

# The Rose CLIPPINGS

Winter 2019

Est. 1892

*The Village of La Grange Park*

[www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org)



## President's Corner

As we leave 2018 behind us, I'd like to pause and reflect on the many accomplishments of the past year. One of the most significant accomplishments of 2018 was the completion of an important study on our water and sewer system infrastructure and fee levels, which resulted in an increase to the rate to support necessary maintenance. The Village understands that residents have been impacted by the new rate structure. The new rates came about after much deliberation and are absolutely necessary to meet the needs of our community right now and for tomorrow. We manage our very old and aging water system with excellence and need to do that into the future as this is our community's most critical infrastructure – the delivery of our potable water. More information on the comprehensive study may be found on the Village's website at [www.lagrangepark.org](http://www.lagrangepark.org).

This year, the Village also finished the third year of road improvements under the 2016 referenda bonds. The Village has now completed all streets originally identified for repaving with



the exception of Brewster, which is scheduled for 2019 after the Village of La Grange installs their new water main. In November, the Village Board approved the completion of a comprehensive pavement management plan. This study will assess the condition of all streets and alleys and provide recommendations related to ongoing maintenance to protect the investment in the newly paved streets and extend their useful life. The plan will also prioritize streets to be resurfaced now that all the streets identified in the bond referendum have been completed.

In 2018, the Village continued its focus on economic development, welcoming several new businesses including Crown Trophy and Dollar Tree. The Village's newest restaurant, Posto 31 also opened in 2018 and was the first recipient of funding through the 31st Street/Barndsdale TIF and Business Development District. In December, the Village Board approved a redevelopment agreement with the owners of 1201 Barnsdale (the former International Molding Company) for rehabilitation of the property and conversion into a self-storage facility. This will be the second project to receive funding through the 31st Street/Barndsdale TIF and Business Development District.

Looking ahead, in 2019 the Village will undertake the paving of an additional 12 blocks of roadway (a result of the prior years' roadwork coming in under budget). The Village will also begin work on a major water main replacement project. The water main located along La Grange Road south of 31st Street and along 31st Street from La Grange Road to Barnsdale will be replaced. The recent increase in water rates will support replacing these aged water mains and other mains in future years.

The Village's many accomplishments are due in large part to the support of our residents. As always, I encourage you to sign up for the Village's weekly email newsletter (E-Briefs), the Village's safety newsletter (Safety Briefs) and CodeRed (our emergency alert system). Please visit the Village website to keep informed of all the great things happening in our community. Thank you to all our residents who continue to make La Grange Park such a wonderful community to call home. I wish you and your families all the best in the year ahead and hope to see you around town. As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

*President James F. Discipio*



## LTACC Announces New Executive Director

The Lyons Township Area Communication Center (LTACC) Executive Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael O'Connor as Executive Director, effective December 3, 2018. Mr. O'Connor brings a wealth of public safety and emergency services experience to LTACC. He previously served as the Manager of the Support Services Division of the Libertyville Police Department. Mr. O'Connor currently serves as an adjunct instructor at the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. He holds numerous professional certifications and is actively involved with the Illinois Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Mr. O'Connor is originally from the southwestern suburbs of Chicago and began his career in public safety with the Village of Western Springs.



## Village Appoints New Director of Public Works



The Village recently appointed Rick Radde as the Village's new Director of Public Works. Mr. Radde previously served the Village of La Grange Park in the Public Works Department for over eighteen years as the Water Operator and as Interim Public Works Director in 2012. He was also a La Grange Park Paid-On-Call Firefighter for 13 years. Following his tenure in La Grange Park, Mr. Radde served the Village of Bensenville as the Utility Supervisor and then as the Assistant Director of Public Works. Most recently, he served the Village of Montgomery as the Director of Public Works. Mr. Radde received his Bachelor of Arts from Benedictine University and maintains his Class C Water Operator License and has a Class A CDL license. He is also an ISA Certified Arborist and completed his certification with the Illinois Public Service Institute. Welcome back Rick!

## Exciting Enhancements for La Grange Park Little League in 2019!



The La Grange Park Little League recently completed a major renovation of the Hanesworth North baseball field. Work began immediately after the last pitch of Fall Ball to replace the existing wood dugouts with new masonry dugouts, construct a masonry wall backstop, and to completely equip both dugouts with top of the line accessories. The project will make Hanesworth Park one of the premier baseball fields in the Western Suburbs.

The Hanesworth Park renovation, which was funded through generous grants received from the Chicago Cubs Diamond Project and the Little League International Grow the Game Project, was led by longtime LPLL Board member Ralph White. Coach White made La Grange Park history last summer when he and his 11U All Stars competed for the State championship in Freeport, IL.

The continued growth and success of the League is made possible through the efforts of our Volunteer members and Board of Directors, as well as the Community and Park District's continued support.

## Upcoming Events at the Community Park District

Please contact the Community Park District for more information on these events or visit [www.communityparkdistrict.org](http://www.communityparkdistrict.org). If you have any questions, please call (708) 354-4580.

**Madagascar Jr.** – Shows are January 11-13. Tickets on sale now.

**Alice in Wonderland Auditions** – January 26-28

**Ready Teddy Fall 2019 Registration** – February 11

**Daddy Daughter Date Night** – February 22

**Ready Teddy Open House & Science Fair** – March 20

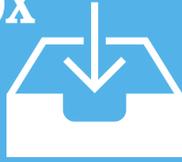
**Easter Egg Hunt** – April 13

*Summer Brochure will be mailed out the week of March 25*



# Important Local Safety News Delivered to Your Inbox

Please join our weekly Public Safety Briefs with information about various types of community alerts or safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. If interested, send an email to [sjohnson@lagrangepark.org](mailto:sjohnson@lagrangepark.org) to be placed on the list.



# Christmas Tree Disposal

Republic Services will pick up Christmas Trees (no artificial trees) on your regular garbage day during the month of January. All trees must be free of ornaments, garland, lights, tinsel, etc. Trees should be placed in the parkway next to your garbage with the trunk facing the street. No sticker is required. Wreaths, garland, and natural décor will not be picked up. Residents should contact Republic Services at (708) 345-7050 with any questions about tree pickup or holiday service.



# Village Property Tax Summary

The Village strives to deliver exceptional value for every tax dollar by providing excellent police and fire services, keeping streets and public areas well-maintained, protecting the residential and commercial buildings of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

The Village's portion of your 2017 total property tax bill (collected in 2018) is about 11% to 13%, depending on your school districts. The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 65% - 70% supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, three local institutions – the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, make up approximately 18% - 21% of your total tax bill.

## Total Tax Levy

The 2017 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which was payable in 2018, was 9.202 for properties in School District 102 and 10.880 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the included chart for the tax rate history.

	TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES IF YOU LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 102	TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES IF YOU LIVE IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 95
2008 Tax Year	6.712	8.160
2009 Tax Year	6.608	8.195
2010 Tax Year	6.663	8.226
2011 Tax Year	8.160	9.696
2012 Tax Year	9.076	10.714
2013 Tax Year	9.831	11.488
2014 Tax Year	9.814	11.901
2015 Tax Year	10.179	12.328
2016 Tax Year	10.778	12.403
2017 Tax Year	9.202	10.880

# How Your Property Tax Bill is Calculated

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 10% of its fair market value. The Illinois Department of Revenue calculates an equalization factor to apply to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2017 tax year was 2.9627. So, if you own a home valued at \$350,000, then the equalized assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 2.9627], or \$103,695. This equalized assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property's particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2017 tax rates as listed above, a property with an equalized assessed value of \$103,695 paid the following estimated amounts in 2018 for the 2017 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

<b>District 102</b>	<b>District 95</b>
$\$103,695 \times .09202 =$	$\$103,695 \times .10880 =$
<b>\$9,542</b>	<b>\$11,282</b>

*In both examples, the Village's portion of the tax bill would be approximately \$1,265.*

While we will not know the 2018 property tax rates until next summer, the Village Board approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2018 Village tax levy (collected in 2019). Tax cap laws limit the Village's 2018 operating levy to a 2.1% increase plus any new property value.

## Fire Department Retirement

The Village would like to congratulate Division Chief John Carpenter, who retired from the Fire Department this past December. John served the Village for 33 years, and for many of those years as a Paid-on-Call Division Chief, overseeing Public Education and supervising our Fire Prevention Division. During his tenure, he was a great asset to our organization and the Village overall, and it was with his help and assistance that we were able to accomplish many things. John remains in the fire service as a career (full-time) Battalion Chief with a Fire Department in a large northwestern suburb. We wish John the best of luck with his family and with his continued career, and thank him for his many years of dedication and contributions.

## Training Milestones for Fire Department Candidates

Last June, twelve new paid-on-call firefighter candidates were hired in the Fire Department. As part of meeting their initial training requirements, five of them attended the College of DuPage Fire Academy and graduated in December.

Five Candidates also attended the “Emergency Medical Technician – Basic” course at Triton College, and towards the end of December were just finishing up the program. Those five are Matthew Kerry, Benjamin Latham, Marissa McDermott, Charlie Porter and Patrick Reichel.

Although they still have a lot of training ahead of them, as do our other two new hires John Fowler and Antonio Garcia, we congratulate them all on their hiring and on these great accomplishments thus far.



*Stephen Mikulecky, Chris Psenicka Jr., Mark Just, Makayla Hubbard, Matthew Holmes*



## Coffee with the Chief

The next Coffee with the Chief and Police Department staff will be Wednesday, March 13, 2019 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Police Department staff will speak with local residents on current topics at Plymouth Place located at 315 N. La Grange Road.

## Join the Citizen's Police Academy

**Session 1** – April 4 through May 2, 2019

**Session 2** – September 19 through October 17, 2019

All Sessions are held Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The Citizen's Police Academy will be open to all citizens and business owners in the Village of La Grange Park, 18 years of age or older.

Anyone interested in participating in the CPA should complete the application available at the Police Department (located in Village Hall, 447 N. Catherine Ave., LaGrange Park, IL). Please note:

- The application must be picked up and returned to the Police Department in person.
- There is no cost for participation.
- A routine background check will be conducted on all applicants.
- A waiver of liability must be signed by each participant.
- The maximum number of participants will be twenty (20) on a first come, first available basis.
- There will be two sessions: April - May, 2019 and September - October, 2019.

Please contact Officer Chris Dempsey at [cdempsey@lagrangepark.org](mailto:cdempsey@lagrangepark.org) or (708) 352-7711 extension 275, with any questions.



# Snow Removal Rules

The Village would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that the Village plows 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. 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 tickets 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 walkways in front of his/her address shoveled and cleared of ice.

# Stay Safe This Winter

With the cold and snowy weather upon us, we would like to remind residents to be aware and take cold weather precautions when venturing out. Dress in layers and don't stay out too long at any one time. When shoveling snow, make sure you don't over exert yourself. In addition please check on elderly or infirm neighbors and, perhaps, offer to pick up groceries, medications or other supplies for them so they don't have to go out.

# Winter Fire & Safety Reminders

Winter is a common time for home fires, due to the increased use of heating appliances. As such, please note the following fire and safety reminders to help protect you, your family and your neighbors.

- Install smoke detectors throughout your home; on every level, near and in sleeping areas. Test them and make sure they work.
- Never leave cooking unattended, or cook when tired or intoxicated.
- Never leave candles burning unattended, especially in when small children or pets are present.
- Have your furnace or boiler inspected annually.
- If you own a wood burning fireplace, have the chimney cleaned & inspected annually, and make sure ashes from fireplaces are cool throughout before discarding.
- Plug heat producing electrical appliances, such as space heaters, directly into receptacles. Do not use extension cords for such. Turn them off when not in use.
- Make sure you also have at least one carbon monoxide alarm in or near sleeping areas. CO emergencies can be more common during winter months.
- Keep fire hydrants near your home clear of snow. It is important for firefighters to have access to water quickly, as there is limited water carried on fire engines. Trying to find a hydrant or having to clear one for use can waste valuable time.

# 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.

# Local Warming Centers

If you know someone who is in need of a place to get warm, BEDS Plus (708-354-0858) has several locations that provide free, safe, overnight shelter. Daily Operations are from 7:00 pm – 7:00 am daily, starting October 1st to May 15th.

**Sundays:** St Louise de Marillac Church (Colonnade Room) 1112 Raymond, La Grange Park

**Mondays:** St. Francis Xavier Church (Joyce Hall) 145 N. Waiola, La Grange

**Tuesdays:** St. Barbara Church, 8900 Windemere Ave. Brookfield

**Wednesdays:** St. Hugh Parish, 7939 43rd St, Lyons

**Thursdays:** First United Methodist Church (Rose Garden Entrance) 100 W. Cossitt, La Grange

**Fridays:** St. Barbra Church, 8900 Windemere, Brookfield

**Saturdays:** First United Methodist Church (43rd Street Entrance) 4300 Howard, Western Springs

Day-Time Support Center Open Monday through Friday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 S. Kensington, LaGrange (2nd Floor)



# Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of: September, October, and November 2018:

- Approved an Agreement between the Village of La Grange Park and the Community Park District of La Grange Park for Memorial Park Rain Garden
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement between Village of La Grange Park, Illinois and SAFEbuilt Illinois, LLC
- Approved an Ordinance Rezoning Certain Properties along La Grange Road to the R-2 Two-Family Residence District
- Authorized the Village to waive the formal bidding process and utilize the Cooperative Job Order Contract which had been awarded to F.H. Paschen; and Authorized the Village Manager to execute the necessary contract documents with F.H. Paschen for construction services not to exceed a total cost of \$53,858.52
- Proclamation – Fire Prevention Week – October 7th -13th, Look. Listen. Learn.
- Approved travel expenses in the amount of \$615.18 for attending the 2018 IML Conference in Chicago, Illinois
- Approved a Resolution Approving a Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Illinois/West Virginia
- Approved a Supplemental Agreement Regarding PEG Capital Fees Between the Village of La Grange Park and Comcast of Illinois/West Virginia, LLC
- Approved a Revision to the “Rules for Public Comment” Deleting the Requirement for a Speaker to State Their Address
- Awarded the Following Contracts and Authorized the Village Manager to Execute any Necessary Contract Documents to Municipal Systems, Inc., for \$8,800.00 to subscribe to its MOS Ticket Tracking System and to Municipal Collection Services, Inc., to authorize debt collection services and to Violations Payment.Com, Inc. to authorize online credit card payment processing
- Approved the payment of \$14,865.00 to College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL for the tuition and fees for five (5) Fire Department Candidates attending the Fall 2018 Fire Academy
- Accepted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2018
- Approved a modified leak adjustment policy
- Approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between Cook County and the Village of La Grange Park and authorize the Village President to sign the IGA
- Authorized the Village Manager to enter into a contract with S.B. Friedman Development Advisors to provide development consulting services for the former Pancake House Property in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.
- Estimated that the amount necessary to be raised from the 2018 property tax levy is \$3,715,511, exclusive of debt service; which amount is less than 5% greater than the amount of taxes extended for 2017.
- Approved an Ordinance Amending a Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment for the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois
- Approved funding to the La Grange Park Chamber in the amount of \$1,500 for the 2018 Haunted Trolley, Holiday in the Park, and Legislative Breakfast events to help ensure the most enjoyable and orderly community events for our residents and surrounding area visitors
- Approved the Resolution to allow the Village President to Execute a Certain Agreement with the Cook County Department of Public Health for Health Inspections Services, Effective December 1, 2018, and Continuing through November 30, 2019
- Approved an Ordinance Granting a Certain Variation for 1002 Community (Public Hearing No. 2018-07)
- Approved A Resolution Approving And Authorizing Execution Of A Cost Sharing Intergovernmental Agreement For Participation in the 2019 Statewide Planning & Research Program (“SPRP”) Of The Illinois Department Of Transportation (“IDOT”) With The Village Of Western Springs To Serve As Lead Agency For Purposes Of Applying For An IDOT Grant To Pay A Consulting Engineer To Prepare A Regional Comprehensive Transportation Infrastructure Plan And Administering A Request For Qualifications Process For The Selection Of Said Consulting Engineer
- Authorized the Additional Sod Replacement in an Amount Not to Exceed \$18,000
- Directed Staff to Prepare an Engineering Agreement with Hancock Engineering to Design a 2019 Water Main Project to Replace Pipes on La Grange Road from the Northern Alley on 31st Street to Garfield Via Meadowcrest and to Replace Water Main on 31st Street from Meadowcrest to Barnsdale Road. The Design Should Allow Construction to be Segmented into Two Years if Necessary
- Awarded a Contract to Baxter and Woodman Engineering in the amount of \$28,500 to complete a Pavement Condition Assessment and prepare a Pavement Management Report
- Authorized the Village President to Execute the Amendment to Employment Agreement
- Approved a Resolution Approving the Annual Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for 2019
- Adopted a Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Records of Closed Meetings
- Accepted the Annual Post-Issuance Compliance Report
- Accepted the 2018 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report
- Approved an Ordinance Amending the “La Grange Park Zoning Code” as Amended and approved an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for Accessory Truck Rental, a Special Use Permit for Outdoor Storage, a Variation for Outdoor Storage Height, a Variation for Allowable Fence Material, and a Variation for the Location of a Wall Sign for 1201 Barnsdale – 1201 Barnsdale LLC – Case #2018-08
- Approved a one year contract extension with A & B Landscaping and Tree Service, Inc. for tree and stump removals not to exceed \$100,000, and authorized the Village President to execute the necessary contract documents.
- Approved a one year contract extension with Winkler’s Tree Service, Inc. for general tree maintenance and for emergency tree work not to exceed \$10,000, and authorized the Village President to execute the necessary contract documents
- Approved a payment to Globe Construction for sidewalk work completed this fiscal year (FY18-19), in the amount of \$69,882.50
- Approved a “Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget”
- Approved An Ordinance Providing For The Annual Tax Levy for the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2018 and Ending April 30, 2019
- Approved an Ordinance Providing for Specific Reductions of the 2018 Property Tax Levy Pursuant to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
- Approved An Ordinance abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2018 to pay the principal of and interest on \$3,495,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014, of the Village of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois

# New Look For Library's Teen Department

Young Adult librarian Sam Farruggia, with input from the library's Teen Advisory Board, has planned an update to the department's space on the main level. The space will get a fresh coat of paint and new furniture is expected in January. The changes will allow for a teens-only area where 7th-12th graders can study, do homework, and socialize. The young adult collections will be shifted so that everyone, no matter their age, will have access. Come on by this winter to see the progress and to browse our YA collection!

If you would like to keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening at your library, library board meetings are open to the public and are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.



## 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.

### **Nominating:** *The whole block of 1200 Morgan Avenue – All of our new neighbors*

My family and I moved into our new home on Morgan Avenue in July and our whole block has been welcoming, generous, kind, and supportive. We have three boys, all transferring to different schools, and from the very first day we moved in, all of our neighbors have been helpful in making sure the transition was smooth for all of us. All of our neighbors offered to help us get the kids to school. Our neighbors across the street offered to drive our oldest to high school, which is truly a blessing! We experienced our first block party, and the boys are all making friends with everyone on our block! It is amazing how helpful and caring everyone is! We've only lived here a couple of months and we already LOVE our neighbors and La Grange Park! These are the reasons why we wanted to move to La Grange Park, and we are so happy we are finally a part of this great community. We are truly appreciative and grateful for all of our Morgan Avenue neighbors!  
– Greg, Kelly Skalnik & Family (1200 Block of Morgan Ave.)

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

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GoodNeighborCorner



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**Wi-Fi Available  
at Village Hall**



**F**ree Wi-Fi is available at Village Hall during regular business hours. Residents and community groups visiting Village Hall have the ability to access the free Wi-Fi by requesting the guest password from a staff member.

**Don't Forget to  
"Spring" Ahead**

**D**aylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 a.m. "Spring" your clocks forward at that time!



**VillageHall**

**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.

**VillageHolidays**

The Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

**Monday, February 18 - President's Day**

**Friday, April 19 at Noon - Good Friday**