

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Winter 2012

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park



President's Corner

As we look forward to 2013, fiscal responsibility continues to be the number one priority for the Village. Over the past few years, the Village made some difficult decisions in an effort to ensure financial stability for the future. As a result, the Village has a leaner staff than it did just a few years ago and our remaining staff have been charged with continuing to provide the same level of service to the community – essentially accomplishing more with less.

After enduring multiple years of economic recession, it has become increasingly challenging for the Village to maintain a solid budget, while still providing the same level of service to the community. As a result, the Village is conducting a Local Revenue Study to evaluate its fee and revenue structure and to ensure that the Village is recouping all of our costs associated with the various services we provide. The results of the

study will inform future adjustments to our fee structure and ensure that the Village positions itself well to meet ongoing and future obligations.

To help ensure that the Village is receiving the revenues that it's owed, the Village is participating in a new program run by the State Comptroller Office, called the Local Debt Recovery Program. This program will assist the Village in recovering outstanding parking tickets and fines that are owed. Currently, the Village has the potential to recover \$250,000 in outstanding fees and fines. The Police Department has also made it easier to pay parking citations and fines by adding an online

and pay-by-phone option, which can be accessed through the Village's website.

The Village continues to look outside our organization for potential cost savings. Today's economic state has forced governments to think creatively about how we provide services to our communities and to work collaboratively to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. As a result, the Village is currently working with the Villages of La Grange and Western Springs to undertake a shared service study for dispatch services. The study will consider personnel, financial, logistical, administrative, governance and technological needs as well as incorporate a cost-benefit analysis. This information will be used to identify opportunities for the provision of shared dispatch services to improve public safety services and efficiencies in operation. The study is underway with anticipated completion early this year.

The Village is continuing to make strides towards the renovation of the municipal public works facility. For more information on the project, please see page 4. Additionally, the Village is maintaining its focus on commercial revitalization, as the Village Board will consider adopting a Commercial Revitalization Action Plan in January. The implementation of several components of the Plan is already underway. Be sure and visit the new "Business" tab on the Village's website for more information on our economic development efforts.

Throughout 2013, I invite residents and businesses to stay involved with Village happenings and I encourage you to play an even greater role in making the Village a better place to live. For it is collectively, as a community, that the Village of La Grange Park will continue to thrive in times of uncertainty.

President James J. Discipio



Install Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms - Protect Your Family

As you may be aware, the Village of La Grange Park and the State of IL require Carbon Monoxide alarms be installed in all homes and apartment buildings.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. When the burning fuel is not vented properly, or the fuel is not burning cleanly, carbon monoxide can build up inside homes and buildings. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. High levels of CO can also cause death.



Make sure you have at least one carbon monoxide alarm in or near sleeping areas, should dangerous levels build-up while you are asleep. Over the last few years, the La Grange Park Fire Department has responded to several activated carbon monoxide alarms that turned out to be true emergencies. For further information, please feel free to contact the La Grange Park Bureau of Fire Prevention, or the La Grange Park Building Department at 708-354-0225.

Village Receives Class 3 Rating From ISO

The Village of La Grange Park has received a Public Protection Classification of 3 by ISO. The rating stems from a re-evaluation of the Village by ISO which took place this past August, and which had not occurred previously since 1997.

ISO provides information to the insurance industry, and their PPC service and grading scale reviews and scores three distinct areas related to fire protection service in the Village: the overall Fire Department (50%); the Water Supply (40%); and Receiving and Handling Fire Alarms (10%).



The Village's previous rating was a Classification of 5, and the new rating reflects improvements made throughout the Fire Department and Water Supply in areas covered by the scoring process. The PPC rating system ranges from Class 1 through Class 10, with a 1 being the best. Only seven communities in IL have received a Class 1. La Grange Park's Class 3 rating ranks our community in the top 8% of the state.

Although the results are good news for the Village, the survey process itself also proved very beneficial. It has helped further identify some the strengths and weaknesses of our Fire Department and Water Supply, while also providing the Fire Department with some important information about where they can focus to further improve fire protection for residents and businesses.

Although not every insurance company utilizes the ISO PPC information, this new rating does have some potential for lowering fire insurance costs for those who live, own property and/or operate a business within our Village. As such, your insurance agent should be notified of the new classification, which officially becomes effective March 1, 2013.

For more information specific to La Grange Park's ISO rating, please contact La Grange Park Fire Chief Dean J. Maggos. Also, for more information about ISO and the Public Protection Classification system in general, see the ISO website at www.iso.com.

New Village Trustee

At the November 27th Village Board Meeting, the Village welcomed new Village Trustee Krista Grimm. Ms. Grimm was appointed to fill the vacancy left on the Village Board by former Village Trustee Susan Storcel. Ms. Grimm, who previously chaired the Village's Cool Village Commission until being appointed to the Village Board, will serve as a Trustee until the position is filled at the upcoming consolidated election this spring.

New Firefighters Recently Sworn In

This past November, Daniel Bink, Daniel Hacholski and James Vikidel were all sworn in as Paid-On-Call Firefighters with our Village. They began employment in January of 2011, and since that time, each have met all of the Fire Department's requirements for completing their probationary period, including becoming State of Illinois Certified Firefighters. Dan Hacholski and Jim Vikidel are also licensed Emergency Medical Technicians, and Dan Bink is a licensed Paramedic. We congratulate them on their accomplishments and thank them for their dedication to our Village.

La Grange Park Property Tax Summary

Each year, we include summaries of property tax information in the winter edition of the “Rose Clippings.” We hope you find this information helpful in interpreting the true value and purchase power of the property taxes you pay.

The Village’s share of your total property tax bill is 10.7% or 9.0%, depending on the school district. The Village continues to try to provide outstanding value for your money by keeping streets and public areas neat and well-maintained, providing police and fire protection, providing reliable water and sewer service, protecting the residential and commercial structures of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 63%-69% supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, the three remaining local institutions – the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, comprise a combined total of approximately 16% - 20% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy:

The 2011 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) was 8.160 for properties in School District 102 and 9.696 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the chart to the right for the tax rates over time.

	Total Property Tax Rates in School District 102	Total Property Tax Rates in School District 95
2000 Tax Year	9.637	9.602
2001 Tax Year	9.621	9.555
2002 Tax Year	7.772	7.608
2003 Tax Year	7.982	7.985
2004 Tax Year	8.059	8.067
2005 Tax Year	7.122	7.482
2006 Tax Year	7.311	8.105
2007 Tax Year	7.105	8.038
2008 Tax Year	6.712	8.160
2009 Tax Year	6.608	8.195
2010 Tax Year	6.663	8.226
2011 Tax Year	8.160	9.696



How Your Property Tax Bill is Calculated

We all get that tax bill in the mail twice a year and after reading the article above we have a better understanding of where all the money goes, but do you know how your tax bill is calculated in the first place?

To determine how much your property tax bill will be, you first need to know the assessed value of your home. In Cook County, residential property is assessed at 10% of its fair market value. But then the Illinois Department of Revenue applies an equalization factor to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2011 tax year was 2.9706. So, if you own a home worth \$350,000, then the assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 2.9706], or \$103,971.00. This assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property’s particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2011 tax rates as listed above, a property with an assessed value of \$103,971.00 paid the following amounts in 2012 for the 2011 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

- District 102 → \$103,971 x .0816 = \$8,484.03
- District 95 → \$103,971 x .09696 = \$10,081.03

The total taxes paid are then split between the taxing bodies. In this scenario, the Village of La Grange Park would receive \$909 of the total tax bill from the property in District 95 highlighted above.

Public Works Facility Renovation Planning Continues

At the December 11, 2012 Village Board Meeting, a design-build firm was selected to renovate the existing Public Works Facility. This decision was made after much deliberation. Over the last twelve months all options have been reviewed related to the building. The Village had considered building a new building and demolishing the office area and the oldest garage bays. After evaluating the costs of building new, it was determined that renovating the existing building would be a more economical option.

The building was constructed in 1953 and later converted to the Village's Police Station in the 1960's. It had offices on the first floor and the basement housed a firing range and jail cell. The second floor had offices and a break room. Design wise, not much has changed since the building was originally constructed.

Much of the work planned addresses maintenance issues typical to a building of this age. The current roof needs to be replaced. The windows are 60 years old and will also be replaced. Areas of brick have seen water damage over the years, and despite a couple of repair efforts, need more serious attention from a mason.

There are two areas that will change in the renovation. The basement firing range will be replaced with a locker room. More importantly, the lead from the old shooting range will be cleaned up along with some asbestos found in the old construction materials. On the first floor, a new ADA bathroom will be constructed along with office space where the old locker room used to be.

Leopardo Construction has been selected to both design and renovate the building. This company has significant experience renovating older buildings. Design work is expected to be completed this Winter and construction will occur during the Summer of 2013. The Village has secured grants from the State of Illinois in the amount of \$600,000. The Village will provide \$400,000 of its own funds. Depending on the final design plans and the bidding climate this Spring, the entire project should be completed for one million dollars.

CPD Master Plan Available for Viewing



The Community Park District's first Master Plan for Outdoor Facilities is available for viewing at www.cpdlgp.org by clicking on ABOUT/MASTER PLAN. The Park District Board and Staff wish to thank the many Park District residents who participated in one or more of the several public hearings that were held during the last 13 months.

One of the main objectives for the Plan is to help keep residents informed about the current strategies being discussed by your Park District officials. The concepts presented in this plan have certainly been debated at length and it is believed that the data studied has yielded correct concepts for each of our six parks. However, it is also understood that concepts are subject to change as new data becomes known and as public opinion changes. The point is: all residents should go to www.cpdlgp.org to review the Plan and to contact the Park District to voice your opinion on the Plan's contents.

Village Website Upgrade

As some of you may have noticed, we are in the process of making changes to the Village website. In the coming months, the appearance of the website will be changing as staff freshen-up the overall look and make it more user-friendly. We want the website to reflect the vibrancy that our community has!

Some changes have already begun. All the links that would be useful for residents are now located together under the heading "Residents" at the top of the home page. The same goes for businesses. The most used sections (e.g. Agendas & Minutes, Village Departments, etc.) have been moved to the side bar for easy access. Do you have suggestions for information to include on the website? Please call Village Hall (708-354-0225) or email your suggestions to erodman@lagrangepark.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Snow Blowing Reminders

The Village offers the following reminders for managing the snow:

- Do not blow snow into the street. Instead, blow onto your parkway or yard.
- Keep hydrants visible and clear of snow piles.
- Keep the area in front of your mailboxes as clear of snow as possible.
- Keep your sidewalk/walkway clear of snow.



Winter Driving Tips

The Illinois Department of Transportation offers the following winter tips for all vehicle operators:

Ice and Snow... Take it Slow

Winter driving can be a beautiful experience after a snow storm when the landscape is covered with fresh snow, the sky is bright blue, and the road is clear and dry. On the other hand, a trip during a winter storm can be a nightmare, with poor visibility caused by blowing snow, roads nearly blocked with drifting snow or freezing rain turning the road into a skating rink.

Some specific winter driving suggestions include:

- ✦ Always buckle your seat belts. (It's the law).
- ✦ If conditions are foggy, drive with your headlights on low beam or use fog lights.
- ✦ In rain, fog, snow or sleet, do not overdrive your headlights.
- ✦ Keep your windows clear of snow and ice. Do not drive until the windshield is clear.
- ✦ Drive at slower speeds and increase your following distance on snow and ice.
- ✦ If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal and steer in the direction you want to go.
- ✦ When approaching a snow plow from behind, pass with care and only when you can see in front of the plow.
- ✦ Never try to pass during blowing snow. There may be a vehicle in that cloud of snow!

Prepare winter survival kit for your vehicle to include:

- ✦ An ice scraper, snow brush, rags and paper towels.
- ✦ Jumper cables, a basic tool kit, antifreeze, and no-freeze windshield washer fluid.
- ✦ Shovel, traction mats or old rugs, tire chains, salt, cat box litter or sand.
- ✦ Non-perishable, high-calorie food.
- ✦ Candles, waterproof matches and a metal container (coffee can) to melt snow into water.
- ✦ Flashlight with extra batteries, flares or roadway reflectors.
- ✦ A basic first aid kit and a fire extinguisher.
- ✦ A cellular telephone with a backup power source – possibly the single most important safety item available. Don't have a cell phone? Have a CB radio with you instead.

If you get stuck in your vehicle in a remote location:

- ✦ Stay in your vehicle where it's warmer.
- ✦ Wait for assistance.
- ✦ Make sure that your exhaust pipe is clear of any obstructions, including ice and snow.
- ✦ Remain calm.

Have Some Family Fun on the Ice

The Community Park District's outdoor ice rink is again available at the north-west corner on Memorial Park. Two skating areas have been prepared; one for pick-up hockey play and the other for family open skating. Weather conditions notwithstanding, the facility is open seven days a week until 10:00 PM.

A minimum 4" of ice is needed before opening the facility. Typically, it takes three or more continuous below zero weather days to freeze the water to that thickness. Ice thickness will be monitored carefully and ice thickness reports will be posted on www.cpdllg.org as conditions change. In addition, a green flag will be hung from the Oak Street side of the ice rink to signal when the ice ready for use. A red flag indicates that the ice is too thin. While there is very little danger of drowning, the underlying plastic liner that holds the water will tear should a skater break through the ice. This in turn could cause the facility to be closed to affect a repair. Therefore, all skaters are strongly urged to stay off the ice until the green flag appears.

The Community Park District again extends a sincere thank-you to the La Grange Park Fire Department for its volunteers who are lending a much needed hand grooming the ice. This is another great example of the productive spirit of cooperation among La Grange Park units of local government.



Village Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Village of La Grange Park and the Community Park District of La Grange Park teamed up on December 7th to sponsor the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Memorial Park. Patrons gathered around the Christmas Trees in Memorial Park, as they listened to cheerful music played by the Wire Choir. The Tree Lighting Ceremony was led by Boy Scout Troup 90 and Cub Scout Pack 90 and President Discipio. After lighting the tree, patrons sang holiday carols and sipped on hot chocolate.

La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Following the Tree Lighting Ceremony, patrons warmed up at the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-Off, where they sampled the best-kept recipes in town! Jim Kucera, a La Grange Park resident, took home First Prize, Pat Gustafson of Chicago placed Second, and Pat Grandle of Naperville took home Third Place. Congratulations to the winners and a special thank you to all residents, staff and businesses that participated and volunteered at the event!



Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of September, October, and November:

- Approve an Ordinance to consider an application for certain zoning variations on property located at 406 N. Brainard (Public Hearing No. 2012-02)
- Authorized the Village President to Execute an Agreement between AECOM and the Villages of LaGrange, La Grange Park and Western Springs to complete a shared services study
- Approve a Resolution authorizing the use of Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. and Pershing LLC for the purchase of investments
- Approve contract agreement for the 2012 Sidewalk removal & Replacement Program
- Proclamation – Texting & Driving Awareness Month (September)
- Proclamation – Lions Candy Day October 12, 2012
- Proclamation - Fire Prevention Week October 7-13, 2012
- Approve an Ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus property of the Village of La Grange Park
- Approve a Resolution accepting the proposal of Rainbow Farms Enterprises, Inc. for the disposal of leaves
- Motion to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director regarding the Tax Levy Estimate
- Proclamation – Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 21-27)
- Authorize the execution of an agreement between China Cat Productions and the Village of La Grange Park
- Authorized payment to United Concrete for 2012 Sidewalk Removal/Replacement Program
- Appointment of Caroline Nash Domagalski to the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Appointment of Krista Grimm to the Village Board
- Appointment of Christopher Studwell to the Plan Commission
- Motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Health Inspection Services Agreement with the County of Cook
- Motion to approve a Resolution accepting the proposal/contract for 2012-2013 tree trimming program (Winkler's Tree & Landscaping, Inc.)
- Motion to approve a Resolution accepting the proposal/contract for 2012 sewer cleaning and televising program (National Power Rodding Corp.)
- Motion to approve a Resolution approving the 2013 meeting schedule
- Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the destruction of certain verbatim records
- Motion to approve the annual Tax Levy Ordinances

Spring Community Clean-Up Day

Did you miss the Fall Community Clean-Up day in October? If so, you'll have another opportunity to take advantage of this great service! Allied Waste, the Village's waste hauler, will be providing a second Community Clean-Up day at no additional cost to the Village on **March 21st**. Here's how it works:

- Single-family residences in La Grange Park will receive a one-time clean up service on the regularly scheduled collection day.
- You must include four refuse stickers to insure that all of the acceptable items placed on the curb will be picked-up.
- Acceptable items must be placed next to your regular refuse on the curb by 6:00 a.m.
- Items other than furniture, large bulk items and appliances must be placed in bags, cans and/or boxes, not larger than 35 gallons or heavier than 50 pounds each.
- Stickers can be purchased at Village Hall for \$2.80 each.

If you choose not to participate, your trash will be handled as a regular pick up. Please see below for more information on what items will be accepted.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
Appliances
Bulk Items (Bicycles, Fans)
Carpet (must be cut down to 4 feet in length, securely bundled and less than 30 lbs. in weight)
All furniture

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS	
Yard Waste	Car Parts, Tires
Construction & Demolition Debris	Hazardous or Medical Waste
Scrap Wood and Lumber	No Fencing
Any Type of Fluid	No Railroad Ties
Ammunition	Batteries
Paint	Concrete, Asphalt, Rocks & Bricks
Radioactive Materials	

E-Waste Recycling Opportunity

Did you miss the E-Waste recycling event in October? If so, you may drop off all eligible electronic and household items at the Village during regular business hours, during the week of January 21st -25th. Village staff will be on hand to accept electronic items that as of January 1, 2012, are banned from Illinois landfills. Items that will be accepted include: tvs, computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, scanners, fax machines, VCRs/DVD players, gaming systems, MP3 players and cameras. For more information, please call the Village at 708-354-0225.



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Julia Cedillo

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La Grange Park, Illinois 60526

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 abagley@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.

Don't Forget to Spring Ahead



Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. "Spring" your clocks forward at that time!