

The

Rose CLIPPINGS

Spring 2024

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

www.lagrangepark.org



President's Corner

Spring came a little earlier than usual in La Grange Park. The sun is shining, flowers are blooming and exciting changes are cropping up all around the Village.

Happier Now Café & Market recently opened its doors to diners with an official grand opening last month. This fantastic restaurant from a local mother/daughter duo is a welcome addition to the restaurant scene in La Grange Park.

Along 31st Street you may notice new light pole banners lining the street. They feature La Grange Park native, J.J. McCarthy, who recently won the Football National Championship with the University of Michigan. Congratulations again to J.J.!

In the past few editions of Rose Clippings, we've chronicled progress on the new ALDI on La Grange Road, and I'm thrilled that this long-awaited grocery store will be opening soon. Some of our most popular community facilities are also re-opening this spring, with Library building renovations nearly complete and Beach Oak Park celebrating a grand re-opening in June.

A redevelopment study for the Jewel outlots is being finalized and will be shared at the April Village Board Work Session Meeting. We are looking forward to the results of this comprehensive analysis and the possibilities for what's to come at this location.

Other exciting news in the Village is that our community was awarded \$850,000 by Congressman Chuy García as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This funding will go toward the Central Area Storm Sewer Separation Project, a critical initiative to install new storm sewers and provide flooding relief in the central area of the Village. You'll find more information about this and several other important topics in this edition of Rose Clippings, including:



- Village events - Community Volunteer Day, the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce's Run for the Roses 5K, the Community Park District's Music Under the Stars Concert Series and National Night Out
- Village programs - Sewer Backup Prevention Program, the Village mulch lottery and annual brush collection program
- Reminders to residents – Dealing with wildlife, pet policies and information about periodical cicadas

Lastly, we received several submissions for our Good Neighbor Corner this past quarter. I love hearing stories about the friendly people and helpful neighbors that make La Grange Park such a special place to call home. I hope you all enjoy the nicer weather and as always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James J. Discipio



Celebrating J.J. McCarthy in La Grange Park

As you drive down 31st Street, you may notice new banners adorning the light posts. To celebrate J.J. McCarthy's recent success with the University of Michigan Wolverines winning the Football National Championship, the Village worked with the McCarthy family to create these festive banners. The banners will be displayed throughout the month of April. Congratulations, J.J. We're so proud of you!

Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Village Hall Lobby

The La Grange Park Police Department in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host a National Drug Take Back Day. This program offers a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing unwanted or expired medications (please note that only drugs in pill form will be accepted; no liquids). Please empty all drugs from their original containers, bottles or blister packs and place in a sealed baggie for drop off. Can't make it on April 27? A permanent drop box is located in the Village Hall Lobby with drop off access during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).



Community Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Village's annual Community Volunteer Day will take place Saturday, May 18 at various locations throughout La Grange Park. Volunteers will assist older adults in the community who need help with outdoor "spring cleaning." This day of service is a great opportunity for individuals, families, and organizations to support their neighbors and make a positive mark on the community. Visit the Village's website to register for the event or to request volunteer assistance.

Run for the Roses 5K

Sunday, May 19, 8:00 a.m., Forest Road School, 901 Forest Road

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 way we support our local businesses and build a sense of community. This spring, we are thrilled to bring back the Run for the Roses 5K. A portion of the proceeds for this event will go to Pillars Community Health. Contact Chamber President, Sheri Sauer, to learn about sponsorship/volunteer opportunities or with any questions (708-372-2579, lgpchamberofcommerce@gmail.com). To register for the Run for the Roses 5K, please scan this QR Code or visit raceroster.com/events/2024/85145/run-for-the-roses.



National Night Out

**Tuesday, August 6, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.,
The Tower Green, 914 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs**

The Village of La Grange Park will partake in National Night Out with the Village of Western Springs and the Western Springs Police Department once again this year. The event will take place on August 6 on the grounds of the historic Water Tower in Western Springs. Come have a hot dog, bag of chips and bottle of water while enjoying some family-friendly activities. Please follow the La Grange Park Police Department on Facebook for further details as this event gets closer.



Sustainability Commission

Access to Solar Panels

There are three great options for La Grange Park residents to access green power for their homes currently: purchasing solar panels, leasing solar panels and participating in a community solar program that supports a renewable power project. These options can save homeowners between 10 and 60% on the cost of electricity. More information about solar panels and programs can be found on the Village's website and the Citizen's Utility Board website.

Reusable School Supply Project

The Village is excited to announce that the Sustainability Commission will be holding its second Reusable School Supply Project collection event this year. Over 300 boxes of lightly-used school supplies from area schools are boxed and distributed to under-resourced schools and education-related programs, preventing those materials from being sent to the landfill. If you are interested in volunteering or know of a group who would benefit from school supplies, please contact Rick Radde at rradde@lagrangepark.org. The date of this year's collection event will be posted in the Village's E-Briefs newsletter and on the Village of La Grange Park Sustainability Commission Facebook page.

Brush Schedule 2024

The Village offers a free brush collection service once per month from May to October, starting on the first Monday of the month. Brush must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on Monday for all sections of the Village. Each street has brush collected one time during the week. Brush pick-up weeks start on the following days:

**May 6th • June 3rd • July 1st • August 5th
September 2nd • October 7th (last pick up for the year)**

See the Village's website for guidelines on brush placement, size requirements and other related information. Brush pickup is strictly for residents who have performed tree or brush work on their own property. Contractors working for homeowners are not allowed to use this service.

Lottery for Free Mulch!

The Village utilizes a lottery system to select recipients for free mulch. The lottery drawing will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at which time all addresses entered will be randomly drawn and ordered. Only one entry is allowed per address. Approximately 30 mulch deliveries will be made each week, beginning May 6 and 7 with the delivery notification sent via email. Deliveries are anticipated to continue through May and possibly June until mulch runs out. We are unable to answer lottery and delivery inquiries prior to Wednesday, May 8. To enter the lottery, complete the "Mulch Lottery Form" on the Village's website under the "Residents" tab, or complete the form included on the back page and return to Village Hall by Monday, April 29.

The Sustainability Commission would like to remind residents to keep mulch away from tree bark to avoid tree diseases. For more information on proper mulching techniques, visit the Village's website.



Reminder to Dog Owners

Springtime 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)

Outdoor Warning Sirens

The Village maintains two outdoor warning sirens designed for alerting residents of tornado warnings while outdoors. As a reminder, although they can sometimes be heard and helpful when inside your home or other buildings, they are actually designed for outdoor warning. Your best options for being notified of severe weather are by purchasing a weather alert radio, staying tuned to local television or radio stations or using weather warning apps designed for your smart phone.

The Village also utilizes the Rave Alert/Smart911 System to send information during severe weather for warnings, and for other critical events. Residents must be registered and should regularly update their information at www.smart911.com.

IF WE ARE UNDER A TORNADO WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY, SUCH AS A SAFE ROOM, BASEMENT OR SMALL INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST LEVEL.

State of the Village

La Grange Park had an eventful year in 2023! Thank you to Village staff, officials, members of the business community and residents who joined us for the State of the Village reception in February. We were fortunate to have several elected officials in attendance, including State Representative La Shawn Ford of the 8th District, State Senator Mike Porfirio of the 21st District, Speaker of the Illinois House Of Representatives, Chris Welch from the 7th District and U.S. Congressman Chuy García representing the 4th District of Illinois. Be sure to check out the State of the Village video on YouTube (@VillageofLaGrangeParkOfficial) for a recap of our accomplishments from the year.



Sewer Backup Prevention Program

Does water enter your home through floor drains, utility sinks, bathrooms or sump pits during storms? If you are concerned about flooding in your home, now is a great time to make updates to prevent sewer backup problems. Through the Village's Sewer Backup Prevention Program, funding is available to homeowners to help offset the costs for plumbing improvements. And this past year, Cook County awarded \$300,000 to the Village of La Grange Park to expand our existing program. Get ahead of spring rain and protect your home from basement flooding from sewer backups. To learn more and apply for this program, visit the Village's website or scan this QR Code.



Proposed Construction Projects 2024

Pending Village Board approval, the following construction projects are planned in 2024. Please refer to the Village's website for ongoing construction updates.

- Road paving – 500 block of Park Avenue
- Water main replacement – 300 and 400 blocks of Edgewood and Richmond Avenue, from Park to Edgewood Avenue
- Green Alley Project – Alley north of 31st Street, between Newberry and Kemman Avenue. Concrete and permeable pavers will be installed to help collect storm water.

Cicadas Are Coming in May

This year is a big year for periodical cicadas in Illinois with two large broods of cicadas emerging simultaneously, an event that has not occurred in more than two centuries! Periodical cicadas differ from the cicadas that appear in our area every summer because of their abnormally long life cycle with different groups lying dormant for 13 or 17 years before emerging to reproduce. Emergence of periodical cicadas typically occurs in May and June and lasts about four weeks. Besides the noise, which may be substantial, cicadas don't pose a threat to humans or pets. However, as adults, cicadas can cause substantial damage to very young trees and shrubs. For more information about cicadas in Illinois this year, the University of Illinois Extension Office website is a great resource.



Wildlife in Our Community

We are fortunate to be surrounded by Forest Preserves in La Grange Park, which often means that residents are visited by wildlife "neighbors." If you have questions or concerns about wildlife on your property, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) provides extensive resources to help Illinois residents identify wildlife, prevent problems, get help with injured animals, remove nuisance wildlife and more on their website: wildlifeillinois.org.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS CONCERT SERIES

Concerts will be Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Amphitheater.

Concert Schedule:

June 26

West Suburban
Concert Band
(Concert Band)

July 10

Strung Out
(70s music)

July 17

Mr. Myers
(Caribbean Rock)

July 24

Sting Rays
(Rock & Roll/Oldies)

July 31

The Telltale Hearts
(Classic Rock)

August 7

The Mackenzie O'Brien Band
(Country)

Community Park District

Yena Park Renovation

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources awarded the Community Park District of La Grange Park a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant for the renovation of Yena Park. This is a matching grant that will supplement the \$600,000 the park district had available for capital park improvements, bringing the total improvement budget for Yena Park to \$1.2 million! Over the last three years, the park district has worked with residents and community groups to develop an exciting plan for the complete renovation of the park. Improvements include the addition of pickleball, playground replacement, more nature-based play spaces, tennis court renovation, athletic field renovations and more. Visit www.communityparkdistrict.org or follow on Facebook for additional input meetings and updates on the project timeline.

Beach Oak Park Update

We're finishing up a \$700,000 renovation at Beach Oak Park! Join us for the Beach Oak Park Grand Re-Opening on Friday, June 14 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will have face painters, games, prizes and food!



9th Annual Veterans Memorial Ceremony

Monday, May 27, 9:30 a.m., Veterans Memorial Plaza

This event includes a military salute presented by the Robert E. Coulter Jr., American Legion Post 1941, and a wreath presentation by Boy Scout Troop 33. All are invited to attend.

Memorial Park Splash Pad Hours

The splash pad at Memorial Park will be open seven days a week beginning Memorial Day Weekend, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FREE! Wacky Wednesdays

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.,

Saturday, May 18, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m., Park Junior High

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea and is 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. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday, May 1.



Arbor Advocates

Join the Community Park District's Arbor Advisory Group

- Friday, April 26 - Join us at Robinhood Park for our Arbor Day ceremony.
- Thursday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - The Community Park District and Chicago Tree Initiative will be planting 10 native trees at Memorial Park and will provide training to help folks learn how to properly plant and care for trees.
- First Wednesday of each month, 6:00 p.m., 1501 Barnsdale Road - Attend a meeting of the Arbor Advocates.

Village Board Highlights

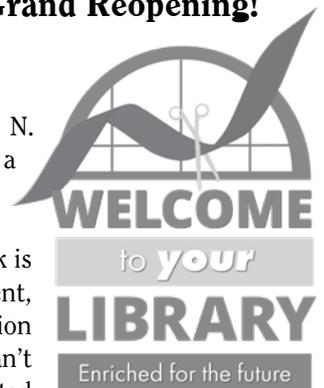
The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of December, January, and February.

- Viewed a Presentation Of Resources On The Topic Of Homelessness By Beds Plus Chief Executive Officer Tina Rounds And Chief Program Officer Shannon Goold, LCSW
- Approved Certain Amendments To The Village's Personnel Manual And Approved An Ordinance Regarding The Illinois Paid Leave For All Workers Act For The Village Of La Grange Park
- Approved An Ordinance Amending Chapter 34 Of The La Grange Park Municipal Code As Amended
- Approved A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement By And Between The Village Of La Grange Park And The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Of Greater Chicago For The Design, Construction, Operation, And Maintenance Of The Green Alley Project In La Grange Park, Illinois
- Approved Travel Expenses In The Amount Of \$252.27 For Attending The 2023 IML Board Of Directors Meeting In Chicago, Illinois
- Approved A One-Year Contract Between The Village Of La Grange Park And Dawsons Tree Service, Inc. For The 2023/2024 Tree Trimming Program In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$37,900.00 And Authorized The Village President To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Approved An Increase "Not To Exceed" Amount To \$211,000.00 With Nardulli Construction Company For Additional Utility Concrete Restorations
- Viewed A Presentation Regarding The Lead Service Line Replacement, Future Water Main Project, And Monthly Water Billing
- Directed Staff To Proceed With The Development And Issuance Of A Request For Proposals For The Creation Of A Branding And Identity Plan For The Village
- Directed Staff To Proceed With The Development And Implementation Of The Property Revitalization Program
- Approved An Ordinance Abating The Tax Hereto Levied For The Year 2023 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 and Approved An Ordinance Abating A Portion Of The Taxes Heretofore Levied For The Year 2023 To Pay Debt Service On General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2016, Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Cook County, Illinois
- Approved An Ordinance Amending Chapter 119 Of Title XI Of The Municipal Code Of La Grange Park
- Approved Payment For 2023 Banking Services To Fifth Third Bank In The Amount Of \$21,808.16
- Approved A Community Celebratory Banner Program Honoring JJ McCarthy
- Accepted The Proposal From Altorfer Caterpillar, In An Amount Of \$66,793.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Accepted the Bid Proposal From National Power Rodding Corp. In The "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$148,623.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Approved A Contract With National Power Rodding Corp. In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$21,502.25 For The 2023/2024 Sewer Cleaning And Televising Program And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents

- Approved An Agreement With Edwin Hancock Engineering For Design Engineering Services In A "Not To Exceed" Amount Of \$150,700.00 For The Edgewood & Richmond Water Main Project And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents
- Approved An Ordinance Authorizing The Sale, Trade-In, Or Disposal of Surplus Property Of The Village Of La Grange Park, Illinois
- Approved An Agreement Between LRS And The Village Of La Grange Park For The Residential Collection And Transportation Of Municipal Solid Waste And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Documents
- Remanded The Matter Back To The Traffic, Safety, & Engineering Committee (TS&E) For Reconsideration Of The 2023 Parking Restrictions
- Approved A Contract With Key Code Media, Inc. For The Purchase And Installation Of Four Wall-Mounted Cameras For The Village Hall Board Room In An Amount Not To Exceed \$31,821.00 And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Necessary Contract Documents
- Approved A Contract With Suburban General Construction In The Amount Of \$71,190.00 For The 2023/2024 Sewer Repair Program And Authorized The Village Manager To Execute The Contract Documents

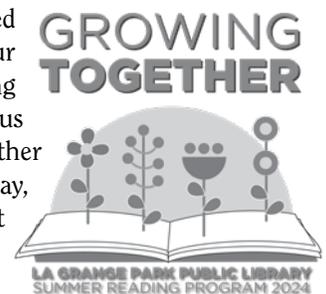
Save the Date for Our Grand Reopening! Saturday, August 3, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We're due to move back to 555 N. La Grange Road this spring, and a celebration will be in order once we settle in! Mark your calendar now. Everyone in La Grange Park is invited to this family-friendly event, so be on the lookout for an invitation in the mail this summer. We can't wait to join you in this long-awaited celebration! For more information about the building project, visit: lplibrary.org/building-project-2



Summer Reading Program: Growing Together Saturday, June 1 through Wednesday, July 31

Celebrate the newly renovated library by participating in our Summer Reading Program, Growing Together! This summer, we'll focus on all the ways we have come together to make the library what it is today, while using this fresh start to plant the seeds for our future. Join us as we continue to grow it into a place that best serves and represents our community. Sign up and log your hours using the Beanstack website or app. If you have already used Beanstack, just use your previous login information and make sure all your details are up to date! This program runs from June 1 to July 31.



We're Looking for Good Neighbors!

The Good Neighbor Corner is a regular newsletter feature highlighting the good news in our community. The Village is always 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.

Tim Gallagher

Tim and his wife are long time La Grange Park residents and raised their children here. Not only are they a wonderful family but Tim has given back to our community in a big way. Over a decade ago, Tim started the Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraiser in Stone and Monroe Park. Tim started the fundraiser as a tennis tournament at the park and asked people to donate what they could and all proceeds were going to a veteran who was a LGP resident. Over the years, that small tennis tournament has turned into a highlight event for neighbors and raised incredible amounts of money for community members. Last year, the event made \$50,000 and the money was given to a Senior at LT who is battling cancer and a family whose father was awaiting a heart transplant. Tim has rallied the neighborhood and created an event that has deep roots and an amazing mission. He is salt of the earth and has the biggest heart. He is the best, and this neighborhood is better because he is in it. – *Nominated by Molly Martin and Missy Michaels*

A Thoughtful Unknown Neighbor on Sherwood

I was out walking one day a couple weeks ago with my nine-month-old son and I accidentally dropped his winter hat that his grandma had given him for Christmas. I did not notice until later because we had been walking all around La Grange Park so he could nap! When I realized I had dropped the hat, we had already been walking for almost two hours! I began to walk around and retrace my steps to find it and then I ran into her and asked her if she had seen a hat on the ground by chance. She expressed that she did not but that if she found it she would bring it to me. I quickly gave her my address (Robinhood) and described the hat more in detail. I went looking for the hat for another 30 minutes before I called it quits because my son was getting cranky. When I got back home, the hat was hanging on my door knob! She had found it and remembered my address. Such a nice person! – *Nominated by Ariana Dolatowski*

Pat and Andy Kulik

Ever since we moved in two and a half years ago, Pat and Andy Kulik have been so welcoming and wonderful to our family. When we were sick, they brought soup and left it on our porch. When my husband had surgery, Andy moved our garbage cans for us. They are gems to our neighborhood and we are so grateful to have them as neighbors! – *Nominated by Abbi Montes*

Mike D'Angelo and Michelle and Mike Sheehan

I am a senior citizen and recently have had several health issues going on. When my vehicle was in the body shop I had no transportation back and forth to have my tests done and pick up my prescriptions. Mike D'Angelo along with Michelle and Mike Sheehan worked together to help me. Also, they said to let them know what else I might need. Even though they are dealing with their own elderly parents, they somehow found the time to help me. I am so appreciative of their help and kindness to me. I am so blessed to have them in my life. – *Nominated by Bonnie Koll*

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?

 Printed on recycled paper



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447 North Catherine Avenue
La Grange Park, Illinois 60526
(708) 354-0225

www.lagrangepark.org

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Important Local Safety News Delivered Right 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.

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, May 27 - Memorial Day
Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day

MULCH FORM - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL (Important) _____

CIRCLE AMOUNT REQUESTING: Half Truck Full Truck

½ truck load equals approximately 1.5 cubic yards • 1 full truck load equals approximately 3 cubic yards

Generally, one cubic yard will cover a 6-foot x 9-foot area

RETURN by Monday, April 29 to: VILLAGE HALL, 447 N. Catherine Avenue
ONLY ONE (1) REQUEST PER HOUSEHOLD