

The

Rose CLIPPINGS

Winter 2024

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org

President's Corner

Happy New Year! As we transition into 2024, I am energized by all of the exciting progress coming this year in La Grange Park. New businesses are set to open and community development projects are underway. Village staff and officials returned to work this week refreshed and ready to advance our community's priorities.

You've likely noticed the great strides being made with building and construction throughout the Village. In December, Plymouth Place opened the doors to a beautiful new development called The Arboretum Villas. This independent senior living community features expanded dining options, shopping, social activities and the Center for Healthy Living, a wellness retreat and spa for residents. The new recreational amenities are fantastic and include an expanded pond, walking paths, gazebo and greenhouse.

As you continue along La Grange Road, you'll see that the foundation is complete and framing is being constructed for the new ALDI grocery store at the Village Market. This wonderful addition to our community is expected to open in the spring. The extensive La Grange Park Public Library remodel is anticipated to be completed during the first half of this year, and five homes



are now being constructed at Kensington Place (555 N. Kensington Avenue) in varying phases of development. On 31st Street, we look forward to the grand opening of Happier Now Café and Market, a locally-owned restaurant set to open its doors soon. To oversee all of these new developments, the Village hired Ed Hurst as the new Director of Building & Inspectional Services. Ed manages building permits, property maintenance and building code enforcement. We are grateful to have Ed's expertise in our community!

Another area of focus this year is streetscape improvements for the Village Market and 31st Street business districts. The next phase of this project includes a comprehensive branding and identity plan to enhance the Village's sense of place and improve wayfinding and signage throughout the Village. Stay tuned for more details about these initiatives in the coming months.

Additionally, I want to be sure all residents are aware of exciting news related to a popular residential program. Last quarter, Cook County awarded the Village \$300,000 to expand our existing Sewer Backup Prevention Program over the next three years. Program funds provide qualifying residents with partial reimbursement for plumbing improvements to address and mitigate sewer backup problems. We encourage you to find out more about this unique opportunity to protect your home from stormwater and flooding by reading more in this newsletter or going to the Village's website. The program is administered on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

In this edition of Rose Clippings, you'll also find information about how your property tax bill is calculated, important reminders for snow removal, a variety of community events and much more. I also encourage you to check out our Good Neighbors Corner featuring a lifelong La Grange Park resident. We love hearing about all of the good news and friendly folks that make La Grange Park special. If you're looking for ways to stay up to date on the happenings in our community, subscribe to the Village's weekly E-Briefs newsletter. We share important updates, publicize opportunities to attend meetings and events, provide input through surveys, and volunteer for community events.

There is so much to look forward to in La Grange Park in 2024! I wish you and your family a wonderful year ahead, and as always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James F. Discipio



Meet Our New Director of Building & Inspectional Services

This past October, the Village Board appointed Edward Hurst as Director of Building and Inspectional Services. Ed joins us with vast knowledge of architecture, construction, code compliance and project management. He most recently served as Community Development Inspector II for the Village of Addison where he performed plan reviews and building inspections for residential and commercial projects. Prior to joining the public sector, Ed had an extensive career in architecture working throughout the U.S. and internationally while holding leadership roles at Sevan Multi-Site Solutions and McDonald's Corporation.

Ed has local roots. He lived in La Grange Park and Brookfield for more than 30 years and is a Riverside Brookfield High School alumnus. Welcome, Ed!

Cook County Awards Additional Funds to Sewer Backup Prevention Program

Cook County has awarded \$300,000 to the Village of La Grange Park for its Sewer Backup Prevention Program. These funds will be used to expand the Village's existing program to reduce residential basement flooding from combined stormwater and sanitary sewage backups. Cook County is providing funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and has allocated \$20 million in ARPA funding to better manage stormwater and build resiliency to climate events throughout Cook County. Visit the Village's website to learn more about program eligibility requirements and how to apply!

Upcoming Topics for the Commercial Revitalization Committee

Stay up to date on what's happening in La Grange Park by attending the Village's Commercial Revitalization Committee (CRC) meetings! The CRC meets regularly to discuss how the Village can best support new and existing businesses and enhance the commercial areas in town. Upcoming topics will include redevelopment studies for the outlots north of Jewel-Osco and the Jiffy Lube and Superior Cleaners properties, as well as updates on streetscape planning and implementation projects for the Village Market and 31st Street. Check the calendar page on the Village's website for upcoming meeting dates and agendas.

Regional Fire Training in La Grange Park

In early November, the La Grange Park Fire Department hosted training provided by the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 10 Training and Safety Officers Committee at the vacant Fifth-Third Bank building. MABAS Division 10 is our local division through which we can obtain and provide mutual-aid assistance and resources for fires, specialized rescues, hazardous materials emergencies and various other emergencies and disasters. The training focused on Rapid Intervention Team Skills and Rapid Intervention Officer Certification. Rapid Intervention Teams and the skills they utilize are specifically designed to rescue firefighters who may be lost, disoriented, injured or trapped in a structure fire.



Now Hiring School Crossing Guards



The Village is hiring school crossing guards! Help ensure the safety of children coming to and from school in our community by becoming a crossing guard. The schedule is flexible with nights and weekends off. If you are looking for a rewarding part-time job or know someone who is, please call 708-352-7711 or scan this QR code to sign up for more information.

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 Bbaum@lagrangepark.org to be placed on the list.

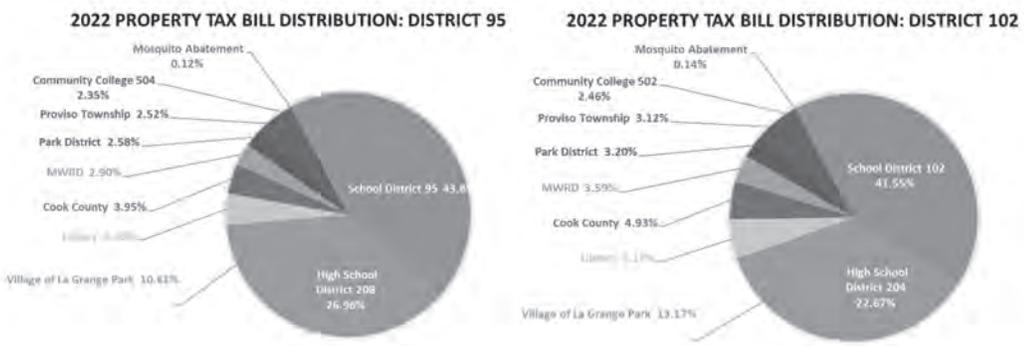
Christmas Tree Disposal

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will pick up Christmas trees at no cost during the first two weeks of January. Five stickers will be required for tree pickup after January 14. All trees must be free of ornaments, garland, lights, etc. Trees should be placed in the parkway with the trunk facing the street. No artificial trees or other natural decor will be picked up.

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 2022 total property tax bill (collected in 2023) is about 11% to 13%, depending on your school districts. The majority of your property tax bill, approximately 64% to 71%, 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% to 22% of your total tax bill.



Total Tax Levy

The 2022 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which was payable in 2023, was 10.407 for properties in School District 102 and 12.918 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
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
2022 Tax Year	10.407	12.918

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 2022 tax year was 2.9237. If you own a home valued at \$350,000, then the equalized assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 2.9237], or \$102,330. 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 2022 tax rates as listed above, a property with an equalized assessed value of \$102,330 paid the following estimated amounts in 2023 for the 2022 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102	District 95
$\$102,330 \times .10407 =$ \$10,649	$\$102,330 \times .12918 =$ \$13,219

In both examples, the Village's portion of the tax bill would be approximately \$1,403.

While we will not know the 2023 property tax rates until next summer, the Village Board approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2023 Village tax levy (collected in 2024). Tax cap laws will limit the Village's 2023 operating levy to a 5.0% increase plus any new property value.

Community Park District News!

Capital Improvements

Construction at Beach Oak Park is expected to be completed this spring. Please follow us at www.communityparkdistrict.org for updates on the progress.

2024 Winter/Spring Brochure Online Now!

Visit our website today to register for over 30 new programs! We are excited to partner with Hot Shot Sports to bring fun new programs including Pee Wee Floor Hockey, Junior Flag Football, T-Ball Skills and more.



Ready Teddy turns 30 this year!

Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for our Ready Teddy Palooza/Open House to meet the teachers and take classroom tours. Stop by the gym to visit members of the fire and police departments, our sponsor Huntington Learning Center and have a slice of cake! The 2024-2025 school year registration open enrollment for residents begins Tuesday, February 13 at 8:30 a.m. Information is on our website.

Flashlight Teen Egg Hunt – NEW! (Ages 9 to 13)

Friday, March 22, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Ready for a cool new spin on the egg hunt? This hunt is a night out at the park and the location will be kept secret until the Monday before the event. There will be candy, gift certificates and other fun prizes.



Spring Break Camp

Monday, March 25 to Thursday, March 28

No need for kids to spend spring break at home! Grab water bottles and gym shoes and get ready for a week filled with fun, games, crafts and other recreational activities.

Puzzlepalooza - NEW!

Monday, April 22, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Do you think you have what it takes to be a puzzle champ? In this competition, four-person teams race against each other to finish the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle first. A prize basket will be awarded to first place and all attendees get to take the puzzle home.

Secretary of State Mobile Unit (Ages 55+)

Friday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 1501 Barnsdale Road

The IL Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be coming to the Community Park District! The mobile unit is your one stop shop without having to leave town to go the DMV. This year they will be able to do Real ID Cards, but no road tests will be given

Community Park District Footlight Players of La Grange Park Present: *SpongeBob the Musical*

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 18, 2:00 p.m. and
7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m.

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea and is now starring in a play in La Grange Park? It's SpongeBob SquarePants! Get ready for a fun musical adaptation of the iconic Nickelodeon TV series in this performance by the young local actors of the Footlight Players.



La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce Highlights

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. We hosted several fantastic events in 2023 including the Chili Cook Off, Haunted Trolley, Annual Dinner honoring "Business of the Year" Central Federal Savings and Loan, and the Winter Wonderland Walk-Thru in Memorial Park.

We look forward to another year of partnership with our fellow businesses and new connections within our community in 2024! Our board is already busy planning some fabulous events for the months ahead. We plan to bring the Run for the Roses 5K back in the spring. "Like" our Facebook page and stay tuned for exciting announcements on this event and more soon!

Important Winter Fire Safety Actions

Winter brings a unique set of fire safety concerns due to fireplace and heating equipment usage. Here are a few reminders from our Fire Department to help keep you and your family safe from fires during this season:

- Move anything that can burn away from heat producing equipment, such as furnaces, fireplaces, space heaters and water heaters.
- Move space heaters away from bedding and other combustibles, and DO NOT power space heaters using extension cords.
- Have your heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Install or place a sturdy screen around your fireplace to stop sparks from flying into the room.
- Make sure ashes are cool before disposing of them, preferably by putting them in a metal container, and keeping it a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month, and make sure you have at least one CO alarm installed in or near each sleeping area.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear of Snow

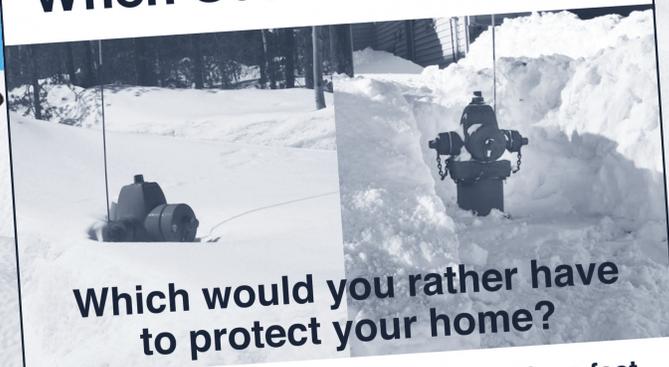
La Grange Park firefighters ask that you “Adopt-a-Hydrant” near your home, and help clear snow from around it when needed. Village fire engines carry a limited supply of water, leaving firefighters only a few minutes to fight a fire. Valuable time can be wasted by trying to find a hydrant or having to clear one to get more water.

Snow Removal Guidelines

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. Salting will be performed during plowing operations on a limited, as needed basis. By following just a few simple guidelines, residents can make our job and your neighborhood safer.

- 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!
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

When Seconds Count...



Which would you rather have to protect your home?

After a snowfall, remember to clear a three-foot radius around fire hydrants near your home.

Snow Blowing Reminders

A few reminders from the Village for managing snow with a snow blower:

- 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.

Snow is Falling, BOOKS ARE CALLING!

Winter Reading Program (All Ages)

There's nothing like snuggling up with a good book when it's cold outside! Join us for this year's winter reading program: Snow is Falling, Books are Calling! Complete four hours of reading and eight activities for a chance to win a basket of goodies! Each patron who completes the program gets a coupon for a free jumbo pizza slice from Rosati's, while supplies last!

Log your reading through the Beanstack website (lplibrary.beanstack.com) or app. If you already have a Beanstack account, just make sure your information is up to date and join the challenge!

Building Project Update

Improvements to the library are happening quickly, and we'll be back before you know it! Until then, keep informed about construction progress by following us on social media ([#lplrenovation](https://twitter.com/lplrenovation)) or visiting lplibrary.org/building-project-2.

“Senior Only” Pop-Up DMV in Westchester



Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced this office is opening two additional Driver and Motor Vehicle facilities (DMVs) in Westchester and Addison. The “Senior Only” DMV Center in Westchester is a walk-in facility (no appointment needed) that offers the following Driver and Motor Vehicle Services: REAL IDs, driver's licenses and state identification cards; vehicle registration stickers; organ and tissue donor registration; voter registration; and in-car driving tests. For more information, call 800-252-8980.

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.

Mike Bertacchi

Mike is a lifelong resident of La Grange Park. Mike is super helpful to us by picking up our mail and mowing our yard while we are away. Mike knows everyone on the block and is such a nice and friendly person. He welcomes new residents and treats them like new friends. Mike is a shining example of what a good neighbor should be!
- Jan Burke

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 September, October and November:

- Authorized And Directed The Village President To Sign The Declaration Of Covenant To Pay Service Fees In Lieu Of Taxes To The Village Of La Grange Park
- Accepted The Lowest Bid From K-Five Construction Corporation In The Amount Of \$479,966.90 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Accepted The Bid Proposal From Suburban General Construction, Inc., In The Amount Of \$155,855.00, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Approved An Ordinance Granting Variations For 507 E. Woodlawn Avenue Sought By Jewel Food Stores, Inc. And Woodman Of The World (Case No. 23-0016)
- Entered Into A Contract With Landscape Material & Firewood Sales, Inc. For The Disposal Of Leaves At \$900.00 Per Truckload Not To Exceed \$36,000, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved A Contract With AEP Energy For Electrical Energy Supply For Several Village Accounts With A 3-Year Contract Backed By 100% Green Energy, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Approved A Resolution Approving The Execution Of A Subrecipient Agreement Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Cook County, Illinois For American Rescue Plan Act – State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Approved The Purchase Of Eight (8) Motorola APX8500 Mobile Radios, Including Necessary Accessories For Mounting And Operation, From Chicago Communications LLC In Elmhurst, For A Total Cost Of \$63,937.68
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of A Health Inspection Services Agreement With The County Of Cook
- Approved A Change Order With K-Five Construction Company In The Amount Of \$48,203.00 For Additional Concrete Work
- Proclaimed Fire Prevention Week to be October 8 – October 14, 2023
- Appointed Edward Hurst as Director of Building & Inspectional Services/Building Commissioner
- Estimated That The Amount Necessary To Be Raised From The 2023 Property Tax Levy Is \$4,388,105, Exclusive Of Debt Service; Which Amount Is 7.1% Greater Than The Amount Of Taxes Extended For 2022
- Witnessed the Swearing In of Probationary Police Officer Blake Patchett
- Held A Truth In Taxation Public Hearing Concerning The 2023 Property Tax Levy
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing An Intergovernmental Agreement For Participation In The Mutual-Aid Box Alarm System, Also Known As The MABAS Master Agreement 2022
- Approved The HVAC Portion Of The Proposal Dated November 8, 2023, Provided By F.H. Paschen, Of Chicago, IL, For The Installation Of A New Forced Air HVAC System At Fire Station No. 2
- Approved An Open Purchase Order With Cargill Incorporated Salt Division, Not To Exceed A Total Amount Of \$65,000.00
- Approved Accounting Services Support In The Not To Exceed Amount Of \$80,000 From Lauterbach And Amen, LLP
- Appointed Phil Mesi To The La Grange Park Police Pension Board To Fill The Remainder Of A Two-Year Term Ending May 1, 2024
- Authorized The Village Manager To Enter Into A Contract With SB Friedman Development Advisors, LLC To Provide Development Consulting Services For 1119 N. La Grange Road and 1123 N. La Grange Road In An Amount Not To Exceed \$65,000; And Authorized The Village Manager To Enter Into A Contract With SB Friedman Development Advisors, LLC To Provide Development Consulting Services For 507 E. Woodlawn Avenue In An Amount Not To Exceed \$33,500
- Approved The Commercial Revitalization Committee's Recommended Implementation Items Related To The Village Market Streetscape Improvement Plan And Authorized Staff To Proceed With The Necessary Coordination Efforts
- Approved An Open Purchase Order With Cargill Incorporated Salt Division, Not To Exceed A Total Amount Of \$65,000.00
- Approved An Agreement With Municipal GIS Partners, Incorporated, And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Accepted The 2023 Police Pension Municipal Compliance Report
- Approved A Resolution Approving the Annual Schedule of Regular Meeting Dates for 2024
- Approved A Consulting Service Agreement For Public Affairs Representation With Taft Public Affairs Strategies Group, With Mike Zalewski As The Principal Point Of Contact
- Directed Staff To Negotiate A Five-Year Contract Extension With LRS For The Residential Waste Hauling Program
- Approved An Ordinance Granting A Variation For 400 N. Brainard Avenue – Tim And Patti Sullivan (Case #23-0019)
- Authorized Payment To Lyons-Pinner Electric Company For The Purchase And Installation Of A Street Light Pole On 31st Street In The Amount Of \$22,443.33
- Waived Competitive Bid And Approved An Open P.O. For \$41,475.00 To St. Aubin Nursery And Landscape For The Purchase And Planting Of Parkway Trees
- Approved And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute Agreements Between The Village Of La Grange Park & Edwin Hancock Engineering For Design And Construction Engineering Services In An Amount Of \$42,000 For The MWRD GI – Alley Project
- Approved An Increase In The “Not To Exceed” Amount To \$13,125.00 With A&B Landscaping And Tree Service, Inc. For Stump Removals And Restorations
- 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, 2023 And Ending April 30, 2024
- Approved An Ordinance Providing For Specific Reductions Of The 2023 Property Tax Levy Pursuant To The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law

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Village Website: www.lagrangepark.org

Sign up under

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

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/lagrangepark

Facebook.com/lagrangeparkPD

Facebook.com/lagrangeparkfiredepartment



Don't Forget to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins
on Sunday, March 10 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 19 - Presidents' Day
Friday, March 29 at Noon - Good Friday