

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 8th Annual State of the Village Address. Tonight, I have the pleasure of providing opening remarks for our address, which presents an overview of the Village's accomplishments over the last year. Tonight, each of the Village's Department Managers will take a few moments to share with you the items of interest in their respective departments. We will also have an opportunity to hear from our partner taxing bodies, the La Grange Park Public Library District and the Community Park District of La Grange Park.

Most notable of the year's accomplishments was voter approval of two referenda for a total of \$11.2 million to support our road paving program and the purchase of new fire apparatus. Both referenda received overwhelming support, demonstrating that residents are confident in entrusting their tax dollars to the Village. The Village works hard to earn that trust from residents. We understand that one of the most important decisions you make is where you choose to buy your home, raise your family and invest in your future. Here at the Village, we work each and every day to ensure that we are a community which you are proud to call home.

Before we begin, I would like to highlight the fact that I have the privilege to work alongside six very dedicated individuals who volunteer their time serving on the Village Board. Together, the group establishes the goals, policies and the long-term strategy for sustaining the Village financially. Each year, the Village Board gathers for a workshop to review and discuss key issues in an effort to progress the quality of life for our residents. Past workshops have focused on topics such as: land use planning and zoning, flood mitigation, local revenue, capital projects prioritization, economic development, capital planning and financing, community building and leadership. *The outcomes of these efforts provide the blueprint of a vision for our community:*

- Modern codes to guide the development of the community
- Incentive programs for water quality and sewer back up prevention
- Water system improvements to ensure quality in delivery
- New fee and fine structures to maintain fiscal strength
- Voter referendum for improved roadways
- New equipment for effective services
- Consideration of TIF districts and business development districts towards commercial revitalization and financial sustainability, and
- Consolidation of dispatch services for enhanced public safety response.

One workshop in particular linked issues to outcomes by focusing on key goals in governance. *They include:*

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

These goals guide what we do, the expenditures we make, where we focus our time, and how we care for our residents. For me, tonight is about looking back and taking stock of the year's progress and reflecting on how the accomplishments are connected to our goals. The Village Board, Clerk, and Staff are available for residents to discuss issues and answer questions – so please – do not hesitate to reach out after tonight's presentation.

Finally, I want to mention that next year we will celebrate our community's rich history and promising future as we mark its 125th anniversary. In honor of this momentous occasion, the

Village and our community partners will be hosting a variety of events, including a Village-wide birthday party in July. The community of La Grange Park has much to celebrate and we also have much work ahead. At this point, I would like to introduce our Village Manager, Julia Cedillo.

VILLAGE MANAGER

Hello. It is my pleasure to serve as Village Manager where I am responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Village as well as executing the policies as set forth by the Village Board and President. In conjunction with the Village Board who has residents' concerns at heart, we have dedicated staff who work hard each day to provide the best possible services for our residents. You will meet the Managers from each Department this evening and get a sense where they have focused their efforts over the last year.

And it has been a busy year (roads, water, bond issuance, dispatch consolidation) – and there is much to share and much to be proud of as we continue our work forward (on projects such as tax increment financing districts and business development districts).

As I reflect upon the past year, the Village continues to progress forward at a time when the environment around us is ever-changing (resident needs and priorities (population changes), trends in services – election next week), AND when the environment is also challenging – slow growth economic conditions and new state and federal requirements and mandates. And the state of Illinois as an environment has become particularly challenging. There is no real budget in place – the stop-gap measure we have now will expire at the end of December. Come January, if there is no real budget in place, the distribution of state shared revenue for our community will be on pause – this includes motor fuel tax for our roads, 911 funding for our dispatch operations and the Use Tax for our general fund. As such,

we have to be proactive in planning and we urge residents to contact their legislators to continue the appropriation of these funds.

So even while we have these challenges, we forge ahead and I think we are able to do so because we have dedicated and supportive leadership (Village President and Board), committed organizations (Village and others), and an engaged community – all enthusiastic about maintaining a great quality of life in La Grange Park.

Everything we do as a Village starts with residents in mind (this includes feedback from residents) which helps form a vision and the Village Board and President are responsible for the articulating the vision for the community, as President Discipio explained. It is then staff's role to help achieve it. On a day to day basis, this includes:

- Executing and enforcing the policies and programs as determined by the Board.
- Assisting in the development of policies – by providing options and recommendations,
- Working together on the strategic planning
- Service delivery accountability,
- Team building in terms of commitment to customer service,
- training and capacity,
- And the communication of information to residents, elected officials, employees, other taxing bodies, legislators, and anyone who will listen (market, market, market!).
- All together, we have our work cut out for us, BUT it is work for which all involved are passionate.

The Village is a full service local government providing services through six operational departments, Administration, Finance, Building, Public Works, Fire and Police. We have 46 full-time employees and more than 80 part-time employees (many of whom are paid on call firefighters and residents). We also have a part-time elected Village Clerk, Amanda Seidel, whose duties are prescribed by state law and who is the keeper of the corporate seal and all records. Amanda Seidel also happens to be an active volunteer and serves as a liaison to the Youth Commission.

Here is the list of Village employees. The work they do each day is amazing – some you see and much more that you don't, but all in an effort to serve the community as they truly care.

The achievements of the Village would not be possible without the countless volunteers who provide service. We cannot build community alone. Here is a list of advisory groups that provide recommendations to the Village Board or have specific authority as determined by state law. Each has a team of dedicated members and we are so grateful for their service.

- Board of Police Commissioners (duties prescribed by state law)
- Emergency Telephone Systems Board (duties prescribed by state law)
- Sustainability Commission (established per ordinance – local authority)
- Commercial Revitalization Committee (sub-group of the Village Board)
- Traffic, Safety and Engineering (established per municipal code – local authority)
- Youth Commission (established per municipal code – local authority)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (duties prescribed by state law)
- Plan Commission (duties prescribed by state law)
- Police Pension Board (duties prescribed by state law)

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to our community partners and those who are here tonight to present with us. Tonight is not only a time to reflect and celebrate; it is a time to be mindful of one another's issues, achievements and goals so that we are better able to work together in the future. Taking stock and being proactive allows us to better anticipate

challenges, react more quickly, look for opportunities and forge ahead in the best possible manner for our community.

I will now turn it over to the first staff presenter, Brendan McLaughlin, the Director of Public Works.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

The Public Works Department includes a Water Operator, Mechanic, a Foreman and five Maintenance Workers. We also have a part-time support position that keeps our office in check. We recently added a new employee to our ranks. Patrick Hurley is a lifelong resident and a graduate of Lyons Township High School. He also serves on our Fire Department and holds the rank of Lieutenant.

After 35 years of service to the Village, Corey Noble retired as Foreman. We greatly appreciate all he did for the Village and its residents and wish him a long healthy retirement. After Corey's retirement, John Jandak was promoted to Foreman. John is a licensed Water Operator and certified Arborist.

In the last year we performed all the usual services you have come to expect – snow plowing and salting, three rounds of leaf collection, six rounds of brush collection, sidewalk replacement and filling many potholes along the way.

In coordination with our contractors we have removed 200 Ash trees to date, with another 50 marked for removal this year. We started with 1,398 Ash trees and only have 225 left to remove. We expect these to die over the next two years and be removed. We are injecting 84 trees in strategic locations in an effort to save them. During the year the Village did plant

110 trees, of which 15 were donated by the Lions Club. Public Works maintains an inventory of all parkway trees, when they have been removed, and a planting list for the replacement trees which have been removed. There are currently 700 trees on the list to be replaced, and it should take approximately seven years to accomplish this. For residents who want a tree sooner, or who want to select what species is planted, we do offer a resident purchase program where we extend our wholesale prices during our Spring and Fall planting programs. The resident covers the tree cost and the Village pays for the delivery and planting. Residents wanting to choose a specific tree can work with a local nursery for purchase and planting on their own. We do ask that before purchasing a tree, the resident contact the Public Works Department to clear the species and location for planting. In those cases, all costs are paid by the resident.

Construction is nearly complete on the replacement of water main which is located between 31st Street and 29th Street on La Grange Road. This project consists of replacing an undersized and failing water main located beneath La Grange Road with a larger ten inch main relocated under the sidewalk. This new main will result in better water flow to residents in the area and less traffic interruption when maintenance on the watermain is required. This project will be completed in late November.

The voters approved a ten million dollar referendum in April of this year to repave streets. We have identified 93 blocks to be resurfaced. 24 blocks will be completed in 2016 and 41 blocks are planned for 2017. The remaining 28 blocks will be done in 2018. Additional details on the paving program are available on the Village's website at www.lagrangepark.org. We will also be performing spot patching and crack sealing to improve the pavement on streets not identified for repaving with the Bond Funds.

POLICE CHIEF

Hi – My name is Ed Rompa and I stand in front of you today with great pride as the Police Chief of this great Village, which I have served for the past 18 years. I am proud to announce that in 2016 La Grange Park was again ranked as one of the safest cities in Illinois by ValuePeguin – we ranked #16.

In 2016, two major testings took place. Testing for the Position of Sergeant Final List was completed, with OIC Fran Marrocco finishing in the top spot. Testing for the Police Officer Final Listing was also completed. The top two finalists on the list were hired by the Village in October. Probationary Officer Tim Geroulis is presently attending the Cook County Sheriff Department Training Academy. Probationary Police Officer Frank Slabanek has already started his field officer training. These new officers were hired to replace Officer Pat Menzione, who retired after 31 years of dedicated service and Officer Stephanie Christoferson who left the department to stay home with her daughter.

The Department also welcomed Telecommunicator Karen O'Connor in July, who has over 15 years of experience. Her hiring was a result of the retirement of Telecommunicator Ralph Zaccariello earlier this year. The Village also hired a new Auxillary Officer, Nick Spurgash who will assist with daily patrol operations and special event coverage.

Community policing continues to be a major focus of the Police Department and we strive to maintain open lines of communication with the community in all that we do each and every day. In 2017, the Police Department will introduce a new five week Community Police Academy. This Academy will cover topics such as patrol techniques, traffic stops, criminal investigations, etc. to help participants gain a better understanding of the role of a police officer.

The Department also participates in a partner program with Park Junior High, called Spark Plug, in which officers participate in a one hour study time, one hour activity time and a one hour dinner time with an at risk student and their family. This past year, the Police Department assisted all our local schools with many Hard & Soft Lock Down Drills. The Department worked with the Community Park District and the La Grange Park Public Library to conduct an intruder alert training for their staff.

Each year, officers actively engage in Traffic Enforcement to help maintain safe roadways and travel throughout our community. This past year, officers issued approximately 7,000 (+) tickets for various driver infractions. An additional benefit of traffic enforcement is that it creates a deterrent to criminal activity in the area.

The Department also engages in a variety of regular programs that benefit both public safety and community relations, including: Officer Walk & Talk, Door Hanger Initiative, Coffee with the Chief/Staff, Shop With A Cop, National Drug Take Back, and the Adopt-A-Cop Program in local schools.

Each year in August, the Department hosts the National Night Out Program. This hugely successful event, coordinated by Sergeant Felix Hernandez, provides an opportunity for the community to engage with local law enforcement and learn about how to keep themselves and their community safe. I would like to say a special thank you to the Village President and Trustees for supporting the event.

The Police Department also distributes the electronic Safety Bulletin which helps the department stay connected to the community through special Community Alerts,

information regarding recent police incidents and safety tips. To sign up to receive these bulletins, visit the Village's website or contact the non-emergency telephone number at the police department.

The Village continues to benefit from the Police Department's participation in the Local Debt Recovery Program. Through this program initiated by the Illinois State Comptroller Office, the Village has been able to recover outstanding parking tickets. During the timeframe of January to September of 2016, we have recovered fees and fines associated with 741 tickets, totaling over \$42,000. I thank you for your time & attention.

It is my distinct honor to introduce our Executive Director of the Lyons Township Area Communications Center, Kim Knutsen.

LTACC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you Chief Rompa. It is my pleasure to be here this evening to provide you with an update of the progress that has been made in regards to the Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC). LTACC is the new state-of-art consolidated dispatch center being created by the Village of La Grange Park, La Grange and Western Springs. The center will engage in 24 hour emergency dispatching services for police, fire and EMS.

There are many things to consider when developing a consolidate dispatch center. Some of which include an analysis of current operational structure and governance, inventory, staffing levels, training, budget data, technology, facilities, call volumes, etc. One of my primary objectives was to identify ways to share public safety services that would be more cost-effective service delivery and create operational enhancements.

The LTACC dispatch center will be located at the La Grange Police Department, 304 W. Burlington, La Grange. We are currently in the process of remodeling this facility to accommodate current needs and as well as future growth. We have upgraded the existing radio consoles and our existing 9-1-1 call handling equipment in preparation for Next Generation 9-1-1 mandates.

A CAD system upgrade was purchased through Tyler Technologies. CAD systems are used to accomplish many tasks related to the tracking of public safety incidents and the assignment, allocation and deployment of law enforcement, fire, and EMS personnel. The CAD system is one of the most important tools utilized by public safety. All reported incidents are entered, dispatched, managed, and tracked via the CAD system, making it a mission critical system.

We completed the State of Illinois Application for 9-1-1 Consolidation and LTACC has received approval from the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator.

The LTACC dispatch center and staff will be equipped with the technology and training to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch Services. This is an enhanced service that is not provided by our member agencies to date.

While many of our timelines are still fluid due to vendor scheduling, we anticipate LTACC going live early 2017.

DIRECTOR OF FIRE & BUILDING

Thank you Director Knutsen. As Fire Chief, I've had the privilege of leading the Village's Fire Department for the past 15 years. Our personnel continue to work to not only maintain, but continuously improve, the level of service we provide to our community. As most of you

know, our Department continues to operate using a combination of full-time contract paramedic/firefighters, and mostly dedicated part-time “paid-on-call” personnel. Each of our individual employees are vital to the service our Department provides. Also as you may know, most of our “paid-on-call” personnel hold full-time jobs in addition to their service for our community, with many having careers outside of the fire service.

Over the past year, the Fire Department once again responded to over 2,000 calls for service. Over 1,600 of those responses were EMS related, summoning our ambulances, paramedics and EMT’s. Although many EMS incidents can be quite challenging, our EMS personnel not only train to provide expert emergency medical care, but they do what is possible to provide such care with compassion. They are trained to understand that what may appear to be a minor medical emergency to us, may be one of the worst days in the life of a patient or family. This past May, several of our employees were again honored by the Loyola EMS System staff for their response to incidents where patients in cardiac arrest were revived. Although providing EMS is big part of our mission, our staff also responded to over 450 calls to fires and various other emergencies, such as gas leaks, downed power lines, and carbon monoxide emergencies, among many others. One of these emergencies involved a fire in the kitchen of a home. Through the combined efforts of fire, police and a caregiver, two elderly women, one physically disabled, and one suffering from dementia, were rescued, and the fire was quickly extinguished.

Over the last 12 months we recognized significant personnel achievements. Six of our firefighters hired in early 2015, Andy Chorley, Matt Dahl, Mike Hughes, Josh Johnsen, Matt Joyce, and Jon Mohr, successfully completed their required training and testing to complete their probationary period. Also, Firefighters Chris Baudler and Steve Storey were both

promoted, and sworn in as Lieutenants with our Fire Department. We congratulate all of them in these accomplishments.

Over the past several months, thanks to the gracious support of residents in approving this past April's referendum for emergency vehicles, Fire Department personnel have been preparing to purchase a new Advanced Life Support Ambulance, and a new Quint Aerial Ladder Truck. Personnel have been meeting with various vendors, and in some cases the manufacturers, to evaluate the types of vehicles and options available. We have had many demo vehicles brought out to test and evaluate, traveled to see vehicles at other departments, and also visited one of the manufacturing plants. As these are substantial purchases, and especially as we have not purchased a ladder truck in 26 years, personnel are carefully evaluating things such as quality, craftsmanship, design, and specifications related to each manufacturer. We hope to make some critical decisions in the next few weeks regarding the vehicles, and begin the actual purchasing process prior to the end of this calendar year.

As most residents know, the Fire Department operates out of two fire stations, Station No. 1 located here at the Village Hall Complex, and Fire St. No. 2, located at 1010 E. 31st St. Over the years, we have identified various maintenance needs to keep these stations operational, and through careful Village planning, we are in the midst of a fiscal year where we are able to take care of a number of these needs. For instance, earlier this year, personnel worked to remodel the Fire Prevention Office that is located at Fire Station No. 2, which also included remodeling the 2nd restroom there. Believe it or not, for years, due to the original design, layout and limitations of the facility, a bathtub located there was used to store a file cabinet with various files for the Fire Prevention Division. Thanks to the hard work put into this project by some of our own firefighters, this is no longer the case. At Fire Station No. 1, we

had the fire apparatus garage cleaned and painted. This included pressure washing and painting the garage ceiling, which for many years, possibly since the building was built, accumulated soot from the exhaust of vehicles located within it. Also, the walls and overhead doors were cleaned, and all of the other doors and trim were painted. This not only has made the aging structure look much better, but it has created a healthier work environment. Again, a portion of the work was completed by our own firefighters, such as washing and scrubbing the overhead doors, and repairing and cleaning the ceiling light fixtures. As such, thank you to our personnel for the help they provide in keeping some of these project costs down, and we greatly appreciate the pride they take in their job and work environment.

Another critical mission of our Fire Department, in our efforts to protect life and property, is to provide fire and life safety education to the public. Through such, we hope to help prevent many fires, and when they do occur, we hope to help residents understand what actions are needed to survive a fire, and reduce the overall impacts of such. Throughout the year, firefighters attend a great number of events to provide these educational messages, such as block parties, National Night Out, and Holiday in the Park, among others. Our Department provides additional focus on Fire Prevention during the month of October, in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. During the month, we provide fire safety presentations at all schools within the Village, for all children pre-school age through the 3rd grade. One of our highlights again this year was our Annual Open House, which took place this past October 15th. We again ended up with a spectacular day and crowd. I'm obviously biased, but I really believe that our personnel do an amazing job at this and other public education events in teaching fire safety, especially to children. And as a reminder for all of you, make sure you have working smoke detectors on every level of your home, including bedrooms, plan and practice your escape should a fire occur in your home, and consider installing residential fire sprinklers.

I would like to take a brief moment to reflect on the passing of two Fire Department retirees over this past year. This past September, Retired Fire Captain Bill Becker passed away after battling a long illness. Bill was well known for his concern for the safety of our personnel, and his knowledge of our water system. Also, late last year over the Christmas Holiday season, we lost long time Village employee and Fire Chief Gil Welch. Chief Welch was a well-respected mentor to many firefighters over the years, made great contributions to the Fire Department and Village overall, and was well known in town as a terrific carpenter. Both of these men are sincerely missed.

As part of Public Safety, the Village also operates an Emergency Management Agency, in which Village employees and volunteers will serve important roles in our Village should a significant emergency or disaster occur. Through the agency, the Village maintains an Emergency Operations Plan and participates in the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. We are in the midst of working on updating our Village Annex to the County plan. Also, just a few months ago, the Village completed the installation of a new emergency generator for the Village Hall. This generator will provide sufficient power to operate the complex, which includes the Police Department and Fire Station No. 1, during a power outage. It also will operate the building's HVAC systems, allowing for the Village Hall to be used as an emergency heating or cooling center for residents when needed. This project was again made possible by the Village receiving a \$150,000 federal pre-disaster mitigation grant a few years ago. In an effort to stay prepared for emergencies and disasters, staff members regularly participate in training and exercises, many related to larger scale incidents. For instance, through our participation with MABAS, some of our staff regularly participate in response training related to hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescue incidents. Recently, staff participated in a full scale exercise in the Village of Downers Grove simulating

a train crash carrying Bakken crude oil, involving simulated rescues and mitigation of a hazardous materials spill.

In addition to serving as Fire Chief, I also have the privilege of serving as the Village's Director of the Building Department, as the Village's Building Commissioner. We continue to operate the Building Department using a combination of contract services, Village employees who share their hours with the Finance Department, and one full-time employee in the Building Department. This past summer's construction season proved a true challenge to the Department, as our full-time Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Rob Wierzba, left the Village after many years to pursue employment in the private sector. Although somewhat bittersweet, this challenge now provides us with an exciting opportunity. After careful consideration of the needs of the Village, the responsibilities of the position have been modified, and we are in the process of hiring our first Building Official /Deputy Building Commissioner. Although we had a number of very qualified candidates, John Lebegue, who brings with him many years of municipal building inspection experience, will begin employment with the Village later this month. We welcome him aboard and look forward to his service.

And if things continue as they have been, there will be plenty of work to be done. In 2015, 958 permits were issued, and 1,951 inspections were conducted. As of the end of this past September, we have issued 762 permits, compared to 732 at the same time in 2015. So far, two of these permits have been for new single-family dwellings, with another one under review. We also issued 19 permits this year for additions. As part of our residential fire sprinkler ordinance passed in 2003, by the end of this calendar year, there will be 71 single-family homes in the Village protected with life safety fire sprinkler systems, helping to protect the occupants and families within them. In addition to residential construction, we

have issued 16 permits for commercial renovations this calendar year. We also have various commercial and other projects and permits pending. One of those is the addition at Nazareth Academy, started last year, which is near completion. Staff has been busy conducting final inspections for occupancy, such as last week's testing of the various fire protection systems, and this week's scheduled overall final building inspections. Also, we currently have the plans pending for the site redevelopment and new building at Congregation of St. Joseph, plans for complete interior renovations at MB Financial in the Village Market, and plans for remodeling to Cork, Keg and Spirits located on 31st St. at Beach.

Another ongoing project is the Village's Sewer Backup Prevention Program, which the Village Board re-authorized funding for in this current fiscal year. Once again, \$50,000 was allocated to help offset the cost of certain actions residents can take to help prevent raw sewage backup in their homes at times of heavy rainfall. Last fiscal year, the Village provided nearly \$35,000 in financial support to residents who applied for and were qualified to participate in this program. Please check the Village's website for program details, and to determine if you are eligible.

This year, after experiencing a delay and some complications due to the State not passing a budget and freezing funding, the Village was able to resume our Downspout Disconnection Assistance Program. This program is being funded by the Illinois EPA, through an Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant. So far, as of the end of September, from the beginning of our program, our Special Projects Coordinator Forest Tucker was able to make 844 onsite home visits to talk with and assist residents. Also, 212 total homes have been disconnected from our combined sewer system, with 625 total downspouts disconnected. In addition, Forest has been able to help coordinate the ordering of several hundred free rain barrels for residents through the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's rain barrel program.

Unfortunately, we have been notified that this program will be ending at the end of this calendar year. As such, if you are interested in free rain barrels, please get your orders in as soon as possible. Again, please check our website for details, or contact Forrest at the Village Hall.

At this time I would like to turn it over to our Assistant Village Manager, Emily Rodman.

ASSISTANT VILLAGE MANAGER

Good evening. In my role here at the Village, I have the pleasure of serving as the Village's liaison to the business community and working with the Village's Commercial Revitalization Committee, or CRC, to enhance the Village's economic development efforts. Lead by Trustee Jim Kucera, the CRC has been hard at work implementing the Commercial Revitalization Plan which was adopted in 2013. One of the key reinvestment tools identified in the Plan is the use of Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, as a means of supporting reinvestment and spurring redevelopment in the community. Over the past year, the Village worked with S.B. Friedman Development Advisors to complete a TIF Feasibility Study which evaluated all the commercial and industrial areas in the Village. Based on the results of this study, the Village Board chose to proceed with implementation of TIF Districts in two areas of the Village – the Village Market, and the 31st Street/Barnsdale Corridor. The implementation process is currently underway and the Village is accepting comments on the draft Eligibility Report and Redevelopment Project Area Plans for both proposed TIF's. On January 10th, 2017 a public hearing will be held to accept further comment on the plans and the Village Board anticipates adopting the TIF's soon thereafter.

In 2017, the Village will also consider the implementation of Business Development Districts in order to provide additional opportunity for reinvestment in our commercial areas. More

information on Business Development Districts is forthcoming and can also be found on the Village's website.

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 some new businesses, including:

- The Dinner Club in Village Market
- Brannick Clinic of Natural Medicine, LLC on 31st Street
- Kalifornia Auto Repair on La Grange Road and
- Design by Diane, which is coming soon to 31st Street
- Oasis Women's Fitness & Spa located in the Village Market, also recently changed their name to Active Souls.

The Village is excited to announce that the owners of Cork, Keg and Spirits at 1000 E. 31st Street (formerly Angel's Spirits) will be opening their doors this month. Cork, Keg and Spirits will offer a wide variety of wines, craft beers and liquors with an upscale shopping experience. Stop in, check out the brand new store and stock your beverage cooler for the upcoming holidays.

The Village is also pleased to announce that Crown Trophy, currently located in Westchester, will be opening their doors at 13 E. 31st Street in January of next year. Crown Trophy offers an array of personalized gifts, including frames, plaques, medals and trophies.

The strength of our local business community depends in large part on the businesses themselves. 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 provides an excellent opportunity for our businesses to become involved in the community and to grow their business at the same time. Each year, the Chamber hosts a variety of business-friendly and family-friendly events including the Haunted Trolley Trick-or-Treat, which was held this past Friday and brought hundreds of children and their families to the Village. The Chamber also hosts the annual Holiday in the Park event held each December at the Community Park District Recreation Center. These events are a great opportunity for entire family to have some fun and support our local business community.

Information about new business openings and other important Villages news is provided quarterly to residents via the Rose Clippings newsletter. Each edition of the Rose Clippings contains important information about Village services, infrastructure projects and Village personnel. Residents may also visit the Village website for information on Village regulations, to review meeting agendas and minutes, or to watch a Village Board meeting online. To receive the most up-to-date information on what is happening in and around the community, the Village encourages residents to subscribe to the Village's weekly electronic newsletter, E-briefs.

At this point, I would like to introduce the Village's Finance Director, Larry Noller.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

As President Discipio mentioned earlier, the most notable financial event this past year was the issuance of \$11.2 million in road and fire equipment bonds approved by referendum. Prior to the bond sale, Standard & Poor's affirmed their rating of the Village as AA+, which is just one notch below the highest possible score of AAA. Because of the strong credit rating and a historically low interest rate market the Village was able to issue bonds at a net interest cost of 1.97% over 10 years.

The Village's General Fund ended the 2016 fiscal year in a stronger financial position than was originally budgeted. The Village received additional permit revenue from home and commercial projects and higher shared revenues from the State and all departments kept their costs under budget.

There were also continued financial challenges. Telecom taxes, a major revenue source for the Village, continued a long term trend downward. In addition, there were efforts at the state level to reduce municipal revenues. The Village's share of the income tax, motor fuel tax and 911 fees are all vital in supporting services to Village residents. Due to the State's continuing budget issues, the motor fuel tax, 911 fees and other payments due to the Village from the State were on hold for several months this year. Fortunately, the Village has a policy to ensure it maintains sufficient cash reserves and therefore Village services were able to continue uninterrupted.

The current year expenditure budget for all funds is \$19 million, including about \$4.7 million in spending from bond proceeds for road projects and the purchase of a fire truck and ambulance. Also included in the this year's budget is the use of \$350,000 in General Fund cash reserves for the capital costs associated with the new joint dispatch center, LTACC.

On a less numbers focused note, during the past year, the Finance Department welcomed Sandy Bakalich to our team. Sandy is a resident of La Grange Park and works at the front counter as a fiscal assistant.

At this point, I would like to turn the presentation back over to President Discipio, who will introduce our fellow taxing bodies.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

The Village has a long history of working closely with our partner taxing bodies, the Community Park District of La Grange Park and the La Grange Park Public Library. This year, we are fortunate to have representatives from both organizations here to share with us some of their current and upcoming initiatives. It is my pleasure to introduce the Karen Boyd, the President of the Community Park District and Kate Buckson, the Executive Director of the La Grange Park Public Library.

COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Good evening. My name is Karen Boyd and I am the president of the Community Park District Board of Commissioners. I appreciate this opportunity to talk about the Park District, what we have accomplished in the past year and what we look forward to in the coming year.

One of our major accomplishments in 2016 was the improvements to our website. Residents can now read Board information, review Park District brochures and calendars, find information about our preschool program and, most significantly, now register for classes and programs online. Online registration has proved to be most successful and our hope is

that, as more households become familiar with the website and find out how simple it is to register for courses, additional residents will take advantage of the many things that the Park District offers.

The State of Illinois recently announced the release of OSLAD grant moneys. The Park District had been awarded two grants prior to 2014 but then was notified that all grant moneys had been frozen because of the State's financial difficulties. We have reinstated negotiations with contractors who had originally placed bids on the Memorial Park project and we hope to begin to award contracts before the first of the year. Actual work is tentatively scheduled to begin in late March or early April as weather conditions allow. The current plan is to have the bulk of the work at Memorial Park completed by June 30th, just in time to host the Village's birthday party on July 15th (please put this date in your calendar). The "new" Memorial Park will include a new shelter with bathrooms, a splash pad for younger residents, a bocce area and a permanent bags setup and exercise equipment stations. We look forward to unveiling the new look of the Park in conjunction with the Village birthday festivities.

We will begin work on Beach Oak later in the summer. We anticipate that improvements will be completed by the end of the September. The Park District is pleased to announce that we will soon take ownership of a small parcel of land connected to Beach Oak Park and adjacent to the railroad property. We will have future announcements about the entire Beach Oak Park project as the summer progresses but be assured that we are very excited about the prospect of completing park updates at these two sites.

The Park District has also experienced changes this past year. Darla Goudeau, our Recreation Supervisor in charge of the preschool and special events, retired earlier this year. It was a

major change because Darla has been greeting our preschoolers since the program began. We are very happy to say that Ashley Simoncelli has quickly acclimated herself to the job and has brought much energy and many new ideas to the Park District. She has been terrific.

Our theater program is simply amazing. The Recreation Department produced two plays in 2016 and both shows had casts that exceeded 100 youths. I strongly encourage everyone to come to Beauty and the Beast this December. If it is anything like the spring production of Grease, you will enjoy an amazing night of theater. La Grange Park is the only park district in the area to feature large musical productions for youths and we are very proud of staff's ability to put out quality productions.

The Veterans' Memorial continues to grow. The Memorial Day celebration included a recognition of the many new bricks purchased to honor those who served. Jim Zwit, the community liaison continues to work hard to plan the celebration and to encourage the purchase of new bricks. If you are interested in purchasing bricks to honor a family member or friend, please contact Jim Zwit or call the Park District to start the process.

The Community Park District also suffered a loss this year. Bill Yena, our former Board President and, more to the point, the first Recreation Director and first full time employee of the Park District, passed away in September. The Park District has tried to find fitting memorials for Bill but they hardly measure up to the magnitude of his contributions.

I suspect that I have exceeded my allotted time but there is just so much to say about the Park District and I always appreciate an opportunity to publicly appreciate the efforts of the Board and staff who work so hard in an effort to be the Village's first choice for recreational activities. I would like to thank my fellow Board members and each member of the staff for

all of their efforts during the past year. We experienced some bumps in the road this year but staff made everything work. We are very fortunate to have the staff that we have at the Community Park District and I would like to also thank Board members for their dedication to the Park District.

Thank you. I would now like to introduce Kate Buckson, the Executive Director of the Library.

LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening with an update about our library. My name is Kate Buckson, and I have been the executive director of the La Grange Park Library for just over a year now. It has been a phenomenal year in many ways, and I would first like to thank to the residents who have made use of this valuable resource in the community. I speak on behalf of the entire library staff when I say it is a joy to serve this community. I would also like to thank the seven trustees who have volunteered their time and talents to governing the library this past year. Their support has allowed us to grow by leaps and bounds in 2016, and for that we are truly grateful.

I would like to highlight a few key updates regarding what the library has accomplished in the past year. Looking at our beautiful library building, you might not notice some of the structural issues that are occurring. Our building is now nearing 30 years old, and we are noticing deterioration of primarily our east wall and our roof. Water has begun to infiltrate the walls and the library is determining the best course of action to remedy the problem. We hired an architect in the spring who created a master plan for us. This included repairs to structural damage as well as reconsideration of interior service points and layout, and a capital outlay to determine estimated lifespan of major equipment and mechanical systems.

With the completion of the master plan, the board of trustees will consider funding options and hopefully begin construction in the coming year.

The library is proud to announce we have completed a new strategic plan for service to our community. This plan was created with input from residents and village leaders while considering demographics, usage reports, and nationwide library trends. Our four priorities for the coming years include people-oriented service, a focus on our physical facility as a community center, strengthening outreach and partnerships, and an exploration of new technology. Residents can view a copy of the approved plan by visiting the library website.

We are currently in the middle of a large-scale project to add self-checkout machines to our building. This is done to help maintain the community's investment in library materials by adding security tags to each item that gets checked out. We also hope to improve the speed and efficiency of checking out for those who frequently have to wait in line, and we look forward to offering a check-out option in our children's department which will make library visits hopefully much smoother for parents of little ones.

The library also completed a re-branding project which included updating our logo and releasing a new layout for our quarterly print newsletter. Signs in the building have also been updated for better readability and navigation.

I want to take a moment to thank those who gave above and beyond with monetary gifts this year. Due to the generous donations of several residents, we were able to purchase new, ADA accessible furniture for our patio area. Visitors can now enjoy lunch on our patio with a view of beautiful Memorial Park. Another donation made it possible to purchase updated shelving that displays our newest and most popular materials.

I would like to highlight some of our usage increases in 2016. Most notably, we saw a huge jump in circulation of library materials which posted a 26% increase over last year. We also saw an increase in program attendance as more of you joined us for cultural, educational, and entertaining events. Our summer reading club continues to break records with more kids joining and an ever-increasing amount of minutes being read. This commitment to children's education even during the summer months serves them well when they return to school in the fall having taken time to read. We are also very proud of the fact that nearly 75% of La Grange Park residents have a library card. This truly shows the dedication you all have to supporting the library as an institution of lifelong learning.

And now, a few comments regarding the library's finances. As you can see from this graph, the library's revenue and expenditures have remained relatively flat over the last several years. Just this past year, our revenues were up slightly due to some unexpected and generous donations. You will notice that our revenue always slightly exceeds our expenditures which allows the library to put a small amount of money away to pay for portions of larger projects, such as the upcoming building repairs that were mentioned.

Speaking of increased revenues, the library board is committed to exploring new ideas for revenue growth, aside from increasing local taxes. This includes reconsidering our current fee structure and adding revenue generating services such as passport renewals. The library board plans to host a fundraiser in 2017 in the hopes of raising additional funds, so stay tuned for more information about upcoming events. And I will mention one final time the donations we receive give us the ability to provide services and resources that would not have been possible otherwise. This past year over \$27,000 was donated to the library, and of that over \$12,000 was from our volunteer run Friends of the Library group. We are so

thankful for their sacrifice and the additional funds which help enrich the lives of our residents through outstanding programs and events.

We are here to serve the residents of La Grange Park and we hope that you will make use of our beautiful building, our friendly and knowledgeable staff, and our collection of over 100,000 circulating items. We welcome you to connect with us in any number of ways, in person, through email, through social media, or give us a call. Thank you for your time.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

As you have heard this evening, there are many exciting things happening throughout our Village. The reasons that so many of us love to call La Grange Park home are evident all around us, thanks to the efforts of many of you. Our community continues to benefit from the 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.

Thank you all for taking the time to attend the State of the Village Address this evening and to those who tuned in on Channel 6 or Channel 99. Before we conclude, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow members of the Village Board, along with the many volunteers who serve on Village committees and commissions. We are fortunate to have their leadership and dedication. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with them.