

The *Rose* CLIPPINGS

Village of Roses

Winter 2011

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park



President's Corner

The past three years have presented numerous challenges for families and communities across the nation. Home foreclosures, business failures and reductions in municipal revenues have resulted in financial decline and economic uncertainty. Now, more than ever before, the current economic climate has required the Village to practice vigilance and careful decision-making in order to maintain service levels and remain fiscally sustainable.

Over the past year, the Village has been diligent in implementing initiatives to mitigate future risks. During this time, La Grange Park has successfully reduced its debt obligations, found alternative funding sources, achieved smaller government while maintaining service levels, reduced crime rates and experienced relatively low foreclosure rates. Additionally, in December of 2010, La Grange Park was recognized by Forbes Magazine as among America's 20 Most Stable Housing Markets – the only community in Illinois to receive this recognition. This recognition speaks to the high quality of life in the Village and the strength of our community. We are a Village of residents who give back to the community in many ways and who understand our role in making the Village a better place to live.

The Village's ongoing fiscal diligence has allowed us to move forward with a budget that maintains core Village services and that provides for reinvestment in Village infrastructure. The Village is able to do so because it has made tough budgetary decisions in recent years and because our residents have supported those decisions. The Village is in a better position today because we were quick to respond to the changing financial environment and made adjustments in spending wherever possible – and by implementing innovative cost saving measures.



President James J. Discipio

In 2012, the Village will be looking to extend our cost saving measures beyond our own budget and look for ways to reduce costs for our residents and small business owners. The Village Board recently voted to place a referendum on the March 20, 2012 ballot to ask residents whether they support the Village pursuing municipal electrical aggregation. More information on the process can be found in the insert contained in this mailing and will be distributed to residents in the weeks and months to come. Our preliminary analysis indicates that residents and small businesses may be able to save between 20% and 30% on their monthly electric bills. A number of suburban Chicago communities have already implemented municipal aggregation and their residents and small businesses are reaping the benefits. This is just one more means by your Village government is working on your behalf.

Looking towards 2012, the Village plans to move forward with the planning and implementation of a number of projects and programs. Planning for the new municipal public works facility is back in full swing, as the Village has received grant money that will help make the new facility a reality. Additionally, the Village plans to continue our partnership with our local businesses and work with the newly established Commercial Revitalization Committee to evaluate how La Grange Park can continue to thrive commercially and to implement new business retention and attraction programs. The Village is also planning on undertaking a strategic planning process to assist in developing our vision for the future of the community.

Throughout 2012, I invite residents and businesses to stay involved with Village happenings and I encourage you to play an even greater role in making the Village a better place to live. For it is collectively, as a community, that the Village of La Grange Park will continue to thrive in times of uncertainty.



Commercial Revitalization Committee

The Village has formed the new Commercial Revitalization Committee to develop recommendations for the Village Board's consideration for economic development and business outreach efforts. The Committee is comprised of three Village Board Members and meets monthly to discuss ways to create a vibrant business community where the Village supports and encourages business retention and expansion, and new business attraction. In 2011, the Committee worked hard to establish its mission, vision, and a list of draft goals which are included in a living draft document, currently titled, "Draft Action Plan." The plan includes the ideas and activities for potential development and is available at the Village's website, under "Commercial Revitalization."

Mission:

The purpose of the Commercial Revitalization Committee is to assist and guide in the creation of a vibrant business community by recommending programs and actions that foster business retention, expansion and new business attraction in the Village of La Grange Park.

Vision:

Our Vision for the Village of La Grange Park is to be a catalyst to stimulate business growth within the community. We will achieve this vision by:

- Having a clear understanding of our business community and the needs of our residents.
- Meet the needs of our business community by increasing the dialogue between the business community and the Village of La Grange Park.
- Encourage current businesses to expand their operations within La Grange Park.
- Supporting and encouraging new businesses to locate in La Grange Park, progressing toward a vibrant and expanding business community.
- Assist in the facilitation of the development, improvements, and vitality of our key commercial areas: The Village Market, 31st Street Corridor, and the Barnsdale Manufacturing District.
- To improve the sustainability and quality of life for the residents of La Grange Park.

The next Commercial Revitalization Committee will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall. The Village welcomes all residents and business owners to attend.

Allied Waste's Naughty or Nice Guide to Holiday Recycling & Pick-Up Schedule Reminder

Confused about how to dispose of your holiday wrappings and decorations? Allied Waste has created a "Naughty or Nice" list to answer your recycling questions:

NICE (recyclable)

- Gift boxes
- Tissue paper
- Shoe boxes
- Holiday cards/envelopes
- Gift bags (if paper)
- Wrapping paper (consider reusing)

NAUGHTY (not recyclable)

- Bubble wrap (consider reusing)
- Foam peanuts
- Ribbon and bows (consider reusing)
- Sticky gift labels
- Gift bags if coated, laminated, dyed
- Anything on the tree



ALLIED WASTE SERVICES



LaGrange Park Property Tax Summary

Each year, we include summaries of property tax information in the winter edition of the "Rose Clippings." We hope you find this information helpful in interpreting the true value and purchase power of the property taxes you pay.

As you can see in the charts below, the Village's share of your total property tax bill is 10.8% or 8.7%, depending on the school district. The Village continues to try to provide outstanding value for your money by keeping streets and public areas neat and well-maintained, providing police and fire protection, providing reliable water and sewer service,

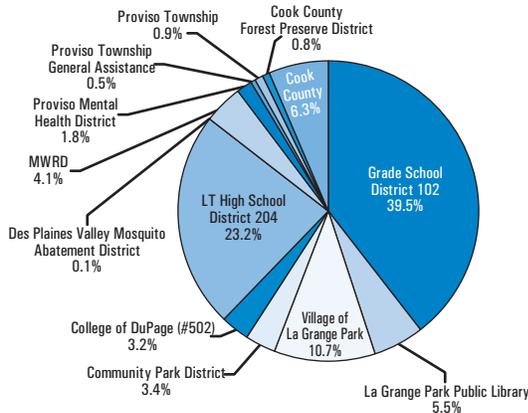
protecting the residential and commercial structures of our community, and doing all of it as efficiently as possible.

As the charts below illustrate, the majority of your property tax bill, approximately 63%-70% supports the grade schools and high schools. Not including the schools, the three remaining local institutions – the La Grange Park Public Library, the Community Park District, and the Village, comprise a combined total of approximately 20% of your total tax bill.

Total Tax Levy

The 2010 total tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) was 6.663 for properties in School District 102 and 8.226 for properties in School District 95. Please refer to the chart below for the tax rates over time.

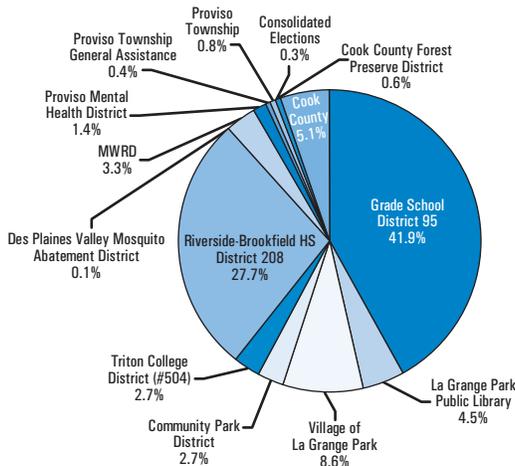
2010 Property Taxes District 102



Total Property Tax Rates in School District 102 | Total Property Tax Rates in School District 95

Year	School District 102	School District 95
2000 Tax Year	9.637	9.602
2001 Tax Year	9.621	9.555
2002 Tax Year	7.772	7.608
2003 Tax Year	7.982	7.985
2004 Tax Year	8.059	8.067
2005 Tax Year	7.122	7.482
2006 Tax Year	7.311	8.105
2007 Tax Year	7.105	8.038
2008 Tax Year	6.712	8.160
2009 Tax Year	6.608	8.195
2010 Tax Year	6.663	8.226

2010 Property Taxes District 95



2010 Property Taxes District 95

While we will not know the total 2011 property tax rate until late next summer, the Village of La Grange Park approved an ordinance in November that authorized the 2011 Village tax levy (collected in 2012), which is our portion of the total real estate tax. Tax caps will scale back the initial levy request and we estimate the actual real estate tax extension to be \$3,182,000. This is a 2.2% increase over the 2010 extension.

How Your Property Tax Bill Is Calculated

We all get that tax bill in the mail twice a year and after reading the article above we have a better understanding of where all the money goes, but do you know how your tax bill is calculated in the first place?

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. But then the Illinois Department of Revenue applies an equalization factor to the assessed value of property per county to ensure equitable assessment across individual counties. The equalization factor for Cook County for the 2010 tax year was 3.3000. So, if you own a home worth \$350,000, then the assessed value will be [350,000 x .10 x 3.3701], or \$115,500.00. This assessed value is then multiplied by the tax rate for your property's particular location to get the total tax bill. Using the 2010 tax rates as listed above, a property with an assessed value of \$115,500.00 paid the following amounts in 2011 for the 2010 tax year (prior to any exemptions):

District 102 $\$115,500 \times .0663 = \$7,657.65$
District 95 $\$115,500 \times .08226 = \$9,501.03$

The total taxes paid are then split between the taxing bodies in the percentages as illustrated in the above pie charts. In this scenario, the Village of La Grange Park would receive \$827 of the total tax bill from the property in District 95 highlighted above.





Electronics Recycling Becomes Mandatory

On January 1, 2012 the listed electronics will be banned from landfills in the State of Illinois. These items may no longer be disposed of with your weekly trash. They must be recycled.

- televisions, monitors
- printers, facsimile machines, scanners
- computers, electronic keyboards and mice
- video game consoles & videocassette recorders
- digital converter boxes, cable & satellite receivers/recorders
- portable digital music players
- video disc recorders and players

Please stay tuned in to your Village communications for additional information on information regarding proper disposal of the above listed electronics.

Police Department Is Seeking Block Captains

The La Grange Park Police Department is in the process of updating their Neighborhood Watch List by contacting those residents who previously served/registered as Block Captains. Block Captains are used to pass on information to neighbors during times of need through word of mouth or the distribution of printed materials.

Also, volunteers are being sought for assisting the department as part of the Pharmaceutical Distribution program. These volunteers would be utilized in any local or national emergency situation where medication needs to be distributed at designated local distribution facilities.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain or would like to serve as part of the Pharmaceutical Distribution Program, please contact Jackie Vieceli in the La Grange Park Police Department (708) 352-7711 ext. 204 or email at jvieceli@lagrangepark.org

Look Out for New Signs in the Village

The La Grange Park Business Association has partnered with local businesses to create a banner program to showcase our Village to passers by and for use as an effective means of communication and beautification. The LPBA has contracted with Bannerville USA, located in Burr Ridge, to increase the awareness of businesses and services available in our community. The banners have been installed and can be seen on 31st Street and along La Grange Road.



In last year's winter edition of the Rose Clippings, we announced that La Grange Park was listed among Forbes Magazine's most stable housing markets in the country. To highlight this distinction, the Village will attach new signage to the current village entry signs to promote our safe and established community.

Check out the Forbes Magazine signage in the upcoming months at these locations:

- 1) In front of Bethlehem Woods Retirement Community on Ogden Avenue
- 2) South boundary on La Grange Road near Plymouth Place
- 3) North Boundary on La Grange Road at Sherwood Village entrance
- 4) South side of 31st Street by Salt Creek Bicycle Trail
- 5) Southbound Maple (17th) before 26th Street

Don't Forget to "Spring" Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 a.m. "Spring" your clocks forward at that time!



Holiday Walk in the Village of Roses

The Village of La Grange Park, Community Park District of La Grange Park and the La Grange Park Business Association teamed up on December 2 to sponsor The Holiday Walk and Chili Cook-Off. During the Walk, Village Market businesses welcomed patrons with treats and festive activities while Wire Choir Quartet filled the chilly air with cheerful music. Next, patrons gathered around the Christmas Trees in Memorial Park



to commence the Tree Lighting ceremony led by Boy Scout Troop 39, Cub Scout Pack 66 and President Discipio. After the tree was lit and the carols were sung, residents warmed up the Chili Cook-Off where they sampled the best-kept recipes in town! Rose Barrett, a sophomore at LT, took home First Prize, Roy Cripe and Peggy Ronovsky of the Community Park District placed Second, and Shannon

Sarna and Marie Capanzano of The Grove took home Third Place. Congratulations to the winners and special thanks to all residents, staff and businesses that participated and volunteered at the event!



Village Personnel Changes

Assistant Village Manager *Emily Rodman*

Emily Rodman joined the Village on December 5th as the new Assistant Village Manager. Emily comes to La Grange Park from the Village of Woodridge where she served as the Senior Planner for five years and as a Planner for three years prior. Emily maintains her planning certification through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and holds a Bachelor's Degree in German and a Master of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, with a focus on Housing and Community Development.

Interim Public Works Director *Rick Radde*

Julius Hansen, who served as the Village's Director of Public Works for eight years, recently left the Village to accept a position as the Public Works Director for the Village of Glen Ellyn. As the Village continues its search for a new Director, the Village's Water Operator, Rick Radde, has stepped up to serve as the Interim Public Works Director. Rick, a La Grange Park resident, has been with the Village for over 20 years and has extensive knowledge of Village procedures and operations. Please contact Rick with any questions or concerns regarding Public Works operations at (708) 352-2922 or rradde@lagrangepark.org.

Check out our La Grange Park Public Works Department on YouTube! dkproductions, owned by David Karaffa, produced a promotional video for the Public Works Department to showcase the department's response in weather-related emergencies, including the Blizzard of 2011, and the daily responsibilities of Public Works' employees in maintaining the Village's infrastructure and public spaces. The video can be viewed on YouTube at this address: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcyIVFY1ATM.



Lace Up Your Skates and Head Out to the Community Ice Rink!

The Community Park District's outdoor ice rinks will be opened at Memorial Park with assistance from the La Grange Park Fire Department. Fire Department Volunteers and Park District Staff prepared the rinks in December filling and placing 500 bags with 6,000 lbs. of sand!

New this year is a rink suitable for hockey and a separate rink for open skating! The rinks will be open when there is a minimum of 3" of ice. A **green flag** will appear at the rink and announcements will appear on the Park District Website when the ice rinks are

ready for skaters. A **red flag** visible from the street will be seen when the rinks are closed. Both rinks have lights to enable use until 10:00 p.m. Rules for skating and rink usage are posted on-site.

This fun, seasonal activity is made by available by the hard work and coordination between the Community Park District and the La Grange Park Fire Department. The Park District has purchased the supplies needed for construction, and the Fire Department is responsible for ongoing ice maintenance. Get outside and take advantage of your community ice rinks!

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 & November:

- Appointment of members to the Youth Commission
- Proclamation - Fire Prevention Week October 9-15, 2011
- Action – 2011 Utility Restoration Work
- Motion to Authorize the President and Chairperson of the Finance Committee to sign the register for bills, and authorize the Treasurer and Village Clerk to sign checks in payment of operating bills and salaries as itemized in the Check Registers
- Approved Resolution accepting the Proposal from Homer Industries for the disposal of leaves
- Motion to concur with the recommendation of the Finance Director regarding the Tax Levy Estimate
- Discussion & Action - Public Hearing 2011-05 to consider a petition for a zoning variation (1401 Deerpath)
- Approved Collective Bargaining Agreement – Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) – Patrol Officers
- Approved Energy Efficiency Lighting Retrofits for Village Hall
- Discussion & Action – USPS Termination Lease Agreement (Adjacent Property)
- Motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Health Inspection Services Agreement with the County of Cook
- Motion to Approve the Proposal from SolarOne for the Purchase of a Solar Powered Street Light
- Motion to Accept the Design for the 1029 Beach Avenue Parking Lot (Alternate A)
- Approved a Resolution to Dispose of Clean Construction Debris
- Approved an IDOT Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code
- Motion to approve the annual Tax Levy Ordinances
- Proclamation - National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month December 2011
- Discussion and Action-Resolution Approving 2012 meeting dates

Community Park District's *Special Thanks & Warm Holiday Wishes*

One of the biggest strengths in La Grange Park is the pronounced spirit of cooperation between its service providers. No detailed records are kept and there is no fanfare or debate; an indicator of what true cooperation is all about. As a result, La Grange Park citizens receive top shelf programs at less cost.

- For the third year in a row, the Village of La Grange Park Fire Department provided much needed manpower in erecting the outdoor ice rink in Memorial Park. Nine firemen helped the Park District Maintenance Department fill more than 500 sand bags with 6,000 pounds of sand and later helped roll out the ice rink liners and filled the rinks with water. The firemen also donate ice rink grooming man-hours during the ice skating season.
- The La Grange Public Library offers library space for Community Park District recreation programs. In return the Park District snow plows the Library parking lot.
- School District 102, for years, has allowed Park District programs to use its gymnasiums at Park Jr. High School and Forest Road School. In return the Park District provides use of its baseball & Softball fields.
- The Park District's Maintenance Department ran dedicated power and decorated the trees for this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony. In return the Village Public Works Department provided necessary supplies and police patrol for the event. The La Grange Park Business Association also participated heavily by sponsoring the Christmas Walk and Chili Cook Off at Village Market.
- The Memorial Park baseball field recently received a major renovation with the majority of the cost provided by the La Grange Park Little League. Nazareth Academy, who also use the field in the early spring also contributed financially to the project.
- The Run for the Roses and the Blues/Jazz Festival would not happen if the La Grange Police Department did provide crowd control services. In addition more than 100 individual volunteers, the La Grange Radio Club and the Emergency Service Disaster Agency participate in these events.
- The Village Fire Department volunteer a full day each year with the Park District Ready Teddy Preschool teaching fire prevention. The extension ladder truck is always a featured part of the program.
- Chase Industries, located immediately south of the Park District Recreation Center allow use of their large parking lot when needed. In exchange the Park District snow plows the Chase parking lot.
- The Park District Park Maintenance Department and the Village Public Works Department save large amounts of equipment cost every year by sharing equipment and man-power when needed.

On behalf of the Community Park District Board and Staff, have a wonderful holiday season and happy New Year.





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RESIDENT FEEDBACK

Please use this section to give us your comments, suggestions, questions, problems or compliments. If you have something on your mind . . . let us know! Just jot it down and send it to us.

Please mail to: Village Manager, Village of La Grange Park, 447 North Catherine, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Email address: jcedillo@lagrangepark.org. If you would like a response, please include your name, mailing address, email address or daytime phone number.

Stay connected with Village news and community happenings, subscribe to E-Briefs, the Village's weekly electronic newsletter. Send an email to jcedillo@lagrangepark.org and type "sign me up!"

VILLAGE*HALL*

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LOST & FOUND

From time to time the Village of La Grange Park maintains a gathering of lost and found items. To reclaim any items left behind at Village Hall, call 708-354-0225, ext. 102.