

VILLAGE NEWS



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Thank You for Your Service, Chief Casstevens

After nine years with Buffalo Grove and 46 years in law enforcement, Chief Steven Casstevens is retiring on November 11. Casstevens began his law enforcement career in the Military Police with the U.S. Army's 101st Air Division in 1976. After leaving the army, he worked for the Mendota Police Department and the Peru Police Department. He then served 30 years with the Hoffman Estates Police Department, retiring as assistant chief in 2011. Following, he served two years as chief with the Cary Police Department before joining BG as our chief.

Throughout his esteemed career, Casstevens' innovative leadership not only made a positive impact on Buffalo Grove and the other communities he served, but to the law enforcement profession at the state, national and international levels.

Casstevens has many accomplishments to be proud while leading the BGPD.

One is the creation of the Community Relations Unit (CRU) to build trust and strengthen relationships between the police and the community. The CRU consists of dedicated police officers and a police social worker (and now companion therapy dog) to actively engage with community members for safety education and programming, victim advocacy, mental health and trauma response.

Casstevens served as president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) from 2016 to 2017. He adopted 10 Shared Principles from ILACP and NAACP for Buffalo Grove, committing the Department to developing relationships to build trust between police and communities of color.

In addition, Casstevens made BGPD one of the first departments to

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Janet Sirabian
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Letter From the Village President

As we wrap up 2022, it's the perfect time to reflect on such a positive and prosperous year here in Buffalo Grove. We have so much to be proud of.

Buffalo Grove continues to be a leader in the state when it comes to the quality of life we offer. BG maintains an A+ overall rating from Niche, citing our low crime rates, diverse resident base, high quality schools, strong business growth and high quality of life. Niche ranks BG's schools as some of the best in the nation! BG currently sits as Niche's #4 top place to live in the state of Illinois – out of over 2,700 communities!

We take great pride in our fiscal stewardship here in BG. We treat the taxpayers' dollars like our own, spending and investing it wisely. And that's helped us once again achieve the highest possible – AAA – bond rating this year, along with the Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting.

The Village also received the Voice of the People Award for Transformation in Equity, Inclusion and Engagement this year in recognition of our efforts to engage the community through our recent community survey and the creation of the "Community Champions" program. We will continue to find new, innovative ways to connect to our residents and business owners to better serve them.

This year we've seen substantial activity with new businesses and developments calling BG home.

The Arboretum Club golf course welcomed two new businesses to its clubhouse (along with an impressive remodel) – VIN 90 | Kitchen + Bar and WJ Golf adding high-end dining and year-round golf to the facility's offerings. We saw many developments along our corridors and in industrial parks, like Northwest Community Healthcare and the new Lou Malnati's Headquarters. Several other commercial and residential projects have been completed or are nearing completion (see more on page 7). In September, we held an official groundbreaking ceremony for The Clove, and demolition of several structures from the former Town Center is now underway.

The holiday season is just around the corner. It's a time to reflect on 2022 and think of all of the possibilities that are ahead for us in 2023. I wish you and your family good health and happiness in the coming year.

Beverly Sussman
Beverly Sussman
Village President



Beverly Sussman
BSussman@vbg.org

Landscape Waste Reminders

The last day for landscape waste collection this year is on Friday, December 16. Landscape waste is collected on your regular garbage pickup day.

Residents can place two Christmas trees at the curb for free collection between January 2-13 on your regular trash collection day:

- All decorations, stands, etc. must be removed
- Must be free of snow/ice for curbside disposal
- Do NOT place trees in plastic bags
- Must be placed on parkway (the area generally located between the street and sidewalk)
- Must be under six feet in length (cut in two if longer)

Please note that garbage and recycling will not be picked up on Thanksgiving day (Thursday, November 26). Thursday and Friday pickups will be delayed by one day during the holiday week. In addition, the Mondays following Christmas Day and New Years Day will be observed holidays for Waste Management, so all collections will be delayed by one day both weeks (week of December 26 and week of January 2). For more information, visit vbg.org/refuse.

Reminder: Holiday lights cannot be recycled in your curbside cart. They should be placed in your garbage cart or recycled at a Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) recycling location: www.SWANCC.org.

Village Manager's Message

I echo President Sussman's sentiments on how we have fared as a community in 2022. The Village— staff and board together—have kept the taxpayers' bottom line, safety and quality of life the top priorities. We have proposed a 2023 budget that includes a flat property tax levy for the fourth consecutive year and a continued emphasis on short-term and long-term goals to keep the BG community safe and effective.

As part of our commitment to enhance services, we've officially acquired the building at 1650 Leider Lane to house the Village's public works and engineering services. This initiative began in late 2019, and despite the

COVID-19 pandemic, we kept the process moving forward. This is an outstanding and monumental achievement!

The new 173,000 square foot facility provides enough space to accommodate our public works operations now and well into the future. All equipment and maintenance functions will be under roof, with ample space for offices, workshops, emergency operations center, vehicle wash and other desirable amenities.

Repurposing an existing building saves the Village approximately 40% of costs compared to that of a new



Dane Bragg
VILLAGE MANAGER
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building. The Village is financing the project with AAA-rated bonds, along with capital fund reserves. The remainder of the project cost will come from the sale of the existing public works property and other sources. In addition, approximately 40,000 square feet of the new facility will be leased to an industrial tenant, creating an operating revenue stream to offset debt payments. Long story short, this enhancement comes at no additional cost to taxpayers in the BG community. Occupancy is anticipated in early 2024.

I am thrilled to be improving the working environment for our personnel while continuing to provide the excellent services our community expects.



NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY Timeline





Meet Chief Brian Budds

and I am very eager to serve alongside the men and women of the department to build upon and advance our mission and vision.

M: What was your dream job as a child? Did you always see yourself in law enforcement?

B: Major League Baseball player - shortstop. I did not always see myself in law enforcement, in fact, I had no interest until after I graduated college. My undergraduate major at University of Illinois-Chicago was Business Administration with a minor in Finance. At that time, my desire was to work in the corporate world even though my father and brothers were all active police officers at the time. It wasn't until I received an opportunity to work as a part-time CSO that I realized my true calling was to be a police officer.

M: What is the #1 quality you look for in police officers?

B: Integrity - without integrity, you cannot establish and maintain any community trust or trust among your fellow officers. This is not a quality that can be achieved or taught through any level of training - one either has it or does not. Integrity has never been more important than at the present time for the law enforcement profession in my opinion.

M: What is the biggest myth, stereotype or misconception surrounding your job as chief?

B: Personally, I feel the biggest stereotype for a police chief is that he or she is out of touch with their officers, not physically fit or can no longer perform the day-to-day functions of a police officer. I pride myself on staying physically fit and maintaining my skills and knowledge to a degree that would enable me to effectively serve alongside my teammates in any situation. In other words, I believe a chief must "walk the walk."

M: Law enforcement work can be both rewarding and stressful. What do you do to de-stress and relax?

B: I love to stay active to de-stress. My wife and I are both avid cyclists, and we ride thousands of miles each year. We

also love to scuba dive both locally and ocean/resort diving. There is nothing more effective in reducing stress than hovering weightless in the open ocean looking over a coral reef formation.

M: What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

B: My father's advice that still stands out to me to this day is to never quit - if you quit one time, it will be that much easier to quit the next time and beyond. He told me this the first time when I wanted to quit the football team when I was nine years old. This particular advice has never steered me wrong.

M: How do you balance work life and home life?

B: Honestly, this is sometimes a struggle with me because I am a 24/7 type of a chief. I like to be aware of what's happening at all times with my officers and the department to ensure they are safe and have all the resources they need to do their jobs. It is not unusual for me to be answering calls, emails or texts during overnight hours on a Saturday or on a holiday. However, I do realize the importance of establishing a healthy balance between work and home, and I give all the credit to my wife for her unconditional support and understanding. She respects the demands of my role but also will not hesitate to remind me to put the badge away for some quality time when needed.

M: Can you tell me about a role model, mentor or otherwise hero in your life?

B: My father was my primary role model, mentor and hero in my life. I was in total awe of him growing up - he was strong, tough and a great leader to so many. He served as a patrol shift sergeant for most of his 33-year career and in those days, officers rotated every 28 days working the three shifts. My father taught me so much about how to be a leader and to always strive for excellence.

M: If you could be any fictional character, who would it be and why?

B: Rocky Balboa from the Rocky movies. I have seen each of those movies no less than 100 times and they never

Communications and Community Engagement Director Molly Gillespie sat down with Chief Brian Budds to ask him some serious and not-so-serious questions, so we can all get to know a little bit about our incoming police chief.

M: Chief Budds, BG is thrilled to have you on board as our new chief of police. First, tell us about yourself.

B: I'm 49 and reside in the north part of Naperville with my wife and best friend, Jeannie. We have five girls together, ages ranging from 15 to 27. I have been in law enforcement for almost 27 years, starting as a part-time Community Service Officer (CSO) and serving as a sworn officer for nearly 25 years. I grew up in Burbank, Illinois. I come from a police family. My father and two older brothers all have served long careers in the Chicago suburban area: a combined 126 years and still counting for my family!

M: Why did you choose Buffalo Grove to continue your esteemed career?

B: The Village of Buffalo Grove and the Police Department have always impressed me throughout my career with their outstanding reputation and professionalism. In my opinion, Buffalo Grove Police is the gold standard of law enforcement agencies in Illinois and quite frankly, the entire nation. The department's signature community engagement and public education programs are simply second to none. Also, I am a strong advocate of accreditation and BGPD is a CALEA accredited flagship agency. Finally, I have always believed that police officers play a pivotal role in traffic safety enforcement and BGPD continues to be a leader in this field. BGPD affords me new growth opportunities and challenges,

get old. Every time I watch them, I get invigorated and feel that I can accomplish anything even though the odds are stacked against me. Just like the Rocky character, I take the hits that life throws at me, but I get up and keep fighting until the final bell sounds.

M: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

B: I absolutely love Cozumel, Mexico. Everyone is so friendly there and it's a great scuba diving destination.



M: Who is your celebrity look-alike?

B: I have been told a young Val Kilmer, Aaron Eckhart and Matt Damon. Funny story with the Damon comparison: They filmed some scenes from the 2011 movie Contagion in Western Springs, where I just retired from. All officers were required to work while our entire central business district was essentially taken over by Warner Brothers for two days of filming. I was a Deputy Chief at the time, and standing a post. A group of people approached me and were convinced I was Matt Damon incognito between scenes wearing a police uniform. By the way, I did meet him. He was super nice and a supporter of the police!

M: What do you look forward to the most in coming to Buffalo Grove?

B: I'm really looking forward to surrounding myself with the finest Police Department and Village staff in the State. I am also thrilled to interact and get to

know the community at various events such as my "meet and greet" sessions and the many venues we will be offering during the year.

M: Is there anything that you'd really love to share with the Buffalo Grove community?

B: Yes. I want to let the BG community know that I am very grateful for this incredible opportunity to serve you. Throughout the entire application, interview process and to this moment, the Village and police staff along with the elected officials, have been extremely kind and welcoming—and for that, my family and I will be forever thankful! BG is such a great place to live and play, and I promise that the men and women of the BGPD will continue to provide creative, innovative, contemporary and inclusive public safety programs and services that the community will be proud of.

Police Department Dedicated to Supporting Special Olympics Illinois

The Police Department has a longstanding commitment to supporting Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL), and they've been extra busy this year. The PD's Administrative Assistant Melessa Horbus helps organize the local opportunities to raise money for and bring awareness to the SOILL. Some events, like the 5-0 Race and Truck Convoy, are organized directly by SOILL, but BGPD puts in considerable time and effort. Officer Shannon McMillon dedicated countless volunteer hours to help make this year's Truck Convoy

a successful event, and both Officer McMillon and Officer Robert Lawyer raised over \$6,000 for the 5-0 Race!

A total of \$64,245 was raised at the following events held through October of this year:

- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Cop on Top
- Truck Convoy
- 5-0 Race
- FD Open House
- Coffee with a Cop
- Farmers Markets
- Buffalo Grove Days
- Row for Dough
- Polar Plunge
- Torch Run

"Our officers look forward to participating in every opportunity to support Special Olympics Illinois and their mission," said Melessa. "We're always in awe at the community's kindness and willingness to rally for the cause, too. We know we are making a difference."



While some events have been around for several years like the classic Torch Run and Polar Plunge, newer events have been popping up and drawing even more interest, like the 5-0 Race and Row for Dough.

Special Olympics is Illinois's largest sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities. Donations to SOILL provide the equipment, attire and health supplies that can help transform an athlete's life. In addition to donations, SOILL relies heavily on volunteers to help in every aspect of the program, both at the local and state level. Learn more about SOILL at www.soill.org.



Fire Department Raising Money to Support Critically Ill Children and their Families

Project Fire Buddies is a non-profit organization created by firefighters looking to build relationships and support for families battling critical childhood illnesses. The BG Chapter was formed earlier this year through a partnership between the Buffalo Grove Fire Department and the Buffalo Grove Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Local 3177.



The BG Chapter of Project Fire Buddies is actively looking for a child who is suffering from serious illness to sponsor. The Fire Department and

its firefighters will make the child an honorary firefighter and visit with their fire buddies at home, play games, read books, bring gifts for special occasions and show the kids just how special they are. Any families within the village who could benefit from the project are encouraged to visit **projectfirebuddies.org** to fill out a contact form.

For more information on the BG Chapter of Project Fire Buddies, visit **projectfirebuddies.org/buffalo-grove**, call 847-537-0995 or email **buffalogrove@projectfirebuddies.org**.



BUY APPAREL TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE

The BG Chapter is also selling T-shirts and hoodies to raise funds now through November 6. Orders can be placed by completing the form at **www.vbg.org/PFBshirts**, and payments are accepted by cash or Venmo (@ProjectFireBuddies). Shirts are available in adult sizes small through 3XL in red, royal blue, black and dark grey. Shirts are \$20 and hoodies are \$40 each.

Giving Our Youth a Good Time while Highlighting Public Safety

The Fire and Police Departments have been teaming up to give the BG residents opportunities to learn about public safety, interact with firefighters, paramedics and officers, explore their fleet and technical equipment and see live demonstrations.



In September, the Departments hosted an open house-style Public Safety Event at Fire Station 26. Approximately 1,500 attended, and highlights included a live fire and sprinkler demonstration and a group of comfort dogs. And then on October 30, the Departments decorated engines, ambulances and squad cars for the Trick or Treat Drive Thru. A long line of cars filled with costumed children drove through the Fire Station 26 garage to receive candy from fire and police personnel. They sure know how to show the community a good time!

WHO'S LISTENING?



Mike Baker

FIRE CHIEF, EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR

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Developments Give BG Residents Options and Diversify Tax Base

Development in our community is important, and there's been a whole lot of it lately. Not only does new development give our residents options for places to live, eat, shop, do business and work, but it also diversifies the Village's tax base. By increasing revenues from sources like sales tax, the Village is less reliant on property taxes.

Since the start of 2022, BG's Community Development Department is on track to issue nearly 3,000 commercial and residential building permits. These permits represent a total project valuation of over \$110,000,000 invested into the community.

Some of this new development you've probably seen, and some you may not even be aware of. Check out these highlights of recently completed projects, projects under construction and upcoming projects that have received Board approval.

Arboretum Club

401 Half Day Road

The Village-owned Arboretum Club, located at 401 Half Day Road, underwent some serious renovations this year. The former banquet space was converted into a virtual golf center, WJ Golf, and a full-service restaurant VIN 90 Kitchen + Bar. These amenities offer residents an option for year-round golf including private lessons. The golf simulators include games suitable for all ages and skill levels. The full-service restaurant features a mix of American fare and Asian delicacies by Chef Yoon Kim. An updated outdoor patio overlooks the Arboretum Club's beautiful 18-hole outdoor golf course, altogether creating a unique and exciting regional destination.



Premier Design + Build

1305 Busch Parkway

Premier Design + Build Group has completed construction of its new 50,516 square foot multi-tenant building featuring office and industrial flex space.



Lou Malnati's Corporate Headquarters

900 Busch Parkway

Lou Malnati's has consolidated its headquarters, moving it all to Busch Parkway in BG! The 125,000 square foot building houses the company's home office, e-commerce site and fulfillment center.



The Clove

100-268 McHenry Road

Kensington Development broke ground on the 22-acre former Town Center property to make way for The Clove—a modern, central entertainment and residential district anchored by a national grocery store, a 7-story, 297-unit luxury apartment building with commercial space for ground floor retail shops, plus extensive retail and restaurants scattered throughout the site along with a park in the middle of the site. Demolition of various structures is underway, and the transformation is already noticeable.



Avalon Crossing

22371 & 22405 N. Prairie Road

Two acres of property on N. Prairie Road is being redeveloped into six residential lots for future single-family homes. The project is expected to begin in 2022.



Link Crossing

2054 Link Drive

Construction continues on the new Link Crossing Development located east of Buffalo Grove Road, north of Aptakisic. The developers, K. Hovnanian Homes and MI Homs are developing 68 clustered single-family detached homes and 119 two-story townhomes.



Ricky Rockets

700 E. Lake Cook Road

The Ricky Rockets commercial development is underway which includes a multi-tenant retail building in addition to the gas station, convenience store and car wash with plans for a future quick service restaurant in the outlot. The project is expected to be completed in late 2022.



COMING SOON TO BG New Public Works Facility

1650 Leider Lane

The Village has officially purchased a former warehouse space to retrofit for a new public works facility at 1650 Leider Lane. Public Works will be operating out of the new location within the next two years.

Spotless Auto

301 N. Milwaukee Avenue

A new state-of-the-art car wash facility is coming to N. Milwaukee Avenue. With plans recently approved, the project is expected to be completed in 2023.



Wild Fork & Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG) Animal Hospital

41 S. McHenry Road

Development of a two-tenant commercial building at 41 S. McHenry Road will bring specialized meat and seafood grocer, Wild Fork as well as a 24-hour emergency room for animals, Veterinary Emergency Group (VEG), to the outlots of the Northwestern Community Healthcare site, near McHenry and Lake Cook Roads. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Nicole Woods

DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Give Your Wallet and the Environment a Break: Fix Leaks and Conserve Water

Do you ever get the feeling that your water bill is unusually high? Most high water bills are due to leaks in plumbing fixtures like humidifiers and toilets.

What can you do?

The best method for determining whether or not a leak exists is to take actual water meter readings. This method checks the entire internal plumbing system for any water usage.

Here's what to do: Take a water meter reading just before going to bed or when no one will use any water for several hours. Take another meter reading in the morning before any water is used, or after a few hours of non-usage. In theory, the two readings should be the same. If they are not, and you cannot account for use by a

humidifier, ice cube maker, toilet flush or water softener, you have a leak and further investigation is recommended.

A great place to start is checking toilets. Here in BG, 90% of leaks are due to toilets, even if you can't hear anything. There are many excellent step-by-step videos of toilet leak detection on the internet for your reference. If you would like to try and check yourself, follow the three simple steps:

1. Open the tank on the back and listen and look for moving water. There should be no moving water once the tank is filled.
2. Check that the water is 1" below the overflow tube.
3. Check that the flapper is not leaking (dye test with plumber's dye or food coloring).

What does the Village do?

Public Works reviews every water customer's usage weekly to screen for likely overuse due to leaks. We can give you a call before you even get that first high water bill, but in order to do so, we need to have your most updated contact information. Check out www.vbg.org/waterbilling or give us a call at **847-459-2500**.

Conserve water and save money

Luckily, you don't have to worry about the extra water to keep your lawn green this time of year. It is, however, a good time to think about options to conserve water indoors, whether it's in your kitchen, bathroom or laundry room. The smallest adjustments can save you a good deal of water...and money!

Here's a few ideas:

- Take 5-minute showers instead of bath (a full bathtub requires up to 70 gallons of water!)
- Reuse bath towels multiple times before a wash
- While you wait for hot water, collect the running water and use it to water plants
- Install water-saving aerators on all of your faucets
- When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather
- Turn off water while you brush your teeth (and save up to four gallons a minute!)
- Wash dark clothes in cold water (saves water and energy AND helps your clothes retain their color)

Find a plethora of other water saving tips at wateruseitwisely.com.



Chief Casstevens

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complete the IACP 'One Mind' campaign prioritizing mental health first aid for law enforcement professionals, along with Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) training to provide personnel with the tools needed to intervene and/or prevent crisis incidents whenever possible.

Casstevens' greatest career achievement was serving as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) from 2019 to 2020. With IACP connecting Casstevens to 32,000 law enforcement professionals in from over 170

countries, he was able to help advance and shape the policing profession at the global level.

Chief Casstevens is grateful to the entire BG community for the unwavering support he and the Department have received throughout his time here. And what's next for Casstevens? He may enjoy some downtime, but retirement won't keep him away from his passion in policing. Casstevens will continue sharing his wisdom and giving back to law enforcement industry through consulting services.

Please join the Village Board and staff in thanking Chief Casstevens for his

dedicated service to BG and wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.



Village Manager Dane Bragg (left) swore in Chief Steven Casstevens (right) as President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 2019.

Give a Round of Applause to Public Works

BG Public Works is certainly an award-winning department. In just 2022 alone, the list of achievements and accolades barely fits on this page!



- ▲ Asset Management Award;
 - ▲ Commendation for Exemplary Service to Public Works - Dane Bragg;
 - ▲ Professional Manager of the Year, Water Resources - Dave Haisma, retired;
 - ▲ Professional Manager of the Year, Transportation - Scott Fontanez;
- The Chicago Metro Chapter American Public Works Association*



- ▲ State Champions in the Hydrant Histeria Competition at Watercon; American Water Works Association



- ▲ High-Performance Government Award; Cartegraph



Tree City Award (33rd year in a row), Arbor Day Foundation



- ▲ Cover Feature APWA Reporter – October 2022



- ▲ Fleet Division ranked #74 out of 38,000 fleets in North + South America; NAFA Fleet Management Association

WHO'S LISTENING?



Mike Skibbe

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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And they are certainly a department that gets things done, like making progress on our Infrastructure Modernization Program. Check out the 2022 metrics on all that's been done this year to date!



3.1 LANE MILES
of roadway
rebuilt



**3501 RESIDENT
REQUESTS**
addressed
since last year



**19 WINTER STORM
EVENTS TOTALING
26.5 INCHES OF SNOW**
responded to for the
2021-2022 season



2.6 MILES
of watermain
replaced



244 SIGNS
installed 21/22 season



2580 HYDRANTS
flushed in 2022 season



4,664 TREES
trimmed in 2022



10 ACRES OF TURF
converted to prairie



986 STREETLIGHTS
inspected



\$1.3M IN NEW
grant awards in 2022



**122 STORM
STRUCTURES**
Cleaned



**12.3 MILES
OF OPEN
DITCH/CREEKS**
inspected this
(every) year.



**MAINTAINED
3,138 FT**
of stormwater swales



**CLEARED
1,973 FT
OF DEBRIS**
from ditches/creeks



BUFFALO
GROVE
PARK
DISTRICT



GOLF DOME
at the Buffalo Grove Park District

Hours

November 9 - April 8

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

FIRST **3** months
for **\$99**

Join between

December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

+ 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

*Rules and restrictions apply.



FITNESS CENTER
at the Buffalo Grove Park District



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 4 and February 8. More details are available in the winter program guide on the Park District website at bgparks.org. For more information, contact Brian O'Malley at 847.850.2146 or brian@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, Arlington Heights (AHYAA), 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 Arlington Heights, with games also being played in Buffalo Grove and possibly 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 \$150 for residents, and \$188 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 2 - April 13
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 2 - April 13, 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 Megan Baird at 847.850.2119 or megan@bgparks.org.



Resident Camp Registration Opens December 1



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

Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 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!



High School Students Get a Crash Course in Local Government

Join me in congratulating our Buffalo Grove High School and Stevenson High School students who participated in another outstanding Civics Forum with the Village of Buffalo Grove! These students are our future, and our future is very bright in the hands of these students.

On the afternoon of September 12, the students met at Village Hall where they received a brief orientation on municipal government followed by a tour of all the departments on the Village campus. They then met with their department heads and elected officials to prepare for their mock board meeting.

As the meeting began, the students acting as department heads each presented their request to the board made up of students. The student board asked questions and discussed the benefits of each proposal. Ultimately the mock board approved the Fire Department's ask for an underwater rescue communications unit to replace the dive team's outdated equipment.

The goal of the Civics Forum is for students to become acquainted with municipal government and understand

the importance of getting involved in their communities. Students learn that voting in a municipal election is just as important as voting in a state or national election, and that volunteers make a good community a great community.

I also offer a huge thank you to all the staff members who participated in this year's Civics Forum, and to the students and advisors who participated. It was an educational and enjoyable day for Village staff and elected officials as it was for the students. To view the Civics Forum meeting, visit <https://bit.ly/3F8E2pC>.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Janet Sirabian

VILLAGE CLERK

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Email: JSirabian@vbg.org

Unleash Generosity on Giving Tuesday



Every year, on GivingTuesday, millions of people across the globe are mobilized to show up, give back and change their communities. The goal is to create a massive wave of generosity that lasts well beyond that day, and touches every person on the planet. Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on. Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, November 29, and you can unleash your generosity by giving to local area nonprofits. Not sure which nonprofits you'd like to support? Find information at our local libraries or use an online tool like greatnonprofits.org.