

The

Rose CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Spring 2016

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

Spring is just around the corner and for the Village that means it is budget season. Each year as Village staff and the Village Board prepare the budget, we strive to align the budget with the Village's priorities and the core services we provide. For the past several years, the Village's number one priority has been the paving of streets. With the recent passing of the referenda, approving \$10 million in bonds for our street program, the Village will be accelerating the paving program and paving approximately 15-20 blocks of streets this year. The Village has also begun the process to purchase the new ladder truck and ambulance as a result of the \$1.2 million referenda. To learn about the next steps in the process, see page 2.



The long-term sustainability of the Village's budget has been a key focus area of the Village Board and staff for the last several years. The Village Board recognizes that the Village needs to continue to diversify its revenue streams and consequently, has taken a renewed focus on economic development. In February 2015, the Village Board held a strategic planning session on Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF's) and Business Districts. In November 2015, The Board commissioned S.B. Friedman Development

Advisors to conduct a TIF Feasibility Study evaluating all commercial and industrial areas within the Village. The findings from the study were presented at the March 8, 2016 Village Board Workshop. The findings revealed that all of the evaluated areas could potentially qualify for TIF and/or Business Districts and that a significant amount of revenue could be generated from some of these areas to support their redevelopment. If you were unable to attend the meeting and are interested in hearing the findings of the study, you may watch the meeting on our local access cable channel (channel 6 if you have Comcast, channel 99 if you have U-Verse), or on YouTube via our Village website. A copy of the presentation may also be downloaded from the Village website.

At the April 12th Village Board Workshop, the Board discussed how it would like to proceed with implementation and will continue this discussion at the April 24th Village Board Meeting. The Village will continue to keep residents updated on the process via our weekly E-Briefs and the Village website (www.lagrangepark.org).

Of course, as always, I invite you to attend our regular Village Board meetings, held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall to learn more about Village happenings, voice your opinions and get involved.

Please take a few moments to read through this spring's edition of the Rose Clippings. You'll find useful information on state legislative issues, next steps now that the referenda have passed, water and refuse rates, upcoming Village events and yard waste and brush collection. Please feel free to contact Village staff if you have any questions or concerns and as always, feel free to contact me at any time. Have a great spring everyone!

President James F. Discipio



The Referenda Passed - Now What?

The Village is pleased to report that both referenda questions on the March 15th ballot passed with significant support. Thank you to all of you who participated in the process.

The Village has already begun planning for the next phase of implementation. Once the referenda results are certified by Cook County, the Village will work with our Bond Counsel to issue the first round of bonds for the road improvement program and the bonds to support the purchase of the fire apparatus. The Village is currently in the process of designing and engineering the 15-20 blocks of roadways that will be resurfaced this year as a result of the referendum. We anticipate the road construction will begin in late summer or early fall. Information on exactly which streets will be resurfaced will be included in the summer edition of the Rose Clippings and on the Village website.

The Village has also begun the process for purchasing the new ladder truck and ambulance. The first step in the process will take several months, as Village staff evaluates alternative equipment and functionality options to ensure that the vehicles we purchase will meet the specific needs of our community.

The Village will continue to keep residents informed as we move forward with the road improvement program and fire apparatus purchases. For more information and regular program updates, visit the Village website at www.lagrangepark.org and click on "2016 Bond Referenda Implementation Update." Questions may also be directed to Village Hall at (708) 354-0225.

New Fiscal Assistant - Sandy Bakalich

The Village welcomed Sandy Bakalich as the new fiscal assistant this January. Sandy has lived in La Grange Park since 1991. She graduated from Oak Park & River Forest High School and has a degree from University of Illinois at Chicago. Please say hello to Sandy the next time you visit the front counter of Village Hall.



New Village Hall Emergency Generator



The new emergency generator for the Village Hall was delivered this past February, which will provide emergency power to the entire Village Hall complex, including: Village administrative offices, and both the Fire and Police Departments. It will replace the original emergency generator which was installed in 1975. Although the cost of the generator project was over \$200,000, a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant was obtained, which will pay for \$150,000 of the cost.

The new Emergency Generator was delivered on February 10th.

New Refuse Pricing Effective April 1, 2016

As a reminder, under the Village's contract with Allied Waste/Republic Services, the minimum monthly refuse charge that appears on homeowners water bills will increase from \$5.23 to \$5.41. Additionally, the cost for refuse and yard waste stickers will increase from \$3.00 per sticker to \$3.10 per sticker. Both changes will be effective on April 1, 2016. For those residents that participate in Allied's twin toter program, the cost for the 65G refuse toter will increase to \$12.36 (from \$11.94); the cost for a 95G refuse toter will increase to \$14.48 (from \$13.99); and the cost for a 95G Yard Waste Toter will increase to \$21.95 (from \$21.40).

Consider Making a Change....

The table below will help you choose the most cost-effective solution for refuse and recycling for your household, based on your usage:

IF YOU THROW OUT...	THEN SELECT...
Less than one bag or can of garbage per week	Sticker program
One bag or can of garbage per week	65 Gallon Twin Toters
More than one bag or can or garbage per week	95 Gallon Twin Toters



Stickers may be purchased at Village Hall and local grocery and hardware stores. To get started with the Twin Toter program, contact Allied Waste/Republic Services directly at 708-345-7050.

Save the Dates

Coffee with a Sergeant

Thursday, May 26th
6:30 p.m.

Board Room, Village Hall
447 N. Catherine Avenue
La Grange Park

DEA Drug Take Back

Saturday, April 30th
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Village Hall Lobby
447 N. Catherine Avenue
La Grange Park

Protecting Village Revenues

Village residents have been able to make the tough decisions to invest in their community, including approving referenda to invest \$10 million in road improvements and \$1.2 million public safety vehicles.

It is now Springfield's turn to step up to the plate to help La Grange Park and communities across the state. President Discipio and Village officials are turning their attention to the State Capitol in advocating for a legislative agenda to ensure municipalities receive monies they are owed in a timely manner.

The lack of a state budget since the start of Fiscal Year 2016 10 months ago has had a deleterious effects across Illinois, including on cities and villages. For several months last year, communities waited for overdue distributions of urgently needed funds owed to them, including the local share of the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), the Use Tax (a sales tax on internet and out-of-state purchases) and 9-1-1 money. On average, the Village receives approximately \$57,000 a month combined from these three funds. Special appropriations legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed by Gov. Rauner last December finally got these dedicated funds moving again to communities.

In an effort to avoid the uncertainty tied to distributions of these funds to municipalities in the future, La Grange Park and other communities are supporting legislation that would end the guessing game. Senate Bill 3019 provides that, in the absence of an appropriation by the state, money required to be distributed to units of local government, such as the MFT, 9-1-1 and Use Tax, would be subject to a continuing appropriation - the statutory authority to spend funds for a specific purpose when and if the legislature fails to appropriate an adequate amount for that purpose.

Expenditures already covered by continuing appropriations include pension contributions for state employees, retiree health insurance payments for public school teachers and community college employees outside of Chicago and debt service payments. Most significantly, payments of the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), the municipal share of state income tax collections to local governments, are subject to a continuing appropriation.

In regard to the LGDF, the Village continues to fight to preserve full funding of the program that returns nearly \$1.4 million to La Grange Park in the state income taxes paid by its residents each year. The Illinois Municipal League offers an easy-to-use tool that allows residents to contact Governor Rauner and local legislators directly about the issue. The link to this tool, www.protectmytown.com, can be accessed through the Village's website, www.lagrangepark.org.

Village officials are also advocating for a greater role in how much Chicago charges the suburbs for water, including supporting the Water Rate Protection Act (House Bill 1556), introduced by State Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, who represents a portion of La Grange Park. The City of Chicago's four-year water rate increase culminated in a 15 percent hike in last year for "Direct Connect" customers. The Village receives its water from the Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission, one of the Direct Connect Customers, and was therefore impacted by the rate increases. More problematic was the way the City raised rates arbitrarily with absolutely no input from its customers. Legislation like HB 1556 would help give suburban communities a voice if Chicago again targets them for unfair water rate increases.

Among other issues the Village is advocating for during the current General Assembly session are:

- Measures to control the costs of public employee pensions and benefits, such as the elimination of the application of unused sick and vacation time in calculating pensions (House Bills 4398 and 4509);
- Legislation to address burdensome unfunded state mandates, such as requiring the state to produce more detailed information on the financial impact of legislation on local communities (Senate Bill 2227);
- Legislation to help improve the quality of life in communities by increasing municipal enforcement powers against owners of blighted properties (House Bill 2648 and Senate Bill 3038).

More information on these bills can be accessed at www.ilga.gov.

Do You Have Enough Smoke Alarms?

Although nearly every resident knows the importance of having working smoke alarms, our Fire Department still responds to various types of incidents in both houses and apartments within our Village where there are no working smoke alarms. Although smoke alarms should also be installed in every bedroom, **our Fire Department drastically urges all residents to please make sure that you have at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home.** This small investment can be the difference in your life, or the life of your loved ones. If you have any questions about smoke alarms, or have any needs in regards to this matter, please contact the Fire Department at 708-354-0225, or the Fire Chief at dmaggos@lagrangepark.org



2016 Yard Waste & Brush Collection Program

Spring is here! It's time for baseball, golf, backyard barbecues and of course, yard work! Just as a reminder, the Village has two programs to help you keep your yards looking beautiful:

YARD WASTE PROGRAM

The **Yard Waste Program** is available through our waste hauler, Republic Services. Republic Services will accept yard waste with a refuse waste sticker from April through early December. All containers and bundles should be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Thursday. A refuse waste sticker must be affixed to each bag or bundle. If you use a can, please loop the 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.

Republic Services 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 Customer Service at 708-345-7050 if you have any questions.

BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Village will conduct a pickup during the following week of each month as follows:

- **May 2nd • June 6th • July 5th • August 4th • September 6th • October 3rd (last pick for the year)**

Through the program, Village Public Works crews pick up tree branches and brush debris that are stacked in neat piles on the parkway. If you miss putting your brush out by the first Monday of the month, the yard waste can be packaged for the Village's waste hauler, Republic Services, to pick up. 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.

Guidelines for the Brush Collection Program

- Brush must be stacked neatly on the parkway, piled no more than 4-feet high, with the butt end facing the curb. Please be sure that brush is not piled in such a way that interferes with motorist or pedestrian visibility.
- In narrow parkways, if brush extends onto the sidewalk, the brush may be piled parallel to the 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 pickup is strictly for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their own property. 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 a check for payment of services is received, and our work schedule permits.

Contractors working for 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 or contractors are seen by our Village workers placing tree or brush debris at the curb, the Village will charge the resident for removal of the tree/brush debris.

New Businesses

The Dinner Club - 359 N. La Grange Road

Please join us in welcoming The Dinner Club to La Grange Park. Previously located in downtown La Grange, the Dinner Club offers easy to assemble uncooked meals for you to take home and share with your family. Visit www.thedinnerclub.biz for more information or stop in to pick up some delicious meals.

Brannick Clinic of Natural Medicine - 1013 E. 31st Street

Join us in welcoming The Brannick Clinic of Natural Medicine to La Grange Park. The clinic offers a wide variety of services including: naturopathic internal medicine, chiropractic medicine, massage therapies, acupuncture, anti-aging therapies, clinical psychology and a variety of supplements and healthcare products. For more information, visit www.brannickclinic.com or stop in to say hello.



New Lottery System for Free Mulch

For the past few years, the demand for mulch has far exceeded the mulch available. In an effort to be fair to all residents, the Village is going to try something new this year with its mulch delivery!

A lottery drawing will be held on May 2nd, at which time names will be randomly drawn. After the drawing, the Public Works Department will be contacting residents to schedule mulch deliveries (with the first deliveries being made on Friday, May 6th).

In order to be part of the lottery, please complete ONE of the following options prior to the drawing date of May 2nd (phone calls will not be accepted):

- Option #1:** Email mulch@lagrangepark.org and provide your address, telephone number (or email address) and whether you would like to receive a ½ truck or full truck load*
 - Option #2:** Complete the form below, and mail or drop it off at the Village Hall (447 N. Catherine Avenue).
 - Option #3:** Go to www.lagrangepark.org and click on the “Residents” tab and complete the “Mulch Lottery Form”
- * ½ truck load equals approximately 1.5 cubic yards, 1 full truck load equals approximately 3 cubic yards
Generally, one cubic yard will cover a 6-foot x 9-foot area

MULCH LOTTERY FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

or if you would prefer to be contacted via Email _____

Circle amount requesting: ½ Truck Full Truck

Please return by 8:30 a.m. May 2nd to: VILLAGE HALL 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526

**Please note that only one request per household will be accepted.*

Celebrate Arbor Day

In celebration of National Arbor Day on April 29th, the Village will continue its tradition of publicly honoring a La Grange Park resident or group with the planting of a tree. Please consider nominating a person or group that has made a positive contribution to the community or whose achievements deserve special recognition. The Village will accept nominations through April 22nd.

To submit a nomination, please send your nomination no later than April 22, 2016 to:
Arbor Day Tree Planting
La Grange Park Village Hall
447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, IL 60526
Email: dcurelo@lagrangepark.org

Please explain 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 among all nominations 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. Questions regarding the Arbor Day celebration may directed to Village Hall at (708) 354-0225.



New Water Rate - Effective May 1st

The Village Board recently approved a 5.0% increase to the Village's water rate, effective May 1, 2016. The rate adjustment will increase funding for the replacement of aging water mains. More than half of the Village's 42 miles of water main was installed over 70 years ago.

New Village rate: \$7.34 per 100 cu. ft.
Previous Village rate: \$6.99 per 100 cu. ft.

Most residents are billed quarterly for water and will not see the full impact of the rate increase on their bill until August, September or October.

Monitor Your Water Usage

Residents occasionally contact the Village due to unusually high water bills. The high bill is often due to leaking pipes, dripping faucets, or running toilets. A running toilet can waste up to 1,000 gallons of water a day and dripping faucets can also result in a large amount of lost water. Please frequently check your pipes, faucets and toilets for leaking or running water. Also, many water meters have a “low flow indicator,” which is a small dial on your meter that turns when water is moving through the meter. This dial should not be moving when water is not being used in your residence. Be proactive – monitor your water usage frequently to save yourself time and money and help conserve a valuable resource.

Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of December, January and February:

- Denied Zoning Application No. 2015-06 requesting a variation from Table 7-2 of the Zoning Code to increase the maximum permissible building coverage to 32.8% for 1430 Deerpath Lane.
- Denied Zoning Application No. 2015-06 requesting a variation from Table 7-2 of the Zoning Code to increase the maximum permissible impervious surface coverage to 59.3% for 1430 Deerpath Lane.
- Authorized expenditures for Motorola Radio Equipment for the Lyons Township Area Communications Center at a cost not to exceed \$76,300.
- Approved the purchase of two (2) Zoll Medical, X Series cardiac monitors/defibrillators in the amount of \$63,312.39 from Zoll Medical Corporation.
- Approved a two year contract extension with Landscape Concepts Management for lawn maintenance, flower bed maintenance and lawn maintenance at the Water Plant in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 annually.
- Adopted an Ordinance Authorizing and granting a Franchise to Nicor Gas Company its Successors and Assigns, to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Natural Gas Distributing System in and through the Village of La Grange Park.
- Approved an Open Purchase Order with Central Salt LLC, not to exceed a total amount of \$80,013.
- Approved an Ordinance Designating Village Depository and Financial Institutions and Authorized Signers.
- Approved the purchase of one 2016 Ford Utility Police Interceptor AWD vehicle through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Program from Joe Rizza Ford in a not to exceed amount of \$30,000.
- Executed an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and Riverside-Brookfield Township High School District 208 Regarding Reciprocal Reporting.
- Proclamation – Honoring the 100th Birthday of Harry Johnson

Chamber Update

Join the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce for a Night at the Races at Hawthorne Race Track on Friday, June 3rd. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and include a two hour dinner buffet, race program, and chance to win a ride in the lead car at the beginning of the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce Race. Tickets are \$35 per person and proceeds benefit the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce. Buy your tickets today by visiting: www.lagrangeparkchamber.org.



Community Park District Update

Special Event at the Community Park District – Run for the Roses 5K Run/Walk

25 Year Anniversary! 5 K Run/Walk

Saturday, May 14, 2016

5K Race starts at 8:00 am

Kid Fun Run starts at conclusion of 5K



The Community Park District of La Grange Park and SEASPAR are pleased to be sponsoring this year's 25th Anniversary of the "Run for the Roses" on Saturday, May 14, 2016. SEASPAR is celebrating their 40th year in special recreation! For more information and to register, visit the www.communityparkdistrict.org.

New On-line Registration

Online registration is here! The new registration software, Community Pass, will be live by the time you read this. Hopefully, this will make the registration process more convenient and streamlined. Participants will not only be able to register for programs, but will be able to look at family schedules, reprint receipts, pay balances and more! There will also be offering auto billing for Ready Teddy Preschool. Please see pages 4-5 of our new summer brochure for complete instructions on how to register!

Music Under the Stars Concert Series Schedule

Music Under the Stars is a series of weekly concerts that take place during the summer. Concerts are held outdoors at the Memorial Park Amphitheater, the corner of Woodlawn and LaGrange Rd. Concerts are held on Wednesday nights, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be moved to Park Jr. High, 333 N. Park Road, La Grange Park. Call the rain-out hotline for updates on concert locations: 708-354-4580 x300.

June 22 - The Neverly Brothers, Sponsored by Plymouth Place

June 29 - West Suburban Concert Band

July 6 - The Sting Rays, Sponsored by Paul's Pizza

July 13 - DuPage Band, Sponsored by Hitzeman Funeral Home

July 20 - She Gees, Sponsored by Ready Teddy Preschool

July 27 - Shout Out

August 3 - The Class of "68"

August 10 - Lisa Renee, Sponsored by MB Financial Bank

August 17 - Island Night! 6-11 pm! Beer, Wine, Food, and 3 Bands: ALT 101, Johnny Burgin (Rockin Johnny), & Peach's Beach Party; Sponsored by Dr. James Discipio, DDS & First National Bank of Brookfield



Library Update



New Discussion Groups at the La Grange Park Public Library

The Library debuted two new discussion groups in their most recent newsletter. The first, Saturday Night Readers, is for ages 16-adult. The inaugural meeting on April 9 discussed I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson, a young adult novel about twins Jude and Noah and the course of their relationship. Saturday Night Readers meets quarterly at the Library after hours from 7-8:30 pm. Stay tuned for the next title and date in the summer Rose Clippings.

If you're interested in your family's history, the Genealogy Group is for you. Meeting every third Monday of the month at 1 pm, new and experienced genealogists discuss research tips and tricks and learn about resources available through the Library.

For those that are already fans of the Friday Film Discussion Group, Books Alive! Book Discussion Group, and the Cookbook Club don't worry, they aren't going anywhere. If you're new to any of these groups and have questions, call the Library at 352-0100, email info@lplib.org or pick up the newsletter at the Library or online at lplib.org.

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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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 jcedillo@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.

VILLAGE HOLIDAYS

The Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day

Monday, July 4 - Independence Day

The Police and Fire Department will remain open