

# THE BRIDGE

DECEMBER 2023

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE

## A Message From The President

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration. I enjoyed running another Long Grove Turkey Trot and then eating too much afterwards.



The economy continues to remain strong with third quarter Gross Domestic Product at 4.9% despite the continued federal interest rate hikes. With experiential spending being a large part of the increase, our downtown merchants are benefiting which is great to see. We continue to see businesses and property owners investing in the downtown. I am excited about the new ownership of the five store fronts near the Robert Parker Coffin Bridge. I look forward to seeing their renovation plans and new tenants they will bring to the village.

The Lake County Board adopted a new 4-year Strategic Plan on September 12th. The plan details 6 strategic priorities. Under the fourth priority, “Sustainable Environment,” the very first bullet point states “Support the Successful Conversion of the Route 53 land use to a functional greenway by 2029.” This was great to see, but as I write this message, the state has not yet provided funding for a study that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is requesting prior to accepting the previously purchased IDOT parcels of land in the corridor.

Again, I appreciate Lake County’s support, and my hope is we will get the necessary assistance from our state elected officials to accomplish this goal.

Please note that Long Grove has split representation with our state government. While Long Grove is served by two state representatives, the 51st District covers a significant portion of the Village. 51st District Representative Nabeela Syed and Senator Dan McConchie have both pledged their support for the project.

My hope is that funding will be provided so that the 12.5 mile stretch of some of the most environmentally sensitive land in Lake County is preserved and converted into a hiking and biking trail for us to enjoy for generations.

As we begin to build our fiscal year 2024-25 budget, I am hopeful that we will have enough surplus funds to implement the first ever Long Grove program to provide road



### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**12/25 & 26**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**1/1/24**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

ALL AT 7:00 P.M.

**ARCHITECTURAL  
COMMISSION**  
**12/16/23      2/19/24**

**PLAN COMMISSION &  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**12/19/23      2/6/24**  
**1/2/24      2/20/24**  
**1/16/24**

### VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

ALL AT 7:00 P.M.

**1/9/24      2/13/24**  
**1/23/24      2/27/24**

*Continued. See President on Page 6*

# Saluting Sheldon Rubin – 30-years of Service

A time-tested quote from American motivational writer William Arthur Ward states, *“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”* This realist philosophy has driven **Doctor Sheldon Rubin** throughout his long, successful career in podiatric medicine, and as a member of the Village’s Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA).

“About 35 years ago they (the Village) closed a road in our little subdivision, and I was one of the unhappy people. At that point many residents felt they needed to be onboard with a group who would listen to the public.”

Since 1993 “Shelly” as his friends call him, has faithfully served on the PCZBA, a group of resident volunteers who review the zoning requirements with homeowners or business principals wishing to build or make improvements. Although the final decision to grant permits rests with the Village Board of Trustees, the input of people like Sheldon and his colleagues have added another perspective to the process over the decades.

When asked about the most challenging appeal he faced, without hesitation, Shelly shared the story of an indoor shooting range and gun shop that wanted a special use permit to open in Long Grove near the Menard’s site on Lake Cook Road at Route 53. The PCZBA had lengthy discussion with the business owner, including dialog about their product line and the AR-15 rifles used in some of the mass shootings in America. “We had just lived through the horror our neighbors in Highland Park went through, and the community came out in droves to express their displeasure over the

possibility of a gun outlet in our community.” After word got out about this topic, about 1,000 people emailed the Village, and nearly 2,500 individuals signed a petition urging the Village Board to deny the request. The discontent ultimately caused the Gun Shop to withdraw their application in the fall of 2022.



As Sheldon reflected on the conclusion of three decades of service, he suggested that, “Anyone who is seeking change...you can’t scream about it, get on a board and do something about it. There are many boards that offer an opportunity to make a difference. There are multiple things you can do as a board member.” He also suggested that residents contemplating volunteer service attend Village meetings to understand the dynamic.

He added, “There is structure and long-term planning that helps direct how the Village runs.” Sheldon’s long-term vision for Long

Grove is comprehensive; he hopes that a plan for Downtown Long Grove (and the Village itself) will include a library, post office, and new housing, allowing older adults to age in place in the community they love. “Many of us that became empty nesters now have to move away from Long Grove...it would be great to see townhomes and ranch style houses added so seniors can remain in the community. Having more adjoining restaurants, a fitness center, and things to do in close proximity would be nice features to retain residents as they age.”

Living in Long Grove for over 40-years, Shelly is a treasure trove of knowledge about our community, and his service to the Village has made a difference for which we are quite grateful.

## Be Part of The Process of Progress

In Illinois, municipalities are required to create a Plan Commission, allowing residents to have a voice in the usage and planning of land in the community. Long Grove has the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA). The PCZBA consists of a group of volunteer residents who evaluate requests for special use permits, new home construction, zoning changes, and the evaluation of requests to establish businesses sites. They also review changes and updates to the Village Comprehensive Plan and review new development proposals for compliance to its goals.

Once the research and evaluation work of the PCZBA is concluded, they make a formal recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees regarding the feasibility of an application. With that recommendation in-hand, the Trustees deliberate

and take a formal roll call vote to approve or decline an application.

PCZBA Committee Chair **Helen Wilson** said, “Being active in the zoning and planning process allows any resident a unique opportunity to become involved in the future planning of our Village. Our work helps stabilize the community today, and also provides a forum for long-term planning that will benefit the community in years to come.”

Long Grove residents who are interested in volunteering for the PCZBA, as well as other Long Grove commissions should complete an application available on our website at <https://www.longgroveil.gov/bc/page/volunteer-profile-sheet>.

Volunteers are subject to appointment by the Village President, with approval by the trustees.





# Village Hall Expansion

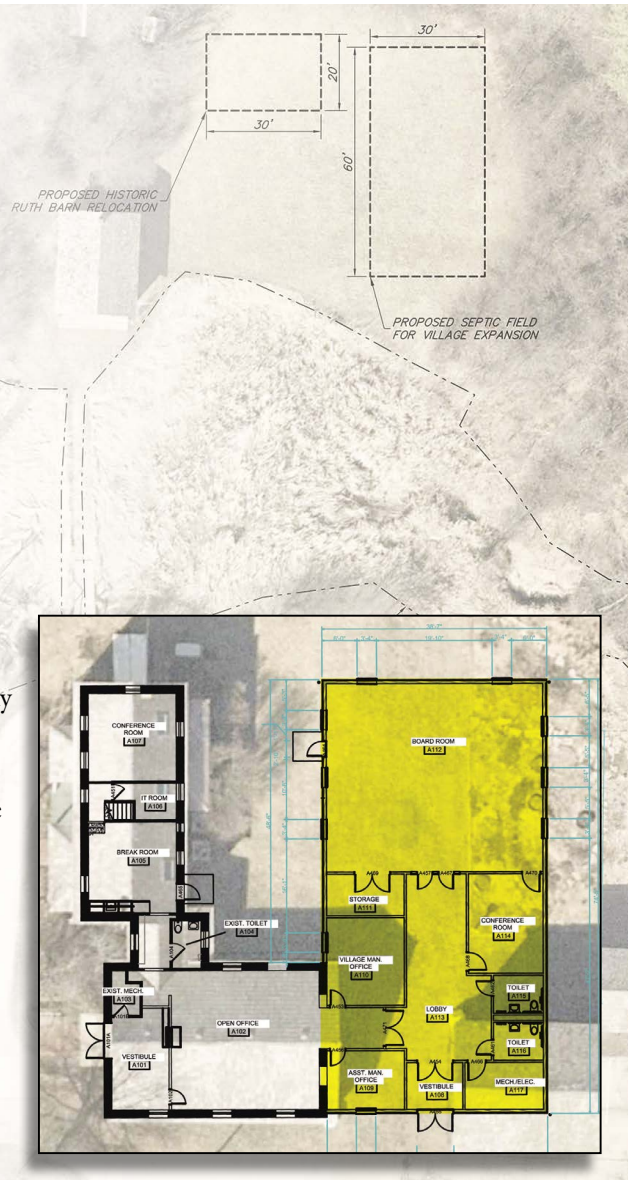
Over the summer and fall months your Village Board of Trustees and staff have been conferring with Wold Architects of Palatine to plan the renovation and expansion of the Village Hall.

**Trustee Kent Tinucci** shared, “We have been working closely with the architects and the Long Grove Historical Society to retain the old world feel of the structure, and the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the wetlands on the property. The construction will also provide the opportunity to repair the well and replace the aging septic system.”

The discussion of an expanded office footprint resulted from the demands of modern public administration. Our existing building is the old Drexler Tavern, a historic structure that was moved to the Old McHenry Road site (behind the Kildeer Countryside School) in 1974. At over 150 years of age, the building is no longer sufficient for public meeting access, expanded ADA facilities, and functional work space for our staff.

The work plan also includes the de-commissioning of the second floor (currently housing management offices), and relocation of the management offices to the addition during 2024. **Trustee Anne Kritzmire** added, “The Board feels strongly that our small staff model must have access to current tools and space that encourages collaboration and supports our staff’s best work.”

The existing Village Hall will be extended on the east end of the structure, adding a new boardroom, staff offices, and meeting spaces. All new facilities will be ADA compliant. Construction will be done in phases. First, building the new structure, followed by moving the staff to new quarters, and then renovating the existing offices as a final phase. Landscaping and exterior improvements will be made at the concluding phase of the project. Construction is slated to begin in April 2024, with a scheduled occupancy in late January 2025.



## Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program – Incentive for Owners of Historic Homes

Many Long Grove residents may be unaware that they are living in a historic home and that they may be entitled to a tax assessment freeze incentive for rehabilitation of their home. The Illinois Property Tax Assessment Freeze Program freezes the assessed value of a historic, owner-occupied, principal residence for eight years when the owner undertakes an approved rehabilitation of their home. After the eight-year period, the assessed value is brought back to market level over a period of four years.

The program is administered by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. In order to qualify, a property must be a certified historic structure, either listed on the National Register of Historic Places individually or

in a district, or by a local landmark designation in a community with an approved historic-preservation ordinance. The building must undergo a rehabilitation, the costs of which exceed 25% of the property’s assessor’s fair market value, in accordance with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

For more information, please see Property Tax Assessment Freeze, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, <https://dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/preserve/taxfreeze.html>



**Jeanne Sylvester,**  
*Chair, Architectural Commission, Village of Long Grove*



# Holiday Magic

## Reporting for Christmas

Over the years our Village has been featured as a welcoming holiday setting for many movies. In 2022 several scenes in *Reporting for Christmas* were captured in the Village. This holiday film is about Mary Romero, an idealistic reporter assigned to cover a puff piece about a Christmas toy manufacturer over the holidays.

Learn how the charming toymaker inspires Mary to search her heart to find true happiness. You can watch the film on Hulu, where it will be streaming exclusively this holiday season. The film will also be available to rent or purchase on major TV On-Demand/Electronic Sell-Through platforms, including **Amazon**, **Apple TV**, **Google Play**, and **Vudu**.



## 2024 New Year's Resolution: Join the Garden Club

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club is a casual, friendly group of men and women ranging from novice to master gardeners. They meet the second Monday of the month at the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center at 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove, unless there is a field trip scheduled.



soil health, bird migration, floral arranging, and native shade gardens. Other months, the club hosts field trips to botanical gardens, arboretums, fruit orchards, flower farms and local garden centers. Then there are the always popular annual events: Plant Sale, Garden Walk and Holiday Party.

Some months, expert speakers present informative programs on such topics as: preserving oaks, garden



If you are interested in learning more about the club, please email [lgkgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:lgkgardenclub@gmail.com).



# Local Holiday Shopping Is Good For All

With the holiday shopping season in full-swing, we encourage everyone to shop local. Long Grove has many wonderful businesses that feature a unique mix of goods and services sure to please even the person who seems to have everything.



# Bringing Light & Joy to the Village

For decades the Bridge lighting in downtown Long Grove has symbolized the launch of the holiday season. “Holiday activities in town provide a much needed escape from the news, and spark memories of simpler times, stated Village President **Bill Jacob**, who participated in the bridge illumination celebration. Our Village has a great deal to offer at the holidays. We encourage everyone to take part in all the excitement. This season, we hope you’ll support Village merchants while shopping for that special gift.”

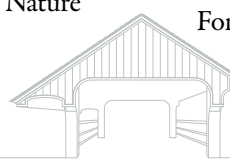


# Fun Facts About the Long Grove Park District

The Long Grove Park District...

- ... is a small, non-taxing park district, meaning that none of your tax dollars go towards the district.
- ... is run by an all-volunteer Board of Commissioners and a part-time staff of three.
- ... is funded by one cell tower land lease, program fees, donations and grants.
- ... preserves and protects over 450 acres of natural areas and open spaces.
- ... has their headquarters at the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve log cabin.
- ... has volunteer stewards who help clear overgrown brush and chip the trails at Reed-Turner Woodland.

- ... has professional contractors who control invasive plants, conduct prescribed burns, clear dense brush, mow grass and take down dead trees.
- ... benefits from many Eagle Scout projects that help renew and enhance our properties.
- ... has seasonal programs and events all year long.



For all the latest information on new classes and events, visit [www.lgparks.org](http://www.lgparks.org).

Follow us on Instagram @LongGroveParkDistrict and Facebook @LGParkDistrict

*President (continued from Page 1)*

paving assistance to the many Home Owner Associations in our Village that must privately fund the maintenance of their roads. When I ran for office as a Trustee over 8 years ago, I floated the idea, and my hope is that we will be in a position to implement such a program in the next fiscal year.

The Village hired GovHR to assist in our search of a new village manager. GovHR has been interviewing candidates, and has

brought a list of qualified individuals that the Village Board is now interviewing. I am looking forward to appointing a new manager by year end if all goes well.

Let me close by wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2024.

**Bill Jacob**  
*Village President*

# FROM THE ROAD



## Improvement Projects

This year has seen a number of major road improvements: drainage was installed along Osage Road, repairs and resurfacing took place on downtown streets, and work has begun on the widening of Aptakisic Road and Route 22.

## Lake Michigan Water Connection

Once budgeted federal funds are released, a pending intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Buffalo Grove will allow the Village's downtown-area municipal water system to extend water lines to connect with Lake Michigan water. Funding is anticipated in the Fall of 2024 with bidding and construction to follow.

## Snow Removal

The Village contracts with a private service to plow its 29 miles of public roads and municipal parking lots. Removal starts within one hour of two or more inches of snowfall.



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## Join the Conversation on Social Media

The Village has been working to expand our social media presence. When urgent news or event information is available, we provide real-time updates on our social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, Nextdoor, and YouTube. We also offer *Connections*, a monthly digital newsletter, emailed to those who opt-in to receive the publication.



**Facebook** – For nearly twenty years, people have shared information with family, friends and colleagues on the world's largest social media network. We host a page with a variety of posts including emergency bulletins, meeting updates, and Village events.

**Instagram** is a free photo and video sharing platform available for iPhone and Android devices. The Village recently launched this channel to share news and partner/community information in a visually compelling format.

**Linked In** has become the world's largest online business networking platform. The Village uses this channel to share news and interact with fellow government agencies and business organizations throughout Illinois.

**You Tube** – has taken the world by storm, offering everyone an opportunity to create, and host video content on this worldwide outlet. We host our own channel, stream live board meetings and post video recordings of Trustee meetings and other newsworthy features.

We encourage all residents and businesses in the area to follow the Village social media channels, and join the discussion, sharing helpful suggestions and commentary.





## Partner News

# Holiday Lighting - Safety First

We're in the midst of joy, celebration, and warmth provided by festive lighting and holiday season decor. Although it seems burdensome, this is a good time to refocus on safety, as the risk of fires in our homes and businesses rises with additional electrical draw.

Decorations of the season include electric lights, candles, decorative fabrics, and other potential fire hazards that can turn festivity to tragedy in a matter of moments. To ensure a safe and happy holiday season, we checked in with the Chiefs of the Long Grove and Countryside Fire Protection Districts who offered some safety tips to keep in mind.



We asked **Chief Paul Segalla of the Long Grove Fire Prevention District about the dangers associated with something as seemingly harmless as a scented candle.** "Always keep a candle flame at least twelve inches away from anything that could possibly burn. He added, "Leaving a candle unattended, or worse yet, going to bed and leaving the candle burning can be a problem. Always make sure you put them out when finished."

Chief Segalla also advised that we make informed choices when using extension cords to connect interior lighting. "As you add extension cords they build resistance, and that causes heat. Ideally you should connect lights to a quality power strip with a built in circuit breaker. Always look for a UL listed extension cord, it's a solid investment in safety."

**Chief Chuck Smith of the Countryside Fire Protection District**

**shared his expertise on why so many fires are caused by outdoor holiday lighting.** "There is always potential for unintentional fires when using holiday lighting, but you can reduce the risk the following ways:

- Never overload circuits or outlets
- Only use UL certified lights and surge protectors
- Use lights as they are intended (interior or exterior use)

He added, "Make sure lights that will be illuminated for extended periods are not near anything that may be combustible, where the heat of the lights could create a fire hazard. If you do use exterior candles, I recommend battery operated devices.

If you do choose flame candles, never leave them unattended."

**Another common cause of house fires are real Christmas trees. Our fire experts recommend using** artificial, fire retardant, pre-lit LED trees when possible. It is important to position real trees away from fireplaces and heat registers, which will accelerate the tree drying. When shopping for a real tree, make sure it is freshly cut. Water the tree daily and check needles for hydration. Using non-heat generating UL rated LED lights for decoration, avoiding the use of extension cords, and keeping open flame away from the tree at all times is imperative for safely enjoying your tree.

We are grateful to Chiefs Segalla and Smith for sharing their knowledge. We wish them and all our first responders a safe and joyous holiday season.

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## Keeping Your Home Safe at the Holidays

The holiday season is the time of year where many travel to celebrate with family, friends, or to simply escape the cold. In order to keep your home safe while out of town, dedicated patrol units from the Lake County Sheriff's Office will provide random checks of residences while the owners are away on vacation, or an extended stay.

For more information please contact the Sheriff's Office Communications Center at (847) 549-5200. They will ask you a series of questions necessary to establish a House Watch.





3110 Old McHenry Road Long Grove, IL 60047

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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



**Bill Jacob**  
Village President



**Chris Borawski**  
Trustee



**Mohammed Jameel**  
Trustee



**Anne Kritzmire**  
Trustee



**Rita O'Connor**  
Trustee



**Bobbie O'Reilly**  
Trustee



**Kent Tinucci**  
Trustee



**Michele Schmitke**  
Village Clerk

### Village Board

- Bill Jacob** – Village President  
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- Kent Tinucci** – Trustee  
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- Michele Schmitke** – Village Clerk  
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- Kinga Hoscilo**  
Deputy Clerk  
Administrative Services Coordinator  
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