

The

Rose CLIPPINGS

Fall 2024

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

Kids are back in school, the weather is crisp and leaves are starting to change – fall has arrived in La Grange Park and exciting changes are in the air.

Thanks to the efforts of the Board of Trustees and Village Staff, La Grange Park was awarded two sizeable grants over the last few months from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways and from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Funding from these grants - \$355,000 in total - will help with preliminary engineering for traffic safety improvements on La Grange Road, as well as a planning study for the 31st Street Corridor. These crucial projects will help make our community safer and will help attract new businesses to La Grange Park.

Another exciting development in our community is progress on the Village's Branding and Identity Plan. Thank you to everyone who



participated in our community engagement workshop and online survey over the summer – we received more than 100 responses. We loved hearing what community members had to say about La Grange Park and what makes it special: the neighbors, the forest preserves and natural beauty, the unique homes, focus on family and convenience of La Grange Park's location. Your insights helped shape the initial brand strategy and identity system for

the Village, which was shared at the August Village Board meeting. This plan continues to evolve and we look forward to how it will enhance La Grange Park's sense of place, navigation and signage. Thank you to the Commercial Revitalization Committee, Village Staff and our consultant, Span, for guiding this important process.

We've had several highly visible changes to our community over the last few months too, including completion of the Library's large-scale building renovation along with a wonderful grand opening party in August with more than 1,000 attendees. Jewel-Osco made several improvements to their parking lot recently, including a full repave and new landscaping. They have plans to make additional investments into their space in the near future. This fall, we'll also celebrate the grand opening of Pillars Community Health in their new location on La Grange Road.

Yes, it's a great time to be in La Grange Park. I'm so proud of the changes and progress happening every day here in our Village. While the summer season of block parties and outdoor barbecues has come to an end, we have a lot to look forward to in our community this fall. In this edition of Rose Clippings, you'll find information about several fun fall events coming up, including the Fire Department's Open House, the Chamber of Commerce's annual Haunted Trolley and the Park District and Library's various Halloween events. I hope to see you around town. As always, please reach out to me at any time.

President James J. Discipio

Congratulations to La Grange Park Little League Teams

La Grange Park Little League had an impressive summer with two teams achieving great success at both the district and state levels. The 9-11 and Intermediate teams won District 9 titles, with the 9-11 team finishing second in the state and the Intermediate team placing third. At the August 27 Village Board meeting, President Discipio and the Board of Trustees shared a proclamation congratulating these teams on their outstanding efforts. The Village not only recognized the 28 players on these teams, but also the managers, coaches, officials, parents, umpires and countless others who worked together to provide valuable training and life lessons for the participants. Congratulations to all!



Police Department Receives ILEAP Accreditation

This summer the La Grange Park Police Department was awarded Tier 1 level Accreditation by the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP). Accreditation is the ongoing voluntary process whereby law enforcement agencies evaluate their policies and procedures against established criteria, which are then verified to be in compliance by an independent and authoritative body, The Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. The police department was judged on the basis of 69 separate ILEAP standards pertaining to administration, operations, personnel and training.

Obtaining ILEAP accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of La Grange Park Police Officers and staff. It reflects the department's ongoing commitment to provide the highest quality of professional law enforcement services to our community. The department looks forward to continuing its mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents, business owners and guests of La Grange Park.

Village Receives \$175,000 Grant from Cook County for La Grange Road Traffic Safety Improvements

The Village recently received a \$175,000 grant from the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways as part of its Invest in Cook initiative. The grant will help fund the Village's preliminary engineering for La Grange Road traffic safety improvements. The proposed improvements from Richmond Avenue to Homestead Road will include raised planted medians, a pedestrian refuge island aligning with an existing Pace bus stop, and leading pedestrian interval timing. The proposed improvements from Homestead Road to Woodlawn Avenue will include a preliminary Intersection Design Study to determine which type of signal installation would allow emergency service vehicles more direct access to La Grange Road, and explore a widened roadway to allow for a raised median and pedestrian refuge north of the Woodlawn/La Grange Road intersection. These proposed traffic safety improvements were recommended as part of the recently completed Village Market Streetscape Improvement Plan.



Village Awarded Funding for 31st Street Corridor Planning Study

The Village was also awarded \$180,000 in Statewide Planning and Research funds through the Illinois Department of Transportation for a planning study for the 31st Street corridor. The plan will recommend transportation and streetscape improvements based on community input and an analysis of traffic safety data. The plan will propose specific projects to improve transportation infrastructure and safety, invest in walkability, and enhance local and regional accessibility and connectivity. For more information, visit the Village's website.

Meet Our New Village Employees

The Village recently welcomed Kelly Rafferty as the new Administrative Assistant in the Fire Department. Kelly is a La Grange Park resident and previously served as Fiscal Assistant at the Village. She has a strong background in customer service, as well as patient care from previous nursing roles. Additionally, the Village recently welcomed Officer Matthew Pinckney to the Police Department. Matthew was born and raised in Westchester and attended Nazareth Academy. He is a recent graduate of Illinois State University where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement. He is currently attending the police academy, undergoing the necessary training to become a certified police officer. Welcome, Kelly and Matthew!



Deputy Fire Chief Norm Rick Retires After 44 Years of Service

Congratulations to Norm Rick on his retirement after an incredible 44-year career in the Fire Department. Norm began with the Village of La Grange Park in September of 1980, volunteering as part of Fire and Rescue. He became a cadet and EMT, and officially joined the Fire Department in 1983. He served in various roles and ranks, including Firefighter/Paramedic, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief, Division Chief, and Deputy Chief.

Norm's contributions to the La Grange Park Fire Department have been invaluable. Throughout his career, he was instrumental in personnel training, vehicle maintenance, development of the department's policies and standard operating guidelines, and fire inspections.

In addition to his part-time and paid-on-call service in La Grange Park, Norm worked full-time in EMS and the fire departments in Elmhurst, Western Springs, and most notably, Oak Lawn, where he spent 26 years and retired as Deputy Chief in 2013. The Village would like to thank Norm for his outstanding commitment and contributions to our community.



Fire Department News

Fire Department Open House
Saturday, September 28, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
Fire Station #1, 447 N. Catherine Avenue

Join the La Grange Park Fire Department for this free event and bring the whole family out to meet Sparky and your La Grange Park firefighters. You can also ride a fire truck, participate in fun kids' safety activities, enter raffles and much more!

Fire Prevention Week™: October 6 to 12, 2024

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™" aims to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. The La Grange Park Fire Department encourages residents to follow these key smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org.

SMOKE ALARMS

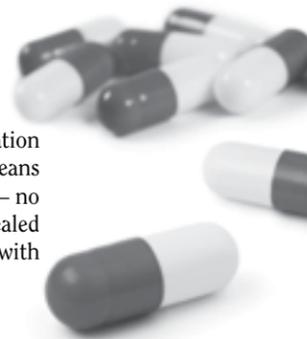
Make Them WORK For You!™



Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 26, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Village Hall Lobby

The La Grange Park Police Department in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration 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 26? A permanent drop box is located in the Village Hall Lobby with drop off access during regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



It's Time to Renew Vehicle Stickers & Dog Licenses

Current vehicle stickers and dog tags expire on October 31, 2024, so now is the time to renew. This year's vehicle sticker commemorates the 125th anniversary of the La Grange Park Fire Department and features a historic photo of firefighters from 1900.



Residents are encouraged to go online to purchase vehicle stickers and dog tags using the Online Purchase PIN found on the renewal form sent out recently. All information will be pre-entered, and you can easily add or remove vehicles or dogs. Alternatively, forms can be mailed, dropped off at the payment box outside Village Hall, or you can purchase in person during business hours. New residents should visit Village Hall or the Village's website to complete a new application. Please note that a 2.25% convenience fee applies to all credit card payments. 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. Late fees apply starting November 1. Vehicles without a valid sticker may be ticketed. Funding from these licenses helps maintain our roads in La Grange Park, so the Village encourages residents to renew today!

Village Moving to Monthly Water Billing

The Village will transition from quarterly to monthly water billing in early 2025. Monthly billing is consistent with standard practices for utilities, making it easier for households to budget and allowing for earlier detection of water leakage. The Village encourages residents who have not yet done so to sign up for paperless bills and online payments through our website. Stay tuned for more details on this transition in the coming months.

2024 Leaf Collection Schedule

Brush pick-up ends the first full week in October and leaf collection begins on October 14. Please see the schedule below for leaf collection for each section of the Village.

WEST - All streets west of La Grange Road.

CENTER - All streets from La Grange Road east to the IHB railroad tracks.

EAST - All streets east of the IHB railroad tracks.

WEST	CENTER	EAST
October 14	October 21	October 28
November 4	November 11	November 18
Weather permitting we will continue removing leaves as follows:		
November 25	December 2	December 9

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!

REMINDERS:

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



LA GRANGE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

It's time to mark your calendar for a spook-tacular Halloween season with the La Grange Park Public Library, in partnership with the Community Park District! Visit our website event page to learn more and register: lplibrary.org/events

Campfire in the Park – Spooky Stories Wednesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. with the Community Park District at Memorial Park

Make s'more friends! Spend the evening at Memorial Park roasting marshmallows and hearing spooky stories. We will provide the makings for standard s'mores; feel free to bring any other ingredients you would like to add.

Trunk or Treat and Movie in the Park Saturday, October 19, 5:00 p.m. with the Community Park District at Memorial Park

Dress up in your Halloween costume and join us for music, tricks and treats. Stay for a 6:45 p.m. showing of a Halloween short in the park.



Family Pumpkin Carving Wednesday, October 23, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. with the Community Park District at Memorial Park Oak Street Pavilion

Bring your creative ideas to Family Pumpkin Carving. Each registered participant will receive one pumpkin to carve and decorate. All are welcome and encouraged to hang around and showcase their pumpkin in our Jack-o'-Lantern Jubilee, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Jack-O'-Lantern Jubilee Wednesday, October 23, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with the Community Park District at Memorial Park Oak Street Pavilion

Bring your carved pumpkin and we will light them up for a spooky and adorable photo op! You bring the pumpkins; we'll bring the flameless LED candles. Participation in Family Pumpkin Carving is not required to attend this event. You can bring your own jack-o'-lantern from home!



Fall Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 12, beginning at 6:00 a.m.

Every October, the Village's waste hauler provides a clean-up day in which residents may dispose of an unlimited amount of refuse, including large items, for a total of five refuse stickers. See the Village's website for more information and a list of acceptable items.

Smashing Pumpkin Recycling Event



Saturday, November 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Public Works Facility, 937 Barnsdale Road

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 5.28 tons or 10,560 pounds and we need your help in smashing the 2023 record at this year's event!

Road Paving Project

500 Block of Park Road

The Village Board recently approved J. Nardulli Concrete to repave this section of the roadway. This project will commence in mid to late September and will last until the end of October. This project involves milling (grinding) the top layer of asphalt, removing and replacing all the curbs in the inside island, reconstructing drainage structures, patching poor sub-base, and installing a new asphalt surface. The roadway will be closed to vehicle traffic for the project's duration.

Haunted Trolley



Friday, October 25,
4:00 to 6:30 p.m.,
31st Street Corridor

Join Chamber members, neighbors and friends for our beloved Haunted Trolley event! Our trolley will be shuttling up and down 31st Street for this family-friendly evening with stops at all your favorite businesses for trick-or-treating. Don't miss out on all the spooky fun. Get into the Halloween spirit and enjoy lots of tasty treats along the way!



Get in Touch

To keep up to date on the latest from the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce follow us on 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.



Yena Park

A more than \$1.2 million renovation of Yena Park is kicking off this fall thanks to a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, as well as support from La Grange Park Little League and the Community Park District of La Grange Park. The project includes new playground equipment, pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts, full ballfield reconstruction, the addition of a perimeter path, new water fountains and more! We anticipate this project will be completed in fall of 2025 with the ballfields and soccer field reopening in the fall of 2026.

Will La Grange Park Get a New Park?

The Community Park District has applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant with the support of La Grange Park residents and the congregation of the Village Church. This is a federal

funding opportunity administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. If the Park District is awarded grant funding, it would acquire the Village Church property located at 1150 Meadowcrest and forever preserve the open space as parkland for our residents.

Stone Monroe Tennis Courts

The Community Park District has been exploring repair and renovation opportunities for the Stone Monroe Tennis Courts. Please visit our website (www.communityparkdistrict.org) for public input opportunities regarding this project.

Pickleball at the Park District

The weather is staying warmer longer and we are working to keep our pickleball courts open to accommodate everyone! We have outdoor leagues at Memorial Park and indoor leagues at Park Jr. High starting in October.

Women's Awareness and Self-Defense Class

**Saturday, October 19, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.,
 1501 Barnsdale Road**

This class will consist of a 30-minute speaking presentation about safety by the La Grange Park Police Department and then a 45-minute hands-on self-defense class by Kids Karate Instructors. This program is FREE to ages 14+. Call or go online to register.



2024 Holiday Home Decorating Contest

'Tis the season to make the holidays extra merry and bright! Untangle those lights and show off your decorating skills! There is no cost, but you must register to be eligible for judging. Participants will submit two photos of their house (one day and one night) by December 16. The pictures will be posted on Facebook, along with a poll for voting. Judging will run from December 18 to 20 until 4:00 p.m. Winners will be announced on December 20 at 5:00 p.m. There are two categories: Best in Show (decided by the Park District Staff) and People's Choice (community-based via Facebook) Prize baskets from local businesses will be awarded to both winners. Please note that registrants agree to share their addresses for a map that will be posted online for the community to enjoy the lights.



Santa Paws Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m., Recreation Center

'Tis the season to snap the cutest, sweetest and sometimes funniest photo of your animal friend with the Big Guy. All animals are welcome as long as they are friendly and must be leashed or caged.

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.

Dan and Linda Dresden

I would like to nominate our neighbors Dan and Linda Dresden for the Good Neighbor Corner. While we have only known them for four years, they raised four daughters in La Grange Park and now two of these daughters and their families live here as well. From truly the moment we moved into our house next door, they haven't stopped offering their support and helping out. Just a few months after moving in, with a newborn baby, our bathroom sink broke. We asked Dan for the name of a plumber, and within minutes he was under the sink fixing it for us. This is the first of hundreds of examples of them helping us and us watching them help everyone in our area. Linda is so caring, she notices the little things and quietly helps out not for acknowledgment, but because her heart is happiest when helping others. Our kids consider them family, as do all of the children on our block (and not just because Linda keeps her freezer stocked with treats for them!). I could go on for pages, but the most amazing example of just how much they mean to the neighborhood is this: when our neighbor's house was on fire and they had to evacuate, they immediately ran to Dan and Linda. We had no idea what we were getting into when we moved next door to the Dresdens, and now we can never imagine leaving! – *Nominated by Bridget Ugaste*

Sharon Sims

I would like to nominate Sharon Sims. She organizes parties at her home for the block kids with wonderful themes. Caters food, etc. The last was Japanese themed. Last year it was The Beatles and the year before, Bastille Day! She is retired now. She was a public defendant her whole career. When she travels, she always brings back something special for the block kids and never misses a holiday or a birthday. For Halloween, she is known around Harding Woods for setting up a table with full size Hershey bars and cotton candy for the block parties! She even gets treats for our puppy. My son said to me once, that he knows why they named her Sharon, because she is so good at sharing! She is our kids' fairy godmother. – *Nominated by Judy Schlueter*

Matt Schmitt

When I needed someone to go with me to pick up 20 bags of topsoil, Matt offered his services. He also unloaded all of the bags and spread the dirt on the side of my house. He also said "if you need anything else, I'm only a phone call away!" Us seniors are not able to do the things we once did. Thank you, Matt for being my neighbor! – *Nominated by Bonnie Koll*

Village Board Highlights

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

- Waived The Competitive Bidding Process, Approved Contracts With A&B Landscape And Tree Service For Tree And Stump Removals, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Viewed a Lead Service Line Replacement Water Rate Update
- Accepted The Annual Post-Issuance Compliance Report
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Zoning Text Amendments To Define A New Use Called Wholesale Distribution Ancillary To Retail (Case#24-0003)
- Approved A Resolution Approving An Intergovernmental Agreement With The Village Of La Grange For The Administration Of An Adjudication Court
- Approved And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Agreements Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Edwin Hancock Engineering For Design Engineering Services For \$151,400.00 For The Edgewood And Richmond Water Main Project
- Approved That Portion Of The Agreement Dated November 29, 2023 Between Hancock Engineering And The Village Of La Grange Park Which Authorizes \$43,000 For Construction Engineering For The MWRD Alley Project
- Approved The Purchase Of A 2025 Peterbilt Truck With Snow Plowing Equipment From Lindco Equipment Sales With Sourcewell Pricing For \$319,971.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Necessary Documents
- Approved An Ordinance Approving A Property Revitalization Grant Agreement By And Between The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, And E & J Restaurant Group, Inc. and Approved An Ordinance Approving A Property Revitalization Grant Agreement By And Between The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, And JGK 31st Street Properties LLC
- Viewed a Presentation for Retail Market Analysis For North La Grange Road
- Adopted A "Resolution For Maintenance Of Streets And Highways By Municipality Under The Illinois Highway Code" For The Expenditure Of \$349,500.00 in MFT Funds
- Viewed a Lead Service Line Replacement Water Rate Update
- Discussed Parking in the 31st Street/Barnsdale Business District
- Moved to Support The Preferred Alternative (ALT 3) Intersection Improvements Presented By Ciorba Groups As Part Of Brookfield's Des Plaines River Trail Extension Project
- Granted An Exception To The Nuisance Regulations Contained In Section 93.04C.5 (As Amended) Of The Village Municipal Code, For The Purpose Of Allowing Nazareth Academy To Operate A Sound System Until 10:00 p.m. on August 30, September 6, September 20, September 27, and October 18, 2024
- Approved A Professional Services Consulting Agreement With Lakeside Consultants For Plan Review And Inspection Services Not To Exceed \$90,500 Plus A 10% Contingency For Fiscal Year 2024/25 And To Authorize The Village Manager To Execute The Agreement With Lakeside Consultants Dated June 25, 2024
- Approved A Fee Schedule Dated July 1, 2024 With Don Morris Architects For Plan Review And Inspection Services Not To Exceed \$90,500 Plus A 10% Contingency For Fiscal Year 2024/25
- Approved A Professional Services Consulting Agreement With SAFEbuilt Illinois, LLC For Code Enforcement Services Not To Exceed \$40,600 For Fiscal Year 2024/25 And To Authorize The Village Manager To Execute The Agreement With SAFEbuilt Illinois, LLC
- Approved A Resolution For Construction on State Highways
- Approved Change Order #1 With Unique Plumbing Company, in The Amount Of \$7,384.76 For An Inserta Valve
- Approved Accounting Services Support in The Not To Exceed Amount Of \$40,000 From Lauterbach And Amen, LLP

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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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Vehicle Stickers & Dog Licenses Due October 31st

VillageHall

Monday through, Friday 9:00 a.m. to 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, November 11 - Veterans Day**
- Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving**
- Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24 & 25 - Christmas**
- Wednesday, January 1 - New Year's Day**