

Village Spokesman

Village of La Grange
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525



November/December 2014



La Grange Holiday Walk — to provide our residents a magical evening filled with community spirit, the 23rd Annual Holiday Walk sponsored by the Village of La Grange and the La Grange Business Association will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. As in the past, activities will start with an All-Village Sing on the Village Hall lawn, followed by Santa's arrival by fire truck and the traditional lighting of the "Village Tree."

The Holiday Walk will also feature merchants' open houses, Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Village Hall auditorium, strolling musicians, costumed characters, trolley rides, ice sculptures and a petting zoo. A S'mores station and bonfire will be set up at the Village Hall fountain area. Please come join us for this very festive event.

Stone Avenue Train Station Renovation Project— On Wednesday, October 8, 2014, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Stone Avenue Train Station was held. This event celebrated a major renovation to the station that began one year ago.



The Stone Avenue Station was built in 1901 and serves approximately 1,000 commuter boardings per day. The renovation project was funded through grants totaling \$1,153,000 — \$700,000 Federal Grant sponsored by Congressman Lipinski; and \$453,000 in grants through the West Suburban Mass Transit District.

The project highlights include: 1) the replacement of the roof, gutters and downspouts; 2) station tuckpointing; 3) replacement of doors and light fixtures; 4) completion of the platform area under the outbound shelter, and the re-grading of the Burlington Avenue approaches to the Station.

We would like to thank the entire community for their support and patience throughout this project. The La Grange Garden Club, La Grange Historical Society and the Chairman of the Design Review Commission are also recognized for their volunteer efforts through the planning and renovation phases.

Additional grants (CMAQ - \$385,000) have been secured to fund the next phase of the Stone Avenue Train Station master plan which includes improved interconnectivity between the platforms, station, Burlington Avenue, Brainard Avenue and Hillgrove Avenue; removing the "kiss and ride" on Hillgrove Avenue and replacing it with parking spaces; and enhanced bicycle parking on both sides of the tracks. Work on this phase has already started with construction anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2017.

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Capital Projects/Sewer Improvements Workshop — this past summer a number of high intensity rain events occurred resulting in flooding throughout the community. In response to this flooding, the Village Board conducted a pre-budget development workshop on September 22 to discuss solutions to address flooding and how to fund these projects. From this discussion the Village hired an engineering consultant to develop a hydraulic study to evaluate the solutions and estimate the costs for the various projects. The hydrology study, particularly the modeling component, will improve decision-making on capital spending by correlating project benefits to cost. Preliminary estimates of cost indicate that the projects could cost approximately \$15 million.

In addition to the hydraulic study, the Village Board also authorized a contract for televising main line sewers using general fund reserves to evaluate condition and identify repairs. These identified sewer improvements will then be incorporated as part of the Capital Projects program.

Results and staff recommendations from these two capital planning and capital maintenance projects are expected to be presented to the Village Board in January 2015.

A discussion of revenues to overcome the capital projects funding gap will continue as part of the Village's budget development process in November and December. More information regarding these projects can be found on the Village's website.

Comments or questions may be directed to our editor, Cathy Benjamin, at 708-579-2313
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