

# The Rose CLIPPINGS

Summer 2021

Est. 1892

*The Village of La Grange Park*

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



## President's Corner

The arrival of summer has marked a new chapter in the pandemic and for our Village. In June, we moved into Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan. Many residents are fully vaccinated and we are resuming life as we knew it before – returning to events, gatherings, and fully reopened businesses. Finally, we can safely spend time with our family and friends, travel, and welcome visitors to our community again.

During this challenging year the Village continued to expand opportunities for businesses. We're utilizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Business Development District funds to assist Murphy's Auto, Plaza 31, and other businesses in "closing the gap" to finance important upgrades to their properties. Staff is also promoting these incentive programs to potential developers of key commercial and manufacturing properties at the Village Market,

31st Street, and Barnsdale Road. With this exciting momentum, the Village Board will reconvene the Commercial Revitalization Committee this month to outline a vision for each of our commercial areas and identify needed public improvements that will help spur development and increase the quality of life and amenities for residents in La Grange Park.

Throughout the pandemic, the Village remained committed to maintaining financial stability while providing critical services and preparing for important capital projects. This summer we will begin work on a major

water main replacement at La Grange Road and 31st Street and commence two grant-supported projects for roadway resurfacing and innovative stormwater management. Asset management remains a top priority and utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has improved our ability to assess, manage, and plan for infrastructure needs. We look forward to expanding our use of GIS tools and mapping to facilitate community engagement and promote economic development in the future.

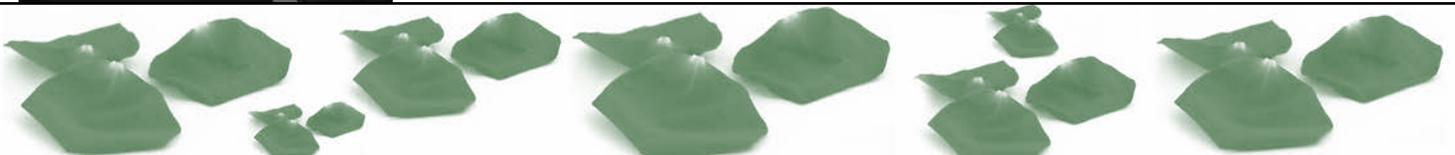
For many, the pandemic brought about a new appreciation for parks and the outdoors. The Village is proud to support significant upgrades and enhancements to these vital spaces in our community. The Community Park District broke ground on a multi-use court project at Memorial Park in the spring and will welcome residents to this fantastic new amenity later in the summer. The project includes three new pickleball courts, an innovative outdoor gym, and a redesigned multi-use area with gaga ball, tetherball, a mini racetrack, and more. The Village approved the use of TIF district funds to help support the project.

Our neighborhoods have also been enriched through recent beautification projects. Thank you to the Youth Commission and many volunteers for their planting and clean-up efforts during the Village's annual Community Volunteer Day in May. Four butterfly gardens were also planted throughout the Village with assistance from the Sustainability Commission and La Grange Park Girl Scout Troop #56054. This project was funded by a ComEd Green Region grant and includes native flowers and solar-powered water features.

I encourage you to get outside this summer and EXPLORE La Grange Park, whether that's taking advantage of new amenities in our parks, shopping or dining at local businesses, hosting a block party with your neighbors, or attending National Night Out. Remember that businesses and organizations may adopt their own safety measures, and please follow any posted guidelines and be respectful of one another as we settle into our new normal.

Have a great summer and, as always, feel free to contact me anytime.

*President James J. Discipio*



## Village Awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Village of La Grange Park for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2020. This was the fourth year that the Village has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. The full report is available on the Village's website.



*Certificate of Achievement*  
**FOR EXCELLENCE IN**  
*Financial Reporting*

## Vehicle Sticker and Dog License Renewals

Current vehicle stickers and dog licenses expire on October 31, 2021. New stickers and licenses may be purchased beginning September 1. The Village is transitioning from renewal postcards to letter sized applications this year. Residents with multiple vehicles will receive a single renewal application. Residents are encouraged to renew their vehicle stickers and dog licenses online at [www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org) starting September 1.

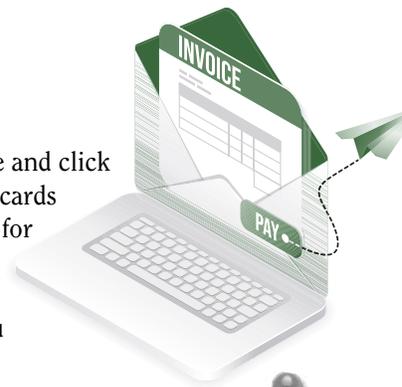
### Reminder for Dog Owners

Summertime means more people are out walking their dogs! The Village encourages pet owners to review Chapter 92 of the Municipal Code entitled "Animals" and practice responsible pet ownership. As a reminder:

- Pets must be on a leash when in the street, sidewalk, parkway, or other public areas within the Village (\$40 penalty).
- Owners may not permit their pets to go on the lawns of neighbors or other private property without permission from that property owner (\$25 penalty).
- Owners are responsible for picking up after their pets (\$50 penalty).

## Go Green! Sign Up for Paperless Water Bills

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive their water bills online. Visit the Village's website and click on Payment Center and then Pay Your Water Bill. The site offers payment by credit/debit cards and checking/savings accounts. If you register your account, you will have the option to sign up for paperless billing, enroll in auto pay and pay by text. You will need your account number to 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.



## Join the Citizen's Police Academy

The next session of the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) will take place September 18 to October 23. All meetings will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The CPA is open to all residents and business owners in the Village of La Grange Park, 18 years of age or older. Please contact Officer Chris Dempsey at [cdempsey@lagrangepark.org](mailto:cdempsey@lagrangepark.org) or (708) 352-7711 ext. 275 with any questions.

- Applications must be picked up and returned to the Police Department in person.
- A routine background check will be conducted on all applicants.
- A waiver of liability must be signed by each participant.
- Up to twenty (20) applicants will be accepted on a first come, first available basis.
- There is no cost to participate.



# Congratulations on Retirements and Promotions!

In April, Division Chief Rick Ronovsky and Firefighter Lee Kudia retired from the Fire Department. Combined, they served the Village for over 72 years. We wish them well and thank them for their dedication and exemplary service. In May, Division Chief Norm Rick was promoted to Deputy Chief and Firefighter Bill Drake was promoted to Lieutenant. We look forward to their leadership in their new ranks.



*Rick Ronovsky*



*Lee Kudia*



*Norm Rick*



*Bill Drake*

## Fire Academy Graduates

In May, five Fire Department candidates graduated from the Basic Operations Firefighter Academy in Romeoville. The Academy began in January and classes took place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturdays during the day. Congratulations to Robert McDermott, Colin MacManus, Spencer Schattauer, Ty Skalnik, and David Skiba. Three of the five candidates finished class with a grade average higher than 90%.



## Personnel Attend Fire College

Several La Grange Park firefighters recently attended the 97th Annual Fire College at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. This four-day event is held in various training facilities across the state, but the main event takes place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Firefighters get hands-on instruction and train under actual fire conditions in various burn structures on the campus.



## Police Department New Hires

The Police Department welcomed three new police officers this spring. Danielle Heinz joined the department in late March, having already been through the Police Academy. Robert Weber and Christopher Cooper were hired in April and are currently enrolled in the Police Academy. The Village's Police Department is now fully staffed.



*Danielle Heinz*



*Robert Weber*



*Christopher Cooper*

## Community Park District

### COMING SOON!

The multi-use court project at Memorial Park is on schedule and a grand opening event is being planned for August! Check the Community Park District's website for up to date information on the new facilities, including a fitness court, family activity area, pickleball courts, and tennis courts. Contact the Community Park District at (708) 354-4580 with any questions or concerns.



### Music Under the Stars

Concerts will be held Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Memorial Park Amphitheater.

- **July 7 – Spoken Four**  
(Cover Band)
- **July 14 – Tropixplosion**  
(Caribbean & Island)
- **July 21 – Miss Angie & the Misters**  
(Cover Band)
- **July 28 – Mason Rivers**  
(Country)
- **August 4 – The Flat Cats**  
(Swing/Jazz)



## National Night Out

This year's National Night Out event 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 a National Night In event will take place on Tuesday, August 3 at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday's event will be completely virtual and streamed live on Facebook. We encourage everyone to participate on both nights. Event details, including the parade route, will be posted on the Village's website and the Police Department's Facebook page.

## Library News

This summer the La Grange Park Public Library will begin construction to repair structural damage on the east and west walls and make several exterior improvements. Library staff first noticed water damage along the east wall in 2014. After a water infiltration study was completed the following year, the Board of Trustees began extensive research to determine the scope of various maintenance issues related to the building. To learn more, please visit: [lplibrary.org/building-project](http://lplibrary.org/building-project).

### Books Alive! Book Club Meets All Summer Long!

The Books Alive! Book Club meets once per month at 2:00 p.m. on the Library's back patio. Visit [lplibrary.org/events](http://lplibrary.org/events) for more information on the selected books and to register. Due to construction and inclement weather possibilities, please check back before arriving.

- July 27 – The Monsters We Make by Kali White
- August 24 – Paper Bullets by Jeffrey Jackson
- September 28 – Lakewood by Megan Giddings

## Business Scavenger Hunt

How well do you know your local businesses? Test your knowledge this July during the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce's 2nd Annual Business Scavenger Hunt! Follow the instructions below to participate. The event runs until July 31.

- Pick up your punch card at the LaGrange Park Library or Village Hall.
- Answer the clues given for each participating business.
- Each person 21+ that answers all clues correctly and completes the punch card can enter his/her name into a grand raffle for an iPad!  
(One entry per family, please)
- Take advantage of the great individual raffles or coupons/gift certificates at each business!



# Construction Projects

Three exciting capital projects are expected to commence this summer, including a water main replacement along La Grange Road and 31st Street, multiple street resurfacing projects, and an innovative green infrastructure project focused on flood mitigation.

## Water Main Replacement

The water main replacement project consists of replacing the existing 6" main under La Grange Road and the 8" main under 31st Street with new 12" ductile iron pipes. To avoid running the main through the intersection at La Grange Road and 31st Street, the new main will be routed along the south side of the BP gas station from La Grange Road to Meadowcrest Road, north across 31st Street, and along the alley north of 31st Street from Meadowcrest Road to La Grange Road.

- La Grange Rd. from Garfield Ave. to 31st St.
- 31st St. between La Grange Rd. & Meadowcrest Rd.

## Street Resurfacing

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

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

## Permeable Paver Intersections

Permeable pavers will be installed at three intersection along Monroe Avenue, east of La Grange Road. The project consists of removing and replacing the existing water mains under the subject intersections, rehabilitating storm inlets, removing and replacing two feet of soil with crushed gravel and fine aggregate, and installing brick pavers.

- Monroe Ave. and Community Dr.
- Monroe Ave. and Robinhood Ln.
- Monroe Ave. and Sherwood Rd.



# Brush Collection Program

The Village offers a free brush collection service once per month from May to October. Brush must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday of the first full week of the month. An initial sweep is conducted throughout the Village to pick up small piles of brush. Larger piles are collected later with the use of an end loader and dump truck. Find more information regarding brush pickup, including important guidelines for residents, on the Village's website. Upcoming brush pickup weeks start on the following days:

August 2nd • September 6th • October 4th



# Stormwater Management

To address the impacts of more frequent and intense storm events, the Village is moving forward with plans for a new separate stormwater relief system for our Central Area (bounded by La Grange Road, the Indiana Harbor Belt, Woodlawn Avenue, and 31st Street). The Village is working to secure grant funding for this project and is considering a phased approach based on the availability of funds. The Village remains in contact with the MWRD regarding cooperative and financial assistance, and the MWRD has agreed to support a green infrastructure project to construct three permeable intersections on Monroe Avenue, near our lowest lying area. The Village remains committed to the development of the greater Central Area Stormwater Relief Project and will continue to refine the engineering and develop funding options for long term relief.

# Meet Julia Karpinski, GIS Intern



Julia Karpinski joined the Public Works Department in June as the Village's new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) intern. As the GIS intern, Julia is helping to build the Village's database of assets and infrastructure. She uses a GIS application to collect data in the field, such as the locations of signs (over 1,200 recorded!) and buffalo boxes. That information can be translated to interactive and printable maps, and is integral to Village operations. Julia graduated from Carthage College in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geospatial Science and has enjoyed exploring La Grange Park on foot this summer.

# Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of: March, April, & May:

- Approved a Resolution Appointing a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency
- Approved Agreement for 2020-2022 Urban and Community Forestry Grant
- 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 an Amount of \$81,000 for the MWRD GI – Permeable Intersections Project
- 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 an Amount of \$76,000 for the 2020 PY CDBG Street Paving Project
- Approved a \$2,000.00 Increase to the Original Contract with Santacruz Land Acquisitions
- Approved Purchase of a Backup Server from All Information Services, Inc. for \$12,418, plus a 10% Contingency of \$1,240 and Approved Purchase of Continuity Services From All Information Services, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$13,000 Per Year for Three Years
- Approved an Ordinance Amending Chapter 31, Section 31.031(B)(3) of the Village of La Grange Park Village Code-Powers And Duties Of Village Manager
- Approved a Temporary Use Permit for Jewel-Osco to Allow for the Construction of a 1,560 Square Foot Temporary Structure for Seasonal Retail Sales; to be Occupied on or after April 8, 2021 and to be Removed No Later Than June 30, 2021
- Approved a Temporary Use Permit for Four Leaf Clovers Garden Center to Allow for the Construction of a 1,680 Square Foot Temporary Structure and Outdoor Display Area for Seasonal Retail Sales; to be Occupied On or After April 5, 2021 and to be Removed No Later Than July 5, 2021
- Approved An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Owned by the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois
- Accepted the Bid Proposal from Suburban General Construction, Inc., in the Amount of \$105,382.00 and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute the Contract Documents
- Authorized Payment for Temporary and Permanent Easements, in a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$19,863.00 to the Owners of Record for 1001, 1011, 1015, 1019, 1025, 1029 and 1033 N. La Grange Road
- Approved an Ordinance Allowing for the Extension of Temporary Outdoor Dining
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement By And Between The Village Of La Grange Park And The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Of Greater Chicago For The Permeable Paver Intersection Reconstruction Project In La Grange Park, Illinois
- Accepted The Bid Proposal From Suburban General Construction, Inc., In The Amount Of \$49,867.50 and Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Approved A Resolution Approving Pay Plan And Schedule Of Authorized Positions For Fiscal Year 2021/22
- Approved the Transfer of an Amount Not To Exceed \$90,000 From the General Fund to the Police Pension Fund So As To Contribute The Full Actuary Determined Contribution For Fiscal Year 2021
- Approved A Resolution Adopting and Authorizing Execution Of Collective Bargaining Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding Between the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council and the Village of La Grange Park
- Adopted A “Resolution For Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code” For the Expenditure of \$210,000.00 in MFT Funds
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a CDBG Subrecipient Agreement By and Between the Village of La Grange Park and the County of Cook Department Of Planning And Development For Street Resurfacing Project Number 2006-091 – Woodside Ave and Meadowcrest Road, In La Grange Park, Illinois
- Adopted A “Resolution For Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code” For the Expenditure of \$353,630.00 in MFT Funds
- Approved and Authorized the Village Manager to Enter into a Contract Between the Village and Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management in the Amount of \$24,075.00
- Approved A Resolution Approving FY 2021-2022 Operating Budget
- Approved the Five Year Plan FY 2021/22- 2025/26
- Approved A Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget
- Proclamation – Arbor Day 2021
- Proclamation – Building Safety Month (May)
- Proclamation – Municipal Clerk’s Week, May 2nd through May 8th, 2021
- Installation & Oath of Newly Elected Officials: President Discipio, Clerk Kooi, and Trustees Koncel, Stewart, and Zaura
- Authorized staff to purchase a new 2021 Ford Interceptor Utility (Police Patrol Package), for a cost of \$33,086.00, from Currie Motors Fleet, in Frankfort, IL, through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Contract #152 with a not to exceed amount of \$45,000.00 to cover the equipment and up fitting
- Approved payment to BS&A Software for annual maintenance and support in the amount of \$21,475.
- Reappointed Jim Lee and Robert Bartholomai to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and Appointed Drew McElligott new to fill a vacancy
- Reappointed Tim Albores to the Board of Police
- Reappointed Christopher O’Hea to the Police Pension Fund Board
- Appointed Laura McAllister new to fill a vacancy on the Sustainability Commission
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Special Use Permit For Outdoor Dining For 23 E. 31st Street – BevMasters, LLC (Case #21-0003)
- Approved The Final Payment To Suburban General In The Amount Of \$109,670.10 For The 2021 Sewer Repair Program
- Approved A Revision To The “Not To Exceed Amount” For The Existing Open Purchase Order With Cargill Incorporated Salt Division, From \$33,000.00 To \$38,000.00
- Approved The 2021 Pilot Banner Program



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(708) 354-0225

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

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## Important Local Safety News Delivered to Your Inbox

Please join the Village's weekly Public Safety Briefs to receive various types of community alerts and safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. Send an email to [bbaum@lagrangepark.org](mailto:bbaum@lagrangepark.org) to subscribe.

*ResidentFeedback*

Please use this section to give us your comments, suggestions, questions, problems or compliments. If you have something on your mind . . . let us know! Just jot it down and send it to us.

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Please mail to: Village Manager, Village of La Grange Park, 447 North Catherine, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Email address: [jcedillo@lagrangepark.org](mailto:jcedillo@lagrangepark.org). If you would like a response, please include your name, mailing address, email address or daytime phone number.

Stay connected with Village news and community happenings, subscribe to E-Briefs, the Village's weekly electronic newsletter. Send an email to [jcedillo@lagrangepark.org](mailto:jcedillo@lagrangepark.org) and type "sign me up!"

## 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, September 6 - Labor Day**