

# THE BRIDGE

FALL 2023

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE

## A Message From The President

I hope you are enjoying the final days of summer. Fall is on the horizon, and our community will be taking on the colorful splendor of the new season in just a few weeks.



It has been some time since the Village published our last newsletter. With a new communications firm in place, I am looking forward to a new communications program and a regular publication schedule.

In July, Greg Jackson our Village Manager resigned unexpectedly to pursue an opportunity with another municipality. Thanks to some quick recruitment work and good fortune, we are pleased to welcome **Art Osten, Jr.** to the Village as our Interim Village Manager while we search for Greg's replacement. Art brings a great deal of experience to

Long Grove. He is a retired Village Administrator who spent a significant amount of time in leadership at the Village of Fox River Grove and has since served as an Interim Manager for many other communities in Illinois and Wisconsin. Art is already energetically engaged in Village affairs.

I also would like to recognize **Shelly Ruben** who recently retired from our Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA). Shelly was originally appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals which was eventually combined with the Plan Commission to become the PCZBA. Congratulations and thank you Shelly for your 30 years of service to the Village!

It is always nice to see Long Grove in the news for something other than the RPC bridge. Most recently the new owners of the **Village Tavern -- Will and Elaine Jarvis**, Daughter **Nicole**, and her husband **Scott Wallace**; were featured on the cover of the Daily Herald. **Mary Ann Ulrich**, whose family has graciously operated the Village Tavern for over 61 years, decided to sell the business. The Village Tavern is the oldest continuous operating tavern in Illinois 176 years and counting. I welcome the new owners to Long Grove and wish them much success.

Additionally, **Arlene Okun's Sock Monkey Museum** made the headlines. It was entered into the **Guinness Book of World Records** with 2,098 Sock Monkeys!

*Continued. See President on Page 3*



### LOCAL HAPPENINGS

#### OCTOBER DAYS

- 10/7 - DIY SCARECROW DAY
- 10/12 - WITCHES NIGHT OUT
- 10/15 - PET COSTUME PARADE
- 10/27 - TRICK OR TREATING

#### VINTAGE HOLIDAYS

11/18 - 12/16

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

[longgrove.org/festival/holiday-season/](http://longgrove.org/festival/holiday-season/)



#### VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

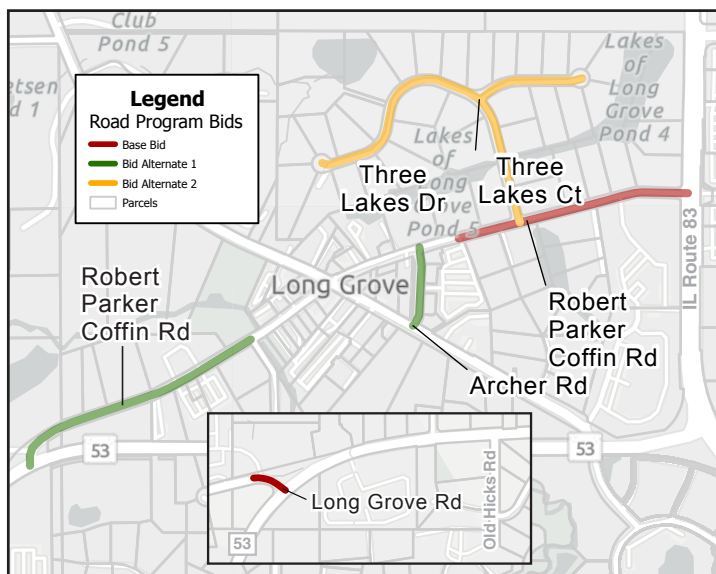
ALL AT 7:00 P.M.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 10/10/23 | 11/14/23 |
| 10/24/23 | 11/28/23 |

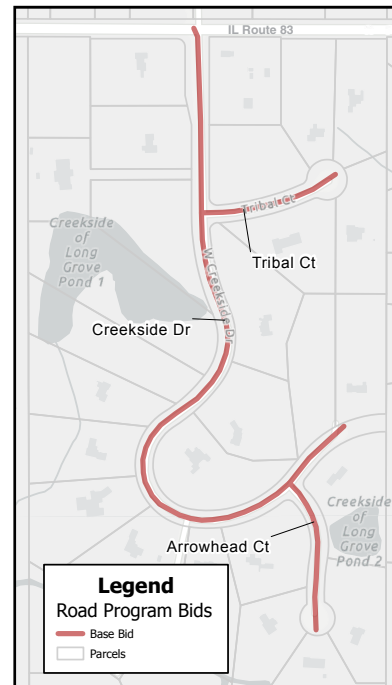
# FROM THE ROAD



**Our Village Road maintenance program** will begin in early October in order to avoid traffic conflicts with the Apple Fest and Prairie State Half Marathon events. The resurfacing project will impact Creekside Drive, Tribal Court, Arrowhead Court, Robert Parker Coffin Road (from Archer Parking Lot to IL Route 83), Robert Parker Coffin Road (from the covered bridge to IL Route 53), Archer Road, Long Grove Road (at the intersection of IL Route 53), Three Lakes Drive, and Three Lakes Court (see map). Expected completion of the project is November 3, 2023.



**The Osage Road Drainage Improvement Project** includes installation of a 24" diameter storm sewer pipe from 7057-7051 Osage Road. This project is partially funded by a Storm Water Infrastructure Grant from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. Village Engineer Geoff Perry added, "The project has been designed to reduce flooding in the rear yards of the properties on the northerly side of Osage Road, which has been a long-standing issue. We anticipate the work taking about 2-weeks; however, the start date is to be determined, based on material delivery and utility resolution."



As these projects take shape, we'll post updates on the Village's social media channels and website.



## Planning Fall Repairs? Know When to get a Building Permit



Your home or business properties are among the largest investments of your life. When it comes time to make improvements, structural changes or additions, a building permit helps you by securing expertise in municipal code standards

enforced by licensed professionals. Securing a building permit can also prevent potential obstacles down the road when you are ready to sell your property.

It is important to note that a permit is also required for demolition, lawn irrigation systems, water heaters, electrical upgrades, generators and more. A complete listing of projects requiring permits, and our fee schedule is available on our website [longgroveil.gov/building](http://longgroveil.gov/building)

If you have questions about the permit process, please call (847) 634-9440 between 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and ask for the building department.



# Exploring New Village Hall Options

Earlier this year the Village Board of Trustees engaged Wold Architects of Palatine to present options for expanding the existing Village Hall space or constructing a new facility. Wold refers to this work as the “programming phase,” where the firm has discussions with the client to identify what is needed, and then embarks to schematic design phase that illustrates the guiding principles discussed in previous meetings.

Matt Bickel of Wold Architects said, “Our process is based on collaboration. It’s important

not to design in a vacuum and present what we think works for you. It’s critical we work in tandem to understand the values and priorities. Our mission is to create a unique structure that respects the history of Long Grove while incorporating modern, energy efficient design that will stand the test of time.”



The architects are also exploring floor plan options that offer more flexible space for meetings / gatherings with a reconfigured working environment that encourages collaboration to retain and attract future talent. Village leadership will be meeting with Wold team members during September to review their progress and determine the next milestones for the project. Additional updates will be on our website, social media channels and in our next issue of this newsletter in December.



## President (continued from Page 1)

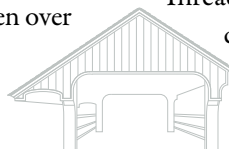
If you have been inside the Museum, you’ll know it is quite the experience. Congratulations Arlene on this wonderful accomplishment. Please stop in if you haven’t already.

**John Boshier** and **Chris Charles**, who filmed *Christmas with Felicity* in our Village, will soon release their second film featuring Long Grove, “*Reporting for Christmas*.” They just shared plans for a third movie with sequences to be filmed here this Fall. More details will be coming as timing and logistics are worked out. It is nice to see our Village showcased in these films. Thank you, John and Chris, for featuring Long Grove and partnering with our downtown merchants.

Back to municipal operations... After 9 years we are approximately 77% complete on our 15-year road paving plan – without levying a property tax. This was a contentious issue in 2014 when over 83% of our residents voted against implementing the Village’s first property tax to provide funding to repave our roads.

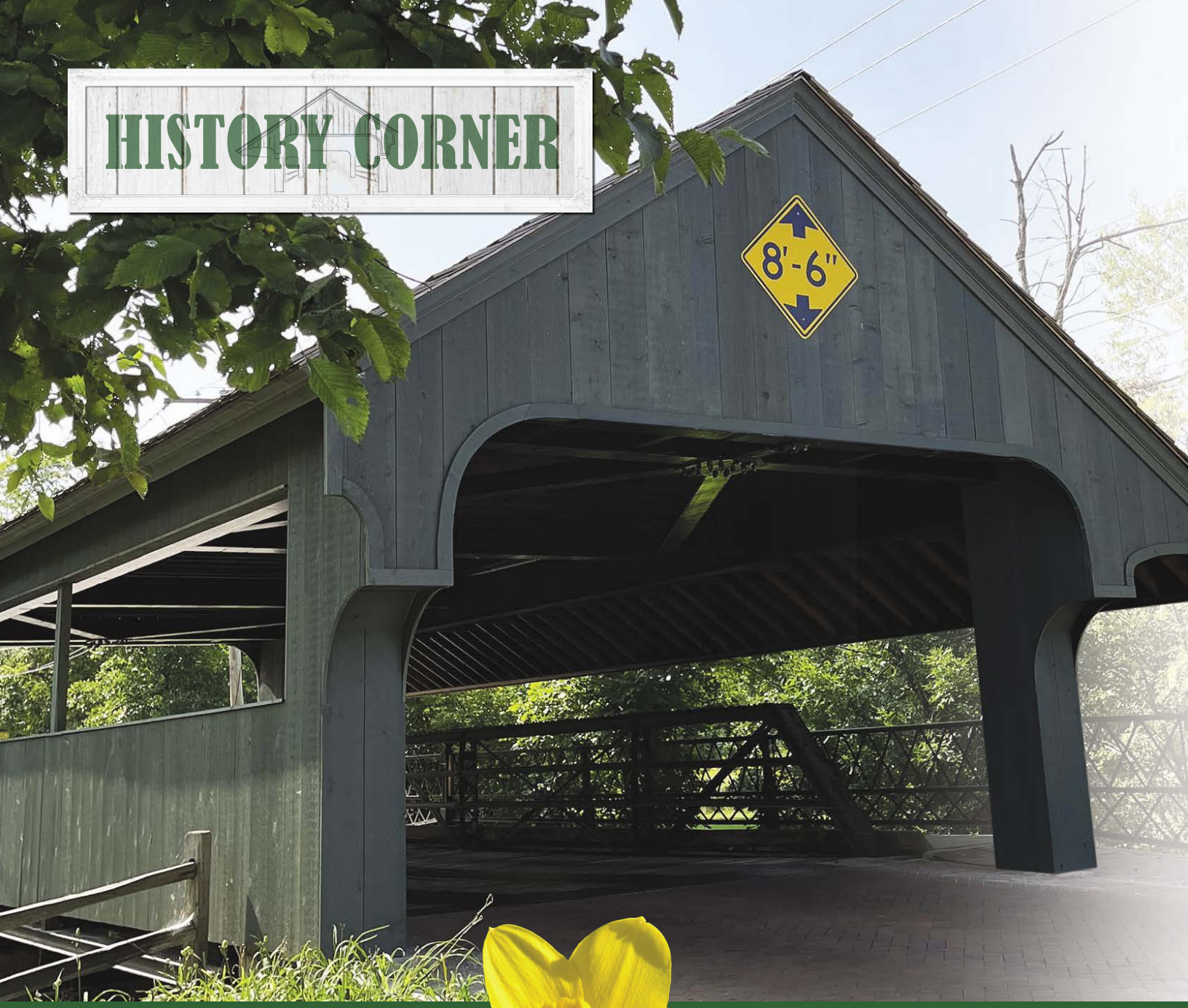
Finally, there is still much on the docket this year including hiring a new Village Manager, a proposed addition to our Village Hall utilizing the American Rescue Plan Funds we received and connecting our downtown potable water system to Lake Michigan via an expected \$2.3 million in federal funding. As of this writing we are awaiting word from **Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky’s** office. Her staff submitted this infrastructure project for the appropriations bill in the upcoming fiscal year.

We look forward to making some great progress in the Village this Fall. I encourage everyone to visit our website, select *Bridge Newsletter* and sign up for our *Connections eNewsletter* by providing your email address in the pop-up form. Links to our social media channels Facebook, Linked In, Next Door, Instagram and Threads can be found on the footer of our website. Let’s get connected and celebrate the fall season in Long Grove.



**Bill Jacob**  
Village President

# HISTORY CORNER



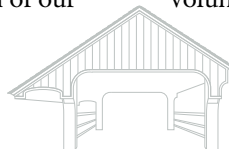
## Our Daffodil Tradition Continues

Whether you've been here for years or just joined the community, the blooming daffodils each spring mark a reassuring transition from winter to brighter days. The daffodil planting tradition began in the Fall 1970s, inspired by Betty Coffin, and this fall, the Village continues that tradition by giving residents daffodil bulbs to plant along their parkways. Watch for updates on bulb pickup through our social media and *Connections* eNewsletter. Let's celebrate the charm of our Village, where daffodils complement the country-like atmosphere, reminding us of our shared history and the beauty of nature's cycle.



## Seeking Commission & Committee Volunteers

We currently have an opening for the Secretary of the Village's Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA.) This role involves attending a meeting the first Tuesday of each month and recording meeting minutes. If you are interested in an opportunity to become involved in local government, we'd like to hear from you. Visit our website to fill out the volunteer profile application. The Village is always accepting volunteer profiles for the Conservation and Scenic Corridor Committee, and Architectural Commission and Pathway Committee and PCZBA for future reference.



# RPC Bridge Still Going Strong at 117

Anyone familiar with the Village of Long Grove knows that we have a BRIDGE. In 2022, we officially named it the Robert Parker Coffin Bridge. In the mid-1850's the bridge was a wooden structure designed to transport residents across Buffalo Creek. In the early 1900's a new 41 foot single-lane metal truss bridge was built by the Joliet Bridge and Iron Company.

In 1972, the Long Grove Village Board voted to have a cover built for the bridge to protect it from the elements and to prevent heavy trucks from crossing it. They chose a design by then current Village President, Robert Parker Coffin, a local architect, builder and engineer to design and construct the decorative cover. It served its purpose until 2018.

With the efforts of the Long Grove Historical Society and the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA), an application for the National Register of Historic places was successfully accomplished in 2018. Very shortly thereafter the bridge was struck and the cover totally destroyed.

The Village had been considering

replacing the bridge when it was struck and the cover was destroyed. Many possibilities were considered but in 2019 the Village decided to proceed with a full reconstruction at a cost of \$1,100,000. It

was possible to do so through the collaboration of the State of Illinois, (\$250,000), Long Grove Historical Society, (\$54,000), insurance, (\$204,000) with the Village paying the remainder.

True to Mr. Coffin's original design, the bridge was reconstructed. The most important change to the bridge cannot be seen unless you are on the bridge. The Village added a steel reinforcement structure inside the bridge covering to protect it from

serious damage. The new structure has already proven its worth, having protected the cover which has been hit numerous times resulting in minimal damage. We hope drivers note all cautioning signage leading to the Bridge.

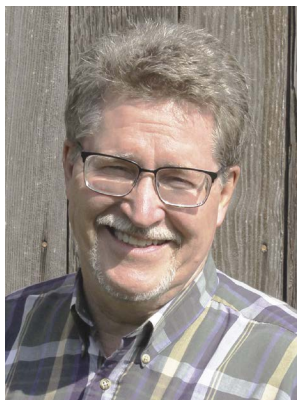


Photo Courtesy of Long Grove Historical Society

One other unexpected result of the bridge replacement was the substitution of the old limestone block abutments with new colored concrete finished to emulate the look of the original abutments. The old abutments are now located in the new Buffalo Creek Park being built by the HDLGBA.



## Introducing Art Osten & Dana McCarthy



**Art Osten, Jr.** was brought aboard to serve as Interim Village Manager, as an executive search is underway to secure a permanent administrator. Mr. Osten has extensive government experience, spending 14-years as the administrator of the Village of Fox River Grove. In recent times Art has also served as interim manager at Indian Head Park, Oak Brook and Genoa.

**Dana McCarthy** joined the Village team in July as our new Assistant Village Manager. Prior to joining us, he worked for the Winthrop Harbor School District #1, and served in leadership at Feed My Starving Children. Dana was elected Trustee at the Village of Winthrop Harbor in 2013, and continues to serve in that role.



Please join us in welcoming these gentlemen to the Village team.



# Open Burn Requirements- Protecting Our Environment and Your Property

There are many benefits to an open or prescribed burn. Removing old vegetation, dead/downed trees and twigs makes room for new growth, while reducing the possibility of wildfires. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires the Village of Long Grove to apply for an annual permit and submit a list of properties to be included in planned burns.

For faster processing residents planning open burns should complete the webform which can be found on our website; [longgroveil.gov/burning](http://longgroveil.gov/burning).

Addresses are added to the open burn permit list and submitted as an application to the State. Once the State approves the application, the applicant will be notified via email. Properties that are approved must then contact the **Long Grove Fire Protection District, (847) 634- 3143**, or **Countryside Fire Protection District, (847) 367-5511**, to obtain a permit to perform an open burn.

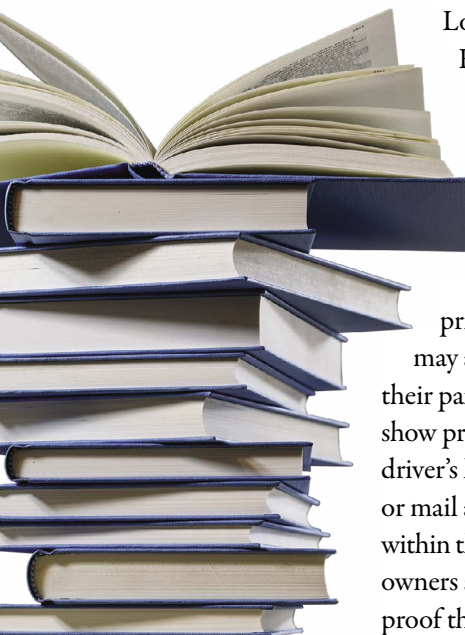
Working together we can help maintain a natural balance and keep our Village safe.



## Your Library System - Endless Knowledge Awaits

Twenty first century libraries are evolving, becoming community gathering places, creative laboratories and media centers.

Have you thought about digitizing your old family photos, trying your hand at creating a podcast, video, or building a website? Specialty hardware and software is available to release your inner creativity. Perhaps you just want to check out a paper book, DVD, CD or enjoy eBooks, the **Vernon Area Public Library** has you covered.



Located at 300 Olde Half Day Road in Lincolnshire, the library has an array of activities for people of all ages. You can apply for a library card online or in-person. Identification will be required on your first visit to activate checkout privileges. Those under age 18 may apply for a library card via their parent/guardian. All patrons must show proof of residence established via driver's license, state ID card, passport, or mail addressed to you postmarked within the past 90 days. Business owners should provide proof that their operation

is within the library district. To learn more about acquiring a Vernon Area Public Library card phone (224) 543-1483.

A small portion of Long Grove residents are served by the wonderfully equipped **Ela Area Public Library**, located at 275 Mohawk Trail in Lake Zurich. In order to determine which library serves your household or business, please check your county property tax bill or phone a librarian to determine eligibility.



With cooler months ahead, why not plan on exploring the vast amount of knowledge and creative outlets that await you?



# Fall Fun-Right In Your Backyard

If fall is your season, we've got an abundance of activities and culinary delights sure to enhance your enjoyment.

**Apple Fest** is a longstanding tradition in our Village, featuring apple dishes prepared pretty much any way you like. Need some live music to get you in the festive spirit? A variety of musical acts will be moving you on stage September 22-24.



If you're looking to get a jump start on holiday shopping, check out the wares of many talented artisans who will display unique gift items sure to please even that person who has everything.



Mark your calendar and purchase daily or full, three-day passes at [longgrove.org/festival/apple-fest/](https://longgrove.org/festival/apple-fest/).

## Octoberfest 5K

There is no finer time of year to run than fall. Enjoy the beautiful scenery while participating in the Octoberfest 5K on Saturday, September 30th in Long Grove. To register, visit [allcommunityevents.com/oktoberfest5k](https://allcommunityevents.com/oktoberfest5k)



## 16th Annual Turkey Trot-Thanksgiving Day

Burning off those pre-Thanksgiving calories has become a modern tradition. Start your turkey day at 8:00 a.m. with some camaraderie and an invigorating run through the historic streets of our Village. Finish the race under the Robert Parker Coffin Bridge, and enjoy a donut from the Long Grove Apple Haus. Registration information is available at [allcommunityevents.com/](https://allcommunityevents.com/)



## Vintage Holidays

If you want to reduce your screen time and get back to some traditional holiday fun, plan a visit to Downtown Long Grove. Walking the decorated streets, visiting merchant open houses, taking a sleigh ride, and listening to carolers are sure to put you in a festive mood. For details visit:

[longgrove.org/festival/holiday-season/](https://longgrove.org/festival/holiday-season/)



## The Farmer's Markets of Lake County

Fresh from the field fruits, vegetables, locally sourced honey, cheese, baked goods and more await you at your local farmer's market. We still have many weeks of pleasant fall weather ahead, why not venture out, support midwestern farmers, local artisans, and treat yourself to a great time in the beautiful communities of Lake County. Details are available at:

[visitlakecounty.org/FarmersMarkets](https://visitlakecounty.org/FarmersMarkets).





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## Connect With The Village

Phone: 847-634-9440 | Fax: 847-634-9408  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am – 4:30pm

**Public Safety Numbers – Emergency Services dial 911**

**Police:** Lake County Sheriff – 847-549-5200  
**Fire:** Countryside Fire Protection District – 847-367-5511  
Long Grove Fire Protection District – 847-634-3143



## Long Grove Village Board

			
<b>Bill Jacob</b> Village President	<b>Chris Borawski</b> Trustee	<b>Mohammed Jameel</b> Trustee	<b>Anne Kritzmire</b> Trustee
			
<b>Rita O'Connor</b> Trustee	<b>Bobbie O'Reilly</b> Trustee	<b>Kent Tinucci</b> Trustee	<b>Michele Schmitke</b> Village Clerk

### Village Board

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[bill.jacob@longgroveil.gov](mailto:bill.jacob@longgroveil.gov)

**Chris Borawski** – Trustee  
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**Mohammed Jameel** – Trustee  
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**Anne Kritzmire** – Trustee  
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**Rita O'Connor** – Trustee  
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**Bobbie O'Reilly** – Trustee  
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**Kent Tinucci** – Trustee  
[kent.tinucci@longgroveil.gov](mailto:kent.tinucci@longgroveil.gov)

**Michele Schmitke** – Village Clerk  
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**Katie Wagner** – Communications Management Analyst  
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