



Village Expands Communication Efforts with Residents and Businesses

In June of 2017, the Long Grove Village Board approved the hiring of a local communications firm to strengthen communication efforts with both residents and businesses in Long Grove.

The goal of increased communication efforts connects with a larger emphasis on ensuring the Village of Long Grove keeps its stakeholders as informed as possible about local government news and other impactful information. This new effort strengthens the number and types of communications coming from the Village.

This print newsletter, which continues to be named *The Bridge*, will be mailed to all residences and businesses in Long Grove every other month, beginning with this September/October edition.

The Bridge is among the new and re-established efforts including the Village E-newsletter, which is emailed to subscribers every other Thursday at 10:00 a.m. For residents and businesses that are not currently signed up for the E-newsletter, they can do so by visiting the Village website at **longgroveil.gov** and clicking on the 'E-newsletter Sign Up' tab on the left column of the home

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From The Village President

t's hard to believe that summer is winding down, and that means back to school for many. It's an important reminder for all of us to keep an eye out for the safety of our BJacob@LonggroveIL.gov children as they travel to and from school.



Bill Jacob

It's been four months since the new Village Board and I took office. We have been working diligently to address pressing concerns, with an immediate eye toward tackling items such as working with the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) and property owners to address building code issues. With the investments being made by new and existing businesses in the downtown area, it is imperative we ensure that our older buildings are in compliance, and safe for both their users and visitors.

Our Village's covered bridge requires significant repairs; one option is that it could be replaced with a two-lane bridge using federal funding at half the cost it would take to renovate it. However, the bridge has been in existence for more than a century and is part of our heritage, attracting many into our historical downtown Long Grove. It's inspiring to see fundraising efforts underway that are supported by the Long Grove Historical Society and the HDLGBA to supplement what would be needed to renovate the bridge. Based on a recent engineering study, there are some immediate repairs required to keep the bridge functional for the next several years. Our Village staff is currently requesting bids for these repairs as we work to develop a long-term plan.

The updated Village Comprehensive Plan was recently handed off to the Plan Commission concluding nearly two years of work. During our August 8, 2017 Board meeting, we formally recognized the steering committee for their efforts in developing this plan. Members of this committee included: Mike Sarlitto, Fred Phillips, Ryan Messner, Rachel Perkal, Jane Wittig, Bobbie O'Reilly, Georgia Cawley, Matt Potempa, and Tyler Somlo, along with Village staff contact Jim Hogue.

This plan is designed to be a guide for future development and land use needs to ensure that we protect and preserve the unique character of Long Grove. Our goal as a Village is that the plan's objectives are accepted by the community at-large, that the goals are realistic, gain public support, and are ultimately implemented.

It's exciting to see new businesses in the Village, such as the Buffalo Creek Brewery, Fred Astaire Dance Studio, Pub 83 and Starbucks, with more to come. Our Downtown Economic Incentive Program has assisted in attracting investors, including the brewery, and provided incentives for long-standing businesses such as the Long Grove Confectionary to remain in our Village. I look forward to continued economic development successes that will generate sales tax revenue to continue to support our Village and the services we provide for residents and businesses.

Finally, we hope you appreciate the new format and frequency of our strengthened Village communications, including the return of home delivery for The Bridge print newsletter. Communication is a two-way street, and we invite and welcome your comments about the printed Bridge, the E-newsletter, and of course the initiatives and plans we're tackling as a Village. Please tell us what you're thinking by emailing info@longgroveil.gov.

Village President - Bill Jacob

Village Trustees



Chris Borawski CBorawski@LonggroveIL.gov

Anne Kritzmire AKritzmire@LonggroveIL.gov





Chuck Nora CNora@LonggroveIL.gov

Rita O'Connor ROconnor@LonggroveIL.gov





Bobbie O'Reilly BOreilly@LonggroveIL.gov

Michael Sarlitto MSarlitto@LonggroveIL.gov



Village Clerk



Amy Johns Gayton AJGayton@LonggroveIL.gov

Countryside Fire District Hosts Annual Open House and Pancake Breakfast

he 57th annual Open House/Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at Countryside Fire District headquarters, 600 Deerpath Drive, Vernon Hills.

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance will participate in this year's event and the Fremont Township CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will be on-hand for recruitment and to assist with traffic control. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops will be volunteering at the Pancake Breakfast, so that Fire Medics are able to conduct public education activities for those in attendance. Batteries Plus will provide free batteries to residents for smoke alarms, Chiro One will be conducting spinal checks, Record A-Hit will have an inflatable fire engine crawl through apparatus for children, and Mariano's Pharmacy will provide flu shots. Information about fire safety will also be supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Office of the State Fire Marshal.



Long Grove Comprehensive Plan Update: Upcoming Public Hearings

Over the last 18 months, the Village has been working to develop an updated Comprehensive Plan to prepare for future growth and development

he most recent plan of this type was adopted in 1999.

The updated Plan is dedicated to identifying areas for land use needs in the coming years, and to determine the density, location and the amount of land that is projected to be needed for future development. Other goals include maintaining the community's character and its identity, while respecting the natural environment.

Several public hearings will be held to provide opportunities for residents and businesses to play an active role in the shaping of this plan. An additional goal is for the plan to be realistic, accepted by the community and implemented.

The first public hearing was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, and a second hearing will take place Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Kildeer Countryside School located at 3100 Old

McHenry Road.

Those who attend any of the additional public hearings in the coming months are invited to provide comments, and ask questions regarding the proposed updates and amendments to the Long Grove Comprehensive Plan.

Input and participation from residents regarding this effort are strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated by the Village.

For more information, please visit the Village website at **longgroveil.gov**, or contact Village Planner Jim Hogue at 847-634-9440.

To view proposed changes to the plan document or to provide comments on the draft plan documents visit. **longgrovecompplan.** wordpress.com.

Long Grove Historic Business District Development Incentive Program



n September of 2016, the Village of Long Grove approved the Historic Business District (HBD) Development Incentive Program, which was designed to encourage private investment within the HBD for the specific improvement of properties to attract and maintain businesses in the downtown area. This effort will assist in increasing retail sales tax income for the Village and help to create an even more vibrant business community. For projects greater than \$40,000 in scope, up to 50-percent of the project costs can be reimbursed (with a maximum of \$100,000). Reimbursement is drawn from a combination of TIF property taxes and 50-percent of the increased sales tax for project properties.

The Village is in the process of redeveloping two historic buildings that have benefited from this program, which include Buffalo Creek Brewery that opened in mid-July, and the reopening of Long Grove Confectionery in a new location.

"Continuing to encourage more attractions to our historic downtown has been a major emphasis for the Village, and we're extremely pleased to support these investments in our community," said Village President Bill Jacob.

The new brewery opened at 360 Historical Lane, a property that has been vacant since 2005. The 11,429-square-foot,

two-story facility had a redevelopment cost that was upwards of \$700,000. The Village Tax Incentive for this project will total \$100,000. In addition to this incentive, the Village approved a zoning change to accommodate the new use and extended the Village water system to the brewery.

Long Grove Confectionery has been in the historic downtown for 42 years. In February of 2017, the owners of the confectionery purchased a two-building property to redevelop, also in the downtown area. In addition to the confectionery store, The Long Grove Coffee Co. coffee shop will become a part of this reopening before Apple Fest.

The 3,100-square-foot property at 114-126 Old McHenry Road, will provide a larger and more accessible location for the confectionery, which was previously located on Robert Parker Coffin Road. Within Reach, a 30-year-business in the downtown area, is also moving into the historic 128 Old McHenry Road property, as part of the project. The Village tax incentive of \$100,000 will support the total redevelopment cost of \$500,000.

Further information and details on the Village of Long Grove Historic Downtown Incentive Program can be found at **longgroveil.gov/content/Economic-Development.**

Everything You Wanted to Know About Tax Increment Financing and TIF Districts

ax Increment Financing (TIF) has existed in Illinois for more than 40 years, and has become a popular tool for municipalities to encourage economic development. TIF districts are created to raise additional funds for spending on public works, public improvements, or property acquisition, and are based on the expectation that without those improvements, the TIF district would otherwise languish economically. During its life - which is typically 23 years - a TIF district receives any increases in real estate tax revenue due to increased property values, while taxes levied upon the 'baseline' value continue to be paid to regular taxing bodies. When the TIF expires, all taxing bodies expect to receive increased revenues resulting from the new development that would otherwise not have occurred 'if not but for' the TIF.

The Village of Long Grove has a TIF District, which began in the spring of 2008 and will end in 2031. The Long Grove TIF is designated for the downtown area, extending along Old McHenry Road and surrounding areas bordering Illinois Route 83 and Aptakisic, Hicks and Robert Parker Coffin roads. Two different bond series have been issued - for downtown improvements, and for Sunset Grove.

Below are some frequently asked questions about TIF districts.

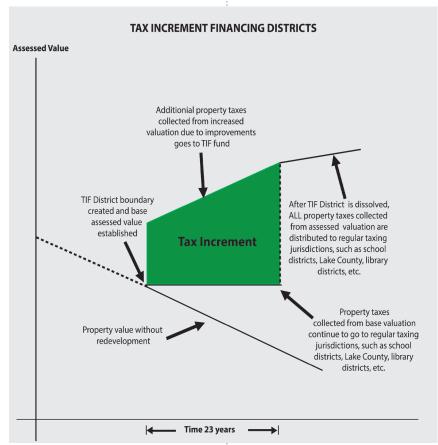
What is a TIF district?

Established according to state law, a municipality defines a geographic area that has physical and economic deficiencies,

often called 'blighting requirements', that would not otherwise be addressed without local government action. When a TIF is created, baseline equalized assessed valuations (EAVs) are set for all properties in the district.

the pre-TIF (baseline) EAVs.

If valuations increase, as expected, the 'extra' taxes collected based on the increased EAV are diverted to the TIF district, based on the logic that any property value increases are due to the existence of the TIF.



Do real estate tax rates increase for the TIF district?

No, not due to the TIF. Property owners within the TIF continue to pay the same taxes they would have otherwise paid, still calculated as (assessed valuation) *(tax rate). However, over the TIF lifetime, TIF district property tax revenues are split:

 All 'regular' taxing districts, including schools, the fire department, library and county, receive taxes levied upon However, if the TIF succeeds, the related economic growth could increase demand for public services to a point where taxing districts may need to raise tax rates for everyone. If the TIF does not succeed, taxing districts may need to raise rates to cover the cost of TIF improvements.

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Double Check Your Phone Bill

The Village is asking residents to check mobile and landline phone bills to ensure they say Long Grove instead of Lake Zurich; as the two locations share the same 60047 zip code, some USPS software automatically changes the address to Lake Zurich instead of Long Grove. Because Lake Zurich has a higher telecommunications tax of 6-percent, versus Long Grove's

5.75-percent, when this error occurs, the extra communications tax that is levied goes to the town named in the address. Residents should check their tax rate, which will help determine if the address is listed correctly.

If your phone bill is listed as Lake Zurich instead of Long Grove, please contact your service provider to have them update their records.

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Who provides the initial funding for the TIF district?

Municipalities provide the funding, either directly (from accumulated TIF fund savings, or from general funds), or more typically from borrowed funds (issuing revenue bonds based on the expected revenue from the TIF, or issuing General Obligation (GO) bonds of the municipality). The expectation is that TIF-created development will drive enough increased tax revenue to repay expended funds and/or service-issued bonds.

Are TIF expenditures a risk for the municipality?

While many area TIF districts have produced positive results, there is no guarantee of success. They are essentially a bet that, "If we build it, they will come." If the anticipated private development and real estate value increases do not occur as fast or as much as anticipated, holders of revenue bonds may not receive any or all of the interest and principal expected. However, if TIF bonds were issued with General Obligation backing, the developer or the municipality is obligated to pay all interest and principal, regardless of the TIF's success. In addition, possible changes in state law, such as a mandated property tax freeze, could negatively affect a municipality's

ability to recover reimbursement via the TIF.

Why are TIFs sometimes referred to as 'free money?'

TIFs may seem to be 'free money' because TIF bonds are expected to be paid back by future tax revenue increases that would presumably not occur without the municipal expenditures. However, as noted, TIFs have no guarantee of success.

Can TIFs be beneficial?

TIFs, when correctly implemented with sound business planning and an effective partnership between the public and private sector, can be successful mechanisms for municipalities to achieve economic growth goals.

What is the status of Long Grove's TIF district?

The Long Grove TIF district is currently falling short of the revenue goals anticipated when it was formed in 2008, largely due to the financial crisis that occurred during that time, and the years it has taken to recover. TIF funding has helped finance a high-quality deep well and water improvements that have enabled the development of Sunset Grove, in addition to attracting new businesses in Downtown. Parking improvements and future potential

restaurant sites that are expected to reinvigorate growth and future revenue have also been made possible due to the TIF. Since Long Grove TIF District bonds are not General Obligation bonds, the Village is not on the hook for any shortfall of TIF revenue expectations.

For more information about the Village of Long Grove TIF district, visit **longgroveil.gov/content/Economic-Development**.

Community Calendar

Thursday, September 21, 2017: Ela Township Day, elatownship.org

Saturday, September 23: Recycle Household Electronics, villageofdeerpark.com

Saturday, October 7, 2017: Prairie State Half Marathon, allcommunityevents.com/ prairiestatehalfmarathon#schedule

Monday, October 8, 2017: Craft Beer Day, longgrove.org

Saturday, October 14: Scarecrow Day, longgrove.org/ festivals/diy-scarecrow-day/

Friday, October 27:
Ghostwalk, longgrovehistory.org

Long Grove's 2017 Road Maintenance Program

As part of the Village's 2017 Road Maintenance Program, Long Grove has a number of ongoing road projects. Below is a list of projects that are either already underway, or are scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2017.

Street	From/To
Grant Place	Schaeffer Road to Terminus
Grant Court	Grant Place to Terminus
Rolling Glen Driv	ve Crestview Drive to Terminus
Crestview Drive	Cuba Road to Terminus
Schaeffer Road	Checker Road to Richmond Lane
Federal Court	Lexington Drive to Terminus
Coach Road	Lexington Road (N) to Old Hicks Road
Lexington Drive	Coach Road to Lincoln Avenue
Coach Road	Lexington Road (S) to Old Hicks Road

Street	From/To
OMR Path Paving	Fire Station to Harborchase
Meadow Lane Road	llinois Route 83 to Osage Lane
Willow Springs Road	Osage Lane to Terminus
Meadow Lane Road	Willow Springs Road to Osage Lane
Willow Springs Road	Village Limits to Osage Lane
Osage Lane Willo	ow Springs Road to Meadow Lane
Antietam Drive	Schaeffer Road to Terminus
Pottawatomie Court	Antietam Drive to Terminus

For more information, visit longgroveil.gov and click on '2017 Village Road Paving Program'.

Illinois Tollway Approves \$25 Million Study for Proposed Route 53 Expansion

The proposed extension of Route 53 to Route 120 has been a topic of debate for decades, and

ost recently, the Illinois Tollway Board approved a \$25 million Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to determine effects to the environment if a project of this magnitude were to move forward. Despite opposition from the Village of Long Grove, as well as leaders from a number of area municipalities, this study will take place.

The current facts in regard to this issue are as follows:

- 1) The Tollway Board reports that the study could take two to three years to complete.
- 2) The most recent plans do not take into consideration the recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Advisory Council that suggested a 45 mph speed limit, and a four-lane parkway to Route 120.
- 3) The current plan under consideration would move forward with a traditional highway continuing from Lake Cook Road due north and west to Route 120.
- 4) Many area municipalities, including Long Grove, would have to forfeit land and homes if this project comes to fruition.

For the latest updates, visit **illinoistollway.com** and search **'Route 53 Extension'**.



Village Of Long Grove Newsletter



Apple Fest Runs September 22 Through September 24 in Downtown Long Grove

The popular annual Apple Fest will be held in historic downtown Long Grove on Friday, September 22 through Sunday, September 24, 2017.

ow in its 26th season, some of Apple Fest's claims to fame are apple-inspired treats such as apple popcorn and apple lattes. This year, the pop-up apple orchard will play host to merchants who will hand out baskets of freshly-picked apples and other items available at businesses in Long Grove.

Spread out over three stages across the festival grounds, bands will provide musical entertainment throughout the three-day event, and kids can have bushels of fun in the Kid Zone, which will be headlined by apple pie eating contests and interactive activities such as ballroom dancing and tug-of-war.

Apple Fest will run from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday; 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday; and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 per person, per day (children under 12 are free). On Friday, September 22, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., no admission will be charged. Parking is free in all public parking lots.

For more information, visit longgrove.org/festivals/apple-fest/.

Halloween Safety Tips

At this time of year, children are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Halloween. To make this a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, parents should consider the following Halloween safety tips as your children head out the door for trick-or-treating.

Children

- Wear costumes that are flame-resistant, bright and reflective. Carry a flashlight or chemical lightstick.
- Make sure shoes fit well and costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.
- Use face paint rather than wearing a mask and avoid hats that slide over eyes.
- Stay on sidewalks and cross streets at the corner.
- · Go only to well-lit houses and never enter homes.
- Travel in small groups accompanied by an adult.
- Bring treats home for parents to inspect before eating them; discard unwrapped candy and food.

Adults

- Place lit pumpkins away from drapes and other flammable materials
- Do not leave lit pumpkins unattended.
- When driving, watch carefully for pedestrians, especially children who may run into the street.
- If you notice suspicious activity, call 911 immediately.

Long Grove does not have set hours for trick-or-treating. Hours are left to the discretion of the parents.



Back to School Safety

The new school year is now underway, and motorists are reminded to become reacquainted with driving regulations in school zones.

Here are a few safety tips for all drivers to follow:

* **Slow down:** The speed limit in school zones is 25 mph. Cover the brake pedal with your foot while scanning the road for

kids when entering a marked school zone. Remember, always come to a complete stop at stop signs, and check carefully for children in crosswalks before proceeding.

- * **Be alert:** Watch for children walking in the street, playing, biking, or congregating near bus stops.
- * No texting or talking on handheld cell phones: If motorists are caught using

cell phones in a school zone, a citation with a hefty fine will be issued.

* Yield to school buses: Never pass a school bus while its lights are flashing and children are entering or exiting the bus. Yellow flashing lights indicate a bus is preparing to load or unload children, and drivers should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate children are getting on or off busses. Motorists must stop their vehicles and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving forward before they can start driving again.

Please remember to follow the rules of the road in schools zones to ensure the safety of our school children and our residents.



Autumn Twilight Event: Visit with Birds of the Night

The Long Grove Park District presents an evening at the Reed-Turner Woodland where residents can visit with live birds of the night on Saturday, October 7, 2017, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



articipants will learn about the birds' unique adaptations that make them highly effective nighttime predators. After the presentation, a guided walk can be taken through the Reed-Turner Woodland Preserve, 3849 Old McHenry Road, where attendees can experience this wild preserve along with the nocturnal animals. Participants can watch and listen for the signs of life after dark, before coming back to the Nature Center for a campfire and snacks.

This is a family-friendly event for ages 6 and up; children must be accompanied by an adult. Those who attend are asked to dress for the weather and bring flashlights. In the event of inclement weather, the presentation will be indoors, but the walk and campfire will be canceled. The program fee is \$5 per person, and it has a capacity of 30 participants.

Registration must be done in advance at **Igparks.org/sports-programs-activities/**, or by calling 847-438-4743.

Village Of Long Grove Newsletter



Long Grove's Covered Bridge: A Legacy for the Village

he covered bridge that connects Robert Parker Coffin Road to downtown Long Grove evokes a true sense of nostalgia. It is one of only two bridges of its kind in northern Illinois, and one of just 33 throughout our entire state. Long Grove's bridge is more than a century old, and despite all its charm, is in need of significant repairs for the safety of those who travel over it.

Village officials have been considering a number of options to repair or replace the bridge, while respecting its historical significance.

These options include:

OPTION 1: A two-lane bridge at a Village cost of \$448,561 - which represents 20-percent of the total cost; federal funding is available for the remaining 80-percent. The total cost of this project would be \$1,642,961.

OPTION 2: Repair of the existing single lane bridge at a Village cost of \$918,660.

OPTION 3: Replace portions of the bridge at a Village cost of \$846,680.

OPTION 4: Complete replacement of the one lane bridge at a cost of \$1,163,880.

The Long Grove covered bridge recently moved one step closer to being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On June 30, 2017, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency unanimously recommended the bridge receive federal landmark status. The Historical Society and the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) were a driving force behind this effort. The final recommendation from this Agency will help guide the Village on what can be done to preserve the bridge, to ensure it is

safe and can be enjoyed for generations to come.

The historical society and the HDLGBA have raised more than \$45,000 from private sources and other fundraising efforts, to help defray the cost of restoring the bridge. These efforts are both helpful and welcomed, as the Village receives no revenue through property taxes to assist with these types of expenses.

The Village has suspended any decisions regarding the covered bridge until all pertinent information is available to be reviewed by the Village Board. Once all information is available, it will help the Board to determine what steps will be taken moving forward.

For more information, please visit **longgroveil.gov** and click on 'RPC Road Covered Bridge' tab under Quick Links.

Properly Dispose of your Leaves and Brush

Leaf Collection

The Village of Long Grove has an ordinance prohibiting the burning of leaves or grass clippings. Starting in the middle of October through Friday, December 1, 2017, leaves can be disposed of by placing them in biodegradable 30-gallon brown paper bags or reusable containers no greater than 50 pounds or larger than 33 gallons. Waste Management will pick up the bags, provided each bag and/or container have yard waste stickers on them. Bags and/or containers should be set out at the same time recycling and waste carts are placed near the side of the road. Tree branches and brush materials can be burned as long as the pile is no larger than 5x5x5 feet.





Open Prescribed Burn

An open or prescribed burn removes natural or planted vegetation from properties. In order for the Village to obtain an open burn permit for its residents, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires the Village to apply for an annual permit and submit a list of properties to be included. Residents who wish to do a prescribed burn must fill out a permit form, which can be found on the main page of the Village at **longgroveil.**

This form can be returned by mail to:

Long Grove Village Hall, 3110 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove, Illinois 60047 or by fax at 847-634-9408.

Addresses are added to the open burn permit list and submitted as an application to the State. Once the State approves the application, the list will be published to the Village website. 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.

Daffodil Bulbs Available for Residents



ree daffodil bulbs are available to Long Grove residents for planting in the public right-ofway. Bulbs should be available for pick up at Village Hall (3110 Old Mchenry Rd.) in early October, but please call to confirm. Pick up hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Village Hall at 847-634-9440.



Upcoming Meetings September

Board of Trustees September 12, 2017

Comprehensive Plan September 19, 2017

Public Hearing

Architectural September 18, 2017

Commission

Board of Trustees September 26, 2017

October

Plan Commission and October 3, 2017 Zoning Board of Appeals

Conservancy Scenic October 4, 2017

Corridor Committee

Board of Trustees October 10, 2017

Architectural October 16, 2017

Commission

Board of Trustees October 24, 2017

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page. A Village Facebook page will also be launched in the coming months. More information on this new social media presence will be available in upcoming communications.

Another method of communication that has been available is Connect-CTY, which is a village-to-resident notification system. This service allows the Village to send personalized voice messages to subscribers regarding specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues, such as emergencies and local community matters. If you have NOT signed up, or you would like to provide additional contact information, please visit longgroveil.gov and you will see Connect CTY on the home page in the middle column.

The Village is interested in feedback from residents and businesses about these new and strengthened communication efforts. Email **info@longgroveil.gov** if you would like to provide any comments, feedback or suggestions.

Village Contacts

Village Office

3110 Old McHenry Road Long Grove, IL 60047 847-634-9440 Fax: 847-634-9408

Website: www.longgroveil.gov

Office Hours: Monday through Friday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Village Staff Main 847-634-9440

Village Manager
David Lothspeich
dlothspeich@longgroveil.gov

Village Planner Jim Hogue jhogue@longgroveil.gov

Building Commissioner Margerita Romanello mromanello@longgroveil.gov

Administrative Assistant Sherry Shlagman sshlagman@longgroveil.gov

Receptionist
Julie Bauer
jbauer@longgroveil.gov