

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Spring 2015

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park



President's Corner

Spring is just around the corner and for the Village, that means it's budget season. Each year as Village staff and the Village Board prepare the budget, we strive to align the budget with the Village's priorities and the core services we provide. Last year, the Village Board held a special workshop to update and prioritize the long-term objectives and needs of the Village. It will come as no surprise to our residents that the number one priority identified was the paving of streets. For the third year in a row, the Village's proposed budget reflects this priority, by providing additional funding for road maintenance and reconstruction. The Village has budgeted over \$1 million to support projects such as the repaving of Kemman Avenue, Cleveland Avenue, Finsbury and Pine Tree Lane.

of the Rose Clippings. In addition to providing financial assistance, the Village has identified a number of ways to help residents manage storm water on their property, including free rain barrels, guidance on constructing a rain garden, and more. The proposed budget also includes a grant program to provide partial reimbursement to residents who opt to install check valves or overhead plumbing to mitigate the potential for sewer backups in their homes.

Construction activity in the Village remains strong. In 2014, our Building Department issued a record number of building permits and 2015 is anticipated to be another busy year. The proposed budget includes additional funding for the Building Department to hire assistance for code enforcement, as the Village continues to encourage residents and business owners to ensure that their property looks its best.

While the Village does not anticipate revenues will increase much in 2015, we have seen a recent increase in sales tax revenue. I strongly encourage residents to consider shopping in La Grange Park first, as the revenue from sales tax is used to support critical Village services such as Police and Fire services.

Please take a few moments to read through this spring's edition of the Rose Clippings. You'll find useful information on water and refuse rates, upcoming Village events and yard waste and brush collection. Please feel free to contact Village staff if you have any questions or concerns and as always, feel free to contact me at any time.

I'd like to close my comments by offering my sincere appreciation to former Trustee, Mario Fotino, who resigned in February. The Village and the community greatly appreciate your service and wish you and your family well. Have a great spring everyone!



The proposed budget also includes funds for programs to mitigate the impact of flooding. The Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program, a Village-wide initiative, provides financial support to residents to offset the cost of disconnecting their downspouts from the Village's combined sewer system. All residents must disconnect their downspouts by January 2017, so I encourage you to learn more about the program by visiting the Village website (www.lagrangepark.org), by contacting the staff member in charge of the program, Forrest Tucker (forrest@lagrangepark.org), and by taking the survey that is included in this edition

President James F. Discipio



Village Appoints New Trustee

On March 24, 2015 the Village Board appointed Jamie Zaura to fill the vacancy on the Village Board left by former Trustee Mario Fotino in February. Ms. Zaura will serve the remaining two year term. Prior to being appointed, Trustee Zaura served on the Village's Zoning Board of Appeals and the Village's Sustainability Commission. She is a licensed architect and co-founder of 845 Design Group, as well as a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) accredited professional. Ms. Zaura has her MBA from the University of Phoenix and her Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is also a graduate of Lyons Township High School. Welcome Trustee Zaura!



Village Personnel Changes



Commander John Strezo

The Village is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Sergeant John Strezo to Commander earlier this year. Commander Strezo has been with the Village for over fifteen years. He began his career as a police officer in 1999 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2007. Commander Strezo is a graduate of the Northwestern School of Staff and Command. Congratulations Commander Strezo!



Sergeant Tim Contois

Please join the Village in congratulating Tim Contois on his promotion to Sergeant. Sergeant Contois has been with the Village since 2002 and served both as a Patrol Officer and most recently as Detective for the past three years. Sergeant Contois has also served as the Juvenile Coordinator for the past two years and serves as an instructor for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Congratulations Sergeant Contois!

New Refuse Pricing - Effective April 1, 2015

As a reminder, under the Village's contract with Allied Waste/Republic Services, the minimum monthly refuse charge that appears on homeowners water bills will increase from \$5.10 to \$5.23. Additionally, the cost for refuse and yard waste stickers will increase from \$2.90 per sticker to \$3.00 per sticker. Both changes will be effective on April 1, 2015. For those residents that participate in Allied's twin toter program, the cost for the 65G refuse toter will increase to \$11.94 (from \$11.65) and the cost for a 96G refuse toter will increase to \$13.99 (from \$13.65).

Consider Making a Change....

The table below will help you choose the most cost-effective solution for refuse and recycling for your household, based on your usage:

IF YOU THROW OUT...	THEN SELECT...
Less than one bag or can of garbage per week	Sticker program
One bag or can of garbage per week	65 Gallon Twin Toters
More than one bag or can of garbage per week	95 Gallon Twin Toters

Stickers may be purchased at Village Hall and local grocery and hardware stores. To get started with the Twin Toter program, contact Allied Waste/Republic Services directly at 708-345-7050.





2015 Yard Waste Program

The Yard Waste Program is available through our waste hauler, Allied Waste/Republic Services. Allied Waste/Republic Services will accept yard waste with a sticker, from April through early December. All containers and bundles should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday. A yard waste sticker must be affixed to each bag or bundle. If you use a can, please loop the yard waste sticker around one of its handles. Yard waste is collected either in heavy-duty paper bags or smaller garbage cans. To be used for yard waste, garbage cans must have two handles, be no larger than 35 gallons, and be marked for yard waste. The “Yard Waste” marking must be visible from the street. “Yard Waste” decals are available at Village Hall. Cans or bags should weigh no more than fifty pounds. Oversize cans are the largest cause of injury to garbage truck drivers. When you purchase a garbage can, please verify its size. Oversized cans will not be emptied.

Republic Services collects bundled brush along with other yard waste. Brush and branches must be securely bundled with bio-degradable twine or rope. Each bundle must be no more than four feet in length, two feet in diameter and weigh no more than fifty pounds. Individual branches must be no larger than three inches in diameter. A yard waste sticker must be affixed to each bundle. Please call the Village of La Grange Park at 354-0225 or Republic Services Customer Service at 708-345-7050 if you have any questions.

2015 Brush Collection Program

The Village will no longer be scheduling specific sections for pick-up. Instead, multiple crews will be working concurrently across the Village during the collection week.

The Village brush collection pick-up occurs on the Monday of the first full week of the month. Brush must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. A first sweep is conducted, picking up the smaller piles of brush. Larger piles will be left for the end loader and dump truck to pick-up.

The Village will conduct a pickup during the first full week of each month as follows:

- May 4th
- June 1st
- July 6th
- August 3rd
- September 7th
- October 5th (last pick-up for the year)

Guidelines for the Brush Collection Program

- Brush must be stacked neatly on the parkway, piled no more than 4-feet high, with the butt end facing the curb. *Please be sure that brush is not piled in such a way that it interferes with motorist or pedestrian visibility.*
- In narrow parkways, if brush extends onto the sidewalk, the brush may be piled parallel to the curb.
- Brush must be no longer than six feet in length and 4-inches in diameter.
- Logs must be cut into small, manageable pieces, and should be kept separate from brush.
- Stumps and root balls will not be picked up. They should be removed from trees or bushes.



Brush pickup is strictly for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their own property. If no evidence exists that work has been performed on the property, the Village reserves the right to charge the resident for this service. The brush will not be picked up until a check for payment of services is received, and our work schedule permits.

Contractors working for homeowners are NOT allowed to use this service, since we are not able to handle the quantity of brush that they produce. If evidence exists or contractors are seen by our Village workers placing tree or brush debris at the curb, the Village will charge the resident for removal of the tree/brush debris.

Monitor Your Water Usage

Residents occasionally contact the Village due to unusually high water bills. The high bill is often due to leaking pipes, dripping faucets, or running toilets. A running toilet can waste up to 1,000 gallons of water a day and dripping faucets can also result in a large amount of lost water. Please frequently check your pipes, faucets and toilets for leaking or running water. Also, many water meters have a “low flow indicator,” which is a small dial on your meter that turns when water is moving through the meter. This dial should not be moving when water is not being used in your residence. Be proactive – monitor your water usage frequently to save yourself time and money and help conserve a valuable resource.



New Water Rate Effective May 1st

The Village Board recently approved an 8.0% increase to the Village’s water rate effective May 1, 2015. This increase is primarily a pass-through of a rate increase from the Village’s water supplier, the Brookfield North Riverside Water Commission (BNRWC), which purchases water from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago raised its water rates by 15% effective January 1st of this year.

New Village rate: \$6.99 per 100 cu. ft.

Previous Village rate: \$6.47 per 100 cu. ft.

Most residents are billed quarterly for water and will not see the full impact of the rate increase on their bill until August, September or October.

Get Your Numbers Straight!

Posting your address on your home can be critical to Village fire and police personnel if you need them in an emergency. If your home address is not displayed, or it has faded, been obstructed by bushes, trees, etc., now is the time to correct it, with the arrival of spring weather. The address should be at least 4” tall, in contrasting color to the background, and be plainly visible from the street. Please take a look at your own home, and make sure we can find you in an emergency.

Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars and save the date for “Coffee with the Chief”. Come meet and speak with our Police Chief, Ed Rompa on April 23rd from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board meeting room. He will share some information on current Police Department efforts and take questions and concerns from residents in attendance.

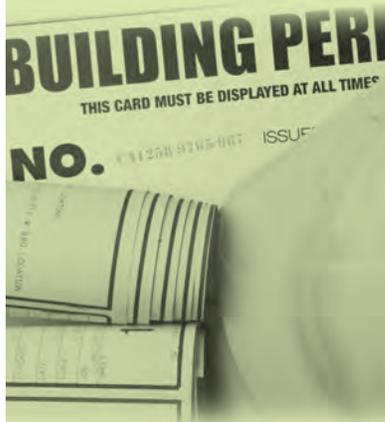
Stay Informed with E-Briefs

Want to be kept informed with the most up-to-date information on what is happening in the community? Want to be the first to get vital information in times of emergency? Sign up for the Village’s weekly electronic newsletter, the E-Briefs. The E-Briefs is a once weekly newsletter that contains important Village information and links to activities going on in and around the community. To sign up, visit the Village’s website (www.lagrangepark.org) and click on the “Sign Up for Village E-News” link on the right-hand side of the page.



Spring Building Maintenance Reminders

With spring upon us, we all turn our thoughts to the outdoors. Although it came late, this year's cold winter has taken a toll on all buildings as well as driveways, patios, walkways and even trees. The Village has a property maintenance code in place that contains provisions for maintenance of all exterior areas in both residential and commercial properties. Please look around your property and identify any issues that need attention. Also please be aware that certain projects require a building permit so before starting that major task you have in mind, contact the Building Department regarding any requirements. By helping to ensure that all properties are maintained, the Village can continue to thrive in the high standards in which the community was founded.



Celebrate Arbor Day

La Grange Park has been designated a "Tree City USA" for the past 28 years by the National Arbor Day Foundation. In keeping with our status as a "Tree City," the Village has planned a special event for this year's Arbor Day Celebration.

Honorary Tree Planting

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Village will plant a tree in memory or in honor of a special person. The Village will publicly honor a La Grange Park resident or group with the planting of a tree. Planting a tree can be a terrific tribute to someone; trees grow tall and strong, provide shade for cooling in summer, release moisture into the air, help reduce flooding and erosion and are a source of beauty from season to season over a lifetime.

Arbor Day this year is Friday, April 25th. To mark this Arbor Day, the Village is accepting nominations to plant a tree in honor or in memory of a person or group that has made a positive contribution to the community or whose achievements deserve special recognition.

To submit a nomination, please send your nomination to Tree Planting, La Grange Park Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526 or via email to abagley@lagrangepark.org no later than April 14th, 2014. Be sure to tell why the person or group you are nominating deserves to be recognized and indicate what kind of tree you feel would most appropriately honor their achievements and community spirit. After reviewing all the nominations, the Village will select one from among all nominations received to honor with a public tree planting. The tree will be planted in a public space (in a park, parkway, etc.) during a public ceremony in late April or early May, and a small plaque mentioning the honoree will be installed at the base of the tree.



TREE CITY USA®

Free Mulch

Mulch will be available beginning May 1st. Public Works crews will deliver mulch to residents on Fridays, depending on availability. To request a delivery please email mulch@lagrangepark.org or call Public Works at 352-2922, and provide the following:

- address
- phone number
- ½ truck load or full truck load*

* ½ truck load equals approximately 1.5 cubic yards, and a full truck load equals approximately 3 cubic yards (generally, one cubic yard will cover a 6-foot x 9-foot area).

The Village has a limited supply of mulch, and it is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Please do not contact the Village sooner than April 22nd as there is no "waiting" list.



Village Board Highlights

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

- Executed first addendum to the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement, which amends Section Five, Compensation for Aid
- Approved an Open Purchase Order with Central Salt LLC, not to exceed \$96,156
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for the Distribution of Rain Barrels
- Approved expenditure not to exceed \$25,000 for purchase of two (2) complete street light poles with arms and lamp fixtures
- Approved the Local Agency Agreement for Federal participation
- Approved the Construction Engineering Services Agreement for Federal participation
- Approved the MFT Resolution and authorized the execution of said documents
- Approved an Ordinance Amending the "La Grange Park Municipal Code" as Amended, regarding Section 50.28, Disconnection of Downspouts from Sanitary Sewage System
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Public Improvements in Heatherdale Subdivision by the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing a Reciprocal Agreement on Exchange of Information between the Village of La Grange Park and the Illinois Department of Revenue
- Approved a bid from Yousef Dabbagh in the total amount of \$2,456 to purchase the 2003 Ford Explorer and the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria
- Approved the purchase of seven (7) sets of new protective gear (pants and coats) at the cost of \$1,733 per set, or a total of \$12,131 from Paul Conway Shields
- Approved a professional services agreement with Selden Fox, Ltd. to perform the required annual audit of the Village's financial statements for fiscal year 2015 in the amount of \$19,000
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Grant Agreement with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Funds

We Need Your Voice

The Governor's Proposed Cuts to LGDF

Like the blooming of the bulbs and the greening of the grass, calls to cut the municipal share of the state income tax have become a perennial rite of a spring in Springfield.

Governor Rauner's proposal to cut what is known as the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) by 50 percent is the most serious threat to the 45-year promise made to Illinois communities - and their residents - would share in the income tax they pay.

Slashing the LGDF by half would mean a loss of nearly \$700,000 in Fiscal Year 2016 for Village services like street repairs, snow removal and police & fire protection.

La Grange Park has already made deep cuts to its operating budget, including reducing personnel by 10 percent and eliminating many popular community programs, while struggling to maintain core services. Many other municipalities in Illinois have made the same tough decisions as responsible stewards of taxpayer revenue. Unfortunately, the State of Illinois has failed to make the same cost saving measures, allowing their pension debt and budget deficits to get out of hand. Now the Governor wants local communities - and their residents - to pay for the state's bad decisions.

President Discipio and the Village Board have expressed, and will continue, to express their strong opposition on this budget-busting proposal to the Governor, the Village's five state legislators and leaders in the General Assembly. However, we need the help of our residents to keep up the pressure. The Illinois Municipal League offers an easy-to-use tool that allows you to contact our local officials directly to express your opposition to this LGDF, which can be accessed through the Village's website at www.lagrangepark.org. (If you prefer a more traditional method to contact the Governor and legislators, direct contact information is also available on the website.)

Local Government Distributive Fund Facts:

- Established in 1970 when the first State Income Tax went in effect and municipalities agreed to give up many local taxing powers, such as collecting a personal property tax.
- Was originally 10 percent of all income tax collections, but has eroded to approximately 8 percent.
- Distributed on a per capita basis - was projected to be \$99 for Fiscal Year 2016.
- None of the recent 4-year income tax surcharge, which expired Jan. 1, 2015, was shared with local governments.
- The LGDF represents about 8.5% of the Village's annual operating budget.



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 special neighborly touches that make living in La Grange Park special. If you know a Good Neighbor, please submit your nominations to Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine. Help us share the efforts of good neighbors with the entire community.

Good Neighbor Excerpts:

Nominating: Pat Payne and Sue Huhndorf

Pat and Sue are fantastic neighbors. On the morning of February 1, 2015 my husband and I woke to our neighbors plowing our driveway, helping move snow and make room for party guests to park on the driveway for the 'big' super bowl party. They knew we had been prepare the house, cleaning and cooking the night before and decided they would help us out. In addition, they plowed several neighbor's drives as well as sidewalks. Consistently, Pat and Sue are willing to reach out to neighbors and help out. We moved to La Grange Park two years ago and feel as though we hit the jackpot with amazing neighbors on all sides and Pat and Sue across the street. Thanks!
- Meredith Walker

Nominating: Albores, Chadash, Chrzas, Contois, DiBraccio, DiSessa, Franz, Gawel-Barden, Hagn, Heetel, Kanzer, Kowalczyk, Kucera, Pinta, and Ruppert

Popular television would have us believe that in any situation where the wife/mother of a family is ill, the husband/father will inevitably end up a worthless wreck as he tries to fill her shoes. Obviously, this is patently absurd, but let's say in this case – just for argument's sake – it were true. That would make the tremendous support provided to us by numerous La Grange Park families all the more praiseworthy and certainly a credit to this husband/dad's (and his family's) sanity. An enormous thank you to the above noted LGP families who helped us remain on our feet during this trying time. And thank you many other for the well-wishes along the way! All of it is greatly appreciated!
- Steve Holtz & Family

Nominating: People of La Grange Park

On July 19, 2014 our son Chris at age 4 was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer. We hadn't a single indication that he was even sick. As you can well imagine this past summer our lives were changed in a way that is difficult to put into words. From this came an incredible outpouring of love, support, prayers, and helping hands from our neighbors, complete strangers, and our community as a whole. It has opened our eyes to just how much good is all around us. All of your gestures be them big, small, or silent have never gone unnoticed and for all of them we are truly humbled and grateful. Your generosity in whatever form it has been be it time, donations, meals or other has helped us more than you can ever know and there are not enough ways to express how very thankful we are. We chose to make La Grange Park our home in June of 2012 and have no doubt that we couldn't have found a better block in a better community. Thank you a thousand times over. - Ted and Danielle Ellis

Nominating: Jay, Chrissy, Andrew and Jamie Cmelo

During the winter season, the Cmelos are prepared with their snow shovels and blowers to clear my walkways, driveway, and even steps. Andrew and Jamie are such considerate young boys.

After I had a serious accident, they would bring dinner for me. They are so thoughtful, never asking if I

needed dinner, simply treating me to it. Whenever they have a brunch, Chrissy always delivers a gourmet meal for me. During the summer season when my children and grandchildren visit, Chrissy gives me pool passes so we may enjoy a swim. I needed a wrench to repair my grill. Jay not only brought over a wrench but assisted in the repair of my grill. Broken fence? Jay quickly came to the rescue with his power screw gun to repair it. When I have visited my children, Chrissy has taken good care of my plants, brought in packages, and checked my mail. All I have to do is call or email and they are all willing to pitch in and help. Good neighbors, no they are the "Greatest Neighbors!"
- Constance Mitchell

Nominating: Fran Pones

Fran has been my neighbor, friend for over 30 years. Our sons are best friends. In recent years, I have had surgeries and a serious accident. Fran is always calling to see if I need anything. She has grocery shopped for me. When my father passed away, she donated, picked up, and delivered the food for our dinner. Some years ago, the cherry tree in my backyard had a limb that fell off. The two of us carried the limb to the street. We were forced to set the limb down because we were laughing so hard. Fran and her son Jimmy had my vacationing cat, Anubis, stay with them while I was away. Anubis was a sweet but one vocal cat! Recently, the canopy on my gazebo tore, so the two of use armed with Fran's duct tape repaired the canopy. Again, we needed to stop to laugh because our pattern on the underside of the canopy was quite unique. The canopy served as a proper protection for the season of backyard parties for us. On recent trips, Fran has been a "green" neighbor by watering my plants. Fran is more than a neighbor, she is a great friend.
- Constance Mitchell

Nominating: Keir Wilson, Ann & Bob Olson, Joe Culligan, Terri Rearick, Jim Graff, Bill O'Brien, Armando Solis, Leland Albright

During this cold and snowy winter, thoughtful and caring friends and neighbors from the 600 block of North Catherine kindly pitched in after every snowfall to clear the walkway and my long driveway. Keir Wilson faithfully shoveled snow from the apron too the street and up the driveway to the porch, often even before leaving for work. Ann and Bob Olson and Joe Culligan were out in the cold on the snowiest of days removing the white stuff with their snow blowers. Terri Rearick purchased a snow blower, and she encourages her next door neighbor, Jim Graff, to use it helping others on the block. Bill O'Brien used his snow blower and cleared snow from the sidewalks all along the west side of the street, while Jim Graff did the same on the east side. Armando Solis came across the street and used his shovel and a lot of energy to remove snow from my driveway. Leland Albright, from a street west of Catherine, was walking his dog when he saw me working on the snow in the driveway. He said, "I'm going to move that pile of snow that's next to the house for you." He took the shovel and tackled the job of moving the icy snow, while I held the leash with the dog. I am so grateful to all of these Good Samaritans,; I can't thank them enough for their kind deeds. - Mary F. Russell



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VILLAGE MANAGER
Julia Cedillo

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RESIDENT FEEDBACK

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.

Please mail to: Village Manager, Village of La Grange Park, 447 North Catherine, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Email address: 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 and type "sign me up!"

VILLAGE HALL

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 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.

VILLAGE HOLIDAYS

Just a reminder that Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day
Friday, July 3 - Independence Day
The Police and Fire Departments will remain open