Buffalo Grove MARCH-APRIL 2023



Page 3 Village President's letter

Page 4 Village Manager's message

Page 5 April is Earth Month

Page 6 Construction season

> Page 8 Spring cleaning

Page 9 Szos' farewell

Page 12 Election update

President Sussman reflects on years of service

Following 29 years of service to the Village of Buffalo Grove, Village President Beverly Sussman decided not to seek re-election in 2023. During her time with the Village, Sussman served 15 years as a member of the Rick Kahen Commission for Residents with Disabilities, six years as a Village Trustee from 2009 until 2015 and eight years as Village President.

President Sussman moved to Buffalo Grove with her husband Marty in 1971, and raised their children here. She worked as a 6th grade science teacher with Kildeer Countryside Consolidated School District #96 for 25 years before her retirement in 2004. In 1995, President Sussman was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching and represented the state of Illinois in Washington, D.C. In addition, Sussman was an Adjunct Professor at National Louis University teaching Science Methods Classes in the Masters Degree Program. Sussman credits her time as a teacher for sparking her love of making an impact in her community. She recalls taking a group of her students to a Village Board meeting to advocate for the designation of the first-ever Earth Day in Buffalo Grove. The students left the meeting with a Proclamation declaring Earth Day in Buffalo Grove.

VILLAGE OF

Grove

"I enjoy seeing former students who have now gone on to make their own marks on the Village," she said. Some are volunteers on commissions and committees and others own businesses in the Village.

To this day, she continues to encourage children to be involved in their community. During her terms as President, she has been regularly invited to schools and boy scout and girl scout groups to speak about local government and her role as President of the Village of Buffalo Grove.

continued on page 2

Village Trustees



AStein@vbg.org



Lester Ottenheimer LOttenheimer@vbg.org



David Weidenfeld DWeidenfeld@vbg.org



Joanne Johnson JRJohnson@vbg.org



Eric Smith ESmith@vbg.org



Gregory Pike GPike@vbg.org

Village Clerk



Janet Sirabian JSirabian@vbg.org

President Sussman

continued from page 1

"Children don't realize the power that they have in their government. And, I want them to know that it is important, not only for their parents, but for them to keep up with what's going on in the Village," she said." I tell them about all the things they could be responsible for doing and changing in the Village."

Sussman got her start in Village leadership by serving on the Rick Kahen Commission for Residents with Disabilities, a post she held from 1994 until her first election as Village Trustee in 2009. During this time, she and the Commission helped expand accessibility to our community members with special needs.

Throughout her time in Buffalo Grove, President Sussman witnessed the Village grow into a bustling community featuring a healthy economy, excellent parks and high-quality schools. Sussman points to the Village Board fostering a business-friendly economy as one of her accomplishments.

"When a business wants to move here, they want it to be easy to work with the government, so they can get things done in a reasonable amount of time. The Village Board and I think we are much more business-friendly than we ever were before," she said.

Over the past several years, Sussman has been heavily involved in the redevelopment of the Town Center—the largest redevelopment project in Village history. Taking its place, The Clove will create a new, modern central entertainment and residential district, a development envisioned by the community.

"Buffalo Grove continues to see vibrant development and new businesses moving into the village year after year," she said. "We've asked the community what they want, and we're delivering."

Other accomplishments that have taken place during Sussman's tenure include the attraction of Woodman's grocery store and Northwest Community Healthcare and its adjacent multitenant development, the redevelopment of The Arboretum's clubhouse with a full-service restaurant VIN 90 Kitchen + Bar and year-round golf practice and entertainment provider WJ Golf, the Infrastructure Modernization Program, a new Public Works Facility, Flex, BITS and the list goes on and on.

"I'm extremely proud of our work to responsibly manage our finances, achieving a AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's, and freezing the tax rate for four years."

Sussman and the Village Board also advocated for expanded communications efforts. When first moving to Buffalo Grove, she recalls that residents did not pay much attention to Village issues. She is proud that the Village now offers multiple avenues for transparent communication to residents, including a variety of social media platforms, live-streamed Village Board meetings, a robust website and a weekly e-newsletter.

After nearly three decades of service to the Village, Sussman has decided not seek re-election in order to spend more time with her husband. During her 14 years as an elected official, she only missed three meetings.

"I always felt whatever I could do for the Village of Buffalo Grove was because of the residents, and whatever I could do for the residents made the Village a better place to live in," Sussman said. "I'm leaving with very mixed emotions because when I get up from that seat, that last day, it will be a very hard thing to do and I realize that I won't be sitting in that seat any longer."

She will be succeeded by Trustee Eric Smith, running for the seat uncontested. He will be sworn in following the municipal election on April 4.

"Trustee Smith has my greatest vote of confidence. He is best suited to lead the Village and continue building upon our recent successes," she said, "Buffalo Grove is in good hands. And, he will have a great Village Board to work with."



Outgoing Village President Beverly Sussman and incoming Village President Eric Smith.



Sussman speaking at the groundbreaking of The Clove redevelopment project.

Letter from the Village President

After writing articles for the Village newsletter for eight years, this will be my last article as President of the Village of Buffalo Grove.

I would like to thank our residents for their support during the past eight years that I have served as Village President. We are more diverse and more transparent than ever before, and we strive for community engagement in the decisions that we make. My biggest driving force has been to make sure Buffalo Grove is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

The Village Board and I have brought a great deal of economic development to the Village. Our Infrastructure Modernization Program is reviving our streets, water and sanitary systems. At last, we will have a new Town Center — The Clove. We have the new Northwest Community Healthcare location in the Village which was awarded the Best Medical Property in the State. We are currently working on cleaning up Dundee Road and Chase Plaza. We replaced empty lots with Woodman's and the Shops of Buffalo Grove — that took over thirty years to happen. I am very proud of all of the accomplishments that the Village Board and I have achieved. How wonderful that there are too many to list here!

As I prepare to leave the Village President's seat, I would like to thank my family for their support. To my wonderful husband, Marty, who has picked up the slack at home and has attended almost 700 Village Board meetings to support me. And to my children, who have changed the dates of their birthdays and anniversaries, so I wouldn't have to miss a meeting.

I would like to thank our Village Manager Dane Bragg and Deputy Village Managers Chris Stilling and Mike Skibbe for all their help over the years. We have the best staff you could possibly ask for. They are intelligent, knowledgeable and willing to go the extra mile in performing their jobs. I have



Beverly Sussman BSussman@vbg.org

enjoyed working with all of them. We have the best Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments you could ever ask for. And of course, a very big THANK YOU to the two Village Boards that I have worked with.

To the entire community of Buffalo Grove, I want to thank you for being a special part of our lives. We have a wonderful community, and that starts with each and every one of our residents who helps make Buffalo Grove a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Wishing incoming President Smith and the Village Board all the best in their future endeavors; I will keep up with all of their accomplishments.

Beverly Sussman



Helping attract a wide range of diverse businesses is among President Sussman's accomplishments.





Bringing Woodmans to Buffalo Grove and the surrounding development it spurred was a major achievement for the Village



President Sussman made it a personal goal to engage children in the political process.



Village Manager's message

I've had the distinct pleasure of working with Village President Beverly Sussman throughout my time serving as Buffalo Grove's village manager. Beverly has been such an active and dedicated public servant. From her many years of service on the RKCRD, helping ensure those with special needs have access to programs and services, to her terms serving as a Village Trustee starting in 2009 and then President since 2015, she has successfully led the board through many complex matters to achieve successful outcomes.

She prioritized creating opportunities for economic growth and long-term economic stability. One initiative that spurred from these priorities was the creation of the Lake Cook Corridor Market Study and Plan, and there are several developments already underway as a result—the most notable being the former Town Center redevelopment. This promising project, located in the heart of our community, will serve as a central residential, commercial and entertainment district for residents and visitors to enjoy. Under her leadership, we have also seen the development of the Deerfield/ Milwaukee commercial district, Link Crossing and much more.

Her leadership extends far beyond the things we see every day, including the Village's largest infrastructure rebuilding program ever, a new Lake Cook Road corridor, water and sewer infrastructure and more. She's led us through the creation of a community foundation, partnerships with other taxing bodies, the development of the village's community engagement program and the launching of our open space/natural areas program. Buffalo Grove is a better place because of her guidance.

She has a lot for which to be proud, and I am grateful to have worked alongside her all these years. I wish her and her husband, Marty, an abundance of health, happiness and quality time together.



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

I'm also delighted that Trustee Eric Smith will be taking the seat as our new Village President in May. Eric has been an incredible asset to the board since he was appointed in 2018 following his service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. His positive attitude, collaborative spirit and community-focused drive will lead the Village on a path to continued success, creative problem solving and unified capacity building. I also look forward to welcoming our longstanding Planning & Zoning Commission Chair, Frank Cesario, to the Village Board as we pursue the community's goals and priorities in the coming years. Frank is a thoughtful and talented leader, bringing a fresh perspective and a careful approach.







Thank you, President Sussman!





Think small changes to make a big impact this Earth Month

April is Earth Month—a time for us to come together to consider how we can make our planet a better place to live. The Village takes great pride in being an environmentally-friendly community, and there is something everyone can do to help get involved in the effort.

The Village of Buffalo Grove is no stranger to sustainability. Buffalo Grove has been a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact since 2007. This compact lays out 49 high-level goals to encourage local municipalities to strive for vibrant, sustainanable communities throughout the Chicagoland region.

In 2018, the Village adopted a new, comprehensive Environmental Plan, which guides efforts and intiatives in the village ranging from water conservation, to waste disposal and recycling, to energy efficiency.

Other initivates dedicated to protecting the environment the village participates in include being a part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, which lays out goals and strategies of protecting the Monarch Butterfly and other important pollinators, as well as work undertaken by the Village's Environemental Action Team.

While smaller, day-to-day actions may not feel like they have as much of an impact on the environment as things like transportation policies or programs and regulations that protect and improve water quality, the Village takes these actions on everyone's behalf. The Village seeks to promote our community's health and wellbeing and take steps to protect our assets and the environment longterm.



Maintaining a Tree City USA designation and a variety of natural areas are just some of of the many ways Buffalo Grove strives to excel in creating a beautiful, environmentally-friendly community.

What can you do at home to protect our planet?

Together, we can continue to help make Buffalo Grove an enviornmentally-friendly place to live and contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of our Planet Earth. Individuals, households and businesses can take actions to help create a more sustainable community. Some ideas are listed below.

- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Use WM's At Your Door program! Learn more on page 8.
- Consider active transportation for your local and even regional trips. The local trail systems are well connected!
- Utilize native plants for landscaping.
- Turn the lights off when you leave the room or use timers which automatically save you energy when you're not there.
- Practice proper recycling techniques. Recycling has changed over the years, and WM makes it simple for you to remember what you can and cannot recycle in your cubside cart. Just follow the three rules:



Keep moving this construction season

The Village's Public Works Department is busy collaboratively designing the next phase of the Infrastructure Modernization Program that will feature several capital improvements during the 2024 to 2027 construction seasons. As we plan for those future improvements, the 2023 construction season will be much milder in comparison. Major Village projects include crossing improvments across Deerfield Parkway, painting of the bridge over Illinois Route 83 and guiet zone median work at the rail crossings located on Deerfield Parkway and Half Day Road (Illinois Route 22). In addition, a variety of other maintenance projects will take place with our public works crews as well as contractors (see below).

Other agency projects planned for this year will inconvenience motorists.

Lake County Divisoin of Transportation's Aptakisic Road widening project

Wider lanes, a turn median, sidewalk on the south side and a multi-use path on the north side are coming to Aptakisic Road. Explect lane closures and delays in this area while work is underway.

Deerfield Parkway crossing improvements

Safety improvements are coming to the very popular pedestrian crossing across Deerfield Parkway at Green Knolls Drive. The crossing is being relocated about 250 feet east to provide a pedestrian refuge island, and flashing beacons will also be installed to help bring attention to the heavy traffic area.

Bridge painting (over IL Rt 83)

Routine inspection and maintenance is critical to keep our infrastructure safe and functional for decades to come. Bridge paint keeps the substructure and superstructural components protected from the elements. Painting on this scale will require closure of the bridge to pedestrian and bike traffic as well

Cook County Department of Transportation and Highway's (CCDoTH) Lake Cook Road concrete patching and overlay project Complete reconstruction of Lake Cook Road from Raupp to Rt 53 is planned, but not for many years in the future.

To to address pot holes and joint deterioration in the meantime, CCDoTH will complete concrete patching, along

Engineering studies are in the works.

as occasional lane closures of IL Route 83 beneath for work to be completed. When possible, these closures will be coordinated with IDOT's planned resurfacing work on IL 83, however these two projects are not related to one another, and coordination cannot be guaranteed.

Quiet Zone median work

This work is part of the Lake County Quiet Zone, a federally-recognized stretch of tracks that requires certain safety upgrades in lieu of trains blaring their horns through residential areas. Work at Deerfield Parkway and at IL Rte 22 rail crossings will involve lane reductions and temporary turn lane closures adjacent to the work zone while crews work on the medians.

with an asphalt overlay. When work begins, moderate delays are expected and alternative routes advised.

Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) IL Route 83 resurfacing

A small but busy section of Rt 83 (McHenry Rd) will be resurfaced, including concrete work like ADAcompliant corners.

Maintaining our infrastrucuture

The Public Works Department manages several annual maintenance projects that help improve and extend the life of our infrastructure. Many of these projects are contracted to outside vendors who can complete large-scale and specialized work most efficiently. Here's what's in store this year:

Sewer televising: Cleaning and televising that allows staff to identify repairs needed within the pipes.
Sewer lining: Placing a liner inside old pipe that becomes a new structural conduit for the sewage.

Manhole lining: Protective lining installed to shield and seal manholes.
Pavement patching: Large-scale patching of roadways that extend the overall lifecycle of the pavement. • Pavement striping: Replacement of road striping, which generally lasts five to seven years with the highest quality products used.

Pavement crack sealing: Routing and filling of developing cracks in the pavement with a flexible material to stop water from penetrating the pavement.
Hydrant flushing: Cleaning debris and buildup from the water mains that carry water from the water treatment plant to properties.

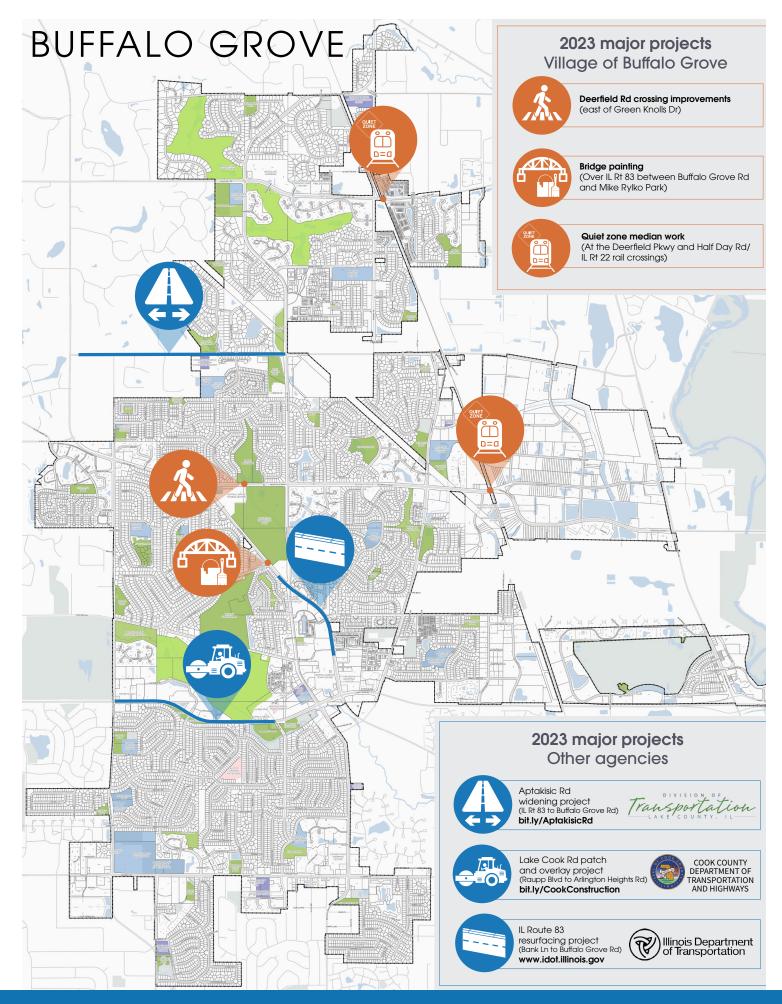
• Sidewalk replacement and installation: Replacement of sunken, heaved, deteriorated or other squares of sidewalk creating mobility issues. New, grant funded sidewalk will be installed at select locations to complete gaps.



Pavement patching



Pavement crack sealing



Plan ahead for spring cleaning

It's time to dust off the shelves, purge your closet and complete other spring cleaning projects. If you have items in need of disposal, several options are available to you.

Clothing and textiles

For old clothes and textile donations, SWALCO has over 69 collection bins located at over 50 sites throughout Lake County. Find drop-off locations at <u>swalco.org</u>.

Electronics and household hazardous waste (HHW)

The Village's waste hauler, WM, offers residents a convenient home pickup service for items not accepted for landfill collection. This service, called At Your Door, provides an option for the disposal of hazardous and difficult-to recycle materials,

such as electronics, televisions and chemicals. There is no additional fee for this service; it is included in residential monthly refuse and recycling rates. To schedule a pickup appointment, contact WM by calling 800-449-7587 (7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday - Friday), emailing <u>AtYourDoor@</u> wm.com or by visiting <u>wmatyourdoor.</u> com. Be sure to have your list of materials ready, as WM may need to mail a collection kit for some items. On your designated pickup date, place materials out before 7 a.m.

Bulk items

WM offers safe and efficient solutions to help our customers dispose of those bulk (multiple) or bulky (large) items.

At this time, bulk trash pickup is only

available for existing WM customers. Availability, price and acceptable items may vary depending on your area.

Garage sales

Planning a garage sale? Good news: You don't need a permit Garage



need a permit. Garage sales are allowed for up to three consecutive days and no more than three times per calendar year at the same location. They are allowed from 9:00 a.m. until sunset each day. Remember to keep the public sidewalk and right-of-way free and clear of any merchandise for sale. Signs advertising garage sales are not allowed in the public right-of-way, and any signs found in such will be removed.

Welcoming new faces and celebrating recent promotions



Spenser Greenstein Assistant Golf Professional BG Golf Course



George Cartwright Maintenence Worker I Forestry Section-Public Works



Ryan Serkowski Maintenance Worker I Water Section-Public Works



Tim Kirsininkas Communications Coordinator Communications and Community Engegement

Congratulations to those who recently earned well-deserved promotions!



Brian Spolar Deputy Chief, Administration Police Department



Jamie Verduzco Sergeant Police Depaterment



Katie Golbachi Human Resources Manager Human Resources

A dream come true Guest column by Retired Deputy Police Chief Michael Szos



Szos with his uncle (right), who was also a BG police officer for over 28 years.

This past January, I said goodbye to the gun and badge and hello to a new chapter in my life. I thoroughly enjoyed working for the BGPD and was lucky enough to have built many strong friendships over the years. I will always have such fond memories of the department!

From a young age, I wanted to be a Buffalo Grove police officer. The below picture is from the late 1970s, where I'm wearing my Uncle Ed's hat and proudly showing off the BGPD shoulder patch. My Uncle was a Buffalo Grove police officer for over 28 years (1976-2005).

I was fortunate to work with my Uncle for over a decade and carry on the law enforcement tradition. In total, there has been a Szos serving



Buffalo Grove as a police officer for over 47 years!

I met my wife Dana at the police department while she was a Desk Officer, and I was a Community Service Officer. After we married, we moved to Buffalo Grove and raised our daughter, Sabrina, here. BGPD is truly part of my family, and I have been extremely privileged to have worked with everyone here. The Szos family, between my Uncle, my wife and myself, has combined service of more than 70 years here in BG! This place, BGPD and the Village as a whole, means a lot to me.

I hope that there are some young boys and girls in our community that dream to be Buffalo Grove police officers just like I did! It truly was my dream come true.



Szos with his wife Dana, who he met at BGPD.



Deputy Chief Michael Szos retired January 31, 2023 after proudly serving more than 34 years with the Buffalo Grove Police Department.

Deputy Chief Szos began his law enforcement career with Buffalo Grove in 1988 as a Desk Officer, then Community Service Officer, before being sworn in as a Police Officer in 1994. He made his way through the ranks, including Corporal (2000), Sergeant (2003) and Commander (2011), before becoming Deputy Chief in 2014.

Deputy Chief Szos has been a most valued member of the agency, focusing his knowledge and experience in many areas throughout his career. He has served as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, Special Operations Investigator, CALEA Accreditation Manager and Public Information Officer.

During his commendable career, Deputy Chief Szos has earned numerous awards including *multiple IDOT 'Top Cop' Awards* for DUI enforcement (2000 and 2001), AMVETS Scott Fitzgerald Special Commendation Award for Exceptional Service (2001), Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit for Outstanding Services and Professionalism (2002), Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's Public Safety Leadership Award (2013) and an Outstanding Achievement Award (2018).





SENIOR EXPO Tuesday, April 18 10 am - 1 pm Free to seniors and their families

Join us for the annual senior citizen expo. This event, hosted by the Friends of the Parks Foundation, and coordinated by the Buffalo Grove Park District and the Village of Buffalo Grove, provides a dynamic one-stop shop for seniors to interact with vendors and service providers, enabling them to become familiar with the wide range of services available to them. There will also be raffle prizes, featuring a grand prize of a TV, donated by Mark Drug Medical Supply. The Expo will be held from 10 am - 1 pm at the Community Arts Center. For more information, call Chuck Burgess at 847.850.2125.

VENDORS WANTED

We are still looking for vendors for the Senior Expo Extravaganza. If you are interested in marketing your business to senior citizens, contact Chuck Burgess at 847.850.2125.

Hosted by



Sponsored by







The Buffalo Grove Park District's charitable foundation.





H DOG PARK H

AT THE BUFFALO GROVE PARK DISTRICT

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset | Open all year, but not maintained in winter.

Annual Fees • May 1 - April 30

- IN-DISTRICT
- OUT-OF-DISTRICT
- \$25 1st Dog \$10 - 2nd Dog
- \$31 1st Dog \$15 - 2nd Dog \$15 - 3rd Dog
- \$10 3rd Dog States there is a limit of 3 dogs.

Sponsored by









The Happy Tails Dog Park is exclusive to pass holders; and, there is a limit of 3 dogs. Dog park permits and daily passes (\$6 per day) are available for purchase at the Alcott Center for those who live both in-district and outof-district. The form can be downloaded ahead of time at bgparks.org. Annual passes are valid May 1 through April 30 of the following year. All dog park permits and daily passes are processed at the Alcott Center during front desk office hours. Owners must provide proof of current rabies vaccination upon purchase.

Free parking is available at the south end of the train station.



835 Commerce Court Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Located at the south end of the parking lot at the Sidney Mathias Metra Train Station.



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 uses 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, e-newsletters and social media pages including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Nextdoor, LinkedIn and YouTube. In addition to the weekly 'e-news' emailed to subscribers on Thursday afternoons, a Business Bulletin and road construction e-newsletters are also sent out on an as-needed basis. Visit vbg.org/enewssignup to subscribe today!



Your vote matters: Make your voice heard on April 4

It's that time again! April 4, 2023 is the date that Buffalo Grove residents will select those who will lead our community and decide how their property tax dollars are spent.

In the 2021 Municipal Election, voter turnout was approximately 12%. In 2019, a Trustee position was decided by just two votes! I have heard many times that "my vote doesn't matter". Please believe me when I tell you that this is the election where every single vote does make a difference.

Your local elected officials are those who most directly affect your everyday lives. They are the people that live next door or down the block from you. They are the ones that are spending the money that you give to them every month through



your property taxes. They are the ones that you contact when your street isn't plowed or when there is storm damage or when there is a pothole on your street.

This election will elect a Village President, a Village Clerk and three Trustees. All these positions are uncontested, but that does not mean you should not vote. Plus, there are contested races for our local school, library and park districts' boards.

Election judges are also needed in both Cook and Lake Counties. This is a paid position, so if you are able to serve, the website for Cook County is <u>http://bit.ly/3XG9zoC</u> and the website for Lake County is <u>https://bit.ly/3k6gpWP</u>.

Please make an informed choice, and be sure to vote on April 4, 2023!

KEY DATES

March 7: Last day to register to vote March 20: Early voting begins March 30: Last day to request voteby-mail ballot April 3: Last day for early voting April 4: Election Day

Cook County election information: http://bit.ly/41yHfaR Lake County election information: https://bit.ly/3ZdKnrh

Give the gift of life

The Village will host four Community Blood Drives in 2023, in partnership with Vitalant. Blood drives will take place at the Alcott Center, located at 530 Bernard Drive. Donors can schedule appointments at <u>vitalant.org</u>, or walk-ins are also welcome.

WHO'S LISTENING?



Janet Sirabian VILLAGE CLERK

Phone: 847-459-2500 Email: jsirabian@vbg.org



Blood Drive Dates

- Saturday, March 4
- Saturday, June 3
- Saturday, September 2
- Saturday, December 2