

Rose CLIPPINGS

Winter 2017

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org

President's Corner

As we leave 2017 behind us, I'd like to pause and reflect on the many accomplishments of the past year. One of the highlights of 2017 was the Village's 125th Anniversary celebration. Throughout the year, the Quasiquicentennial Committee, partnering with the Library and Community Park District, hosted a number of celebratory events. Residents and businesses turned out in record numbers to celebrate with us. It has been a pleasure to meet and talk with so many of you. The Library hosted a quarterly lecture series with topics ranging from architecture to geological history. In July, the Village and Community Park District hosted a day long birthday party at Memorial Park. In September, the Village buried a time capsule in front of Village Hall which will be opened in 50 years. Throughout the spring and summer the La Grange Area



Historical Society showcased a historical exhibit on La Grange Park. In December, the Community Art Project was unveiled at Village Hall, featuring five mosaics from local schools and over 150 photos submitted by residents. If you haven't had a chance to see it, stop in to Village Hall one day and take a look. The art installation is impressive!

I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to the 40+ members of the Quasiquicentennial Committee responsible for planning all these great events and to the many residents and businesses that donated to the Anniversary fund to make the festivities

possible. The goal of the Committee was to raise \$25,000 and due to the generosity of so many, the Committee raised over \$32,000 for the 125th Anniversary celebration. Thank you to each and every one of you that played a part in making 2017 a year to remember.

While we had a lot of fun celebrating, there was also a lot of work to be done. As a result of the 2016 referendum, the Village paved an additional 28 blocks of roadway this year with 26 blocks planned for next year. The Fire Department spent many hours working on the design and specifications for the new ambulance and ladder truck. The ambulance was delivered in August and the ladder truck is expected to be delivered this month.

The Village made significant strides with economic development in 2017 by approving two Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts in January and four Business Development Districts (BDD), which went into effect in July. In October, the Village approved its first TIF and BDD redevelopment agreement with JGK 31st Street properties to incentivize the redevelopment of 1015 and 1017 E. 31st Street into a new, full-service restaurant. The restaurant is anticipated to open in the spring.

This year the Village produced its first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Commonly referred to as a CAFR, this document contains much more than the statutorily required audit report and includes additional financial and statistical information about the Village. A CAFR is considered one of the highest quality financial reports a local government can issue. To review a copy of the CAFR, visit the Village's website at www.lagrangepark.org.

There is so much more that the Village accomplished in 2017, thanks to the support of our residents. As always, I encourage you to sign up for the Village's weekly email newsletter (E-Briefs) and to regularly visit the Village website to keep informed of all the great things happening in our community. Thank you to all our residents who continue to make La Grange Park such a wonderful community to call home. I wish you and your families all the best in the year ahead and hope to see you around town. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James F. Discipio



Serve As Paid-On-Call Firefighter/EMT

Do you have a passion for helping others? Are you looking to serve your Community? Consider serving Your Neighbors and Our Village as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter/EMT!

As you may already know, the La Grange Park Fire Department is staffed predominantly by part-time Paid-on-Call Firefighters, who are also EMT's and Paramedics. These dedicated personnel provide a vital service to our community and residents, responding to fires and a host of other emergencies in times of need. Most of those who serve in these capacities have full-time careers outside of the fire service, including both white-collar and blue-collar jobs, and also include students and the like.

In planning for our next hiring process for this calendar year, the Village of La Grange Park Fire Department is seeking contact information from those of you who may be interested in helping us. If you want to know more about what it takes to become part of our team, and receive information about the timing of our next hiring process, you can contact our Recruiting Hotline at (708) 354-0225, x355, or contact us by email at FireRecruit@lagrangepark.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC)

We are happy to report that on March 20, 2017, the LTACC dispatchers were sitting at their workstations as the new Lyons Township Area Communications Center went "live" answering 9-1-1 calls for the Villages of La Grange, La Grange Park and Western Springs. We are very proud to have completed this consolidation, which will provide emergency telephone services to residents and businesses for many years to come. Designed with future expansion in mind, the new Lyons Township Area Communications Center will be able to accommodate internal growth as well as the potential addition of more agencies in the future.

It is the mission of the Lyons Township Area Communications Center to provide the residents and visitors of the communities we serve with a timely and accurate communication link to emergency response services by providing high-quality, professional and effective communications, and to ensure responder safety, while striving to save lives and protect property. We will strive for pride, professionalism, and excellence in every contact with both civilian and sworn personnel in order to maintain a safe and effective environment for all. We will maintain the highest level of integrity, train for the future, and represent ourselves in a professional manner at all times.

The LTACC dispatch center is located at the La Grange Police Department, 304 W. Burlington, La Grange, IL 60525. The direct phone number to LTACC is (708) 352-2059.

Executive Director, Kim Knutsen

Christmas Tree Disposal

Republic Services will pick up Christmas Trees (no artificial trees) on your regular garbage day during the first two weeks of January. All trees must be free of ornaments, garland, lights, tinsel, etc. Trees should be placed in the parkway next to your garbage with the trunk facing the street. No sticker is required. Wreaths, garland, and natural décor will not be picked up. Residents should contact Republic Services at (708) 345-7050 with any questions about tree pickup or holiday service.



Little League Sign Up

La Grange Park Little League registration is now open for SPRING Baseball and Softball.

Registration closes January 15 and divisions fill up fast. For more information and to register visit: lgplittleleague.com.





La Grange Park Property Tax Summary

The Village strives to deliver exceptional value for every tax dollar by providing excellent police and fire services, keeping streets and public areas well-maintained, protecting the residential and commercial buildings of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

The Village's share of your 2016 total property tax bill (collected in 2017) is about 12% to 14%, depending on your school districts. The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 63% - 68% 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, make up approximately 19% - 22% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy

The 2016 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which was payable in 2017, was 10.778 for properties in School District 102 and 12.403 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the included chart for the tax rate history.

**TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES
IF YOU LIVE IN
SCHOOL DISTRICT 102**

**TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES
IF YOU LIVE IN
SCHOOL DISTRICT 95**

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
2012 Tax Year	9.076	10.714
2013 Tax Year	9.831	11.488
2014 Tax Year	9.814	11.901
2015 Tax Year	10.179	12.328
2016 Tax Year	10.778	12.403

How Your Property Tax Bill is Calculated

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. The Illinois Department of Revenue calculates an equalization factor to apply to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2016 tax year was 2.8032. So, if you own a home valued at \$350,000, then the equalized assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 2.8032], or \$98,112. This equalized assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property's particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2016 tax rates as listed above, a property with an equalized assessed value of \$98,112 paid the following estimated amounts in 2017 for the 2016 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{L} \rightarrow \\ \$98,112 \times .10778 = \\ \mathbf{\$10,575} \end{array}$$

District 95

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{L} \rightarrow \\ \$98,112 \times .12403 = \\ \mathbf{\$12,169} \end{array}$$

In both examples, the Village's portion of the tax bill would be approximately \$1,445.

While we will not know the 2017 property tax rates until next summer, the Village Board approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2017 Village tax levy (collected in 2018). Tax cap laws limit the Village's 2017 operating levy to a 2.1% increase plus any new property value.

Join the Citizen's Police Academy

Session 1 – April 5 through May 3

Session 2 – September 20 through October 18, 2018

All Sessions are held Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

The Citizen's Police Academy will be open to all citizens and business owners in the Village of La Grange Park, 18 years of age or older.

Anyone interested in participating in the CPA should complete the application available at the Police Department (located in Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Ave., LaGrange Park, IL). Please note:

- The application must be picked up and returned to the Police Department in person.
- There is no cost for participation.
- A routine background check will be conducted on all applicants.
- A waiver of liability must be signed by each participant.
- The maximum number of participants will be twenty (20) on a first come, first available basis.
- There will be two sessions: April - May, 2018 and September - October, 2018.

Please contact Officer Chris Dempsey at cdempsey@lagrangepark.org or (708) 352-7711 extension 275, with any questions.



Our 125th Anniversary Sponsors

Legacy Sponsors

Dr. Jim and Nancy Discipio



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



H.C.I. Transportation Technologies Village Church



Coffee with the Chief

The next Coffee with the Chief & Police Department staff will be Wednesday, March 14th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Police Department staff will come and speak with residents on current police issues at Mattone Restaurant (9 E. 31st LaGrange Park).



Community Park District Memorial Park Now Open

The Park District is extremely pleased to announce the opening of Memorial Park to the residents of La Grange Park. It has been a long, complicated process but we are very pleased with the final results. The new shelter, playground, bocce ball and bags area, and new sidewalks are available for use right now. And the sledding hill will be open again this year once the area has sufficient snow. The splash pad will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, dependent on weather. We also laid new sod throughout the park and we ask everyone to please stay off of the sod while it takes root.

The Park District worked very hard to produce the best park possible for our residents and hope that residents are pleased with the results. We thank you for your patience and support throughout this project and look forward to seeing everyone at Memorial Park, as well as our other parks, throughout the year.

Local Warming Centers

If you know someone who is in need of a place to get warm, BEDS Plus (708-354-0858) has several locations that provide free, safe, overnight shelter. Daily operations are from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am daily, starting October 1st to May 15th.

Sundays: St Louise de Marillac Church (Colonnade Room) 1112 Raymond, La Grange Park

Mondays: St. Francis Xavier Church (Joyce Hall) 145 N. Waiola, La Grange

Tuesdays: St. Barbara Church, 8900 Windemere Ave. Brookfield

Wednesdays: St. Hugh Parish, 7939 43rd St, Lyons

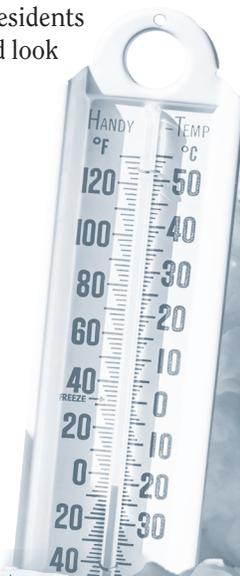
Thursdays: First United Methodist Church (Rose Garden Entrance) 100 W. Cossitt, La Grange

Fridays: St. Barbra Church, 8900 Windemere, Brookfield

Saturdays: First United Methodist Church (43rd Street Entrance) 4300 Howard, Western Springs

Day-Time Support Center Open Monday through Friday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 S. Kensington, LaGrange (2nd Floor)



Snow Removal Rules

The Village would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that the Village plows the streets when we expect snowfall to exceed two inches (2") Salting will be performed during plowing operations on a limited, as needed basis.

By following just a few simple rules, you can make our job and your neighborhood safer.

Rule #1: Remove your vehicles from public streets when the forecast is for two inches of snow or more. Having vehicles in the road makes it harder for our drivers to thoroughly clean the streets and endangers their safety by forcing them to zigzag across slippery roads, increasing the probability of accidents. The Village tickets violators!

Rule #2: If possible, please avoid driving during heavy snowstorms. Our primary purpose is to clear streets for emergency vehicles. The less traffic there is, the faster and more efficiently our drivers can clear the streets.

Rule #3: Do not shovel or blow snow into public streets. This not only defeats the purpose of our plowing, but causes unsafe conditions for all drivers. All shoveled or blown snow should be piled in your yard or parkway. Violators may be ticketed.

Rule #4: Drive cautiously. If you must be out, please use extreme caution. Drive slowly and watch at intersections. Don't follow our plows too closely. Leave plenty of extra room between cars and brake slowly. Use extreme caution in passing our plowing and salting equipment.

Rule #5: It is the responsibility of each homeowner/business owner to keep the sidewalk and walkways in front of his/her address shoveled and cleared of ice.

Winter Fire and Safety Precautions

Winter is a common time for home fires, due to the increased use of heating appliances. Please note the following fire and safety tips to protect you and your family this winter season.

- Make sure you have smoke detectors throughout your home, on every level, near and in sleeping areas, and test them regularly to make sure they work.
- Do you still have your real Christmas tree in your home? It's probably pretty dry. If so, remove it from your house as it can be a fire hazard.
- Never leave cooking unattended when preparing your warm winter meals.
- If you haven't yet, make sure your chimney is cleaned and inspected.
- Make sure ashes from fireplaces are cool throughout before discarding them.
- Plug heat producing appliances such as space heaters directly into receptacles, without using an extension cord. And turn them off when not in use.
- Make sure you also have at least one carbon monoxide alarm in or near sleeping areas, should dangerous levels build-up while you are asleep. Carbon monoxide is produced any time by fuel burning appliances, but emergencies related to such can also be more common during winter months.



Stay Safe This Winter

With the cold and snowy weather upon us, we would like to remind residents to be aware and take cold weather precautions when venturing out. Dress in layers and don't stay out too long at any one time. When shoveling snow, make sure you don't over exert yourself. In addition please check on elderly or infirm neighbors and, perhaps, offer to pick up groceries, medications or other supplies for them so they don't have to go out.

Snow Blowing Reminders

- 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.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

Fire hydrants are critically important to protecting life and property in our Village. Although our Village fire engines carry water to help firefighters start extinguishing fires, that water supply is limited. In most cases, firefighters only have a few minutes to get additional water from the fire hydrants. As such, it is important to be able to find fire hydrants quickly, even during snow storms. La Grange Park Firefighters ask that you "Adopt-a-Hydrant" near your home, and help clear snow from around it when needed. Firefighters, and your neighbors, will greatly appreciate it!



Village Board Highlights

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

- Authorized the Village Manager to execute an agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and Hancock Engineering for Professional Design Engineering & Construction Services for Water & Sewer Improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, to be expensed to the 31st Street/Barnsdale TIF & Business District Funds
- To direct an evaluation of 31st Street parking options to the Engineering & Capital Projects Committee
- Renewing the 2016 contract with Rainbow Farm Enterprises, Inc. for the disposal of leaves in the amount of \$32.50 per bucket, based on 18 buckets invoiced per truck load, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$35,000; and authorized the Village Manager to execute the necessary contract documents
- Authorize the Village Manager to execute a contract with Constellation for energy supply for the Village's water plant for a 3 year contract backed by 100% in renewal energy certificates (RECS)
- Authorize payment to Core Mechanical in the total amount of \$26,869.50 for attached change orders (2016 Village Hall Boiler Replacement Project)
- Approved a Service and License Agreement with CivicPlus in the amount of \$25,079; and to authorize the Village Manager to execute the necessary contract documents
- Granted an exception to the nuisance regulations contained in Section 93.04.C.5 (as amended) of the Village Municipal Code, for the purpose of allowing Nazareth Academy to operate their sound system until 10:00 p.m. on Sept. 8, 22, 29, and Oct. 13 and for a potential playoff game on a date to be determined
- Authorized payment to Suburban General in the total amount of \$11,235
- Awarded contract to Suburban General in the amount of \$152,275 plus a 10% contingency for unforeseen conditions
- Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 8 – 14, 2017 – “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out”
- Approved travel expenses in the amount of \$298.20 for attending the 2017 IML Conference in Chicago, IL
- Approved the Resolution to allow the Village President to execute a Certain Agreement with Cook County Dept. of Public Health for health inspection services, effective December 1, 2017 and continuing through November 30, 2018
- Approved an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property Owned by the Village of La Grange Park
- Authorized the Village Manager to execute an agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and Hancock Engineering for professional Design Engineering Services for the Sherwood Road Resurfacing Project, in an amount not to exceed \$26,500, to be spent during the FY17/18 budget
- Approved a change order in the amount of \$2,870.97 (Plymouth Place Water Meter Installation Change Order)
- Authorized the Village President to sign on to the We Are Still in Declaration (Paris Accord)
- The President and Village Board of Trustees estimate that the amount necessary to be raised from the 2017 property tax levy is \$3,622,048, exclusive of debt service; which amount is less than 5% greater than the amount of taxes extend for 2016
- Adopted an Ordinance of the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, Approving a Redevelopment Agreement for the Redevelopment of 1015 and 1017 E. 31st Street
- Authorized the Village President to enter into a Tower Lease Agreement with the Congregation of St. Joseph for installation of the NETWEST & LTACC police radio repeater/antennae system
- Authorized payment to CIT Trucks in the amount of \$165,013
- Authorized payment of \$16,533.46 to Suburban Tree Consortium
- Authorized the extension of the contract with National Power Rodding Corporation in the amount of \$37,488.85, plus a 10(ten) percent contingency should additional locations for cleaning/televising become identified this fiscal year and authorized the Village Manager to execute the necessary contract documents
- Accepted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017
- Accepted the 2017 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report
- Motion to receive the annual Post-Issuance Compliance Report
- Authorized the Village Manager to execute an Agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and Hancock Engineering for Design and Construction Engineering Services for the 2018 Street Paving Program, in an amount not to exceed \$135,000
- Authorized the Village Manager to execute an Agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and Hancock Engineering for Design and Construction Engineering Services for the 2018 Street Paving Program, in an amount not to exceed \$135,000 for design engineering fees to be spent during the FY17/18 budget, and \$215,000 for construction engineering fees to be spent during the FY18/19 budget
- Approved Resolution for Construction on State Highways
- Approved a Resolution Approving the Annual Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for 2018
- Approved Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of La Grange Park and Illinois FOP Labor Council
- Approved an Ordinance Providing for the Annual Tax Levy for the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2017 and Ending April 30, 2018
- Approved an Ordinance Providing for Specific Reductions of the 2017 Property Tax Levy Pursuant to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
- Approved an Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2017 to pay the principal of and interest on \$3,495,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014, of the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois

Important Local Safety News *Delivered Right to Your Inbox*



Please join our weekly Public Safety Briefs with information about various types of community alerts or safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. If interested, send an email to sjohnson@lagrangepark.org to be placed on the list.



La Grange Park Public Library News



BYOB Board Gaming Night

Friday, January 19 7-9 pm

Board games have come a long way from Monopoly and Scrabble. Stop by the library to try some of ours, or bring your own to share. Feel free to bring along a bottle or two of your favorite beer or wine as well! Attendees must be at least 21.

Cartoon Confidential

Monday, February 5, 7 pm

Learn about the secret life of professional cartoonist extraordinaire, Mark Anderson. He'll use tons of hilarious cartoons to expose his mysterious path to a cartooning career, the undisclosed process of writing captions, and classified information on drawing. Come and listen, or bring paper and pencil and draw along; it's up to you! Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.

Teen Job and Volunteer Fair

Ages 15-20, Saturday, February 24, 1-3 pm

Local businesses and volunteer organizations, including Brookfield Zoo, The Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Western Springs Park District will be on

hand to answer questions about job and volunteer opportunities.

We're Looking for Good Neighbors!

The Good Neighbor Corner is a regular newsletter feature highlighting the good news in our community. In order to praise the efforts of local residents, organizations and businesses, we need your help! We're looking for those friendly folks, good deeds, and special neighborly touches that make living in La Grange Park special.

If you know a Good Neighbor, fill out the form below and send it to Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine. Help us share the efforts of good neighbors with the entire community.

Good Neighbor Nomination Form

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Please provide the name and address of the person/group you are nominating:

Why are they a Good Neighbor to you? _____

Good Neighbor Corner



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DON'T FORGET TO "SPRING AHEAD!"

Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 a.m. "Spring" your clocks forward at that time!

ResidentFeedback

Please use this section to give us your comments, suggestions, questions, problems or compliments. If you have something on your mind . . . let us know! Just jot it down and send it to us.

Please mail to: Village Manager, Village of La Grange Park, 447 North Catherine, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Email address: jcedillo@lagrangepark.org. If you would like a response, please include your name, mailing address, email address or daytime phone number.

Stay connected with Village news and community happenings, subscribe to E-Briefs, the Village's weekly electronic newsletter. Send an email to jcedillo@lagrangepark.org and type "sign me up!"

VillageHall

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.

VillageHolidays

The Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, February 29 - Presidents' Day
Friday, March 30 at Noon - Good Friday