

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Summer 2010

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

President's Corner



Summertime is here and La Grange Park families are making the most of the lovely weather. It is the time to catch up with our neighbors, watch our kids play, and create lasting memories through backyard adventures. It is truly a time to slow down a bit and enjoy all that life has to offer. In La Grange Park, this summer, there is much to offer our residents – the Farmer's Market on Tuesdays, the Music Under the Stars on Wednesday evenings at Memorial Park, as well as our Community Park District's first ever Jazz and Blues Festival on July 24th. It is sure to be a fun filled summer for our families. Our Village also offers so much in terms of quality services. We have outstanding and proactive Police and Fire Departments working hard to make our community safe, diligent Public Works employees working to make our community beautiful and an Administrative staff ensuring that public needs are met and that we are fiscally responsible in doing so.

In mid April, I had the opportunity to give the Village's first ever State of the Village Address. It is important that our community is involved in its government - and in light of the current financial climate, it was imperative that residents know what we were faced with as a Board. Feedback was such that the address was well received. I believe that our residents understood that cuts had to be made in order to balance the budget – because our families have been faced with the same challenges – and have had to make difficult financial decisions as a result of the recession.

As is the case for many municipalities, our revenues are down significantly and pension costs continue to rise. As a result, on April 27, our Village Board adopted its 2010-11 Budget focusing on "core" services and activities. This meant that we had to align what services citizens expect with what we can afford as we continue to keep our community safe and maintain our Village's infrastructure.

Total revenues in all funds are projected to be \$11,587,140 and total expenditures are projected to be \$10,967,721. Expenditures have been reduced by 9.4% from the previous budget. As the fiscal year progresses, the

Village will remain vigilant and flexible to respond to circumstances beyond the Village's control. These circumstances could include continued weakness in the general economy and/or impacts from the State of Illinois as it works to address its financial issues.

REVENUES

Property Taxes – The Village anticipates property tax revenue of \$2,950,000 in 10-11. This represents a 1.7% decrease from the 09-10 property tax revenues.

Other General Revenues – Revenues in the General Fund are expected to be slightly less than last year's budgeted revenues. The Village expects that sales tax, state income tax, and revenues from permits and licenses will decline slightly. Revenues derived from telecommunications and cable services are expected to increase while utility taxes are expected to decline from the previous year.

Water and Sewer Charges – Water sales revenues are anticipated to remain constant in 10-11. Other than passing along rate increases imposed by the North Riverside Water Commission which provides our water, no other water or sewer rate increases are being considered at this time.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

For the most part, major capital projects such as road resurfacing have been postponed until we are financially capable of moving forward. Only the replacement of small equipment is proposed. Also for this year, the Village did not fund the Tree Replacement Program. The Village continues to hold a reserve balance for work to be completed at the Public Works facility at Barnsdale Road. The facility is long overdue for certain structural and infrastructure improvements. We will continue to evaluate the enormity of the needs against any available federal or state grants in considering what improvements will be made.

Miscellaneous Programs and Services

The Village took a close look at a number of programs and services it provides and made some tough decisions for the coming year. The following non-core service expense reductions are included in the current budget: the elimination of the Fall Festival, the Rose Show, the Adopt-A-Cop Summer Camp, and National Night Out. Also, for the current budget, the Village will not fund the Building/Fire Department summer intern position and certain training and equipment within the Fire Department.

None of the budgetary decisions were easy – they were all tough. And they were decisions that were made to ensure the financial stability of our community now and for years to come. And although we are challenged by the recent recession, the Village is in a better position because we were quick to respond to the changing financial environment by making adjustments in spending wherever possible. For example, the Village reduced staffing where possible through attrition. In the Public Works Department, one position remains unfilled, and today we have two fewer positions in that department than we did five years ago. In the Police Department, we have two vacancies which will go unfilled. In examining the functions of these departments, we are confident we can make these decisions without affecting vital service levels. Finally, the Village has been able to avoid staff layoffs. We run a lean organization and it is comforting to know that hard working folks will remain with us and that customer service to our residents will remain strong as ever.

Again, I would like to thank everyone on our staff. We are blessed to have such wonderful, caring professionals who ensure that our quality of life in La Grange Park continues to be the best ever. Thank you for putting your trust in me and the Board. Have a great summer, and again, I am always available to you. Jim



President James J. Discipio



La Grange Park Named Tree City USA

La Grange Park has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to its community forest. It is the twenty-third consecutive year La Grange Park has received this national recognition. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. La Grange Park meets the four standards to become a Tree City USA: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.



TREE CITY USA

Resident Purchase Parkway Tree Program

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.

Brush Collection Continues

As a reminder, the Village brush program continues through the summer months. Public Works crews pick up tree branches and brush debris during the first full week of each month. *When the week begins with a holiday, pickup will begin on the Tuesday of that week.* Branches should be stacked in neat piles on the parkway with stem ends pointed toward the curb.

Remember:

- Brush may be placed on the parkway in front of your house address between Friday and Monday prior to brush pickup week.
- Brush must be stacked no more than 4-feet high, and should be stacked neatly on the parkway with the cut end facing the curb.
- Please keep brush away from trees and signs in the parkway.
- If parkways are narrow, brush should be piled parallel to the curb so it does not obstruct the sidewalk.
- Brush must be no more than 6-feet in length and 4-inches in diameter.
- Logs should be cut into small, manageable pieces.
- Stumps, root balls, and limbs should be removed from trees or bushes.
- All wire, tape, rope, or other inorganic materials should be removed from the brush.

For additional information, please call Village Hall at 708-354-0225.



Arbor Day 2010

Recipient Margaret "Marge" Ogden with friends & family



This year the Village commemorated Arbor Day by holding a special ceremony at the Oak Street Playground at Memorial Park. The Village celebrated by planting a tree in honor of Margaret "Marge" Ogden who was recognized for her many contributions to the community. An oak tree was planted in the parkway on Oak Street, in front of the Memorial Park playground. Marge was nominated for the Arbor Day Tree Planting by her neighbor, Marilyn Strojny for her many years of volunteer work at the Library. Marge has been a resident in La Grange

Park for over 60 years and has been a volunteer at the Library since it opened. She has also been a great neighbor to many on Robinhood Lane. Friends, family and colleagues from the Library attended the ceremony. In the coming weeks, an honorary plaque will be placed next to the oak tree commemorating Marge's contributions to La Grange Park. The Arbor Day Tree Program is an annual event in which the Village publicly honors a La Grange Park resident or group with the planting of a tree in a public space throughout the Village.

Brownie Troop 140 Beautifies La Grange Park



The Brownie Troop from Ogden School made La Grange Park a little more beautiful by planting flowers at Village Hall. On May 20th, nearly 20 Troop 140 volunteers planted marigolds and zinnias at the flagpole and in the flower beds at the entrance of the building. On your next trip to Village Hall, please take notice of the colorful plantings.

Community Planters on Display



During the summer months, please enjoy the beautifully painted planters at Memorial Park and at Village Hall. Midwest Wild Finders, a newly formed not-for-profit whose mission is to educate children in our village about the environment and the great outdoors, recently worked with students from Brook Park, Barnsdale Road and Forest Road schools to paint nearly twenty planters for display. With a generous donation of flowers and soil from Home Depot and volunteer help from the community, students were able to fill the decorative planters while learning a bit about gardening – all the while beautifying our Village. Please contact midwestwildfinders@comcast.net with any questions.

Sprinkler Regulations Reminder

Residents are reminded that the Village of La Grange Park has regulations that are in effect from May 15th to September 15th of each year.

- All residences bearing an odd-numbered street address may use water for sprinkling lawns on days having an odd-numbered calendar date.
- All residences bearing an even-numbered street address may use water for sprinkling lawns on days having an even-numbered calendar date.
- The Village may impose stricter restrictions to conserve water usage in the event of prolonged hot and dry weather, or due to conditions that impact our ability to maintain adequate water pressure and supply.



Celebrate Summer at Farmers Market

What better way to celebrate summer than with fresh produce from the La Grange Park Farmers Market! Sponsored by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Farmer's Market is in La Grange Park every Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the corner of Woodlawn and Sherwood (lower level Village Market). This year's market will feature several vendors selling a variety of items. Take advantage of the local market variety while improving upon the freshness, taste and nutritional value of fruits and vegetables. For additional information about the Farmer's Market, please contact the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce & Industry at 708-352-0494.

Water Conservation Tips for the Summertime!

Run dishwashers and washing machines with a full load only (unless reduced fill settings are available).

Don't leave water running when shaving, brushing teeth, washing hair, or washing dishes.

Take shorter showers. Turn down the faucets and try a low-flow showerhead. A typical five minute shower can use over 40 gallons of water. A shower of seven minutes or longer can consume more water than a bath.

When washing a car, rinse it once. Use a bucket of soapy water to wash it, and then rinse it once more quickly. Taking a car to a car wash may save water because many commercial services recycle their water.

A typical toilet leak can waste thousands of gallons of water each year. A small drip from a leaking faucet can waste 70 gallons of water each day. Replace worn washers.

Insulate hot water pipes between the heater and the faucets to reduce the amount of water that must be run to get hot water. One inch of rain or watering over a 7-10 day period is sufficient to maintain a healthy lawn. Watering daily promotes weak, shallow rooted grass.

Grass turning brown during dry conditions has become dormant and will revive after normal rainfall. Reset automatic irrigation systems to irrigate first thing in the morning or in late evening to avoid evaporation loss.

Avoid sprinklers that produce a fine mist. Too much water is lost to the wind and to evaporation. Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of washing them.



Jazz & Blues Festival! - July 24th



The Community Park District of La Grange Park announces the first ever Jazz & Blues Festival on Saturday, July 24th from 5 – 10 p.m. at Memorial Park.

This Year's Entertainment:

- Harry Garner Band
- Jim Gary
- *And headliners...* The Rhythm Rockets

Entertainment brought to you by the La Grange Park Business Association, First National Bank of Brookfield and Bluder's Tree Service.

Bring the Whole Family... and Your Neighbors!

- Souvenirs
- Food Vendors
- Beer and Wine
- No admission fee!

Come early and enter the Best Windy City Hot Dog's hot dog eating contest, held in the Village Market parking lot.

Hot Dog Eating Contest

Mark your calendars for the Hot Dog Eating Contest at Village Market. On July 24th, contestants in three age groups will compete for cash prizes! Contestant divisions include: Little Doggies (12 yrs and under), The Big Dogs (17 yrs and under), and The Elite (18 yrs and older). All contestants under 18 must have parental consent. Get your appetites ready or just come out to watch the fun. Afterwards, dance it off at the first annual Jazz and Blues Festival at Memorial Park. For more information about the Hot Dog Contest, call 708-482-DOGS.



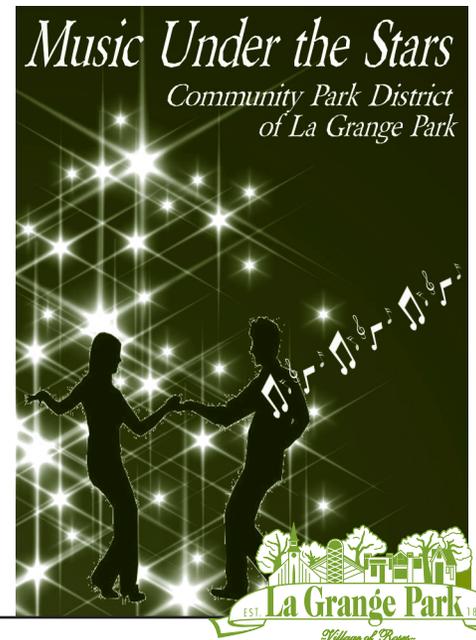
Music Under the Stars Concert Series 2010

Wednesday Evenings 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Memorial Park Amphitheater, Woodlawn and La Grange Road

(Rain site is Park Junior High School, 333 N. Park Road, La Grange Park)

The Community Park District, with the help of local business sponsors is proud to bring the Music Under the Stars program every Wednesday evening through August 18th. It is an all-new line-up for 2010! Bring your family and friends and have an evening under the stars right here in town. All concerts take place at Memorial Park Amphitheater, located at Woodlawn and La Grange Road. *IF WALKING FROM WEST OF LA GRANGE ROAD, PLEASE USE THE CROSS WALK AT HOMESTEAD ROAD. BE SAFE.*

DATE	GROUP	STYLE
July 7	Guittarra Azul	Reggae
July 14	White Saddle Band	Country
July 21	Proviso Idol	Singing Contest
July 28	Bagshot Row	50's Rock
August 4	Karen Hart Band Classic	Rock/Contemporary
August 11	Lisa Rene	80's Rock
August 18	Parrot Head Express	Beach Party Music





Proviso Idol

Through the Community Park District, La Grange Park is the setting for the Proviso Township Idol Contest. Residents are encouraged to come out and support the local talent! The Finalists will perform on Wednesday, July 21 at the Memorial Park Amphitheater in La Grange Park. Each contestant will perform by singing for three minutes in front of a live audience. There are five age categories: 5-7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years and 18-21 years. Cash prizes will be awarded: \$150 for 3rd, \$400 for 2nd and \$700 for first place! Don't miss the fun! Singers representing twelve Proviso Township communities are competing. Come out and show your La Grange Park spirit!

Summer Pool Safety

Please take a moment to remind your family of the following basic water safety measures:

- Always supervise children near the water.
- Make sure gates, decks, and ladders are secured to prevent young children from accessing the pool.
- Keep furniture that children may climb on away from the pool.
- Keep toys that attract children out and away from the pool when not in use.
- Temporary pools over 24" require a four foot fence or other barrier installed to protect entry to your pool.
- Keep electrical appliances away from pools and sprinklers.
- Should you have any questions about Village Codes related to pool and/or water safety, please contact the La Grange Park Building Department at 708-354-0225.



Free Mulch

Free delivery of high quality mulch for landscaping will be available to La Grange Park residents by calling the Public Works Department at 352-2922 (a message can be left anytime). When making an order, please be ready to provide your address, how much mulch you would like (a truck load is 3 cubic yards), where you would like it placed (most residents have it placed on their driveway next to the garage), and the day you would like it delivered. The department will only deliver full or half truck loads.

Vehicle Stickers Due July 31

La Grange Park vehicle stickers and dog licenses must be purchased and displayed prior to midnight on July 31, 2010. Renewal applications were mailed to each home in early June. To renew your license, please correct any incorrect pre-printed information on your renewal application and return it with payment to the Village Hall for processing. If you have not received a renewal application, blank forms are available at the Village Hall. Vehicle stickers may be purchased at the Administration desk Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or after hours at the Police Desk. You may also mail your renewal application and payment to the Village of La Grange Park, 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, Illinois 60526.

Vehicle Stickers are \$30.00 per year, \$15.00 per year for seniors who are 65 years of age prior to July 1, 2011. Seniors are limited to one senior rate per household. Licenses purchased after midnight July 31, 2010 are assessed delinquent penalties. Vehicles not properly licensed are in violation of Village Code and may be ticketed by police. Fines are \$50.00 per offense.

LaGrange Park Youth Commission Visits Fox News Chicago

On June 18th, the Village of La Grange Park Youth Commission took a summer field trip to Fox News Chicago to view a live taping of "Good Day Chicago!" The Commission members learned first hand what it takes to bring a daily news show to the small screen. Immediately following the taping, the Youth Commission engaged in a question and answer session with Roy Santoro, Producer of the show.



(L to R): Jack Roache, Grace Flaherty, Grant Lundahl, Mitchell Serafin, and Julia Cedillo with anchors Dave Navarro and Jan Jeffcoat of Good Day Chicago.

Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of March, April and May:

- Resolution Accepting Proposal/Contracts for Lawn Mowing and Flower Bed Landscape Maintenance
- Resolution Accepting Proposal/Contracts for Tree Removal, Stump Removal, General Tree Maintenance and Emergency Tree Work
- Ordinance Authorizing the Sale by Public Auction of Personal Property Owned by the Village of La Grange Park
- IDOT Obligation Retirement Resolution (Motor Fuel Tax)
- Ordinance Amending Chapter 51, Section 51.43 of the Village of La Grange Park Municipal Code Establishing Water Rates
- Resolution Approving FY 2009-2010 Operating Budget
- Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Records of Closed Meetings
- Various Board Appointments & Re-appointments
- Authorized Execution of a Contract between the Village of La Grange Park and Cagwood Consulting (lobbying services)
- Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property
- Resolution Authorizing Execution of Homestead Paving (Chicagoland)
- Resolution Approving FY 2009-2010 Operating Budget Amendments
- Approval of Five Year Plan FY 2010/11 – 2014/15
- Resolution Approving FY 2010-2011 COLA and Pay Plan
- Resolution Approving FY 2010-2011 Operating Budget
- Proclamation – Olympic Day June 23, 2010
- Ordinance Granting a Variation at 1414 Scotdale Road (Public Hearing No. 2010-01)
- Authorized Execution of an Electricity Supply Contract



Cool Village Commission

Earlier this year, the Village's newest commission began its work in the research and development in its recommendations on sustainable practices for our Village. Comprised of seven members, the Cool Village Commission is an advisory board that is developing a Sustainability Plan that will lead to a reduction of the Village's carbon footprint while promoting water conservation and the improvement of air, climate and water quality. So far this year, the commission has begun the process for a baseline carbon emissions inventory and is looking at ways the Village and its residents can contribute towards a healthier environment. The group meets once a month at Village Hall and the public is welcomed to attend.

Residential Waste Collection Survey

The Village's current program expires in early 2011. The Village would like feedback about the utilization of the program in an effort to determine what, if any changes to the program should be made.

1. How many people are in your household? _____
2. The head of my household is a senior (65 years or older). Yes No
3. How many stickers do you typically use for garbage pickup each week? Less than one One Two More than two
4. If you use less than one sticker for garbage each week, how many stickers do you use for garbage each month?
 Less than one One Two More than two
5. I rent a Roll-out Cart from Allied Waste for garbage disposal. Yes No
6. How many stickers do you use for yard waste disposal per year?
 None Less than ten 10-20 20-30 More than 30
7. How many recycling bins do you put out for collection each week? None One Two More than two
10. I understand the program requirements for approved containers (*maximum capacity, weight, handles, etc.*). Yes No
11. I understand the requirements for disposing of bulk items (*furniture, large electronics, etc.*) Yes No

Please send or drop off responses to: Waste Survey, 447 N. Catherine Ave., La Grange Park, IL 60526 or email jcedillo@lagrangepark.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 Excerpts:

Nominating: Carla Thorpe

She brings my newspaper to my home. She shovels my snow in the winter. She brings me money from the bank. She visits me when I'm in the hospital. I've been there 3 times recently. Sometimes we get a chance to talk. I'm a veteran of the 2nd World War and mostly at home. I don't drive anymore. – **Frank Boker**

Nominating: Ken & Mary

Ken takes my garbage up to the front for me on "pick-up" day. He cleared the snow from my drive & front steps all winter & has helped me with many other things. His whole family is kind and friendly, and so are all the other neighbors on my block. – **Muriel Cooper**

Nominating: Paul & Linda Boburka, Pat & Sue Payne, & Richard Lombardi

My neighbors have all been so kind and helpful since my husband died last year and I've been in the hospital a few times since. They have cleared snow from my driveway and paths, helped with outside Christmas

lights, trimmed outside bushes this spring, and put my newspapers next to my door. It's really appreciated, I'm so lucky to have such great neighbors. Thank you all.

– **Mrs. Iris Harding**

Nominating: Marilyn Strojny & Kerry Kennedy

I would like to nominate my neighbors, Marilyn Strojny and Kerry Kennedy. Marilyn checks up on me periodically and brings me flowers, and Kerry sees that my garbage can and recycle bins are put out, and brings them back and helps me in lots of other ways. Also I have to put a lot of thanks into Interfaith Community Partners Volunteers who take me to doctor appointments, to the hardware store and grocery shopping. I couldn't stay in my house if I didn't have them to depend on. They are all so helpful, compassionate, and kind. If they don't hear from me, they will call me to see if I'm okay or need any help. They could use a lot more volunteers. I know I've gone on too long, but this Village has such wonderful people in it, that's why I stay here. – **Margaret A. Ogden**

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? _____



