

Rose CLIPPINGS

March 2016

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park



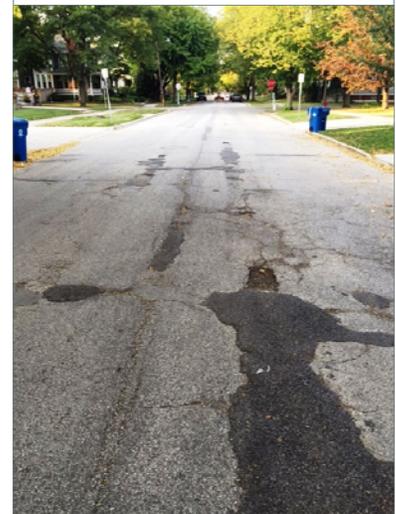
Special Edition

\$10 MILLION ROAD PROGRAM AND NEW FIRE EQUIPMENT ON THE MARCH 15 BALLOT

After considerable review of the Village’s long term capital needs, the Village Board has decided to place two questions on the March 15, 2016 ballot. The two questions request the authority to issue \$11.2 million in bonds to fund necessary infrastructure and equipment needs. The referenda questions will ask residents to fund road improvements (\$10 million), as well as the purchase of fire safety equipment (\$1.2 Million). The Village anticipates that the proposed road improvement program would be completed in six years, resurfacing 26% or nine miles of the streets that are in most need of repair.

Fire Department equipment includes the replacement of our ladder truck and one ambulance. Our ladder truck is now 26 years old and mechanical and maintenance costs continue to increase with each year. The vehicle is also rusting, some of which was repaired, but rusting will continue over time. The Village uses the ladder truck regularly as our Standard Operating Guidelines dictate that the ladder truck is placed directly at the front line of response for incidents, fires, smoke investigations, and alarms. Our ambulance is 16 years old and due to its age, is need of replacement and a new ambulance will meet all current safety standards.

A more robust road program ensures that our streets allow for safe travel and efficient maintenance. This in turn will demonstrate a community that is well maintained, reflecting on the quality of life for residents and the preservation of strong property values. Equipment replacement in the Fire Department ensures that our first responders continue to provide high quality service in the care of its residents, their homes, schools and business community.



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2016 REFERENDA

- Vote on March 15
- \$10 Million in Road Bonds
- \$1.2 Million in Fire Equipment Bonds
- Get informed before you vote.
- Email questions to: info@lagrangepark.org





Village Residents Asked To Consider Their Roads

After years of resident input, financial analysis and an evaluation of our roadways, the Village Board has determined that current revenue collections are not sufficient to maintain the Village's 35 miles of roads at a sustainable pace. The Village has calculated that it must spend over \$1 million annually on roads to achieve a 35 year street repaving cycle. At this time, the Village can only manage a 70 year cycle.

Protecting and improving our local streets is a top priority of the Village Board given the impact on vehicle and pedestrian safety, the effectiveness and safety of emergency responders, continued growth in property values and overall economic development.

A more robust road program, as reflected in the "after" pictures presented here, ensures that Village streets provide safe travel and can be efficiently

maintained into the future. This in turn will reflect a community that is well preserved and improves upon the quality of life for all Village residents and the preservation of strong property values for homeowners.

Without the passage of the referendum, the Village Board is committed to continuing its pay-as-you-go program where the Village completes street projects in accordance with any available capital funding. This normally means a program consisting of 2-3 blocks of repaving per year, plus additional patching, a stop gap measure.

Recently paved Cleveland Avenue



PROPOSED 10 YEAR ROAD PROGRAM

Target: 9-10 miles of roadway; 26-27% of our roads.

Roads completed in 6 years.

A map of the proposed roads is available at: www.lagrangepark.org



FUNDING LIMITATIONS

Under the Illinois Constitution, La Grange Park is considered a non home rule municipality. As such, the Village is required by state law to place a referendum on a ballot for approval by its residents in order to issue general obligation bonds that are to be supported by property taxes.

Unlike home rule municipalities, the Village is specifically limited in its ability to increase current revenue streams or to create new sources of revenue.

Through a local revenue study, the Village has taken measures to increase revenues where possible, but the Village Board has determined that its good efforts would not be enough to support the amount of local road repair work that is critically needed.

17.2%

Of Local Roads Rated as "Critical" and in Need of Immediate Re-Surfacing



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the Village having a strong credit rating, the Village Board determined that bonds would be the most cost effective way to finance a larger collection of road improvement projects in a shorter time period. In addition, the bond proceeds for the road referendum would be constrained to use for only local road repair, not any other operating or capital purpose.

The Village Board is sensitive to the cost of all residential property tax bills, but notes that the Village currently receives only 9-11% of overall property taxes collected and believes that current tax dollars are prudently and professionally managed by the Village. In addition, unlike other types of revenues, local property tax payments are normally deductible on a residential property owner's Federal and Illinois income tax. It is estimated that the street bond would be financed over 10 years and the estimated impact to a homeowner's tax bill would be about \$109 per year per \$100,000 of property value.

Residents should be aware that the Village's property tax is the lowest per capita when compared to adjacent communities (Western Springs, La Grange, Westchester, Brookfield and Riverside) and is projected to remain the lowest per capita, even after the bonds (for both roads and fire equipment) begin to be paid.



QUALITY FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Ladder Truck Chassis Frame in 2015



2015

1722

EMS Responses



519

Fire Rescue Incidents



A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...

One referendum question will ask residents if the Village should issue bonds to purchase fire safety vehicles and equipment. The funds would be used to replace our 16 year old ambulance and our 26 year old ladder truck. Both vehicles are critical to our Fire, Rescue and EMS operations.

While these vehicles have been well maintained, age necessitates more frequent and costly repairs. In addition, the vehicles are out of service for most of the repairs and are not available to respond to emergencies during. The ability for these vehicles to be available for immediate response and operate without mechanical failures can be vital to the successful outcome of a patient suffering a medical emergency or the successful mitigation of a fire or other emergency.

The ambulance that we need to replace has responded to over 8,000 emergency calls. We have made many mechanical repairs to this ambulance over time, including rust and re-painting several years ago to keep it from deteriorating further. But the number of calls it has responded to and its age has taken its toll. Overall, requests for ambulance service have steadily increased over the years. For instance, in 2005, we responded to 1264 EMS incidents, while in 2015 we responded to 1722 EMS incidents; the most that we ever have.

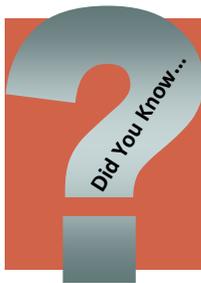
Our current ladder truck has been responding to fires and other emergencies since it was purchased in 1990. It is only the second ladder truck purchased by the Village and while it has been well maintained and looks good on the exterior, the underside and critical components show serious signs of age and wear, such as significant rusting. The truck weighs over 30 tons, which over time contributes to wear, and in combination with age is an important consideration due to the potential for a catastrophic breakdown. It also does not have the same braking and safety systems that are available in today's modern vehicles. In addition, a new ladder truck will provide for more versatile fire operations, as we would plan on purchasing what is called a Quint. It is a fire truck with a large main ladder like we currently have, but will also carry more water and more hose, so it can be used more effectively as a fire engine (or pumper), when it arrives at fires.

Both pieces of equipment are critically important for our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the information carefully so you can make a very informed decision.

- Chief Dean J. Maggos

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Shall the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, undertake road improvements in and for the Village, including street resurfacing and sidewalk repair, all on property owned by the Village or over which the Village has sufficient easements, and issue its general obligation bonds to the amount of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof, said bonds bearing interest at not to exceed the rate of 6.00% per annum?	YES
	NO
Shall the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, purchase fire safety vehicles and equipment for the public welfare and safety of the Village, and issue its general obligation bonds to the amount of \$1,200,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof, said bonds bearing interest at not to exceed the rate of 6.00% per annum?	YES
	NO



Age of Our Ladder Truck

Recommended Replacement Age: 15-25



Age of Our Ambulance

Recommended Replacement Age: 16



ANOTHER METHOD FOR CHECKING THE TAX IMPACT...

If you do not know the property tax *value* of your home, the table below is another way to estimate the annual impact to your property tax bill.

This is what you pay now for your total tax bill

This is your estimated increase (pick your school district)

2014 Total Tax Bill	Estimated Increase	
	District 102	District 95
\$ 1,000	\$ 41	\$ 34
\$ 2,000	\$ 81	\$ 67
\$ 3,000	\$ 122	\$ 101
\$ 4,000	\$ 163	\$ 134
\$ 5,000	\$ 203	\$ 168
\$ 6,000	\$ 244	\$ 201
\$ 7,000	\$ 284	\$ 235
\$ 8,000	\$ 325	\$ 268
\$ 9,000	\$ 366	\$ 302
\$ 10,000	\$ 406	\$ 335
\$ 15,000	\$ 610	\$ 503
\$ 20,000	\$ 813	\$ 670

TAX IMPACT (ESTIMATED)

If both referenda pass, how much money from your tax bill will go toward our roads, the ambulance and the ladder truck? *

\$250,000 Home



*
\$23 more each month
\$0.75 more each day
\$273 more each year

\$350,000 Home



*
\$31 more each month
\$1.04 more each day
\$380 more each year

\$450,000 Home



*
\$41 more each month
\$1.34 more each day
\$490 more each year

* Assumes that each bond issued will be paid over a ten (10) year period and then it will come off the tax bill.

For a **\$350,000** Home,

The cost is **\$1.04** Per Day



Less than the cost to buy a cup of coffee.

The Village of La Grange Park

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 La Grange Park, IL 60526

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