



## **THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER**

**March 2014**

**ISSUE #3**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### **Property Tax Question Has Been Answered**

*"Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure."*

*—George Edward Woodberry*

Our residents have spoken at the polls, and the message to the Village Board is that they will not support a property tax at this time as part of a solution to our infrastructure funding gap. I feel that this decision is neither a defeat nor a victory. Progress still needs to be made towards addressing a fundamental problem that has been growing for decades. This is not just the Village Board's problem to own. It belongs to our entire community, and it will take ownership by the entire community to solve it. The Village Board is doing our best as responsible elected officials to provide leadership and not defer this situation any longer. The infrastructure funding gap still exists and is growing more expensive to solve as each day goes by. Acknowledgement by the community of this fact is crucial if it is ever to be corrected. As of now, the Village can continue to repair limited portions of thoroughfare roads as funds allow. The overall condition of the Village of Long Grove public roads are at risk of deterioration at an exceedingly rapid rate.

In the months ahead, the Village Board will continue to discuss and pursue solutions to the infrastructure funding gap. It would be irresponsible to do otherwise. We will continue to educate our residents about the challenges of managing a small Village government while meeting financial obligations for large scale capital improvements. Your fellow residents who volunteer on the Board of Trustees are unpaid public servants, who give up many hours of their professional and personal time on a weekly basis to help our local government function in your best interest. We take our responsibilities seriously. We have worked hard in the past and will continue to do so going forward, to earn your trust, respect and support.

Being involved in your own municipal government is a challenging and humbling experience. I realize that not everyone is able to volunteer. But those of us who do, welcome your opinions and suggestions so that together, we can work towards finding solutions. The current Village Board is committed to helping our residents secure a strong and productive future for Long Grove.

*--Angie Underwood, Village President*

## **ELECTRIC AGGREGATION NEW POWER SUPPLIER**

Two years ago, the Village entered into a municipal aggregation agreement, with electric power supplier Integrys, to help residents' lower electricity costs. The contract with Integrys will soon be coming to an end. After seeking bids from several suppliers, the Village has entered into an electric power supply agreement with Constellation to provide electric power to all residents and small businesses within the Village. The contract will be for 35 months at a guaranteed rate of 6.529 cents per kWh (term begins on meter read dates in June 2014 and ends upon meter read dates in May 2017). Projections for the annual rate through ComEd is 7.0 cents per kWh.

Residents and small businesses will be receiving a letter from Constellation regarding the change in supplier and about automatic enrollment in the new program. For those who do not wish to have Constellation as their provider, an opt-out provision is also explained in the letter.

Residents may receive communications from other power supply companies asking to consider enrolling in their program. The Village encourages residents and business owners to carefully evaluate power supply options, associated rates and termination fees.

## **MEET OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS**

The Village would like to thank Valerie Plunkett for her many years of service on the Architectural Committee. Even though we are sad to see Valerie move on to other challenges, the Village is happy to welcome two new members to the Architectural Commission who were appointed this past November:

Eric Closson has lived in the Buffalo Grove and Long Grove area his entire life. He lives with his family in Mardan Woods and brings to the committee his experience as a licensed architect. Eric has family who owns and operates the Rivellino School of Art in our historic downtown. Helen Makaritis recently relocated to Long Grove from the UK. She has had a previous career in Interior Design, and degrees in History, Sociology and Marketing. She and her family live near our covered bridge, and you may run into Helen if you stop by the Information Center at our downtown crossroads, where she works part-time.

In addition, we would like to welcome Jodi Smith, who has recently joined the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, serving as the Secretary. Jodi lives with her family in Brookstone, and brings to the committee her experience as an attorney. Jodi provides us with excellent minutes, and she has perfected her skills at this with many years of service on the Stevenson High School Foundation Board.

Our Village is very lucky to have such talented and skilled residents volunteering their time on a monthly basis. We thank you and are so glad to have you "on board."

*--Angie Underwood, Village President*

## **BE ALERT TO HOME REPAIR SCAMS**

Spring is the time to work on those outside projects like exterior home painting, reroofing or driveway resealing. It is also the time when disreputable contractors will try to scam you by using poor quality materials, overcharging, or providing low quality work.

Here are some tips to help you avoid being scammed:

1. be leery of high-pressure sales tactics or someone who "happens to be in the area";
2. do not allow strangers to come into your home or to distract you away from your unlocked front door;
3. when hiring, use legitimate, licensed contractors; check out contractors with the Better Business Bureau and state or local licensing agencies;
4. ask the contractor for references and call them;
5. before work is started, obtain a written quote stating exactly what the project entails - materials to be used, estimated time to complete project, cost of project;
6. never sign a work of completion unless all work is done to your satisfaction;
7. if you think you have been a victim of a scam, contact the police.

## **SEASON FOR RUSE BURGLARIES**

**What is a ruse burglary?** A ruse burglary is when a homeowner is lured out of the house by an offender who distracts the homeowner while a second offender enters the house to steal cash, jewelry and other valuable items.

**How does the offender lure the homeowner out of the house?** The offender will inquire about the homeowner's water supply or water pressure; suggest there are electrical problems; offer to repair gutters/fences, trim trees and bushes or mow the lawn; recommend repairs to the driveway, make false statements about problems at the neighbor's house; or inquire about homes for sale in the neighborhood.

**When do these ruse burglaries usually occur?** Most ruse burglaries occur during the late morning or in the afternoon prior to 5 p.m.

**Who is likely to be targeted?** Victims are usually people who live alone and are advanced in age.

**What can a homeowner do to protect himself/herself?** Do not allow strangers to come into your home or to distract you away from your unlocked front door. Be wary of offers that sound too good to be true and cautious of strangers who try to charm you into buying something. Pay attention to the physical characteristics and attire of the person at the door. If possible, try to note the license plate number and make and model of the vehicle of the offender.

If you feel you have been a victim of a ruse burglary, or if you have seen suspicious vehicles or persons approaching elderly neighbors, call the Lake County Sheriff's Office at 847-549-5200 to report the incident or dial 911 if the offense is in progress.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION WEEKEND APRIL 26 AND APRIL 27

With the cold, snowy, windy winter finally over, a lot of debris is now sitting along the roadways. Residents will have an opportunity to clean up their neighborhoods on Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27. Leave the garbage bags along the roadside and Waste Management will pick up the bags during the week. If everyone gave just an hour of their time for clean-up, our neighborhoods would be spic-and-span in no time!



## ODDS AND ENDS LONG GROVE-KILDEER GARDEN CLUB

*Annual Plant Sale - May 17 and 18*



The ever-popular Annual Plant Sale will be held May 17-18 at Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center (3849 Old McHenry Road). The sale includes heirloom tomatoes, herbs and perennials direct from members' gardens. Plants are offered on a first-come basis, and quality and prices are remarkable. The hours are: Saturday 9:00-3:00 and Sunday 10:00-3:00.

Anyone having plants they would like to donate, please call Linda at 847-826-3901. The sale is held in conjunction with the Annual Botanic Art Sale. For more information, call Sue at 847-634-2374.

### *Garden Walk - June 27*

Save the Date! The 2014 Garden Walk is scheduled for Friday, June 27, followed by a luncheon at The Grove Country Club. For further information, please contact Stacy at [stacyjslogan@gmail.com](mailto:stacyjslogan@gmail.com), or Jane at [laystrom1@comcast.net](mailto:laystrom1@comcast.net).

## RAFFLE TO BENEFIT LAKE COUNTY HAVEN

On Sunday, April 6, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., volunteers will be at Sunset Foods in Long Grove selling raffle tickets to benefit The Lake County Haven. The Haven's mission is to empower homeless women and children to achieve permanent, independent living. Residents of their transitional shelter and housing in Libertyville come from a variety of backgrounds, but most are homeless due to domestic violence, job loss, eviction, or illness. Raffle ticket prizes will be drawn on May 3, 2014 at the Gala presented by the Women's Auxiliary. For more information visit [www.LakeCountyHaven.org](http://www.LakeCountyHaven.org).

## ELA TOWNSHIP TO HOLD ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT - APRIL 26

Ela Township will be holding an electronics recycling event on Saturday, April 26 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Knox Park in Lake Zurich (1153 E. Route 22). For more information visit the Ela Township website at [www.elatownship.org](http://www.elatownship.org).

## FASHION SHOW - MAY 8



A Mother's Day Boutique Fashion Show will be held on Thursday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Grove Country Club (3217 Route 53). Clothing and accessories from several shops in Long Grove will be featured including Beata's Soul Art, Bella Donna Boutique, Cleo Jewelry & Gifts, Olivia's Boutique, Prairie Smoke, and Trio Boutique. Cocktails and shopping will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a fashion show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each, which includes hors d'ouerves, wine, and sweets.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Alayna at The Grove Country Club - 847-550-1089 ext 5111 or aharber@golfatroyal.com

## LONG GROVE PARK DISTRICT

### *Birdhouse Project*

Prepare for Spring by entering the Long Grove Park District's first Annual Birdhouse Contest.

This is an opportunity for anyone or any club or team to let their creativity show. You do **not** need to be an expert carpenter... or even a novice one. This contest is about you and how you imagine a birdhouse might be designed and built. Think "what would a bird like"?

Birdhouses will be judged on the basis of functionality and creativity. Birdhouses may be designed as outdoor functional "real bird use" bird houses or as indoor décor. Any non-toxic material can be used. Entries may be 3 dimensional or 2 dimensional (paintings, quilts, collages, etc.) but must be original creations (no photographs of existing birdhouses). All entries become property of the Long Grove Park District and will be part of the Silent Auction to benefit the Reed-Turner Nature Preserve. [For those of you who would like to participate but simply do not have the time, you may donate a (new) purchased birdhouse for the Silent Auction.]



Remember, if you are building a functional house, the most important factors are the size of the entry hole and the ability to easily open and clean it. For a list of hole sizes by bird species, go to: [http://www.wild-bird-watching.com/Building\\_Bird\\_Houses.html#sthash.0ugSJgom.dpbs](http://www.wild-bird-watching.com/Building_Bird_Houses.html#sthash.0ugSJgom.dpbs).

The contest is open to ages 8 and up in three age categories: Youth (8-12), Teen (13-17) and Adult (the rest of us).

All entries will be on display at the Reed-Turner Nature Center during "For the Birds Weekend", May 3-4, 2014. The weekend will include presentations by bird experts on some of your favorite feathered friends, bird walks through the Nature Preserve, refreshments, and a Silent Auction of the Birdhouse entries, with proceeds benefitting the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. Prize ribbons will be awarded to the winners in each category.

So have some fun, help support the Nature Preserve, and gain some appreciation of just what those little feathered critters have to do to build their own home sweet home.

All participants must register in advance. To obtain an entry form and contest rules, go to the Long Grove Park District web site at, <http://www.longgroveparkdistrict.com>, call the Park District at 847-438-4743 or email [lqpdrecreation@aol.com](mailto:lqpdrecreation@aol.com).

## LONG GROVE ARTISTS GUILD

### *LGAG Diorama Show — April 5-26*

Get ready for spring with the Long Grove Artists Guild Peeps® Diorama Show, April 5-26. The Guild is accepting entries of 3-D or 2-D artwork using the candy Peeps®. Entries can be dropped off on Saturday, March 29 or Sunday, March 30 at the Gallery. Come by for a reception on Sunday, April 13 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to see what creative things can be done with this sweet confection! For more information, stop by the Gallery for an application, or phone Marie at 847-942-2613 or Dona at 847-293-9101.



## **PEEPS ® Diorama Show**

**Hosted by the Long Grove Artists Guild**

**April 5 - 26, 2014**

**Artist Reception: Sunday, April 13 2pm-4pm**

**Create your piece using actual PEEPS ® candy of any variety; no other food materials are allowed. Be inspired! Search the internet for PEEPS ® dioramas. Come up with your own Peep Creation!**

**Entries are due March 29 - March 30, 11am-5pm at the Long Grove Artists Guild Gallery located in Building #21, shared with The Lucy & Ethel's Shop 325 Old McHenry Rd & the Potpourri shop. Entrance off the Fountain Square side in Long Grove, IL**

*Entry Forms are available at the Gallery, open 11-5 Saturdays & Sundays.*

Or, contact Dona: [dona.blunt@newportpros.com](mailto:dona.blunt@newportpros.com)

# 3rd Annual Recycle-O-Rama

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00a.m.- 2:00p.m.

Vernon Township Highway Department Office  
3050 N Main St. Buffalo Grove IL

Vernon Township Highway Department partners with SWALCO, to host a one day multi-item recycling event



### Latex Paint Recycling (Charge)

Paint is Recycled into Other Products

\$1.50 per Quart

\$2.50 per Gallon

\$8.00 per 5 Gallon Drum

### Paper Shredding Event

Confidential Document Shredding (Onsite)

Maximum of 3 File Size Boxes

### Food Drive

Non-Perishable Food will be collected to benefit the Vernon Township Food Pantry

For Further Information E-Mail Highway Commissioner Bryant Schroeder at [bschroeder@vernontownship.com](mailto:bschroeder@vernontownship.com)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL

### **Plan Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals**

**April 1** 7 pm Village Hall

### **Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee**

**April 2** 7 pm Village Hall

### **Long Grove Park District**

**April 7** 7 pm Reed-Turner Woodland

### **Board of Trustees**

**April 8** 7 pm Village Hall

### **CPR/AED Class**

**April 10** 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 Historical Society Meeting**

**April 16** 10 am Historical Society Farmhouse

### **Architectural Commission**

**April 21** 7 pm Village Hall

### **Board of Trustees**

**April 22** 7 pm Village Hall

### **Neighborhood Beautification Weekend**

**April 26-27**