



**THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER**  
**April 2013** **ISSUE #4**

**FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT MARIA RODRIGUEZ**

This is my last column for the *Bridge* as Village President. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving in office, and I am gratified by the accomplishments of the past eight years.

During my tenure, many issues have been resolved such as the need for utilities that will maintain our property values. I am proud to have helped secure the allocation for the connection to Lake Michigan Water from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the installation of a gravitational feed sanitary sewer with the necessary lift station thus enabling sanitary sewer service for our residents. Village-wide accessibility to Lake Michigan water and connection to sanitary sewer service will be important to our future.

One of the more complicated issues that we face pertains to funding for road maintenance and public versus private roads. The town hall meetings held last summer provided valuable input from residents and discussions continue as we explore various options. This issue deserves your involvement; I urge you to take an active role in these discussions as we strive to reach a consensus that all can live with.

The Historic Downtown restoration, however, is the most ambitious project by far. We have put time, effort and substantial resources into planning all aspects of the restoration effort (see the extensive Downtown Master Plan on our website – [www.longgrove.net](http://www.longgrove.net)). To fund planned improvements, our sales tax revenue base needed to increase. The Sunset Grove development and properties expected to develop south of that site provide a funding mechanism. The Downtown Master Plan laid the groundwork for this restoration and a funding source is in place and growing. Within the next few years, we should see physical improvements as a result of that foresight. We are sincerely grateful to all those who helped keep the Archer Lot and the Sunset Grove projects on track and proud of the results of that effort. With that said, I often wonder how much more we could have accomplished had the economic downturn not occurred as it did. The good news is, we have investors interested in the fledgling properties in the downtown and the Lake County Division of Transportation is nearly finished with plans for reconstruction of Old McHenry Road including a potential stoplight to move rush hour traffic through the “historic crossroads” intersection.

In the coming weeks communication should improve with the anticipated update and redesign of the village website. Information regarding roads, progress on the downtown and other village issues are expected to be posted there. I encourage you to take time to navigate through our new site, be aware of issues within our village, and, most importantly, become involved.

In conclusion, I extend my thanks to all members of the various boards and commissions, past and present, who have volunteered their time, become involved with the Village and whose cooperative efforts have resulted in the progress seen by the Village thus far. I also thank our small but dedicated paid village staff. With such a small

staff, each of them wears many hats and all are willing to step in and help as needed - we shouldn't take them for granted.

I stand confident that the newly elected trustees and Village President are dedicated and fully understand the unique challenges we face as a village. I extend my best wishes and much success to the new board.

Finally, I want to thank all of the residents who have supported me throughout the years. Being involved to this extent can impose on your life. I am reminded, however, that the very things that impose on your life also add to the richness of your life. My life is richer as a result of relationships and experiences over the past eight years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your Village President.

## **RETIRING TRUSTEES' FINAL THOUGHTS**

Retiring trustees [Karen Schmitt](#) and [Joanne Weber](#) would like to share some final thoughts:

*In your years of official service to our village, what is the one accomplishment of which you are most proud/contented? If you have more than one, please include.*

**KS:** I have two--well, maybe three, but let's not count. The first has to do with a combo of communication and sustainability. Producing both the [Bridge](#) and "The Green Sheet" monthly has kept the pressure on, but I am pleased with the enhanced communication with our residents and the enhanced awareness of environmental issues. Co-chairs over the years [Weber](#) and [Underwood](#) will agree that [Sherry Shlagman](#), our administrative assistant, has made us all look good.

The second, as I'm counting, is the sale of the [Turner](#) residence and property to the [Long Grove Park District](#). Trustee [Barry](#) and I worked long and hard to accomplish that important task. With the trust and cooperation of the park district board, we accomplished the transfer and got the property into a more appropriate ownership.

**JW:** There are two projects that I am proud to have spearheaded - revising and updating the Village website and switching to an electronic format for the Village newsletter.

The Village website has a wealth of information, but has become dated and difficult to navigate. My goal was to have a website that incorporated this information into a site that is user-friendly, intuitive, and easy to navigate for both residents and non-residents alike. I was excited to take on this project and am anxious to see the final result, although my term as trustee will end before the website is completed.

The Village newsletter jumped into the 21st Century when the decision was made to publish the newsletter using an electronic format. I was happy to play a role in its transformation. The cost savings over the past few years has been significant and important, given our tight budget.

*What project/topic has not been completed or even started that you wish had been able to see through to completion before you left the board?*

**KS:** Ugh! I had really hoped that the village athletic fields just east of [Menards](#) would be in full use by a local park district or soccer club by this time. Despite the best efforts

of Village Manager Lothspeich and myself, we're not there yet. I am confident, though, that the land will be put to good use soon. (By the time residents read this, Dave and I may have come one step closer to accomplishing the task.)

**JW:** One of my assignments as trustee was to serve on the Economic Development Committee. I regret that despite the committee's best efforts, we were unable to attract as many new businesses to the downtown shopping district as we had hoped. However, there are some wonderful additions to the downtown including The Cedar Grill Restaurant and WineSplash. It is my hope that in the near future our town will be revitalized as more merchants and restaurateurs will choose to open their businesses in our town.

*Please assess your time on the board. Hints: did you learn a lot, did it take more or less time than you imagined, would you encourage others, etc.?*

**KS:** I have been on the board for eight years and had lots of village and downtown involvement beforehand, so I knew (sort of) what I was getting into. What I learned was more about myself--how I handled adversity, how I learned to listen with a truly open mind, how I handled assignments, etc. AND, most importantly, I developed a far greater appreciation of our environment, locally and beyond, and have become a total advocate of individual responsibility for protecting our varied resources. These are all "paybacks" that I had not expected.

**JW:** Having had no prior experience with Village government, I had only a basic idea of what serving as a trustee entailed. While a significant amount of time and effort are required to effectively serve on a board (attending at least 22 meetings a year for four years plus reviewing and preparing for those meetings), there are some wonderful rewards as well. I would encourage everyone to run for the office of Trustee.

For me, one of the best "perks" as trustee was meeting and working with so many different people. I was fortunate to have worked with a group of talented and caring individuals - fellow Board members and our Village Staff. I know firsthand that the efforts put forth by our Board for the benefit of Long Grove has been tremendous.

One of my disappointments as a trustee was noticing that so few residents regularly attend Village meetings. I would like to encourage all residents to attend at least one Board meeting each year to better understand how our Village works. To the residents who attended the Town Hall meetings, I say thank you. It was a special opportunity for the trustees to hear from our residents and to share ideas and perspectives on the Village's infrastructure issue.

*Finally, what are you going to do with your newly found spare time?*

**KS:** Ah! Having just completed my last electronics recycling event, my last Bridge, and looking at a draft of my last Green Sheet, I must confess that I am looking forward to No Commitments for a bunch of months. Friends can find me in the gardens for the whole months of May and June. Then, just maybe, some kindred spirits and I can see if we want to work on environmental issues that affect this lovely village of ours.

**JW:** My husband, Jim, and I are retiring this year and will be leaving Long Grove. It is a bittersweet move as we will miss this beautiful place where we have lived for the past 25 years. We will be dividing our time between Florida and the UP of Michigan with travels to many places in between.

In addition to planting new roots, my plan is to establish a new career as I am currently completing my studies in social media marketing. I've used Long Grove for some of my case studies so look for some new events later this year and next!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. My best to all of you.

## **FOND MEMORIES**

*(A Farewell Message from Village Clerk Karen Schultheis)*

Over these past eight years, I have enjoyed serving as your Village Clerk. Perhaps I was destined to take on the role of Village Clerk where taking minutes at Village Board meetings was one of my primary tasks. You see, when I was a child I was one of those nerdy kids in school who liked to take notes and do homework!

I will miss writing the minutes, but even more so, I will miss working with the Village Staff and Board who had a strong sense of purpose and worked tirelessly but still maintained a sense of humor.

In the eight years that I served as Clerk, it never ceased to amaze me how graciously the residents and Board members would volunteer hours of their own time to help in causes and events that helped promote our Village.

To the wonderful residents of Long Grove, I thank you for the privilege of serving as the Village Clerk. It has been a rewarding and memorable experience.

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

Long Grove residents that voted in the Consolidated General Election on April 9 elected, in an uncontested race, Angie Underwood as the new Village President. The voters also elected three trustees in a contested race. The new trustees are incumbent John Marshall, Lori Lyman and George Yaeger. The president and newly elected trustees will serve a four-year term. As there were no candidates for the office of Village Clerk, a clerk will be appointed by the new Village president. With Trustee Underwood vacating her seat to serve as Village president, a new trustee will also be appointed.

The new president and trustees will be sworn in at the Village Board meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall (3110 Old McHenry Road).

Board meetings are open to the public; all residents are welcome to attend.

## RECAP ON ELECTRONICS RECYCLING 2013

We were hoping for No Rain on Saturday, April 13, but we should have also been hoping for No Snow Flurries or Chilling Winds!

In spite of the rather uncooperative weather, volunteers remained cheerful as they unloaded 240 cars (100 from Long Grove) at our fourth annual recycling event. In addition to our 22 Long Grove helpers, we had great assistance from the local CERT team and staff members from Ela Township Road Commission. Hats off to our roads commissioner, Marc Small, for handling the logistics.

A big **thank you** to our volunteers and to those who dropped off electronics and food items for our local food pantry!

## MEET ARTIST DONA BLUNT

Dona Blunt is one of those rare individuals who can shift from the analytical world of running her own business to the creative world of art. Her representational pastel paintings combine and reflect those seemingly divergent traits. Her landscapes and people seem familiar to the viewer with her realistic, yet artistic style. Recently she began to incorporate more abstract interpretations into her work.



“I draw artistic inspiration from Edward Hopper for his skill in capturing light in his paintings and John Heliger for his more impressionistic interpretations. Accordingly I use a bright palette that enables both color and light to be depicted in my work. The subject matter is drawn from my travels and everyday photographs.”

By day, Dona owns Newport Promotional Services, where she works with companies, associations, schools and groups to put their corporate logo and messages on products such as apparel, writing instruments, drinkware, bags, golf items and more. Her company was relocated to her home in Long Grove in 2010. “I love working from my house and getting to see more of my neighbors and friends.”

Dona and her husband Jay have been residents of Long Grove since 1985 and have thoroughly enjoyed the Long Grove lifestyle. When they are not doing yard work or other household projects, they like to travel both domestically on long car trips and overseas via cruises or do-it-yourself exploring. They can also be found bike riding the streets of Long Grove or walking at Reed-Turner Woodlands.

“I’ve enjoyed being part of the Long Grove Artist Guild; it is a great venue to be around and learn from other talented artists. The Gallery has been an outstanding way for all of us to share our art with others; it is truly inspiring.”

Among Dona’s other activities, she practices yoga and volunteers for WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger), a non-profit organization



## FUNDRAISING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual CERT Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Lake Zurich Fire Station #1 (321 Buesching Road in Lake Zurich). This is an All-You-Can-Eat event at a cost of \$5 per person. Children 3 and under eat for free.

For the kids, there will be antique fire truck rides, a mini firefighter challenge, Sparky the dog, Buff the firefighter, fire prevention skits and big fire trucks to explore. Come rain or shine to support your local CERT. For more information about this event and CERT email: slrcert@gmail.com or call 847- 208-1621.

## SURE SIGN OF SPRING

One of the first sure signs of spring in Long Grove are the native wildflowers called *Hepatica nobilis* that appear along the path by the White Oaks near resident Barbara Turner's house (Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve). For the past few years, these early bloomers appeared in early to mid-March, but this year winter hung on (and on and on) and those first wildflowers did not emerge until April 8.



Photo by Tobin Fraley

Now that spring is officially here, why not take a stroll through the Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve on Old McHenry Road near Route 22? Soon Virginia Bluebells, beautiful white Bloodroot and Trout Lilies will cover the woodland floor. The month of May presents a great opportunity to discover the wonder and extraordinary diversity of native wildflowers found in our own backyard.

## ODDS AND ENDS

### *Chocolate Fest*

Long Grove's Annual Chocolate Festival is Friday, May 3 through Sunday May 5. Join in the fun-filled weekend and enjoy some marvelous chocolate creations. Admission is \$5 per person (all children under 12 are free). As a special thank you from the Long Grove Business and Community Partners, guests will receive a \$5 coupon to be used on their next visit to Long Grove.

For information and for a list of entertainers visit [www.visitlonggrove.com](http://www.visitlonggrove.com) or call the Information Center at 847-634-0888.

### *Spring Event - May 11*

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) in partnership with Stormwater Management Commission and Lake County Forest Preserves, is hosting a springtime event on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville. Rain barrels, compost bins, and native plants will be available for purchase.

The cost of a 55 gallon rain barrel is \$60, an 11 cubic foot/311 liter capacity compost bin is \$50.

The native plant sale is a two day event on both Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale, contact SWALCO at 847-336-9340, ext 0 or Stormwater Management Commission at 847-377-7700 or visit [www.lakecountyil.gov/stormwater](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/stormwater).

For information on the Native Plant Sale or to view the list of plants visit [www.lcfd.org/plantsale](http://www.lcfd.org/plantsale) or call 847-367-6640.

### *Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club*

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club is holding its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday May 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center (3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove). Plants for sale include heirloom tomatoes and native plants that members have contributed from their gardens. These quality plants at remarkable prices are offered on a first-come basis.

Held in conjunction with the Plant Sale is the Annual Botanical Art Sale. For more information call Penny at 847-540-8212.

On Friday, June 21, the Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club will hold its Annual Garden Walk, which benefits student internships at the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., several notable gardens will be open for a driving tour, followed by a luncheon at Royal Melbourne Country Club. Door prizes will be awarded during the luncheon. In addition, local vendors highlighting garden-related merchandise and services will be present.

*Reservations are required.* The deadline to sign up for this event is June 7. The cost for the tour and luncheon is \$35. Please make checks payable to the Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club. For further information, contact Stacy at 847-858-5405 or [stacyj simpson@comcast.net](mailto:stacyj simpson@comcast.net).

### *Long Grove Park District Programs*

Summer recreation programs will be posted on the Long Grove Park District website, [www.longgroveparkdistrict.com](http://www.longgroveparkdistrict.com), beginning April 19. Make time to check out the wonderful programs offered this summer.

In the meantime, the last session of spring classes will be starting very soon. Sign up today for one of the Park District classes such as Art of Fencing, T-Ball, Flag Football, Young Rembrandt's Drawing Class, Soccer, or Chess. Also offered are art classes at Rivellino School of Art, and Zumba Gold and Tai Chi classes at Reed-Turner Woodland. For more information visit [www.longgroveparkdistrict.com](http://www.longgroveparkdistrict.com) or call the office 847-438-4743.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY

### Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee

May 1 7 pm Village Hall

### CPR/AED Class

May 2 6 pm—10 pm Long Grove Fire Dept.

Call Katie at 847-634-3143

\$15 *In-District Residents*

\$30 *Out-of-District Residents*

### CHOCOLATE FEST

MAY 3-5 [www.visitlonggrove.com](http://www.visitlonggrove.com)

### Long Grove Park District

May 6 7 pm Reed-Turner Woodland

### Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

May 7 7 pm Village Hall

### Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club

May 13 9:30 am Reed-Turner Woodland

### Board of Trustees

May 14 7 pm Village Hall

### Historical Society Meeting

May 15 10 am Historical Society Farmhouse

### Architectural Commission

May 20 7 pm Village Hall

### MEMORIAL DAY

May 27 **Village Hall closed**

### Board of Trustees

May 28 7 pm Village Hall