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Arboretum Club Transforming into a Recreation Destination

The former banquet facility at the Arboretum Club, 410 Half Day Road, is undergoing a complete transformation to provide indoor golf, dining and new entertainment options by this spring! WJ Golf, a Buffalo Grove business located at 1380 Busch Parkway, is the new tenant and will open its second location there. The business is currently renovating the building and installing eight golf simulators to offer private indoor golf lessons, in addition to a newly refurbished full-service dining and entertainment area. These activities and amenities will complement the Arboretum Club's 18-hole outdoor golf course, which will also see improvements to its cart paths, greens and bunkers. The entire project will create an exciting and rejuvenated recreation destination for the greater region.

This is the first project of its kind in the Chicagoland area to unite both

virtual and traditional golf experiences with excellent dining options, all

continued on page 7





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Village Clerk



Janet Sirabian
JSirabian@vbg.org

Letter From the Village President

I hope you and your loved ones had a safe and happy holiday season. The new year brings with it the opportunity for new beginnings. I know it has been a challenging two years for everyone. I continue to ask all our residents to take care of one another through these unprecedented times. Please stay safe by following guidelines set forth by health agencies as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Buffalo Grove continues to provide services through the pandemic, we have found ourselves in a strong position due to our proactive approach. The Village Board and staff team have taken deliberate actions to carefully monitor our community's needs so that we continue to provide exceptional services to our residents and businesses. At the same time, we are looking ahead as there are many new projects and developments coming to Buffalo Grove in 2022.

This includes WJ Golf, the new tenant at the Arboretum Club. The business is renovating the building to offer indoor year-round golf simulators and private lessons, in addition to a newly refurbished and managed full-service dining and entertainment area. This is a first-of-its-kind project in the Chicagoland area and I'm excited to see our golf operations expand to provide both virtual and traditional experiences.

In addition, Kensington Development Partners is proposing to redevelop the 20-acre Town

Center property into a new and modern central entertainment and residential district. The plan proposes two phases: the first phase looks to redevelop the southern and central sections of the site, while the second includes redevelopment of the northern part. Kensington Development Partners will be bringing their plans to the Village early this year for review, and we are hoping for construction to begin this summer.

This year marks the third of our five-year Infrastructure Moderation Program to address the community's water and sanitary sewer system infrastructure. Totalling \$175 million, this program is the most extensive infrastructure replacement initiative in the Village's history. Two of the most impactful projects scheduled for 2022 are the Bernard Water Main Contract 1 Project and the 2022 Forest & Glendale Improvement Project. Both projects will be getting underway this spring. I am excited to see this community grow and change in 2022.

Beverly Sussman

Beverly Sussman
Village President



Beverly Sussman
BSussman@vbg.org

Election Update

Election season is approaching, and there are important changes to the election calendar this year. Previously, the Illinois Gubernatorial Primary Election was held in late February or early March, but the date has changed and it now will be held Tuesday, June 28. The last day for in-person registration for this election will be Tuesday, May 31. Early voting will begin June 13. The Gubernatorial Election will take place on Tuesday, November 8 and include not only the election of the Illinois Governor, but all State offices.

Municipal (Village) elections are held in odd years, so the next one for Village Board and Trustees, the Buffalo Grove Park District, the Vernon Area

Public Library, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling and Vernon Townships will all take place in the spring of 2023.

I urge you to make sure you're registered to vote in these elections. You can register at Village Hall on Mondays from 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., and Tuesdays through Fridays between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Your vote does make a difference. If we can help you in any way, please call us at **847-459-2500**.

Janet Sirabian, Village Clerk



Village Manager's Message

Village officials are closely monitoring information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health, and are taking a variety of steps to limit the spread and exposure of the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

All Village facilities, except for the Police Department at 46 Raupp Boulevard, were closed to the public effective Monday, January 3, until further notice. All public safety operations will continue, including services provided by the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works Department. All public meetings for the month of January will be held electronically.

Village Hall services, including the issuance of building permits and plan reviews, scheduling for inspections, bill payments, transfer stamps and more, are still available. These services can

be accessed at the Village Hall walk-up window, over the phone, or online. Village services available online or remotely include:

- Payments of water/sewer bills can be completed online at **vbv.org** by clicking on 'How Do I', mailed in, or deposited in the drop box located behind Village Hall at 50 Raupp Boulevard.
- License renewals (except for liquor licenses) can be completed online at **vbv.org** by clicking on 'How Do I'.
- Residents and contractors can apply, track and request inspections for same-day permits online at **vbv.org/permits**.
- Filing of non-emergency police reports, for incidents that occur within Buffalo Grove Village limits that have no known suspects can be made online at **vbv.org/onlinePDservices**.



Dane Bragg
847-459-2500
DBragg@vbv.org

The public is strongly encouraged to take all precautions advised by the CDC to slow the expected spread of COVID-19 in our community. The CDC recommends continuing to wear face masks while in public and testing for the virus when experiencing symptoms, or before gathering with individuals outside of your immediate household. Vaccines and boosters are also recommended; although vaccinated individuals can still get the virus, vaccines are believed to offer protection against severe illness and death. To schedule a vaccine or booster appointment, visit **vaccines.gov**.

WHO PLOWS WHAT?

NOT ALL ROADS IN BUFFALO GROVE ARE MAINTAINED BY THE VILLAGE

Depending on the roadway, different agencies are responsible for roadwork, potholes, flooding, incidents and snow plowing.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)

Dundee Road
McHenry Road
Milwaukee Avenue
Half Day Road
800-452-4368

LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (LCDOT)

Buffalo Grove Road
Deerfield Parkway
Arlington Heights Road
Aptakisic Road
847-377-7400

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS (CCDTH)

Buffalo Grove Road
Arlington Heights Road
Lake Cook Road
Weiland Road (South
of Lake Cook Road)
847-827-1164

VILLAGE OF BUFFALO GROVE

All Other Village Roads
847-459-2545

VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Old Arlington
Heights Road
847-368-5800

If you have a question or concern, please reach out to the appropriate agency!



2022

Top 3 Board Priorities

Maintain Fiscal Health

Promote Economic Development

Invest in Infrastructure

0.0% increase
PROPERTY TAX LEVY

\$48.9 M for Operations

\$20.3 M Capital Program

\$1.8 M increase
OPERATING BUDGET

0.0 %
Tax Levy After Abatements

\$4.54 Lake County Sewer

\$7.65 Water/ Sewer

2022 Annual Budget Summary

In December of 2021, the Village Board adopted the 2022 Annual Budget. This is the fifth year the Village has used a program-based budget format. This format is more concise, uses a reader-oriented layout, and provides a clear link between the Village's priorities and how money is spent.

The Village's budget strategy continues to focus on long-term economic development, infrastructure improvement, and financial stability. The 2022 budget restores a number of key positions eliminated in 2021 due to the economic downturn. Capital projects totaling \$18.1 million are also planned through the Infrastructure Modernization Program. The budget will also maintain the property tax levy at the same level for the third consecutive year.

Revenues

The total revenue budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$106,102,761. Property taxes fund 15-percent of the annual budget; more than half of which supports public safety (police and fire operations). The remainder of property taxes collected are allocated to debt service and employer pension contributions. The Village's portion represents 10-percent of the entire property tax bill.



71.8% School Districts

18.4% Park, Forest Preserve, County Districts

9.8% Village of Buffalo Grove

Expense

The total budget for all Village expenditures is \$118,384,488. As a service organization, more than 65-percent of the Village's operating budget is committed to personnel

wages, benefits, and retirement programs. For 2022, there are 209 full-time and 37 part-time positions authorized. It is important to note that the Village's total workforce in 2022 is lower than pre-pandemic levels by 4.5 full-time equivalent positions.

Capital Spending

The 2022 budget includes \$18.1 million in capital projects which are sourced

FINANCE & LIABILITIES

2022

ADEQUATE RESERVES

The Village will have \$20,540,527 in unassigned fund balance available in the General Fund by year-end 2021.



DEBT REDUCTION

The Village will retire the total bond principal and interest of \$2,550,400 in 2022.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Village holds a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's on all current bonded general obligation debt.

AAA

PUBLIC SAFETY PENSION FUNDING

77%
70%

The Fire Pension Fund has a funded ratio of 76.58 percent, while the Police Pension Fund has a funded ratio of 69.60%. State statute mandates that pensions be funded at 100% by 2040.

THE VILLAGE'S FINANCIAL POLICY REQUIRES A 25% FUND BALANCE FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS.

Read more at <http://www.vbg.org/budget>



from a variety of revenues, including water/sewer user fees, State and local motor fuel taxes, bond proceeds and general funds.

Street, sewer and water main projects comprise 90-percent of capital expenditures for the coming year.

The entire 2022 budget document can be viewed at vbg.org/budget. Sections one and four of the budget provide a high-level summary of budget strategies. The Village also publishes a Popular Annual Financial Report to supplement both the budget and annual financial audit and can be viewed on the above web page after clicking 'Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports.'

WHO'S LISTENING?



Chris Black
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
AND GENERAL SERVICES

Phone: 847-459-2500

Email: BGFinance@vbg.org

Infrastructure Modernization Program Update

After a busy construction year in 2021, Public Works is pushing ahead with our Infrastructure Modernization Program (IMP) work for 2022! Check out the IMP website at vbg.org/infrastructure-modernization or see the map to learn more about scheduled projects, including:

- Utility upgrades to the Forest/ Glendale/Bernard area
- Street improvements to the Forest/ Glendale area
- Cambridge on the Lakes Lift Station Reconstruction
- Brandywyn/Thompson Stage 3 (final) Roadway Reconstruction

WHO'S LISTENING?



Kyle Johnson
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS

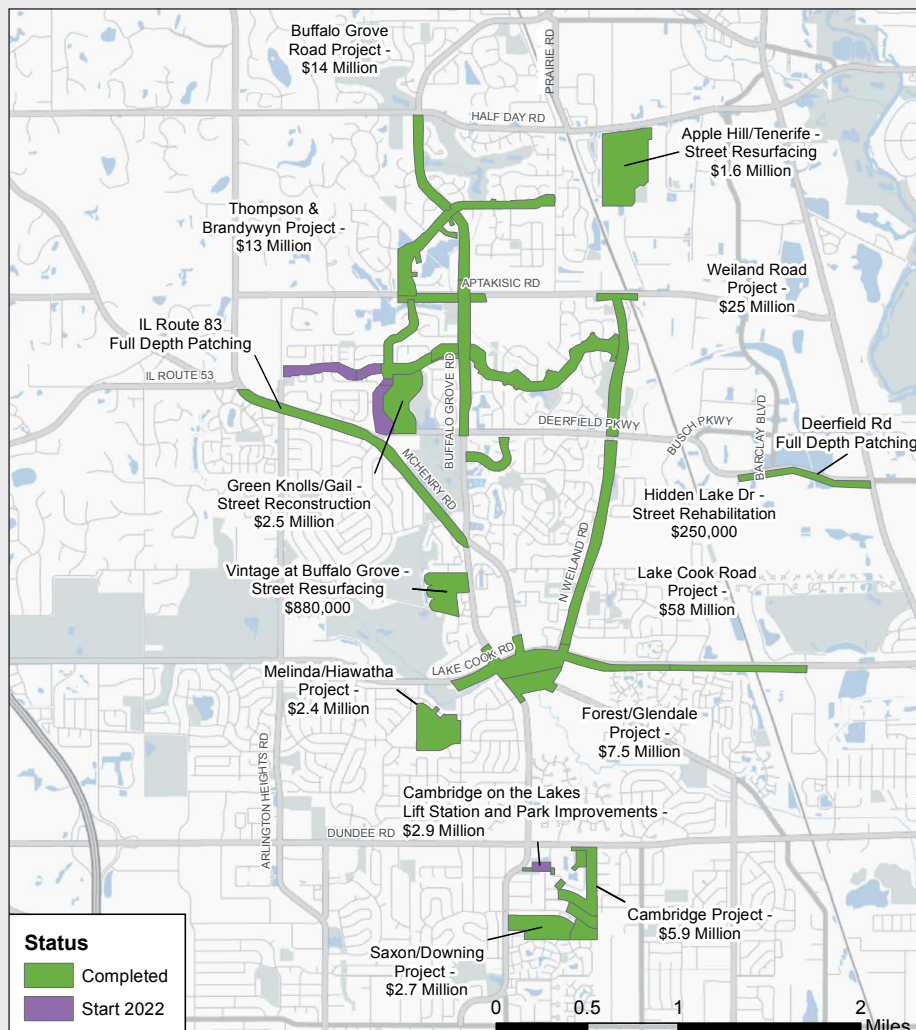
Phone: 847-459-2523

Email: kjohnson@vbg.org



Infrastructure Modernization Program Progress Update

GIS Consortium



Stormwater Basins

If you see a low area or pond with exposed pipes, it's most likely a stormwater basin. These basins can be useful to the community in several ways; they can be used as athletic or park fields, function as recreational ponds, and even provide habitats for various animals. However, the primary function of a stormwater basin is to collect and store water that falls during storms so that it can be released downstream at a controlled rate. This helps keep downstream neighbors from being flooded out, particularly during heavy rains.

Similar to a home, stormwater basins require periodic maintenance to maximize the benefits they provide. The Public Works Department maintains approximately 130 acres of basins, naturalized areas and wetlands with



a primary purpose of stormwater mitigation. The Forestry Division is transforming these areas with native plantings to enhance the surrounding community and curtail landscaping costs.

Does the Village maintain all basins within Buffalo Grove? Not quite. Many basins installed as part of a larger commercial or housing development remain the property and maintenance responsibility of private companies and/or homeowner associations. If you live or work near a stormwater basin, it should be inspected at least annually to

schedule any needed maintenance. Not only is this a best management practice, but it ensures facilities are ready and functional when heavy rains arrive.

For any questions regarding the management of a local stormwater basin, give Public Works a call at **847-459-2545** - they are happy to help!

WHO'S LISTENING?



Jeff Rogers

SEWER & DRAINAGE MANAGER

Phone: 847-459-2545

Email: BgPubWks@vbg.org



Employee Spotlight: Christine Berman, Deputy Finance Director

Christine (Chris) Berman recently joined the Village's Finance Department as the new

Deputy Finance Director. She brings more than 30 years of government finance experience to the role, having previously worked for the Village of Lombard, the City of Des Plaines, the Village of Glenview, and the Park Ridge and Winnetka park districts. Chris is

a member of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from Carroll College (now Carroll University), as well as a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University.

Chris grew up on a dairy farm in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin, and was the youngest

of five children. She was always active in sports, and went on to play basketball in college.

When she's not at work, Chris enjoys reading, watching sports, vacationing in Mexico and riding her new CanAm Spyder three-wheel motorcycle. She resides in Wheeling with her husband and dog, and also has a lake property in Lake Carroll, Illinois, where she loves to boat, ride jet skis and ATVs, and host family and friends.

Drive Safely Near Plows

We all know how difficult it is to drive in winter weather. Public Works Snowfighters work tirelessly to make Village roads passable and safe. Please make their jobs easier – and your drive safer – by following these tips:

Keep your distance. Maintain a distance of 50-200 feet from plow

trucks. This ensures the driver can see you and allows you more time to react to unusual snow-clearing maneuvers.

Don't pass the plow. Oncoming cars cannot see you behind the plow, and the road conditions in front are likely unsafe (that's why the plows are out).

Prevent Vehicle Damage. Remaining a minimum of 50 feet behind the plow not only helps to prevent visibility issues, but also vehicle damage caused by material spreading, roadway debris and snow kicked up by the plow.

Be patient. The trucks may drive slowly, but the road in front of them is slick and dangerous. Drive with patience as they clear a safe path, and allow ample time to reach your destination.



WHO'S LISTENING?



Bryan Beitzel

MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDANT

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Email: BBeitzel@vbg.org

WJ Golf

continued from page 1

in one complex. The new venue will accommodate every type of golfer – from novices to skilled solo pros. Once completed, the casual atmosphere will offer year-round entertainment options.

The property and building improvements represent an investment of approximately \$1.4 million over the next few years. To learn more about WJ Golf, visit their website at wjssports.net/.





Support our local economy!

Please consider supporting our Buffalo Grove businesses!

BG Delivers is Buffalo Grove's online directory of restaurants and businesses! Check it out for local eats and treats, as well as great shopping and services!

Choose from the following categories:

- Automotive
- Dining/Restaurants
- Health/Beauty
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Services



Winter Safety Dos and Don'ts

The winter season creates some additional hazards due to extreme temperatures, snow and ice that can make driving unsafe - not to mention the challenge of properly restraining children in bulky winter gear. Please review the following Dos and Don'ts provided by the Police Department and take precautions to have a safe winter.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Amy Cholewa
COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT

Phone: 847-459-2560
Email: ACholewa@vbg.org

Do

- Clean snow off vehicle windows, hoods and lamps before driving.
- Increase your following distance by two to three times.
- Check your tires for proper tread and pressure.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Check the weather prior to departure.
- Throw an extra blanket or two in the trunk.
- Keep car seat straps snug against children.
- Check on neighbors and loved ones in extreme weather.
- Wear reflective clothing if out exercising at night.
- Place mail and deliveries on hold while you're away.
- Fill out a Vacation Watch request if leaving town. Visit vbg.org and search 'Vacation Request'.

Don't

- Clear only minimal amounts of snow off your vehicle before driving.
- Slam on the brakes if your car is sliding; instead gently decelerate.
- Drive on spare tires for longer than needed.
- Allow the gas tank to dwindle – condensation can build in fuel lines!
- Assume all-wheel or 4-wheel drive allows you to drive and brake faster.
- Get out of your vehicle for extended periods of time if involved in a crash.
- Put a child in a car seat when they are wearing a puffy or bulky coat.
- Forget to check in on elderly or home-bound neighbors.
- Walk in the roadway if at all possible.
- Advertise on social media when you are not home for an extended time.
- Let mail or packages pile up on your porch.

Fire Department Releases 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

From July through September 2021, the Fire Department worked to complete a thorough, community-driven strategic planning process that sought to identify a clear vision for the Department. The aim was also to develop the necessary goals and initiatives needed to make that vision become a reality. In advance of the Department's goal and vision forecasting, an electronic community survey was shared, and focus groups were held, to better understand the needs and perspectives of Buffalo Grove residents and business owners.

Based on the feedback received from the community and employees, a strategic planning team made up of fire command staff and union leadership developed four primary goal areas to enact the collective vision of the Department's future: 1) Staff and Organizational Development, 2) Organizational Efficiency and Team Development, 3) Infrastructure

Improvements, and 4) Communication/Technology Enhancement. In the coming years, the Department will work to achieve a variety of objectives related to these goal areas and continue to align its priorities with those identified by the community it serves.

The full plan can be found at vbg.org/firestrategicplan.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Mike Baker

EMA DIRECTOR, FIRE CHIEF

Phone: 847-537-0995

Email: WBaker@vbg.org

BUFFALO GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT Community Driven STRATEGIC PLAN



ENGAGE

STRATEGIZE

OPTIMIZE

Prevent Vehicle Thefts This Winter

As the temperatures drop this winter, it's tempting to start your car to get it warmed up.

While it may sound like a good idea, leaving your car unlocked with the keys in the ignition makes it a target for thieves and actually violates the law.



In 2017, Illinois lawmakers passed a law that makes it illegal to idle a car without someone in the driver's seat. The state's vehicle code states: *"No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, effectively setting the brake thereon and, when standing upon any perceptible grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway."*

A chilly ride for a few minutes until your vehicle warms up is better than a stolen vehicle!

WHO'S LISTENING?



Steven Casstevens

CHIEF OF POLICE

Phone: 847-459-2560

Email: SCasstevens@vbg.org



BUFFALO
GROVE
PARK
DISTRICT



GOLF DOME
at the Buffalo Grove Park District

Hours

November 13 - April 9

Monday - Friday

Saturday & Sunday

10 am - 8 pm

9 am - 7 pm

> Driving Range

> Putting Green

> Retail Shop

> Private & Group Lessons

> Gift Certificates

> Open for walking weekday
mornings from 9 - 10 am

Fees (Per ½ hour)

Weekdays

\$12

Weekends

\$13

5-Hour Pass

\$105

Season Membership Pass

\$700

801 McHenry Road

(½ Mile West of Buffalo Grove Road)

847.353.7575

**3 months
for \$99**

Join between December 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022

+ WEIGHT LIFTING & CARDIO EQUIPMENT
+ FREE GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES
+ INDOOR TRACK

+ BASKETBALL COURT
+ WELLNESS ROOM
+ LAP POOL

+ WARM WATER THERAPY POOL
+ STEAM ROOMS & SAUNA

601 W Deerfield Parkway Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089 | 847.353.7500 | bgfitness.org



FITNESS CENTER
at the Buffalo Grove Park District

*Rules and restrictions apply.



BUFFALO GROVE
FRIENDS OF THE PARKS
FOUNDATION

The Buffalo Grove Park District's charitable foundation.



Spring Soccer

Spring soccer is open to all boys and girls currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through 8. Practices will begin in March, and games will begin in April. All teams will be scheduled for an 8 game season, ending in May. The fee is \$95 for residents, and \$119 for nonresidents. Participants may register online or complete a sports registration form at the Alcott Center, and include full payment anytime between January 2 and February 9. More details are available in the winter program guide on the Park District website at bgparks.org. For more information, contact Megan Baird at 847.850.2119 or mbaird@bgparks.org.



Girls Youth Softball

Get into the swing of spring by joining Girls Fast Pitch Softball. This league is a joint league between the Buffalo Grove Park District and the PHWYBS (Prospect Heights, Wheeling Youth Baseball and Softball). Players will be grouped by grade level (3 - 4, 5 - 6 and 7 - 8). Game days will vary; and, the majority of games will be played in Buffalo Grove, with some games being played in Wheeling or Prospect Heights. Parent volunteers coach the teams. Practices will begin in April, and games will be played in early May through early July. The fee is \$140 for residents, and \$175 for nonresidents. Participants may register online or complete a sports registration form at the Alcott Center, and include full payment anytime between January 7 and February 28. For more information, contact TJ Wilkes at 847.850.2199 or twilkes@bgparks.org.

AARP Tax Assistance

Thursday, February 3 - April 14
Alcott Center
FREE

Sign up for free income tax preparation appointments through AARP. This program helps taxpayers with low-to-middle income, with special attention to those over 60 years of age. Appointments are available on Thursdays only, February 3 - April 14, and will be held at the Alcott Center. Please stop by or call the front desk at the Alcott Center at 847.850.2100 for appointments. The AARP Tax Assistance program is intended to handle simple returns that can be completed in approximately 1 hour. If there is something unusual or complicated in your finances, please call our office, and an AARP representative will be happy to get back to you and see if your tax return is within their scope. For more information, contact Chuck Burgess at 847.850.2125 or chuck@bgparks.org.

Camp Registration Open



There is no better place for your child to spend their summer than with their friends at the Buffalo Grove Park District's Summer Camps. And, no matter what they are into, we have a camp to accommodate every interest. Registration can be taken online, or at the Alcott Center during regular business hours. If registering for the first time as a resident, you must provide proof of residency. Visit bgcamps.org for detailed information and a list of camps offered.

ARE
YOU
IN?





50 Raupp Boulevard
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089

Phone: 847-459-2500

Fax: 847-459-0332

Email: info@vbg.org

Website: vbg.org

VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Non-Emergency)

847- 537-0995

POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Non-Emergency)

847- 459-2560

PUBLIC WORKS

847-459-2545

Connect with BG!

The Village utilizes a variety of communication channels to provide important news and information to our community members. These include the Village website, this bi-monthly Village News, Enewsletters, and on social media pages including Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, LinkedIn and YouTube. In addition to the weekly 'Enews' emailed to subscribers on Thursday afternoons, a Business Bulletin and road construction Enewsletters are also sent out on an as-needed basis. Please visit vbg.org/enewssignup to subscribe to the Enewsletter of your choice!



Village of Buffalo Grove
50 Raupp Boulevard
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

PSRTD SRD

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

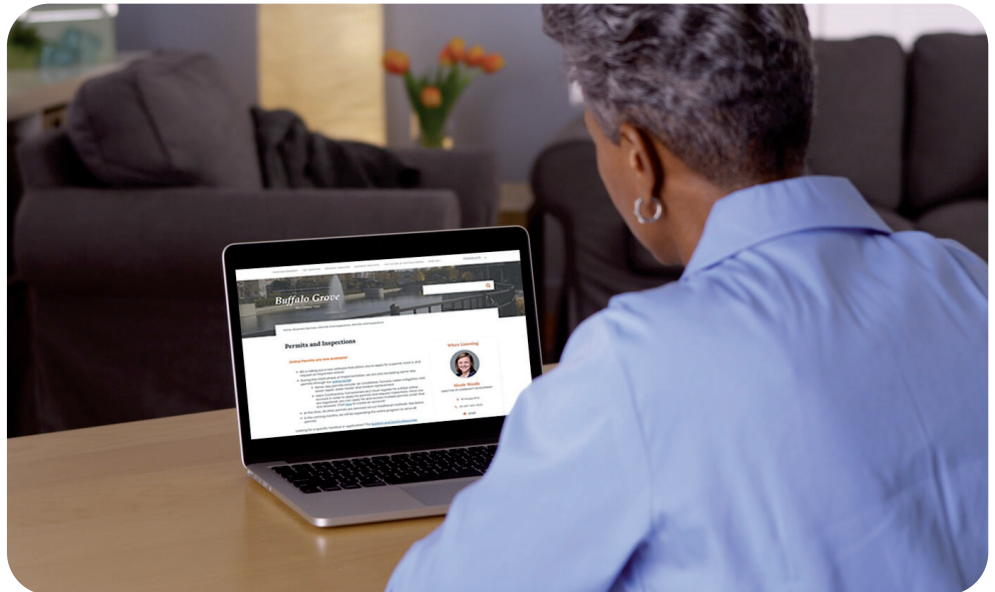
PERMIT #26

BUFFALO GROVE, IL

WS-CARRIER ROUTE PRE-SORT

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

BUFFALO GROVE, IL 60089



New Online Permit System and Fee Structure

The Community Development continues to streamline and simplify the process to pay for and obtain permits. Beginning January 1, 2020, a new permit fee structure was introduced that is more simple, clear and transparent. The structure is now mostly composed of flat fees that are fee neutral - meaning they do not represent a significant increase or decrease in cost.

Additionally, you can now apply for same-day permits which include air conditioner, furnaces, radon mitigation, roofs, sewer repairs, water heaters and window replacements. Residents do need to establish an account first, and then can apply for a permit online. Over the next few months, the Village will be expanding the online program to include all permits.

Learn more about how to submit application permits online at the Village's webpage at vbg.org/permits.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Nicole Woods

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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