

Village Spokesman

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



January/February 2014

On behalf of the Village Board and Administration, Happy New Year! This year marks the 135th Anniversary of the Village of La Grange. Your Village Board of Trustees will begin 2014, with the overarching mission to “Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Life We Enjoy in La Grange.” We would like to thank numerous individuals for serving on our Village task forces and commissions as volunteers in pursuit of our strategic goals in the Village. In addition, the Village management team and elected officials have appreciated citizens’ and businesses’ input as we craft our policies and budget.

The Village Board of Trustees will begin 2014 with several workshops to discuss our capital infrastructure needs, appropriate fees and taxes to maintain core services, continued cost containment policies, as well as an evaluation of water accountability as a result of the water meter replacement program as it relates to water rates.

Finally, we will place emphasis on the development of the YMCA parcel, regionalizing some aspects of our public safety functions and working with our vibrant business community.



Village Budget — A special meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014, in the Village Hall auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m., to discuss capital projects and infrastructure improvements. This meeting traditionally marks the beginning of the budget development process for the Village. Staff recommendations will be posted on-line, no later than Thursday, January 30, 2014.

A budget workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8 in the lower level conference room of the Village Hall beginning at 8:00 a.m. to review revenue projections and operational expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2014. The proposed Village budget will be posted on-line.

Tax Levy Approval — At the December 9, 2013 Board meeting, the Village Board approved a 2013 property tax levy in the amount of \$8,542,751. This levy request represents an increase of \$246,392 or 2.97 percent from the 2012 tax levy of \$8,296,359. The increase in the property tax levy reflects the allowable increase under the Property Tax Limitation Act of 1.70 percent (CPI as of December, 2012). The remaining levy increase represents “new growth,” from 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 2013 property tax levy will have on an average home with an estimated market value of \$350,000 is an increase of \$16.23 from the Village levy and an increase of \$4.33 from the Library levy.

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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 2013-14 budget document. This is our nineteenth (19) 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 1,300 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.

Voter Registration — The last day to accept voter registration or transfers of registration for the March 18, 2014 Primary Election is Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Residents of Cook County may register to vote in person from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays in the Administration office on the first floor of the Village Hall. Two pieces of identification, including one with a current address (picture ID, not required) must be presented in order to register. For additional information, please visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections.

