

# The Rose CLIPPINGS

Spring 2021

Est. 1892

*The Village of La Grange Park*

[www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org)



## President's Corner

It has been over a year since the declaration of a global pandemic and we had to unexpectedly and dramatically change the way we live. I know that many have endured months of pain, disruption, and uncertainty. As we eagerly anticipate a return to “normal,” I’d like to acknowledge the steps our community has taken to build resilience during this crisis. The impacts of the virus will linger for years to come, but our Village has grown stronger by uplifting each other during times of need, and we will emerge from this pandemic even better equipped to respond to and manage uncertainty in the future.

The Village’s recent vaccination clinic, hosted in partnership with Jewel-Osco, was a powerful display of compassion and dedication. The clinic focused on serving La Grange Park’s older adults, particularly those without email or computer access, and administered over 600 doses. I want to extend my appreciation to Village staff for assisting with scheduling appointments, the police



and fire personnel, pharmacists, and many volunteers who ensured that the clinic ran smoothly, and our partners from the Villages of Western Springs and La Grange, Western Springs School District 101, Western Springs Senior Center, and Interfaith Community Partners for their collaboration in planning for a safe and successful event. Over 1,600 doses were administered in total, representing a major step towards ending the pandemic.

I am also heartened by the resourcefulness, flexibility, and

creativity exhibited across our Village departments to respond to residents’ needs and maintain efficient services through the crisis. The Village continues to leverage online systems to process permits and accept payments, and recently began utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to integrate information and mapping for more effective communications and greater operational efficiencies. We are also monitoring the impact of the pandemic on local revenues, promoting economic development, and pursuing grant funding to support priority projects. Two large capital projects, as well as a Village-wide tree inventory and a pavement condition assessment, will commence this year with support from grants. The Village will continue to adapt processes and carefully target resources to maximize benefits for our residents.

While the pandemic is not over, there are many reasons to be optimistic about a return to normal and our community’s ability to address today’s challenges and adapt to tomorrow’s. Vaccines are being distributed more readily and eligibility to receive a vaccine is growing. Rates of coronavirus cases are down in our area. Businesses are safely opening their doors to more customers. Students and teachers are returning to classrooms. Let’s remain vigilant and continue to support one another and our local businesses. If we continue to work collaboratively as individuals and organizations, we can set the stage for a stronger, more resilient La Grange Park.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

*President James J. Discipio*



## Fire Department Candidates

In January, five new Fire Department candidates were hired and began their initial firefighter training at the Basic Operations Firefighter Academy in Romeoville. The Academy, which is designed around the schedules of part-time and paid-on-call firefighters, includes classroom lectures and practical training at the Riverside Fire Department and the Academy training grounds in Romeoville. We wish Robert McDermott, Colin McManus, Spencer Schattauer, Ty Skalnik, and David Skib well in their new positions serving our Village.



## La Grange Park Celebrates 40 Years of Paramedic Service

On January 1, 1981, the La Grange/La Grange Park paramedic unit (Ambulance 426) began operating as one of the first joint ventures of its kind in Illinois, providing paramedic level advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service to both Villages. Officials and staff had the foresight to identify the need for providing ALS services and held a special referendum in 1980, giving residents the opportunity to vote in favor of establishing a taxpayer-funded paramedic ambulance program. Although the paramedic program and delivery of service have evolved over time, the Village recognizes this notable milestone and the support from our residents some forty years ago.



## Drug Take Back Day April 24

The La Grange Park Police Department in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will host a National Drug Take Back Day on April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Village Hall. This program offers a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing unwanted or expired medications. Please empty all drugs from their original containers, bottles, or blister packs and place them in a sealed bag. Only drugs in pill form will be accepted – no liquids. Can't make it to Village Hall on April 24? A permanent drop box is located in the lobby with drop off access during regular business hours. As a friendly reminder, face coverings are required to enter the building.

## Coffee with the Chief & Staff May 15

In the interest of public safety, Coffee with the Chief and Staff was rescheduled to allow for an outdoor meeting. This event will be held May 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Memorial Park Band Shelter. Grab your coffee and meet us in the park this spring. We look forward to seeing you there!



## National Night Out August 2-3

Based on the popularity and growth of the 2019 event, this year's National Night Out will take place over two days with both in-person and virtual events. A parade will be held on Monday, August 2 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will follow a route similar to the Santa Parade that took place in December. In conjunction with the event on Monday, a National Night In will take place on Tuesday, August 3 starting at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday's event will be completely virtual and streamed live on the Police Department's Facebook page. We encourage everyone to participate in both events and to keep socially distanced throughout the parade route. Information pertaining to the exact route will be posted on the Village's website and the department's Facebook page.



# Spring Weather Safety Tips

Spring can bring strong storms, but a little preparation goes a long way in protecting yourself and your loved ones. Here are some spring weather safety tips.

**Tornadoes** The Village maintains two outdoor warning sirens and recommends tuning in to local television or radio stations, using a weather warning application on your smart phone, or purchasing a weather alert radio for alerts indoors. **IF WE ARE UNDER A TORNADO WARNING, FIND SHELTER IN A SAFE PLACE RIGHT AWAY, SUCH AS A SAFE ROOM, BASEMENT, OR SMALL INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST LEVEL.**

**Thunderstorms & Lightning** Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards. Pay attention to weather alerts and keep an eye on the sky when attending outdoor events. **IF WE ARE UNDER A THUNDERSTORM WARNING, IDENTIFY SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY AND MOVE INSIDE A NEARBY BUILDING OR CAR PRIOR TO THE STORM THREATENING.**

**Floods** Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States and may develop either slowly or quickly. In La Grange Park, flooding usually occurs in yards and streets, especially at intersections. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down and any amount of water can obstruct your view of trip hazards and holes. **IF WE ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, IDENTIFY SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY AND DO NOT WALK, SWIM, OR DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS. STAY AWAY FROM ELECTRICAL HAZARDS, SUCH AS STANDING IN A FLOODED BASEMENT, AND WHEN DRIVING, "TURN AROUND AND DON'T DROWN!"**

For additional information and guidance, please visit the following websites:

[www.ready.gov/severe-weather](http://www.ready.gov/severe-weather)

[www2.illinois.gov/iema/Preparedness/Pages/Weather.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/iema/Preparedness/Pages/Weather.aspx)

# New Online Payment Site

The Village rolled out a new online payment site for customers to view and pay their water bills online, sign up for paperless billing, and setup pay by text. You will need your account number to access the system and register your account. Please note, if you previously registered with the Village's ePay site, you will need to re-register. A convenience fee of 2.25% is charged for credit card payments and \$0.50 for bank withdrawals. These fees go to the payment processor and are not collected by the Village. There is no charge if you sign up for automatic bank withdrawals. See the "Payment Center" page on the Village's website for more information.

# Home Improvement Projects

Last year the Building Department saw a surge in building permits and inspections, as residents tackled home improvement projects during the pandemic. If you are starting a new project this spring, be aware that the Village requires a permit for most construction or remodeling projects in order to ensure the safety of the work and its compliance with building, construction, and zoning codes. If you're not sure whether you will need a building permit for your project, please see the "Building Department" page on the Village's website or contact the Building Department at (708) 354-0225.



# Construction Projects

The Village recently secured grant funding for two large capital projects – a street resurfacing project and the installation of permeable pavers at three intersections to collect excess rainwater and minimize localized flooding. Both projects are expected to commence this summer.

## Street Resurfacing Project

50% Village Funds, 50% Grant Funds (CDBG)

- Meadowcrest Rd. – 31st St. to 29th St.
- Woodside Ave. – 31st St. to 29th St.

The street resurfacing project will consist of: removing and replacing deteriorated or poor drainage curb and gutter, and grinding and resurfacing the roadway.

## Permeable Paver Intersections

50% Village Funds, 50% Grant Funds (MWRD)

- Monroe Ave. – East of La Grange Rd.
  - Community Dr.
  - Robinhood Ln.
  - Sherwood Rd.

The permeable paver project will consist of: removing and replacing existing water mains, rehabilitating storm inlets, removing and replacing two feet of soil with crushed gravel and fine aggregate, and installing brick pavers.

## Community Park District

### Summer Day Camp

The Community Park District has revised its summer camp program to provide day care for parents returning to work this season. The program is designed for kids in grades K-5 and includes a half-day option and before and after care. The Park District is following the latest health and safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure that kids enjoy a healthy camp experience that is safe and fun.

Camps will be held Monday through Friday from June 14 to August 6 at the following times:

- Full Day Camp – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Half Day Camp – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Before Camp – 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
- After Camp – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### 6th Annual Veteran's Memorial Service

Please join us on Saturday, May 29 at 11:00 a.m. for a Facebook Live Memorial Day ceremony from Veteran's Memorial honoring our Gold Star Families. Check our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/communityparkdistrict](http://www.facebook.com/communityparkdistrict)) for the live feed and more information.

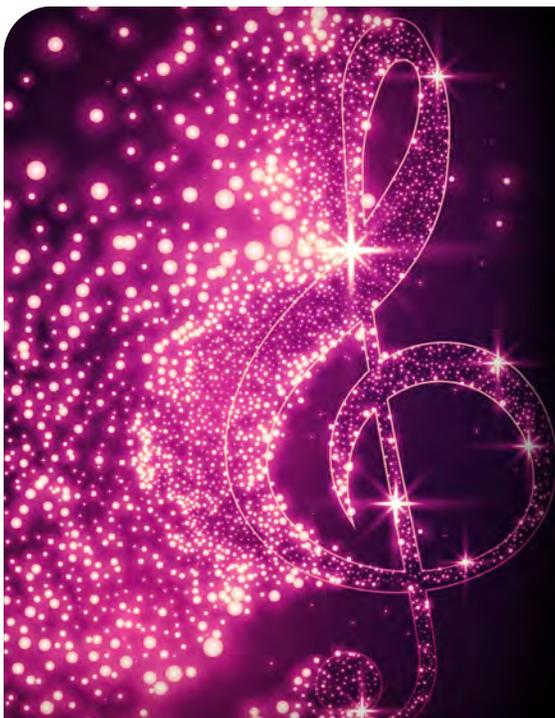
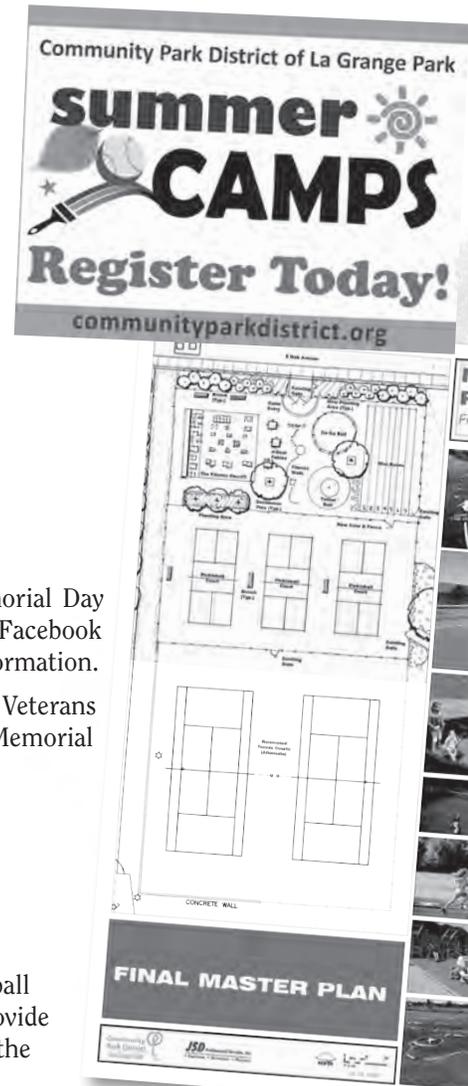
In accordance with health and safety guidelines and to keep the families of our Veterans safe, onsite seating will be reserved for Our Gold Star Families who purchased Memorial Bricks during the 2019-2020 season. The general public may attend virtually.

### Memorial Park Splash Pad Hours

The splash pad at Memorial Park will be open seven days per week beginning Memorial Day Weekend, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### Memorial Park Multi-Use Court Project

Help us bring the world's best outdoor gym, kids fitness activities, AND pickleball to La Grange Park in 2021! The Memorial Park multi-use court project will provide residents with one of the most innovative, multi-generational activity hubs in the area. You can support this project today by making a donation, and your entire contribution (100%) will go towards funding the completion of the project. If you would like to discuss other sponsorship options, please contact Jessica Cannaday or Amanda Kennedy at (708) 354-4580.



## Music Under the Stars Concert Series

Concerts will be held Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Amphitheater (Woodlawn and La Grange Road). In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be cancelled. Please check our Weather Hotline at (708) 354-4580 for updates.

### Concert Schedule:

- June 23 – The Stingrays (Oldies)
- June 30 – West Suburban Concert Band (Concert Band)
- July 7 – Spoken Four (Cover Band)
- July 14 – Tropixplosian (Caribbean & Island)
- July 21 – Miss Angie & the Misterys (Cover)
- July 28 – Mason River (Country)
- August 4 – The Flat Cats (Swing/Jazz)

# Brush Schedule 2021

The Village offers a free brush collection service once per month starting on the first Monday of the month. Brush must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday. Small piles are picked up during a first sweep and larger piles are collected later by an end loader and dump truck.

Brush pick-up weeks start on the following days:

**May 3rd • June 7th • July 5th**

**August 2nd • September 6th**

**October 4th (last pick up for the year)**

## Guidelines for the Brush Collection Program

- Brush must be stacked neatly on the parkway, piled no more than four feet high, with the butt end facing the curb. Please be sure that brush is not piled in such a way that interferes with motorist or pedestrian visibility.
- In narrow parkways, brush may be piled parallel to the curb to avoid extending onto the sidewalk.
- Brush must not exceed six feet in length and four inches in diameter.
- Logs must be cut into small, manageable pieces and should be kept separate from brush.
- Stumps and root balls will not be picked up and should be removed from trees or bushes.

Brush pick-up is strictly for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their own property. If no evidence exists that work has been performed on the property, the Village reserves the right to charge the resident for this service. Brush will not be collected until a check for payment of services is received and pick-up times will vary based on work schedules.

Contractors working for homeowners are NOT allowed to use this service. If Village workers observe contractors placing tree or brush debris at the curb, the Village will charge the resident for the removal.



## Earth Day Events

The La Grange Park Sustainability Commission is hosting two virtual events to celebrate Earth Day 2021. Both presentations will be held virtually and include opportunities for Q&A. Visit the Village's online calendar ([www.lagrangepark.org/calendar.aspx](http://www.lagrangepark.org/calendar.aspx)) for meeting links.

**Terrific Trees: Chosen Native Species**  
April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

**What is Zero Waste and Can I Do It?**  
April 15 at 7:00 p.m.



## Lottery for Free Mulch

For the past few years, the demand for mulch has far exceeded availability. In an effort to be fair to all residents, the Village will continue to select recipients using a lottery system. The lottery drawing will be held on April 30, at which time all addresses will be randomly drawn and ordered. Approximately 30 mulch deliveries will be made every week beginning May 6 and 7. Delivery notification will be sent via email and residents must confirm their delivery date by responding to the email. Deliveries are anticipated to continue through May and June, or until supply runs out.

To enter the lottery, complete the "Mulch Lottery Form" on the Village's website, under the "Residents" tab, or complete and drop off the enclosed form at Village Hall by April 30. Phone calls will not be accepted. Only one entry per address allowed.

Please note:

- ½ truck load equals approximately 1.5 cubic yards
- Full truck load equals approximately 3 cubic yards
- Generally, one cubic yard will cover a 6-foot x 9-foot area

*See Back Page for MULCH LOTTERY FORM*



# Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of: December, January, and February:

- Appointed Michael Sheehan to Serve as Village Trustee for the Remaining Term Expiring in 2023
- Approved the Engagement of Sound Incorporated to Provide Consulting Services for Selecting and Implementing a Cloud Based Phone System
- Approved an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale, Trade-In, Or Disposal of Surplus Property of the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois
- Accepted a Proposal from BKD, LLP to Perform Auditing Services for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute the Engagement Letters
- Appointed Kelly Burns to the Sustainability Commission to Serve the Remainder of a Three-Year Term Expiring in May 2022
- Adopted an Ordinance Approving a Redevelopment Agreement By and Between the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois and Murphy's Transmission Services, Inc.
- Adopted an Ordinance of the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, Approving Reimbursement for A Redevelopment Project in the Village Market Redevelopment Project Area for the Memorial Park Multi-Use Court Project
- Approved and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute Agreements Between the Village of La Grange Park and Edwin Hancock Engineering for Engineering Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000.00 for Design and Construction Engineering for the 2021 Sewer Main Point Repair Program
- Approved a Contract with Sewertech, LLC, for a "Not to Exceed" Amount of \$50,000.00 and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute the Contract Documents
- Approved and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute an Agreement Between the Village of La Grange Park and Edwin Hancock Engineering for Design and Construction Engineering Services in a "Not to Exceed" Amount of \$9,000.00 for Murphy's Auto Water Service Project, 31st Street and Kemman Avenue
- Declared a Proclamation Celebrating 40 Years of Paramedic Service for the Village of La Grange Park
- Approved a Professional Engineering Agreement for a Risk and Resilient Assessment and Emergency Response Plan in the Amount of \$26,400.00 and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute Required Documents
- Authorized the Village Manager to Enter into a Three-Year Master Services Agreement (MSA) with Comcast Enterprise Services for Ethernet Internet Services
- Approved the Payment of \$15,000.00 to the Romeoville Fire Academy for Five Personnel to Attend the Basic Operations Fire Academy
- Approved the Payment of \$10,809.00 to Health Endeavors, SC, of Lombard, IL, for this Fiscal Year's Annual Occupational Medical Evaluations
- Approved an Open Purchase Order with Cargill Incorporated Salt Division, Not to Exceed a Total Amount of \$33,000.00
- Approved an Ordinance Designating Village Depository and Financial Institutions and Authorized Signers for the Village of La Grange Park

# Library

## Upcoming Building Project

La Grange Park Public Library plans to begin a \$4 million building project in early July. The 30-year-old building is scheduled for maintenance, structural repairs, and minor interior renovations. 845 Design Group of La Grange was chosen by the Board of Trustees as the lead architect. Learn more about the project by accessing documents, as well as podcast updates, at [lplibrary.org/building-project](http://lplibrary.org/building-project).

## Summer Reading: Rebuild & Read

Due to the upcoming construction project at La Grange Park Public Library, the theme of this year's summer reading program is Rebuild & Read. Management and staff at the library chose this theme to spark excitement about the upcoming renovations and to encourage visits to the library and keep kids reading. The library anticipates being open during construction. Registration for the program will be open from June 1 to July 31. Participants will track their progress by maintaining reading logs and will earn prizes for various achievements. More information about getting involved in the all-ages summer reading program will be available in mid-May at [lplibrary.org](http://lplibrary.org).



## Important Local Safety News Delivered to Your Inbox

Please subscribe to our weekly Public Safety Briefs to receive community alerts and safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. If you're interested, send an email to [bbaum@lagrangepark.org](mailto:bbaum@lagrangepark.org) to be placed on our contact list.



# We're Looking for Good Neighbors!

The Good Neighbor Corner is a regular newsletter feature highlighting good news in our community. In order to praise the efforts of local residents, organizations, and businesses, we need your help! We're looking for those friendly folks, good deeds, and neighborly touches that make living in La Grange Park special. If you know a Good Neighbor, please contact Village Hall to submit your nomination.

## **Don Sebastyn, 1400 block of Blanchan Ave.**

If Don's snow blower ever breaks down, the entire neighborhood will pitch in to buy him a new one. Every snow day, he is snow blowing before we start shoveling. He "owns" everyone's sidewalk and driveway. In every season, he is available to cheerfully help with any project. He is an exemplary neighbor. – *Nominated by Nancy Luiz*

## **The Pena Family, 1200 block of Beach Ave.**

The Pena Family are Good Neighbors because of the kindness and dedication they demonstrate. They all pitch in to help a neighbor by shoveling, yard work, cooking, helping with pets, and visiting. They are reliable, friendly, and always willing to go the extra mile for any neighbors who need help. Our children love seeing them out because they greet them by name and always have a big smile to share! They're the hardest working, kindest family and we are lucky to get to be neighbors with the Pena Family. Our block would not be the same without them! Thank you, Pena Family, for spreading love and kindness to our community! – *Nominated by the Kennedy Family*



## **John Svoboda, 1200 block of Forest Rd.**

John has been a great neighbor. Last year when we were sick, John made sure our driveway and sidewalks were shoveled, as he does a lot throughout the winter. In 2020, my husband and I moved out of a home that we lived in for 28 years and John was instrumental in assisting moving furniture out as we sold it, got rid of an old fridge for us, and took an old dresser of ours to a friend. John never says no and knows a lot of people and makes great connections. We are going to miss John as a neighbor and treasure our memories of living close to him!

– *Nominated by Bill and Janet Garreau*

## **Sandy Nowakowski and the residents of the 1400 block of Blanchan Ave.**

This past year has been very difficult for me due to health problems. I have been very lucky to have my friend and neighbor of forty-seven years, Sandy Nowakowski, to help me through this. She is in contact every day to offer help or just words of encouragement and maybe a good laugh. I'd also like to thank all my friends and neighbors on the 1400 block of Blanchan for their many kindnesses, help with snow, offers for shopping, food, and just some friendly conversations. Thank you to all. – *Nominated by Judy Oswald*

## **Julie and Scott McMullen of 1100 block of Woodside Ave.**

I could not wish for better, nicer, more caring, helpful, friendlier neighbors. I am an aging resident and during summer storms they clean up all the branches around my entire house so that I don't trip on them. In the winter they clean my driveway, sidewalk, and stairs. In the fall, they rake my leaves. They are always ready to help. They are such wonderful people all year round! Thank you Scott and Julie, and my family thanks you too! With gratitude and high regards.

– *Nominated by Wanda Staron*



# Good Neighbor Corner



## **Ron and Anna Catelli, 1200 block of Forest Rd.**

We are so fortunate to have great neighbors. Everyone who sees Ron and Anna Catelli on Forest Road, just north of 30th Street – wave and say hi to them! Ron and Anna offered to trim an evergreen tree and dug out some dead bushes for us after we both had short hospital visits in the fall. In the winter, Ron is always out and about with his snow blower helping his neighbors. Ron rescued me and my husband twice in as many days, clearing our driveway with his snowblower. The following day, when something came loose under the front end of my car, Ron got down underneath the car to identify the problem, provided a temporary fix, and promised to pick up the part needed to fix it permanently. Ron and Anna are wonderful examples of good neighbors, and we are fortunate to have them living right next door. – *Nominated by LaQuita and John Grant*

Ron is always willing to help when trouble arrives. A recent example is when my screen doors were both locked and I was on the wrong side of them. Ron was able to find a way to get me back in. It's comforting to know help is close at hand!

– *Nominated by Elaine Chaloupka*



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[www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org)

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# VillageHall

**Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

## **LOST & FOUND**

From time to time the Village of La Grange Park maintains a gathering of lost and found items. To reclaim any items left behind at Village Hall, call (708) 354-0225, ext. 102.

# VillageHolidays

The Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

**Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day**

**Monday, July 5 - Independence Day**

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## **MULCH LOTTERY FORM - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email (Important) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle amount requesting:    ½ Truck    Full Truck

**RETURN by April 30 to: VILLAGE HALL, 447 N. Catherine Avenue  
ONLY ONE (1) REQUEST PER HOUSEHOLD**