

THE BRIDGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Covered Bridge Park Construction Starting Soon

A new park is coming to downtown Long Grove! The Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) recently announced plans to develop Covered Bridge Park that will serve as a pedestrian greenway along the banks of Buffalo Creek. In addition to the construction of gravel footpaths and natural landscaping, park planners are preserving some of Long Grove’s history by incorporating reclaimed pieces of the covered bridge set aside prior to its renovation in 2020. Future plans include connecting the park with other areas in the Village.

“Over the last few years, Long Grove has invested in making downtown more modern and pedestrian-friendly,” said Ryan Messner, HDLGBA board member who is the lead project manager on the Covered Bridge Park Project. “Covered Bridge Park is more than just the culmination of all the recent beautification efforts; it’s a symbol for our connected community.”

Messner says while the HDLGBA reinvested proceeds from festivals to cover costs for the new park, partnerships with Village and pivotal people in Long Grove, including the park’s landscape architect and past Village Trustee, Lori Lyman, have also been instrumental in raising funds for the project and moving it forward.

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From the Village President



Bill Jacob
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Happy New Year and welcome to 2022. I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and are staying well during these most uncertain times. As we look back on the last year, the Village Board had many accomplishments, including completing the re-construction of North Krueger Road, rehabilitating the Stempel Parking Lot and constructing a new pathway to connect Sunset Grove with the downtown. In partnership with Lake County, we carved out a small parking lot on Checker Road for users of the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve walking paths. We also hired a new Village Manager, Greg Jackson, who was onboarded in July. Our financial position strengthened over the last year; we now have reserves in the amount that equals 100% of our General Fund Budget, which aligns with Long Grove's financial policy adopted in 2019. We renewed our contract with the Lake County Sheriff and brought social media pages online to enhance Village communications.

As we look forward to this year, the Board will consider how to utilize the \$1,075,000 in funds that we will receive from the America Rescue Plan Act. Given Long Grove's limited government, our ability to consume the funds is also somewhat limited. Using them to connect our downtown public water system to Lake Michigan Water is one of the potential uses, and the other option would be to have it offset the costs of our Lake County Sheriff's Police contract – though our ability to use funds for this purpose will need to be investigated. If we can do the latter, perhaps we could then allocate current budget dollars to other projects. We will continue to focus on re-paving our Village-owned roads, which are now 60% complete after being seven years into our 15-year plan. Additionally, economic development and support of our businesses that generate sales tax revenues which fund Village initiatives will continue to be a focus.

Initial discussions began at the end of 2020 and will continue this year with the newly-created task force to study alternative uses of the Route 53 expansion land. My position is that protecting and preserving the environmentally sensitive areas and groves of trees (our namesake) should be our top priority. However, repurposing the corridor does provide us with an opportunity to connect pathways in our community and beyond. There are also opportunities for development as well, especially the large parcels that were purchased by the Illinois Department of Transportation in the most northern part of Long Grove.

Welcome again to 2022 and I'm looking forward to another productive and successful year.

Village President - *Bill Jacob*

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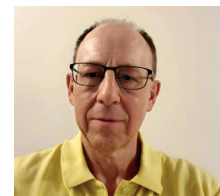
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Covered Bridge Park Construction

Continued from front page



The first phase of construction is now underway and will take place between the bridge and the newly renovated Stempel Parking Lot, with expected completion this spring. The second phase will expand the greenway to the parking lot behind the Historical Society building in the Stempel Parking Lot, and the third phase will connect the pathway to Old McHenry Road. The beautification project includes additional enhancements, such as the installation of red brick walkways, benches, tables and photo areas for visitors to stop and appreciate Buffalo Creek's natural beauty. Stay tuned for forthcoming information on a dedication ceremony, special tree plantings and more.

Buffer Planting at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve

The Village is planning to install new supplemental buffer landscaping at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve to replace vegetation removed during a wetland mitigation project. The planting will serve as a visual screen for residential properties along a section of Lake Cook Road near the Country Club Estates subdivision. Work is estimated to begin in March and be complete by mid-May, weather permitting.

The Village approved an intergovernmental agreement in 2021 that allocated funds to plant the replacement buffer screen. The total cost of the work will be \$90,000; Lake County will cover \$30,000, the Village and Country Club Estates each will pay \$15,000 toward the project, and the Forest Preserve District cover the remaining costs for materials.

Long Grove Volunteer Perspective

My husband and I have lived in Long Grove for more than 30 years and specifically chose this Village because of its stated commitment to nature and a more bucolic life. During our early years, I worked long hours in the city but felt that the rural nature of our home kept me sane. As I neared retirement, I knew I wanted to give back to the Village that had provided the connection to nature and the sustaining energy to do the work I did. I started serving on the Conservancy Committee to help preserve the Village that had been strong enough to recognize the importance of rolling hills and space. I now volunteer on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. As taxpayers, we appreciate the Village's commitment to avoid real estate taxes and to manage growth through volunteers who value the local involvement of neighbors. I also realize I could have volunteered much sooner because the time commitment is not as great as I had originally feared.

What do I get from the volunteering experience?

I have always been a person who wants to constantly learn – and my involvement in the Village provides ample opportunities to keep on learning. Some of the things I have learned and received; more about the various neighborhoods of our community, meeting people I might not have otherwise known, connecting to the Village's history and gaining an appreciation for the rural community I share with other residents. Volunteering has opened doors I did not know existed and built a sense of community that my friends who live in other towns do not experience. It is unthinkable to me to not know my neighbors. At least for me, volunteering also instills a responsibility to be part of the kind of community I want to live in – a friendly, welcoming community for all who choose to live here.

-Helen T. Wilson, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals member

Winter Home Safety Tips

The winter season provides new and different opportunities for seasonal recreation, while drastic dips in temperatures often cause us to take additional steps to warm up our homes. While these can provide additional comfort, some come with threats and considerations in order to keep you and your family safe. Please see winter safety tips below:

Carbon monoxide poisoning The heating season increases the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is a clear, odorless and potentially fatal gas produced by home heating systems, hot water heaters, faulty chimneys, kerosene or fuel oil room heaters. Additional sources can be gas stoves, fireplaces, charcoal grills and car exhaust. CO2 can cause flu-like symptoms, vomiting, loss of consciousness, brain damage, and eventually death in serious cases. Per the State of Illinois' Carbon Monoxide Alarm Detector Act (430 ILCS 135/10), CO alarms must be installed within 15 feet of each sleeping area on every level of your home. For the strongest protection, the National Fire Protection Association encourages residents to interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home - so that when one sounds, they all sound.

Home Heating Safety A professional heating contractor should perform yearly maintenance of your furnace and ventilation system to ensure it's operating safely. Make sure there is a free flow of air to the furnace and keep an area of at least 2 feet around it clear from obstructions. Finally, do not store chemicals or anything flammable near your furnace.

Fireplaces Ensure your chimney is cleaned and inspected by a licensed professional on a yearly basis. Spark arrestors installed across the top of your chimney can prevent sparks from igniting your roof, and sturdy screens across its front inside your home can stop embers from flying out. Use appropriate fuel for your chimney system and avoid using gasoline, kerosene or any flammable liquids to start a fire. Be sure to discard ashes in a non-combustible container and pour in water into it to ensure they are no longer ignited.

Candles Remember to leave a 1-foot circle around any burning candle and do not place them near anything combustible. They should be placed in glass or ceramic containers and not left unattended with children or pets in the room. Always extinguish candles before leaving the home. When you go out, blow it out!

A final tip is to ensure all entry/exits in your home are cleared

from snow so you can get out in case of a fire. Make sure all windows are not frozen in case you need to use these as an escape mechanism.

Safety information provided by the Countryside and Long Grove fire protection districts.

Snow Shoveling Safety Tips



Shoveling snow can be strenuous, causing muscle strains, back injuries, and stress on the heart – which could lead to a heart attack. Consider the following safety tips when you're shoveling out from a big snow:

- Before you start shoveling, stretch and warm up your muscles.
- Layer clothing to keep muscles warm and flexible.
- Avoid stimulants right before shoveling, such as caffeine and nicotine, that can increase heart rate.
- Use a shovel with a handle that is long enough to keep your back straight when lifting. An ergonomic shovel with a bent handle is better than one with a straight handle.
- Take it slow to avoid drastic increases in heart rate and blood pressure.
- Take breaks and drink water to stay hydrated.
- Push snow whenever possible instead of lifting it. If you have to lift, do it with smaller loads.
- Lift with your legs bent and your back as straight as possible.
- Don't shovel to the point of exhaustion. If you are out of breath, take a break. If you feel tightness in your chest, stop immediately.

For winter safety tips, visit [ready.gov/winter-weather](https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather).

Take a Winter Hike at Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve

Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve has nearly 50 acres of prime natural space nestled in the middle of Long Grove. It also has historical significance, as it is part of the original grove of oak and hickory trees for which Long Grove was named. The Preserve's rich legacy becomes evident even before stepping into its spaces. At its heart is the rustic nature center built in the 1920s, formerly the summer home of Guy Reed who was the first Village President, and father of Barbara Turner, who donated the property to the Village.

Reed-Turner's topography provides multiple ecosystems with a high diversity of plant and animal life. The Nature Conservancy has identified the woodland as a valued natural site to be preserved and protected for the benefit of future generations.

Not your typical preserve, Reed-Turner boasts hiking trails that take you along oak-covered moraine ridges bordering the deep ravine of Indian Creek. Other trails take you through the woodland, a prairie, along a sedge meadow, and along beautiful Reed Pond with a view of Salem Lake. There are bridges, boardwalks and a wildlife-viewing blind that residents big and small especially enjoy. The hike is not too long and just perfect for all ages.

This winter, stop in one of the downtown coffee shops for a hot chocolate, and head to the Preserve and grab a trail map from the kiosk. As you hike the trails, soak in the peaceful sights and sounds of the woodland. Reed-Turner Nature Preserve is at 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove and maintained by the Long Grove Park District.

The Long Grove Park District is a non-taxing public organization staffed by volunteers. For more information, visit lgparks.org.



Receive monthly news and information from the Village by signing up to receive the E-Newsletter at longgroveil.gov/connect.



Shop Small and Local This Winter!

This winter, while the days run short and the wind blows cold, Long Grove's merchants are keeping their shops and restaurants open and keeping the spirit of the season alive! With its charming variety of small, family-owned boutiques, eateries and professional services, the Village is an ideal destination for a memorable day or night out with friends or family. Looking for some new winter threads, a handmade meal or a freshly spun cocktail? Check out Long Grove's many shopping and dining options at LongGrove.org.



The business community in historic downtown Long Grove has been united in staying open and resilient since the start of the pandemic, though that's not to say they haven't experienced struggles. Your continued patronage is cordially requested this winter to keep the positive momentum going as we enter the new year - which is full of renewal and possibilities. LongGrove.org is your resource to discover all of the merchants in historic downtown Long Grove. You'll find pages devoted to each business including a description of products or services, contact information, hours of operation, plus website and social media links. It's time to visit an old friend – the new and improved historic downtown Long Grove!



Returning this year is the annual **Cocoa Crawl!** The event is hosted by the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association and will take place in the downtown area on Saturday, February 5, with a selection of hot chocolate-y treats doled out by Village merchants. Visit LongGrove.org for more details and to view the full 2022 events lineup.



For a full listing of all business located in the Village, visit longgroveil.gov/businessdirectory.



Sustainability Corner

Eco-Friendly Choices for Winter

Road salts and other deicing materials are often used during the winter months to keep driveways, roadways, parking lots and sidewalks safe, but the products used can be harmful to the environment. So how can you make a difference? When shopping for a deicer, look eco-friendly, and pet safe products. And, instead of purchasing items that contain chemicals, consider using natural alternatives such as sand or sawdust and apply them to areas where compacted snow can become slippery. If you are removing snow or ice on your property with a snow blower, either battery, electric or hybrid powered blowers are your earth-friendly alternatives. To learn how Lake County is applying some of these and other maintenance methods to help protect our environment this winter, visit: lakecountyil.gov/2284/Winter-Maintenance-Best-Practices.

New Fire Chief

The Long Grove Fire Protection District recently welcomed their new leader, Chief Paul Segalla, who previously served as fire chief in the Los Angeles area for the City of West Covina, the Chino Valley Fire District and the Upland-Montclair Fire Department. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Downers Grove Fire Department, Aurora Fire Department and Lockport Township Fire District, and has held nearly every rank in the fire service.



“Being chosen to serve this organization is a great honor and I look forward to engaging our communities in developing the future of the fire district,” Chief Segalla said. “This is as an incredible opportunity to provide leadership and a positive environment to help our agency achieve its great potential.”

Chief Segalla holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Administration from Western Illinois University, and a Master’s in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. He also completed the National Fire Academy’s rigorous Executive Fire Officer training course.

History Corner

Long Grove Then and Now: The Old Butcher and Barber Shop



The iconic old-style building at 128 Old McHenry Road, complete with false-front facade and a wooden porch, closely resembles its original appearance when it was built nearly 100 years ago. William Umbdenstock, an early merchant and resident of Long Grove, constructed the 2-story building in 1925 on its current location north of the town’s main intersection at Old McHenry and Robert Parker Coffin Road. The building’s lower level contained a butcher shop on the left and a barber shop on the right, with residences upstairs. According to legend, old timers were known to tell stories about seeing gangsters from Chicago stop in for a haircut from time to time. Today, it is home to the Within Reach Boutique gift shop that features stylish clothing, home accessories and other unique gifts.





Upcoming Meetings

Board of Trustees
January 11, 2022
January 25, 2022
February 8, 2022
February 22, 2022

Economic Development Commission
January 6, 2022
January 20, 2022
February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022

Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals
January 6, 2022
January 20, 2022
February 3, 2022
February 17, 2022

Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee
January 5, 2022
February 2, 2022

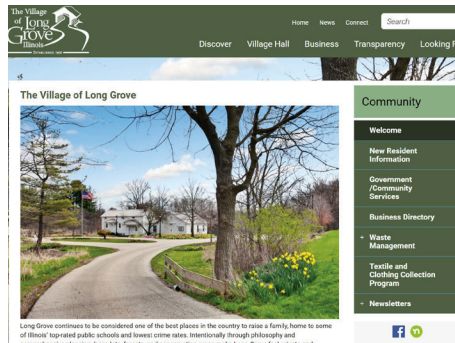
Architectural Commission
February 21, 2022

Please visit
LongGrovelL.gov/meetings
for the most up-to-date meeting information.

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

Get Connected With the Village

The Village has two social media pages to enhance communications and connect with more residents and stakeholders. The Village's public agency page on Nextdoor shares timely local news specifically with Long Grove residents - just visit [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) and sign up for a free account (if you don't have one already) and search 'Village of Long Grove'. The Village also has an official Facebook page at [facebook.com/VillageofLG](https://www.facebook.com/VillageofLG) where up-to-date news and other information will also be shared. For more information on other communications from the Village, including the semi-monthly Enewsletter, and the Connect-CTY emergency notification system, visit [longgrovel.gov/connect](https://www.longgrovel.gov/connect).



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