

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Winter 2010

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park



President's Corner

As I prepared to turn the calendar page over one last time for 2010, I found myself reflecting back on all the challenges as well as the opportunities that we faced as a community. I am reassured by my strong conviction that together as a community, we can accomplish good things and create a vision of a future beyond progress - to achievement.

2010 marked a year of progress for La Grange Park. Several of the Villages' projects moved ever closer to completion. Over the last two years, the Village has been hard at work in the rewriting of its zoning code. In August the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) forwarded its recommendations to the Village Board. In December, the Village Board reviewed the recommendations and the final form will go before the Village Board this January for approval. The Village appreciates all of the assistance from residents, staff, and the ZBA in achieving this long-term goal.

The Village is moving closer to implementing a solution to address the structural deficiencies of the Public Works building. In recent months, the Village Board decided to pursue partial new construction of the administrative, support and vehicle storage portions of the facility. This direction is contingent upon the processing of state and federal grant funds to help pay for construction costs. The Village is hopeful that 2011 will be the year when our vision of a new, sustainable and affordable building becomes a reality.

Another project the Village is working on is the development of Sewer Alternative Recommendations, in response to the flooding issues that resulted from the heavy storm in July. The Village Engineer recently evaluated and presented a variety of options to address the impacts of the flooding at

the December 14th Board Meeting. The report has now been sent to the Engineering & Capital Projects Committee, where each of the options will be examined in detail to determine which are the most viable and cost effective improvements. That Committee will come back to the Village Board in the Spring of 2011 with its recommendations for implementation. The Village looks forward to its continued partnership with residents in understanding the issues related to flooding as well as in identifying potential strategies for implementation. The Engineering & Capital Projects Committee meetings will be posted on the Village's website; we welcome residents affected by the flooding to be a part of this process.

While 2010 was the year of progress, I believe that 2011 is the year of vision – the year where we realize and celebrate the accomplishment of our past goals and strive to create a vision of where we go and what we will do next. The Village will invite the input from the community so that we all remain steadfast in identifying what needs improvement and what we see as future goals. The Village Board will use strategic planning to guide this process and more information will be forthcoming to the community.

I would like to make special mention to our residents that La Grange Park was recently named by Forbes as among America's 20 Most Stable Housing Markets (see page 2). This is exciting news and speaks to the quality of life in our community. This national recognition is something to be celebrated and embraced as we set our sights on the future of La Grange Park.

I wish you a very Happy New Year. Please feel free to contact me anytime. I am here to serve you in keeping our community a Village of which we can all be proud. Thank you!
Jim



President James J. Discipio



La Grange Park Among America's 20 Most Stable Housing Markets!

The Village recently learned that La Grange Park was listed among Forbes.com most stable housing markets in the country. The Forbes article states that while home prices have declined by 2% in the third quarter nationally, there are bright spots scattered across the country – and our community is one of them! In Forbes search of America's most stable housing markets, they turned to online real estate marketplace Zillow.com, which has compiled information on 93 million homes nationwide. Zillow looked at the largest metro areas and focused on identifying a city in each where home values had appreciated for at least three straight quarters, the rate of home sales was healthy and foreclosure rates were lower than in the metro area.

Students Receive Youth Service Medal of Honor

President Discipio and Police Chief Dan McCollum recognized the achievement of two local students who received the Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor at a special ceremony held in Chicago. The students who received the award are: Abigail Geis and Matthew Serafin. This award is given to Cook County high school students who have volunteered 100 or more hours of service to their community. This year, 310 collectively volunteered over 31,000 hours of service to hospitals, churches, schools, senior citizen centers and community organizations.



President Jams Discipio, Matthew Serafin, Police Chief Dan McCollum and Abigale Geis.

Holiday in the Park Event

The La Grange Park Business Association hosted its annual Holiday in the Park event on Saturday, December 11th at the Park District Recreation Center. Santa arrived by a La Grange Park fire truck at 1:30 p.m. and expectant children were not disappointed. He was available for photos all afternoon and of course he took the many Christmas wishes back to the North Pole when he departed. As always, there was lots of fun with holiday crafts, cookie decorating and games. Music was supplied by Brook Park Elementary School Band, St. Louise de Marillac School Carolers, and the Riverside Brookfield High School Jazz Band. Many folks braved the cold to enjoy the petting zoo and then warmed up by the bonfire. All who attended seemed to have a great time visiting with neighbors and friends – as always a great way to begin the Holiday Season!



Photos compliments of Ann Wiegand

Village News Delivered to Your Computer

Sign up now to be included on the Village Email Notification List

In our continuing efforts to enhance communication with residents, the Village of La Grange Park has been successfully using a communication tool called Community E-Briefs for the past several years. Community E-Briefs are emails that contain information that might be useful for La Grange Park residents, business owners, and institutions, such as news, notices about meetings, or construction and announcements of events both local and in surrounding communities. Very soon the Community E-Briefs will have a new look. La Grange Park will be moving its electronic newsletter to Constant Contact format. To sign up to receive Community E-Briefs, please send your name and email address to abagley@lagrangepark.org.



La Grange Park Property Tax Summary

Each year, we include summaries of property tax information in the winter edition of the "Rose Clippings." We hope you find this information helpful in interpreting the true value and purchase power of the property taxes you pay.

As you can see in the charts below, the Village's share of your total property tax bill is 10.7% or 8.6%, depending on the school district. The Village continues to try to provide outstanding value for your money by keeping streets and public areas neat and well-maintained, providing police and fire protection, providing

reliable water and sewer service, protecting the residential and commercial structures of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

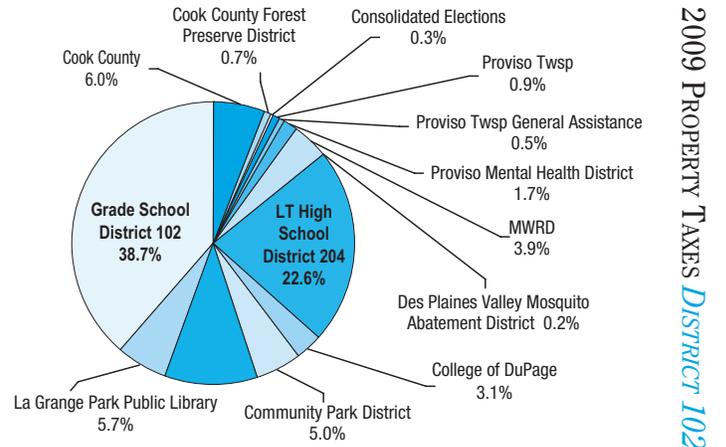
As the charts below illustrate, the majority of your property tax bill, approximately 61-69% supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, the three remaining local institutions – the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, comprise a combined total of approximately 20% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy

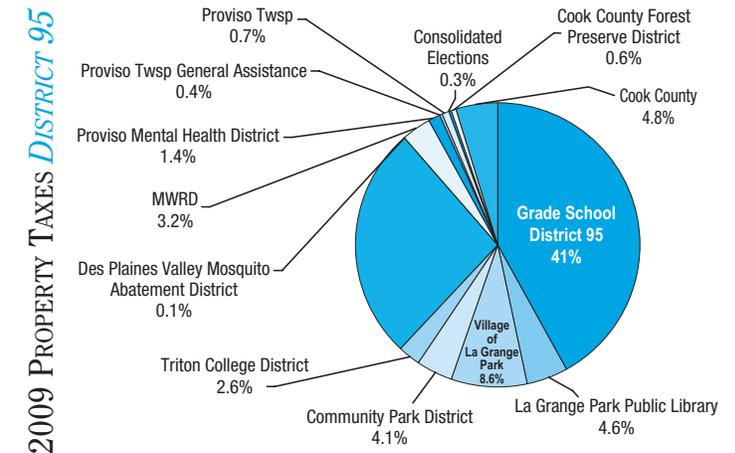
The 2009 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) was 6.608 for properties in School District 102 and 8.195 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the chart below for the tax rates over time.

	Total Property Tax Rates in School District 102	Total Property Tax Rates in School District 95
2000 Tax Year	9.637	9.602
2001 Tax Year	9.621	9.555
2002 Tax Year	7.772	7.608
2003 Tax Year	7.982	7.985
2004 Tax Year	8.059	8.067
2005 Tax Year	7.122	7.482
2006 Tax Year	7.311	8.105
2007 Tax Year	7.105	8.038
2008 Tax Year	6.712	8.160
2009 Tax Year	6.608	8.195

While we will not know the total 2010 property tax rate until late next summer, the Village of La Grange Park approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2010 Village tax levy (collected in 2011), which is our portion of the total real estate tax. Tax caps will scale back the initial levy request and we estimate the actual real estate tax extension to be \$3,124,000. This is a 3.4% increase over the 2009 extension.



2009 PROPERTY TAXES DISTRICT 102



2009 PROPERTY TAXES DISTRICT 95

How Your Property Tax Bill Is Calculated

We all get that tax bill in the mail twice a year and after reading the article above we have a better understanding of where all the money goes, but do you know how your tax bill is calculated in the first place?

To determine how much your property tax bill will be, you first need to know the assessed value of your home. In Cook County, residential property is assessed at 16% of its fair market value. But then the Illinois Department of Revenue applies an *equalization factor* to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2009 tax year was 3.3701. So, if you own a home worth \$350,000, then the assessed value will be

[350,000 x .16 x 3.3701], or \$188,725.60. This assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property's particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2009 tax rates as listed above, a property with an assessed value of \$188,725.60 paid the following amounts in 2010 for the 2009 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102 \$188,725.60 x .06608 = \$12,470.99
 District 95 \$188,725.60 x .08195 = \$15,466.062

The total taxes paid are then split between the taxing bodies in the percentages as illustrated in the above pie charts. In this scenario, the Village of La Grange Park would receive \$1,330.08 of the total tax bill from the property in District 95 highlighted above.



Snow Blowing Reminders

The Village offers the following reminders for managing the snow:

- Do not blow snow into the street. Instead, blow onto your parkway or yard.
- Keep hydrants visible and clear of snow piles.
- Keep the area in front of your mailboxes as clear of snow as possible.
- Keep your sidewalk/walkway clear of snow.

La Grange Park Gets Two Ice Rinks

The Community Park District of La Grange Park and the La Grange Park Fire Department will provide two ice rinks this year. Memorial Park, 945 Oak Avenue, will offer a 115 x 55' rink primarily for hockey play. The rink will be located on the roller-hockey court in the North West corner of the park. Plans are being made to offer the near-by park building as a warming house and snack bar.

New for 2011 is a second 60' x 40' ice rink which will be located in Hanseworth Park, 1501 Barnsdale Road, immediately east of the Recreation Center. This smaller rink will be reserved for open skating.

Both rinks have lights to enable use until 10:00 p.m. every evening. The rinks will open for use after consecutive days of having outside temperatures in the teens. A red flag visible from the street will be flown at the rink when the rinks are closed and a green flag will be flown when open for skating. Rules for using the rink are posted on-site.

The rinks are being made available with cooperation between the Community Park District and the La Grange Park Fire Department. The Park District has purchased the supplies needed for construction of the rinks while the Fire Department will be primarily responsible for ongoing ice grooming.



Winter is Here *some safety reminders*

Now that we are in the midst of winter snow season, we at the Village would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the winter driving/parking rules in La Grange Park. We plow the streets when we expect snowfall to exceed two inches (2"). Salting will be performed during plowing operations on a limited, as needed basis.

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

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

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

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

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

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



H.E.L.P. Program (Helping Everyone in La Grange Park)



Become a H.E.L.P. Volunteer and make a difference in your neighborhood!

H.E.L.P., or Helping Everyone in La Grange Park, is a Village program that matches community volunteers with residents in need of assistance. The program began several years ago as a way to provide aid to the many elderly residents who call the Village each year needing help with basic indoor or outdoor household chores. When someone calls who needs help with tasks, like mowing, snow removal, brush clearing, etc., we are able to send them the list of individuals who have indicated a willingness to be contacted and have signed up for the H.E.L.P. program. The residents needing assistance contact the volunteers directly and oftentimes work out a nominal payment that will be given to the “volunteers” for their service.

To become a Volunteer for this wonderful community program, visit our website at www.lagrangepark.org and select Reports and Forms. The HELP form can be found there. This time of year it is especially critical for helping out the “senior” members of our community.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form if you would like to participate in the Village’s “HELP” program. Your name will be placed on a list and given to residents seeking help with outdoor maintenance. You are responsible for negotiating the time/date of service, fees (if any), and for securing the equipment and/or tools necessary to do the work.

TODAY’S DATE: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

Are you age 18 or over? Yes No

If you answered “No,” how old are you? _____

What types of work are you interested in doing? (Check all that apply.)

- Shoveling snow or snow blowing
- Mowing lawns
- Weeding
- Raking leaves
- Trimming shrubs/bushes
- Painting
- Other: _____

Please sign below. If you are under age 18, please have your parent or guardian sign as well.

“I understand that I am registering for a voluntary program. With my signature below I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Village of La Grange Park and its employees, officers, and appointed officials for any injury or damages which may arise as a result of my participation in the HELP program. I understand that I am responsible for providing my own tools and equipment and/or negotiating with the property owner to use theirs to undertake the work. I authorize the Village to give out my name and phone number to other Village residents interested in hiring me for the services noted above.”

Parent/Guardian’s Signature

HELPer’s Signature

Please return your completed registration form to the Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Avenue.
Questions? Call us at 708-354-0225.



Village Board Highlights

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

- Resolution Accepting Bid/Contract for 2010 Sewer Point Repairs & Catch Basin Repairs (Suburban General Construction, Inc.)
- Approve the Purchase of Eight (8) Sets of New Protective Gear
- Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 3-9, 2010
- Resolution Approving Proposal for the 2010 Leaf Disposal Program (Homer Industries)
- Authorized Staff to Purchase Two (2) Street Light Pole Sets from GEXPRO
- Motion to Concur with the Recommendation of the Finance Director Regarding the Tax Levy Estimate
- Resolution Requesting that Illinois Governor Pat Quinn Appeal the Determination Made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Cook County, Illinois Does Not Qualify for Federal Disaster Assistance Under the Public Assistance Program for the Flooding Disaster of July 23 and July 24, 2010
- Appointment to the Cool Village Commission
- Designated New IRMA Alternate
- Accepted Contract with Baxter & Woodman for Engineering Consulting Services for new Emergency Generator for Village Hall
- Proclamation making November the Rebecca "Becca" Mueller Month
- Ordinance Granting a Variation at 1136 Maple Avenue (Public Hearing No. 2010-04)
- Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Health Inspection Services Agreement with the County of Cook
- Motion to Approve the Annual Tax Levy Ordinance
- Ordinance Providing for Specific Reductions of the 2010 Property Tax Levy Pursuant to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
- Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004, or the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois
- Ordinance Providing for the Abatement of Certain Taxes Levied for the Payment of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006, or the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois
- Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Records
- Proclamation – National Drunk and Drugged (3D) Prevention Month December 2010
- Resolution Approving the 2011 Meeting Schedule

Spring Ahead... A Little Earlier This Year!

In keeping with the new trend, Daylight Savings Time will begin a little earlier this year than in years past. This year, Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 a.m. Remember to "spring" ahead your clocks at that time!

Community Park District of La Grange Park

For more information about Park District programs, please call the Community Park District directly at 708-354-4580.

Senior Club

Mondays, 1/17, 2/21, 3/28, 4/25 & 6/6

10:00am – 12:00pm

1501 Barnsdale Rd. Recreation Center

The Community Park District will be hosting a Senior Club. Different activities are planned each month.

Daddy Daughter Date Night

Friday, January 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Recreation Center

For a gala evening of fun. Guests 8 years and under accompanied by Dad will enjoy pizza and other light refreshments as they waltz the night away to music provided by a DJ.

\$32/couple and \$42/non-resident couples.

Casino Night

Friday, February 4

Las Vegas excitement at the Recreation Center! Table games, cash prizes, casino favors, drinks & snacks offer lots to do for everyone. All proceeds will benefit the Park District Scholarship Fund.

\$15/person includes drink tickets & playing chips.

Starved Rock Discover the Eagles Tour

Saturday, February 5

Bus departs Recreation Center 8:00am and returns 5:00pm. Trip includes motor coach transportation, trolley ride to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center and lunch.

\$50/person Registration deadline is Friday, January 21st.

Bloomin' Flowers & Zoo Outing

Tuesday March 22

Bus departs Recreation Center 7:45am returns 3:30pm

Trip includes stops at the Garfield & Lincoln Park Conservatories, Lincoln Park Zoo, lunch and motor coach transportation.

\$28.00/participant Registration Deadline is Tuesday March 8

Apple Holler Red Barn Theater

Tuesday, April 12

Bus departs Recreation Center 8:00am and returns 5:00pm. Trip includes stops at the O & H Bakery, Jelly Belly Factory, the play "Honeymooners on a Disoriented Express", lunch and motor coach transportation.

\$74/person Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 22

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 16th – 11:00am Sharp!

Children 8 years & under accompanied by an adult, should hop on down to Memorial Park to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt that is co-sponsored by Jewel-Osco. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to pass out chocolate eggs prior to the hunt.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Julia Cedillo

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La Grange Park, Illinois 60526

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: Interim 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 abagley@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*

Just a reminder that Village offices will be closed for the following holiday:

Monday, February 21 – President's Day