

# Buffalo Grove

# VILLAGE NEWS

MAY – JUNE 2023



## Meet Eric Smith - your new Village President

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Buffalo Grove has a new Village President, as Trustee Eric Smith was officially elected to the post in the municipal election held on April 4. Smith takes over for outgoing Village President Beverly Sussman, who decided not to seek re-election following eight years of service as President.

Smith, a local chiropractor who has called Buffalo Grove home since 1988, describes his journey to become Village President as “a long and winding road,” having held a variety of leadership positions over the years.

Smith has served on the Village's Health Commission, Appearance Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission in addition to two non-consecutive stints as an interim Trustee in 2010, and again in 2017. Smith won his first election as Trustee in 2019 - a position he has held since.

Smith has served as President of both the local Rotary Club and Buffalo Grove-Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, and describes himself as a collaborator. He plans to use his perspective as both a resident and business owner to bring the Village Board, residents and businesses closer together to keep Buffalo Grove moving forward.

“My goal is to make us, Buffalo Grove, the most respected and most desirable community in Illinois, both for residents to live here and for businesses to come here,” he said.

Smith says his immediate priorities are to oversee the completion of The Clove, the new Public Works Facility and infrastructure modernization program, along with working strategically to redevelop Chase Plaza. In addition, he noted the importance of recruiting the best possible police and fire staff to ensure the Village's continued safety.



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Letter from the Village President

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your new Village President. Over my past four years on the Village Board, we have made great progress, and this is an exciting time for Buffalo Grove.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to Beverly Sussman for her guidance and leadership during her eight years as President, and many years as a Trustee and Commissioner before that. Under her guidance, our community has accomplished so much. We have put the wheels in motion on The Clove - the largest development in Village history, successfully attracted a number of exciting new businesses, purchased a new Public Works facility and are undertaking a major infrastructure modernization program.

With all these projects underway, the future of Buffalo Grove is very bright. Our next immediate priority will be to shift our focus to our Moving BG Forward plan, which will lay the long-term foundation for defining who we are as a community, and where we will go from here. Moving BG Forward encompasses three strategic growth initiatives: the development of a new strategic plan, a new comprehensive plan, as well as a new community branding initiative. Each of these will allow us to assemble a “road map” to ensure Buffalo Grove is the most respected and desired community in Illinois for families and businesses alike.

The success of this three-pronged program is dependent on the participation and collaboration of our entire community, including Village staff, community leaders, residents, businesses and organizations. The planning stages will include opportunities for input and comment, and I encourage you to get involved and provide your thoughts.

I have already begun reaching out to many in the community to gather their thoughts, as building the Buffalo Grove of the future will require community members of all backgrounds, demographics, and differing viewpoints to be at the table. As we embark on this journey, I encourage you to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns you may have. Please keep an eye out for updates from the Village regarding these initiatives.

Thank you, Buffalo Grove, for electing me as your Village President. I look forward to working with you as we continue to grow Buffalo Grove into the best community it can be.

*Eric Smith*

Eric Smith  
Village President



**Eric Smith**  
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MOVING BG  
FORWARD

These three separate, but complementary initiatives follow similar timelines, which are broken down into three key phases, each with different opportunities for community engagement and each with specific deliverables.

PHASE 1 Information + Data Gathering MAY-JUNE	PHASE 2 Visioning JULY-AUGUST	PHASE 3 Drafting, Refining + Finalizing AUGUST-DECEMBER
Citizens Summit	Community Workshops	Public Event Engagements
Focus Groups, Interviews	Vision Framework + Draft Plans	Final Plans, Presentations and Adoptions
Summary of Findings		Brand Guidelines, Custom Deliverables + Action Plan

# Village Manager's Message

As we welcome summer, activities will be ramping up throughout our community – events, outdoor recreation, travel, construction season and more! And when it comes to Village activities, things will be put into high gear as well. I am proud to be a part of a community that is always evolving and improving. We have many exciting initiatives underway, along with some changes in leadership to help see it all through!

First and foremost, I welcome our new Village President, Eric Smith, whom I've had the pleasure of working alongside for many years, both on the Village Board and in his service to the community with the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove and Chamber of Commerce. Eric is a true servant leader who we can depend on to continue the upward trajectory here in BG.

I also welcome our new Trustee Frank Cesario, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our Village government. I've had the pleasure to get to know Frank through his outstanding service on our Planning & Zoning Commission, always leading with a thoughtful and deliberate approach. I am confident that he will help us achieve our most ambitious goals and continue to make Buffalo Grove a top place to live, work and play. We are also pleased to welcome back incumbent Trustees David Weidenfeld and Greg Pike who have both shown their dedication to making BG the best community it can be.

Now let's talk major initiatives! In addition to the ongoing major development projects (see page 4), this year we are Moving BG Forward. As a Village, it's important we plan for our



**Dane Bragg**  
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future, both short-term and long-term. Such planning involves having a defined identity combined with a vision of our community's potential and then the goals and priorities to help us achieve that. And that's exactly what we are undertaking this year with Moving BG Forward (see below). I strongly encourage you to participate whenever possible as these initiatives get wheels! Your opinions, ideas and concerns are important to us and can help shape the priorities that affect your daily life and the overall future of Buffalo Grove.

## MOVING BG FORWARD

The Village is embarking on a journey to envision the future of Buffalo Grove with three major initiatives - the strategic plan, comprehensive plan and community branding. Join us as we uncover who we are, where we're going and how we'll arrive.

### STRATEGIC PLAN (2024 - 2028)



The strategic plan is an aspirational document that outlines an overall vision for the community, focusing on all areas of community governance. The Strategic Plan will guide the Village Board and staff in prioritizing policies, actions and initiatives over the next five years with an long-term goals in mind.

Following in-depth discussions with the Village Board, staff and citizens, critical issues and opportunities facing the community will be identified, and an action agenda for 2023 will be created. The Strategic Plan document will then be created to define the vision, mission and goals of the 5-year plan for the Village.

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



The comprehensive plan outlines a long-term (15-20 year) vision for the community's physical environment and develops a "roadmap" to get there. A special emphasis will be placed on the future of the Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue Corridors.

An existing conditions findings report will be developed in order to identify the community's greatest needs and areas of opportunity. Input will be gathered to create a "community vision" as an aspirational goal for the type of community Buffalo Grove wants to be. Finally, a comprehensive plan document outlining the needs and goals of the community will be developed.

### COMMUNITY BRANDING



The community branding process will uncover Buffalo Grove's identity, unifying the community around what BG stands for and giving those who view the community from afar an expectation of what makes BG different and unique.

The project involves extensive research including a communitywide survey, plus interviews and focus groups with residents, community leaders and other stakeholders to get a sense of how people perceive BG and our defining strengths. A brand guidelines document will be produced around creative assets and a positioning statement. Several customized deliverables along with an action plan will also be developed to assist with the ongoing implementation of the brand.



# Developments to enhance the community's offerings

BG keeps growing, and you can also expect to see more and more development activity across the community this year. Check out these highlights:

## The Clove

The Clove is continuing to come to life! New buildings are being constructed, and the existing building (north of Old Checker Road) is undergoing a makeover!

The building shell and exterior brick work is being performed for the new quick-service Mexican restaurant, Guzman y Gomez, which is located along the southernmost access point along Route 83. At the same time, foundation and utility work is currently underway for the new Chick-fil-A site, located at the northwest corner of Route 83 and Old Checker.

Near the property's southwest corner, exterior walls have been constructed for the 43,000-square foot nationally renowned grocery store. Adjacent to the north, foundation work has been completed for the 7-story mixed-use residential and commercial building, and elevator shafts are being constructed.

Exterior facade improvements and interior remodeling for the existing multi-tenant building on the northwest side of the property continues.

Water main and other utility work is ongoing throughout the site. With construction season upon us, you can expect to see more work taking place.

To receive email updates on this exciting development project, sign up at [www.vbg.org/cloveupdates](http://www.vbg.org/cloveupdates). Details on The Clove can be found at [www.vbg.org/theclove](http://www.vbg.org/theclove).



*Exterior walls of Guzman y Gomez (above left) have been erected, while the foundation has been laid for the 43,000 square foot grocer (above right).*



*Elevator shafts for the mixed-use residential and commercial buildings stand tall over The Clove construction site.*

## RECEIVE UPDATES

Sign up to receive email updates on this exciting development project at [www.vbg.org/cloveupdates](http://www.vbg.org/cloveupdates).





## Link Crossing and Prairie Grove Park

The Link Crossing neighborhood continues to develop. The project brings 68 clustered single-family detached homes, 119 two-story townhomes to the northeast side of Buffalo Grove. Within the neighborhood, Prairie Grove Park, located at 2020 Olive Hill Drive, will see an expansion and improvements including the removal and reconstruction of the playground, construction of a shade structure, plus basketball, tennis and pickleball courts. The park will also feature an open field (for flexible uses), picnic area, walking/bike paths, bike racks, a bike – fix it station and a prairie restoration area with native plantings. The Park District received an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for the project and this funding will create a revitalized gathering spot for the community!



Examples of the 68 single-family homes being built in the Link Crossing neighborhood.



## Mike Rylko Community Park

The Village has also partnered with the Buffalo Grove Park District to bring exciting improvements to Mike Rylko Park. The improvements will bring a permanent amphitheater with a covered stage, a pavilion seating area, new ADA-accessible pathways and an enhanced “Spray ‘N Play” splash pad. Construction will kick off after this year’s Buffalo Grove Days event and is expected to be completed in time for the 2025 event.



## WHO'S LISTENING?



**Nicole Woods**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

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Renderings of the future stage, seating areas, pavilion and accessible pathways at Mike Rylko Community Park, located in between the Fitness Center and the Spray ‘N Play splash pad.



# Prevent flooding by managing stormwater

The return of warmer temperatures also means the return of severe storms and heavy rains. Recent weather trends have also indicated an increase in short, heavy rainfall events, causing flooding to become more common, especially during the spring. The Village takes a variety of preventative measures to ensure minimal impact from storm runoff and potential floodwaters, and there are a number of steps residents and business can take to prevent property damage from floodwaters as well.

## Village approach to stormwater management

The Village maintains a robust sewer and drainage system to collect stormwater runoff, which flows to drainage basins and retention ponds. Residents can help to ensure these drains remain functioning properly by keeping the drains remain clear of debris and by avoiding covering them with any type of landscaping or building equipment. You may see one of these drains in your backyard or near the curb.



Recently, the Village has placed a larger focus on maintaining natural areas near drainage basins, which help aid in absorbing floodwaters and improving stormwater runoff quality. This recent work, such as the Mirielle Park wetland restoration project, has included identifying and removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants and trees, which further aid in storm runoff and improving stormwater quality.

There are over 300 stormwater basins within the Village, with about 60-percent of them being privately owned and maintained. The Village partners with local homeowners associations to perform inspections of stormwater basins and retention ponds to ensure water is flowing freely and uninterrupted. You can find more information about retention basins and inspections at <https://bit.ly/BGbasins>.

## Homeowner and business options

If stormwater is regularly pooling in your yard or around your property, there are a number of options available to you. Typical sources of excessive water can be from downspouts, paved surfaces, sump pump discharges and excessive watering.

*Minimize it:* Sump pumps discharge water during and after it rains, so if you notice water pooling near your sump pump, you may need to have it checked by a professional. Redirecting the discharge pipe is also an option. The village allows for connection of discharges to storm sewers. Downspouts may also be a common culprit of pooling water. Downspout extensions and rain barrels provide two inexpensive solutions.

*Grade it:* Locations that collect water and the surrounding area could be regraded to allow for water to drain away from a location instead of pooling and collecting. The Village's Engineering Department can provide more information as well as inspections.

*Cover it up:* French drains, pipes and infiltration wells are always effective options for moving stormwater from the surface to a new location fast.

*Get creative:* Depending on your particular situation, there are a number of ways to work stormwater into your landscape. Stepping stones, rain gardens, water-loving and native plants and raised garden beds are all options which can add both beauty and value to your home.



# Enjoy summer events in BG

With temperatures warming up, BG is gearing up for a fun summer full of events and activities. Both the Village and various community organizations are hosting fun events for all ages. There's something for everyone this summer in Buffalo Grove!

## Cop on a Roof Top

*Supporting Special Olympics Illinois*

Friday, May 19, Dunkin, 5:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 245 and 1165 McHenry Road

## Parks and Public Services Day

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Mike Rylko Community Park, 951 McHenry Road

This family-friendly event celebrates Kids to Park Day and National Public Works Week. Live demonstrations will occur at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Demonstrations and activities will include:

- Touch-a-Truck.
- Stamp your initials in concrete.
- Snowplow demonstration.
- Parks vs. Public Works chainsaw competition.
- Watermain, hydrant and vehicle demonstrations.
- Specialized garbage truck demonstration.
- Free custard from Culver's.



## Bike Rodeo

Saturday, May 27, drop-in between 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mike Rylko Community Park, 951 McHenry Road

## Community Blood Drive

Saturday, June 3, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Alcott Center, 530 Bernard Drive

## Buffalo Grove Farmers' Market

Sundays, June 18 - October 15, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mike Rylko Community Park, 951 McHenry Road

# Welcome our new employees



**Jennifer Heavrin**  
**Permit Coordinator**  
Community Development



**Samina Shaikh**  
**Records Clerk**  
Administrative Services



**Brandon Gewargis**  
**Police Officer**  
Police Department



**Edwin Zuniga**  
**Police Officer**  
Police Department



**Kate Vazquez**  
**Human Resources Clerk**  
Human Resources

**We're  
hiring!**

**Apply today:**  
[www.vbg.org/jobs](http://www.vbg.org/jobs)

# Plant milkweed to support monarchs

It's time to take action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. One of the best and most effective ways you can support the monarch butterfly is to plant milkweed. The life cycle of the monarch is dependent on milkweed as it is the only plant the monarch will use for egg laying. Growing monarch caterpillars eat the milkweed leaves before the chrysalis stage, after which the adult butterfly emerges about 10 days later!

First and foremost, milkweed is not a weed. It was removed from the Illinois noxious plant list many years ago. There are three native varieties of milkweed in our region. One is called Common Milkweed with a single stalk growing up to 4-feet tall and with purple flowers top when in bloom. Another variety is called Butterfly Milkweed which grows 2 to 3-feet tall, is slightly bushy and has orange flowers. The third most popular variety in our area is called Swamp Milkweed, which is a shorter, bush-style plant that, as its name implies, can be

grown in moist areas. Pods are formed by all three varieties. In nature, the pods open and disperse seeds in late fall, which makes it the best time for planting.

Buffalo Grove has been involved in efforts to support the monarch for many years. The Save the Monarch group in BG works with other partners to promote milkweed planting, giving out free seeds at the Farmers' Market, libraries and other community events. Buffalo Grove has also been an annual participant in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, an initiative which promotes creating an environment which supports the monarch butterfly by committing to various actions.

When you plant milkweed and native nectar flowers, you help more than monarchs, but many other pollinators too. You may see signs for Monarch Waystations at some gardens around town, signifying these efforts. When you add milkweed to your garden, you can enjoy seeing butterflies on your flowers and know you are helping the environment in a beautiful way.



*Milkweed helps support the iconic monarch butterfly through its entire life cycle, egg to adult.*



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## Reduce waste and enhance your garden

Make your garden work for you! Composting is one of the easiest and simplest ways to make a positive impact on the environment. Composting is a controlled, aerobic process that converts organic materials into a nutrient-rich soil amendment or mulch through natural decomposition. The material left behind through the composting process is full of nutrients which can help plants in your yard or garden thrive. Composting reduces the amount of material sent to landfills by turning food scraps and yard waste into a beneficial compound that can go a long way toward helping your home garden thrive.

There are two ways to approach composting: backyard composting

with a pile or bin, or vermicomposting (worm composting) with a bin. To start a compost pile, you will need carbon-rich materials or "browns" such as dry leaves, twigs, plant stalks and twigs. Browns provide food for microorganisms to consume and digest. Then, nitrogen-rich materials or "greens" such as grass clippings and food scraps should be added. Nitrogen-rich materials heat up the compost pile to create ideal conditions for the material to breakdown.

Using compost helps improve the structure and health of your soil, reduces the need for pesticides and fertilizers and has many other benefits. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home](http://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home).



*A compost bin like this one can help kick-start your composting process and keeps compost material covered and out of the way.*



# Be prepared for severe weather

Severe weather is common this time of year. Make sure you are equipped with knowledge and weather safety procedures that you can implement in various settings, like at home, work or school, place of worship, or on the road.

Your family should have a severe weather safety plan so everyone knows where to seek shelter, such as a basement or interior room. Know how to find one another by designating a meeting place to reunite if you get separated.

Consider having multiple ways to receive alerts and stay informed during a severe weather event. For example, have your cell phone's wireless emergency alerts enabled, and also have a battery-powered radio or weather radio nearby. TV and internet are other great options, but they can be limited if you lose power.

## Watch out for downed wires, trees, branches

Call the Police Department if there is an immediate danger involving power lines, limbs over houses or if tree is blocking a street or driveway (847-459-2560 or 911). Do not attempt to move any branches near a downed line.

Following a severe weather event, the Village's forestry team will address trees and branches that pose a safety hazard first. They will then evaluate and perform any general cleanup after the storm as needed.

Most parkway trees or those located at Village-owned facilities are considered public trees. If you notice one of these has fallen, please call 847-459-2500,



email [bgpubwrks@vbg.org](mailto:bgpubwrks@vbg.org) or submit a request online at [vbg.org/report](http://vbg.org/report), noting the location of the tree or limb.

Remember that trees and fences on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. If a tree or large limb growing from private property fell, contact a professional tree service company for assistance. If it's a small amount, you can always bundle branches (under 3.5 inches diameter) for free collection by Waste Management. Just make sure bundles are stacked in the parkway with the thick ends of the limbs near the curb.

## No power. Now what?

Severe weather can take down limbs and power lines, leaving you without power. It's important to be prepared for such a situation. Those with special needs, such as those who may be elderly, disabled or dependent on electricity for medical equipment, should have alternate arrangements in place should they experience an extended power outage. Report outages to ComEd at [comed.com/report](http://comed.com/report). You can sign up to receive outage alerts on your mobile phone and view current outage updates at [comed.com/outagemap](http://comed.com/outagemap).

## Did you know?

A common misconception is that outdoor warning system (OWS) sirens are meant to be heard inside a home or building. They are not. The sirens are intended for motorists and those outdoors as a warning to seek shelter immediately.



## Know the difference: watch vs. warning

Know the difference between a "watch" and a "warning," and what to do for each scenario. A great way to differentiate the two is to think about tacos. That's right, tacos.



A "watch" means you have all the ingredients to make the most delicious tacos, and you should be prepared for the ultimate feast. Have your plates, lime wedges and a drink within arm's reach. OK, so in a severe weather situation, this means severe storms or tornadoes are possible in your area. Be alert and monitor information. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued.



A "warning" means take action: we are having tacos right now! Grab your plate, load it up, sit down at the table and eat up! The translation? Severe weather has been sighted or indicated by radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room or the lowest level of a sturdy building, avoiding windows where possible. If in a mobile home, a vehicle or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.



BUFFALO  
GROVE  
PARK  
DISTRICT

# PRIDE PICNIC

A Uniquely Us Event | **Sunday, June 4** | 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

📍 **Mike Rylko Community Park** (near the Spray 'N Play)

## THIS FREE EVENT INCLUDES



### Live Entertainment

Live entertainment by Radio Gaga  
Special Guest Appearances



### Food & Drinks For Purchase

Wide variety of food trucks  
Beer, wine and soft drinks



### Family Entertainment

Inflatables, lawn games and face painters



## VISIT WITH OUR COMMUNITY BUSINESSES



Parking will be limited. Visit the Pride Picnic page on our website at [bgparks.org](http://bgparks.org) for parking details.



This event is immediately following the Buffalo Grove Pride parade.



Scan for Details

Sponsored by



## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**Tuesday Nights**  
**6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**WILLOW STREAM PARK**

**June 13 PINO FARINA BAND** - Alternative Rock

**June 20 MEMBERS ONLY** - 80s

**June 27 TRIADD** - Classic Rock

**July 11 YANKEE COWBOY** - Country

**July 18 CLASSICAL BLAST** - Rock Classical Style

**July 25 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE** - Rock

**August 1 SERENDIPITY** - Pop/Rock

Sponsored by







BUFFALO GROVE  
FRIENDS OF THE PARKS  
FOUNDATION

The Buffalo Grove Park District's charitable foundation.



# Movies Under The Stars

Willow Stream Park • Movie starts at dusk • Admission is FREE

Presented by



PLUMBING • SEWER • HEATING • COOLING • ELECTRIC

There is no need to buy a ticket or rent a movie on these Friday nights! Available seating is guaranteed in our 54-acre theater that will feature a 40-foot screen and surround sound. Concessions will be available for purchase, or bring a picnic of your own. So, grab your blankets, and head out to Willow Stream Park for 3 fun evenings of Movies Under the Stars.

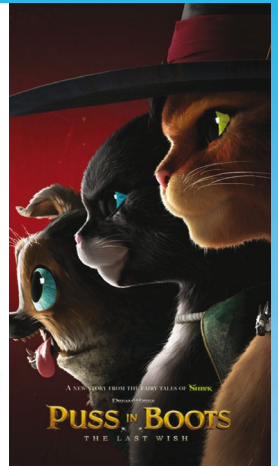
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**Sonic the Hedgehog**  
June 23  
(rain date June 29)



**DC League of Super-Pets**  
July 14  
(rain date July 20)



**Puss In Boots:  
The Last Wish**  
July 21  
(rain date July 27)

## Flag Day

Wednesday, June 14 • Veterans Park • Free Ice Cream at 4:45 pm • Program 5:30 pm



Flag Day is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and unity as a nation, with a glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans, and many have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon. Join us at Veterans Park, located at 1300 N. Weiland Road in Buffalo Grove, as we proudly celebrate Flag Day. The Buffalo Grove Police and Fire Departments Honor Guard will be presenting the colors. Speeches, changing the flags, and music will also be part of this fascinating program. There is no rain date for this event.

## BOW WOW DOG EXPO

Thursday, June 8 ➡ 5:30 - 7 pm

Happy Tails Dog Park | **ADMISSION IS FREE**

Enjoy a variety of vendors, such as dog groomers, an adoption program, pet suppliers, veterinarians and many more. Your dog will also have a chance to meet and mingle with other dogs that speak their own language. All dogs must have current shots. This free event will be held outside; so, please check the weather hotline if inclement weather is pending. For more information, or to inquire about being a vendor, contact Brian O'Malley at 847.850.2146 or brian@bgparks.org.



ARE YOU IN?

Sponsored by





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Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089  
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Website: [www.vbg.org](http://www.vbg.org)

### VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday  
8:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday  
8:00 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 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](http://vbg.org/enewssignup) to subscribe today!



## Local music therapy program supports hospitalized children

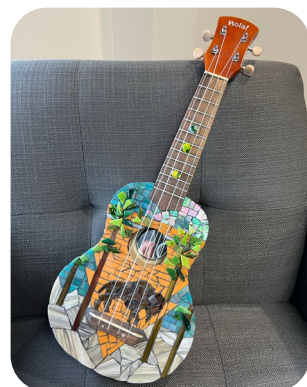
UKE Can Do It! is a charitable music therapy project run by the BG Singers with support from the Buffalo Grove Community Foundation and Friends of the Parks Foundation. The project aims to share the gift of music with local hospitalized children, as ukuleles are easier for children to play and learn than larger instruments like guitars. The group also raises money for the Ukulele Kids Club, a nationwide non-profit which has sent ukuleles to nearly 14,000 children across the country since it was established in 2014. Through this program, local businesses that contribute a \$100 donation receive a custom-designed ukulele, and another is sent to a child in a local area hospital. Since the program's inception in 2020, the project has sent over 200 ukuleles to children.

Through the UKE Can Do It! program, businesses that donate receive a beautiful ukulele (like those pictured to the right), while also sending one to a child in a local area hospital.

Want to get involved? Contact Linda Rosen [rosen@bgparks.org](mailto:rosen@bgparks.org) or Cathy Novak [cathysings2211@aol.com](mailto:cathysings2211@aol.com).



*Deputy Fire Chief Larry Kane, Police Chief Brian Budds and Cathy Novak pose with two of the customized ukuleles.*



## Delivering high quality drinking water to your home

When many hear "CCR" they think of the band Credence Clearwater Revival, but at the Village, and in the municipal government space, it means Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The CCR is an annual report that summarizes the status of the community's drinking water quality. Ensuring high quality, safe drinking water is a top priority of the Village. As you would expect, BG has once again met or exceeded all water quality regulations. You can go ahead and tell your neighbors that you "heard it through the grapevine" how good our drinking water is.

If you are thirsty for the full report, it's posted on the Village website at [www.vbg.org/CCR](http://www.vbg.org/CCR). Drink up, BG! It's good stuff.

