

Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING
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Civic Responsibility

By Aaron Underwood · Long Grove Historical Society

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the official incorporation of Long Grove. Sure, Long Grove had been “on the map” for a century before that, but had no local control over zoning. The 1930’s and 1940’s saw new residents moving into Long Grove who valued the open space and rural character of the area. They became concerned that Long Grove’s pastoral nature would be lost if open space was gobbled up by high density housing. Converting Long Grove’s open space to residential neighborhoods could require massive infrastructure upgrades and much higher taxes. Area farmers were concerned that those higher taxes would force them to sell their farms.

In 1954, area residents formed the Kildeer Civic Association “to promote community solidarity, to provide a forum for public discussion, and to provide focus for public opinion and a means of implementing desirable civic projects.” One of the projects the Association took on was to officially incorporate Long Grove and a referendum was organized, held, and approved on December 30th, 1956. With this move, the residents of Long Grove had the legal standing to control how Long Grove was developed.



FOURTH ANNUAL GHOST WALK

One of the Society’s over-capacity community events (more on page two).



Whereas most villages are formed to further the creation of infrastructure and services, Long Grove was formed to prevent them. Perhaps oversimplified, but it's a big part of what makes Long Grove so unique. Long Grove's self-sufficient residents liked the idea of a minimal government focused on zoning, with they themselves being responsible for much of what other villages pay taxes for. Amongst the founding principals were no property tax and a heavy reliance upon volunteerism (no elected officials were to be paid). How did Kildeer Countryside School get it's stage? That was donated by a resident. How did the Village's downtown get a parking lot? A resident donated the land. Examples of giving and volunteerism abound in Long Grove's early history as a village.

THE LONG GROVE THESIS

Whereas most villages are formed to further the creation of infrastructure and services, Long Grove was formed to prevent them.

The good news for you today in this structure is that you get a Long Grove Village Government, a Long Grove Park District, and a Long Grove Historical Society "for free". None of your property tax dollars goes to these organizations as it would in other communities. But alas, nothing is for free – if Long Grove wants to continue to be healthy and have these things, you to have to do your part. That means volunteering your time or providing financial support to our civic infrastructure.

The Long Grove Historical Society knows the community likes what we do. Our summer Penny Carnival and recent Ghost Walk (pictured on page one) both had over-capacity crowds. But your support is needed if these creative, historically themed community events are to continue. Here are four ways you can support your local, awesome, 501C3 charitable, all-volunteer, non-taxing Long Grove Historical Society:

NO. 1 · ONLINE

Smile.Amazon.com

When you use Smile.Amazon.Com with the Long Grove Historical Society designated as your charity, Amazon donates a couple of percent of your purchase to us with no additional cost to you.

NO. 3 · COMMITTEE

Help Us Imagine

A committee is currently forming to relook at our goals, activities and organization. We do this every 8-10 years. We'd love to have a few new people involved in that.

For more information, to volunteer, or to request a membership/donation form, contact aaron@LongGroveHistory.org. You can also buy an annual membership at our LongGroveHistory.org website. We all want to see Long Grove continue to improve. Are you doing your part?

NO. 2 · MEMBERSHIP

\$50 / year

Our suggested family membership is \$50/year. It's simply a donation with no time commitment whatsoever. Thirty years ago about 20% of Long Grove households could boast they were "members" of the Historical Society. Today it's less than 3%. As a comparison, in Buffalo Grove, the average resident contributes around \$5/year towards local history, which is about twice what residents in Long Grove average.

NO. 4 · BOARD

2017 Board

Our board is being formed for next year. We typically meet 8 times/year and meetings last about 90 minutes.

2016 Long Grove Historical Society Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held the First Long Grove Community Penny Carnival (which we hope to make an annual event)
- Created Walking Tour/Audio Tour of the Historic Downtown
- Became a formal part of a Village festival – Vintage Days
- Held our Fourth Annual Ghost Walk – it gets better every year!
- Continued monthly column on local history in Long Grove Living
- Submitted two articles for inclusion in upcoming book on Lake County History
- Started Smile.Amazon.com fundraising mechanism
- Updated Long Grove History section in Village’s Comprehensive Plan
- Continued our Archer School One Room School Experience for local third graders
- Painted the porch on our Historic Farmhouse & replaced the sump pump at Archer School
- Continued conducting Farmhouse and Archer Tours and Lectures for the public

MONEY MATTERS

ANNUAL BUDGET ~ \$10,000

What we spend on

- 45% · Maintenance of Historic Buildings and Property
- 25% · Insurance
- 20% · Utilities
- 10% · Events, Fees, and Miscellaneous

Where it comes from

- 75% · Resident memberships and donations
- 15% · Fundraisers
- 10% · Archer School One Room School Experience

WHAT RESIDENTS GAVE (THAT WE DIDN’T HAVE TO BUY)

- Penny Carnival games, supplies, and prizes
- Ghost Walk supplies and treats
- Our website and reservations system
- Printing and mailing expenses for our newsletter
- Their time – we have no paid staff or payroll expense

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OWNED

- Restored 1840’s Farmhouse (Historical Society Farmhouse)
- Restored 1850’s One Room School House (Archer School)
- Restored 1850’s Barn (Ruth Barn)
- 1850’s Roadside Tavern (Drexler Tavern/Village Hall – shared with Village)