

Welcome to the fifth annual State of the Village Address. Tonight I will be sharing with you the efforts that the Village has taken to plan and build for a better future for our community.

I'm joined this evening with fellow members of the Village Board, along with many volunteers who serve on Village committees and commissions. Our Village Trustees and Commissioners are not paid and serve purely on a volunteer basis. They take time out of their personal lives because they are committed to the future of our community and they recognize the importance of being involved. We are fortunate to have their leadership and dedication. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with them.

Great communities like ours don't happen by accident. Each year, the Village Board gathers for a strategic planning workshop to review and discuss key issues in depth. This year's focus was on Village priorities and included a comprehensive SWOT analysis to identify the Village's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The session concluded with the Village Board identifying a list of Village priorities and ranking them according to importance. Collectively, the Village Board identified five priorities:

1. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility with Sound Budget Practices
2. Improve and Maintain Infrastructure and Roads
3. Maintain and Communicate Good Government Practices and Services
4. Maintain Public Services Through Safe Practices and Proper Equipment
5. Attract, Retain and Expand Business

Over the past several years, we have made some difficult decisions in an effort to ensure our financial stability. As a result, we have been able to maintain the same level of service to our residents despite our reduced staffing levels. In fact, the Village is operating with a staff that is over 10% smaller today than five years ago.

The Village has been diligent in monitoring expenditures and we ended the 2014 fiscal year in a much stronger financial position than was originally forecasted. General Fund revenues increased 5.8% last year. This is due to rising State shared revenues and an increase in Village fee revenues. While this is a sign that the economy is continuing to recover, the Village has remained conservative in estimating future revenues. We have carefully planned and allocated funding for future capital improvements.

The current year budget for all funds totals over \$14.8 million; a 1.9% increase over last year's budget. The Village continues to work towards a sustainable annual budget. Over the course of the past 18 months, we updated over 20 of our fees and fines. Maintaining an updated fee and revenue structure ensures that the Village recoups our costs associated with the services we provide. It positions us well to meet ongoing and future obligations.

One of the primary challenges for the Village in the near term is to continue repairing and replacing our aging roads, water and sewer infrastructure. The Village Board and management staff are actively planning for the capital needs of the Village. A five year capital plan is included with each annual budget and the Village continues to aggressively pursue grant opportunities to supplement our ability to fund projects. Our Village lobbyist, Chris Ganschow of Cagwood Consulting, has been instrumental in identifying and assisting the Village in securing grant funds. We are also very appreciative to all of our legislators for their support. Once awarded, the Village works to leverage these funds in a way that minimizes current and future costs to the Village.

The Village is always looking for ways to save our resident's money and is currently in the process of refinancing bonds issued in 2006 to pay for sewer improvements. As a result, the Village will save over \$420,000 in interest costs over the next 12 years. These savings will allow us to invest more in continued sewer improvements. As part of the bond refunding process, the Village had to go through the credit rating process. The results are in from Standard & Poor's (S&P) and it is great news – our credit rating went up from our 2006 rating and now we are at AA+. This is a just one notch below AAA, which is the highest possible score. Our AA+ rating is a reflection of the Village's history of strong financial management.

In 2012, the Village proceeded to aggregate our residential and small business electrical supply. Over 97% of all eligible residential and small businesses opted to participate in the program, which expired in September of this year. In total, residents and small businesses saved over \$1.35 million in electrical costs over the course of two years. Individual households saved over \$300. As part of this program, the Village selected a supplier that provided 50% green energy and we reduced CO2 emissions by over 17,000 tons. After a thorough review of market bid results, the Village Board decided not to enter into a new contract because there were little to no cost savings for residents.

In March of this year, the Village entered into a new waste hauler contract with Allied Waste, now called Republic Services. The Village chose to continue its existing two-tier program so that residents have the flexibility to choose the option that best meets the needs of their household. Under the new five year contract, the Village was able to secure competitive pricing for refuse service and even reduce the monthly cost of the service to residents in the first year of the contract.

In 2013, the Village undertook an evaluation of foreseeable capital projects over the next 10 years. The Village Board, along with Village staff, worked to prioritize over 80 different projects in an effort to identify those areas of top priority. As many of you would concur, the number one priority identified was the paving of streets. We have 36 miles of streets in the Village and while many of them need work, funds are limited. The Village must prioritize the work to ensure that those funds are maximized. As part of our Local Paving Program, the Village evaluates the condition of every street in the Village on an annual basis. Each street is categorized by condition on a scale of 1 through 5, with streets rated as 5 being in the worst the condition. Then the Village prioritizes which streets will be repaved each year based on a number of factors, including its rating, the volume of traffic carried on the roadway, the ability to obtain grant funding, and so on. Currently, 2.14 miles are rated a 5 or poor and 2.4 miles are rated fair. All of these streets should be repaved in the next ten years, which will cost over six million dollars.

Our Public Works Department is led by Director Brendan McLaughlin. One of the biggest challenges the department faced this year was the number of salt and plowing events. Crews were out every third day during the winter months in what seemed like an endless cycle. We ended the winter season with a total of 80 inches of snow and 44 plowing or salting operations. That's roughly double a typical winter.

The amount of plowing coupled with the freeze thaw cycles was extremely hard on our streets. This summer the Public Works Department expanded their patching and potholing efforts. A pilot project was initiated to contract out for completing large area patching. This was done to extend the useful life and prevent further damage to streets that are in otherwise reasonable condition. Harding was completed from Edgewood to Kemman along with a variety of side-street locations. This will allow us to defer a total repaving of Harding

by several years and reallocate those funds to paving Kemman north of 31st Street next year.

In addition to the potholing and patching work, the Village was able to repave four blocks of Edgewood, two blocks of Beach and one block of Forest this year.

The Village completed the replacement of the water main running along Ogden Avenue between Park and Edgewood to improve water flow to the western edge of the Village. A new water main on La Grange Road north of 31st Street is currently in the design stage and should be installed this Spring.

This summer the Village experienced a series of storms that each dropped well over an inch of rain per hour. As many of you know, our sewer system isn't designed for that amount of rainfall. Our Public Works Director identified 50 blocks that would benefit from having the main line sewers cleaned and visually inspected to identify if there are any structural issues impeding flow or if there is any structural cracking in the line. The Village Board approved the additional expenses to have these lines cleaned this year. A total of \$75,000 dollars was budgeted for repairing sewers lines should any problems be identified.

The Village is constantly looking for opportunities to improve storm water management. Last year, we were awarded a \$416,500 Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant. This grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will support a new Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program. This program would assist residents in disconnecting their downspouts from the Village's combined sewer system and redirecting them to overland flow. As a result of the disconnection, water flows into Salt Creek will be reduced and water quality will be improved. Once implemented, the Village anticipates that the

capacity of the combined storm sewer system will increase as much as 12% during storm events.

The Public Works Department also experienced some staffing changes this year. John Jandek [*Jan-deck*] joined the Village as a Maintenance Worker. John is a certified arborist and holds a water license. He is also a resident of La Grange Park.

Many of you are familiar with the Emerald Ash Borer, which swept through the Chicagoland area in recent years and devastated the urban forests of many communities. La Grange Park has not been immune to the EAB and we have a number of trees which are susceptible to infection. This past year, 251 trees were removed. This is on top of 285 trees that were removed the year before. It is anticipated that another 760 trees will succumb to the EAB over the next few years. The loss of nearly 1,300 trees will take close to 13 years to replace, assuming we are able to plant 100 trees per year. On average it costs \$350 to purchase and plant a parkway tree. This year the tree planting budget was increased by 33%. By supplementing our tree planting budget with our resident purchase program and the use of Village crews to plant trees, we are able to extend the purchasing power of the \$20,000 budgeted to nearly \$40,000.

This past July, the Village's Police Chief of 18 years, Dan McCollum, retired. The Village has undertaken a search for his replacement, which we anticipate will conclude this month. Under the continued leadership of Interim Police Chief Phil Kubisztal, the department has maintained an emphasis on supervisory and leadership training to better prepare the staff to cope with today's challenges and future challenges. Currently, Sergeant John Strezo is attending the prestigious 10-week School of Police Staff and Command on a full scholarship. The program, conducted by the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, is considered one of the top three in the country and La Grange Park was one of only

two recipients in the United States to receive the scholarship. This award is truly a reflection of the quality and reputation of our Police Department.

In December of last year, the Village welcomed Probationary Police Officer Chris Dempsey. Chris arrived at the Village having already attended the 400 hour part-time Basic Law Enforcement Academy, saving the Village hundreds of dollars in training costs.

More recently, the Village hired new probationary police officer Guadalupe [*Gwa-day-loo-pay*] Gonzalez. She is currently attending the Cook County Sheriff's Department Training Academy and will complete her training in mid-December. She was hired to replace one of our senior officers, Joan Lux, who will be retiring by the end of the year.

National Night Out was resurrected this year after a four year hiatus. This community crime prevention event allows our residents, along with police and fire personnel, to come together and demonstrate unified support for keeping our community safe. The return of National Night Out in 2014 proved to be the most successful in its history – with over 500 in attendance. The efforts of our staff in putting together this exciting program are certainly appreciated. And thanks to residents and businesses for supporting this important program.

The Village remains committed to providing efficient services at an affordable cost. A multi-year project studying consolidated dispatch services for our police and fire departments is continuing. We believe that there may be a potential for cost savings and efficiency by joining together with other communities to provide state-of-the art public safety communications operations to our residents. LaGrange, La Grange Park and Western Springs have partnered in this project, and there is a potential for bringing other communities into the consolidation as well. A real benefit of this endeavor would be the

introduction of emergency medical dispatch, or EMD to all of our communities. The EMD addition would dedicate one dispatcher to handling requests for ambulance services and greatly enhance the services currently provided. The consolidated dispatch project is only one of several areas where we are exploring cost savings initiatives.

This year, the Board of Police Commissioners completed a testing cycle for probationary police officers. As a result, a list of eligible candidates to be considered for filling future vacancies has now been posted and is in full force and effect.

Due to regulatory changes by the Government Accounting Standards Board, the Village is in the process of developing a pension funding policy. A working group has been created with members from the Police Pension Board, the Village Board, the Village Treasurer and Village staff to assist in establishing the standards and assumptions by which the annual pension contribution is calculated. We anticipate a new pension funding policy will be in place in early 2015.

To help ensure that the Village is receiving the revenues that it's owed, the Village has been participating in a program run by the State Comptroller Office, called the Local Debt Recovery Program. This program was implemented last year and assists the Village in recovering outstanding parking tickets and fines that are owed. To date, the Village has recovered nearly 350 citations, totaling over \$17,000 in outstanding fees and fines.

For those residents interested in staying informed about local public safety issues, we encourage you to sign up for the Village's Public Safety Bulletin. This electronic newsletter provides residents with important information about criminal activity within the Village as well as tips to help keep you and your family safe.

The Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Dean Maggos, continues to work to maintain and enhance high levels of service to our community. Over the past year, the Fire Department responded to nearly 2,000 calls for service. Over seventy-five percent (75%) of those calls were for our ambulances, summoning our Paramedics and EMT's for emergency medical assistance. The remaining calls were responses to fires and other emergencies, such as elevator rescues, carbon monoxide leaks, electrical lines down, and gas leaks, among many others.

In order to be prepared to face various challenges in our community, a great amount of firefighter and EMS training takes place regularly throughout the year. When possible, firefighters utilize actual existing structures, usually scheduled for demolition, to practice their skills. Late last Fall, through the cooperation of the Community Park District, our firefighters were able to conduct live fire training at a home the Park District owned in the 500 block of Beach. The firefighters set actual fires throughout portions of the home, and practiced search and rescue and fire extinguishment. Three other neighboring fire departments also participated in the training session.

In February, our Fire Department responded to a significant house fire in the 500 block of Kensington Ave. Upon the Fire Department's arrival, there was a large amount of fire coming out of lower windows of the home, and the ground was covered in deep snow. Through the efforts of firefighters, and with the close cooperation of neighboring fire departments, the fire was quickly brought under control. While the residents were home at the time of the fire they were able to escape unharmed. I am happy to report the house is now undergoing renovations.

Our Fire Department strongly believes that the best fire is one that never starts. The 2nd best fire is one that is detected early by a smoke detector, or suppressed early by a fire

sprinkler system. Our firefighters dedicate a great amount of time throughout the year to educating the public on fire prevention, and on other safety measures such as senior fall prevention. One of the highlights of the year is the annual Open House, which takes place at Fire Station One around the time of Fire Prevention Week. This year, the Open House took place on October 12th, and included a number of educational opportunities such as letting residents extinguish cooking fires, and having children practice crawling low in smoke to get out of a fire. There were also some great demonstrations, such as the actual burning of two rooms, one which showed how fast a fire spreads, and the other which showed how quickly a fire sprinkler stops a fire. Another popular demonstration is when firefighters simulate a vehicle crash and show residents what they do to provide medical care, and how they get occupants out of a damaged vehicle. There was also a lot of fun to be had, such as the ever popular fire truck rides.

The Village's Fire Department continues to operate using a combination of full-time paramedic/firefighters, and many dedicated part-time "paid-on-call" personnel. These personnel are vital to our department's efficient service, and most of our part-time personnel hold full-time jobs in addition to their service for our community, with many having careers outside of the fire service. Not only do they have to commit time to train regularly and respond to calls, but they complete a variety of other tasks. This past April, personnel completed remodeling portions of Fire Station 2, which was built in 1958. Part of the remodeling included expanding and updating one of the original restrooms.

Under the leadership of Chief Maggos, our Fire Department continues to proactively plan for the safety and welfare of our community. Although there are no known local cases, in response to the Ebola situation, the Village is working with neighboring communities to develop a uniform set of protocols, in cooperation with local area hospitals, for patient care, employee safety and to safeguard public health.

As part of this effort, our dispatchers will be asking 9-1-1 callers reporting an illness or similar medical condition, questions to determine if the patient has any flu like symptoms, has traveled abroad, etc. Our personnel will respond in their usual expedient manner and will take deliberate actions to evaluate the medical condition to limit exposure. We ask that patients, family members and neighbors do not become alarmed with this response protocol.

Area Villages together are training with identical protocols, sharing medical equipment and developing contingency plans should resources be committed. We will continue to coordinate with neighboring communities and our local hospitals and EMS system. We will also continue to keep you informed on this issue as it relates to any new local concerns or if there is a need to provide any specific local community guidance.

This past spring, the Finance Department said farewell to our long-time Finance Director Pierre Garesche, who retired after 28 years of service to the Village. While his expertise and dedication will be missed, his departure provided the Village with the opportunity to welcome a new member to our management staff. Larry Noller joined the Village as our new Finance Director in April. Larry has over 10 years of municipal finance experience and has already undertaken a number of initiatives to improve the Village's financial performance.

The success of our community depends not only on the commitment of the Village Board and Village staff, but also on the many residents who volunteer to serve on various Village Committees and Commissions. The Sustainability Commission, led by chairperson Krista Grimm, was created in 2009 to make recommendations to the Village Board on how the Village can reduce its carbon footprint, while promoting water conservation and the improvement of air, climate and water quality. This past year, the Commission partnered

with SCARCE for its first annual free cooking oil recycling event. The event helps ensure that used oil doesn't get dumped into the Village's water and sanitation system. All oil collected is recycled into bio-fuel. The event was so popular it will be held again this year on November 29th from 9:00 am to noon behind Fire Station #1. The Sustainability Commission also sponsors the annual E-waste recycling event, held each October. This event provides residents the opportunity to recycle old or unwanted electronics and small household appliances at no cost. In the past 5 years, our electronics collection events have kept over 127,000 pounds of electronics out of landfills. Want to learn more about the efforts of the Sustainability Commission and how you can help? Follow them on their new Facebook page.

In 2002, the Village created a Youth Commission, which is made up of ten youth in 7th through 12th grade. The Youth Commission meets monthly throughout the school year to review Village Board agendas, and discuss and evaluate important Village issues. The Commission shares their feedback with the Village Board at each Village Board Work Session. The Youth Commission also sponsors the annual Community Volunteer Weekend. Every April, the Youth Commission and other community volunteers help senior residents with yard work and other challenging outdoor tasks. The Village Board greatly values the contributions of our youth and we would like to say thanks to our Youth Commissioners for their interest and dedication to the future of our community.

In order to ensure that our community continues to prosper and grow, the Commercial Revitalization Committee, led by Trustee Kucera, has been hard at work implementing the new Commercial Revitalization Plan. The Plan was adopted by the Village Board in 2013 and outlines strategies and objectives for the Village's current and future economic development efforts.

A number of the action items identified in the plan have already been implemented. This year, the Committee initiated a Business Outreach Program. The program is designed to help the Village get to know our businesses better. Throughout the year, Committee members have been visiting businesses in La Grange Park to ask questions, provide them with information on vital Village resources and find out more about their businesses. So far, the Committee has visited nearly a dozen businesses and will continue the program until they reach each and every business.

The La Grange Park business community is growing stronger, thanks in large part to the efforts of the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce. The La Grange Park Chamber, led by President Sheri Sauer and its Board of Directors, continues to grow its membership and to expand its presence in the community. The Chamber hosts a variety of business-friendly and family-friendly events including Bike Fest, the Haunted Trolley Trick-or-Treat and the annual Holiday in the Park event. Mark your calendars for this year's Holiday in the Park – to be held on December 13th. Held at the Park District Recreation Center, Holiday in the Park is an opportunity for the entire family to come out and enjoy some holiday cheer while experiencing our business community in a unique way.

You may have noticed that the Chamber recently updated their Shop Local banner program along 31st Street and La Grange Road. Member businesses are able to sponsor a colorful light pole banner that reminds residents to shop locally in our community. Shopping locally benefits our community by supporting local businesses and creating more jobs locally. The sales tax generated also supports local public services such as our police and fire departments.

The Village has over 100 businesses, including banks, retail stores, restaurants, professional and medical offices, and warehousing facilities. As in past years, the Village

experienced some changes in its business landscape. This year the Village welcomed several new businesses, including:

- Amusement Bark Dog Day Care
- Passed to Present
- Premier Tile
- And The Colony, A Community of Gamers - all of which are on 31st Street.

Fruitful Yield, a health food store, opened in The Village Market and Jewel/Osco undertook a ½ million dollar interior renovation.

La Grange Park continues to be a community which attracts not only new businesses, but new residents as well. In both May and June of this year, we set records for the highest number of residents to move into the community in a single month. The Village's foreclosure rate continues to remain low. At one in 1,940 homes, it is 3 times lower than Cook County's foreclosure rate and 2 ½ times lower than the State's overall. The Village's foreclosure rate has declined by over 50% since 2013.

Further evidence of the strength of La Grange Park's housing market comes in the form of our newest subdivision, Heatherdale. Constructed by McNaughton Development, Heatherdale Subdivision is located off Finsbury Lane. Approved in 2013, this 8 lot subdivision is nearly complete. Six of the eight homes have been sold, with home prices ranging from \$750,000 to over \$1 million.

To welcome all these new residents to our community, the Village recently introduced a New Resident Packet. This packet includes information on vital Village services and regulations. It also includes information on the Community Park District, Library, and other

Village organizations. Packets are mailed to each new household in the community and are also available for pick-up at Village Hall.

2013 was a record year in terms of the total value of construction undertaken in the Village and our Building Department continues to remain extremely busy. During the past twelve months, the Village issued nearly 1,000 permits, and conducted 1,800 inspections. In addition to the hundreds of permits issued for electrical, plumbing, and other projects and repairs, the Village issued permits for 23 residential additions and three new homes.

Permits were issued for several commercial alterations, including a permit for a 26,000 square feet addition for Deslauriers, [*Des-lor-ee-a*] Inc., located at 1245 Barnsdale Rd. Due to an extremely busy summer season for our staff, the Village also contracted some additional part-time help during recent months, to focus on some property maintenance issues throughout our Village. As a result, we have been able to begin addressing some of these issues in a few of our multi-family and commercial areas.

Last December, our Village Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, Rob Wierzba, was elected President of the Suburban Building Officials Conference. The SBOC was organized in 1946 as a result of increasing development in Chicago suburban areas. The SBOC was formed to address codes related to regulate design and construction. We are proud to have him represent our Village in this organization.

The 2012 Local Revenue Study identified the need for the Village to better recoup the costs of specialized services that we provide. After a thorough review of our building permit fee structure, the Village modified the format to make it easier for residents and contractors to understand. The Village also updated the fees to accurately reflect staff and consultant costs involved with plan review and inspections. The new fee structure ensures that the

Village recoups the cost of providing the service while maintaining affordable permit fees for residents.

La Grange Park is a community that offers its residents a wide range of amenities. These amenities include recreational opportunities provided by the Community Park District of La Grange Park. The Park District is led by Executive Director Roy Cripe, President Karen Boyd and the Park District Board of Commissioners. The Park District has been busy implementing the Master Plan it adopted in 2012. With the completion of the Beach-Oak Park expansion this past year, the Park District is currently focusing on the renovation of Memorial Park. Phase One of the project includes replacing the existing field house with a family sized picnic shelter equipped with ecologically sensitive indoor restrooms and storage. Phase Two of the improvements includes a splash pad with a sand and water playground, renovation of the existing playground, the addition of outdoor fitness equipment, bocce ball and bags court, a new gazebo and landscaping improvements along La Grange Road. All improvements are scheduled to be completed in 2015.

The Park District recently completed the new La Grange Park Veterans Memorial located at the northeast corner of Memorial Park. This project was entirely funded by donations and serves as a tribute to all veterans, past, present and future. This was truly a community driven project and the Community Park District Board of Commissioners and the Veterans Memorial Committee, chaired by Ray Wielgos, thank the many individuals who contributed to this worthy project.

Robinhood Park is also receiving a \$45,000 facelift this fall that includes improved visual appeal and additional park amenities in the northeast corner of the park.

Residents who use the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Salt Creek Trail or who like to fish in Salt Creek will be pleased to learn about improved access to the recreational opportunities stretching north from Forest Road. The existing dirt path is being replaced with a six foot wide limestone screenings path. The Community Park District was awarded a \$4,000 grant from Commonwealth Edison's Green Region Program for this project. The project is made possible through an intergovernmental agreement between the Park District and the Forest Preserve District, who own the land.

The Village and the Park District continue to enjoy a solid working relationship. As a result of our collaborative efforts, service to our residents is enhanced and tax payer dollars are maximized. The Park District and the Police Department have partnered to provide increased police presence at local parks and Park District events; including the Concert Under the Stars series and Jazz & Blues Festival. Additionally, the outdoor ice rinks that the Park District builds each winter are maintained by off-duty Village Fire Department personnel. The Village Public Works Department and the Park District's Building and Grounds Department also occasionally share equipment and manpower. This intergovernmental cooperation reduces both operational and capital costs, benefitting the residents of La Grange Park.

La Grange Park residents also benefit from another great amenity, the La Grange Park Public Library. The Library continues to expand its offerings to residents. Soon, patrons will have a new way to experience all the library has to offer with the addition of a new lounge area to its first floor, thanks in part to a \$50,000 legislative grant sponsored by Representative La Shawn Ford. Grant dollars will be used to purchase twenty laptops for patrons to use at the library – as well as to fund furniture and other interior improvements to create a more comfortable, inviting space in the library. With this addition, the overall

public computer capacity for adults will be more than doubled, and it will be easier than ever for library patrons to use the Internet, create resumes, or just play a few games.

This year, the Library opened its new Family History Center, providing access to thousands of records not available on the Internet. As a result, finding family ancestors just got easier for La Grange Park residents.

Also new this year is the addition of the Reading Garden located on their back patio. La Grange Park Girl Scout Morgan Kraus led this project which resulted in a welcoming and inspirational environment for our residents to read outdoors. Morgan's work on this project will qualify her for the Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Congratulations to Executive Director Dixie Conkis, President Cathy Foster, and the Library Board, for all you have accomplished this year in continually providing excellence in library services to our community.

We here at the Village think it's important for residents to stay informed about our community and we strive to make information available to residents and businesses in a variety ways. The Rose Clippings is a quarterly newsletter mailed to all 5,400 households in our community. Each edition of the Rose Clippings contains important information about Village services, infrastructure projects and Village personnel. Visit the Village website for information on Village regulations, to review meeting agendas and minutes, or to watch a Village Board meeting online. You can even submit a question or concern to Village staff via the "Contact Us" link on the website. The Village website has a mobile friendly format, so you can easily look up information using your smartphone. To get the most up-to-date information on Village news and community events, subscribe to the Village's weekly electronic newsletter, E-briefs. The Village currently has nearly 1,900 E-brief's subscribers, a 25% increase over last year. We are excited that so many of our residents choose to stay

informed about Village news and events and we encourage you all to become more involved.

Our community continues to benefit from the sound leadership provided by the Village Board, the expertise of our Village staff, the passion of our local business community and the dedication and commitment of our residents. For that, I extend my sincere appreciation to all of you. La Grange Park is a community of neighbors and together we can build a brighter and more sustainable future for our community.