

THE BRIDGE

MARCH 2024

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE VILLAGE OF LONG GROVE

A Message From The President

I hope you enjoyed the mild El Nino winter that we just had; I know I did. It also appears that the trend will continue this spring as our famous local weather prognosticator “Woodstock Willie” did not see his shadow on Groundhog Day this year, forecasting an early spring.



When you think of Groundhog Day, the 1993 movie filmed in Woodstock comes to mind. Woodstock gained national attention for that, and Long Grove may be heading in that direction with the filming of a third and fourth movie in our Village. John Bosher and Chris Charles are wrapping up their third movie titled “Christmas on the Ranch” which will soon be released. There is also another producer planning to film in the Village with a famous Hollywood TV and movie star (who cannot be named at this time due to contract

negotiations.) This is all planned for late this month to early April. The Historic Downtown Business Association was behind the recruitment efforts to drive visitors to our downtown, and I appreciate their creativity.

I want to welcome Chris Sparkman, our new Village Manager, to the Village. Chris lives in neighboring Highland Park, and comes to us from Grayslake where he held several key roles including most recently serving as the Assistant Manager. Chris will be busy with all the projects we have in the works including the expansion of our village hall which we will be breaking ground in April. I also want to thank Art Osten for stepping in after Greg’s departure as he did an extraordinary job of managing the Village during our search.

I recently met with US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky who visited our Village. I was able to personally thank her for choosing our project, connecting our downtown water system to Lake Michigan water, as one of her community funding requests. If a federal budget is passed, the grant would provide our village with \$ 2.3m covering a major portion of the costs.

With the Board’s support, I appointed Archan Sakhuja as our new Plan Commission Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary and reappointed Jeff Burke to the Conservancy Scenic Corridor Committee. I want to thank them both for volunteering. Also, if you have an

Continued. See President on Page 7



SPRING EVENTS

- 3/30 - BUNNY HOP
- 4/27 - CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL
- 5/17-5/19 - CHOCOLATE FEST

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ALL AT 7:00 P.M.

- ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION
- 3/18/24 4/15/24
- 5/20/24

PLAN COMMISSION & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- 3/19/24 4/16/24
- 4/2/24 5/21/24

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

ALL AT 7:00 P.M.

- 3/26/24 4/23/24
- 4/9/24 5/14/24

Village Hall Expansion Begins In April

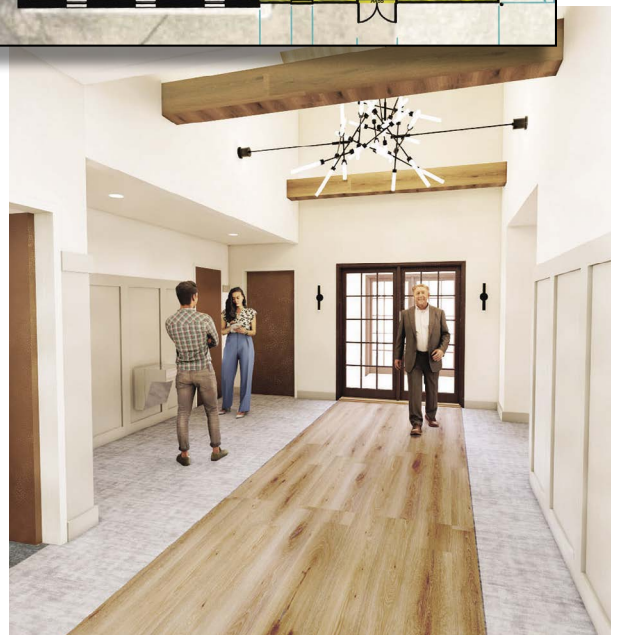
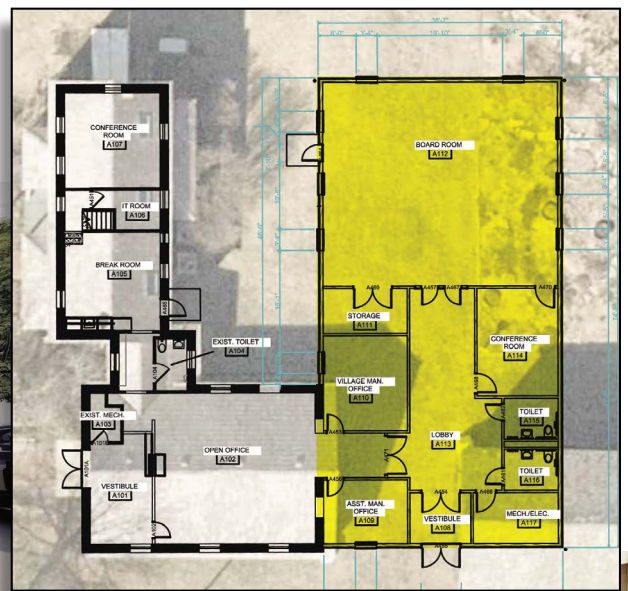
After a year of planning and due diligence with Wold Architects and Gewalt Hamilton Engineering, the Village Board of Trustees approved a low base bid of \$1,673,000 from Bear Construction of Rolling Meadows to serve as the general contractor for the Village Hall expansion project. Bear Construction has prior experience building government structures, and received strong recommendations from clients who have worked with them on projects of similar size and complexity. Construction work is slated to begin in early April, with a projected completion during January 2025. The existing Village Hall is to be expanded, and once the staff is moved to its new quarters, the old structure will be renovated as a final phase of the project.

Prior to the expansion project launch, the Ruth Barn must be relocated to make way for construction equipment. The barn will be relocated to its new home beside the historic Archer School building on the Village Hall grounds. Village Engineer **Geoff Perry** of Gewalt Hamilton & Associates Engineering is working to finalize

plans with Devooght House and Building Movers, and a contractor who will be hired to build the foundation for the barn's new location.

Bill Jacob, Village President stated, "The expansion of our Village Hall begins an exciting chapter in the Village's future. The new quarters will offer a modern work environment for our staff, and an enhanced venue to hold public meetings and events. The project honors the past by improving the historic structure we occupy today, melding it with 21st century amenities that will help us improve our service to residents and business owners."

We will be sharing regular updates on Village social media outlets and our You Tube channel. If you haven't done so, please follow/subscribe, and see the wonderful progress as it unfolds.



Lake County Sheriff's Office Keeps Our Village Safe



Long Grove offers potential residents and business owners many benefits. One of the key decision making factors is our low crime rate. Village law enforcement services are provided through a contractual arrangement with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, whose devoted deputies drive our roads and neighborhoods keeping watch 24/7.

At a recent Village Board of Trustees Meeting Lieutenant Kaiser of the LCSO delivered an overview presentation on law enforcement trends and statistics for the Village.

The top three notable service calls in Long Grove during 2023 were:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Accident With Property Damage | 202 |
| 2. Burglar Alarms | 179 |
| 3. Suspicious Circumstances | 106 |

Not only was our Village declared #1 among the Best Places to Raise a Family in Illinois by Niche, an online research site that uses public data sets and reviews on real estate, education and places to raise a family for 2023, it is also a very safe community where residents enjoy a tremendous quality of life. We owe a debt of gratitude to these brave men and women who don a uniform daily and tackle crime head-on.

Remembering Roger Goble

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Roger Goble. In the early 1990's Roger served as Village Clerk, and later, Chair of the Village's Economic Development Committee from 2018 to 2022.

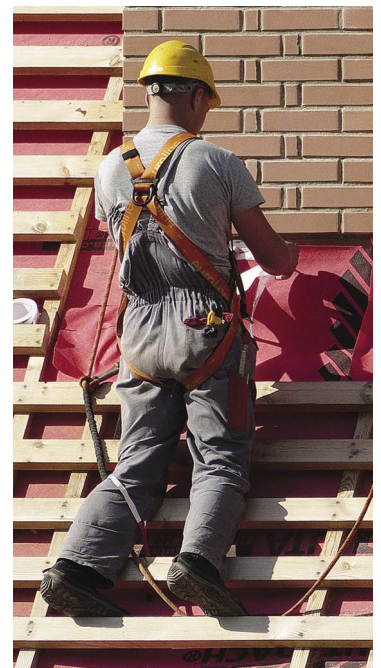
For 39-years Roger and his wife Pamela raised four children and enjoyed their life together in Long Grove. Mr. Goble was the quintessential community advocate, volunteering with the Long Grove Open Space Foundation, serving as a Member of the Stevenson High School Building Committee and Sports Boosters. He also worked as a Member of the United States Swimming Counselors' Committee.

Roger will be missed immensely in the Village, and his work will continue to be enjoyed by residents well into the future. We offer our sincere condolences to the Goble family.



Spring Construction Season Begins-What To Know

As warmer weather approaches, many residents and business owners have plans for renovation and exterior improvement projects, including re-roofing, siding, driveway changes/grading, and sewer repair. Information about the permitting process is available on our website under the Village Departments/Building section. You can also call Village Hall at (847) 634-9440.



Green Mondays- Electronic Item Pick-ups



If you have been looking at that old unused VHS player or other long forgotten electronic items, we have good news. Waste Management will pick up unwanted items the first Monday of each month.

Upcoming pick-up dates:

April 1 / May 6 / June 3

Residents should phone Waste Management customer service at (800) 796-9696, to notify them about the item you are leaving at the roadside. Green Mondays help declutter our homes and keep hazardous items out of the landfill.

Items accepted by Waste Management:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Computers | Computer Monitors |
| Televisions | Printers |
| Electronic Keyboards | Fax Machines |
| VCRs | Digital Music Players |
| DVD Players | Video Game Consoles |
| Electronic mice | Scanners |
| Digital Converter Boxes | Cable Receivers |
| Satellite Receivers | Digital Video Recorders |
| Small Scale Servers | |

Earth Day Celebration with the Long Grove Park District

Join us Saturday, April 20th at the Reed-Turner Nature Center where we will celebrate all that nature has to offer as well as learn what we can do to keep our planet safe!

Outside we will have crafts and educational activities for young and old, guided hikes, fun sports-driven games for the kids, yoga for all in the courtyard and much more!

Our great friends from the Lake County Forest Preserve will even be onsite with animal demonstrations. Inside we will



feature our inaugural Earth Day Craft Fair from local artisans featuring items that have been repurposed or have a special emphasis on nature.



Tickets are \$5 per person and include all activities and access to the craft show. Tickets can be purchased at www.lgparks.org/earthday.

Interested artisans can submit applications for the craft fair online. Application deadline is April 10th. Priority placement for all products that demonstrate reuse, repurpose or recycle items.

The Long Grove Park District is different than our neighboring villages, as it operates as a nonprofit that relies on donations, volunteers and a part-time staff of three.

Park District programming focuses on smaller, developmental and boutique-like programs. Follow the Long Grove Park District on Instagram @LongGroveParkDistrict and Facebook @LGParkDistrict

Coyote Questions? Lake County Has The Answers

The phone rings frequently at Village Hall with updates on coyote sightings near homes and questions from concerned residents about the safety of their children and pets. We know that the mild weather prompts us to go for walks or hike the trails with our pets. It is advisable, however, to keep your pets on leashes in public areas to avoid potential conflict.

Coyotes are rarely dangerous to humans; taking photos or simply admiring them from a distance is fine. If a

coyote is in your neighborhood, do not approach it. If it approaches you, scare it away by shouting at it and waving your arms over your head. An air horn or whistle can also be a safe and effective way to let these creatures know your yard is not their domain.



Additional information about coyotes is available by calling the Lake County Health Department/Animal Care and Control at (847) 377-4700.



How To Eliminate Highly Invasive Teasel on Your Property

Teasel is a highly invasive plant that has taken over many roadsides and green spaces in Long Grove and surrounding communities. One teasel plant drops thousands of seeds, smothering native plants and pushing them out of their space. This affects the ecosystem, as wildlife depends on native plants for food and shelter. And, we are losing the beauty and diversity of native grasses and flowers. For years now, teasel has been spreading, resulting in a monoculture of unsightly teasel on roadsides, conservancies, preserves and more.

Spring is the time when highly invasive teasel rosettes begin to green up and start growing--way before other plants do. Because they're the only green plants around, it's easier to find and spot-treat these rosettes on your property, without harming other species of plants which are still dormant. Spot spray the rosette with a 2,4-D herbicide i.e. Weed-B-Gon. The rosettes can also be dug up using a dandelion digger, but it's important to get as much of the root as possible to prevent resprouting. The root can be up to 2 feet long! Securely bag and dispose of the rosettes. Plant native grasses or flowers in the space where you cleared out Teasel rosettes, filling the space before existing Teasel seeds in the dirt start to germinate.

The Long Grove Park District, with the support of the Village, has been and will continue to eradicate teasel on state, county and local road rights of way within Long Grove as well as on Park District properties. Although the teasel seed bank in these treated areas is somewhat diminished year after year, there is existing seed in the ground and new seed being brought in by mowing equipment, wind and untreated teasel on private property beyond the rights of way. With your help in taking care of the teasel on

your property, we can continue to deplete the teasel seed bank, and keep this invasive plant out of our Village.

For more information, visit lgparks.org or email them at stopteasel@lgparks.org, and a Park District Board Member will answer any questions you might have on how to identify, treat and remove teasel.

*Thank you to **Jan Healy** of the Long Grove Park District for submitting this story.*



Hollywood Returns to Long Grove

Many residents have been asking why the Christmas decorations haven't been removed downtown. Another movie is scheduled to film in our Village during March and April. We are told the new movie will feature a high-profile Hollywood TV and movie personality and that contract negotiations are moving along. We will work with the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association to promote updates on our respective social media channels as details become available.

"This will be the fourth movie filmed in Long Grove, and the production will be completed in its entirety right here, which is simply fantastic. Our Village is now becoming a sought-after location, with several production companies considering Long Grove for future movies," said **Ryan Messner**,

President of the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association.

Movie productions present a wonderful opportunity for additional commerce in our Village. We look forward to the excitement and wonderful publicity this production will bring as we enjoy Christmas in April.



Save The Dates For Springtime Fun

A great line-up of local events is just a few weeks away, as we think of spring. The Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association and the Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club have been working hard this winter to organize a series of educational and fun-filled community-building events.



Saturday, March 30th — Bunny Hop 2024, this family friendly event at Brother's Field features free face painting, fire truck tours, ponies dressed as lambs, Easter eggs for kids and a guest appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Monday, April 8th at 10:00 a.m. - The Garden Club's very own **Kathy Michas** and **Marcy Trojak** will present *Bird Migration in North America*. Learn why birds migrate, how far some species migrate, the flyways (flight paths) they use to migrate and how they are able to pull off this incredible feat.

Saturday, April 27th — Craft Beer Fest, enjoy top-tier craft beer samples from 29-breweries, fantastic food for sale, and live music round out a spectacular springtime celebration.



Monday, May 13th at 10:00 a.m. - Master Gardener and garden coach, **Mark Lyons**, will present *Growing Terrific Tomatoes*. Nothing compares to the sweetness and flavor of a fresh, homegrown tomato. Mark will show you how to successfully grow this juicy, mouth-watering garden fruit in your own backyard or container garden.



Saturday and Sunday, May 18th-19th at 9:00 a.m.- Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. Explore tables full of perennial plants for sale, grown by Garden Club members. Plants sold are tried-and-true performers for our local soil and climate, and include grasses, flowers, heirloom tomato plants, milkweed plants and more.

Friday - Sunday, May 17-19th- Save the date for **Chocolate Fest 2024**. Join us as we celebrate all things chocolate.

Monday, June 10th 10:00 a.m. - Gardening consultant and educator extraordinaire, **Kim Hartmann**, will present *Container Planter Ideas for Spring & Summer*. Container gardening is easy, fun and great for even the smallest spaces. Learn how you can successfully grow beautiful flowers, healthy vegetables and more in containers.

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club events are offered at no charge and held at the Reed -Turner Nature Center at 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove. Please email lgkardenclub@gmail.com for more event information.

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.

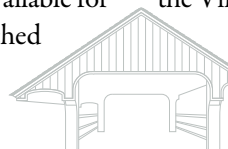
Facebook – For nearly twenty years, people have shared information with family, friends and colleagues on the world's largest social media network. We host a page with a variety of posts including emergency bulletins, meeting updates, and Village events.

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.

YouTube – 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.



Welcoming Our New Staff Members

We are pleased to introduce three new staff members to the Village team.



Chris Sparkman was appointed our new Village Manager and began working with us on March 4th. Chris came to Long Grove from the Village of Grayslake, where he most recently served as the Assistant Village Manager. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky.

The Board of Trustees selected Mr. Sparkman in February, after months of interviewing a group of highly qualified candidates. Let's join together, offering Chris our support as he builds on our rich history and leads us toward the future.



Nicole Wolski is serving as the Assistant to the Village Manager. Prior to joining our team, Nicole worked for the Glen Ellyn and Hoffman Estates Police Departments as a Records Clerk. Her most recent role was Community Information Officer for the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office. She is a graduate of North Central

College in Naperville and is FOIA/LEADS certified, and a Notary Public.



Alison Dhanani is our new Administrative Assistant. Alison brings the Village 28-years of experience gained in retail management roles, including Foodstuffs and European Imports. She also serves as a Board Member of BStrong Together, Barrington, and volunteers at her local school district. Alison is a graduate of DePaul University, Chicago.

Please join us in welcoming these new staff members to the Village.



President (continued from Page 1)

interest in volunteering for a commission, please apply on the Village website. Additionally, with Archana's appointment to the Plan Commission, we will soon need a commissioner to backfill her spot on the Architecture Commission. If you have skills / experience in architecture and or construction, you would be an ideal candidate for the Architecture Commission.

Also, our Village Clerk Michele Schmitke will be stepping down in early April since she and her family are moving outside of our Village. If you are interested in applying for her role, please complete the volunteer form as well.

The passing of Roger Gobel was sad news. Roger cared deeply for Long Grove as a resident for 39 years, often volunteering. Roger served in many official capacities including Village Clerk, Chair of the Economic Development Commission and

President of his HOA. Roger will be missed but his contributions to the Village will live on.

With the proposed road paving program for 2024, we will have repaved 81% of our village owned roads over the past 10 years without levying a property tax and we remain ahead of schedule relative to our 15-year plan.

Finally, as we work through our budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins on May 1st, I am hoping we will be able to include a proposal of mine to fund and launch a new program offering financial assistance to our HOAs that privately maintain their roads. It is still to be determined if there would be enough budget available for this program to be meaningful.

I hope you have a wonderful spring!

Bill Jacob

Village President

Want To Get Involved?

Have you thought about getting involved in local government? Now you can. Volunteer applications are being taken to fill the Village Clerk role and committee positions. Use the QR code to reach and complete the volunteer form.





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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

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Kent Tinucci – Trustee
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