks to our special event committee, public safety team, public works and all the volunteers who made these events a success. We have a great team here in River Grove and we are always looking for volunteers for these events. If you are interested in volunteering for village events please contact me at [mayor@rivergroveil.gov](mailto:mayor@rivergroveil.gov).

**October is Fire Prevention month**, which is a good time to check your smoke detectors and change the batteries in them. The RGFD will install a smoke detector for owner-occupants either in single-family homes or condos at no cost. **Please call (708) 716-5033** to schedule an installation.

**Halloween** is right around the corner and we invite all River Grove residents to join us for our annual **Trunk or Treat** event. Trunk or Treat is a River Grove tradition hosted by our Recreation Department. Department heads, elected officials, schools, and community groups decorate their vehicles and give out treats. It's always fun to see our River Grove kids (and adults) dressed up for Halloween. This year the event will take place on Saturday October 28th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in River Front Park. I ask that everyone be extra cautious driving on Halloween and watch for kids as they trick or treat. Chief Konwinski and our public safety team recommended trick or treat hours from 3 to 7 p.m. Have a great Halloween and save me some peanut butter cups!

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**



### Happy Birthday River Grove -135 Years Young!

Incorporated in 1888, River Grove was the first village in Leyden Township. Served by a Village President, Clerk and six Trustees, River Grove is a Home Rule municipality with just over 10,000 residents and is located in the west central portion of Cook County, Illinois. The actual date of the Village's birthday is October 6th; any one who stops in Village Hall that day will get a treat in honor of our 135th birthday!



## Shout Out! Jeanne Walsh

This month we are dedicating our Shout Out to retiring Public Works Administrator Jeanne Walsh. Jeanne was hired as the Public Works Administrative Assistant in April of 2003 by then Public Works Director, Brent Leder. In August of 2005 Jeanne became Mayor Marilyn May's Administrative Assistant. She spent the next 13 years in that role, supporting the Mayor and all who came to the Village in need of anything. Jeanne has always been the go to person at the Village. Her knowledge and talents are extensive and she is always willing to lend a helping hand. In May of 2018 she returned to her PW role and has made the decision to retire this month with 20 and a half years of service. Jeanne plans on spending her retirement traveling and running the business she owns with her husband Adam.

Jeanne moved to River Grove in 1964, she attended Bethlehem Lutheran, East Leyden and Triton College. When discussing her time at the village, Jeanne said, *"Working in the town I was raised in has been very fulfilling."* Jeanne is a true public servant and will be missed. We appreciate her dedication to the Village for all these years and wish her all the best in her next chapter.



## Reminder: Be a Friendly Neighbor!

The Village is getting an increase in calls from residents stating people walking their dogs are not picking up their dog's waste. Please be a good neighbor and clean up after your pets. It is the neighborly thing to do! Not picking up animal waste is also a code violation in River Grove and it carries a fine from \$100 to \$750.

## From River Grove Fire Chief Sean Flynn

This year's **NFPA Fire Prevention Week** will be held from Sunday October 8 through Saturday October 14th. The Campaign this year is, **"Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention"**, and it wants to educate everyone about simple but important actions to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

- **Did you know?** Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.
- **What can you do?** If you can, turn off the heat source and then get out. Close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-11 from outside.

It is important to have a **"kids-free zone"** of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food is prepared.



Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?  
**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**



## From Police Chief Mike Konwinski

With Halloween right around the corner, all are reminded to be safe and vigilant if you choose to go trick or treating! The village recommended hours for trick or treating are from 3 PM until 7 PM. Those who participate are encouraged to wear reflective or bright colored clothing, pay attention to traffic when crossing the street, only cross the street at crosswalks and inspect all treats before you eat them!



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