

The Rose CLIPPINGS

Fall 2023

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner



As the leaves begin to change and we move into a time of gratitude, I am immensely thankful for the progress we've made as a Village this year. From several large construction and infrastructure projects currently in development, to the efforts of the Village Board and Staff to secure capital funding grants from the State of Illinois for Village improvements, we have made great strides over the last few months making La Grange Park an even more dynamic place to live, work and visit.

Some highly visible examples of progress within our community can be seen with all of the

construction and business development projects under way. Notable highlights include:

- ALDI Grocery Store (333 N. La Grange Road) - Demolition for this exciting addition to the Village began in late July and work on the foundation for the new store has begun. We anticipate ALDI opening to the public in the first quarter of 2024.
- Kensington Place Development (555 N. Kensington Avenue) – Site development work including construction of a detention pond began at the end of July. Four new single-family homes are currently under construction in this area at varying phases of development (with eight total planned).
- La Grange Park Public Library (555 N. La Grange Road) – A remodel of the La Grange Park Public Library began in the second half of August, beginning with an interior demolition phase. The project consists of exterior improvements to the building façade, and interior remodeling of all three levels.

- Happier Now Café & Market (1016 E. 31st Street.) - Final inspections are in the works so you can anticipate this vibrant new restaurant opening soon.

To create thriving commercial areas and enhance quality of life for residents, the Village continues to make headway on streetscape improvement projects including the Village Market and 31st Street plans. Recently, the Village welcomed Derek Rockwell, a new Senior Planner/Project Coordinator to lead the implementation of these projects and ensure their success.

Throughout this period, the Village also prioritized critical water and sewer infrastructure improvement projects in our community. The Public Works Department has been hard at work with the Lead Service Line Replacement Program and Central Area Sewer Separation Project. For more updates on these large-scale programs, please visit the Village website.

To bring additional resources to our community, the Village Board and Staff have tirelessly pursued and secured grants from the State of Illinois. More detail can be found in the contents of this newsletter. These grants will provide funding for several critical projects including street repairs and other improvements throughout the Village, as well as enhancements and repairs at Village facilities. Many thanks to our Board of Trustees for ensuring Village needs and concerns continue to be a priority with our state legislators.

Finally, none of this progress would be possible without our community, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for being engaged residents, providing your input and supporting Village programs and events. Speaking of which, in this edition of Rose Clippings, you'll find information about several popular events, including our Smashing Pumpkins Event, the Chamber's annual Haunted Trolley and much more. It's a great time to be in La Grange Park! As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James F. Discipio



Village Firefighters Graduated from Firefighter Academy

This past May, three La Grange Park Firefighters graduated from the Basic Operation Firefighter Academy at College of DuPage. Congratulations to Marissa Covarrubias, Christian Kiessling and Alexander Kiessling (pictured here with Fire Captain Steve Tullis and Fire Chief Dean Maggos).



Village Fire Department Around Town

Firefighters attended many events over the summer. They enjoyed interacting with the community, letting children (and adults) see the fire trucks and equipment, and sharing fire safety information. Here, firefighters are shown at the Ogden Avenue School Back-to-School Bash and also at a pop-up splash pad event at Robinhood Park.



Meet Our New Village Employees

Administration Department

Recently the Village welcomed Derek Rockwell to the new Senior Planner/Project Coordinator position. Derek has over 16 years of experience in local government and held planner and project manager roles for the City of Aurora, the Village of Lisle, and the City of Naperville, among other municipalities. Additionally, the Village welcomed Madelyn Dow to the new Communications Specialist position. Madelyn has extensive experience in copywriting, editing, website management, and social media strategy and best practices. Welcome, Derek and Madelyn!

Police Department

The Police Department welcomed Blake Patchett, Spencer Olson, Jackie Haupt and Evenly Sanchez to its staff recently. Officer Patchett is currently in the Field Training Program as he was already a certified Illinois police officer. Officers Olson, Haupt and Sanchez are all currently in the police academy undergoing the necessary training to become certified police officers. We welcome all of these new officers and are excited to have them as part of the team.



Derek Rockwell

Madelyn Dow

Blake Patchett

Spencer Olson

Jackie Haupt

Evenly Sanchez

Vehicle Stickers & Dog Licenses

Current vehicle stickers and dog licenses expire on October 31, 2023. Residents are encouraged to renew their vehicle stickers and dog licenses online at www.lagrangepark.org. The Online Purchase PIN on your renewal form is required to make an online purchase. All renewal information will be pre-entered and residents will have the ability to add or remove vehicles or dogs.

Vehicle sticker and dog license forms may also be mailed or dropped off at the payment box located outside Village Hall. Please update your information and include both the top and bottom forms with your payment.

Residents can also purchase vehicle stickers and dog licenses in person at Village Hall, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. New residents should stop by Village Hall or visit www.lagrangepark.org to print and complete a new application.

Please note that a convenience fee of 2.25% is charged for all credit card payments. These fees go to the payment processor and are not collected by the Village.

Please email finance@lagrangepark.org or call 708-354-0225 if you have not received a renewal form or have any questions.

All residents who own a motor vehicle or any person having control or use of a motor vehicle owned by a resident of the Village must annually obtain a Village vehicle license for each motor vehicle used on any public street. A motor vehicle is any vehicle subject to the registration requirements of the Illinois Secretary of State. Late fees apply starting November 1. Vehicles without a valid sticker may be ticketed.



Illinois Capital Bill Funding

The Village was recently notified that five capital projects identified in the State's Capital Bill will receive funding from the State. These projects will require grant processing which will take several months and project initiation is uncertain at this time. These monies will become available due to the efforts of our legislators and will bring taxpayer dollars back to our community. Approved grant projects include:

- \$75,000 for enhancements at Village Hall.
- \$75,000 for roof repair at Fire Station 2, located on 31st Street.
- \$100,000 for street repairs.
- \$110,000 for parking lot improvements at the Public Works facility.
- \$500,000 for roadway improvements.

New Parking Restrictions Implemented

The Village installed signage for the new parking restrictions in the area west of La Grange Road from the Village's southern border to Harding Avenue. The changes were instituted at the request of and for the benefit of homeowners located in this area to prevent spillover parking. A current La Grange Park vehicle sticker will satisfy as a permit for residents. Service vehicles for homeowners such as landscapers, cleaning services, and building/repair contractors do not need permits. For homeowner guests, additional placards are available upon request by calling 708-352-7711 during business hours or by emailing info@lagrangepark.org.

2023 Leaf Collection Schedule

Residents are advised that the schedule below is only a guideline. The Public Works Department will do its best to adhere to this schedule; however, in the event of an emergency, leaf pickup may be delayed. Every attempt will be made to get back on schedule as quickly as possible after a delay – your patience and understanding are appreciated!

REMINDER: Residents who hire contractors to remove leaves from their property must ensure that the contractor hauls them away. This service is only for residents who perform the work themselves.

- East:** All streets east of the IHB railroad tracks
- West:** All streets west of La Grange Road
- Center:** All streets from La Grange Road east to the IHB railroad tracks

Leaves must be raked into the street gutter by 6:00 a.m. on Monday of the collection week.

Leaves for each section will be collected on the following weeks:

| WEST | CENTER | EAST |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| October 16 | October 23 | October 30 |
| November 6 | November 13 | November 20 |
| Weather permitting we will continue removing leaves as follows: | | |
| November 27 | December 4 | December 11 |

Drug Take Back Day

Village Hall Lobby

Saturday, October 28, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The La Grange Park Police Department in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host a National Drug Take Back Day. This program offers a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of unwanted or expired medications (please note, only drugs in pill form will be accepted – no liquids). Please empty all drugs from their original containers, bottles, or blister packs and place in a sealed baggie for drop off.

Can't make it October 28? A permanent drop box is located in the Village Hall Lobby with drop off access during regular business hours.



Smashing Pumpkin Event

Public Works Facility, 937 Barnsdale Road

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Village's Sustainability Commission is hosting this popular event once again this year. Please dispose of your jack-o-lanterns in this environmentally-friendly way. Last year, we collected 4.71 tons or 9,420 pounds and we need your help in smashing the record at this year's event!



Road Paving Project

The Village Board recently approved a contract with M&J Asphalt to repave the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Morgan Avenue and Harrison Avenue. This project will commence in mid to late September and last through October. Work involved in this project includes milling (grinding) the top layer of asphalt, removing and replacing sections of curb that have poor drainage, reconstructing drainage structures, patching poor areas of the road and installing a new asphalt surface. Please note the roadway will be closed to vehicle traffic for the project's duration.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“Business of the Year” Award

The La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce recently announced our “Business of the Year” winner: **Central Federal Savings & Loan!** We are hosting our annual awards dinner on Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Join us for a lovely evening out filled with good food, drinks, raffle prizes and more!

Haunted Trolley

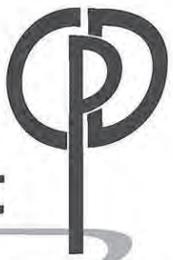
Friday, October 27, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to bring back the Haunted Trolley event! Join fellow members, neighbors and friends in our Village for this family-friendly night out. Trolleys will be shuttling up and down 31st Street with stops at all your favorite businesses to trick-or-treat. Mark your calendar and don't miss out on all the spooky fun! Get into the Halloween spirit and enjoy lots of tasty treats along the way!

Follow our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LaGrangeParkBusinessAssociation) or reach out to Chamber President Sheri Sauer at (708) 372-2579 for more information about our upcoming events and the Chamber's services.



Community Park District



La Grange Park

Scarecrow Decorating Contest

Join your neighbors for this fun community challenge and build your own scarecrow. Make yours scary or funny, silly or ridiculous! You must register in order to pick up your scarecrow starter kit and compete. Fee is \$15. Display your scarecrow and email us a picture by October 16 to be entered to win. Winners will be announced October 27 and will be featured on our Fall 2024 brochure cover.

Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt Recreation Center

Friday, October 13, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Gather your team for this exciting glow in the dark scavenger hunt. Clues will be hidden throughout the Recreation Center for you to uncover on your race to 1st place. Bring your flashlights and we will provide glowsticks for the team. Pizza will be served before the hunt. This is a drop-off event. Ages 9-13.

Campfire in the Park Spooky Stories Memorial Park

Monday, October 18, 6:30 p.m.

Make s'more friends! Spend the evening at Memorial Park roasting marshmallows and hearing spooky stories from the La Grange Park Library. Standard s'more materials will be provided, but feel free to bring any other ingredients you wish.

Santa Paws Recreation Center

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

'Tis the season to snap the cutest, sweetest, and sometimes most hilarious photo of your pooch with the big fellow. Once you register, you will receive a designated timeslot to bring your dog to have a photo taken with Santa. After your visit with Santa, your pet will have the opportunity to create a special holiday gift that your family will treasure for years. All dogs must be wearing their current rabies tag to participate in the event.

Phone Calls from Santa

Wednesday, December 13,
starting at 5:00 p.m.

Santa is ready to hear your child's Christmas wishes. Register online, then pick up a form at the Park District office after November 27 and return it before December 8. Ages 3-8.



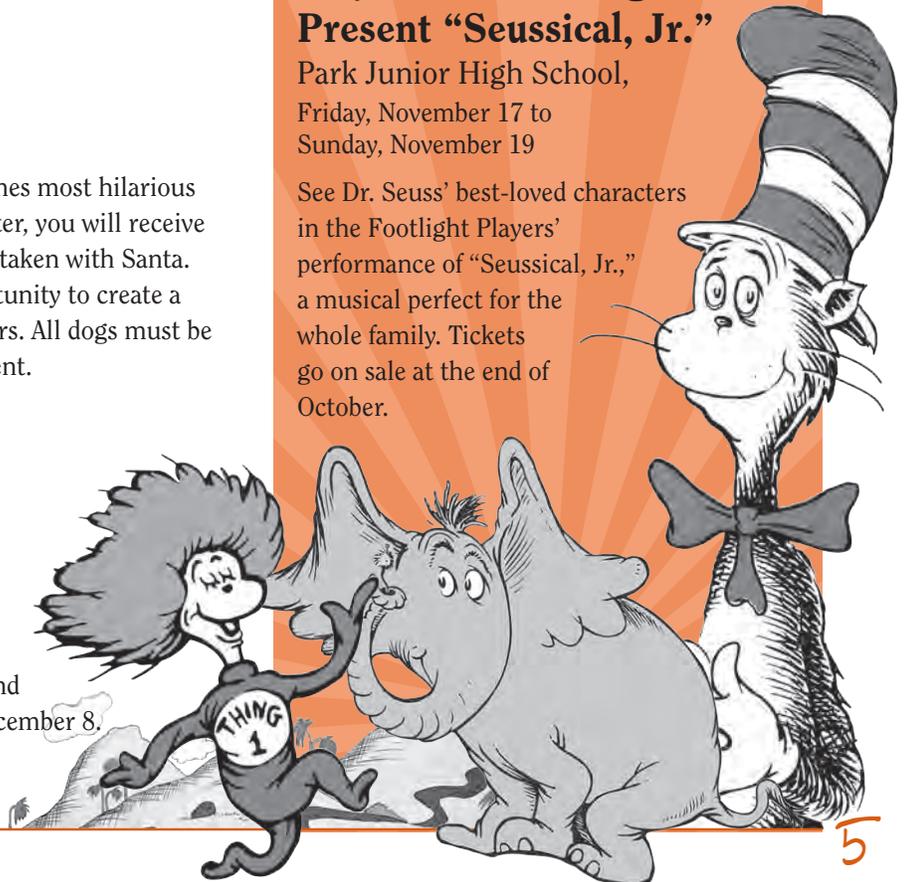
**Construction is underway on
Beach Oak Park, with an anticipated
grand opening in the spring. Follow us
on Facebook for updates!**



The Community Footlight Players of La Grange Park Present "Seussical, Jr."

Park Junior High School,
Friday, November 17 to
Sunday, November 19

See Dr. Seuss' best-loved characters in the Footlight Players' performance of "Seussical, Jr.," a musical perfect for the whole family. Tickets go on sale at the end of October.



Library Building Project FAQs

With the La Grange Park Library building project now underway, here are answers to some common questions from community members:



Q: Where can I find information about the project?

A: The main source of communication about our building project is on a dedicated page on our website, which was established in October 2020. A wealth of information and history is located on the building project page, and will continue to be updated as the project progresses. We encourage all residents to visit this page regularly: lplibrary.org/building-project-2

Q: How was this funded?

A: The library has budgeted carefully over the last several years, resulting in \$1.5 million in savings for building repairs. To cover the full cost of the project, the library issued alternate revenue bonds in September 2021. This does not increase taxes and is paid off like any other loan over the course of 15 years. In addition to issuing revenue bonds, the library was also awarded a public library construction grant from the Illinois State Library in the amount of \$574,000.

Q: When did the renovation begin?

A: The renovation began on August 21. Earlier dates were considered, but with COVID-19 and other issues arising over the past few years, the library pivoted and plans changed. By late July of this year, the architects were ready and everything was in place. Library staff quickly executed the plan to move the library to its temporary space, including moving thousands of books, materials and equipment.

Q: Will you be closed during the renovation?

A: Our permanent building at 555 N. La Grange Road in La Grange Park is closed until approximately May of 2024. We encourage you to visit our temporary space located at 21 N. Catherine Avenue in La Grange, less than a mile from our original location. Visit our contact page for library hours: lplibrary.org/contact.

6 Good Neighbor Corner

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.

The La Grange Park Public Library

The friendly people at the library have been a blessing to me, an elderly senior lady. I have been going to the library for 15 years. I am still a regular patron every month. Louise, Tech Services Assistant and Natalie, Susan, Catie and Gabe who are Adult Reference Librarians have helped me with copying papers, printing pictures, laminating and cutting them. Aaron H. the Circulation Assistant has helped order or put books on hold for me. As an older adult, you can imagine how I so appreciate all of them. They are a joy in my life! – *Nominated by Lillian Winslow*

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? _____

Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of June, July and August.

- Approved An Employee Leasing Agreement With GovTemps USA For The Assignment Of Daniel Wiersma For The Interim Finance Director And Acting Treasurer Position
- Approved A Resolution Appointing An IMRF Authorized Agent
- Approved Revisions To The “Rules For Public Comment” For All Village Meetings
- Approved A Letter Of Agreement Between The Village, Woodmen Of The World And Plymouth Place Relating To Gate Improvements
- Approved An Ordinance Allowing For Temporary Outdoor Dining
- Accepted The Annual Post-Issuance Compliance Report
- Approved An Ordinance Designating Village Depositories And Investment Institutions and Authorized Signers For The Village Of La Grange Park (2) To Approve Fifth Third Bank Multi-Product Resolution
- Approved And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Agreements Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Edwin Hancock Engineering For Design And Construction Engineering Services In The Amount Of \$9,900.00 For The 2023 MFT Pavement Patching And Sidewalk Program
- Approved And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Agreements Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Edwin Hancock Engineering For Design And Construction Engineering Services In The Amount Of \$65,000.00 For The Harrison And Morgan Resurfacing Project
- Adopted A “Resolution For Maintenance Under The Illinois Highway Code”
- Authorized Staff To Purchase A 2024 GMC 2500 HD Pickup Truck With Snow Plow And A GMC 1500 Pickup Truck From Coffman Truck Sales Inc. For \$105,774.20
- Appointed Larry Noller as Finance Director And Village Treasurer, Effective July 31, 2023
- Approved A Resolution Appointing An IMRF Authorized Agent
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Zoning Text Amendment To Allow Generators To Be Placed In The Interior Side Yard (Case #23-0010)
- Approved An Ordinance Designating Village Depositories And Investment Institutions and Authorized Signers For The Village Of La Grange Park and Approved the Fifth Third Bank Multi-Product Resolution
- Approved The Proposal For Chairs From F.H. Paschen For \$23,500 And The Proposal For Tables From Prevolv For \$9,916.16 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved The Proposal From F.H. Paschen for \$77,508.78 And Approve A Not To Exceed Amount Of \$80,000.00 For The Village Hall Administration Bathrooms Project And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Approved A Resolution To Accept Planning Technical Assistance Services Delivered By The Chicago Metropolitan Agency For Planning
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Approval Of An Amended Plat Of Planned Unit Development For 315 N. La Grange Road (Case #23-0014)
- Granted An Exception To The Nuisance Regulations Contained In Section 93.04.C.5 (As Amended) Of The Village Municipal Code, For The Purpose Of Allowing Nazareth Academy To Operate A Sound System Until 10:30 p.m. On September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 20, 2023, And One Additional Friday Between October 27 And November 25, 2023, And To Utilize The Lights Until 9:00 p.m. On September 18, September 20, September 25, And October 4, 2023
- Approved An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale Of Surplus Property Owned By The Village Of La Grange Park, Illinois And Authorized The Village Manager Or Designee To Sell, Donate And/Or Dispose Of Such Equipment
- Granted A Variation From The Fire Sprinkler Requirement For A New Greenhouse At The Arboretum Villas At Plymouth Place; Specifically, A Variation From The Village Of La Grange Park Municipal Code, Title IX, Chapter 91, Section 91.06, Subsection 903.2
- Authorized The Modification To The Capital Projects Fund 300-50-86500 For Fiscal Year 23/24 From \$95,000 To \$120,000 And Authorized Staff To Purchase Two New 2023 Ford Interceptor Utilities (Police Patrol Package), For A Cost Of \$83,032.00, From Currie Motors Fleet, In Frankfort, IL, Through The Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Contract #152 With A Not To Exceed Amount Of \$120,000.00 To Cover The Equipment Up Fitting
- Approved A Contract With Lindahl Brothers, Inc. For The Hauling And Disposal Of Debris And Spoils At A Not To Exceed Amount Of \$120,000.00, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved Contracts With A&B Landscape And Tree Service For Tree And Stump Removals, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Necessary Documents
- Appointed James Furlong, Devin Zander, And Evie Franz To The Village Of La Grange Park Youth Commission To Fill Terms Expiring September 1, 2024 And Appointed Harry Keenan To The Village Of La Grange Park Youth Commission To Fill A Term Expiring September 1, 2025; And Reappointed Katie Beyer, Luca Depa, And Riley Mulhall To The Village Of La Grange Park Youth Commission For Terms To Expire September 1, 2025

 Printed on recycled paper



Published quarterly by
The Village of La Grange Park
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Want to be in the know in La Grange Park? 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

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- [Facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment](https://www.facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment)



Vehicle Stickers & Dog Licenses Due October 31st

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:

- Friday, November 10 - Veterans Day**
- Thursday & Friday, November 23-24 - Thanksgiving**
- Friday & Monday, December 22 & 25 - Christmas**
- Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day**