



# BG BRIEF

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY-MARCH 2024

# Letter from the Village President

Happy New Year, BG! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Now, it's time to get ready for all that 2024 has in store for us.

With the recent adoption of the Village's 2024 budget, I'm delighted to share that we are once again keeping the Village's portion of your property tax levy flat—as we have since 2019!

The Village's annual budget isn't just about numbers; it's about shaping a Buffalo Grove that thrives and remains the community we all cherish.

Our focus is clear: striking the perfect balance between fiscal responsibility and delivering you top-notch services. Financially, we're on solid ground, and your tax dollars are being used wisely.

We're staying true to our roots with a commitment to community reinvestment. Upgrading essential infrastructure, developing a new comprehensive plan and implementing our strategic plan and community brand show our dedication to keeping Buffalo Grove a place you're proud to call home.

Key projects like a new Public Works facility and infrastructure improvements on Bernard Drive are in the pipeline. Additionally, work is underway to bring vibrant developments to BG. Imagine a bustling Tesla dealership, a new outdoor amphitheater at Mike Rylko Park promising imaginative and innovative programs and a true central gathering space for the community at the Clove—these are investments designed to make our community even more dynamic.

Our budget is a collaborative effort between your Village Board and our dedicated staff to address your needs and aspirations. It's smart, with heart.

As we step into 2024, your input remains crucial. Please stay engaged! Let's make 2024 a year of growth, prosperity and continued community pride.

Warm regards,

*Eric Smith*

Eric Smith, Village President



**Eric Smith**  
ESmith@vbg.org

## Village Trustees



**Andrew Stein**  
AStein@vbg.org



**Lester Ottenheimer**  
LOttenheimer@vbg.org



**David Weidenfeld**  
DWeidenfeld@vbg.org



**Joanne Johnson**  
JRJohnson@vbg.org



**Frank Cesario**  
FJCesario@vbg.org



**Denice Bocek**  
dcbocek@vbg.org

## Village Clerk



**Janet Sirabian**  
JSirabian@vbg.org

# What's HAPPENING

## Moving BG Forward initiatives envision community's future



We have set out to uncover BG's identity, envision the future and where we want to go as community and make a plan to get there. To do so, we launched three separate but complimentary *Moving BG Forward* initiatives: a new strategic plan, a new comprehensive plan and a community branding initiative.

In December, the Village Board adopted the new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan with a vision of Buffalo Grove being 1) a safe, beautiful and vibrant community; 2) a community with outstanding public schools, great neighborhoods, ample leisure experiences and a strong and diverse local economy; and 3) an inclusive and welcoming community.

The community branding initiative is wrapping up and rollout will begin soon. The comprehensive plan project is also progressing, and updates will be shared this spring as the visioning process unfolds. Learn more about the *Moving BG Forward* initiatives at [vbg.org/forward](https://vbg.org/forward).

## Phase II of the Infrastructure Modernization Program kicks off

In BG we do big things, like the Infrastructure Modernization Program (IMP). Phase I of the IMP, from 2020-2023, made a huge impact investing \$142.3 million into infrastructure projects across town. Last year's mild construction year focused on maintenance projects, but our Public Works engineering team was busy planning for Phase II of the IMP. Over the next four years, another approximately \$115 million in projects are planned to address growing stormwater needs and to replace aging water and street infrastructure. Funding strategies for each project seek to maximize grant opportunities, keep the Village's tax levy flat and limit water and sewer fee increases. This year you can expect to see street improvement work along Bernard Drive and utility and street improvements in an area on and around White Pine Drive. Learn more at [vbg.org/imp](https://vbg.org/imp).



# Need-to-know *INFO*

## Be in the know with how we manage snow

No snow event is the same. Public Works uses data to customize operations plans for every event. This ensures our response considers dozens of variables, is mindful of the environment and makes the most of our resources. Learn about how we get the job done, what streets we are responsible for and all other things snow and ice program at [vbg.org/snow](http://vbg.org/snow).



## Donate coats and winter wear for local veterans

It's a great time to dig through your closets and see what items you no longer need. The Police Department is helping collect new and gently used coats and other cold weather gear for the Midwest Veterans Closet. You can drop off any of these items to the Police Department lobby now through the end of February.

## Hone your golf game this winter

Is upping your golf game part of your New Year's resolutions? Or maybe you just want to keep up some routine practice. WJ Golf has indoor winter golf memberships available. Located inside the Arboretum Golf Club at 401 W. Half Day Road, WJ Golf features state-of-the-art driving range simulators with hundreds of virtual courses. Learn more at [wj.golf](http://wj.golf).



## Christmas tree collection

Residents can place two Christmas trees at the curb for free collection by WM on your regular waste pickup day during the first two weeks of January. Trees must be free of all decorations and stands, and be kept clear of snow and ice. Trees up to six feet in length can be placed between the curb and the sidewalk. Trees over six feet should be cut in two for pickup.

## Take note of holiday schedules

Village Hall will be closed on the following upcoming Mondays:

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 15 - Martin Luther King (MLK) Day
- February 19 - Presidents Day.

Waste Management will operate on a holiday schedules the first week of January with pickups delayed by one day. As for MLK Day and Presidents Day, WM operates on a normal schedule and you should leave bins out on your regular collection day.



**Stay informed! Receive weekly news directly in your email inbox every Thursday by subscribing to e-news! Sign up at [vbg.org/enewssignup](http://vbg.org/enewssignup).**



# Explore EVENTS in BG



Find more  
community events:  
[vbg.org/calendar](http://vbg.org/calendar)

Hosting an event open to  
the public?  
Submit information for  
inclusion on the community  
events calendar:  
[vbg.org/submitevent](http://vbg.org/submitevent)



## JANUARY

- 1 Village Hall closed – New Year’s Day
- 11 Illinois Libraries present Speculating our AI Future  
with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu and Martha Wells  
@ Zoom - register via Vernon Area or Indian Trails Library\*
- 13 Family Concert: Istvan & His Imaginary Band  
@ Vernon Area Library
- 15 Village Hall closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20 Super Saturday: Red – A Crayon’s ASL Story  
@ Indian Trails Library
- 25 Memory Café @ Alcott Center\*

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Lunar New Year Celebration @ Community Arts Center\*
- 3 Preschool Open House @ Alcott Center
- 3 Friends of the Parks Trivia Night @ Community Arts Center\*
- 3 Lunar New Year Dance Celebration @ Vernon Area Library\*
- 10 Classical Violin Performance @ Indian Trails Library\*
- 15 Sledding hill closes for season @ Willow Stream Park
- 15 - 18 Number the Stars Performance @ Community Arts Center
- 17 Super Saturday: North Central O Gaugers Model Train Run  
@ Indian Trails Library
- 17 Family Concert: Nanny Nikki @ Vernon Area Library\*
- 19 Village Hall closed - Presidents Day
- 20 Illinois Libraries present #1 New York Times bestselling author Julia Quinn  
@ Vernon Area Library\*
- 22 Memory Café @ Alcott Center\*
- 23 Superhero and princess party @ Community Arts Center \*
- 25 One Book, One Community: Author event with Brendan Slocumb,  
The Violin Conspiracy @ Stevenson High School Auditorium\*

## MARCH

- 2 Community Blood Drive @ Alcott Center
- 9 Catch the Twain: The Musical  
@ Indian Trails Library\*
- 16 Super Saturday: Magic of Gary Kantor  
@ Indian Trails Public Library
- 18 Public Safety Breakfast Club  
@ Alcott Center



\*Registration or ticket is required via hosting organization.



## **VILLAGE HALL**

Monday:

8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

50 Raupp Boulevard  
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089

847-459-2500

[info@vbg.org](mailto:info@vbg.org)

[vbg.org](http://vbg.org)

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

(Non-Emergency)

847- 537-0995

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

(Non-Emergency)

847- 459-2560

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

847-459-2545

