

# Long Grove History

LONG GROVE LIVING  
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## Twenty Five Years Ago

By Aaron Underwood · Long Grove Historical Society

It's not unusual to see newspaper columns written or devoted to "100 years ago today" or maybe "50 years ago today". In today's fast moving society, I thought it might be fun to take a shorter look back, say "25 years ago" and see what was going on. Here's a few observations from looking at what was going on in 1992:



LONG GROVE FESTIVAL, C. 1992

Long-time resident Jeri Monroe at one of the early festival booths.

The population was around 4800, about half of what we have today in Long Grove.

On the festival front, 1992 featured the familiar Strawberry Festival, but that's where the similarities end. Festivals no longer with us that 1992 saw two oldies but goodies. Art Fest, a juried art show put on by the Kildeer Countryside PTO was July 25th. Turn of the Century Days was September 12 and 13th, and featured and featured a village parade, replete with marching bands, horses, antique cars, and costumed marchers. Apple Fest wouldn't debut until 1993, and Chocolate Fest in 2000. Pictured is long time resident Jeri Monroe at one of these early festivals.



News headlines about Long Grove were dominated by annexation battles with Buffalo Grove and Kildeer. The unincorporated land that had always existed between us and our neighbors was being gobbled up for development. Kildeer's plan for a strip mall at the corner of 22 and Old McHenry was undercut on the day it was to be announced by a behind the scenes deal between their developer and Long Grove. The newspapers called it a coup. This kept the northwest corner of 22 and Old McHenry, which we know today as Long Grove Commons, in Long Grove and under Long Grove control. I think we always hate to see open space go, but it's a slippery slope to oppose it. The law favors development, so in border areas, if your Village won't develop the land, the courts will give it to the neighboring village and their residents end up controlling the development and receiving the benefit. Long Grove did not win all the battles – the intersection of 83 and Arlington Heights Road, what we now know as Shell/McDonalds, was lost to Buffalo Grove. Years later Long Grove would win what we know today as Menards, and the Sunset Foods Plaza.

From 1900 onward, it was common that the Daily Herald or other local paper would, once a week, have a Long Grove News column as a regular feature. It was typically written by a local Long Grove resident, I suspect as a volunteer job. I was surprised to see that this still existed in 1992. So regular, dedicated local news coverage was something we've lost in the last 25 years.

The park district took actions to create the first baseball field in Long Grove, what we know today as Lemon Hill Ballfield. Without a publicly funded park district, Long Grove residents were reliant on Buffalo Grove's park district for youth baseball. Buffalo Grove's ballfields were becoming over utilized and there was concern that Buffalo Grove would exclude Long Grove residents from their baseball programs due to lack of facilities. By providing a ballfield that could be used by Buffalo Grove's program, Long Grove resident's participation could continue.

There was no 911 service in Long Grove, and residents were advised to use direct phone numbers for emergency services instead. As a side note, simply because it's such a funny story, the service was originally known as "nine eleven", but was rechristened "nine one one", due to so many questions from people about where the eleven button was on their phone.

Long Grove finally got cable television. Yes, believe it or not, in 1992, your only choice in television viewing was the local Chicago channels you could get from your antenna. If your house was built before 1992, you may not know it, but there's probably an antenna in your attic, or at least a mounting bracket on your roof where one was.

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1992 LONG GROVE • A SNAPSHOT

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POPULATION

*~ 4,800*  
about half of today

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NEW THAT YEAR

*Lemon Hill Ballfield*  
first park-district baseball field in town

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EMERGENCY DIALING

*No 9-1-1 yet*  
direct phone numbers used instead

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FESTIVALS

*Strawberry, Art Fest, Turn of the Century Days*  
Apple Fest in 1993; Chocolate Fest in 2000

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LOCAL NEWS

*Weekly Long Grove column*  
in the Daily Herald

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TELEVISION

*Cable arrives*  
antennas in every attic before that