



VILLAGE OF

EST. 1892

# LA GRANGE PARK LEAFLET

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



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# Village News



## President's Message

As the air turns crisp and the days grow shorter, fall has settled into La Grange Park with all the charm and excitement we've come to love. From Friday night lights to cozy community traditions, this season brings a calendar full of events that showcase the neighborly spirit of our Village. Whether it's hopping aboard the Chamber's Haunted Trolley, enjoying burgers with our Police Department or exploring the Fire Department's Open House, there's something for everyone.

Beyond all of the wonderful community happenings, there's meaningful progress happening behind the scenes. I am very grateful for all of the work the Village Board and staff are doing to enhance our commercial corridors and improve safety throughout town. A La Grange Road Phase I Engineering Study is underway, focused on traffic safety and pedestrian improvements. This initiative, while still in its early stages, reflects strong community interest in safer crossings and walkability.

Along 31st Street, the Village also launched a comprehensive planning effort to improve safety, accessibility and the overall character of the area. Join us for the first public open house on Wednesday, October 15 at Fire Station #2 to learn more and share your ideas. Your input is vital as we shape the future of this important corridor.

Through the Village's Façade & Property Revitalization Program, you may have noticed fresh updates to local businesses like Generations Family Dentistry with more improvements to local businesses on the horizon. This grant reimbursement program supports exterior upgrades that enhance the look, feel, and vitality of our business districts. We're also making strides in lighting, signage, and wayfinding, including new gateway signs in progress that will welcome residents and visitors alike.

Public Works continues to strengthen our infrastructure with upcoming water main replacements on Kings Court and Castle Circle, along with targeted sewer repairs in the Village. Looking ahead, the Village continues to move forward the Central Area Sewer Separation Project - a critical initiative that will add dedicated storm sewers, underground storage, a storm pump station and other upgrades to address flooding issues in this area of the Village.

In other big news, the Village Board recently approved placing a Road Bond Referendum on the ballot for the March 17, 2026 General Primary Election. This referendum will ask residents to approve up to \$10 million in bonds to continue funding street improvements without increasing the current tax rate. If approved, the new bonds would replace the expiring 2016 bonds and support resurfacing, reconstruction, and drainage upgrades on select streets across the community. More details and public information sessions are planned for the fall and winter.

In the meantime, please check out all of the seasonal reminders in this edition including the leaf collection schedule and the Village's annual clean-up day on October 12. Lastly, please mark your calendars for La Grange Park's Zip Code Day on June 5, 2026 (aka 60526). Village staff is planning a wonderful community celebration to mark this unique date for us.

Thank you for being part of what makes our Village so special. I'm proud of the work we're doing together and excited for what's ahead.

*President James F. Discipio*

## Good Neighbor Corner

### **Matt Schmitt and Mike Sheehan**

I'm a senior and can't go up on a ladder to clean my gutters. Matt never lets me down—when I call, he's at my door within half an hour. One day, he noticed my gutters were holding water and told me that shouldn't be happening. He gave me the name of a company that could help. While Matt and I were talking, Mike Sheehan happened to pass by on his daily walk. Matt mentioned the issue to him too, and Mike gave me the same company name. Both Matt and Mike always check in to make sure I'm okay. They are WONDERFUL neighbors and a true blessing. Love these guys! - **Nominated by Bonnie Koll**

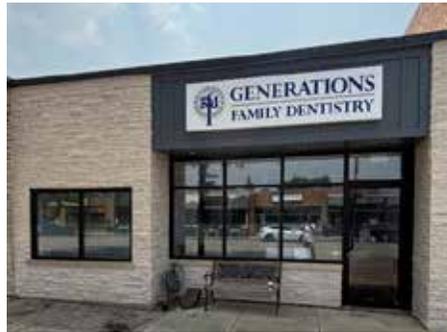
## See the Impact of the Façade Grant Program

### Generations Family Dentistry Gets a Fresh New Look!

The Village's Façade and Property Revitalization Program is making a visible difference - just look at the recently completed project at Generations Family Dentistry at 1012 E. 31st Street! Finished this summer, the transformation included removing outdated awning and façade materials, installing sleek new siding, soffit panels, and lighting, adding modern wall-mounted LED signage, and staining the existing brick and stone to create a unified, contemporary look. These improvements support the business's goal of modernizing its exterior with durable materials while enhancing nighttime visibility for customers.

The project is a great example of how the program helps revitalize commercial corridors by enhancing curb appeal, supporting local business investment, and contributing to the area's overall visual and economic vitality.

Interested in upgrading your commercial property? The Village is accepting applications for the Façade and Property Revitalization Program. Eligible buildings must be used for commercial purposes and located within a TIF and/or Business District. Visit the Village website to learn more and apply today!



## La Grange Road Traffic Safety Improvements – Phase I Update

The Village's Phase I Preliminary Engineering Study for traffic safety improvements along La Grange Road, led by consultant Kimley-Horn, is underway. This effort stems from community feedback during the Village Market Streetscape Improvement Plan, where residents expressed strong interest in enhancing pedestrian safety with an additional pedestrian crossing or signaled crossing. Public input for the Phase I Study was first received in April and again through an online survey in May. The Study is in its early stages, focusing on collecting traffic volumes, crash data, and pedestrian counts at Woodlawn and Oak Avenue. Using this information, Kimley-Horn is developing potential technical concepts for IDOT's response, which will provide the Village with direction on what options are available as it considers how to move forward with the Phase I plan. It is critical that the Village first understand what IDOT will and will not support before bringing potential options back to the community for further input. The public will have another opportunity to share feedback before the Phase I Study is complete.



## Kings Court and Castle Circle Water Main Replacements

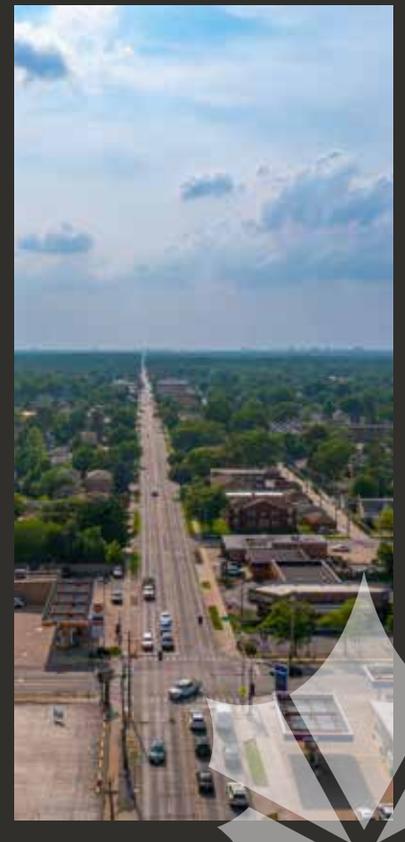
The Village Board recently approved a project to replace the water mains on Kings Court and Castle Circle. Work for this project will begin in late September. Ongoing updates will be shared on the Village's website and in the weekly E-Briefs newsletter.

## 31st Street Corridor Transportation Plan Public Open House



Wednesday, October 15,  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.,  
La Grange Park Fire Station 2  
(1010 E. 31st Street)

The Village has launched the 31st Street Corridor Transportation Plan, a comprehensive effort to enhance safety, accessibility, and the overall character of the area. The study focuses on 31st Street from La Grange Road to Maple Avenue, and Barnsdale Road from 31st Street to 26th Street. Funded in part by a \$180,000 grant from IDOT, the plan will examine crash data, roadway conditions, and community input to guide future improvements. We need your voice! Join us at the first public open house on Wednesday, October 15, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Fire Station 2, 1010 E. 31st Street. Stop by anytime during the event to learn more about the project, ask questions, and share your ideas. Your feedback will help shape the future of the 31st Street Corridor!





## Garbage Can Reminders

The Village would like to remind residents that garbage and recycling cans should not be put on the curb before 6:00 p.m. on the day prior to pickup, and should be removed from the parkway no later than 7:00 a.m. on the day following pickup. Garbage and recycling cans should be placed on the parkway curb, not in the street, and after pickup, cans should be stored so that they cannot be viewed from the public street. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Fall Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 11, beginning at 6:00 a.m.

Every October, LRS (the Village's waste hauler) provides a clean-up day in which residents may dispose of an unlimited amount of refuse, including large items, for a total of five refuse stickers. See the Village's website for more information and a list of acceptable items.

## Vehicle Stickers and Dog Licenses On Sale Now!



Current vehicle stickers and dog tags expire on October 31, 2025, so now is the time to renew. Residents are encouraged to go online to purchase vehicle stickers and dog tags using the Online Purchase PIN found on the renewal form sent out recently. All information will be pre-entered, and you can easily add or remove vehicles or dogs. Alternatively, forms can be mailed, dropped off at the payment box outside Village Hall, or you can purchase in person during business hours. New residents should visit Village Hall or the Village's website to complete a new application. Please note that a 2.25% convenience fee applies to all credit card payments. Please email [finance@lagrangepark.org](mailto:finance@lagrangepark.org) or call 708-354-0225 if you have not received a renewal form or have any questions.

All residents who own a motor vehicle or any person having control or use of a motor vehicle owned by a resident of the Village must annually obtain a Village vehicle sticker for each motor vehicle used on any public street. Funding from these licenses helps maintain our roads in La Grange Park. Late fees apply starting November 1. Vehicles without a valid sticker may be ticketed, so the Village encourages residents to renew today!

## Smashing Pumpkin Event

Saturday November 1, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Public Works, 937 Barnsdale Road

The Village's Sustainability Commission is hosting this popular event once again this year. Please dispose of your jack-o-lanterns in this environmentally-friendly way. Last year, we collected 3.71 tons or 7,420 lbs. and we need your help in smashing that record at this year's event!



## Leaf Collection Schedule

The last pickup in the Village's annual brush collection program is the week of October 6, and leaf collection begins November 3. Since leaves have been falling later in the year, the Village has adjusted the leaf removal schedule for 2025, shifting the first week of collection from October (as in past years) to November. This change ensures collection aligns better with seasonal conditions. Please see the schedule below for leaf collection in each section of the Village:

**West** (all streets west of La Grange Road):  
November 3, November 24

**Center** (all streets from La Grange Road east to the IHB railroad tracks): November 10, December 1

**East** (All streets east of the IHB railroad tracks):  
November 17, December 8

Public Works will do their best to adhere to this schedule; however, in the event of an emergency, leaf pickup may be delayed. Every attempt will be made to get back on schedule as quickly as possible - your patience and understanding are appreciated!

### Program Guidelines:

- Leaves must be raked into the street gutter by 6:00 a.m. on Monday of the collection week.
- Only leaves are acceptable. Please rake leaves in the street, approximately one foot from the curb to allow drainage to storm sewers. Do not rake leaves into one large pile.
- Items not acceptable: grass clippings, ornamental grasses, weeds, potted and garden plants, bushes, brush or pumpkins. Please utilize the Village's Pumpkin Smashing Event on the first Saturday of November for discarded pumpkins.
- Residents who hire contractors to remove leaves from their property must ensure that the contractor hauls them away. This service is only for residents who perform the work themselves.
- Residents parking on residential streets should exercise caution during this time, as hot automobiles can easily ignite large piles of leaves.

## Building & Inspectional Service Reminders

**Lawn Maintenance** - The exterior property of homes should be free of weeds or plant growth in excess of ten inches in height. This does not include trees, shrubs, cultivated flowers or gardens. Any property owner who fails to cut and destroy weeds or plant growth after being served a notice may be issued a citation and subject to a fine between \$100 and \$750.

**Parkways** - Private planting of trees and shrubs, and other landscape modifications in the parkway areas is strictly prohibited.

**Backyard Drainage Improvements** - If you have issues with flooding in your backyard, please contact the Village before implementing solutions such as regrading the lawn, French drains or rain gardens as these can sometimes lead to other issues with surrounding properties and sewers.

# Public Safety Updates

## E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety Guidelines

In July, the Village Board approved updates to the Village Code with new guidelines for where and how e-bikes and e-scooters can be used. These changes are designed to help keep riders, pedestrians, and our whole community safe.



### LA GRANGE PARK

## E-Bike and E-Scooter Guidelines

 <h3>E-BIKES</h3> <p>Battery-powered bicycles equipped with pedals and a motor that produces &lt;750w. Low-speed e-bikes are classified in three categories: Class 1, 2 and 3 (see label examples below).</p>	 <h3>E-SCOOTERS</h3> <p>Battery-powered mobility devices with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding with a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour. An e-scooter does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Must be equipped with <b>BOTH</b> pedals and a motor that produces &lt;750w</li><li>✓ Permitted on Village streets with speed limits &lt;35 mph</li><li>✓ Sidewalk use prohibited</li><li>✓ Class 3 e-bikes for ages 16+ only</li><li>✓ Helmet required for all riders</li><li>✓ Must display bike classification, motor watts and top assisted speed (see examples below)</li><li>✓ Must follow all <a href="#">Illinois Bicycle Rules of the Road</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Minimum age: 18+</li><li>✓ Sidewalk use is prohibited; toy vehicles allowed if operated by someone &lt;16</li><li>✓ Must have front white light and rear red reflector/light for nighttime use</li><li>✓ No tandem riding or attaching to other vehicles</li><li>✓ Helmet required for all riders</li><li>✓ Must follow all <a href="#">Illinois Bicycle Rules of the Road</a></li></ul>

**E-BIKE LABEL EXAMPLES**

<b>CLASS 1</b> 250W 20MPH	<b>CLASS 2</b> 500W 20MPH	<b>CLASS 3</b> 750W 28MPH
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For more details, see the Village ordinance in the [Municipal Code](#).

## Burger Bash

Saturday, October 11,  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,  
Posto 31, 1017 E. 31st Street

The La Grange Park Police Department, along with Posto 31 and La Grange Park FOP Lodge 243, will be hosting its annual Battle of the Burger. Come out and enjoy specialty burgers designed and cooked by your very own La Grange Park Police Officers. 100% of proceeds go towards Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

## Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 25,  
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 of unwanted or expired medications (please note, 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 October 25? A permanent drop box is located in the Village Hall Lobby with drop off access during regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## Village Welcomes New Police Officers

Over the summer, the Village welcomed two new members to the La Grange Park Police Department: Officer Christopher Mota and Officer Mark Lemus.

Officer Mota brings a unique background to his new role, having spent ten years as a teacher before working in construction. He decided to pursue a career in law enforcement out of a desire to serve others and make a positive impact in our community. Outside of work, Christopher enjoys reading, hiking, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and spending time with his wife and daughter. Officer Lemus joins the department in a part-time role, bringing four years of law enforcement experience. He lives in Chicago with his wife and two dogs, and is excited to contribute to the safety and well-being of La Grange Park.

Please join us in giving Officers Mota and Lemus a warm La Grange Park welcome!



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## Fire Prevention Week October 5 to 11

This year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is spotlighting lithium-ion battery safety during Fire Prevention Week (October 5 to 11). The campaign is aimed at helping families learn how to buy, charge, and dispose of these everyday power sources responsibly. From phones to e-bikes, lithium-ion batteries are everywhere, and understanding how to handle them safely can prevent fires and save lives. Stay tuned for tips and resources throughout Fire Prevention Week, and learn more about how you and your family can stay safe at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).



## La Grange Park Fire Department 125th Anniversary

The Fire Department continues to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. This past August the Fire Department held a Fire Truck Muster, in conjunction with the Police Department's Car Show, with various types of Fire Apparatus on display, including some wonderful antiques.

## Fire Department Recruitment

The La Grange Park Fire Department is recruiting new firefighters once again this fall. Consider serving your Village and becoming part of our dedicated response group as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter/EMT. No previous fire or emergency medical experience is necessary. If you have what it takes, we will train you! Come to one of the Fire Department's upcoming informational sessions at Fire Station #1 (447 N. Catherine Avenue) to learn more:

**Monday, October 13, 6:00 p.m. | Wednesday, October 22, 6:00 p.m.**

If you can't make it to the informational sessions, email the Fire Department at [fdrecruitment@lagrangepark.org](mailto:fdrecruitment@lagrangepark.org) or visit this QR Code to sign up for more information.



## Fire Department Open House

**Saturday, October 11,  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
Fire Station #1,  
447 N. Catherine Avenue**

Join the La Grange Park Fire Department for this free event and bring the whole family out to meet Sparky and your La Grange Park firefighters. You can also ride a fire truck, participate in fun kids' safety activities, enter raffles and much more! This year the Fire Department is also celebrating their 125th Anniversary. Look for a fun filled time with special activities.



## Haunted Trolley

**Friday, October 24, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

Join fellow members, neighbors and friends for our beloved Haunted Trolley event, Friday, October 24! Our trolley will be shuttling up and down 31st Street on this family-friendly evening with stops at all your favorite businesses to trick-or-treat. Don't miss out on all the spooky fun. Get into the Halloween spirit and enjoy lots of tasty treats along the way!

Follow our Facebook page to stay updated: [www.facebook.com/LaGrangeParkBusinessAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/LaGrangeParkBusinessAssociation). Contact Chamber President, Sheri Sauer, to learn more about membership or with any questions: 708-372-2579, [lgpchamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:lgpchamberofcommerce@gmail.com).

# Community Partner Updates

## Yena Park

The Park District has been working with the Village of La Grange Park on code compliance and building permits for the installation of the new baseball backstops. As the Park District is receiving \$600,000 in OSLAD grant funding for this project, change orders over \$10,000 must be approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The required modifications and custom backstop design exceeded the \$10,000 threshold and IDNR approved the change order on Monday, August 25. Landworks, the construction company for this project, began work onsite on September 2. Tennis and pickleball court paving is scheduled to start mid-September and concrete work is scheduled to begin the beginning of October (weather permitting). Ballfield fencing will be installed mid-October and the playground should be installed mid-October.

Landworks will keep an eye on the weather to determine if plant installation and seed can happen yet this year, or if it will need to wait until the spring. We anticipate that the hardcourts and playground will be open in the Spring of 2026 and athletic fields will be open in Spring of 2027.

## Robinhood Park

We are excited to announce that the Community Park District has received a grant through the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and Gametime to replace the playground equipment at Robinhood Park and designate Robinhood as a National Demonstration Site. Based on La Grange Park's needs, Playcore, IPRA, and Gametime will provide a playground design designed to improve social-emotional health and community engagement outcomes. The PlayOn! Design encourages physical activity in a way that can lead to a 40% improvement in motor skill competencies. The Community Park District also plans to work with Kids Around the World to remove and donate the existing equipment to provide the joy of play to an impoverished community outside the United States. We anticipate this project to be completed by Thanksgiving.



## Meadowcrest Property

The Community Park District has begun work on the Meadowcrest Garden. This design was created with public input during the grant process and is part of the improvements submitted with the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application. The landscaping improvements will provide a mulched path through the property and implement native plantings that will provide visual interest and ecological benefits throughout all seasons. The Park District plans to remove the church building in the next 2 to 3 years. Please be patient and careful with the perennial plants as they establish over the next few years.

## Recreation Center Expansion

The Community Park District is looking to go to bid on this project in the coming months, with a ground-breaking target of spring of 2026.

## Stone Monroe Park

The Community Park District has begun planning for the improvement of the Stone Monroe Park Tennis Courts. We are working with a local contractor on potential surfacing options. We are hoping to begin this project in the spring of 2026. Please check [www.communityparkdistrict.org](http://www.communityparkdistrict.org) for updates.

## Community Park Fitness – Join Today!

There's no better time to become a member. Our team has refreshed the facility with fresh paint and new upgrades in the locker rooms, with more improvements to the Community Lounge coming soon. Whether you're looking for cardio, strength, or group fitness, Community Park Fitness is your local, affordable option. Your neighborhood. Your gym. Your goals. Stop in to see what's new and register today!

## Thankful Creations

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Celebrate the season of gratitude with a cozy morning of family crafting. Create your own festive Gratitude Tree and Harvest Basket – perfect centerpieces for your Thanksgiving table! Enjoy hot apple cider and take a photo at our fall-themed photo wall. One registration per family.

## Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 6, 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy a magical morning with Santa! We will be enjoying a fully catered meal, complete with festive favorites sure to delight kids and grown-ups alike.

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## Stay Connected

### Communication Tools for Residents

There are several ways to stay connected in the Village of La Grange Park. Visit the Village's website to sign up for the following:

- Weekly E-Briefs Newsletter - Includes vital information on Village initiatives, as well as news, services and events
- Public Safety Briefs - Provides timely information on criminal activity occurring within the Village or its vicinity & important tips on keeping your family and your property safe
- Rave Smart 911 - For emergency updates
- Facebook - [Facebook.com/LaGrangePark](https://www.facebook.com/LaGrangePark)

## Transparency Commitment

The Village is dedicated to open and accessible governance, ensuring residents have easy access to important public information.

- Agendas, minutes, and recordings of Village Board meetings are available on the Village website, providing insight into local decision-making.
- On the Transparency Portal, residents can review audits, budgets, financial plans and treasurer's reports, offering insight into the Village's fiscal responsibility. Additionally, the portal includes lobbying disclosures, police commission regulations, and current requests for proposals (RFPs) to keep the community informed about ongoing initiatives.

By maintaining this level of transparency, La Grange Park aims to foster trust and engagement, empowering residents to stay informed and involved in local governance. If you would like to attend Village Board and Committee meetings, please see the Village meeting schedule below.

## Village Meeting Schedule

### Sustainability Commission Meeting

First Monday of the month

### Village Board Work Session Meeting

Second Tuesday of the month

### Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

Third Tuesday of the month

### Village Board Meeting

Fourth Tuesday of the month

## Village Holidays

Village offices will be closed on the following holidays:

**Tuesday, Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day**

**Thursday, Nov. 27 & Friday, Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving**

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 & Thursday, Dec. 25 - Christmas**

**Thursday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day**



### September Is Library Card Sign Up Month!

Have you seen all you can access with a library card on your Burlington commute? Stop by to get a card if you don't have one and visit [lplibrary.org/downloads](http://lplibrary.org/downloads) to get started.

### "Banned Together: The Fight Against Censorship" Screening and Panel Discussion

Thursday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.



Kick off Banned Books Week with a screening of the documentary, "Banned Together: The Fight Against Censorship," followed by a discussion with a panel of experts featuring K. Ancrum, award-winning YA author, Keisha Howard, creator of Mind Faux, and Joyce McIntosh, Assistant Program Director for the Freedom to Read Foundation. Ages 12 and up. Registration recommended.

### Campfire in the Park - Spooky Stories

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.,  
with the Community Park District at Memorial Park

Make s'more friends! Spend the evening at Memorial Park roasting marshmallows and hearing spooky stories. We will provide the makings for standard s'mores; feel free to bring any other ingredients you would like to add.

### Trunk or Treat and Movie in the Park

Saturday, October 18, 5:00 p.m.,  
with the Community Park District at Memorial Park

Dress up in your Halloween costume and join the Library and Park District for music, tricks, and treats. Stay for a 6:45 showing of a Halloween short in the park.

### Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Enter your painted pumpkin or carved jack-o'-lantern into our very first Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Whether you work by yourself or as a team, all original submissions are welcome. No digital art or AI. Send a photo to [christina@lplibrary.org](mailto:christina@lplibrary.org) by Sunday, October 26. Voting will take place in the library from October 27-31. The top three pumpkins with the most votes will win passes to the Chicago Botanical Garden and Brookfield Zoo! Winners will be announced November 1.