



Village of River Grove, Illinois November 2023

Newsletter



David B. Guerin Mayor

Marjorie A. Manchen Clerk

Lynn M. Bjorkvik Trustee

Robert C. Thomas Trustee

Christopher J. Lilly Trustee

Lora M. Lantgen Trustee

Benjamin E. Ramirez Trustee

From the Mayor's Desk

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

October was a fun month. My little guy David Jr. turned 5 and my daughter Audrey turned 10. We had a great time celebrating both of their birthdays along with Halloween. A big thank you to our recreation team for organizing another successful **Trunk or Treat**. It's always so fun to see the neighborhood kids (and parents) in their great costumes. We had wonderful participation from local businesses, elected official and various service groups.

I felt honored this month as I was sworn in as **President of the West Central Municipal Conference**. This conference represents many of our surrounding communities, lobbying to move forward local issues that affect residents' quality of life and their pocketbooks.

I also traveled to Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Village of River Grove. This was a very interesting time to be in D.C. with the historic removal of the speaker of the house on the first day of my visit. I met with both of our Congresspeople: Chuy Garcia and Delia Ramirez. Issues discussed were funding for a new recreation center, transportation and other funding options for the lead water replacement mandate. I also met with Senator Tammy Duckworth and her staff. It was a very successful trip.

I am proud to announce the Village of River Grove is officially a quiet zone. As you know we are a railroad Community. While this is great for commuting, it seems the horns have become louder and louder over the years. Thank you to our friends on the federal, state and local level who worked to make this happen. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information.

In closing, I'd like to say **"Happy Thanksgiving to all"**. I am very thankful to be mayor of my hometown, but most of all, I am thankful for my two great kids and wonderful family and friends.

Hope to hear from you or see you soon.

Your friend and neighbor, **Dave Guerin**



Pace Bus Free to River Grove Seniors

The River Grove PACE bus is now free to ride for River Grove Seniors. This is compliments of Mayor David B. Guerin and the Village Board of Trustees. The **Dial-a-Ride program** is available to all River Grove Senior Citizens (65 yrs and older) and those with disabilities or special needs/Lift Equipped. The hours of operation are: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the boundaries are from Mannheim Road to the west, Harlem Avenue to the east, North Avenue to the south and Irving Park Road to the north. To arrange a pick-up call **(708) 869-0481**.



Shout Out! Trustee Lynn Bjorvik

Lynn Bjorvik has been working for the Village of River Grove since 2000. She started as a part-time Human Resources Director. In July of 2002 she was appointed to the Board of Trustees as the Chairperson of the License & Ordinance Committee and then was elected to that position in 2003. In 2016 she served as the Interim Mayor for one year until David Guerin was elected Mayor in 2017. She recently assumed a new role on the Village Board as the Chairperson of the Economic & Development Committee. Lynn is a very dedicated public servant and truly enjoys working with all of the Village Departments and elected officials to help make River Grove a great place to live and work.

For the past 19 years, Lynn has enjoyed a successful career as a Real Estate Broker and is currently with Coldwell Banker Realty. In 2018 Lynn and her real estate partner Jo formed the J&L Team. They have been working together ever since to help their clients through the detailed process of buying and selling real estate.

When Lynn is not working she enjoys bike riding, spending time outside and being with her family. Lynn has been married to her husband John "Bucky" Bjorvik for 36 years and they have 2 children, Kevin (who recently married Jessica) and Kelly.



Quiet Zone Designation Becomes a Reality

On October 4, 2023 the Village of River Grove finally received approval to establish a **Quiet Zone**. Mayor Guerin and the Village Engineers have been meeting and working with federal, state and local agencies for several years to accomplish this.

While the railroads have been notified of the new **24-Hour Quiet Zone** across the Villages of Franklin Park and River Grove, and it has been noticeably quieter in town, it should be known that the train engineer is still in control of the horns and will utilize the horn in certain safety related and emergency situations. Mayor David B. Guerin stated, "*I am thrilled to report that the application review period has passed without objection, and a Quiet Zone designation will go into effect over the next several weeks. This designation will significantly decrease train horns that are required ahead of each pedestrian crossing.*" Additionally, the Mayor added, "*I appreciate the community's patience during this long process, and I want to thank the Village of Franklin Park and Mayor Pedersen for partnering with us on this effort.*"

With this Quiet Zone designation train engineers will no longer be legally required to sound the train horns. However, if the train engineer perceives a threat on or near the tracks, the train horn will be sounded. If the engineer sees a car, pedestrian, or an animal on the tracks or feels that there is a danger to the train ahead, they can still blow the horn. Also, an engineer can sound their horn when passing another train, if a train is stopped on the tracks, or if a passenger train is stopped at the station picking up passengers.

Property Tax Bills Coming

Residents owning property in River Grove pay property taxes to the Cook County Treasurer twice a year. The second installment tax bill will be mailed to residents in early November and will be due on December 1, 2023.

Resident's bills for this tax year take into account the Cook County triennial (every three year) reassessment of individual property values. This process takes into account changes in the market values of properties that are required to be assessed by state statute. For 2022 taxes, River Grove, as well as all the towns in Leyden Township, are experiencing market values increasing 25% to 30% over the same property's value three years ago. This increase in value will also usually result in an increase in the amount of taxes a resident will pay.

For your awareness, the Village's share of your property tax bill, depending on the combination of taxing districts the property is located in, is between 26% and 29% of the total bill. The other portions of the bill go to the Village's fine schools, library and other local governmental bodies.

River Grove Senior Snow Removal Program

East Leyden High School students will be assisting our River Grove Seniors with snow removal. A shovel may need to be provided; the resident will verify with the student. **The rate will be \$10.00 per house and includes the following:**

- A path from your front door to your sidewalk/street/stairs
- A path from your back door to your garage door
- Additional charges will apply for the following and will be discussed and handled with the student that is assisting you:
1. Salting (resident must provide salt) 2. Shoveling driveways, carport, parking space(s)



The River Grove Senior resident must contact the student each time their services are needed and payment must be made at time of service. To have a student assigned to you, please contact **Gina Leder at (708) 453-8000 extension 308.**