

Rose CLIPPINGS

Fall 2015

Est. 1892

The Village of La Grange Park

President's Corner

As the weather grows cooler and residents begin to gear up for the holiday season, it is time for the Village to begin planning for 2016. The Village has several large initiatives planned for the upcoming year and I'm excited to provide you a brief preview of what next year will bring.

Earlier this year, the Village Board held a strategic planning session to discuss undertaking a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Feasibility Study. The study will evaluate the commercial and industrial areas of the Village, including the Village Market, 31st Street and the Barnsdale Corridor to determine if they are eligible to be designated as a TIF District under Illinois State Statute. The



Village recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP), seeking a consultant to assist us in performing the study. Our hope is that the study will identify areas in the community that could benefit from a TIF District designation and that may ultimately benefit from redevelopment using TIF monies. Completion of the study is only the first step in a long process, so stay tuned for updates as the Village progresses through this evaluation period.

In September, the Village announced that we will be going out to referendum

on March 15, 2016 to seek up to \$1.2 million in funding for fire apparatus (a new ambulance and ladder truck) and up to \$10 million in funding for the paving of our local roads. An informational insert has been included in this edition of the Rose Clippings with more details regarding the referendum, so please take the time to review the insert in detail. We hope that the information provided will answer any questions you may have. If not, please feel free to forward your questions to the Village staff as they are always available to assist you.

I invite you to join me and the Board of Trustees on October 8th for the annual State of the Village Address. This year I'll have the pleasure of presenting the address alongside each of the Village's Department Heads. Don't miss the opportunity to hear about what the Village has accomplished over the past year and what is on the horizon. Following the State of the Village Address, Village staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

As you spend time this fall reflecting on all that you are thankful for and preparing for gatherings with family and friends, don't forget about the many community events that help us celebrate the season. Take advantage of the annual Community Clean-Up Day and E-Waste Recycling event that help you get your home in order and ready for guests. Get extra use out of those Halloween costumes by participating in the La Grange Park Chamber Haunted Trolley Trick-or-Treat event and the Halloween Costume Party at the Community Park District Recreation Center. This December, join us for some hot chocolate and holiday caroling at the Village Tree Lighting ceremony or bring the entire family along to see Santa and enjoy holiday music and activities at the annual Holiday in the Park event. See inside for more details on each of these free, family-friendly events.

I hope to see you all out and about at various events this fall. Have a prosperous and joyous holiday season and as always, please feel free to contact me at any time.

President James J. Discipio



Wi-Fi Now Available at Village Hall

In order to support the new paperless agenda process, the Village recently installed Wi-Fi in the Village Hall. Residents and community groups visiting Village Hall will have the ability to access the free Wi-Fi by simply requesting the guest password from a staff member. The Wi-Fi will also be used by Village Staff and Board members for conducting community meetings and presentations.

Tree Lighting Ceremony December 4th

The Village invites you to kick off the holiday season by participating in the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Memorial Park on Friday, December 4th, led by Village President, Dr. Jim Discipio. Boy Scout Pack 66 will present the colors and hot chocolate will be provided. Come on out for some holiday cheer and celebration! The ceremony begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Holiday in the Park December 12th

Mark your calendars for the 2015 La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce's Holiday in the Park on Saturday, December 12th from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Community Park District located at 1501 Barnsdale Road. Don't miss this local favorite where kids get to visit with Santa, make holiday crafts, decorate cookies, and play games. There will be lots of entertainment for grownups too – including music and refreshments. More details will be announced as we get closer to the event.

HALLOWEEN

👻 OCTOBER 31ST 👻

TRICK -OR- TREAT HOURS

👻 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM 👻

Halloween Reminders

The Village encourages residents to exercise extra caution on Halloween evening while having fun. Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child. All children should walk, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk when available. Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars, or across lawns where ornaments or furniture present dangers. Drivers are reminded to use extra caution when traveling through the neighborhoods.

Haunted Halloween Trolley Trick or Treat

The La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring its fourth annual Haunted Trolley Trick-or-Treat event on Friday, October 30th. Three trollies will transport children and parents along 31st Street, the Village Market at the Park District offering free trick-or-treating between 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Community Clean Up Day

October 15th

Mark your calendars for the Village's annual Community Clean-Up Day, which will take place on October 15th. Single-family residences in La Grange Park will receive a one-time clean up service on the regularly scheduled collection day. Clean-Up Day cannot be rescheduled so don't miss out! (Four stickers in total will insure that all of the acceptable items placed on the curb will be picked up). If you choose not to participate, your trash will be handled as a regular pick up. Acceptable items must be placed next to your regular refuse on the curb by 6:00 a.m. Items other than furniture, large bulk items and appliances must be placed in bags, cans and/or boxes, not larger than 35 gallons or heavier than 50 pounds each. Stickers may be purchased at Village Hall for \$3.00 each.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Appliances

Bulk Items (*Bicycles, Fans*)

Carpet (*must be cut down to 4 feet in length, securely bundled, and less than 30 lbs. in weight.*)

All Furniture

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Yard Waste - Any Type of Fluid

Construction and Demolition Debris

Ammunition - Scrap Wood and Lumber

Hazardous or Medical Waste - Paint

Radioactive Materials - Concrete, Asphalt, Rocks, Bricks

Yard Waste - Car Parts, Tires - No Fencing

Batteries - No Railroad Ties

Yard Waste is not included in the Clean-Up, but will be collected if properly prepared, stickered and set out on your regular collection day. If you would like to dispose of construction or demolition material, please contact Republic Services at (708) 345-7050 for a quote. For information on options for the disposal of Household Hazardous Waste, please contact the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency at (708) 453-9100. Unacceptable items will not be collected.

2015 State of the Village

October 8th

Please join us for the 2015 State of the Village Address, which will be held on Thursday, October 8th at 7:00 pm. Village President Dr. Jim Discipio and the directors of each of the Village Departments will provide residents with an update on the Village budget, achievements over the past year and upcoming infrastructure and economic development projects. The State of the Village Address will also be televised live on the Village's Cable Channels – Channel 6 (Comcast customers) and Channel 99 (AT&T U-Verse customers).

E-Waste Recycling Day

October 17th



As you prepare for Clean-Up Day, don't forget that old computer and electronic equipment! Get rid of it for free! Bring it down to the Village's Public Work's Facility, located at 937 Barnsdale Road, on Saturday, October 17th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on items that will be accepted, please visit the Village website at www.lagrangepark.org or call the Village at 708-354-0225.

Fall Leaf Removal Schedule

Residents are advised that the schedule below is only a guideline. *Leaves must be raked into the street gutter by 6:00 a.m. Monday of the collection week.* The Public Work's Department will do its best to adhere to this schedule, however in the event of an emergency, leaf pickup may be delayed. Should the schedule be delayed, every attempt will be made to get back on schedule as quickly as possible. During those times when the schedule is delayed, your patience and understanding are appreciated!

West: All streets west of La Grange Road

Center: All streets from La Grange Road east to the IHB railroad tracks

East: All streets east of the IHB railroad tracks.

Leaves for each section will be collected on the following weeks:

EAST	WEST	CENTER
October 12th	October 19th	October 26th
November 2nd	November 9th	November 16th
Weather Permitting we will continue removing leaves as follows:		
November 23rd	November 30th	December 7th



Fire Prevention Week - October 4th - 10th

Hear the Beep Where You Sleep!

The La Grange Park Fire Department Urges Residents to “Hear the Beep where you Sleep” by making sure you have enough Smoke Alarms in your home. Make sure alarms are installed in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement.

As half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep, the La Grange Park Fire Department reminds you of these important actions:

- Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.
- Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the Fire Department from a cellphone or a neighbor’s phone. Stay outside until the Fire Department says it’s safe to go back inside.

To learn more about the campaign “Hear the Beep where you Sleep” and for much more information about how to stay safe in your home from fire, visit NFPA’s Web site at www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week.

What is your best chance of surviving a fire in your home...Don’t have one!

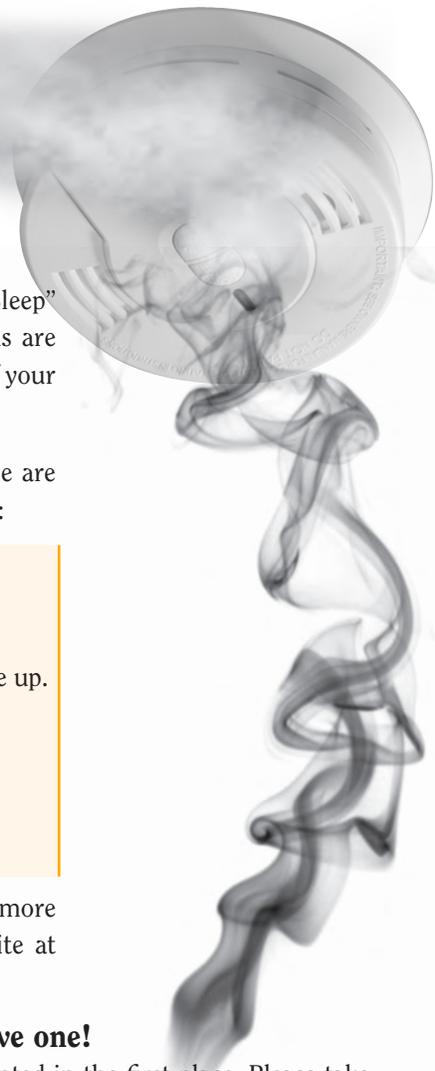
Everyone must plan on what to do should a fire occur, but many fires can be prevented in the first place. Please take the time this October to look for hazards around your home, and correct them. Here are a few common things to look for and do.

- Always attend to your cooking, and keep a lid or fire extinguisher handy to smother small fires early.
- Have your furnace, boiler, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected and cleaned.
- Move all combustibles and flammables away from heaters or water heaters.
- Clean lint from your dryer regularly, both the screen and the actual vent.
- Eliminate overloaded electrical receptacles and extension cords.
- Eliminate damaged extension cords, and don’t run them under carpets or rugs.
- Dispose of ashes from fireplaces or fire pits properly, and don’t store them indoors.
- Use candles sparingly, and never leave them unattended.
- Remove matches and lighters from the view and reach of young children.

If you would like help with a free home fire safety inspection, please contact Fire Prevention Division Chief John Carpenter at 708-354-0225, x351.

Fire Department Open House - October 10th

The La Grange Park Fire Department will be hosting an Open House to promote Fire Prevention Week. It will take place on Saturday, October 10th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, at Fire Station No. 1, located at 447 N. Catherine Ave. There will be many educational and family-oriented activities, including demonstrations on cooking fires, fire sprinklers, practicing fire escape planning, and fire truck rides. All are invited to attend, gain or brush up on some valuable safety skills and knowledge, while having fun!



Stay Informed with E-Briefs

Want to be kept informed with the most up-to-date information on what is happening in the community? Want to be the first to receive vital information in times of emergency? Sign up for the Village's weekly electronic newsletter, the E-Briefs. The E-Briefs is a once weekly newsletter that contains important Village information and links to activities going on in and around the community. To sign up, visit the Village's website (www.lagrangepark.org) and click on the "Sign Up" box on the right-hand side of the page.

New & Upcoming Police Department Programs

NEW! Door Hanger Program

As part of its community policing efforts, the La Grange Park Police Department recently implemented a new Door Hanger Program. As police officers are out and about in the community, they may leave a yellow door hanger on the front door of a residence or local business. The purpose of the hanger is to inform the resident or business that the officer has noticed something unusual about their property. Officers may note that a garage door, window or fence was left open or unlocked; that keys were left in an unattended vehicle; or that toys, bikes or personal belongings were left out unsecured. Officers may also note that they were called to respond to an alarm or mail that has piled up and not been collected. The Officer's ID and any specific follow-up information will also be noted on the door hanger.

Underway: Walk & Talk Program

This program is an extension of the officer's daily foot patrol duty. In addition to their foot patrol, officers will stop and make contact with the community.

October: Adopt-A-Cop

All grades K-8 Adopt-A-Cop classes will start in October and the primary focus will be on Halloween awareness.

October 22nd 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Coffee with the Chief

Please join Police Chief Ed Rompa as he shares information on current Police Department efforts and takes questions and concerns from residents in attendance.

December: "Shop with a Cop"

This program is an extension of Adopt-A-Cop and will be reaching out to needy families in the area this holiday season. Select students will be chosen to have an opportunity to Christmas shop with an officer.



Important Reminders

- Cell phone use is illegal in school zones and within a 2 block radius of the school
- Passing a stopped school bus with its 'arm' out is prohibited by law
- Watch for children crossing the streets
- Obey Crossing Guard's instructions
- Follow posted school drop-off/pick-up lines and restrictions
- Adhere to school speed zones

Community Park District

Still Waiting...

The CPD is still waiting for the Governor to release the OSRAD grants for both Memorial Park and Beach Oak Park improvements. It's their understanding, these funds will not be released until the State budget is passed. Due to this, there remains an unattractive area in Memorial Park where the shelter house was located. It is being cleaned up a bit, but the CPD does not want to spend too much money on improvements that will have to be torn up once construction begins. If you have questions on this issue, please e-mail abriedis@communityparkdistrict.org or call Aleks Briedis, Executive Director at (708) 354-4580.

Upcoming Events

Please contact the Community Park District for more information on these events at www.communityparkdistrict.org or at (708) 354-4580.

Drop In Bridge – September 15th - December 8th (Tuesdays)

Shrek Jr. Auditions – September 26-29th

Fall Fireside Stories – October 2nd

Oktoberfest and Small Museums Trip – October 15th

Men's Wiffleball League – October 21st

Halloween Costume Party – October 30th

Paradise Playhouse Trip – November 4th

Fireside Theater Trip – December 2nd

Holiday in the Park – December 12th



Village Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees conducted the following business during the months of June, July, and August:

- Adopted an Ordinance Ascertainning Prevailing Wage Rates for Construction Work in Cook County
- Approved a "Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code" for the expenditure of \$160,000 in MFT funds, and approving the Preliminary/Construction Engineering Services Agreement for Motor Fuel Tax Funds
- Approved expenditure for purchase of 2 complete street light poles with arms and lamp fixtures from Gexpro in the amount of \$11,971.30
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Amended Intergovernmental Agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for the Distribution of Rain Barrels
- Authorized payment of \$14,957.00 to Suburban Tree Consortium
- Approved a Resolution Adopting, and Authorizing Execution of, Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council and the Village of La Grange Park
- Approved an Ordinance Granting Certain Variations for 1209 W. Ogden Avenue – Nazareth Academy (Public Hearing No. 2015-04)
- Authorized the purchase and installation of in-squad cameras from L3 Mobile-Vision, Inc., for the amount of \$46,000 in total
- Accepted the bid proposal from GA Paving LLC in the amount of \$149,352.50, and authorize the Village President to execute the necessary contract documents
- Approved an ordinance granting certain variations for 447 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange Park, IL (Public Hearing No. 2015-04)
- Approved the Bethlehem Woods Retirement Living Center Plat of Planned Unit Development
- Appointed Finance Director Larry Noller as Village Treasurer, effective July 28, 2015
- Adopted an Ordinance Amending Chapter 31 of the Village of La Grange Park Municipal Code Concerning the Office of the Village Treasurer.
- Granted an Exception to the nuisance regulations contained in Section 93.04.C.5 (as amended) of the Village Municipal Code, for the purpose of allowing Nazareth Academy to operate their sound system until 10:00 p.m. on September 11th, September 25th, October 2nd, October 16th and for a potential playoff game on a date to be determined
- Approved a proposal from Rick Dandan for the provision of Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance, and Commercial/Residential Building Inspections, as needed
- Extended the 2014-15 Tree Trimming Contract with Winkler Tree Service for an additional year; and (2) to authorize the Village President to execute the necessary contract documents
- Approved a Temporary Use Permit for the Community Park District of La Grange Park to allow an existing temporary shed at Robinhood Park to remain through September 1, 2016
- Appointed new member Amaria Clarke to Youth Commission, as well as reappointed seniors Nicholas Fuentes, Alex Scotty, and Laura McAllister for one year terms to Youth Commission which expires on September 1, 2016

La Grange Park Public Library Update

Library Appoints New Executive Director

The La Grange Park Public Library District Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that it has selected Kate Buckson as the Library's new Executive Director, effective August 3. Kate comes to LPPL from the Westmont Public Library where she has worked since 2004, beginning as a public service assistant and working her way up to Assistant Director. Kate says, "I'm honored that the board of trustees has selected me to serve as the new executive director. I plan to work tirelessly with staff and continue offering new resources and amazing service to the residents of La Grange Park. After working in various positions in public libraries for over 10 years, I am ready for a new challenge. I am excited to begin working with this talented staff and uphold the library's 40 year legacy of excellence within the community." Please join us in welcoming Kate to La Grange Park!

Research Your Family History Using the Internet

Presented by Caron Primas Brennan

Monday, October 12, 7 pm

Going beyond Ancestry.com and Cyndi's List, Caron Primas Brennan will present a survey of new, little known, and perhaps unusual genealogy resources and internet sites to help you in your research. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library

International Games Day (All Ages)

Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

6 straight hours of table, board, and video games! Test your skills with the likes of Would Your Rather, Telestrations, Rock Band 4, and more. Snacks and pizzas will be served.

Registration suggested.



The Essential Christmas Carol

Presented by William Pack

Monday, November 30, 7 pm



In this storytelling lecture, William first relates the curious origins behind one of the most popular stories ever written, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Then, using a script derived from Dickens' only existing abridged reading copy, William will perform a reading of A Christmas Carol enhanced with a modern recreation of a magic lantern slide show popular during Dickens' lifetime. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.



Budget Impasse Hits Illinois Communities Including La Grange Park - Hard

The Springfield budget impasse has had an impact across Illinois, but municipalities, including La Grange Park, have taken an especially hard hit. The state has been without a budget since June 1, when Governor Rauner vetoed most of the General Assembly's \$36.4 billion spending plan, which was more than \$3 billion in deficit. The Governor's own budget proposal was \$2.2 billion in the red.

The Governor and his legislative allies have said they won't engage in serious budget talks until elements of the Rauner "Turnaround Agenda," which they view as crucial to stabilizing the state's economy and empowering local governments, are included in the package. Democratic legislators have opposed mixing the Governor's priorities in with negotiating a budget.

Due to the budget impasse, distributions of state funds the Village relies on to pay for important priorities, such as road improvements and emergency services, have ground to a halt.

For instance, the state is refusing to release Motor Fuel Tax funds to local communities, claiming it does not have the authority to do so without a budget in place, despite the fact that the tax is still being collected. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Village received approximately \$320,000 in MFT funds, which can only be used for road related expenditures. The General Assembly is currently considering legislation that would compel the state to make the MFT payments to municipalities.

Due to the budget impasse, Springfield is also withholding money from a telecommunications tax designated to pay for 9-1-1 services in municipalities. The Village receives approximately \$80,000 per year to help pay for the emergency system. Despite the state's decision to stop these payments pending a budget deal, La Grange Park's 9-1-1 service will continue uninterrupted.

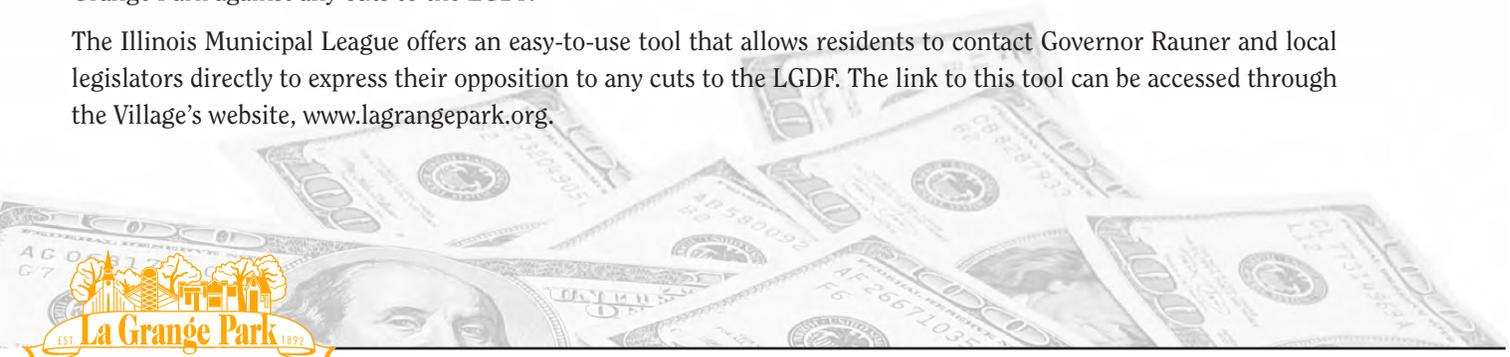
Another Village program that has fallen victim to the budget impasse is the Downspout Disconnection program, funded by a \$416,000 grant from the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program (IGIG). The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which administers IGIG, can no longer issue reimbursements for the program. IEPA has told the Village that the program has not been stopped, but that payments will resume when a budget is approved.

While Illinois can't produce a balanced budget or pay its bills – the backlog is expected to reach \$10 billion by the end of the year – La Grange Park, like municipalities across the state, has already made the critical spending choices Springfield has avoided for years. Once again the state government is asking local communities to bail out Illinois after years of poor fiscal decision-making.

One small bright spot in the budget battle is that municipalities are continuing to receive their share of the State Income Tax receipts, known as the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). LGDF brings in nearly \$1.4 million to the La Grange Park annually, which the Village depends on to fund public safety, infrastructure, and other municipal services. Earlier this year, the Governor proposed cutting LGDF payments by half, which would cost the Village approximately \$700,000 per year, or about 8.5 percent of its annual operating budget.

Despite the reprieve, the Governor has not retracted his call for the 50% cut in the LGDF, so the Village and its residents must remain diligent in fighting to preserve this vital source of funding for municipal services. President Discipio and Village officials are continuing to lobby the Governor's administration and the state legislators representing La Grange Park against any cuts to the LGDF.

The Illinois Municipal League offers an easy-to-use tool that allows residents to contact Governor Rauner and local legislators directly to express their opposition to any cuts to the LGDF. The link to this tool can be accessed through the Village's website, www.lagrangepark.org.



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DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK

Central Standard Time officially begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2015.
Remember to change your smoke detector batteries when you move your clocks back one hour.

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.

VILLAGE HOLIDAYS

The Village offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 26-27 - Thanksgiving
- Thursday & Friday, December 24-25 - Christmas
- Friday, January 1 - New Years Day