

# Rose CLIPPINGS

Spring 2010

Est. 1892

*The Village of La Grange Park*

## President's Corner

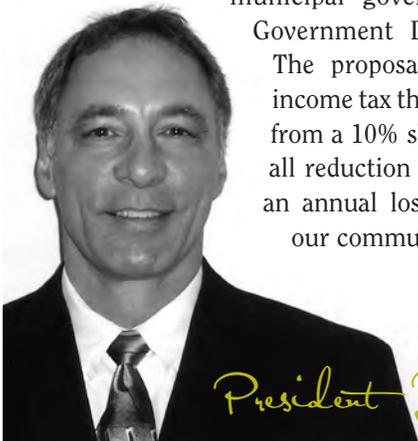
The snow is gone, Spring is on the way and as always this time of year, change is in the air. This time around, I reflect not only upon the changes in our community but also upon the challenging times that face us today. Over the last year, we have made it through a recession – but we are still very much in the midst of its impacts. Many of you have been faced with difficult financial decisions and the Village is not immune to the same budgetary issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that your Village and your elected officials are very mindful of the constraints and challenges upon us. The Village Board and Staff continuously monitor the Village's financial condition and there is no doubt that the tremendous financial challenges before us will cause the Village to make some operational changes.

A projected shortfall in the general revenues has been identified and although the Village has been quick to respond by implementing cost cutting measures over the past year, the Village Board is approaching the budget process with a sharp pencil, making adjustments wherever possible to ensure financial stability today and for years to come.

Even more challenging is the Governor's Budget Proposal which calls for a \$300 million cut to monies guaranteed to municipal governments under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF).

The proposal will cut the amount of income tax that goes to local governments from a 10% share to a 7% share, an overall reduction of 30%. This translates into an annual loss of \$310,000 dollars from our community.



*President James J. Discipio*

The proposed cut comes at a time when the Village is trying to balance our budget for the next fiscal year. It forces us to re-evaluate an already challenging budget situation without sufficient time to fill the gaps created by this cut. Additionally, the state is four months behind in the State Income Tax Payments. Our Village is currently due \$330,000 dollars. In order to address these real and potential shortfalls during the current budget process, the Village will undertake a multi-pronged strategy that looks to reduce costs as much as possible, maintain the quality services our residents expect, while working to maintain the taxes as low as possible.

These are indeed tough financial times, and it is important that residents stay informed. The Village's Public Hearing for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year will be held just prior to the Village Board Work Session in April. We welcome you to attend. The Village Board also welcomes your attendance and input on another key priority, the rewrite of the Village's Zoning Code.

Inside this edition of the Rose Clippings, you will find a special insert that provides detail about changes to the Village's Zoning Code and its corresponding Zoning Map. Village residents can review the Draft Code at the Village Hall, the Library or on the Village's website. Residents and businesses are encouraged to attend any one or all of the Public Hearing Sessions, to be held in the months of April through June. The Village has put together a Public Hearing Schedule of Topics and Dates so that those who wish to participate know in advance what will be discussed at each of the sessions. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearings, please send in your comments to Village Manager Bo Proczko at Village Hall.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am here to serve you in keeping our community a Village of which we can all be proud.



# ROSE SHOW

## Mark Your Calendars For A Mystery She Wrote....

The Village is planning its 49<sup>th</sup> annual Rose Show to be held on **SATURDAY, JUNE 12 from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.** at **Plymouth Place**. The tradition is still strong and ever evolving.

For the second year the winner of the Children's Coloring Contest is this year's Village vehicle sticker – a new tradition that we hope to keep building on. The local area schools have been contacted regarding this contest but certainly **any** La Grange Park school age child can enter. We are asking students/participants to use their imaginations – to draw and color a picture of a rose or group of roses. There will be first, second, third and honorable mention prizes awarded for the following age divisions:

Ages 4 & under    Ages 5 – 7    Ages 8 – 11    Ages 12 & up

The theme for this year's show is *Mystery She Wrote* and some interesting things are in the planning stages. Please watch the local papers and the Village website for more information about Rose Show happenings.

Keep in mind that the show is open to all gardeners – there are two ways to enter. You can enter Division I – Specimens. In this Division you bring in your single rose or spray grown by you. This rose is put into a particular classification and judged (see below). The second way to enter is by using your talents in Division II – Artistic Design. In this Division you can purchase your rose/rosettes and follow the schedule found below. To enter Division II you need to register by calling Marilyn Pulaski of the La Grange Park Garden Club. Her number is 708-482-3921. She can also answer questions you may have regarding your arrangement. **Please note:** there is no need to register for Division I – you simply show up with your rose anytime after 7:30 a.m. the day of the show.

### SECTION A

*Hybrid Teas & Climbing Hybrid Teas & Grandifloras*

One Bloom per Stem - No Side Buds  
**Any Color**

### SECTION B

*Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora Spray*

**Any Color**

### SECTION C

*Floribundas (including Polyanthus)*

One Bloom or Spray  
**Any Color**

### SECTION D

*Climbers – One Bloom or Cluster*

**Any Color**

### SECTION E

*Minatures & Mini Flora – Single Bloom*

**Any Color**

### SECTION F

*Minatures & Mini Flora – Spray*

**Any Color**

### SECTION G

*Full Blown Hybrid Tea & Grandifloras*

**Any Color**

### SECTION H

*Full Blown Mini & Mini Flora*

**Any Color**

### SECTION I

Shrub

Modern **Any Color**

Classic **Any Color**

### SECTION J

*Old Roses*

**Any Color**

### SECTION K

*Rose Floating in a Bowl*

No Foliage Permitted

Exhibitor to Provide Own Bowl

**Any Color**

### SECTION L

*Grade School Age Children*

All Roses

**Any Color**

#### Class 1 **MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS** 4 entries

A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material. Grasses permitted.  
*Staged on a pedestal 24" square, 42" high.*

#### Class 2 **THE MIRROR CRACKED** 4 entries

A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material. To be arranged in a container of choice and accessory permitted. To attain desired height, base may be added and covered if necessary.  
*Staged in front of 3 panel, white background (triptych), 36" high, 24" wide, 12" wings*

#### Class 3 **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE** 4 entries

A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material in a container of choice and accessory permitted. Service for one. Wine glass, placemat and napkin.  
*Staged on a table area measuring 24" wide.*

#### Class 4 **The Harlequin Tea Set** 4 entries

A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material. Service for one. Using luncheon plate, cup and saucer and napkin. Container of choice, accessory and placemat permitted. Use contrasting colors.  
*Staged on ¼ of round table covered with white table (48" diameter) cloth furnished by Committee.*

#### Class 5 **ROSES IN MINIATURE** 4 entries of each

- A. 3 BLIND MICE. A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material, not to exceed 3" in any direction. Accessory permitted.
- B. HICKORY DICTORY DEATH. A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material, not to exceed 5" in any direction. Accessory permitted.
- C. ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE. A floral arrangement of fresh cut plant material, not to exceed 6" in any direction. Accessory permitted.

# 2010 Yard Waste and Brush Collection Program

*Spring is here! It's time for... yard work! Just as a reminder, the Village has two programs to help your yard looking beautiful.*

The **Yard Waste Program** is available through our waste hauler, Allied Waste. Service is once a week on Thursday from April through early December. The last yard waste pickup this year will be on December 2nd. All containers and bundles should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday. A yard waste sticker must be affixed to each bag or bundle. If you use a can, please loop the yard waste sticker around one of its handles. Yard waste is collected either in heavy-duty paper bags or smaller garbage cans. To be used for yard waste, garbage cans must have two handles, be no larger than 35 gallons, and be marked for yard waste. The "Yard Waste" marking must be visible from the street. "Yard Waste" decals are available at Village Hall. Cans or bags should weigh no more than fifty pounds. Oversize cans are the largest cause of injury to garbage truck drivers. When you purchase a garbage can, please verify its size. Oversized cans will not be emptied.

Allied Waste collects bundled brush along with other yard waste. Brush and branches must be securely bundled with bio-degradable twine or rope. Each bundle must be no more than four feet in length, two feet in diameter and weigh no more than fifty pounds. Individual branches must be no larger than three inches in diameter. A yard waste sticker must be affixed to each bundle. Please call the Village of La Grange Park at 354-0225 or Allied Waste at (708) 345-7050 if you have any questions.

The **Brush Collection Program** begins May 3. Through the program, Village Public Works crews pick up tree branches and brush debris that are stacked in neat piles on the parkway. (Please see guidelines for pick-up). The Village will conduct a pickup during the first full week of each month from May 3 through the week of October 4. The Public Works Department will rotate the order of collection from week to week so that different areas of town will be serviced first each week. Therefore, it is very important that all brush to be collected be set out prior to Monday of the collection week.

## The Village's 2010 Brush Removal Schedule

AREA 1 is West of La Grange Road

AREA 2 is all streets from La Grange Road east to the IHB Railroad

AREA 3 is all streets east of the IHB Railroad

**Start of program each Month/Week**                      **Estimated progress of program per week Days/Area**

START DATE	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3
May 3	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri	Mon/Tues
June 7	Mon/Tues	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri
July 5	Thurs/Fri	Mon/Tues	Wed/Thurs
August 2	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri	Mon/Tues
September 6	Tues/Wed	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri
October 4	Thurs/Fri	Mon/Tues	Wed/Thurs

# Guidelines for the Brush Collection Program

Brush should be on the parkway prior to the Monday of the brush pickup week. Brush not on the parkway when crews go by may not be picked up.

- Brush must be stacked neatly on the parkway, piled no more than 4-feet high, with the butt end facing the curb.
- Keep brush piles away from trees and signs in the parkway.
- If narrow parkways would cause your brush to extend into the sidewalk, the brush may be piled parallel to curb.
- Brush must be no longer than 6-feet in length and 4-inches in diameter.
- Logs must be cut into small, manageable pieces, and should be kept separate from brush.
- Stumps and root balls will not be picked up. They should be removed from trees or bushes.
- Brush should not be piled in such a manner as to interfere with motorist visibility at intersections.
- Brush must be free of all wire, tape, rope, or other inorganic materials.
- General yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, weeds, etc.) will not be picked up during brush pickup.
- Brush pickup is for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their property only. If no evidence exists that work has been performed on the property, the Village reserves the right to charge the resident for this service. The brush will not be picked up until it is possible to add to our work schedule in the future and a check for payment of services is received.
- Contractors working for the homeowners are not allowed to use this service since we are not able to handle the quantity of brush that they produce. If evidence exists of contractors placing tree or brush debris at the curb, the Village will charge the resident for this service.



# Arbor Day 2010

La Grange Park has been designated a "Tree City USA" for the past 22 years by the National Arbor Day Foundation. In keeping with our status as a "Tree City," the Village has planned a special event for this year's Arbor Day Celebration.

## Honorary Tree Planting

For the sixth consecutive year, the Village will plant a tree in honor a special person. Planting a tree can be a terrific tribute to someone; trees grow tall and strong, provide shade for cooling in summer, release moisture into the air, help reduce flooding and erosion, and are a source of beauty from season to season over a lifetime.

Arbor Day this year is Friday, April 30. To mark this day, the Village is accepting nominations to plant a tree in honor or in memory of a person or group that has made a positive contribution to the community, or whose achievements deserve special recognition. Previous years' honorees included a tree planted at Robinhood Park in honor of Sharron Rosicky, a local school teacher who served as her neighborhood's matriarch, and Mary Lou Hurley who served as President of the Library Board for many years.

To submit your own nomination, please use the form below, or create your own, and send it to **Tree Planting, La Grange Park Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526**, or via email to [jcedillo@lagrangepark.org](mailto:jcedillo@lagrangepark.org) no later than April 12. Be sure to tell why the person or group you are nominating deserves to be recognized, and indicate what kind of tree you feel would most appropriately honor their achievements and community spirit. After reviewing all the nominations, the Village will select one from those received to honor with a public tree planting. The tree will be planted in a public space (in a park, parkway, etc.) during a public ceremony in late April or early May, and a small plaque mentioning the honoree will be installed at the base of the tree.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
to be honored with the planting of a \_\_\_\_\_ tree because:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Parkway Tree Planting

Did you know that residents have the option to select and purchase their own parkway tree? If you would like to plant a tree in your parkway, the Department of Public Works will advise you through the process. The Director of Public Works will consult with the homeowner on the location, species and minimum size of the parkway tree. The homeowner is responsible for the cost and planting of the tree. Once planted, the tree will be maintained by the Village. This program does not allow for the removal of existing parkway trees. The Department of Public Works removes parkway trees when they have been determined to be dead, declining, and/or hazardous. For more information about Resident Tree Planting, contact Director Julius Hansen at 708-352-2922, ext. 100.

## Garden Club of La Grange Park Plant Sale

The Garden Club of La Grange Park will hold their plant sale on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Memorial Park Gazebo. The public is invited to attend this annual event which features both annuals and perennials, most of which have come straight from the gardens of the green-thumbed Garden Club members. By purchasing plants already proven to do well in this area, you know they'll do well in your La Grange Park garden, too.

## Free Wood Chips

Soon, wood chips will be available for pick up at the Public Works facility at 937 Barnsdale Monday through Friday. Public Works crews may also be able to deliver the wood chips to residents, depending on availability. When calling to request a wood chip delivery, please call the Public Works Department at 352-2922 with your address, when you would like the delivery, and the quantity in cubic yards you would like delivered. Generally, one cubic yard will cover a 6-foot x 9-foot area. A truckload equals about 3 cubic yards.



# New Traffic Laws for 2010

As of January 1, 2010, a new Illinois texting law is in effect. Per the State Statute, “A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send or read an electronic message.” For the purpose of this new law, “Electronic message” includes, but is not limited to electronic mail, a text message, an instant message or a command or request to access an Internet site.

Driving a vehicle demands a driver’s full attention. Distractions such as texting can be deadly because taking your eyes off the road for even seconds prevents you from seeing a hazard in enough time to avoid a crash. Using an electronic device can have tragic consequences. According to the National Safety Council, cell phone use is a factor in 6% of traffic crashes in our country. This equates to 636,000 crashes, 12,000 serious injuries, and 2,600 fatalities.

Using a cell phone while driving increases your chance of getting into a crash by 400 percent. What makes cell phone use distinct from other risky driving behaviors is the magnitude — there are 270 million cell phone users in the U.S. and the National Safety Council estimates that 80 percent of them talk on the phone while driving. When dialing a phone number or engaging in intense conversation, you are not watching the road like you should. A “hands-free” apparatus is helpful, but it can’t prevent you from becoming involved in a conversation and losing concentration. Your best defense is to pull off the road and stop in a safe place before using your phone.

The State of Illinois has also enacted legislation that prohibits all cell phone use entirely within a school speed zone, construction zone or if the driver is under the age of 19. The La Grange Park Police Department encourages all residents to use good judgment while driving.



# Water Rate Increase To Take Effect May 1, 2010



Effective May 1, 2010, the Village of La Grange Park will increase its water rate by 5%. This rate increase is intended to help account for a 10% increase in the water rate charged to the Village to purchase the water.

The Village of La Grange Park purchases its water from the Brookfield – North Riverside Water Commission (BNRWC). The BNRWC advised the Village that they had received a 14% rate increase from their supplier, the City of Chicago. The BNRWC has passed along a 10% increase to its customers, which includes the Village of La Grange Park, effective January 1, 2010. The Village has been absorbing the cost of the rate increase since that time. In order to avoid using tax dollars to subsidize water usage among La Grange Park residents and businesses, the Village of La Grange Park will raise its water rates from \$4.73 per 100 cubic feet to \$4.96 per 100 cubic feet, equating to a 5% adjustment, effective May 1.

## Tool Time!

Now that the weather is getting warmer, many residents will begin spring home improvement projects. Many such projects require village permits, which help to ensure the projects meet village codes. In-turn, these village codes and permits help to ensure minimum construction and other standards are met, overall keeping the Village of La Grange Park a nice looking and safe place to live. If you plan on doing work this spring and are not sure if a permit is required, please contact the Village of La Grange Park Building Department at 708-354-0225.



## Village Board Highlights

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

- Ordinance Granting a Variation Request for 740 N. Brainard Avenue (Public Hearing No. 2009-10)
- Authorized the Sale of Surplus Equipment - Vehicle
- Approved Purchase of Turnout Gear (Fire Department)
- Resolution for Construction on State Highways
- Resolution Approving 2010 Meeting Schedule
- Appointments made to Ad Hoc Cool Village Commission
- Authorized Purchase of an E-Mail Archiving System
- Ordinance Granting a Variation at 1408 Robinhood Lane (Public Hearing No. 2009-12)
- Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Grant Application w/ Cook County, Illinois for Justice Assistance Grant Funds
- Resolution Approving Audit Services Agreement
- Ordinance Granting a Variation at 426 N. Spring Avenue (Public Hearing No. 2009-11)

# Youth Commission Seeks New Members

The Village is seeking applications to serve on the La Grange Park Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is comprised of ten young people in grades 7 through 12. Commissioners serve one or two-year terms beginning in September of each year.

The Youth Commission serves alongside other Village Committees that make recommendations to the Village Board. Youth have been involved in Village decision-making as a way to gain new perspectives and original insights into issues that the Village encounters on a regular basis. The Village Board hears and considers the input of our ten Youth Commissioners, and the Village as a whole benefits from their contributions. In addition, the Village hopes to help secure the future of La Grange Park by fostering a life-long appreciation and interest in public services within this generation of our future leaders.

Individuals interested in serving should fill out an application (available on the Village website, [www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org)). Applications should be sent to the attention of Julia Cedillo, Assistant Village Manager. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Cedillo at 708-354-0225, ext. 108.

## Cool Village Commission

In late 2009, the Village created a new advisory body called the Cool Village Commission, whose role is to make recommendations on sustainable practices that lead to a reduction of the Village's carbon footprint while promoting water conservation and the improvement of air, climate and water quality. The newly formed commission held its first meeting in February and began its planning of a baseline carbon emissions survey/inventory. Once complete, the data will guide the group in its development of a community sustainability plan and environmental programs.

The Cool Village Commission wishes to remind residents that on April 22nd, Earth Day will enjoy its 40th Anniversary. To commemorate this achievement, the commission is looking to hear from residents about their suggestions to mark the event – at home or in the community. Send your Earth Day ideas to: [jcedillo@lagrangepark.org](mailto:jcedillo@lagrangepark.org) or send to Julia Cedillo at Village Hall, 447 North Catherine Avenue.

## Want to Serve On A Community Volunteer Team?

If you can give three hours of your time on Saturday, April 24 or Sunday, April 25, you can be on a Community Volunteering Team! Volunteers will be divided into teams and dispatched to various areas of the community that need assistance. Tools and work gloves will be provided. If the thought of meeting new people and giving back to the community appeal to you, then this is the weekend for you!

## Youth Commission Organizes Community Volunteering Weekend

The La Grange Park Youth Commission is planning its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Volunteering Weekend to take place on April 24 and 25. This is an event where the commissioners and other volunteers perform various projects around the community, including assisting senior citizens or others who need help completing spring projects around the house. The Commission hopes to enlist other volunteers from the community to perform various service projects around La Grange Park, and would like to get as many additional volunteers to participate as possible in order to make the weekend a success.



## Need Help At *Your* House?

Though some of the projects the volunteers will work on will be in public areas, they also are want to help out at *your* house. If you have a difficult time managing outdoor spring cleaning on your own property or know of someone else who does, a Community Volunteering Team made up of Youth Commissioners and other volunteers will help! Projects could include cleaning out gutters, general yard cleanup, planting flowers or bushes, painting, or other projects that can easily be accomplished by a small team in one 3-hour shift. All Volunteering Teams will have at least one adult supervisor to help. All necessary tools and supplies should be provided by the homeowner. In the event that we receive more requests for assistance than our volunteers can address in one weekend, projects will be selected based on priority of need.

When: Saturday, April 24 from 9am – noon  
Sunday, April 25 from 1pm – 4pm

Types of Projects: Painting Gardening/planting  
General yard cleanup Clean gutters  
Trash pick up Light home repairs

To sign up: To register to have a team come to your house or to serve on a Community Volunteering Team, please contact Julia Cedillo at 708-354-0225 or via email at [jcedillo@lagrangepark.org](mailto:jcedillo@lagrangepark.org) no later than April 20.



# New FOIA Regulations

Changes to the State's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) governing the disclosure of government records to the public went into effect on January 1, 2010. These changes are designed to give the public greater access to information about their government. The State of Illinois designed the changes to create a more accountable, transparent and ethical government for everyone. Noticeable changes include the fees charged, the reduced response timeframe (now five days), the appeal process, and the creation of a Freedom of Information Act Office, now centralized within the Administration Department. Information regarding requests to inspect and/or obtain copies of public records is available on the Village's Website, [www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org), under the heading "Village Government."

# Fire Department News

Firefighter Pat Hurley was sworn-in as a new Paid-on-Call Fire Lieutenant at a Village Board Meeting on January 26th.



Pat Hurley with his father, Tom Hurley

# GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

## 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 Excerpts:

**Nominating: J.R. Peacock, K. Krysa, C. Beda, & R. Nelson**

My neighbors are so helpful and so caring. My porches, driveway and walks are always clear of snow and ice. My refuse cans are taken out and brought in. I am a senior citizen and they phone or visit to see if I am alright. Thank you. - **Vera Schultz**

**Nominating: Whole Conway Family, Lisa Nadle & the Gasparys**

It's not easy to be "old" – I can only say God Bless my neighbors! They are always shoveling my walk, getting my car running, picking up groceries for us (I'm petrified of walking on ice). And our beautiful neighborhood nurse Patty Conway who had come to our aid more than once as have her husband Mark and her great kids, Mick & Katie. Thank you all! - **Norma Allan**

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



