



## THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

January 2014

ISSUE #1

# Happy New Year

### STATE OF THE VILLAGE

*by Village President Angie Underwood*

Little did I know, one year ago today, sitting at this same computer to write my candidate profile for the *Daily Herald*, the extent of the challenges and rewards that these past 12 months would bring! In an attempt to sum up the major issues that our Village faces today and in the year to come, I thought it would be interesting to revisit my stated "Top 3 Campaign Issues" and let you know what progress the Board has made to date.

#### **Issue #1: Finding a Solution to the Current Funding Gap in Needed Road Repairs.**

After four Town Hall meetings and years of study, analysis, and numerous board discussions, a decision was made in November to bring a referendum question to the voters on March 18<sup>th</sup> of this year. This would authorize a first-ever Village Property Tax for a period of ten years, not to be extended, to pay for repairs on thoroughfare roads only. The annual cost would average \$166 for a home valued at \$750,000. This tax would be restricted to spending on capital infrastructure. Adding further specificity, an ordinance was passed at the same time as the referendum authorization, which defined thoroughfare and non-thoroughfare roads. This companion policy states the intention of the Village Board to reduce the length of public roads, and assist the homeowners on non-thoroughfare roads in establishing Special Service Areas or other funding mechanisms. For more history and details on this decision, please read the Referendum Fact Sheet on our Village website.

[http://www.longgrove.net/sites/default/files/Village%20of%20Long%20Grove%20Referendum%20Information%20Sheet\\_1.pdf](http://www.longgrove.net/sites/default/files/Village%20of%20Long%20Grove%20Referendum%20Information%20Sheet_1.pdf)

Obviously, asking voters to approve a new tax has produced some strong opinions from residents and has produced strong opinions among Board members as well. The Village Board has also read your emails and listened to your feedback during several well-attended public meetings this past fall. The members of the Board have made a difficult decision, given the current fiscal situation, not to defer this issue any longer. Now it is up to you, the residents, to decide whether or not to support the findings of the Board in squarely facing this issue. Please vote on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Your actions will help direct the Village to the next step in the process of resolving the funding gap.

#### **Issue #2: Economic Development in the Village.**

The Village remains keenly aware of the need to develop our remaining commercially zoned properties to bring in needed sales tax revenue. An Economic Development committee has been formed with members of the Long Grove Business and Community Partners (LGBCP), Village Board, Village Staff, and residents. This group has been meeting several times a month since June of 2013, with an eye toward working with both potential and existing property owners. Every effort is being made to work with local agencies to capitalize on available development opportunities and to bring Lake Michigan water to current and potential commercial properties.

### **Issue #3: Revitalization of the Historic Downtown.**

Many of the privately owned properties in our downtown have changed ownership in the past year or are currently for sale. The Long Grove Confectionary has a new owner, as does the entire Mill Pond complex. I am optimistic that our new investors and business owners have a vision for their properties to prosper.

To address the high vacancy rates, the Village Board hired consultant Bridget Lane of Business Districts, Inc. to do an analysis of the downtown area. Her results were given in a presentation in November of this past year. Many of the merchants and owners were able to attend this and to hear her ideas and advice on what can work in today's economic climate.

Two suggestions that the Board has acted on as a result of Bridget's analysis include: increased enforcement of building and landscape maintenance by the property owners, and asking the Planning and Zoning Board to take a look at expanding the permitted uses within the downtown. This could bring into the downtown area a greater variety of services, stores, and other business uses desired by our residents. In addition to this, the Village Board has been petitioned by several merchants to take a look at rescinding the restriction on video gambling in Long Grove. This issue is sure to be studied in the months ahead.

Another topic for study is our covered bridge. The Board has engaged the services of consultants who will give us advice on the feasibility of repairing the historic supports and needed maintenance in the near term. Historic status is being considered, and a Village Historical Preservation Task Force soon will begin working to assess the entire downtown area from an historical and character preservation perspective. In addition to these many concerns, the Village continues to work with Lake County Department of Transportation on their planned improvements to Old McHenry Road and the addition of a traffic signal at the historic crossroads.

### **One Good Idea**

I was asked a year ago for "one good idea that nobody is talking about yet." As I am a big fan and supporter of the many walking trails and pathways here in Long Grove, my idea involved a desire to see the pathway system expanded with further connections. This is a costly undertaking, and due to our financial constraints I wanted the Village to do some creative thinking to identify possible alternative ways of financing these needed improvements, and make it more of a priority. I am happy to say that due to the donation of a private easement and a partnership with the Long Grove Park District, the Board was able to improve and expand one trail system in the central part of our Village, connecting four different neighborhoods. On the south Schaeffer Road trail,

staff is currently working with the Lake County Forest Preserve District to create a link between their Buffalo Creek trail system and the Village pathway system, partially using grant monies. See what can happen with a little creative thinking?

The start of a new year is a good time to pause and reflect on our strengths, and project our hopes for the future. We are a community of involved neighbors and committed volunteers who greatly value the quality of life here in our Village. I am energized by the possibilities that 2014 may bring to Long Grove. Along with our staff and Board of Trustees, I look forward to interacting with you, the residents, as we work together to make decisions and changes that will directly affect the future success of our Village. And that is not just a campaign promise!

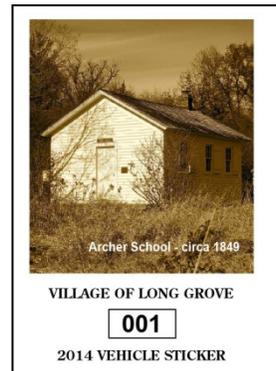
### **PUBLIC HEARING ON VIDEO GAMBLING SCHEDULED**

A public hearing on amending the permitted use in the historic downtown and a request to amend the code to allow video gambling is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. as part of the Plan Commission Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. The hearing will be held at the Village Hall (3110 Old McHenry Road, behind Kildeer Countryside School).

### **VEHICLE STICKERS**

The Village of Long Grove 2014 vehicle stickers are available at the Village Hall. The cost remains at \$10 a decal. While vehicle stickers are not mandatory, residents are encouraged to purchase one if they park in other suburbs or in Chicago where a local sticker is required and where tickets are issued if one is not displayed.

To receive your decal, you may send a check made payable to the Village of Long Grove; include your name, address and the number of vehicle stickers you would like. You can also stop by the Village Hall to pick up a decal. The Village Hall is located at 3110 Old McHenry Road, behind Kildeer Countryside School and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



### **VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION**

Anyone can be a victim of crime at anytime, anywhere. By taking preventive measures, oftentimes a crime can be prevented. One such example is with vehicle burglary. Typically offenders will target vehicles that they believe are easy to access. What measures can you take to dissuade an offender from burglarizing your vehicle? Here are a few simple suggestions:

1. Always lock your vehicle.
2. Take your keys with you.
3. Never hide a spare key in or on your vehicle.
4. Park in well-lit areas.
5. Hide or remove valuables from your vehicle.



6. Never leave your vehicle running unattended.

## **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ICE MELTIN' BLUES**

The fifth annual Ice Meltin' Blues Weekend will take place on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2. Enjoy some of Chicagoland's best Blues talents including Carl Weathersby; Demetria Taylor & The Blues Band, Billy Branch & The Sons of Blues, The Corey Dennison Blues Band, The Rockin' Johnny Blues Band, and more.

Look for "Blue Plate" specials in restaurants, such as "Bleu" Cheese Burgers, Martini "Blues" and "Blue" inspired desserts. Shops throughout the downtown will offer "Blue Light" shopper specials. Jake and Elwood will be in town handing out "Blues Bucks" for retail shopping, to those "lucky" enough to spot them.

For more information, go to [www.visitlonggrove.com](http://www.visitlonggrove.com) or call the Visitor's Center at 847-634-0888.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

### **LONG GROVE-KILDEER GARDEN CLUB**

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 10 at Reed-Turner at 9:30 a.m. The theme is "Birdscaping" with guest speaker, Tim Joyce, Manager of "Wild Birds Unlimited" in Glenview, who will share his 30 years of experience developing the fine art of birdscaping. He will demonstrate how to bring our backyards alive with a great variety of birds throughout the year. If you wish to attend this meeting, please contact Gail at 847-566-9069.

The Garden Club welcomes new members. Meetings are held at Reed-Turner Woodlands on the second Monday of each month. Please call Gerri at 847-550-6292 if you wish to join or to seek additional information.

### **LONG GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Long Grove Historical Society will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary in 2014. Stay tuned for updates on programs planned throughout this year to commemorate this special occasion.

### **LONG GROVE ARTS & MUSIC COUNCIL**

#### ***SUPPORT THE ARTS IN LONG GROVE!***

The Long Grove Arts & Music Council, a 501c3 organization dedicated to bringing the arts to Long Grove, is almost finished booking the 2014 Summer Concerts and planning next year's Artist Guild calendar is currently underway. Corky Siegel and Howard Levy are teaming up for the opening concert, and that's just to warm things up.

Now entering its ninth season, the free LGAMC Summer Sunday Concerts continues to grow in attendance as people discover what many feel is one the best concert series in the entire Chicago area.

In addition to concerts, The Long Grove Arts & Music Council has expanded the outreach to local visual artists through The Long Grove Artists Guild. The Art Guild has hosted a variety of art invitationals. The very successful *Our Pets, Past & Present* was brought back for its second year. This art invitational showcased artists of all ages. In November, *A Place at the Table* invitational raised funds for the Vernon Township food pantry, in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Poets, writers, & artists (including an art therapist from as far as Joliet) participated in this meaningful event.

Evenings of poetry have been presented throughout the year by local writers & poets of The Long Grove Writers Group, also under the Long Grove Arts & Music Council's umbrella.

Such community outreach through the excellent summer concerts and the arts is the result of countless hours of a handful of dedicated volunteers in the Long Grove Arts & Music Council

along with the essential financial support of those who believe in the importance of the arts in our community.

Please make your generous donation today. Knowing the funds are there, in place, significantly help the dedicated volunteers of this 501c3 organization to continue their community outreach in bringing the arts to the Village of Long Grove.

Please visit our website to make your donation. Credit card payment available: [lgamc.org](http://lgamc.org).

For more information about the Long Grove Arts & Music Council: [info@lgamc.org](mailto:info@lgamc.org).

For more information about the Artists Guild: [georgia@lgamc.org](mailto:georgia@lgamc.org).

## **LONG GROVE ARTISTS GUILD**

### *"SOMETHING ABOUT THE COLOR RED"*

The color red evokes a range of emotions from anger to passion to love. In February, the Long Grove Artists Guild will present an art show exploring the many facets of red. The show, entitled "Something About the Color Red," will run from February 15 through March 15. Visual artwork in all media, styles and genre will be accepted in this art show.

Artists of all ages are invited to submit their artwork. Entries are due at the gallery, located at 329 Old McHenry Road (above the Potpourri shop), by February 1. Each artist may submit up to four pieces of artwork. The entry fee for an adult is \$20 for one submission; each additional entry is \$10. The entry fee for a youth is \$10 for one submission; each additional entry is \$5.

Artwork can be priced for sale. Twenty percent of each sale will be donated to LGAMC, a 501c3 organization. A portion of the entry fee proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association by the Long Grove Artists Guild & the Long Grove Arts & Music Council.

For more information, contact: [georgiart@comcast.net](mailto:georgiart@comcast.net), [rhondapopko@gmail.com](mailto:rhondapopko@gmail.com), or [roshel@comcast.net](mailto:roshel@comcast.net).

A call for Artists from the Long Grove Artists Guild !

## **“Something About The Color Red”**

*The color red evokes a range of emotions from anger to passion to love. February is an excellent month to explore this color. Visual artwork in all media, styles and genre accepted in this art show.*

**Art Show: Feb 15 – March 15, 2014**

**Opening Reception 7-9PM Feb 15.**

**Art Entries must be gallery ready for display.**

**2d Art must have stretched hanging wire on back.**

**Entries & Fees (make checks payable to LGAMC) are to be delivered to the Long Grove Artists Guild Gallery\* on Feb 1, 2014 (11AM -5PM)**

**Adult (18 and over): \$20 entry fee, \$10 each additional entry, limit 4 entries.**

**Youth (Under 18): \$10 entry fee, \$5. each additional entry, limit 4 entries.**

**Art work can be priced for sale.** 20% of each sale donated to LGAMC, 501c3. A portion of entry proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association by the Long Grove Artists Guild & the Long Grove Arts & Music Council.

Information: [rhondapopko@gmail.com](mailto:rhondapopko@gmail.com) or [roshel@comcast.net](mailto:roshel@comcast.net) or [georgiart@comcast.net](mailto:georgiart@comcast.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult(18 & older) \_\_\_\_\_ Youth(under 18, Please give your age) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/s & Media:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing this entry form, I agree to hold harmless the Long Grove Artists Guild and the Long Grove Arts & Music Council for my art while on display in the LGAG gallery.*

Artist's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Long Grove Artists Guild Gallery is located in Bldg 21 at Fountain Square above the PotPouri Shop in Historic Long Grove, IL.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY

### Long Grove Park District

February 3 7 pm Reed-Turner Woodland

### Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

#### *Public Hearing - Video Gambling*

February 4 7 pm Village Hall

### Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee

February 5 7 pm Village Hall

### CPR/AED Class

February 6 6 pm—10 pm Long Grove Fire Dept.

For information, call Katie at 847-634-3143

*\$15 In-District Residents*

*\$30 Out-of-District Residents*

### Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club

#### *Guest Speaker: Tim Joyce - Birdscaping*

February 10 9:30 am Reed-Turner Woodland

### Architectural Commission

February 10 7 pm Village Hall

### Board of Trustees

February 11 7 pm Village Hall

### Long Grove Historical Society Meeting

February 19 10 am Historical Society Farmhouse

### Board of Trustees

February 25 7 pm Village Hall