

The

Rose CLIPPINGS

Winter 2022

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and peaceful holiday season.

It was a joy to see so many residents along the Santa Parade route last month. Thank you for sharing your holiday cheer and supporting the mobile food drive with donations to Beds Plus, St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry, and St. Barbara's Food Pantry. You make La Grange Park such a wonderful community to call home. I also want to thank the many Village employees who organized the event and continue to go above and beyond to promote community pride and morale, particularly staff from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works.

Village staff and officials returned to work after the holidays refreshed and committed to continuing the delivery of high-quality services and advancing meaningful projects for our community. As I've highlighted in previous newsletters, the Village has carefully managed its resources through the pandemic

and has successfully obtained outside funding for roadway repaving, green infrastructure, and energy efficient lighting, among other projects. We have also engaged our legislators and MWRD to discuss the importance of addressing local flooding and to request support for financing the Central Area Sewer Separation Project. Staff is working on new grant applications to help fund this significant project and moving forward with engineering to get it "shovel ready."

Strategic planning has strengthened our ability to prioritize resources and improve

the overall quality of life for residents. I'm happy to share that we are taking a proactive approach to planning for public improvements and utilizing economic development funds. Last year, the Village released a Request for Proposals to develop a Streetscape Improvement Plan for the Village Market area. This plan will encompass recommendations for signage, landscaping, lighting, and other enhancements aimed at improving the visual appeal and creating a stronger sense of place. The plan will also include strategies for enhancing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, including new sidewalks and traffic-calming measures along La Grange Road. We look forward to involving residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders in this planning process. Make sure to subscribe to the Village's weekly E-Briefs to stay up-to-date on opportunities to provide input and feedback on this exciting project.

In addition to maintaining fiscal responsibility and planning for the future, the Village resumed some in-person events in 2021 to celebrate new businesses, including Level Up Café & Recovery at Plaza 31. This unique, wellness-centered café offers great coffee, smoothies, and local baked goods, as well as leg compression services to help with post-workout recovery. We look forward to more businesses opening their doors in 2022, including Hop District Brewing and Happier Now Café & Market. The Village also expects to see several large-scale development projects move forward this year, including Dubak Electric's new facility on Barnsdale Road, the Plymouth Place East Campus redevelopment, and Andy's Frozen Custard near Memorial Park.

Finally, with the recent surge of COVID-19, I want to remind you that it is crucial to continue taking precautions to keep ourselves, our families, and our Village safe. Please take care to observe public health guidance issued by the CDC, IDPH, and Cook County. Visit vaccines.gov to find COVID-19 vaccines and booster appointments in our area, including the Jewel-Osco at Village Market.

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

President James F. Discipio





In Case You Missed It...

Missed the 2021 State of the Village Address? You're in luck! A link to the recording on YouTube is available on the Village's website. We encourage residents to view the presentation to learn about what's happening in La Grange Park, including updates on stormwater management projects, transparency in public safety and police response, and community and economic development activities.

Santa Parade & Mobile Food Drive

Thank you for your generous support and donations during the Santa Parade and Mobile Food Drive! For the second year in a row, food donations filled much of the Fire Department's garage. Donations were distributed to Beds Plus, St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry, and St. Barbara's Food Pantry.



Coffee with the Chief

Tuesday, March 15, 9:00 a.m., Panera Bread

Pandemic pending, the next Coffee with the Chief and Police Department staff will be Tuesday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. Police Department staff will speak with local residents on current topics at the Panera Bread located at 439 N. La Grange Road.



Join the Citizen's Police Academy

Saturdays, April 2 to May 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

The next session of the Citizen's Police Academy will take place Saturdays, from April 2 to May 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Participation is open to all citizens 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 or (708) 352-7711 x275 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



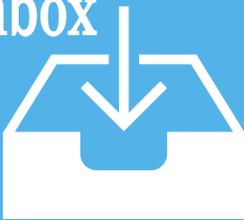
Install Carbon Monoxide Alarms Protect Your Family

Any appliances or equipment that use carbon-based fuels can produce carbon monoxide (CO) when the fuel is burned. Some examples are furnaces, fireplaces, gas water heaters, and generators. If the appliance or equipment malfunctions, is misused, or is not properly vented, this can put you or your family in harm.

A carbon monoxide alarm will let you know if unsafe levels of this poison gas are in your house. Install them near bedrooms and on each level of your home, and push the test button each month to make sure they are working. If you hear the alarm, go outside immediately and then call the fire department. Don't go back inside unless the firefighters say it is safe.

Important Local Safety News Delivered to Your Inbox

Please join the Village's weekly Public Safety Briefs to receive community alerts and safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. Send an email to bbaum@lagrangepark.org to subscribe.



Village Property Tax Summary

The Village strives to deliver exceptional value for every tax dollar by providing excellent police and fire services, keeping streets and public areas well-maintained, protecting the residential and commercial buildings of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

The Village's portion of your 2020 total property tax bill (collected in 2021) is about 11% - 13%, depending on your school districts. The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 63%-70% supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, make up approximately 17%-21% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy

The 2020 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which was payable in 2021, was 8.860 for properties in School District 102 and 11.046 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the included chart for the tax rate history.

	TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES IF YOU LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 102	TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES IF YOU LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 95
2011 Tax Year	8.160	9.696
2012 Tax Year	9.076	10.714
2013 Tax Year	9.831	11.488
2014 Tax Year	9.814	11.901
2015 Tax Year	10.179	12.328
2016 Tax Year	10.778	12.403
2017 Tax Year	9.202	10.880
2018 Tax Year	9.618	11.858
2019 Tax Year	9.766	12.076
2020 Tax Year	8.860	11.046

How Your Property Tax Bill is Calculated

To determine how much your property tax bill will be, you first need to know the assessed value of your home. In Cook County, residential property is assessed at 10% of its fair market value. The Illinois Department of Revenue calculates an equalization factor to apply to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2020 tax year was 3.2234. So, if you own a home valued at \$350,000, then the equalized assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 3.2234], or \$112,819. This equalized assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property's particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2020 tax rates as listed above, a property with an equalized assessed value of \$112,819 paid the following estimated amounts in 2021 for the 2020 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102	District 95
$\$112,819 \times .08860 =$	$\$112,819 \times .11046 =$
\$9,996	\$12,462

In both examples, the Village's portion of the tax bill would be approximately \$1,306.

While we will not know the 2021 property tax rates until next summer, the Village Board approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2021 Village tax levy (collected in 2022). Tax cap laws will limit the Village's 2021 operating levy to a 1.4% increase plus any new property value.

Community Park District News!

The Community Park District of La Grange Park is committed to providing opportunities that ensure our community stays active, connected, and healthy. The Community Park District has worked to design fun and nimble programming that can be delivered safely.

2022 Winter/Spring Brochure ONLINE Now!

We've gone green! Our Seasonal Brochure is completely virtual - and you can check out all our Winter/Spring 2022 classes now! Over 30+ New Classes. Please help us spread the word to La Grange Park families and neighbors and visit us at communityparkdistrict.org.

Ready Teddy 2022-2023

School Year Registration

Resident Open Enrollment begins

Tuesday, February 8 at 8:30 a.m.

All necessary paperwork can be picked up prior to registration at the Recreation Center or by visiting the Community Park District website.



Ready Teddy Preschool

1st Annual Wiggling Out Party

Saturday, March 12, 6:00-11:00 p.m., Recreation Center

Let's Wig Out! Throw on a fun wig and come party with all your friends. Dancing, drinks, and the best food La Grange Park has to offer. Must be over 21 to attend. Registration is required. All proceeds will benefit the LGP Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 8 & Under)

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m., Memorial Park

The hunt schedule will be: 3 years and under: 10:00 a.m.; 4-5 years old: 10:10 a.m.; 6-8 years old: 10:20 a.m. In the event of rain, this event will be cancelled.



Earth Day Color Run,

Sponsored by Strive 4 Fitness

Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m., Memorial Park

The Earth Day Color Run is an untimed 5k. At each kilometer mark, runners are doused from head to toe in a different colored powder. Runners wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in color. Once the race is over, the fun continues at the finish line festival. Registration is required. All proceeds will benefit the LGP Parks and Recreation Foundation.

Visit our website for lots of FREE community events, including: Hunt for the Golden Egg, 3/28-4/1; National Crayon Day Event, 3/31; Paper Airplane Contest, 5/26; Picnic in the Park; and Community Camp Fire. Visit communityparkdistrict.org for more information.

Library News

Earth Day Collaborative Program

Dream green with the La Grange Park Library, La Grange Library, and LSF Brookfield Library for the whole month of April for Earth Day programming, reading lists, and more! Visit lplibrary.org/events for more information.



Garden Club Celebrates 90th Anniversary

The Garden Club of La Grange Park will celebrate its 90th Anniversary in March 2022. The Garden Club hosts a number of community events throughout the year, including design workshops, garden walks, and an annual plant sale. Join the 90th Anniversary Tea celebration on March 7 at 11:45 a.m. at La Grange Park Village Hall.



Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is always looking for engaging ways to promote local commerce and foster a vibrant, energetic business climate in La Grange Park! Neighborhood events are just one way the Chamber supports local businesses and builds a sense of community. A few of the great events hosted by the Chamber in the past year are described below. Follow the Chamber on Facebook to stay informed on current events in 2022!

- **Summer Wellness Event:** Our first annual Wellness Event was a great success, attracting neighbors to visit our many sponsors at Memorial Park - such a fun, family-friendly event focused on good health!
- **Annual Dinner:** We were pleased to honor Hitzeman Funeral Home, recipient of the "Business of the Year" award, at our lovely annual dinner at Mattone Restaurant. Thank you, Hitzeman family, for your many years of continued excellent service in our area!
- **Winter Wonderland Walk-Thru:** Many of our members took part in creatively decorating trees for all to see at this annual event in Memorial Park. It was great to share a night of holiday cheer and see so many families out to enjoy the beautiful lights!

Snow Removal Rules

The Village would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that the Village plows the streets when snowfall is expected to exceed two inches (2"). Salting will be performed during plowing operations on a limited, as needed basis. By following just a few simple rules, residents can make our job and your neighborhood safer.

Rule #1: Remove your vehicles from public streets when the forecast is for two inches of snow or more. Having vehicles in the road makes it harder for our drivers to thoroughly clean the streets and endangers their safety by forcing them to zigzag across slippery roads, increasing the probability of accidents. The Village tickets violators!

Rule #2: If possible, please avoid driving during heavy snowstorms. Our primary purpose is to clear streets for emergency vehicles. The less traffic there is, the faster and more efficiently our drivers can clear the streets.

Rule #3: Do not shovel or blow snow into public streets. This not only defeats the purpose of our plowing, but causes unsafe conditions for all drivers. All shoveled or blown snow should be piled in your yard or parkway. Violators may be ticketed.

Rule #4: Drive cautiously. If you must be out, please use extreme caution. Drive slowly and watch at intersections. Don't follow our plows too closely. Leave plenty of extra room between cars and brake slowly. Use extreme caution in passing the Village's plowing and salting equipment.

Rule #5: Keep sidewalks clear. It is the responsibility of each homeowner/business owner to keep the sidewalk and walkways in front of his/her address shoveled and cleared of ice.

When Seconds Count...



Which would you rather have to protect your home?

After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

Snow Blowing Reminders

The Village offers the following reminders for managing the snow:

- Do not blow snow into the street. Instead, blow onto your parkway or yard.
- Keep hydrants visible and clear of snow piles.
- Keep the area in front of your mailboxes as clear of snow as possible.
- Keep your sidewalk/walkway clear of snow.

Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of: September, October & November 2021:

- Approved The Purchase of a Caterpillar 930M Loader with the Municipal Pricing from Altorfer Caterpillar for \$210,425.00 and Authorize the Village Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents
- Appointed Ms. Leah Wilson to the Village of La Grange Park Youth Commission to Fill a Term Expiring September 2022; and Reappointed Jakub Myers, William Aikens, Katie Beyer, and Charlotte Sands to the Village of La Grange Park Youth Commission for Terms to Expire September 2023
- Entered Into A Contract with Rainbow Farm Enterprises, Inc. for the Disposal of Leaves at \$650 per Truckload and Not to Exceed \$36,000, and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute the Necessary Contract Documents
- Accepted the Bid Proposal from Sewer Assessment Services, LLC., in a "Not to Exceed Amount" of \$25,000.00 and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute the Contract Documents
- Approved a Contract with H&H Electric Company in the Amount of \$47,680.00 for the Homestead Road Lighting Improvement Project
- Approved a Contract with Globe Construction in a "Not to Exceed" Amount of \$65,000.00 for the 2021 Sidewalk Replacement Program and Utility Restoration Program, to Include the Resident Participation Program and Additions to the Village's Annual Sidewalk Replacement Program
- Approved Change Order #1 with Suburban General Construction, in the Amount of \$3,500.00 for a 4 Foot Valve Vault
- Approved Change Order #2 with Suburban General Construction, in the Amount of \$15,985.00 for Connection at La Grange Road and Garfield
- Approved Change Order #3 with Suburban General Construction, in the Amount of \$30,000 for Stamped Concrete Streetscape and Barrier Curb Improvements
- Approved Change Order #4 with Suburban General Construction, in the Amount of \$6,500.00 for Excavate Alley in Two Mobilization
- Approved A Resolution Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois To Induce The Redevelopment Of Certain Property Within A Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Area And Business District
- Appointed Joseph Marino to the Sustainability Commission to Serve the Remainder of a 3-Year Term Expiring in May 2022
- Recognized Police Chaplain, Lynda Miller on Her Retirement
- Recognized Ron Hursh, La Grange Park Sustainability Commission Green Spotlight Household Award Recipient
- Approved A Contract With Globe Construction, In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$10,000.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Document
- Approved Change Order #5 With Suburban General Construction, In The Amount Of \$5,280.00 For Permeable Concrete Restoration
- Approved A Resolution Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois To Induce The Redevelopment Of Certain Property Within A Business District
- Proceeded With Developing And Issuing A Request For Proposals For The Creation Of A Streetscape Improvement Plan For The Village Market Area
- Accepted The Lowest Bid From Copenhagen Construction, Inc. In The Amount Of \$481,335.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Accepted The Bid Proposal From Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc., In A "Not To Exceed" Amount of \$150,000.00 and Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Document
- Approved The Resolution To Allow The Village President To Execute A Certain Agreement With The Cook County Department Of Public Health For Health Inspection Services, Effective December 1, 2021, And Continuing Through November 30, 2022
- Accepted The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report For The Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2021
- Accepted The Annual Post-Issuance Compliance Report
- Accepted The 2021 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report
- Approved An Ordinance Providing For The Annual Tax Levy For The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, For The Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2021 And Ending April 30, 2022
- Approved An Ordinance Providing For Specific Reductions Of The 2021 Property Tax Levy Pursuant To The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
- Approved An Ordinance Abating The Tax Hereto Levied For The Year 2021 To Pay The Principal Of And Interest On \$3,495,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014, Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois
- Approved An Ordinance Abating A Portion Of The Taxes Heretofore Levied For The Year 2021 To Pay Debt Service On General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2016 Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois
- Approved A Resolution Approving the Annual Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for 2022
- Approved The Village's Participation In The National Opioid Settlements And Authorized The Village President To Sign And Execute Related Documentation
- Recognized Fire Personnel on their Promotions: Captain John Psenicka, Captain Jim Gruszka, Captain Steve Tullis, and Lieutenant John Fagan
- Recognized Off-Probation Fire Personnel with a Pinning Ceremony: Matt Kerry, Charlie Porter, and Chris Psenicka
- Recognized Fire Personnel with a Swearing In and Pinning Ceremony: Ken Marciniak, Miko Ortega, and Stefan Weston
- Approved An Ordinance Amending Chapter 112 Of Title XI Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code To Increase The Total Number Of Authorized Class A And Class B Liquor Licenses From Six to Seven

We're Looking for Good Neighbors!

The Good Neighbor Corner is a regular newsletter feature highlighting the 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, fill out the enclosed form and send it to Village Hall. Help us share the efforts of good neighbors with the entire community.

La Grange Park Little League & Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Stone/Monroe

When my former spouse and the father of my two children passed away suddenly this summer, La Grange Park Little League (LGPLL) and Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Stone/Monroe stepped up to the plate and were there for my family in more ways than imaginable. To the players, coaches, managers, and families involved with LGPLL... my son's Bandits and All Stars team... the people who organized, donated time, money, and raffle gift baskets, and attended the 10th annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Stone/Monroe fundraiser event... thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are genuine, kind, generous, and caring people. Many people who donated to this cause never met me or my children. These people made donations out of the goodness of their hearts. We are so lucky to be part of such a wonderful community. LGPLL and Neighbors Helping Neighbors are genuine, amazing people. We appreciate you all and are forever grateful. There's an African proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child." La Grange Park is my village and there really is no place like home. - *Kim Pelletier*

Dawn, Tom, & Jason Sil, Tim & Chris Albores, & Janet Kaski

I've had some health problems over the past year. All of these neighbors pitched in to help by mowing my lawn and taking out the garbage. Then during heavy snow they helped by shoveling my driveway and flat roof. They are always thinking of others and make time to help even though they have busy schedules and their own responsibilities. I'm grateful for their help and concern. - *Carol Einhorn*

Good Neighbor Nomination Form

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Please provide the name and address of the person/group you are nominating:

Why are they a Good Neighbor to you? _____

Good Neighbor Corner



 Printed on recycled paper



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Meghan Kooi

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Connect with us!

Village Website: www.lagrangepark.org

Sign up under
“How Do I...” for:

- Weekly E-Briefs Newsletter
- Weekly Public Safety Briefs Newsletter
- RAVE/Smart 911 Emergency Alerts

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/lagrangepark
Facebook.com/lagrangeparkPD
Facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment



Don't Forget to “Spring” Ahead

Daylight Savings Time begins
on Sunday, March 13 at
2:00 a.m. Remember to “Spring”
your clocks forward one hour.



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

Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, February 21 - Presidents' Day
Friday, April 15 at Noon - Good Friday