



THE BRIDGE

Village Receives Project of the Year Award

After nearly three years of reconstruction downtown that included both aesthetic and infrastructure improvements, the Village has been recognized with the 2020 *Project of the Year for Transportation – Less than \$5 Million* award for the Robert Parker Coffin (RPC) Road reconstruction project. The Lake Branch of the American Public Works Association (AWPA) presented the award to highlight the successful partnership that enabled the project to happen between the Village, Gewalt Hamilton Associates who managed the engineering work, and A Lamp Road Builders who handled road construction.

The RPC project was completed in December of 2019 and took a total of 18 months. Improvements were needed due to aging infrastructure on RPC Road between the covered bridge and Old McHenry Road. Prior to the completion of the RPC project, similar improvements were made by the Lake County Division of Transportation as part of the Old McHenry Road project. The downtown now benefits from decorative pedestrian lighting, benches, and trash receptacles, in addition to new streetscapes and landscaping. New curbs and gutters were also among the improvements, as well as ADA accessible sidewalks. The public water main was extended into the downtown and surrounding properties to help attract new businesses.

With careful budgetary planning, the Village funded the project without incurring additional debt, and was successful in minimizing disruptions to traffic flow and to businesses. The new road anticipates growth in traffic for the next 20 years. Future planned improvements on RPC Road include the addition of bike racks and the planting of daffodils - a time-honored Long Grove tradition.

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From the Village President



Bill Jacob
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As we all have witnessed the snow pile up so late in the season, I have reminded myself that spring will soon be here. I must admit it is picturesque, but the cold that comes with it is something we can all do without.

With the pandemic, it has of course been challenging for businesses - especially those in the hospitality sector with the indoor dining restrictions. However, the creativity of the business owners in our Village never ceases to amaze me. 'Camp Find a Way' and the 'Alpine Biergarten' are just two examples. The good news is that we have moved to Phase 4, which lessens restrictions as we approach the summer. With vaccinations ramping up, I'm optimistic things will start returning to normal, which I know we are all looking forward to.

We recently learned that Long Grove was awarded a \$200,000 grant to assist us in renovating the Stemple Parking Lot in our downtown, including making it ADA compliant. I want to thank Senator Dan McConchie for his support and submitting this request on our behalf. The parking lot has been long overdue for a makeover, and I'm looking forward to the Village successfully completing the project this year.

The search for our new Village Manager is progressing. The Village Board contracted with national search firm Baker Tilly to lead this effort, and there has been much interest in the position, which is great. If all goes well, we will install a new manager by early April.

The Village Board took a conservative posture with our fiscal year 20-21 budget and we are doing well as tax receipts are trending above the prior fiscal year through the first eight months of our fiscal year. The designation of two of our largest sales tax contributors as essential businesses (Menards and Sunset Foods) is a main factor.

The Robert Parker Coffin Bridge just can't stay out of the news. A recent collision captured on video set off a social media storm providing our Village with much unsolicited advice. Some remarks were constructive, and others were not. The fact is, the new cover that was installed is working as designed. Damage has been minimal and only cosmetic to the cover, which was reconstructed with a steel frame structure that is not attached to the bridge. It is supported by pylons driven into the ground. The design and height of the cover is in fact preventing trucks from driving across it, and protecting it from damage by overweight vehicles.

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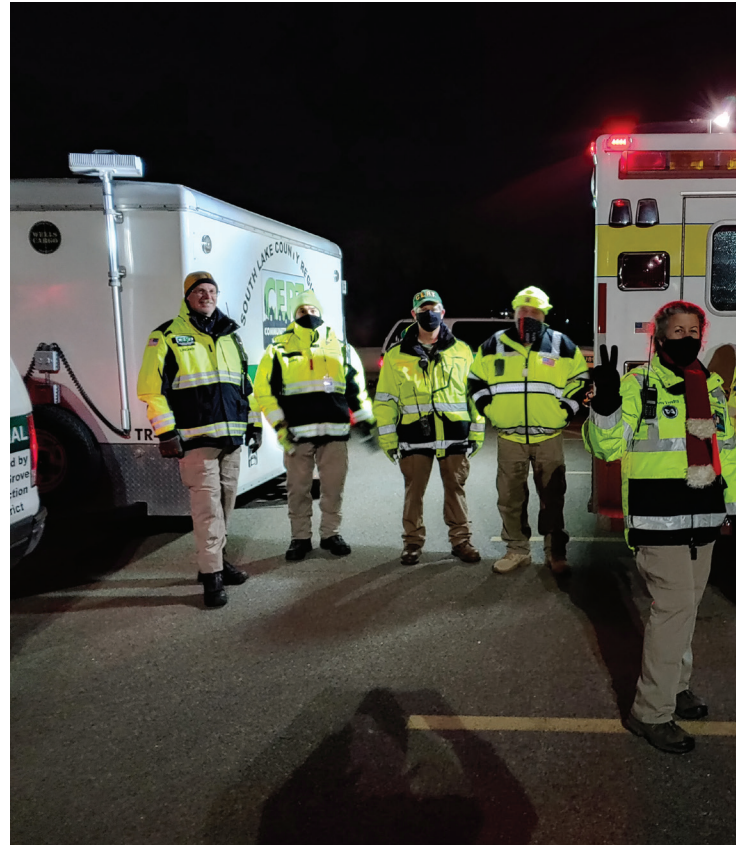
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SLCR CERT Supports Pandemic Response

The South Lake County Regional Community Emergency Response Team (SLCR CERT) supported more than 95 community events and six emergency ‘callouts’ in 2020, while safely providing more than 3,200 hours of service - even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. CERT members are volunteers trained to supplement first responders during community-wide emergencies, including pandemics, weather events, fires, traffic accidents, utility issues and traffic-signal outages. Basic training for all CERT members features pandemic-applicable classes in medical safety and treatment, and scene and personal safety. Additionally, proper use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfecting team equipment including radios, vehicles, traffic cones, tents, and generators is also emphasized. To maintain disaster-response readiness, the team has utilized community events as additional opportunities to train – including open houses with the Long Grove Fire Protection District.

The pandemic created the need for SLCR CERT to adapt to new locations and procedures for contactless, drive-through food pantries, flu shot clinics, winter coat distributions to children, as well as COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites - all of which were opportunities for CERT to get involved. In January 2021, more than 20 SLCR CERT members volunteered for 400+ hours in support of multiple Lake County Health Department drive-through clinics offering COVID vaccinations to health care workers and first responders. Members played a key role in the success of these events, volunteering for medical observation, traffic management, registration, and vaccination teams. The Village wishes to thank the dedicated volunteers of

SLCR CERT who supported our community, as well as the greater Lake County community, during this historic time of need. Please contact Randy.James.IT@gmail.com for more information about SLCR CERT.



From The Village President

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An ad hoc committee has been formed to address the matter as well. As a result, other measures have been taken since the bridge reopened, including the following: reviewing the locations of - and adjusting or adding signage, as well as working with Lake County and navigation companies, including Google Maps, to designate the road as ‘local traffic only’. We are hoping that map guidance will route trucks around the bridge. Additionally, flattening the opening, including the addition of a steel strip flashing so that bridge cover boards don’t get clipped if the bridge does get hit, is also in place. Work will continue here and hopefully over time, we will see oversized vehicles heed the warnings.

I am looking forward to spring with longer daylight hours.

Village President - *Bill Jacob*

Sunset Foods Marks 10 Years in Long Grove

Sunset Foods opened its fifth location in Long Grove in January 2011, which has become a valued anchor in the Sunset Grove Shopping Center. The Village thanks the family-owned business for being a strong partner with the community for the past 10 years.

“Sunset offers a full-service approach, along with unique, high-quality food - and has been a strong anchor, attracting many businesses to Sunset Grove over the last decade,” said Village President Bill Jacob. “We not only value it for its economic contributions, but also because of its strong local involvement, such as fundraising support for scouts and offering their breakroom as a public meeting space. These serve to strengthen the fabric of our community.”

Important Dates for April 6 Consolidated Election

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 is when the Consolidated Election will take place, and when residents will elect Long Grove Village Board members, as well as officials for townships, the park district, area libraries, school districts and fire districts. To preview your ballot based on your home address, visit lakecountyil.gov/351/Voter-Power-for-Registered-Voters. Registered voters have the option to vote by mail, in-person or at their assigned polling site on Election Day. Voter information is available online at lakecountyil.gov/332/Voter-Services or by calling **847-377-VOTE (8683)**, extension 8683. Key dates to remember leading up to April 6:

- Tuesday, March 9: Last day to register online to vote for the April election.
- Monday, March 22: First day for in-person voting at polling locations across Lake County. Some locations offer evening and weekend hours, and can be found at lakecountyil.gov/4085/Where-Do-I-Vote
- Tuesday, April 6: Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at assigned neighborhood sites, which can also be found at the link above.

N. Krueger Road Project Begins This Spring

The project to repave and widen portions of N. Krueger Road between Route 22 and Gilmer Road is on track, with construction planned to start in late spring. It is expected that it will take between three and four months to complete. Partial funding of the estimated \$1.7 million in construction costs will come from the Federal Surface Transportation Program, while the Village will pay approximately \$550,000 toward the project. A public hearing will take place this spring, but the date has yet to be scheduled. For updates on the public hearing date, subscribe to the semi-monthly Newsletter; the signup can be found at longgroveil.gov/enewssignup. Call Village Hall at **847-634-9440** for more information.

Help Eliminate Teasel

Teaseal 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 that can overcrowd and smother native plants, grasses, and wildflowers that feed our natural wildlife. For years, teasel has been spreading and threatens native plants on roadsides and within conservancies, preserves and more.

Spring is when highly invasive teasel rosettes begin to green up and grow, well before other plants. You can 'spot treat' rosettes with a 2,4-D herbicide, found at stores like Menards, without harming other plants that are still dormant. 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 since teasel roots can be up to two feet long! Securely bag and dispose of the rosettes to prevent them from re-rooting. Then, plant native grasses or flowers in the space where you cleared out the rosettes.

The Village Board recently approved a \$10,000 grant for the Long Grove Park District to support continuing efforts to eradicate highly invasive teasel plants in Long Grove, including locations along Route 53, Route 83 and Route 22. Although the teasel seed bank in these treated areas is somewhat diminished year after year, there is existing seed in the ground, and more is being brought in by mowing equipment, the wind, and by untreated teasel on private property. With help from the community, we can all continue to deplete the teasel seed bank, and eventually win the war against this invasive plant.

For more information, visit longgroveil.gov/sustainability, lgparks.org or email stopteasel@lgparks.org with questions on how to identify, treat and remove teasel.



History Corner

Long Grove Then and Now: The Stempel General Store

The current home of the Long Grove Visitors' Center at 308 Old McHenry Road was originally built as a general store in 1855 by Charles Stempel, who was the first storekeeper and postmaster in Long Grove. Local farmers would shop for goods at the Stempel Store and deliver their own crops for sale or trade. The building attached on the left was the Stempel family home. The two buildings were originally separate structures and were connected in the 1950's. Since then, this landmark site at the Village crossroads has been the location for several shops and restaurants over the years. Today, the Visitors' Center is staffed seven days a week, helps to answer questions from the public and provides free walking maps and brochures. Information about Long Grove's history and its many shops and restaurants can also be provided, and memorabilia is for sale. Referrals for local attractions and lodging can also be provided.



Photo Credit: Long Grove Lore and Legend by Virginia L. Park

Volunteer for Commissions and Committees

When requests come to the Village regarding property development, construction, signage, zoning, or other related topics, the Village's Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA) and the Architectural Committee (AC) typically get involved. These advisory boards are served by volunteer residents and make recommendations to the Village Board.

Learn more about these two commissions:

The PCZBA is a seven-member commission that covers matters on zoning variations, special-use permits, new developments and subdivision proposals. The PCZBA is also responsible for the Village's Comprehensive Plan, which was updated in 2018. This commission meets the first Tuesday of the month unless there are no items for consideration. A special meeting is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month if there is business to discuss or consider.

The AC is another seven-member commission and is responsible for reviewing residential and business property requests, with an emphasis on preserving the rural, historical and architectural qualities of the Village that follow the Village's Comprehensive Plan. The AC meets the third Monday of every month.

The Village welcomes residents to contribute their expertise on its commissions and committees. The Conservancy Scenic Corridor Committee (CSCC) and Pathway Committee are currently seeking additional members. If you are interested in volunteering, please learn more about all volunteer opportunities at longgroveil.gov/bc and you can complete the volunteer profile form at longgroveil.gov/bc/page/volunteer. All Village meetings and hearings are open for the public to join virtually on Zoom; details are available on the website at longgroveil.gov/meetings.

Support Our Many Businesses

The Village of Long Grove is home to a variety of unique businesses, many which are in the historic downtown, while other stores and commercial developments are dispersed throughout the Village. Long Grove residents are fortunate to have such a wide array of businesses that can meet residents' needs.

Along with many family-run shops and restaurants, the historic downtown's newly paved roads, renovated streetscape, and new water system make Long Grove an inviting destination for people to visit, shop and dine. It's the perfect place to enjoy a day out with friends and family.

Long Grove businesses are appreciative of the support from the local community - both residents and visitors - that frequent the shops and restaurants. It is through the patronage of so many that Long Grove's businesses have been able to push forward and survive the challenges of the pandemic.

For a listing of stores and dining options, visit the Village of Long Grove website at longgroveil.gov/businessdirectory or the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association website at longgrove.org. Please support our local businesses!



Menards



Skycrest
Animal Clinic



ClayOven
Tandoor



Red Cottage
Salon & SPA INC



Long Grove
Dance Studio



Just Bee
Yoga



Dunkin'



Royal Boutique
Nails



Midwest School of
Pet Grooming

Spring 2021 Is Looking Much Sweeter!

The Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association (HDLGBA) has announced the return of its popular events for spring! Please note that the HDLGBA is following State and local safety guidelines for all events. Attendees are urged to practice social distancing, wear mask/face covers, and use available hand-sanitation stations.

Egg Hunt, March 27: This year, the event will be a dynamic walk-through experience instead of a free-for-all egg hunt. Families who have pre-registered through <http://longgrove.org/festival/egg-hunt/> can walk through a succession of socially distant activity stations in Brother's Field where all the egg action will occur, including a visit by the Easter Bunny.

Chocolate Fest, May 14-16: Long Grove's first food-themed festival of the year features family entertainment and delicious hand-made, chocolate-inspired treats. Dozens of local vendors will dish out creations from chocolate cotton candy to burgers lathered in BBQ chocolate sauce, all with live music as a backdrop.



Strawberry Fest, June 25-27: The annual homage to summer returns for three days focused on the Midwest's sweetest fruit! Although the festival begins and ends with the almighty strawberry, with strawberry-centric foods and drinks galore, in no way is it an exclusive strawberry party. There's live music, the classic Kid Zone and summer carnival games sure to bring out the little kid in everyone!

Visit www.LongGrove.org for more details and information on other events through the year.
All events are subject to change/cancellation per future State and local COVID-19 mandates.

Park District Offers Virtual Nature Programs for Kids

While children (and adults) are waiting for warmer weather to arrive and COVID-19 restrictions to lessen, the Long Grove Park District is offering some interesting new virtual nature programs. These free programs are for children ages 6 through 12 and presented by the education staff of the Lake County Forest Preserves. Parents may register by emailing syoung@lgparks.org or calling the Long Grove Park District at 847-438-4743. A Zoom link will be sent to registrants prior to the program. Please see descriptions of the programs below:

Animal Adaptations, Friday, March 12, 3:30 - 4 p.m.: Virtual field trip on how animals adapt to survive in their habitats. The presentation includes a live animal.

Plant Life Cycles, Tuesday, April 6, 3:30 - 4 p.m.: Using seeds and animal skins, learn how plants and animals rely on each other.

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

Gardening Workshops: Nurture Your Green Thumb



Interested in learning about growing your own vegetables? The 2021 Garden Learning Series No. 2, a free online program presented by University of Illinois Extension, Lake County and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), is offering a series of workshops on successful vegetable gardening. Workshops will be held on the second Wednesday of every month, from March 10 through July 14, 2021 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Master Gardeners will share advice on planning, planting, and tending your garden, as well as information on pest control, composting basics, and adaptive gardening methods. The workshops are offered through a grant from USDA and are focused on local efforts to promote composting and food waste diversion. For more information about the learning series, call 847-223-8627 or visit extension.illinois.edu/lm and search 'garden learning series.'

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Upcoming Meetings

Board Of Trustees

March 9, 2021
March 23, 2021
April 13, 2021
April 27, 2021

Economic Development Commission

March 9, 2021
March 23, 2021
April 13, 2021
April 27, 2021

Plan Commission And Zoning

Board Of Appeals

March 2, 2021
April 6, 2021

Conservancy/Scenic

Corridor Committee (CSCC)

March 3, 2021
April 7, 2021

Architectural Commission (AC)

March 15, 2021
April 19, 2021

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

Please visit [LongGroveIL.gov/meetings](https://www.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.

Beautification Weekend April 24 – 25

Long Grove residents are encouraged to take part in the yearly neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 2021. During these two days, any trash picked up by residents around the community can be left at the roadside in garbage bags, which will be collected by Waste Management during the week of April 26. For any questions, please call Village Hall at **847-634-9440**.

The annual cleanup effort follows Earth Day – which is on Thursday, April 22. Earth Day is a global event that is meant to raise awareness about preventing pollution and maintaining a clean habitat, while encouraging everyone to celebrate the preservation of our environment. Founded in 1970, Earth Day now includes events that are organized across the world in more than 190 countries.



Village Contacts

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Website

[LongGroveIL.gov](https://www.LongGroveIL.gov)

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
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