

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Winter 2023

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park
www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and safe holiday season.

For the third year in a row, I want to thank our residents, businesses, and local organizations for participating in the Village's Santa Parade. Thank you for sharing your holiday cheer and supporting the mobile food drive with donations to Beds Plus, St. Barbara's Food Pantry, and Westchester Food Pantry. You make La Grange Park such a wonderful community to call home. I also want to thank the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works staff who took a leading role in organizing the event.

While the pandemic continues to affect us, we are in a much better place than we were three years ago. Throughout this period, the Village has continued to deliver high-quality services and worked to advance projects that were most meaningful for our community – like stormwater management, transparency in public safety and police response, and community and economic development.

Over the last year, the Village has also focused on hiring for several key positions and increased the capacity of staff through new technology, equipment, and training.

After an extensive search over several months, I am pleased to announce that the Village appointed Austin Haacke as Finance Director at the Village Board's December meeting. Austin brings over seven years' experience in local government finance from his tenure with the Village of Dwight, Illinois, where he served in the position of Finance Director since 2015.



During his time in Dwight, Austin directed the Village's annual budget processes and oversaw improvements in the Village's financial management and reporting systems. He also managed the human resources functions for the Village, including participating in labor negotiations with its bargaining units. Welcome, Austin!

I look forward to reporting on many new planning and development projects in 2023. After much anticipation, Andy's Frozen Custard will open its new location at the site of the former Original Pancake House at 531 N. La Grange Road. Improvements and new businesses are also expected at the Village Market shopping center, including new parking lots with landscaping and the addition of a new grocer tenant. Additionally, the Village Market Streetscape Improvement Plan is in the final phase of development and is expected to go before the Village Board for approval early this year. As a reminder, all project documents and a summary of community engagement activities for this planning process can be found on the Village's website.

In this edition of Rose Clippings, you'll learn more about new employees, as well as information on how your property tax bill is calculated, an update on the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, important reminders for snow removal, a variety of community events, and much more. If you're looking for ways to get involved and stay up to date on what's going on in our community, subscribe to the Village's weekly E-Briefs newsletter. We regularly share important project updates and publicize opportunities to attend meetings, provide input through surveys, and volunteer for community events.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James F. Discipio



Village Receives Greentelligence Award

The Village of La Grange Park was awarded the 2022 Greentelligence Award by the West Central Municipal Conference, in recognition of an innovative green infrastructure project. In spring 2022, the Village constructed three “green” roadway intersections along Monroe Avenue at Community Drive, Robinhood Lane, and Sherwood Road to help address local flooding and drainage problems. The intersections were strategically selected in order to divert runoff from La Grange Road and help alleviate flooding in low-lying areas. The road is now surfaced with interlocking permeable pavement bricks that allow water to infiltrate and enter the stone below. Each intersection can store approximately 79,000 gallons of water. This water diversion technique is part of the Village’s multi-pronged approach to stormwater management, which includes a larger sewer separation project planned for the same area.



The Village partnered with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to fund, design, and install the project. Project partners celebrated the completion of the project during a ribbon-cutting event in October.

Meet Our New Village Employees

Administration Department

The Village welcomed a new intern to the Administration Department this fall. Jonathan Mishory recently graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Master of Science in Civic Analytics. This unique program combines study in civic technology and data analytics for those in the government and nonprofit sectors. Jonathan is assisting the Village with policy research and community development projects.

Public Works Department

The Village is proud to announce that a friendly, familiar face, Ray Drexler, is now serving as a maintenance worker in the Public Works Department. Ray previously worked as a La Grange Park police officer and has a background in construction. In his free time, he enjoys gardening and helping friends with handyman projects. When you see Ray around town, please welcome him back to our community.

Police Department

The Police Department welcomed two new employees to its staff within the last several months. Denise Solofra filled a vacancy within the Records Department and brings over 26 years of experience working with the Cook County Clerk’s Office. Tyler Murphy is our newest police officer and previously served as a police officer with the Chicago Police Department. Welcome, Denise and Tyler, to the Village of La Grange Park!



Jonathan Mishory



Ray Drexler



Tyler Murphy & Denise Solofra

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Update

As previously reported, the Village is mandated by the State of Illinois' Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act to identify private lead service lines in the community and develop a strategic plan for their future replacement. Comprehensive information is available on the Village's website at www.lagrangepark.org/leadlinereplacement.

Approximately two-thirds of La Grange Park residents have shared their water service line material information with the Village since last spring through either an online survey or in-home inspection. If you have not yet submitted your household's information, you must do so right away. You can access the short survey by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone or via an internet browser at www.lgpkwaterservicesurvey.com. If you need assistance completing your survey or would prefer an in-home inspection, please contact Hancock Engineering at 708-865-0300. Failure to take the survey could result in your household becoming ineligible for any funding that may become available through the state. Furthermore, the inventory process will categorize unknown service line material as lead.

The Village must report this data to the State by the end of March 2023 and will be contacting unresponsive households until their information is collected. Look for more information in future editions of Rose Clippings and on the Village's website. Thank you to all who have helped the Village with this critical program!



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 2021 total property tax bill (collected in 2022) is about 11% to 13%, depending on your school districts. The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 63%-70%, supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, make up approximately 17%-22% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy

The 2021 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which was payable in 2022, was 9.739 for properties in School District 102 and 12.181 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
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
2018 Tax Year	9.618	11.858
2019 Tax Year	9.766	12.076
2020 Tax Year	8.860	11.046
2021 Tax Year	9.739	12.181

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 2021 tax year was 3.0027. So, if you own a home valued at \$350,000, then the equalized assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 3.0027], or \$105,095. 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 2021 tax rates as listed above, a property with an equalized assessed value of \$105,095 paid the following estimated amounts in 2022 for the 2021 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102	District 95
↳ $\$105,095 \times .09739 =$	↳ $\$105,095 \times .12181 =$
\$10,235	\$12,802

The Village's portion of the tax bill in District 102 is approximately \$1,343, and the Village's portion of the tax bill in District 95 is approximately \$1,015.

While we will not know the 2022 property tax rates until next summer, the Village Board approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2022 Village tax levy (collected in 2023). Tax cap laws will limit the Village's 2022 operating levy to a maximum 5.0% increase plus any new property value. Please note that the rate of inflation used to calculate the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limit is the national CPI for all urban consumers for the year preceding the tax year as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in January of each year. For tax year 2022 (payable in 2023), for example, the CPI was 7%, so the PTELL limit is 5%.

Fire Department Open House Recap

Following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Fire Department's annual Open House event returned in October. The event included a visit from State Fire Marshal Arson K9 GG and her handler, Special Agent Mitch Kushner, and tours of the new MABAS Division 10 Communications and Command vehicle. Additionally, NBC/Cinespace Studios brought former La Grange Park ladder truck 1219 to the event, which is now used as Truck 81 in the Chicago Fire television series. The Village collected over \$1,000 in donations for the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's Camp "I Am Me," which is a camp for children and teens who have experienced injuries from burns. The Fire Department greatly appreciates the donations by attendees and local business sponsors.



New Pumper: Engine 1221

The Village celebrated the arrival of a new fire engine in late November. The new pumper, "Engine 1221," replaces the Village's 1992 pumper, which served the Village for 30 years. The new pumper was a demo unit manufactured by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, WI, and is equipped with a 450 HP Cummins motor, Allison transmission, "TAK-4" independent suspension, 1500 GPM Waterous pump, and carries 700 gallons of water. Once the vehicle is marked, additional equipment is mounted on it, and firefighters are properly trained on driving and operations, Engine 1221 will be placed in service at Fire Station No. 2.



The Chamber is always on the lookout for engaging ways to promote local commerce and foster a vibrant, energetic business climate in La Grange Park! Neighborhood events are just one of the ways we support our local businesses and build a sense of community. Here are a few of the fantastic events we hosted in 2022:

Chili Cook Off: It was wonderful seeing the community come out to support this event on a beautiful September night! Besides tasting many different chili recipes, homemade by our very own Chamber members, Hop District donated their delicious brews as an added bonus. We can't wait to bring this awesome event back next year!

Haunted Trolley: The return of the Haunted Trolley was a booming success! Trick-or-treaters were transported via trolley to the various business districts in the Village to kick off Halloween weekend. Thank you to our generous sponsors and all the members who came together to bring this spooky, treat-filled night back to La Grange Park.

Annual Dinner: We were pleased to honor Strive 4 Fitness, recipient of the "Business of the Year" award, at our annual dinner at Mattone Restaurant. Thank you to Shawn and Victoria Groll for bringing their passion for wellness to the community and helping others to reach their fitness goals.

Winter Wonderland Walk-Thru: Many of our members took part in creatively decorating trees for all to see at the Village's annual tree lighting ceremony. It was great to share a night of holiday cheer and see so many families out to enjoy the beautiful lights!

We look forward to another year of partnership with our fellow businesses and new connections within our community in 2023! Be sure to "like" our Facebook page to find out all the buzz on what's happening locally with our La Grange Park businesses and events!

Community Park District News!

The Community Park District of La Grange Park is committed to: Community Wellness, Preserving Park Land, Dedicated to Transparency, Leadership, Generational Opportunities, and Play for All.

Capital Improvements

The Community Park District is planning comprehensive capital improvements to Beach Oak and Yena Parks. Please visit www.communityparkdistrict.org for more information on these projects and community input dates!

2023 Winter/Spring Brochure ONLINE Now!

Visit our website today to register for 108 new programs!

Ready Teddy 2023-2024 School Year Registration

Resident Open Enrollment begins Tuesday, February 14 at 8:30 a.m.

All necessary paperwork can be picked up prior to registration at the Recreation Center or by visiting the www.communityparkdistrict.org.



Ready Teddy
Preschool

Let's Go Places

The Community Park District has brought back day trips to destinations outside the La Grange Park boundaries for older adults over 55. Join us this season to: Grand Victoria Casino, Garfield Park Conservatory, Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Unity Temple Tours, and Illinois Railway Museum.

Mother Son Magic Night - NEW!

Friday, March 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

A special night with Mom will be something your son will remember forever. Your "magical night" will include a magic show, snacks, music, and a special "trick" photo souvenir to take home.

Family Trivia Night - NEW!

Saturday, April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Go head-to-head with your friends and "foes" in this family friendly Trivia Tournament! Join us for a fun and exciting night of competition with games, prizes, and more!

Family Nerf Battleground - NEW!

Now welcoming all ages to the Nerf Battleground! Have fun and take cover as you navigate obstacles and barriers for a fun, safe activity that involves strategy and physical fitness. Bring a Nerf blaster for each of you and we will supply the Nerf N-Strike foam darts. Registration for ages 7 and older.

Community Park District Footlight Players of

LEGALLY
BLONDE
The Musical.

JR.

La Grange Park
Present:

- Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 15, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

VILLAGE OF
LA GRANGE PARK
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Snow Removal Rules

The Village would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that the Village plows the streets when snowfall is expected 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, residents 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 also 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 the Village's plowing and salting equipment.

Rule #5: Keep sidewalks clear. It is the responsibility of each homeowner/ business owner to keep the sidewalk and walkways in front of their address shoveled and cleared of ice.

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.

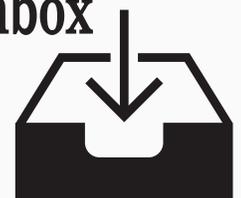
Village Board Highlights

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

- Approved A 24-Month Extended Term Agreement Amendment No. 2 Between MC Squared Energy Services, LLC And The Village of La Grange Park, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Approved A Contract With Globe Construction In A "Not To Exceed" Amount of \$64,500.00 For The 2022 Sidewalk Replacement, Utility Restoration, And Resident Participation Program And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Necessary Documents
- Adopted A "Resolution For Maintenance Of Streets And Highways By Municipality Under The Illinois Highway Code" For The Expenditure Of \$412,000.00 In MFT Funds
- Discussed the Lead Service Line Replacement & Notification Act (LSLR)
- Appointed Luca Depa and Riley Mulhall To The Village Of La Grange Park Youth Commission To Fill Terms Expiring September 1, 2023 And Appointed Katherine Suttle To The Village of La Grange Park Youth Commission To Fill A Term Expiring September 1, 2024; And Reappointed Connie Anagnos, Sophie Marczuk, Owen Myers, Audrey Topazian, And Leah Wilson To The Village Of La Grange Park Youth Commission For Terms To Expire September 1, 2024
- Approved A Resolution Approving A Memorandum Of Understanding By And Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Certain Members Of The West Suburban Municipalities And Cross-Community Climate Collaborative
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Approval Of A Final PUD Plan And Special Use For 315 N. La Grange Road – Plymouth Place, Inc. And Authorized And Directed The Village President To Sign The Second Amendment To Declaration Of Covenant To Pay Service Fees In Lieu Of Taxes
- Approved A Payment In The Amount of \$168,099.87, To Lakeside Consultants, For August 2022 Services
- Accepted The Bid Proposal From M&J Asphalt In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$100,000.00 And Authorized the Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Accepted The Bid Proposal From Hoerr Construction, Inc. In The "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$100,000.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Approved A One-Year Contract Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Sinnott Tree Service For 2022/2023 Tree Trimming Program In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$110,000.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Necessary Documents
- Directed Village Staff To Draft An Ordinance Amending Title XI, Chapter 112 Alcoholic Beverages Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code
- Directed Village Staff To Draft A Zoning Text Amendment That Incentivizes Front Porches On New And Existing Residential Buildings
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of A Health Inspection Services Agreement With The County Of Cook
- Authorized The Village Of La Grange Park Police Department To Enter Into An Agreement With The National White Collar Crime Center Accepting A Grant In The Amount Of \$19,527.57 and Authorized The Village Manager To Accept The Proposal From Minuteman Security Technologies In The Amount Of \$19,466.08
- Estimated That The Amount Necessary To Be Raised From The 2022 Property Tax Levy Is \$4,159,232, Exclusive Of Debt Service; Which Amount Is Less Than 5% Greater Than The Amount Of Taxes Estimated To Have Been Extended For 2021
- Directed Village Staff To Draft An Ordinance Amending Title XI, Chapter 112 Alcoholic Beverages Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code
- Approved An Employee Leasing Agreement With GovTemps USA For The Assignment Of Thomas Glaser (To Replace Daniel Wiersma) For The Interim Finance Director And Acting Treasurer Position
- Approved An Open Purchase Order With Cargill Incorporated Salt Division, Not To Exceed A Total Amount Of \$65,000.00
- Approved A Contract With Landscape Material And Firewood Sales, Inc. For The Disposal And Loading Of Leaves At \$900.00 Per Truckload in a Not To Exceed \$36,000, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Accept The 2022 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report
- Adopted A Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Records of Closed Meetings
- Approved An Ordinance Amending Chapter 112, Section 20, Of Title XI Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code To Increase The Total Number Of Authorized Class A And Class B Liquor Licenses From Seven To Nine
- Approved An Ordinance Amending Chapter 112, Section 18, Of Title XI Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code To Establish A Proration Of The Initial Fee For The Class B License
- Authorized An Additional \$15,000 In Expenses Associated With The Additional Work Provided By Forvis (Previously BKD) In Order To Complete Audit Services For Fiscal Year 2022
- 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, 2022 And Ending April 30, 2023
- Approved An Ordinance Providing For Specific Reductions Of The 2022 Property Tax Levy Pursuant To The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
- Approved An Ordinance Abating The Tax Hereto Levied For The Year 2022 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
- Approved An Ordinance Abating A Portion Of The Taxes Heretofore Levied For The Year 2022 To Pay Debt Service On General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2016 Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois

Important Local Safety News Delivered to Your Inbox

Please join the Village's weekly Public Safety Briefs to receive community alerts and safety tidbits that can keep you and your family safe and well. Send an email to bbaum@lagrangepark.org to subscribe.



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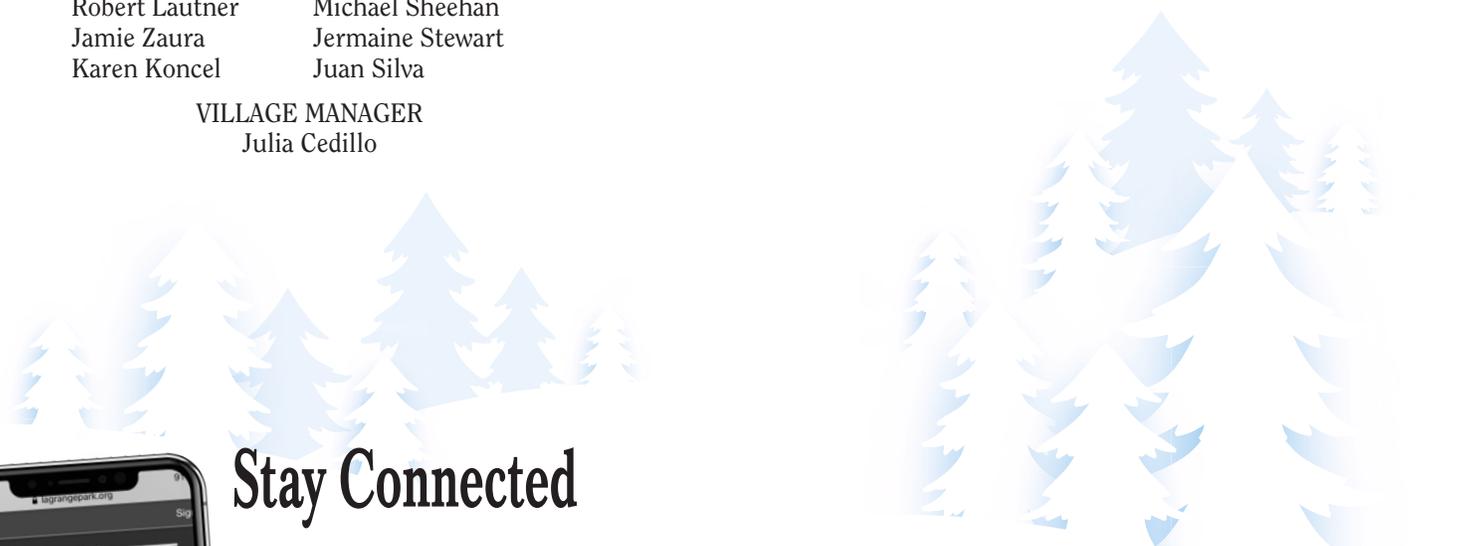
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- Weekly Public Safety Briefs Newsletter
- RAVE/Smart 911 Emergency Alerts

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- [Facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment](https://www.facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment)



Don't Forget to "Spring" Ahead

Daylight Savings Time begins
on Sunday, March 12 at
2:00 a.m. Remember to "Spring"
your clocks forward one hour.



VillageHall

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 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

Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Monday, February 20 - Presidents' Day**
- Friday, April 7 at Noon - Good Friday**