



THE BRIDGE

Long Grove Welcomes New Village Manager

fter a nationwide search, the Village is proud to welcome Gregory G. (Greg) Jackson as Long Grove's next Village Manager. Jackson has a long history of public service, not only working in professional local government management, but as a professor of public administration and policy at Northeastern Illinois University and the Illinois Institute of Technology, and prior to that as a U.S. Marine. His local government management positions, all in Illinois, include most recently being the Village Administrator and Chief Financial Officer for Winthrop Harbor, then Highwood's City Manager and the Woodford County Administrator where he began his professional career. Jackson holds a BA in Political Science from Northeastern Illinois University and an MPA with a specialization in Local Government Management from Roosevelt University. All his doctoral coursework has been completed with a current ABD (All but Dissertation) status for his PHD in Governmental Management from Walden University.

He and his wife Joanne of 33 years currently reside in Highland Park, but the couple previously lived nearby and became well-acquainted with Long Grove's many charms.

"I became familiar with the Village when I lived next door in Buffalo Grove, before going downstate to become a County Administrator," Jackson said. "Seasonal items from Mangels, sweaters from Paddy's on the Square, and happy calories from the old Apple Haus and the Village Tavern are just a sampling of the things we enjoyed while here."

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From the Village President



Bill Jacob

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t is great to see things getting back to normal now that the Illinois Governor has moved us into Phase 5, the final phase of the Restore Illinois Plan. This step also creates an awkwardness as we have been conditioned to wear masks, to not shake hands and to keep our distance. However, I have found myself quickly adapting and I am sure you have as well.

The Village is going through some changes with our Village staff. First, Gregory Jackson was recently appointed as our new Village Manager. Greg has more than 20 years of government and non-profit experience, and most recently was the Village Manager of Winthrop Harbor. Congratulations Greg and welcome to Long Grove! Second, Denise Rosenquist, who had been interning with the Village while she completed her Master's in Public Administration and has accepted a full-time position as our new Director of Operations. Long Grove is fortunate to have retained Denise with the great work she has been doing, which is reflected in her significant academic achievements graduating at the top of her class. Lastly, our Village Planner Jim Hogue is retiring after 16 years of service with Long Grove. I have had the pleasure of working with Jim for over six years on the Village Board and he has always been there to help. Jim's attention to detail and concern over the environment has been vital to preserving Long Grove. I know many of the Village commissions have depended on his expertise and he will be missed. I want to thank Jim for all that he has done for our community and wish him the absolute best in his retirement.

I would also like to thank Bill Balling for his efforts as our interim Village Manager. Bill stepped in during the middle of the pandemic and after our Village Manager of 18 years resigned. Bill did a great job of keeping our operations going during this critical period.

This spring, our historic downtown created an ideal setting for a movie; 'Christmas with Felicity', a family-friendly holiday romance story produced by John Bosher who has local ties, along with his partner in this movie, Chris Charles, I am looking forward to viewing the movie once it is released, which is planned for this fall.

Other notable publicity for the downtown area includes The Broken Earth Winery being featured on the WGN morning news, as well the Chatterbox on Fox News. It is great to see the positive publicity that our community is receiving.

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Long Grove Welcomes New Village Manager

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That is when he also came to appreciate the uniqueness of Long Grove. "The beauty of the community, the open space and the priority on sustainability cannot but impact anyone that visits this Village," he said.

Starting out in the U.S. Marines at the age of 17, Jackson says he wasn't sure higher education was the right path for him. After leaving the military and getting married, he credits his wife for encouraging him to utilize his Veteran benefits to go back to school. There he developed an awareness and understanding about the impact local government can have on the daily lives of all community members.

"I am passionate about not only government, but good government. I believe that service is about applying acquired skills to have a positive impact on quality of life," he said.

As a proponent of keeping local government as lean as possible, he points out Long Grove's success in staffing at necessary levels while providing core services through intergovernmental agreements or contractual services with the private sector.

Citing the State of Illinois' dubious distinction of having nearly 7,000 units of local government, more than any other state, he says, the Village has created strong roots to continue to deliver vital community services. "More government is not necessarily the answer; I would contend that rightsized and smart government is - this is the path Long Grove has chosen, not larger but smarter, and I am excited to be part of this approach and further build on the foundation established."

Other facets of Long Grove that attracted Jackson to the job include the TIF (tax increment financing) Districts, economic development and business retention opportunities, as well as execution of the comprehensive plan - all with an eye on sustainable growth.

"As a public administration professional, I find all of this exciting, and it certainly drew my interest in the Village Manager position," he said.

In his free time, Jackson and his wife enjoy good food and consider themselves 'foodies'. Prior to the pandemic, they enjoyed travelling internationally, and



most recently visited Rome and Amsterdam. The two are looking forward to returning to Italy in the future, as well as visiting Greece.

Jackson also enjoys reading many of the literary greats, including Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Stephen Ambrose, and writing as a respite. He is working on a novella, but says he is not certain it will reach any publisher's desk. A competitive chess player and recent new member of the U.S. Chess Federation, Jackson also is a daily practitioner of Tai Chi.

The Village Board made the Village Manager appointment in early June and Jackson is an 'at will' employee, meaning he does not have a multi-year contract. His salary is \$135,000 per year. Bill Balling, Managing Director of WRB, LLC Management Services, had served as Interim Village Manager during the executive search for the position, which began in early spring.

"I thank Village President Jacob and the Village Board for this opportunity, their confidence, as well as their trust. I look forward to being in the community and connecting with both residents and business owners," said Jackson.

Village Planner Retires After 16 Years



illage Planner James (Jim) Hogue, who has served the Village and its residents for 16 years recently announced his retirement, effective in August. Hogue contributed his expertise that benefitted the Long Grove community in numerous ways, including advising and supporting the Village's various commissions and committees, updating the Village's Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan, and assisting with the development of Sunset Grove and other new subdivisions. The Village Board and staff thank Hogue for his service to the Village and wish him well in his retirement.

The role of Village Planner will be changed to the Community Development Director and the Village will be seeking to fill this position by this fall.

Village Appoints Director of Operations

he Village Board approved the appointment of Denise Rosenquist to the new position of Director of Operations for the Village of Long Grove in May. Ms. Rosenquist previously worked in public service as a teacher and, over the last two years, served

as an administrative intern for the Village while working to receive her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Northern Illinois University (NIU). She graduated with honors in April and was recognized as a 2021 William Monat Scholar, the highest honor of the NIU MPA program. She hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota and relocated to Illinois 10 years ago with her husband and two children.



The Village appreciates Rosenquist's numerous contributions, along with her positive attitude and work ethic that help build Long Grove's vital community. From the time she joined the Village staff as an intern, she has consistently shown an eagerness to learn and a joy in tackling a project. The Village welcomes Rosenquist to her new role and responsibilities ahead.

Downtown Improvements Planned this Fall

tempel Parking Lot is going to receive a number of improvements that are planned to extend its useful life. The Village is finalizing plans to resurface the lot, and remove

interior landscaped islands in order to create additional parking spaces. Renovation of this popular Village parking lot is expected to begin by the end of this month or in early August.

Other planned improvements include the completion of a multi-use bike path along Robert Parker Coffin Road between the Archer Parking Lot and Sunset Grove, which is on schedule and expected to be completed in early fall.



From The Village President

I want to thank Lake County Board member Marah Altenberg for assisting the Village in bringing closure on an issue that Long Grove and the Country Club Estates residents have been wrestling with for several years.

The Lake County Forest Preserve removed a significant number of trees to build the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve and stormwater mitigation site exposing Lake Cook Road from those living along a portion of Checker Road. In the early Spring of 2022 additionally trees / shrubs will be planted to restore screening.

Also, the Forest Preserve has committed to working with us to resolve the shortage of parking caused by the unanticipated increased usage of the preserve. We have installed no parking signs on and near Checker Road and have been enforcing, but that does not solve the problem. I am looking forward to coming up with a solution.

The Joint resolution did pass creating a task force to study the alternative uses for the Route 53 expansion land. As mentioned in my last president's message, the task force includes mayors (or their designee) of Long Grove, Hawthorne Woods, Mundelein and Grayslake to study the cost, feasibility and alternative uses of the expansion land. I welcome your thoughts, but I do believe protecting and preserving the environmentally sensitive areas and groves of trees (our namesake) should be our top priority. However, repurposing the corridor does provide us with an opportunity to connect pathways in our community and beyond. Additionally, there are some opportunities for development as well, especially the large parcels that the Illinois Department of Transportation purchased in the most northern part of Long Grove.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and enjoy things getting back to normal.

Village President - Bill Jacob

Summertime in Long Grove!

he newly renovated downtown in its full summer glory is a welcoming destination for locals and visitors. The beautified Village, known for its wide array of independent, family-owned and operated restaurants, stores and services, are fully reopened and its beloved annual festivals organized by the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) are finally taking place once again.

Strawberry Fest in June marked the official kickoff to summertime activities and many merchants are featuring specials throughout the summer season. Some of the sights and sounds include live music to the dripping of ice cream





cones being lopped up from smiling young faces. Summertime is the right time to visit an old friend – historic downtown Long Grove!

The HDLGBA is a not-for-profit organization led by a team of elected volunteers that represent and serve the Long Grove historic district businesses and property owners, as well as residents. By hosting memorable activities and events, they are able to support the interests of members, enhance the community, and encourage the use and preservation of the historic Village. For more information, visit <u>longgrove.org</u>.

Get Social with Long Grove

he Village recently launched two new social media pages to enhance communications and connect with more residents and stakeholders. The Village's public agency page on Nextdoor shares timely local news specifically with Long Grove residents - just visit Nextdoor.com and sign up for a free account (if you don't have one already) and search 'Village of Long Grove'. The Village also has an official Facebook page at facebook.com/VillageofLG where news and other information will also be shared. For more information on other communications from the Village, including the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Bridge*, and the semi-monthly Enewsletter, visit longgroveil.gov/community.





Local Roots Bring Movie

'Christmas with Felicity' is set in the fictional town of Grove, its businesses and

The classic story of; 'small town girl moves to big city, then loses in love and business, only to move back to said smalltown, where she meets the man of her dreams and finds a new lease on life and livelihood' - unfolded this spring in a movie filmed in downtown Long Grove. Area residents and visitors may have seen a glimpse or even a full shot of the movie trucks, cameras, lights or action in front of Paddy's on

the Square/The Irish Boutique, the covered bridge, The Village Tavern and many other downtown spots. The movie, 'Christmas with Felicity', is set during Christmastime, and includes some good old-fashioned nostalgia



with a strong helping of a renewed holiday spirit for its star character, Felicity.

So how did the movie's producers happen upon Long Grove in the first place? The two have ties to the area that acquainted them with the charms of downtown Long Grove, which made it the absolute ideal spot for this Hallmark-esque movie - set in the fictional town of Aspen Grove, Wisconsin.

John W. Bosher and Chris Charles of Throughline Films are the producers behind this holiday-feature; Charles was born in Arlington Heights, while Bosher was raised in Hoffman Estates. The two met in 2005 while attending Columbia College in Chicago and began working together on a variety of film projects; Throughline Films was founded in 2012. Together the men have seen several successes over the last decade, including producing the mafia thriller 'Chicago Overcoat' - which was sold to Showtime, 20th Century Fox, and Netflix – as well



as 'We Are Columbine', a documentary purchased by Hulu about four survivors of the infamous school shooting who return to the campus 20 years later. A crime drama, 'The Cleaner', starring Shelley Long, Eden Brolin, James Paxton, Shiloh Fernandez,

Luke Wilson and Lynda Carter, is scheduled to premiere later this year.

After college is when downtown Long Grove came into Bosher's sights. His wife Jessica opened In Motion Dance in 2013, and the couple's engagement pictures happen to have been taken in the movie's 'town square' where a significant portion of the production was set - right outside Paddy's on the Square.

"The short answer to why we chose Long Grove is: it's perfect," Bosher said. Being familiar with the Village and many of the businesses through his wife, according to Bosher, helped the production to immediate momentum and local support. More than a dozen Long



Grove businesses were involved in many ways, starting when production crews descended upon the downtown area in April.

"I have to say that the Village of Long Grove, as well as the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) were amazing to work with," Bosher said.

Mike Okun, the owner of Chatterbox, joined the production team and served as an executive producer for the movie. According to Charles and Bosher, Okun provided a wide variety of supports, including providing ongoing catering for the cast and crew, in addition to renting office space to the production team.

Parking on Archer Road was sporadically closed to accommodate filming over the more than two-month production period, where residents walking in the downtown would oftentimes happen upon the movie sets and inquire about what was going on.

"People always kept a respectful distance and when we could

Production to Long Grove

Aspen Grove, Wisconsin and features downtown Long all the Village's charms.

(when not in the middle of a shot or scene) we shared what we were doing, and we were always met with a positive comment and enthusiasm," Bosher said.

Crew members commented that the downtown area felt like a ready-made Hollywood studio backlot.

One of the shots in the movie was to include the covered bridge in the background, and it was set for the Tuesday after the April 9 accident where a large U-Haul damaged the bridge. "Fortunately, our shots were filmed on the opposite side (of the bridge) from where the accident occurred, so none of the damage was visible in the movie," Bosher said.

Shooting locations (in addition to those listed above) included Ma and Pa's Candy, Country House, Arboria of Long Grove, The Covered Bridge Creamery, White Oak Gourmet, Twin Orchard Country Club, Associated Dental Specialists of Long Grove, the Ryan Messner Insurance Agency and a private residence in downtown Long Grove.

Members of the production crew also contributed to the local economy by frequenting Long Grove businesses for items they needed daily, such as duct tape, ladders, light bulbs and other supplies at Menards or CVS Pharmacy, groceries at Sunset Foods and dozens of cups of coffee from Starbucks and Dunkin.

Restaurants and food service businesses, such as the White Oak Gourmet, Enzo and Lucia, Joanie's, The Covered Bridge Creamery and Chatterbox provided

COVID-19 safe packaged food for the crews and actors at a time when social distancing and masks were still required.

While the pandemic remained a concern in the spring, it caused some challenges for the production – according to Charles – though none were insurmountable. "We did have to get the crew and actors regularly tested (for COVID-19) and ensure each had a safe social distance from others while performing their work - and make sure to get our needed shots. All crew members were face-covered at all times, while actors took them off only to film."

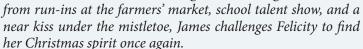
Other businesses and locations also contributed to the production in different ways. Staff from the Village Tavern served as extras, a holiday dance recital to Deck the Halls was filmed at Palatine's Cutting Hall and performed by In Motion Dance students - while their parents were extras. Twin Orchard Country Club provided overnight secured parking for the movie trucks that had been scattered throughout the downtown while shooting was taking place.

In all, it really did take a village - residents, business owners, employees, customers and clients, property owners, the HDLGBA and the Village itself - to make this production happen.

A synopsis of Christmas with Felicity is provided below, from Throughline Films:

Felicity Olson is in no mood for the holidays. Her new bakery has failed, she's out of money, and her engagement has fallen apart. At her sister Grace's urging, a downtrodden Felicity accepts an office temp job back in her hometown of Aspen

Grove, Wisconsin. Living with her overtly romantic parents, Felicity finds herself depressed, missing her ex-fiancé, and loathing Christmas. But when she meets James, a handsome dairy farmer (who loves Christmas, annoyingly enough), she decides to quit the temp job and try baking for the local community. Felicity hires her artistic yet shy 13-year-old niece, Madison, who creates the social media account "Christmas with Felicity" to promote and sell the holiday treats. Her baked goods are a huge success. And



Filming ended in early June, and the movie is now in the final editing phase. It is planned to premiere this fall for the 2021 holiday cycle. The Village will provide additional information on when the movie will come out in subsequent communications.





SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

Tree Preservation and Removal Permits Algae Blooms



n keeping with the Village's goal to protect its natural wooded landscape, tree preservation on residential properties is highly valued and strongly encouraged. In addition to providing beauty and shade, trees contribute significantly to the health of the Village's ecosystems and help the environment in numerous and important ways, including:

- Stabilizing soil: Root systems anchor soil, preventing erosion and sedimentation.
- Reducing runoff: Trees provide drainage control and act as a natural filter for rainwater.
- Welcoming wildlife: Trees are home to countless species of wildlife, from birds and squirrels, to beneficial insects and frogs.

To ensure the Village's beautiful landscape is maintained, tree removal permits are required. There are two permit processes—long and short forms—dictated by the species of tree that residents plan to remove. If tree(s) are dead, diseased or are non-protected species, the short form should be completed. If the tree(s) are a protected species, or are located in a platted conservancy area or scenic corridor, the long application and a plan for replacement is required. For a list of protected species, and links to the permit applications, visit longgroveil.gov/building/page/tree-preservation.

Managing

uring the summer months, warmer temperatures often lead to algae blooms in area ponds, causing them to appear murky or discolored. The most common type of pond algae in this area is plankton algae, microscopic organisms that live throughout the water. While plankton algae is naturally occurring and beneficial in normal amounts, a bloom can overwhelm a pond or lake and have detrimental effects.

Algae is an indicator that there is a surplus of nutrients in the water, mainly phosphorus and nitrogen, which are often present due to fertilizers, manure, septic systems or animal waste. In normal amounts, algae is an important part of a pond's ecosystem, as it provides a food source for zooplankton, which in turn provides a food source for fish. However, when algae overtakes a pond, it removes oxygen from the water and can kill fish. The less common blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria) is also problematic, producing foul odors, surface scums and toxins that are harmful to wildlife and humans.

Maintaining a healthy pond is all about balance. Below are some effective ways to limit algae blooms:

- Reduce nutrient sources: Limit fertilizer application and install shoreline buffers of deep-rooted native plants to serve as a natural filter.
- Install an aeration system: Introducing an oxygen source can reduce algae blooms by speeding decomposition of organic matter and mixing the water column.
- Apply treatments: Enzymes, biologics, herbicides and dyes can all be effective at mitigating blooms, but should only be applied by a professional.

These approaches, along with patience and long-term planning, can help ensure a healthy pond ecosystem. For more information on pond management, visit ifishillinois.org/publications/Lake Management.

Philip Estates Subdivision Approved



hilip Estates on East Cuba Road is one of Long Grove's newest development sites, comprisinging 19 single-family lots, which have been carefully designed to help preserve the natural beauty of the region and enhance the area's environmentally sensitive spaces. The Village Board recently approved the 34-acre development, which connects with a community water supply and county sewer lines from an adjacent subdivision. A proposed pathway system will link together the scenic corridor and conservancy easements within the development, and provide for future opportunities to connect with nearby Lake County Forest Preserve properties.

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club Holds Bonfire Soupfest

n late April, members of the Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club gathered around a roaring bonfire at Reed-Turner Woodland to discuss all things gardening, and more. It was dubbed the 'bonfire soupfest', and members brought crockpots of homemade soups, freshly baked bread and desserts. It just happened to be Earth Day, and while the morning started out below freezing, it warmed up to be a beautiful sunny day.

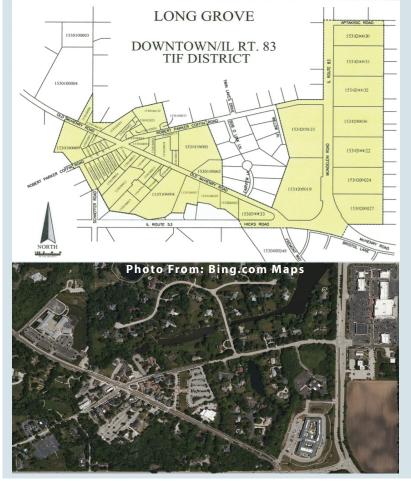


The club continues to practice COVID-19 safety precautions and has held most of their monthly meetings via Zoom, including virtual presentations on invasive plants and attracting birds to your backyard. The hope is that starting in September, the club can start meeting in person at Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center and open up meetings to guests. The Garden Club is a casual, friendly group of women and men who are interested in gardening. Members range from novice gardeners to master gardeners, and prior to the pandemic, meetings took place the second Monday of the month at the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center at 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove, unless a field trip was scheduled. If you are interested in learning more about the Garden Club, please contact Paula VanSingel at 847-478-0000 or email Paulavanwatson1@gmail.com.

TIF District Joint Review Board

IF (Tax Increment Financing) districts facilitate public and private investment in municipal areas that need improvement to develop and grow. Every year, a Joint Review Board (JRB) is required to review investment projects and the financial condition of the TIF district, with all affected taxing bodies invited.

At the June 21 Downtown / Sunset Grove TIF District JRB, the Village reviewed the investment projects that occurred during the 2020 fiscal year, including coordinating with Lake County to complete improvements to Old McHenry Road, facilitating water connections for the downtown properties now served by public water, and substantial work on the Robert Parker Coffin bridge. Large portions of the bridge work were paid for by insurance proceeds from the significant truck crash damage in 2018. Sunset Grove business district bonds were refinanced in early 2020, reducing the bonds' interest rate from 7.50% to a blended rate of 3.30%, which helped contribute to nearly \$247,000 in net income during the year for the TIF district. Visit longgroveil.gov/il83dwtn-tif for more information.



History Corner Long Grove Then and Now: Neumann's Cigars & More

trio of historic buildings on Robert Parker Coffin Road near the covered bridge have a unique past — they all were built as home kits from catalog mail orders for earlier Long Grove residents. There's a possibility these homes may even have been Sears Roebuck homes, but the details haven't been confirmed. One of these buildings, Cigars & More, 445 Robert Parker Coffin Road, has undergone several changes since it was purchased in 1928. The original building was owned by Walter Gosswiller and was a single-story house with walk-up steps, an enclosed front porch and a side bay window. Later, a second story was added and the building was home to several different businesses and shops over the years. Ken and Julie Neumann purchased the building in 2010 and opened Cigars & More, a retail store that features a wide selection of cigars, a humidor and a comfortable smoking lounge.



Long Grove Legacy Webpage

n May, the Village launched Long Grove Legacy, a webpage to honor and recognize individuals who have passed on, but had a positive impact and contributed to the quality of life in Long Grove. It was designed to include memorials for people who have given of their time and talents to serve the community. This type of service could be through volunteering on the Village Board, a commission or committee, serving a nonprofit organization that benefits Long Grove or its residents, owning a business in town, or other ways that residents' daily lives have been improved through the contributions of an individual.

Residents can submit suggestions for individuals to be highlighted, and should include a summary (350 words or less) of what the person did to help improve the Village and/or quality of life, along with a picture. Questions about the individual should be answered in order to submit them for consideration to be published on the webpage.

The Village is grateful to anyone who has the best interests of Long Grove at heart, and who help to continue to make it a wonderful place to live. Visit **longgroveil.gov**, click on 'Discover' and scroll down to 'Long Grove Legacy' to learn more, view current memorials and to make a submission.





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Upcoming Meetings

Board of Trustees July 13, 2021 July 27, 2021 August 10, 2021 August 24, 2021

Economic Development Commission July 13, 2021 July 27, 2021 August 10, 2021 August 24, 2021

Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals July 7, 2021 August 4, 2021

Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee July 6, 2021 August 3, 2021

Architectural Commission July 19, 2021 August 16, 2021

Please visit **LongGrovelL.gov/meetings**for the most up-to-date meeting
information.

The above meeting schedule is current as of the publish date of this newsletter.

Village Seeks Clerk



re you interested in being a public servant and have excellent communication and organizational skills? If so, you may be interested in serving as the Village's next Village Clerk. Responsibilities of this appointed position - which will be on the ballot in the 2023 Municipal Election - include certifying public documents, attending Village Board meetings and preparing meeting minutes. Those who wish to apply for this volunteer position must be Long Grove residents who are registered to vote. Interested individuals must submit a completed Volunteer Profile Sheet, along with a resume and letter of interest. Email Administrative Assistant Sherry Shlagman at sshlagman@ longgroveil.gov or call 847-634-9440 for more information.

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