



# THE BRIDGE

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### Complete the Census & Support Our Community!

Continuing to strengthen the Long Grove community begins, in part, with completing the 2020 Census! Did you know that the number of responses from our residents dictates the level of resources and government funding received by the Village for the next 10 years? Most people report it takes 15 minutes or less to complete the survey by phone, online or through the paper copy that is mailed to the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Please note:** Some residents may have received two census surveys in the mail, one with their street address and the other that includes the RFD address. The Village has been advised by census representatives that residents should fill out only one survey and complete the version that includes the actual address name and not the RFD address. Village President Bill Jacob's letter on page 2 details more about this duplicity issue, and how the Village has been working to rectify the situation with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Additional community benefits that result from a strong resident response to the census include:

- Communities can get their fair share of government funds that support schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other community-enriching programs.



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# From the Village President



**Bill Jacob**  
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**T**hroughout this pandemic I have continued to remain optimistic about our future as things will, and are, getting better. I also know that we will find a path forward to the social inequality and policing concerns that were brought to a boiling point over the horrible death of George Floyd by a Minnesota police officer. It certainly has been an unusual year so far.

With the modifications to the governor's Restore Illinois Plan, outdoor dining was added to Phase 3 which began May 29th and most recently on June 26th we entered Phase 4, which allows indoor dining with capacity restrictions. It has been refreshing to see our Long Grove establishments spring into action by opening and expanding their outdoor dining venues, as well as rearranging their indoor dining areas to accommodate the social distancing requirements. I've personally enjoyed going out to dinner again in the Village and spending time somewhere else besides my patio! I will say that it has felt almost surreal being able to eat out again especially indoors as my wife and I did the other night. There also has been a sense of enthusiasm by many of the Long Grove business owners that I have spoken to, as their business has been picking up.

**Have you completed your U.S. Census yet?** With the pandemic, the deadlines have been extended - but per the Census Bureau, Long Grove is tracking far behind other communities with a 52% response rate. By comparison, the state response rate is 66% and neighboring Lake Zurich is at 82% - so this is a big concern of mine. However, the Census Bureau's calculation is not correct, and the Bureau has not provided a means for us to determine the actual rate. The discrepancy stems from our duplicate legacy U.S. postal address scheme that uses RFD versus the actual street name. Long Grove hasn't experienced this in the past, but for unknown reasons the Census Bureau is considering the RFD and the actual street address as two separate households. We discovered this early on and reported this to census representatives, and the instruction was that Long Grove residents should only respond to the one with street name (and not both). Unfortunately, the Census Bureau's reporting hasn't been reconciled to remove the duplicate households in their database, and the concern is that some residents may have completed both census surveys. I have escalated this issue and I'm hopeful that we will get this resolved, but unfortunately as it stands right now, we don't actually know our true response rate.

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# Restore Illinois

Nearly five months ago, our world as we knew it changed almost overnight due to the pandemic. As a state, we have cleared many hurdles to reach Phase 4 – ‘Revitalization’ – of the Restore Illinois Plan, on Friday, June 26, 2020. Businesses throughout Long Grove have shown such resilience and adaptability through these challenging times and have now gotten closer to fully reopening. As we all look forward to this happening, please remember to follow health and safety guidelines, including using face covers in public and keeping 6 feet between you and others. According to the Illinois Governor’s office, the state would be able to move to Phase 5, ‘Illinois Restored’, if either a vaccine or an effective and widely available treatment is developed to combat COVID-19. Other factors are if new cases remain stable or decrease over benchmarked periods of time.



There is the chance that the Illinois Department of Public Health could recommend moving backwards in phases if there is a significant COVID-19 outbreak in our region, or a continued rise in positive cases (in Illinois) and subsequent hospitalizations, which would decrease hospital capacity. The most important thing to remember is to continue to follow guidelines so that our state can continue to move forward. For more information, please visit [coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4).

## Interested in Serving the Community?

The Village of Long Grove is always on the lookout for residents interested in volunteering for one of the five commissions or committees that serve the community. Invested volunteers give of their time, and oftentimes their professional expertise while working together to continually improve Long Grove. Committees and commissions meet on a monthly basis and brief descriptions on each of them are provided below:

**Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA):** focuses on development, reviews plans, and offers recommendations for zoning changes.

**Architectural Commission (AC):** reviews building requests, including signs, and focuses on aesthetics and harmony within the village.

**Conservancy / Scenic Corridor Committee (CSCC):** Advises on issues relating to conservancy districts and scenic corridors.

**Economic Development Commission (EDC):** works to attract business to Long Grove as described in the comprehensive plan and is an advisory body to the Village Board in matters related to businesses in the community.

**Pathway Committee (PC):** reviews all pathway plans and is focused on the development and interconnection of all pathways in our village.

For those interested in serving, please visit the Village website at [longgroveil.gov/bc](https://longgroveil.gov/bc) and complete a Volunteer Profile Sheet. A contact page is also provided on this webpage for any questions.



# The Village Continues Services/Operations Through Pandemic



Over the last four months, businesses and organizations have needed to remain flexible to continue operations through changing circumstances, and the Village of Long Grove is no different.

In response, there have been a number of staff and service modifications that have allowed residents and businesses to receive the same level of service but in different ways. Many Village paper forms and applications can now be accessed electronically on the Village website at [longgroveil.gov/onlineforms-applications](http://longgroveil.gov/onlineforms-applications). This page includes links to online forms for sign permits, special event applications, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, residential parking permit applications, and more.

Village staff began to work remotely in mid-March and returned to the office in mid-June with weekly team rotations. Please continue to contact staff through email and phone, as there are no in-person contacts at this time in compliance with social distancing guidelines and capacity limits due to square footage at the Village Hall. Village meetings will continue to be held electronically through Zoom until further notice. Please visit [longgroveil.gov/meetings](http://longgroveil.gov/meetings) to view agendas

for upcoming meetings and for information on how to participate virtually.

Due to ever changing information related to COVID-19, the Village Board elected to change the print newsletter, The Bridge, to a digital format in order to capture the latest information available for our residents. Printed copies of The Bridge can be mailed to residents by request. Please call 847-634-9440 to request a copy to be mailed to your home.

To minimize the impact on residents and businesses seeking permits, applications can be found at [longgroveil.gov/building](http://longgroveil.gov/building). Information can also be found for projects that require a permit, how to schedule an in-person onsite or video inspection, along with more information. Payments can now be completed online, and E-check processing charges have been waived.

Finally, Village President Bill Jacob was granted expanded authority relating to business guidelines to react as quickly as possible to approve temporary changes to operations. This includes expansion of outdoor seating areas for our restaurants as a means to help support them through the pandemic.

# Lake Michigan Water Allocation

The Village of Long Grove recently approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of Buffalo Grove formally agreeing to work together to pursue accessing Lake Michigan water. This water allocation would be utilized by Route 83 commercial properties and the downtown as part of Long Grove's application for a \$3 million grant to fully fund these improvements. Village officials are currently waiting to learn if the grant application has been approved by the State, which is expected to be made public by this September. Benefits of connecting to Lake Michigan water include preservation of the Village's water allocation, reduction to operating costs relative to the current well water system, increased fire protection water capacity and support for future economic development.

**Residents and Economic Development Commission members Minah Hall and Pam Brown both played key roles in preparing the Village's grant application for this project.** Both of them spent countless volunteering hours

while lending their professional expertise to complete the grant application. The Village would like to extend its sincere thanks for their hard work and dedication to the Long Grove community.



Photo by David B. Gleason

## Learn More About the EDC

The Village's Economic Development Commission (EDC) was formed in 2018 with an overarching goal to continue to strengthen the Long Grove economy. It is made up of eight residents who volunteer their time and attend bi-monthly meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. (currently on Zoom). The EDC tries to assist the Village Board on issues and topics related to attracting and retaining businesses. The commission has developed strategic partnerships with organizations that can assist with economic development goals, including Lake County Partners and Visit Lake County.

Another part of the EDC's role is to identify obstacles and work toward solutions, where possible.

"As a commission, we are aware of challenges the Village faces relating to traffic flow, having no train station, and a narrow field of locations where businesses can locate," said Roger Goble, EDC chair. "The Village Board has done an excellent job by bringing infrastructure up to date, which supports Long Grove's goal of attracting future businesses."

Goble added that over the last four months through the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village rethought restrictions on businesses (mostly related to outdoor dining), which were key in helping those businesses to continue serving their customers. The pending connection to Lake Michigan water

for the downtown and surrounding areas is also expected to encourage economic development opportunities.

At the start of the pandemic, the EDC began hosting webinars on Zoom for business owners to provide a supportive place for them to connect, while providing education on safety guidelines, steps to reopen, resources, and informative guest speakers.

Since the Village of Long Grove does not levy a property tax, it relies on sales taxes generated by businesses to provide many of the Village's services. While working to maintain Long Grove's historic and rural character, the EDC, as an advisory group to the Village Board, is a vital commission intended to find new and creative ways to increase the economic base throughout the Village.

Goble said the future of Long Grove looks bright, despite recent setbacks due to the COVID crisis.

"Long Grove continues to get stronger. Improvements around the Village on Old McHenry Road and Robert Parker Coffin Road, the bridge project, the Stempel Parking Lot revamp, and the great places to eat and shop all have a very positive impact. The Village is on its way back to not only its former glory, but to a very promising future. We are looking ahead".

## Outdoor Dining in Long Grove!

Now that the state is in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan, restaurants have been able to reopen even more to the public with limited capacity indoor dining. Throughout the summer and fall when the weather is agreeable, area residents are invited to enjoy outdoor seating at all the establishments listed on these two pages. For contact information and more, visit [longgroveil.gov/restaurants-food-services](http://longgroveil.gov/restaurants-food-services). In addition to supporting businesses currently offering outdoor dining, please consider shopping local in Long Grove to support the entire business community and strengthen our local economy! Visit [longgroveil.gov/businessdirectory](http://longgroveil.gov/businessdirectory) for a full list of businesses located in the Village.



Corked Wine Bar



ClayOven Tandoor



Covered Bridge Creamery



Woodfire Tavern



Joanie's Pizzeria



Buffalo Creek Brewing



# RPC Bridge Project Nearing Completion

It's been a long and winding road when it comes to the Robert Parker Coffin (RPC) Bridge. A fateful accident involving a box truck that drove through and damaged it way back in June of 2018 set this historic landmark on a journey that is now, finally coming to a close.

The RPC Bridge project has consisted of removing its timber cover, replacing the abutments, and moving the bridge from its normal location to be painted. The bridge was recently moved back, and it's timber cover will be replaced soon. The progress of this project is weather-dependent but expected to be complete before the summer is over.

Please visit [longgroveil.gov/rpc-bridge](http://longgroveil.gov/rpc-bridge) for the latest updates and to view pictures and a progress timeline, along with an impressive video of this iconic Village structure being moved back to its original home.



## From The Village President

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With that being said, if you have not completed your census, please do so as soon as you can to be sure that you and your household members are counted! The consequences of being undercounted would be a loss to Long Grove in critical distributed funding from the state, including a fair share of the motor fuel tax that can be used for road paving projects. Since our incorporation 64 years ago as a village, Long Grove has not ever levied a real estate tax, and that is why being counted is that much more important - as a complete count of all of our residents can help to ensure we are able to maintain this policy for generations to come.

I want to take a moment to thank State Senator Dan McConchie who contacted me regarding potential Rebuild Illinois funding, as we were able to secure a \$200,000 grant

to rebuild the Stempel Municipal Parking lot. This parking lot in our downtown is in need of significant repairs and this grant should cover more than half of the cost to rebuild it.

Finally, the Robert Parker Coffin Bridge is getting closer to being completed. The bridge was recently hoisted back on top of the newly installed bridge abutments and will be back-filled shortly so that the construction of the timber cover can be completed. If all goes well, the bridge will be able to open back up before the end of summer, which is perfect timing as the state continues to reopen to help support our businesses in the downtown.

Village President - *Bill Jacob*

## Alternative Energy

The Village Board passed a solar energy ordinance in early June that addresses Alternative Energy Solutions (AES) for Long Grove. After considering different options over the last several months, the Board eliminated ground mounted solar as an AES option. Regulations include the prohibition of wind energy systems within the Village, as well as the elimination of provisions for ground mounted solar energy systems. Roof mounted solar energy systems are permitted but will be subject to the parameters of the AES regulations. For questions call Village Hall at 847-634-9440.





## Connect with the Village of Long Grove

The Village of Long Grove provides different ways for residents to stay informed about news and events through monthly publications. If you have not signed up for the E-newsletter yet, you can do so at [longgroveil.gov/enevssignup](http://longgroveil.gov/enevssignup). This communication is emailed to subscribers following the monthly board meetings (which occur on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays) and provides news and updates from the meetings, as well as other information pertinent to residents. This print newsletter, *The Bridge*, is normally mailed to all residences in Long Grove, but due to the pandemic, the May/June edition, as well as this edition, have been published online in order to provide the most updated information and changes relating to COVID-19 and how it affects residents and businesses. A village-to-resident notification system, Connect-CTY, relays time-sensitive messages through email. Updates on Village road construction projects, snow plowing alerts, Village meeting agendas, and other important information affecting residents are distributed through this communication channel. To register for Connect-CTY notifications, you can also visit [longgroveil.gov/enevssignup](http://longgroveil.gov/enevssignup).

## Complete the U.S. Census

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- Data provided through the census helps businesses determine best areas to build new locations, which can lead to increased sales tax revenue, more exposure for local retail stores and restaurants, and creates new jobs - all of which strengthen the local economy.
- Congressional representation is determined based on population, which is directly recorded through the census.

Please remember that all census responses are completely confidential, answers cannot be shared per U.S. Constitution guidelines, and the information provided will not be made public until the year 2072. To learn more and to view a variety of resources, please visit [longgroveil.gov/census2020](http://longgroveil.gov/census2020). You can also call the U.S. Census Bureau at 844-330-2020 if you have any questions at all, or if you have misplaced your census survey. Please do your part by completing the census to help support the Long Grove community for the next decade!

## Reed-Turner Woodland Busier Than Ever During Pandemic

Even before the 2020 pandemic hit, many of us spent a considerable amount of time in our homes watching tv, shopping online and/or playing computer games. But when we were forced to stay inside during the stay-at-home period, that's when many felt the need to venture out and commune with nature. This was evidenced by the record number of people hiking in Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve this spring and into summer. On weekends when the weather finally warmed up, the small parking lot was busy with cars coming and going. And, families, friends and solo hikers were all out walking the rolling and rustic trails of the Woodland.

While stores, restaurants and movie theaters were closed, this quaint nature preserve in the middle of Long Grove has been open throughout the pandemic, and people have rediscovered the joy of taking a walk in the woods. Getting out in nature literally and figuratively can bring all of us a breath of fresh air. When you walk about in the woodland, you can leave the pandemic behind, and feel some sense of normalcy again. Maybe spending more time out in nature will become a new healthier habit for many of us and one of the silver linings that have resulted, as we gradually leave this pandemic behind us.

Written by Janet Healy, Long Grove Park District Commissioner

The Long Grove Park District is a non-taxing public organization staffed by volunteers. Visit [lgparks.org](http://lgparks.org).





## Upcoming Meetings

### Board Of Trustees

July 28, 2020  
August 11, 2020  
August 25, 2020

### Economic Development Commission

July 28, 2020  
August 11, 2020  
August 25, 2020

### Plan Commission And Zoning

#### Board Of Appeals

July 21, 2020  
August 4, 2020  
August 18, 2020

### Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee (CSCC)

August 5, 2020

### Architectural Commission (AC)

July 20, 2020  
August 17, 2020

Due to the pandemic, in-person meetings have been suspended until further notice. Some meetings are being held virtually.

Please visit [LongGroveIL.gov/meetings](http://LongGroveIL.gov/meetings) for the most up-to-date meeting information and to learn how to participate virtually.

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

## Long Grove Live

### 'Music Town Takeovers'

**M**usic will be taking over downtown Long Grove on weekends this summer!

The Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) is presenting **Long Grove Live** – music town takeovers on the weekends from noon until 5:00 pm on most Saturdays and Sundays through August! There will be free live music echoing through downtown Long Grove. Area residents are invited to peruse the Village and support local merchants while discovering a variety of musical genres including country, rock, jazz or blues. Music lovers will find original acts and cover bands at four different venues throughout town.

The HDLGBA will be following recommended State guidelines for social distancing, including hand washing, mask wearing, and the implementation of hand sanitation stations. Food and drink will be available for purchase from Long Grove restaurants to further enhance the feel-good weekend vibes. Visit [LongGrove.org](http://LongGrove.org) where you can find more information and the social media websites that will include weekly music schedules.

## Village Contacts

### Village Office

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Fax: 847-634-9408

### Website

[LongGroveIL.gov](http://LongGroveIL.gov)

### Office Hours

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