



Village of Burr Ridge

Mayor Gary Grasso

Dear Community:

As we close out the year, I enjoy publishing a recap of the year to understand how much work went on in the community and organization during the previous year. So much goes on in our community that we are not aware of; I find this is a good exercise to truly appreciate the scope and breadth of work which collectively occurred. These are merely the highlights and are not listed in any order, while so much more goes on every day. As we have done in the past, this will be memorialized on our communications channels as a news announcement.

I'm wishing all of you a very Happy New Year! I look forward to the new beginning of 2024 and a fresh start on another year in Burr Ridge: A Very Special Place!

[Board of Trustees](#)

Personnel

- Appointed Edward Shishem to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.
- Appointed Jerome Connolly to the Police Pension Board.
- Re-appointed all existing board and committee appointees to new terms through 2025.

Achievements

- Revised Board meeting start times to 6:30pm.
- Held a calendar-year record-low 16 Board meetings.
- Trustee Guy Franzese was appointed as President Pro Tem through 2025.
- Adopted the Illinois Municipal League's Civility Pledge.

- Mayor Grasso was appointed to the Board of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).
- Mayor Grasso was appointed to the Illinois Flag Commission.
- Created the Ad Hoc TCF Visioning and CNH Development Visioning Committees.
- Approved two-year audit services agreement extension.
- Approved a third-consecutive property tax levy with no additional dollar increase.
- Adopted the FY2024 budget with a \$250,000 General Fund surplus.
- Adopted a revised Police Pension Funding Policy, which projects the Pension Fund to attain a 90% funding ratio by 2040 while saving approximately \$8 million.
- Approved a five-year capital investment plan and corresponding fee rate structure for the Water and Sewer Funds.
- Successfully blocked the development of a QuikTrip on the western boundary of the Village in unincorporated DuPage County.
- Supported Willow Springs in their vision of the Willow Springs Road development.
- Re-structured and streamlined the Village's committee structure.
- Considered but declined to implement video gaming in Burr Ridge.
- Adopted the new DuPage County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Approved a proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Approved a proclamation declaring the Village's Arbor Day participation.
- Approved a proclamation Recognizing the National Day of Egypt.
- Hosted all special event community partnerships for an end-of-year presentation of each participating organization.

Public Works/Community Development

Personnel

- Joyce Stutz was hired as an Administrative Assistant in February.
- Michael Wolfram was promoted to Development Technician in May.
- Kathleen Turnbull was hired as Community Development Assistant in June.
- Ella Stern was hired as Planner in July.
- Steve Fister was hired as GUI in July.

Achievements

- Michael Jones earned a CDL B license while Vincent Dewall earned a Water Operator license.
- Nick Just assumed an additional responsibility as the Department's Safety Coordinator.
- On July 12, a second tornado in three years hit the Village. Most of the damage was limited to a small area near 73rd St and Wolf Rd. The night of the tornado we provided significant assistance to the Village of Indian Head Park in clearing their streets and the parking lot of the Flagg Creek Condos. Cleanup efforts lasted for three weeks with the assistance of DuPage County, Darien, Roselle, Hinsdale, Indian Head Park, and Kramer Tree Specialists.
- 458 building permit applications have been received, with about 90% issued, easily breaking records in both the number of permits received and issued in a calendar year. Major projects included the 75,000 square foot addition at Edgewood Valley Country Club's main clubhouse, buildouts for six downtown businesses, including Pella Signature, the new Thornton's permit being issued and ready for construction in spring 2024, as well as the newly begun entertainment district at the Village Center.
- New traffic control signage was installed in the Chasemoor Subdivision, at the Pace Parking Lot, around Gower Middle School,

on North Frontage Road, and South Frontage Road to improve traffic flow and safety of residents.

- The Shady Lane bridge was repaired by framing up bridge deck base and pouring concrete to stabilize bridge base.
- Drainage was improved by re-ditching along South Frontage Road, and 73rd Street.
- Constructed a new salt brine station at Public Works to bring brine mixing and storage in-house.
- Improved storm water drainage by repairing a storm sewer basin at 79th & Drew and clearing blocked manholes/pipe at 3 Hillcrest Court.
- Removed dilapidated landscaping timbers in the right-of-way near Gower School and Burr Ridge Middle School, re-grading slope and improving aesthetics.
- Due to investments in a larger brush chipper and mini skid steer attachments, a record 152 trees were removed in-house, saving money from using an external contractor.
- Completed the 3rd phase of water main leak detection and valve assessment to finish covering all the water mains in the Village.
- Completed sanitary sewer smoke and force main testing to find any leaks/damages in sanitary sewers.
- New water distribution main interconnection with Justice-Willow Springs and new interconnect meter at I-294 bridge to increase water distribution reliability and efficiency.
- Upgrades to the Pump Center SCADA system to increase efficiency and reliability.
- South Water Tower Rehabilitation was bid out with work to start in the spring.
- Started abandonment of old Village maintained wells that no longer met Village needs.
- Purchased of a new shoring box to increase safety and efficiency during water, sewer, and storm sewer main work.
- Initiated an Americans with Disabilities Act self-evaluation and

transition study to identify access improvements for all constituents.

- Installed Road Watcher Information cameras to better assess when snow plowing and salt spreading operations are needed; these cameras have already paid for themselves during the current snow season, with much more savings expected as the winter progresses.
- Disposed of excess and unneeded assets through auction with a return of over \$10,000 to the Village.
- The Police Department HVAC system study was completed.
- The Public Facilities needs assessments study was completed.
- Tartan Ridge fence replacement was completed as per agreement with IDOT during I-294 construction.
- The Plan Commission heard 34 total zoning petitions along with eight text amendments for items including outdoor dining, short term rentals, boarding houses, and trucking company offices.
- The Village's zoning adjudication program obtained \$55,000 in total judgements, including about \$3,000 in violations of the new prohibition of signs in the right-of-way. This includes major improvements made at County Line Square.
- The Village began its participation in a joint planning committee set to redesign the Wolf Road corridor, with elected, staff, and resident participation.
- The annual Road Program was completed approximately \$90,000 under budget and ahead of schedule, including annual sidewalk trip hazard maintenance, striping, crack sealing, and watermain break restorations conducted throughout the Village.
- The bi-annual street survey report was completed.
- The Lakeside Pointe pedestrian bridge was installed.
- The Garfield Avenue sidewalk connection and Kraml Subdivision pathway projects were completed.
- Community Development Director Farrell attended the nationally renowned Illinois Basic Economic Development Course.

- New entryway signs were installed throughout the Village.
- Played a major role in implementing automated metering infrastructure (AMI) technology in the organization, saving significant staff time, and increasing resident service levels.

Police

Personnel

- Officer Louis Moravecek was promoted to Sergeant.
- Margaret Cota was hired as Records Specialist in April.
- Sam Temes was promoted to Police Executive Assistant in August.
- Mike Kurinec was hired as Community Service Officer in November.
- The Burr Ridge Board of Fire & Police Commissioners adopted a new process of accepting lateral entry police officers based upon the new Police Patrol union contract. The lateral entry program allows certified, trained, and experienced police officers to be hired and compensated at a rate commensurate with their years of service. The later entry program resulted in the hiring of Chicago Police Officer Tim Andersen (March), METRA Police Officer John Denis (May), and Oak Park Police Officer Anthony Harvey (November).

Achievements

- Officer Mary Murphy began training as a MERIT Accident Reconstructionist.
- The Department's drone program was successfully deployed at multiple community events as well as in criminal investigations, one resulting in the apprehension of a burglary suspect.
- The Village's traffic adjudication program obtained \$150,000 in total judgements.
- Sergeant Firnsin and Moravecek and Officers Overton, Weeks, and Lesniak were recognized by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists for their training and skill in identifying and arresting

dangerous intoxicated drivers.

- Officers participated in numerous community events and raised money for charities, including Shop with a Cop, National Night Out, Illinois Special Olympics, & Harvester Park District Pedal the Parks.
- The BRPD partnered with School District 181, Hinsdale Police Department, and Clarendon Hills Police Department, to provide extra school safety patrols funded by District 181 and at no cost to the municipalities.
- The Village was awarded a \$57,200 grant for twenty Flock LPR cameras, while the Village's Flock camera presence was greatly expanded to include a multitude of right of way locations.
- Significant administrative action was taken to comply with implementation to the SAFE-T Act which took effect in September.
- Under the direction of Deputy Chief Ryan Husarik, BRPD moved to a digital records management system. The Department also switched to the federally mandated NIBRS crime data reporting system for more detailed statistics.
- Completed a replacement of all technology related to internal security systems as well as interview room recording platforms, both of which integrate to the Village's overall AXON system.
- A multimedia audio visual system was installed in the roll call room for enhanced training.
- Detectives participated in several saturation details within DuPage County to combat crime in the area.
- The Department fully onboarded Lexipol as its real-time policy management platform, providing ongoing and real-time policy training for sworn officers.

Finance

Personnel

- Jeanmarie Steiner was hired as Accounting Assistant in September.

Achievements

- The Village won its first-ever GFOA Triple Crown award, meaning it exceeds expectations for transparency and completeness on its budget, audit, and popular annual financial statements. Only 29 other units of government in Illinois won this award in 2022.
- The Fifth Third Expert Pay Program was implemented, allowing the Village to pay participating vendors via virtual credit cards. All of these expenditures include a cash-back incentive to the Village.
- Attended BS&A Annual Conference and recommended the Village transition to BS&A Cloud. Will act as organizational lead for implementation.
- Assisted with the outsourcing of the administration of the Police Pension Fund (payroll, paperwork, etc.).
- Played a major role in implementing automated metering infrastructure (AMI) technology in the organization, saving significant staff time, and increasing resident service levels.

Administration/Central Services

Personnel

- Claire Nass was promoted to Management Analyst in February.

Achievements

- As of December 20, 2023, the Village had received 284 total citizen requests for action. These are the general classification for any request received by the public related to a perceived non-emergency issue in the community.
- Negotiated two extensions to existing water tower rental agreements with phone companies with total value of over \$2.5 million.
- Managed 16 unique special events and supported the new Mecca Moves 5K/1K.
- Received the highest-possible safety rating with

Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), which resulted in lower insurance fees in 2024. Additionally, completed a deductible analysis for its IRMA membership; concluded that the Village would benefit from having a higher deductible due to the low number of safety incidents in the past five years, saving over \$45,000.

- Migrated all hardline phones to the cloud.
- Published monthly digital Oak Leaf editions with an annual open rate of 63% compared to an industry standard of 30%.
- Website usage increased 142% year-over-year.
- Social media impressions increased 171% year-over-year, including adding over 200 followers on Facebook. Launched new Burr Ridge Police Department Facebook page.
- Published annual hard copy (with digital version) of Oak Leaf with Budget in Brief.

Sincerely,
Evan Walter
Village Administrator