

Village Spokesman

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



January/February 2012

On behalf of the Village Board and staff, Happy New Year! Your Village Board of Trustees will begin 2012 in pursuit of our strategic goals of strong financial management through continuation of the Village's cost containment plan; continued evaluation of technology as a means to maintain institutional knowledge and improve operational efficiency, capital asset maintenance and replacement of the Village's street, water, and sewer infrastructure; creation of a facilities plan to maintain and replace Village buildings; continue to explore opportunities for functional consolidation of core services; continue with public safety efforts; continue existing economic development initiatives; develop a revised economic development plan and approach; develop a strategic parking management plan; and complete the zoning code updates.

The over-arching mission/core value for Village government continues to be the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life we enjoy in La Grange.

Village staff is in the process of developing an operations plan to implement the Village Board's priorities.

Residential Solid Waste Program



The Village of La Grange has a four-year contract with Allied Waste to provide solid waste collection and disposal services for all single-family and two-family dwelling units in La Grange. The current contract expires April 30, 2012. It has been ten years since the Village last sought proposals from the marketplace.

Village staff has developed and issued a formal request for competitive proposals. As a result of a recommendation from the Village's Environmental Quality Control Commission and pursuant to Village Board direction, contractors were instructed to give equal consideration to the current volume-based system, a hybrid volume-based system and an all-toter system.

Four submittals from contractors were received in response to our Request for Proposal. The next step in the process of selecting a contractor is to perform a detailed review of the submittals to ensure completeness, accuracy in understanding our expectations and consideration of any modifications that the contractor may be proposing to the current contract provisions. The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, of which the Village is a member, will assist us with the review process. An award of contract is anticipated on or about February 1, 2012, with a new contract being effective May 1, 2012.

To review a presentation regarding refuse disposal by the Environmental Quality Control Commission, please visit the September 12, 2011 media archive located on the Village's website at www.villageoflagrange.com. For more information regarding refuse disposal options, please contact Andrianna Peterson, Assistant Village Manager at (708) 579-2315.

.....

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
Village Hall
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Village Spokesman

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID LA GRANGE, IL PERMIT NO. 34
--

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
LA GRANGE, IL 60525**

Voter registration for the March 20, 2012 presidential primary ends February 21, 2012

In order to qualify for a favorable postal rate, postal regulations require the Village of La Grange to deliver our publications to some residents outside the Village.

Tax Levy Approval

At the December 12, 2011 Board meeting, the Village Board approved the 2011 property tax levy in the amount of \$8,053,985 representing an increase of \$194,463 or 2.47 percent from the 2010 tax levy of \$7,859,522. The amount of the property tax levy reflects a combination of the tax cap of 1.5 percent under the Property Tax Limitation Act (CPI as of December 2010) and new growth. New growth, which represents estimated construction during the next fiscal year, is projected to be less than 1.0 percent. If such new growth does not occur, the property tax levy will automatically be lowered by Cook County. The effect the 2011 levy will have on an average home with an estimated market value of \$400,000 is an increase of \$14.36 from the Village levy and an increase of \$4.79 from the Library levy.

In the second year of our cost containment plan, the Village remains sensitive to the financial challenges our residents are experiencing, and continues to reduce expenses and preserve revenues. Personnel expenses account for nearly 85 percent of the Village's operating expenditures. Cost containment strategies provide for a cumulative reduction of personnel expenses in the amount of \$500,000 per year for each of the next 5 years in the Village's financial plan. These strategies include but are not limited to, not filling vacant employee positions, increases in employee health insurance contributions and co-pays, wage concessions by unions and a wage freeze for management employees.

These are difficult times for everyone. The Village is attempting to contain its operating costs while at the same time preserving the value of our significant investments in human, economic and capital assets, and preserving the quality of life and community vitality that we presently enjoy.

Comments or questions may be directed to our editor, Cathy Benjamin, at 708-579-2313
cbenjamin@villageoflagrange.com
