

The Rose CLIPPINGS

Summer 2023

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

As summer heats up, I hope that you and your family are enjoying the many events and activities taking place across our community. From hosting neighborhood block parties and attending the Music Under the Stars concert series, to utilizing nearby forest preserves and regional trails, La Grange Park really comes alive during these months.

This spring, the Village Board welcomed one new Trustee and two returning Trustees during a swearing-in ceremony at the Board meeting on May 23rd. New Trustee Joe Caputo and returning Trustees Bob Lautner and Mike Sheehan, who were first elected to the Board in 2013, were all elected to four-year terms. Village Clerk Meghan Kooi swore in the Trustees with the oath of office. Outgoing Trustee Juan Silva, who did not seek reelection, was also recognized for his vision, dedication, and commitment to service as a member of the La Grange Park Board of Trustees from 2022-2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Village's hardworking employees, volunteers, and community partners



for their efforts in making La Grange Park such a great place to call home. Thank you to the Youth Commission and all who participated in the Village's annual Community Volunteer Day in May. Over 30 volunteers provided assistance to older adults in the community with gardening and other outdoor "spring cleaning." They also worked on beautifying a number of spaces around the Village Hall complex. Thank you, volunteers, for your amazing generosity and teamwork! Also in May, the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce led the return of the

Run for the Roses 5K. Thank you to the Chamber for organizing this event, as well as Village staff who coordinated traffic control and public safety along the race route, particularly staff from the Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Police Department.

The Public Works Department was recognized this spring for their work in achieving a Gold Level recognition for the Village's participation in the Water Ambassador Program of the Illinois Section American Water Works Association (ISAWWA). The goal of the ISAWWA Water Ambassador Program is to elevate public perception, knowledge, and consumer education of the water industry. La Grange Park was one of 12 communities in the state to achieve Gold Level recognition. Thank you to the Public Works Department for helping to raise awareness about the value and importance of water!

Finally, as I have reported in previous newsletters, the Village is pursuing a wide range of streetscape improvement projects aimed at enhancing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists around the Village Market. The Village is also advocating for a reduced speed limit along La Grange Road in this area. Given that La Grange Road is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), it will take time to move these initiatives forward and to make our vision for a safer, more connected Village Market a reality. In the meantime, I ask that all residents and visitors in our community please slow down, keep your eyes on the road, and be aware of people walking and biking. Let's drive with care and set a good example for others traveling through our Village.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you at this year's National Night Out event at Memorial Park. Look inside for more details about this family-friendly gathering, as well as information on the Village's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget, new parking restrictions, the 2023 brush pick-up schedule, features from the Chamber, Community Park District, and Library District, and much more.

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

President James F. Discipio



Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Highlights

In April, the Village Board approved the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget, which runs from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. Guided by the policies, priorities, and goals of the Village Board, the budget is the single most important policy document produced by the Village each year. The budget is both a spending plan for the Village's financial resources and the legal authority for Village departments to allocate funds for public purposes and provide services to meet the needs of our community.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but rather a selection of "highlights" from this year's budget. They are organized under three budget themes: **People, Proactive Planning, and High Priority Needs**. The entire budget document can be found on the Village's website, under "Transparency."

People: Prioritize people to get the job done

- Build capacity and focus on employee retention
- Continue community engagement efforts
- Pursue Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program status

Proactive Planning: Develop a working plan to guide our efforts and address challenges

- Develop and implement a Lead Service Line Replacement Program
- Develop and implement streetscape improvement plans
- Implement new water and sewer rates to ensure future infrastructure needs

High Priority Needs: Fund high priority needs

- Seek additional funding for the Central Area Sewer Separation Project
- Maintain building and fleet needs



Meet Kryz Kociolek, Director of Building & Inspectional Services

The Village Board appointed Kryz Kociolek as Director of Building and Inspectional Services in April. Kryz brings 10 years of experience in local government and, prior to joining the public sector, he worked for seven years in private architecture firms. Kryz previously served as the Chief Building Inspector/Building Official for the Village of Mokena, where he performed plan reviews and inspections on a variety of residential and commercial projects and oversaw staff in the day-to-day operations of the department. Prior to that, he served as a Building Inspector/Plan Reviewer for the Village of Orland Park. Welcome to La Grange Park, Kryz!

Fire Department Receives Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Earlier this year, the Village was notified it will receive \$233,024.28 in grant money from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The award will help fund the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (air-packs) and new mobile radios for fire apparatus and ambulances. The grant, which was submitted during the FY2021 AFG grant cycle, was awarded through a highly competitive national peer review process. The Fire Department recently received and has been training on the operations of the new air-packs.





Great Green Power News

In 2019, La Grange Park was ranked #1 in the USA by the EPA Green Power Partnership in percentage of green power versus total power consumed (100% green power). The Village's Green Electric Aggregation program ensured participating residents would never pay more than ComEd rates while supporting green power projects. From 2018-2022, the Village aggregation resulted in the generation of 132,202,000 kilowatts of wind power, which is equivalent to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 141,956,000 miles of driving a car.

As the program continues, however, increased competition from companies buying green power has led to higher prices for green power. As a result, less green power has been purchased recently (8% in 2022). The La Grange Park Sustainability Commission has identified three great options for residents to access green power for their home:

1. Purchase solar panels. There are state rebates and federal tax credits available that can reduce the cost of solar panels by up to 63%. An example of a resident's experience ("solar story") can be found on the Village's website.

2. Lease solar panels placed on your roof by a solar panel company that pays all the costs and retains ownership and maintenance responsibilities. While this option does not save as much on electricity in the long term, it does ensure immediate, consistent savings on electricity (typically hundreds of dollars per year). Additional information on solar installation can be found on the Citizens Utility Board website (citizensutilityboard.org) and a directory of installers is available at the Illinois Solar Energy and Storage Association website (illinoissolar.org/FindAProfessional).

3. Participate in a community solar program supporting a green power project. This option can be utilized by any household (including multi-family and shaded properties) by choosing a provider. View a side-by-side comparison of providers on the Citizens Utility Board website. All programs save 10-20% on the cost of electricity supply.

New Parking Restrictions

At the April 25th Village Board Meeting, the Village Board approved the recommendation of the Traffic, Safety and Engineering Committee to place parking restrictions west of La Grange Road from the Village's southern border to Harding Avenue. This summer, Village staff will be installing the following signage in specified areas: "No Parking 7 AM to 9 AM on School Days Except by Permit", "30 Min Parking 7 AM to 9 AM on School Days Except by Permit" and "Permit Parking Only 7 AM to 3:30 PM on School Days". A current La Grange Park vehicle sticker will satisfy as a permit. While we know this might be an inconvenience to some residents who may need to park on the street between these hours (i.e. housekeeper, contractor), permission can be granted on a case by case basis by calling 24-hour dispatch at 1-708-352-2059.

Make Sure Your Address Numbers Are Clearly Visible!

Even with current geospatial technology, posting your address on your home or business can still be critical to fire and police personnel during an emergency. It is also required by Village code. If your address is not displayed, or if it has faded or is obstructed by bushes, trees, etc., the summer is a great time to correct the issue. Address numbers should be at least 4" tall, in contrasting color to the background, and be plainly visible from the street. If you have an alley behind your home or business, it is highly recommended that you also post the address on the garage or at the back of your property.



2023 Construction Project

Street Resurfacing Project (Harrison & Morgan)

The 1400 and 1500 blocks of Harrison and Morgan are scheduled for resurfacing this summer. In June, the Village will solicit bids and expects construction to begin in late July or August. The work involves replacing deteriorated curb and gutter, grinding the existing pavement, patching poor sub-base in select areas, and installing new asphalt.



Brush Schedule



The Village will no longer be scheduling specific sections for brush pick-up. Instead, multiple crews will be working concurrently across the Village during collection weeks. The Village brush collection pick-up occurs on the Monday of the first full week of the month. Brush must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. A first sweep is conducted, picking up the smaller piles of brush, and larger piles are left for the end loader and dump truck to pick up. The Village will conduct a pick-up during the first full week of each month:

**July 3rd • August 7th • September 4th
October 2nd (last pick up for the year)**

Guidelines for the Brush Collection Program

- Brush must be no longer than 6-feet in length and 4-inches in diameter.
- Brush must be stacked neatly on the parkway, piled no more than 4-feet high with the butt end facing the curb. Please be sure that brush is not piled in such a way that interferes with motorist or pedestrian visibility.
- In narrow parkways, if brush extends onto the sidewalk, the brush may be piled parallel to the curb.
- Logs must be cut into small, manageable pieces and should be kept separate from brush.
- Stumps and root balls will not be picked up. They should be removed from trees or bushes.

Brush pickup is strictly for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their own property. If no evidence exists that work has been performed on the property, the Village reserves the right to charge the resident for this service. The brush will not be picked up until a check for payment of services is received and the Public Works schedule permits.

Contractors working for homeowners are NOT allowed to use this service, since the Village is not able to handle the quantity of brush that they produce. If evidence exists or contractors are seen by Village workers placing tree or brush debris at the curb, the Village will charge the resident for the removal.



Summer Highlights from the Chamber

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.

- In May, we were thrilled to bring back the Run for the Roses 5K and donate half of the proceeds to Interfaith Community Partners! The turnout was wonderful and fun was had by all. The Chamber was fortunate to have generous sponsors for this fabulous event and can't wait to do it again in 2024!
- This spring we celebrated exciting milestones for several businesses throughout the Village, including the grand opening of Alphabet Learning Center at the Village Market, the grand re-opening of Cafe Level Up & Lounge at Plaza 31, and 100 years of business for Phillip's Flowers & Gifts.

The Chamber's Chili Cook Off event will be returning this fall – stay tuned for more information! Be sure to “like” the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce Facebook page to stay in the know on all that's happening locally with Village businesses and events!



Community Park District of La Grange Park

Beach Oak Park Update

We are looking to break ground at Beach Oak Park in July. The updated equipment features a stand-alone 2-5 (tot) structure, a bouncy train rocker, a new dish/tire swing, and swing bank. The 5-12 apparatus features a watch tower, exciting new climbing features, and slides. We will also be moving the existing play train to a new location in the park, providing an additional location for tots to enjoy. Follow the Community Park District on Facebook for updates on the progress!



Music Under the Stars Concert Series Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., Memorial Park Amphitheater

July 5 – Jose Valdez & the Mambo All Stars (International Salsa)

July 12 – South of Disorder (Jimmy Buffet Band)

July 19 – Evil Burrito (Cover Band)

July 27 – West Suburban Concert Band

August 2 – Miss Angie & the Misterys (Cover Band)

Wacky Wednesdays Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., Memorial Park Pavilion

July 12 – Andy Head – “Wonderful Wacky Juggling”

July 19 – Mr. Steve – “The Master Facilitator of Fun”

August 9 – Miss Angie’s (Children’s Music)

August 16 – Jason Kollum (Bubble Stations)

Ready Teddy Preschool

The school year will be here before you know it and we only have a few openings in our full-day and half-day preschool classes. Call today to set up a tour and learn more about the fun and engaging programs we have to offer!



Ready Teddy Preschool

La Grange Park Public Library



Keep Reading This Summer!

Summer might be the best time to read! There’s nothing better than enjoying a book outside. Grab your library card and check out some new titles! If you or a family member don’t have a library card, it takes just a few minutes to apply at our Circulation Desk. Residents can also visit the services page on our website, lplibrary.org/services, and fill out a quick form.

For those who prefer online convenience, you’ll enjoy access to apps such as Hoopla, Libby, and Axis 360. With your library card and these apps, you can have a book at your fingertips in a couple minutes. Our librarians are always here to help you choose a title or navigate any of our services!



Take A Reading Road Trip

Get yourself ready for a Reading Road Trip! This year’s Summer Reading Program celebrates all the ways you can travel – by boat, by car, by plane, or even through the pages of a book! All ages can participate by visiting lplibrary.beanstack.org and following the prompts.



Log all your reading and complete eight activities to receive a coupon for a free Andy’s Frozen Custard Concrete and a chance to win some amazing prizes! Everything you do earns you a ticket to be placed into a drawing for a prize basket of your choosing. This program runs from June 1-July 31.

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.



The 2023 National Night Out event will take place on Tuesday, August 1 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Memorial Park. Join us for a family-friendly movie in the park, and hot dogs, chips, and bottled water will be provided. Follow the La Grange Park Police Department on social media for further details.

Reminder for Dog Owners

Summertime means more people are out walking their dogs! The Village encourages pet owners to review Chapter 92 of the Municipal Code entitled “Animals” and practice responsible pet ownership. As a reminder:

- Pets must be on a leash when in the street, sidewalk, parkway, or other public areas within the Village (\$40 penalty)
- Owners may not permit their pets to go on the lawns of neighbors or other private property without permission from that property owner (\$25 penalty)
- Owners are responsible for picking up after their pets (\$50 penalty)



Seasonal Watering Restrictions

From May 15 through September 15, residents and businesses are reminded to conserve water and follow the Village’s seasonal watering restrictions. Odd street addresses may water on odd numbered calendar days, and even street addresses may water on even calendar days.

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 neighborly touches that make living in La Grange Park special. If you know a Good Neighbor, fill out the enclosed form and send it to Village Hall. Help us share the efforts of good neighbors with the entire community.

Good Neighbor Nomination Form

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Please provide the name and address of the person/group you are nominating:

Why are they a Good Neighbor to you? _____



Village Board Highlights

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

- Approved A Temporary Use Permit for Jewel-Osco To Allow for the Construction Of A 1,248 Square-Foot Temporary Greenhouse Structure And An 864-Square-Foot Temporary Shade Structure For Seasonal Retail Sales, To Be Occupied On Or After March 25, 2023 And To Be Removed No Later Than June 25, 2023
- Approved A Resolution Approving Proposal For Paramedic/Firefighter Services For 2023 Through 2027 As Submitted By Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc. (PSI)
- Approved An Ordinance Amending The Village Of La Grange Park Municipal Code Establishing Water And Sewer Rates
- Approved A Resolution Amending The Budget For Fiscal Year 2022/23 For The Village Of La Grange Park
- Accepted The Village Market Streetscape Improvement Plan, Prepared By Sam Schwartz And Dated March 2023
- Approved A Letter of Agreement Between Village, Woodmen Of The World And Homestead Apartments Relating To The Variations
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Variations For 333 N. La Grange Road – ALDI, Inc.
- Adopted An Ordinance Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois Approving An Economic Incentive Agreement With Woodmen Of The World Life Insurance Society
- Accepted The Lowest Bid From Unique Plumbing Company, For \$1,776,740.40 For The Park Road Water Main Replacement Project And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved A Contract With Denler, Inc., With A “Not To Exceed” Amount Of \$24,500.00 For The 2022/2023 Village Wide Crack Sealing Program And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Waived Competitive Bid And Approved Payment Of A “Not To Exceed” Amount Of \$40,000.00 To St. Aubin Nursery And Landscape For The Purchase And Planting Of Parkway Trees
- Approved A Resolution Approving Pay Plan And Schedule Of Authorized Positions For Fiscal Year 2023/24
- Approved A Resolution Amending The Budget For Fiscal Year 2022/23 For The Village Of La Grange Park
- Approved A Resolution Approving FY23/24 Operating Budget, and
- Approved The Five Year Plan FY23/24 – 27/28
- Proclaimed – April 9 – 15th - 2023 National Telecommunicators Week
- Approved An Agreement With DACRA For Municipal Software Applications And To Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Agreements Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Edwin Hancock Engineering For Construction Engineering Services For At Most \$145,000.00 For The Park Road Water Replacement Project
- Declared Boardroom Pews/Bench Seating Owned By The Village Of La Grange Park, Illinois As Surplus Property And Authorized Staff To Dispose Of These Items
- Approved An Ordinance Adding To Title VIII, Chapter 76 Of The Village Of La Grange Park Municipal Code Providing For Permit Parking
- Approved An Ordinance Adding To Title VII, Chapter 76 Of The Village Of La Grange Park Municipal Code Providing For Parking
- Accepted A Proposal From Sikich, LLP To Provide Auditing Services For Fiscal Years 2023 Thru 2025
- Approved A Resolution Amending The Budget For Fiscal Year 2022/23 For The Village Of La Grange Park
- Approved A Resolution Approving FY23/24 Operating Budget, and
- Approved The Five Year Plan FY23/24 – 27/28
- Approved Committee And Commission Re-Appointments As Follows: Board of Police Commissioners –Re-Appointed LaVelle Topps To The Board of Police Commissioners For A New 3-Year Term Expiring In 2026 and Re-Appointed Christopher O’Hea to The Police Pension Fund Board For A New 2-Year Term Expiring In 2025
- Proclaimed April 29th, 2023 Arbor Day
- Proclaimed April 30th – May 6th, 2023 Municipal Clerk’s Week
- Proclaimed May 2023 Building Safety Month.
- Approved Travel Expenses In The Amount Of \$1,368.47 For Attending The 2023 IML Lobby Day in Springfield, Illinois
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Variations For 1209 W. Ogden Avenue – Nazareth Academy Case (#23-0007)
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Zoning Map Amendment For Certain Property Located At 905 Garfield Avenue Case (#23-0005)
- Approved The Proposal From F.H. Paschen For \$26,000 And Approve A Not To Exceed Amount Of \$42,500.00 For The Entire Project And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Approved An Engineering Agreement with Hancock Engineering for \$22,500.00 and Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved Payment To BS&A Software For Annual Maintenance And Support Of The Village’s ERP Software System, IN The Amount Of \$23,935
- Approved A Resolution Of The Village Of La Grange Park Adopting Civility Pledge
- Witnessed the Swearing in of Village Trustees: Robert T. Lautner, Michael L. Sheehan and Joseph F. Caputo
- Adopted A Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Records of Closed Meetings
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Zoning Text Amendment To Increase Building Coverage Allowances For Front Porches (Case #23-0004)
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Special Use Permit For Outdoor Dining For 23 E. 31st Street – BevMasters LLC (Case #23-0008)
- Approved A Temporary Use Permit In Favor Of Plymouth Place, Inc. To Allow Usage Of A New One-Way Temporary Exit Road For Plymouth Place Residents To Exit Through Homestead Apartments’ Property, Which Permit Shall Expire Upon The Later Of: 1) Issuance Of The Final Occupancy Certificate For The Aldi Store and 2) The Date On Which The Aldi Parking Lot Is Reopened
- Approved An Agreement With The Hinsdale Humane Society For Kennel Services And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Received the ISAWWA Water Ambassador Award
- Approved An Agreement With Hancock Engineering In The Amount Of \$35,000.00 For The Preparation Of A Facilities Plan And Associated Loan Application For Funding Under The Water Pollution Control Loan Program Administered By The IEPA And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Proclaimed May 21 – 27th, 2023 National Public Works Week
- Proclaimed May 21 – 27th, 2023 EMS Week



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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 help keep you and your family safe and well. Send an email to bbaum@lagrangepark.org to subscribe.

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, September 4 - Labor Day