



THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

November 2013

ISSUE #10

Referendum Update

Thoughts From Your Village President

If you were among the 200-plus residents who were present at our recent Town Hall meeting on October 8, I want to thank you for your attendance. Your support and sincere interest has helped the Board to decide the best course of action to take regarding funding for our infrastructure. If you missed the meeting, I encourage you to review the presentation on our Village website at www.longgrove.net. Our website has been recently refreshed and updated, and I hope that you will find it a bit more user-friendly.

The decision to ask the residents to approve a tax levy for infrastructure via referendum has not been easy. This is a complicated issue, and we appreciate hearing from so many of you. We had over 25 residents address the board at the podium at the Town Hall meeting, and have received dozens of emails making your opinions known to us. Our last Village Board meeting on October 22 included a large audience who presented additional viewpoints for us to consider. I want to assure you that the Board members have listened to you, and have carefully considered your comments. It is our unified goal to find a solution to the funding gap that serves the collective best interests of all of the residents.

It is impossible to separate the public versus private roads funding issue from the broader infrastructure funding gap problem. The majority of the comments and opinions expressed to the Board have been regarding this specific topic. When the Village was incorporated, most of the roads in Long Grove were unpaved private lanes, or public thoroughfares such as Cuba Road and Long Grove Road. As our town grew, a few of the early residential subdivisions were accepted with roads maintained as public. In the late 1970's, the Board recognized that the amount of public roads being maintained by Village funds was not going to be sustainable given our no property tax policy. At that time, the decision was made to make all new roads in the Village private. As a result, now approximately 75% of our residents live on private roads, most of which are being maintained by Homeowners Association assessments. These residents have made it clear to the Board that they will not support any referendum that does not include reducing the amount of Village maintained, non-thoroughfare residential streets.

As I stated in my opening remarks at the Town Hall meeting, we have a problem. Long Grove has an infrastructure funding gap. The cost of maintaining our infrastructure now exceeds our entire Village budget. Each year this persists, the problem gets worse. It has become critical that we find a sustainable, ongoing, source of revenue to maintain our infrastructure. The Board is committed to finding a solution to this problem. We have taken measures over the years to reduce the funding gap, but it continues to persist. After months and months of careful debate and public input, the Board feels that a Village property tax must be instituted. We intend to put the question to the voters via referendum in April of 2014.

The details and specific wording of this referendum question are still being refined. At our most recent Village Board meeting, council and staff were directed to draft the referendum

question, which will be discussed and voted upon at our next meeting on November 12. **The intent of the Board is to ask for funding specifically for maintenance of infrastructure, and for this to include only public roads that are thoroughfares.** We will specify this within the referendum question if possible, or with a companion policy that is formally adopted by the Board. In this policy we will also include the plans and process for establishing SSA districts to fund the Village owned residential streets.

This decision has been difficult but necessary. Again, I want to thank the many residents who have shared with us your opinions and helped the Board to identify the critical next steps in solving this problem for Long Grove as a whole. More information on the referendum will be forthcoming in the months ahead. You are also encouraged and welcome to attend our next Board meeting on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm.

Angie Underwood

VILLAGE WEBSITE REDESIGN

The Village website underwent a redesign several years ago, and at that time, it was a huge improvement from what was then the status quo. However, over time, an extensive amount of material has been added to the site, technology has vastly changed, and the site became cumbersome and often frustrating to use.

The Village Board, noting the obsolescence of the Village web page, decided it was time to redesign the Village website focusing on a more user-friendly site. The process has been long and tedious, but the end result has made it well worth the time and effort.

The redesigned website is now on-line and available for everyone to access. While it is still in the process of being "tweaked", you are encouraged to take a look at the new website. There is an abundance of information available to residents, merchants, and visitors to our community in a more accessible and user-friendly format than the previous website.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Administrative Assistant Sherry Shlagman at sshlagman@longgrove.net.

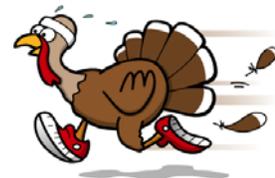
2013 LONG GROVE TURKEY TROT

The annual Long Grove Turkey Trot, a 5K and 8K run/walk and Tiny Trot Kids Dash will be held in downtown Long Grove on Thanksgiving morning, November 28. The Tiny Trot dash will begin at 8:45 a.m., the 5K/8K run/walk will start at 9 a.m.

Packet pick-up will be held at Santa's Workshop (421 Robert Parker Coffin Road) on Wednesday, November 27 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. or on the day of the race between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Custom medal awards will be awarded to the top three participants male and female overall and top three in each age group.

For more information, visit the website at www.allcommunityevents.com, e-mail info@allcommunityevents.com or call 847-344-0861.



ODDS AND ENDS

LONG GROVE-KILDEER GARDEN CLUB

Upcoming Programs

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 11 at 9:30 at Reed-Turner Woodlands. At 10 a.m., Jill Davis, garden and floral designer, will be demonstrating ways to assemble exterior containers for the holidays. Reservations can be made by contacting Gail at 847-566-9069.

The December meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, with a festive Holiday luncheon at Kemper Country Club. The luncheon will begin at 11 am. Cost is \$30.00 per person.

The guest speaker will be radio garden show host, Mike Nowak. Please contact Gail at 847-566-9069 if you wish to attend.

The Garden Club welcomes new members. Meetings are held at Reed-Turner Woodlands, 3851 Old McHenry Rd., Long Grove, on the second Monday morning of each month. If you have a love for all-things-gardening, and wish to join or seek additional information, please contact Gerri at 847-550-6292.

ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND FOOD PANTRIES



The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club is collecting new children's gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and hotel-sized toiletries to be donated to local women's shelters and food pantries. A collection box will be available for donations at Reed-Turner Woodlands (3851 Old McHenry Road) after Thanksgiving.

LONG GROVE PARK DISTRICT

On November 13 at 7 p.m., Horticulturalist Sharon Yiesla will discuss how to keep holiday plants blooming after the holidays.

Mark your calendars for a visit with Santa Claus on Sunday, December 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Reed-Turner Woodlands. Please bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl, which will be donated to Toys for Tots. Don't forget your camera!





CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER

Long Grove Park District
November 4 7 pm

Reed-Turner Woodlands

Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals
November 5 7 pm

Village Hall

Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee
November 6 7 pm

Village Hall

CPR/AED Class

November 7 6 pm—10 pm
For information, call Katie at 847-634-3143
\$15 In-District Residents

Long Grove Fire Dept.

\$30 Out-of-District Residents

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club
Decorating with Garden Ideas

November 11 9:30 am

Reed-Turner Woodlands

Board of Trustees

November 12 7 pm

Village Hall

Architectural Commission

November 18 7 pm

Village Hall

Board of Trustees Workshop

November 19 7 pm

Village Hall

Long Grove Historical Society Meeting

November 20 10 am

Historical Society Farmhouse

Board of Trustees

November 26 7 pm

Village Hall

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 28

Village Hall Closed



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 29

Village Hall Closed



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER

Long Grove Park District

December 2 7 pm Reed-Turner Woodlands

Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

December 3 7 pm Village Hall

1st Aid Class

December 3 6 pm—10 pm Long Grove Fire Dept.
For information, call Katie at 847-634-3143
\$15 *In-District Residents* \$30 *Out-of-District Residents*

Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee

December 4 7 pm Village Hall

CPR/AED Class

December 5 6 pm—10 pm Long Grove Fire Dept.
For information, call Katie at 847-634-3143
\$15 *In-District Residents* \$30 *Out-of-District Residents*

Long Grove Park District

Visit from Santa Claus

December 8 1 pm—3 pm Reed-Turner Woodlands

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club

Holiday Luncheon - Speaker: Mike Nowak (Radio Garden Show Host)
December 9 Kemper Lakes Country Club

Board of Trustees

December 10 7 pm Village Hall

Architectural Commission

December 16 7 pm Village Hall

Christmas Eve

December 24 Village Hall Closed

Christmas

December 25 Village Hall Closed