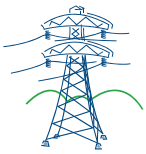
Village Spokesman

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

January/February 2013

Happy New Year! La Grange was the proud recipient of many accolades in the past year, and the Village experienced continued private investment and revitalization in both our residential and business districts. We had many new retail shops and restaurants open in 2012, and our business community continues to thrive, thanks in substantial part to your commitment to shop and dine locally. Your Village Board of Trustees and Administration continue to focus efforts on cost containment measures that will support a strong and stable financial position for the coming years, while also allowing for necessary and appropriate capital improvements and infrastructure maintenance. We hope you are proud to call La Grange your home!

The Village Board of Trustees will begin 2013 with several public hearings to discuss the electricity aggregation program and the Illinois Department of Transportation's proposed improvements to the intersection of 47th Street and East Avenue. We invite you to join us at these meetings to share your thoughts and suggestions.



Electricity Aggregation Public Hearing — On November 6, 2012, the referendum authorizing the Village to arrange for an "opt-out" electricity aggregation program passed by a margin of about 65% (4,301 yes votes to 2,276 no votes). Thereafter, the Village Board adopted an ordinance authorizing an electricity aggregation program and directing staff to begin developing the program.

A contract with a consultant to assist the Village with the technical aspects of the program will be considered by the Village Board on January 14, 2013. The Village will then hold two public hearings to discuss the electricity aggregation program. The first will be held on Monday, January 28, 2013, and the second on Monday, February 11, 2013. Each meeting will be held in the Village Hall auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

A Plan of Operation and Governance will be finalized after input is received from the public. That plan will explain to customers and potential bidders how the aggregation program will operate, how customers are enrolled in or out of the program, how new/outgoing residents may participate, and like matters.

For additional information, please visit the Village's website at www.villageoflagrange.com/electricaggregation or contact Assistant Village Manager Andri Peterson at 708-579-2315 or by email at apeterson@villageoflagrange.com.

"CREATE" - 47th Street & East Avenue — The Village of La Grange will be hosting a public hearing to be conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation in the Village Hall Auditorium on Thursday, January 31, 2013, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of soliciting public input on the potential impacts of the proposed improvements to the intersection of 47th Street and East Avenue.

In an effort to publicize the meeting more broadly to reach all Village residents, additional information will be provided on the Village's website at www.villageoflagrange.com under "Village News" as it becomes available.

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

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Tax Levy Approval — At the December 10, 2012 Board meeting, the Village Board approved a 2012 property tax levy in the amount of $8,354,316. This levy request represents an increase of $336,874 or 4.20 percent from the 2011 tax levy of $8,017,442. The increase in the property tax levy reflects a combination of the tax cap of 3.0 percent under the Property Tax Limitation Act (CPI as of December 2011) and "new growth," which represents estimated construction during the next fiscal year. If such new growth does not occur, the property tax levy will automatically be lowered by Cook County. The effect the 2012 property tax levy will have on an average home with an estimated market value of $350,000 is an increase of $36.64 [$27.53 from the Village's portion of the levy and $9.11 from the Library's portion of the levy].

Distinguished Budget Award — The Governmental Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) has awarded the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" to La Grange for the Village's FY 2012-13 budget document. This is our eighteenth (18) consecutive year of winning this prestigious award. The GFOA guidelines assess how well the Village budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. This is a significant accomplishment, as La Grange is one of only 1,289 entities in the United States and Canada who receive this award this year. As a frame of reference, there are over 6,000 units of government in Illinois alone.

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