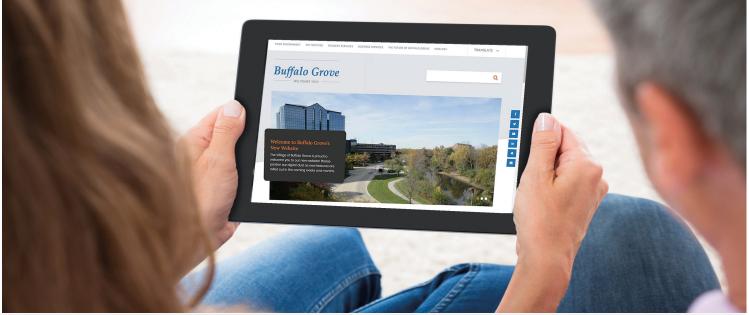
# BUFFALO GROVE VILLAGE NEWS



## **Village Launches New Website**

The Village of Buffalo Grove is proud to unveil the new and improved Village website. Over the past year, Village staff, elected officials, and community members provided input for the final website, which launched in early January.



#### **Inside This Issue:**

Village	e President Letter	
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- The Village Board set the following four key goals for the new website:
- Utilize a data-driven process when creating the site
- Implement a fresh, clean, and modern design
- Develop searchable content with the user in mind
- Create a website with a focus on service delivery

Through a partnership with West Interactive Services, the website team was able to accomplish these goals by building the new site from the ground up. The new homepage features a visually captivating series of featured stories, quick links, trending items, community events, and news items to immediately inform residents and businesses of what is happening in the community. All website pages were optimized with the modern user in mind and are able to be viewed on a traditional computer, tablet, or smartphone. The website's content was designed to help users access answers to their questions with a minimal number of clicks.

Over the coming months, additional functionality and features will be released. In the spring, the Village expects to see the first in a series short videos exploring topics ranging from the reason Buffalo Grove has overnight parking restrictions to the proper way to angle downspouts, or how to use a fire extinguisher – among other helpful topics. Other features to keep an eye out for are enhanced online permitting capabilities as well as updates for regional road construction projects. The Village welcomes our residents to the new and improved Buffalo Grove website at the same address **vbg.org**!

### VILLAGE OF Guffalo Grove

Village of Buffalo Grove 50 Raupp Boulevard Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 Phone: (847) 459-2500 Fax: (847) 459-0332 Email: info@vbg.org Website: vbg.org

Village Hall Hours Monday 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Office of the Village Manager (847) 459-2525 Office of the Village Clerk (847) 459-2525 **Finance and General Services** (847) 459-2500 **Building and Zoning** (847) 459-2530 **Health Department** (847) 459-2530 **Fire Department** (Non-Emergency) (847) 537-0995 Police Department (Non-Emergency) (847) 459-2560 **Public Works-Operations** (847) 459-2545 Public Works-Engineering (847) 459-2523 **Arboretum Golf Club** (847) 913-1112 Buffalo Grove Golf Club (847) 459-5520

BGTV Comcast Channel 6 AT&T U-Verse Channel 99 Village Board meetings air everyday at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### Village Trustees



jberman@vbg.org

David Weidenfeld

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Village Clerk

Janet Sirabian

jsirabian@vbg.org



Andrew Stein astein@vbg.org



Joanne Johnson jrjohnson@vbg.org



lottenheimer@vbg.org



Eric Smith esmith@vbg.org

### Upcoming Village Board Meetings

January 7, 2019	COW
January 22, 2019	Regular
February 4, 2019	COW
February 19, 2019	Regular
March 4, 2019	cow
March 18, 2019	Regular



Visit the Village of Buffalo Grove online at vbg.org

vbg.org

# **Letter From The Village President**



Beverly Sussman bsussman@vbg.org

It has been an exciting 2018 for the Village of Buffalo Grove, and I am looking forward to great things happening in the coming year.

The Village Board adopted the 2019 budget in December and a budget summary appears in this edition of the Village News. The Village Board and staff spent most of the past year discussing important themes within the budget, including capital spending, debt management, strategic planning and economic development.

The structure of the budget has been changed to better highlight priorities of the Village Board. The budget is designed to show what strategic actions are important, and how programs are managed to accomplish those actions. Performance measures have been added to the budget to ensure we continue to provide the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost to our residents and businesses.

Priorities for 2019 include: investments in innovation, community planning, infrastructure management and employee development. For details on all of these exciting initiatives and more, I encourage you to read section one of the budget, which can be viewed at **vbg.org/budget**.

I would also like to highlight some of the major accomplishments of the new budget. First and foremost, the budget is balanced. The Village's operating budget is \$44 million and accounts for all core services including public safety and public works. The Village will invest nearly 10-percent of the budget (\$7.8 million) to address capital needs for public safety, roadways, and the water utility system. The property tax rate will be lowered in 2019 to \$.993 per \$100 of equalized assessed value. The Village strives to maintain a diverse revenue base so that it is not overly reliant on any one source of revenue, and works to ensure that the cost of services are equitably distributed to those that benefit from them. The Village is responsible for approximately 10-percent of the entire levy, while the remainder of the property tax bill is levied by other taxing districts.

The Village will exceed 100-percent of its mandated pension contributions to mitigate future growth in the pension tax levies which are obligations that are mandated by the State of Illinois.

The Village reduced its total outstanding debt by 27-percent in 2018 and enters 2019 with \$13 million of bonded debt. By the end of next year, another \$1.4 million in debt will be paid down.

The Village continues its effort to reduce costs through innovative service delivery and sharing of costs. For example, the Village worked with three other communities to create the Suburban Liability Insurance Pool (SLIP), which will result in the reduction of premium costs for general liability insurance and allows for the member communities to retain profits in good years. This is an example of a strategy the Village has employed to improve service levels and leverage costs.

We are very proud of our budget document. It has been streamlined for easier reading and understanding of the financial needs of the Village, including how programs are structured and funded to deliver the highest quality services to our community.

Beverly Sussman



### **OUR TOWN**

INTERESTING THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT BUFFALO GROVE



### **LIBRARIES**

Buffalo Grove is served by two separate library districts, neither of which are located in the Village. The Indian Trails Library District is located in Wheeling at 355 Schoenbeck Road, and the Vernon Area Public Library is in Lincolnshire at 300 Olde Half Day Road.

### **OLDEST BUILDINGS**

Saint Mary's Church, which was completed in 1899 is the oldest building in the Village. Lou Malnati's restaraunt occupies the second oldest structure which was finished in 1900.

### Village Hosts Another Successful Civics Forum

Each year, the Village of Buffalo Grove sponsors a Civics Forum for high school juniors and seniors attending Buffalo Grove and Stevenson high schools. The goal of the Civics Forum is to help students learn more about municipal government and help them to understand the daily impact that local government has on the lives of residents. These students learn a great deal about state and federal government in school, but education about local government is much more limited. Since municipal government is more accessible than state and federal government, students are informed about the many ways they can volunteer and serve their community during the Civics Forum. It is worthy to mention that many of these students will be eligible to vote in the next municipal election on April 2, 2019.

On the afternoon of October 22, 2018, the high school students met at Buffalo Grove Village Hall for a brief orientation to review the basics of municipal government, after which they had an in-depth tour of the Village campus, including at the Police Department and the always popular Fire Department tour where they had the opportunity to explore a fire engine! The rest of the afternoon was spent preparing for a mock Village Board meeting with counterpart department heads and elected officials. After having dinner together, the Civics Forum Village Board meeting took place.

As part of the mock meeting, each Village department proposed a request to purchase a type of equipment for their



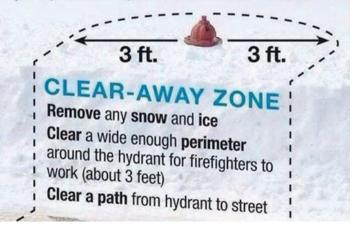
department. The 'student' department heads prepared their presentations to the 'student' Board, who ultimately voted to purchase a "Flo-Dynamics TYGER3" Nitrogen Generator – Tire Filling System for Public Works, to be used for the Village's fleet of vehicles. Reasons cited for the approval were that the equipment would provide the maximum benefit for the entire Buffalo Grove community.

The Village of Buffalo Grove would like to thank Village staff, elected officials, as well as the students and advisors from Buffalo Grove and Stevenson high schools – it was a great day of education and fun for everyone!

# Help Clear Fire Hydrants In The Community



If there's a **fire hydrant** near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter:



The Buffalo Grove Fire Department needs help from residents. During substantial snowfall, the Fire Department fights the same battle each year with the snow; as accumulations build, fire hydrants can get buried and become lost in the snow - and not accessible when they are needed the most.

Residents are asked to help maintain fire hydrants in front of their home or on the streets they live on. By keeping fire hydrants clear of snow during the winter, residents are helping the community to be safer and helping firefighters to more easily do their jobs in the case of a fire. Precious time is lost when they must look for a fire hydrant or have to shovel around one.

Firefighters need a 3-foot circle around the fire hydrant and a 3-foot wide path from the street to the hydrant in order to easily access them.

The Village of Buffalo Grove and the Fire Department thank residents in advance for their assistance.

# **Heat Homes Safely This Winter**

Home heating systems are working double time to keep residents warm this winter. The Buffalo Grove Fire Department would like to remind residents that the second leading cause of home fires is directly related to home heating.



One of the most preventable mistakes people make is to leave items too close to a heating source. Anything that can potentially burn should be kept at least 3 feet away from space heaters, fire places, wood stoves and radiators. This safe distance applies to pets and people as well. Residents are also reminded to turn space heaters off when leaving a room and prior to falling asleep.

Portable heaters should be tested by a reputable laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL). These heaters should also have an automatic shut-off switch so if they are tipped over, they will turn off on their own. Plug portable electric heaters directly into the wall outlet; don't use an extension cord or power strip. Kerosene heaters should always be refueled outside.

Older adults in the community have an increased home fire death rate; home heating is also the second leading cause of death for adults 65 years of age and older.

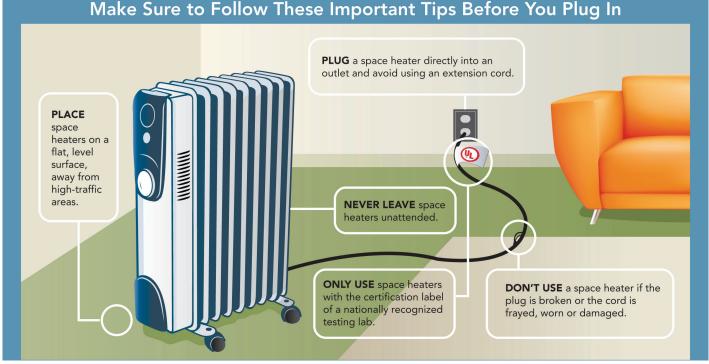
Caregivers and adult children should check space heaters throughout the season and make sure that bedding, throw blankets and clothing are kept at least 3 feet away from any heating sources. At the start of fall, also check that fixed heating equipment is inspected and professionally cleaned when necessary. Residents are also advised to talk with older adults to ensure that they understand their risks in relation to home heating.



Residents are reminded to plan ahead for emergencies, for themselves and older residents under their care by creating a home fire escape plan. Keep a telephone or cell phone, hearing aids, and eyeglasses next to

the bed. If an older person uses a cane or wheelchair, make sure that a specific individual will ensure they get out of the home in the case of an emergency.

For additional safety information and tips, please contact the Buffalo Grove Fire Department Office of Public Education at **847-777-6110**.



Graphic courtesy of esfi.org

# Prairie View Metra Station Area Plan Update

A draft plan is currently being developed to provide a long-term vision to guide future development efforts at the Prairie View Metra Station and surrounding areas, in the northern part of the Village. The draft plan is being developed by the Village's planning and design consultant, Ratio.



The goal of the plan is to integrate a variety of elements in the area including open space, transportation, housing and development, and will include incorporated and unincorporated properties. Once the draft plan is completed, it will be shared with the public for comments. Feedback from residents and other stakeholders will be incorporated into the final plan. Community outreach meetings will be held in the coming months.

Earlier this year, Ratio released an Existing Conditions Report which establishes a baseline understanding of the Prairie View Metra Station Area as it stands today. Please visit **prairieviewbg.com** to review the report, and to sign up to receive information about upcoming community outreach meetings and other project updates.

For additional information and questions, please contact Buffalo Grove's Principal Planner, Nicole Woods at **847-459-5539** or via email at **nwoods@vbg.org**.

# Police Department Welcomes New Chaplain

The Buffalo Grove Police Department is proud to announce Reverend James Andrews is the agency's new police chaplain. Reverend Andrews brings with him nearly a decade of experience in youth ministry, and a strong passion to support and assist department personnel and community members during times of crisis, conflict or grief.

Reverend Andrews is currently the pastor for HOPE Lutheran Church in Long Grove and completed his pastoral education at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where he received his Master of Divinity degree.

The Police Department Chaplain Program is comprised of professional clergy members who volunteer their services to Police Department employees, their families, and members of the community when they need support during challenging times. Requests for services from the Chaplain will be approved through the Police Department supervisor on duty, as situations arise.

While the Buffalo Grove Police Department has implemented the Chaplain Program for many years, the position was vacant prior to the recent appointment of Reverend Andrews as the new Chaplain.

The Buffalo Grove Police Department supports Reverend Andrews as he seeks out partnerships from other faith

organizations who are interested in becoming part of the program. Please contact the Buffalo GrovePolice Department at **847-459-2560** for more information.



**Reverend Andrews** 

## **Enivironmental Action Team Celebrates 10th Anniversary**

The Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Team (BG EAT) is celebrating 10 years and has been actively working to improve the local environment through a wide range of events and activities! Please learn more about them below.

**Healthy Habitats:** Sponsors the annual *Plant the Park* event to establish native trees and plants to restore prairies, woods and wetlands in our parks, and exhibits and plans a series of events at the Raupp Historical Museum to honor the Village's natural heritage and surviving prairie remnants.

**Green Fair:** Runs the Green Fair every June for the last six years, which features educational booths and opportunities to recycle a wide variety of household items. More than 300 bicycles have been donated to *Working Bikes Cooperative* as part of this event.

**Recycling:** Brought recycling to Buffalo Grove Days and organized the first electronics recycling event in 2009. Now, BG EAT staffs the annual recycling event in partnership with the Village and SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Cook County).

**Energy Use:** Promotes alternative energy and worked with the Village to implement the electrical aggregation program, which purchased 100-percent green energy for Village residents for three years.

**Transportation:** Members serve on the Village's Bicycle Commission.

**Clean Water:** Founded the Buffalo Creek Clean Water Partnership and conducts annual water quality assessments in Buffalo Creek.

**Clean Roadways and Parks:** Formed the Adopt-a-Highway team and organizes annual stream cleanups along Farrington Ditch.

**Monarch Butterflies:** Enrolled Buffalo Grove in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and passes out milkweed seeds at the Buffalo Grove Farmers Market and other local events.

Residents are asked to provide feedback and comments on other actions that can be taken to improve the local environment in Buffalo Grove residents are encouraged to present ideas to BG EAT. For more information, please visit **bgeat.org**.

## **Buffalo Grove Employee Spotlight:** Fay Rubin Utility Billing Clerk



Fay Rubin was born in Munich, Germany and came to the United States when she was just four years old. She grew up in Chicago, and ultimately graduated from Roosevelt University with a bachelor's degree in history. From there, she accepted a position with the U.S. government and worked in the Department of Defense for the U.S. Army. Fay was assigned to a base in what was then, West Berlin, Germany where she worked for two years as a recreation specialist with more than 7,000 troops stationed in West Berlin, Darmstadt, and Grafenwoehr Germany. She and her team led tours through 'Checkpoint Charlie', where people could gain legal access between West Berlin and East Berlin. She eventually returned to Chicago to marry her college sweetheart and they had two children. She then worked as a paralegal for a number of years at Chicago law firms before moving to Buffalo Grove in 1986.

Fay began working for the Village of Buffalo Grove in 1991 as a part-time assistant in the Village's Planning Department. She started working in the Finance Department six years later and has served as a utility billing clerk since that time. Fay is responsible for the

billing of more than 12,000 water meters in the Village and provides customer service to all of the associated accounts; she is the point person for all utility billing, payments and inquiries. Most of her time is spent serving the residents and businesses of Buffalo Grove in person, or on the phone, and she takes great pride in her job. When it comes to customer service, she says, "*If you can make people laugh, half the battle is over.*" Fay is an integral member of the Finance Department team!

# **2019 Village Of Buffalo Grove Annual Budget Summary**

Each year, the Village is required to adopt a budget. In December 2018, the Village Board adopted the 2019 Annual Budget of \$78,044,191 effective for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2019.

The budget cycle encompasses a yearlong series of public discussions about capital improvements, economic development, debt management, financial forecasting and strategic planning. The annual budget sets forth a financial plan to meet the goals and objectives in the second year of the FY 2018-2023 Strategic Plan.

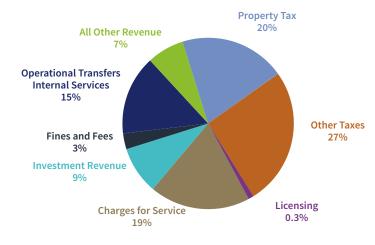
The budget is structured around the programs and services that are either provided to the community directly, or help to internally support those programs. A program-based budget is intended to demonstrate the link between Village goals and priorities and resource allocation. A series of performance metrics for each program then validates whether service targets are met. In order to capture all activity of the Village, the budget incorporates 15 separate funds to track program revenues and expenditures. Many of those funds are dedicated to specific functions (e.g. Metra Parking Lot Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Refuse Funds).

The FY 2019 Annual Budget is balanced, meaning that its expenditures do not exceed the amount of revenue estimated to be received during the year.

#### Revenue

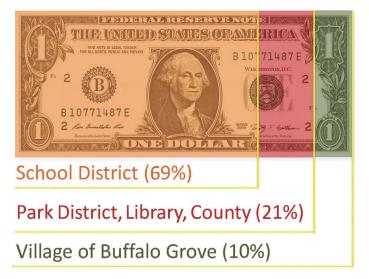
The Village maintains a diverse revenue base to support its services. The total revenue budget for FY 2019 is \$82.5 million which is a 3.2 percent increase from 2018.

The chart below shows the distribution of revenue collection in the FY 2019 budget.

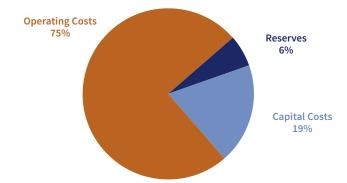


Property taxes fund 20-percent of the annual budget. Over half of the levy supports public safety (police and fire) operations. The remainder of the property taxes collected is allocated to service debt and employer pension contributions. The Village's portion of the property tax rate for 2019 will be \$.993 per \$100 of assessed value.

The Village's portion represents approximately 10-percent of the entire property tax bill. The graph below depicts how property taxes are allocated.



State shared and local taxes account for almost 30-percent of all revenues. Direct charges for service, including water utility billing, account for 22-percent of all collections. The water rate increased by 4-percent for FY 2019 and is \$6.39 per 1,000 gallons metered. A breakdown of the water rate is shown below.



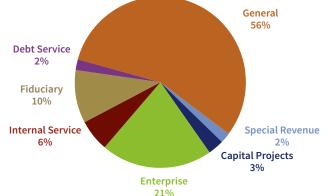
Other revenues include those generated from the Metra facilities, franchise fees, solid waste fees, grants, pension withholding, and miscellaneous line items. Total revenue from these sources is \$5.2 million or 7-percent of the 2018 budget.

# 2019 Village Of Buffalo Grove Annual Budget Summary

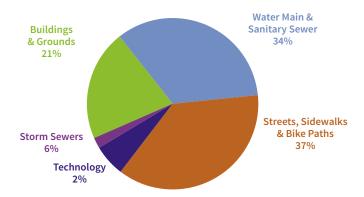
#### **Expenditures**

The total budget for all Village expenditures in 2018 is \$78 million and is a 3.5-percent increase over the 2018 Annual Budget. Over half of the budget (57-percent) supports the activities of the General (operating) Fund. The General Fund accounts for the majority of the core services provided to the community, including police and fire service, street maintenance and snowplowing, forestry, engineering, code enforcement, and general administration. Of the General Fund expenditures, more than 70-percent of the budget supports the employees who provide the above listed services.

The chart below shows the distribution of expenditure by fund.



Ten-percent of the budget (\$7.8 million) is allocated to capital improvements and the purchase of capital equipment. The following chart shows where resources for capital projects are spent.



The entire document can be viewed at **vbg.org/budget**. Reviewing Sections 1 and 4 of the budget provides the reader with a high-level summary of budget strategies. The Village also publishes a Popular Annual Financial Report to supplement both the budget and annual audit which can be found here: **vbg.org/DocumentCenter/View/3578/PAFR-Final**.

#### **BUDGET SUMMARY**

Total Budget: \$78 million Operating Budget: \$44.5 million Total Capital Budget: \$7.8 million

### Operating Budget Expenditures

Public Safety: 67% Public Works: 19% Finance & Administration: 9% Community Development: 5%

#### **Capital Spending**

Streets & Sidewalks: \$2.7 million Water/Sewer System: \$2.4 million Tech. & Equipment: \$3.3 million Facilities: \$.4 million

#### **Total Debt**

\$13,050,000 \$1.2 million will be retired in 2019 80% of all debt was issued for road improvements

#### **Financial Distinctions**

Distinguished Budget Award Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

#### **Bond Ratings**

Standard & Poors AAA Moody's Aa1





### Hours

Monday - Friday Saturday Sunday

**Fees** (Per <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour) Weekdays, before 6 pm Weekdays, after 6 pm Weekends 5-Hour Pass Season Membership Pass 9 am - 10 pm 7 am - 10 pm 7 am - 8 pm

\$11 \$12

\$12 \$95 \$600



> Private & Group Lessons

> Gift Certificates

Join us for Customer Appreciation Day February 2 1 am - 2 pm

801 McHenry Road (1/2 Mile West of Buffalo Grove Road) 847.353.7575





### **Registration is now open!**

From 2 year olds to 8th graders, we have the right camp for you.

**Swimming** Arts & Crafts Games **Fun Field Trips** 

**Friendship Socialization Healthy Activity** Life Long Memories

Before and after camp care options are available. For more information, call 847.850.2100. bgparks.org





The Buffalo Grove Park District's charitable foundation.



#### Family Movie Night

Grab your friends and family, and join us for a special screening of Despicable Me! Dress up as your favorite Minion, and join us for a night of laughs and family fun. Bring your chairs and blankets to lounge in the multipurpose room, and enjoy the film (seating is not provided). There will be candy and drinks available for purchase. Doors will open at 6:15 pm; the movie will begin at 7 pm. There is limited space, so register today!

Code	Day	Date		
331027-01	Fri	Mar 8		
Location: Community Arts Center				



te	Time	Fee
ır 8	7 - 9 pm	\$2

### Chili Cook Off

Do your family and friends say that you have the best chili around? If so, this is the perfect event to put your skills to the test. Prizes will be awarded for people's choice and judge's choice. Participants must bring 1 gallon of chili, serving utensils, and a crock pot to keep your chili warm. Electricity, tables, chairs, tasting cups and spoons will be provided. This event will be open to the public. Pre-registration is required for cooks, and highly recommended to guests. Guest registration will be accepted on the day of the event, as long as the maximum has not been reached. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Code	Category	Day	Date	Time	Fee
311009-01	Guest	Sat	Feb 16	12 - 2 pm	\$5
311009-02	Cook	Sat	Feb 16	12 - 2 pm	Free
Location: Co	mmunity Arts	Center			







Village of Buffalo Grove 50 Raupp Boulevard Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 PSRTD SRD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** PERMIT #26 BUFFALO GROVE, IL

### WS-CARRIER ROUTE PRE-SORT LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER BUFFALO GROVE, IL 60089

# 2019 Municipal Election

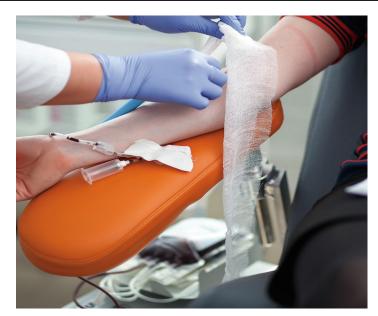
The next municipal election will be held on April 2, 2019. The offices open for election for the Village of Buffalo Grove include the Village President, Village Clerk and three Village Trustee positions.



Buffalo Grove residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the various methods of communication that inform voters of the credentials of candidates. Municipal government officials are the individuals who have the most direct effect on the daily lives of residents; for

example, Village elected officials determine how property tax dollars are spent, and help to guide the planning and vision for the Village's future.

Despite the important role that local elected officials play, voter turnout for municipal elections is historically very low. Please remember that the individuals who are running for local office have the important task of continuing to make the Buffalo Grove community a great place to live. Let's work to change the trend of low turnout in municipal elections and increase participation among all of our residents.



## Give the Gift of Life

The Buffalo Grove Community Blood Drive will be held Saturday March 2, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Alcott Center, 530 Bernard Drive in Buffalo Grove.

Residents can make an appointment by calling **877-543-3768.** While appointments are recommended, walk-ins are also welcome. Please come prepared for the donation by eating well and staying hydrated. Please also bring an ID.

Janet Sirabian - Village Clerk

### Did You Know? The Snowiest City On Earth Is In Japan.



Aomori City in northern Japan receives more snowfall than any major city on the planet. Each year citizens are pummeled with 312 inches, or about 26 feet, of snow on average.

### **The Armistice Day Blizzard**

On November 11, 1940, a blizzard overtook Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. Up to 27 inches of snow fell throughout the three states.