



BURR RIDGE

BRIEFS NEWSLETTER

2021 Annual Report

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Administrator's Annual Message :

Looking Back at 2020: As surely was the case your own life, 2020 was an exceptional year for the Village of Burr Ridge from both a community and organizational perspective due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is meaningful to reflect upon what has occurred in 2020 so that you can best understand how your elected and appointed officials responded to safeguard the Village in the midst of these unprecedented times.

Starting from the very onset of the pandemic, the Village diligently and proactively took steps to modify its operations, becoming adaptive to change as well as responding to unpredictable challenges. The Village Board gave directions to staff to proceed with a draft budget in February, only to see the pandemic present itself in March, thus requiring an entire re-write of the budget in a matter of weeks. Due to the quick actions of the Village Board led by Mayor Gary Grasso, the Village is projected to finish the current fiscal year - ending April 30 - with a budget surplus without the need to use Village savings or increase taxes or fees. The Village's "Road Program" was again completed on time and under budget, while staff became well versed in working remotely, ensuring that Village services continued without meaningful interruption. Multiple mask giveaway events were hosted at the Village Hall during the spring and summer, ensuring that residents had easy access to public health resources.

In November 2020, the Village announced a major change in staff leadership. Longtime Village employee Doug Pollock transitioned from Village Administrator to a part-time role as Village Planner, a role that he occupied for many years prior to his appointment as Village Administrator. I now have the esteemed opportunity to serve as your new Village Administrator, and I look forward to getting to know you better in 2021.

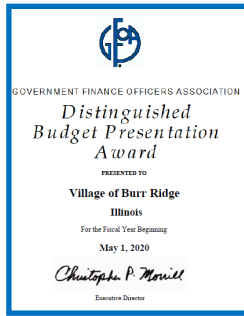
Looking Forward in 2021: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff is constantly seeking to innovate the ways in which we interact with you, provide services, and improve the community to ensure that you are safe while you conduct necessary business with the Village. We are also conducting further analysis of the Village's financial picture to determine how the Village's economic position can be further strengthened for years to come.

Staff looks forward to a new year with new opportunities in 2021. For more information on Village programs and services, I encourage you to visit our web site at www.burr-ridge.gov. There you will find a wealth of Village information, including a link to our recently created "New Resident Information" packet, which provides helpful information for all residents.

On behalf of the Mayor, Board of Trustees, and your entire Village staff, thank you for allowing us to serve you and contribute to making Burr Ridge "A Very Special Place".

Village of Burr Ridge Awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the Village the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget. This program and is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting that public agencies can achieve. To earn recognition, the budget document and content was re-designed last spring to meet program criteria and excel as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool. This program was established by GFOA in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's Best Practices on budgeting as well as to recognize individual governments succeeding in achieving that goal. Congratulations to the Burr Ridge Finance Department!

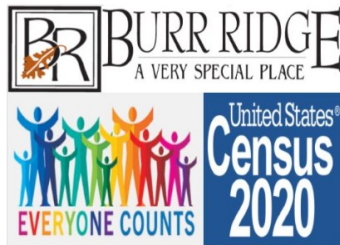


Enhanced Online Payment Services

In mid-March prior to the pandemic, the Finance department implemented a new bill payment service, InvoiceCloud, that makes it easier for residents and businesses to view and pay bills and manage their accounts online. This service provides convenient options to enroll in Paperless Billing, AutoPay, Payment Scheduling, Text Reminders, and viewing bills online. Since implementation and promoting this through our newsletter and social media, we have seen a significant increase in AutoPay and Paperless enrollments. The increase in Paperless Billing and AutoPay registration results in the payer's enhanced online experience, increased operational efficiencies and decreased costs. You can pay your water bills online using InvoiceCloud through the Village website at: www.burr-ridge.gov. Look for the button on the right side of the home page!



United States Census 2020 - The Village of Burr Ridge was very active in getting the word out about the 2020 Census. The Complete Count Census Committee, chaired by Trustee Anita Mital, developed and sent out several Census 2020 postcards and letters, as well as placed signage all around town reminding residents to "Be Counted For Burr Ridge". The Census determines in some cases what monies will be distributed to individual villages, based on their resident counts.



Trustee Positions Open in General Election - There will be five candidates vying for three open Trustee positions in the next General Election, which is April 6, 2021. Early voting for this election starts on February 25 for DuPage County residents, and March 10 for Cook County residents. Information on where to vote, and how to obtain mail-in ballots can be found on the front page of our website, www.burr-ridge.gov. Just click on the icon at left (as above), and follow the links. Be sure to vote, as your representation counts in Burr Ridge.



Coronavirus Relief Funds - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village applied for and received nearly \$400,000 in grant funding from DuPage and Cook Counties to offset incurred expenditures that were eligible as defined under the CARES Act. These funds were used primarily to assist the Village's hotels, restaurants, and retail businesses with the establishment of a Tourism Recovery Grant Program, an Outdoor Dining program, and License Rebate programs to aid in funds recovery and offset the financial damage caused by COVID-19.

Staff Highlight - As a new item going forward, the Village will highlight a member of the staff in each newsletter. This will give residents the opportunity to get to know their Village Staff!

Officer Lukas Weeks: Lukas is an almost 9 year veteran of the Police Department. Hailing from Downers Grove, Lukas played football as a wide receiver for both Downers Grove North High School and Concordia University Chicago. He still enjoys it, as well as cheering on his favorite football teams - the Green Bay Packers and the Tennessee Volunteers. Lukas and his wife, Sara, are the parents of twin girls Adelynn and Emma, who will be turning two this March! They also have two dogs to add to the family fun, 7 year old Blitz, a Doberman Pinscher; and Copper, a 6 year old hound mix. Lukas also enjoys hanging out with family and friends, traveling, golfing, playing cards, listening to Country and Rock music, working out on his Peloton, and various do it yourself projects on their home. Lukas' favorite part of being a police officer is helping people, and that it's something different every day. He and his family are very proud that he chose to be a police officer.



The Village wishes to recognize all of the employees and businesses who have been immensely helpful in ensuring that public health is maintained and normal life can continue during the COVID-19 pandemic, including healthcare workers, doctors, and other front-line workers. The Village would like to specifically recognize two local businesses who have gone out of their way to ensure that proper information is available to residents as well as a sanitary workspace is possible for its staff: Metro Infectious Disease Consultants, led by Village resident Dr. Russell Petrak, and MicroSonic Solutions, led by Village resident Nicholas Federico. Metro Consultants (MIDC), has been a constant source of COVID-19 information, testing, and now vaccinations for the local community. MicroSonic Solutions has provided the Village with cleaning solutions for its public buildings and vehicles at no charge. We are sincerely grateful to these and all businesses for their efforts to combat COVID!



POLICE DEPARTMENT

New Hires - The Department welcomed four new officers in 2020; Robert Dumitru, Travis Madler, Patrick O'Kelly, and Mary Murphy. Officer Dumitru is finishing training at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in Glen Ellyn. Officer Murphy graduated from the Police Training Institute in Champaign and has entered field training. Officer Madler and O'Kelly graduated from the Police Training Institute and are near completion of the field training program. In addition to the new officers, we welcome Heidi Nelson as the newest member of our records department. Welcome all!

Promotions - The Department promoted three deserving employees to the rank of sergeant in 2020: Sergeant Michael Firnsin, Sergeant John Helms, and Sergeant Robert Wisch. Congratulations on your promotions.

Burr Ridge Officers Receive High Honors -

Burr Ridge Officers received honors in 2020 for service above and beyond the typical call of duty. The following officers were recognized for their performance: **Drunk/Driving Enforcement:** Officers Valentino, Overton, Lesniak, Gutierrez, Cervenka, and Sergeant Firnsin. **Lifesaving Award:** Officers Overton, Valentino, Jarolimek, and Weeks. **Department Commendation:** Officer Brandon Watson. **Meritorious Service Award:** Officers Jarolimek, Valentino, Weeks, Overton, Lesniak, and Sergeant Helms. Great work, Officers!



CALEA Assessors Return For Re-Accreditation - In March, 2020, Assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. came to the Department to examine all aspects of the agency's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. In July, the assessors report was approved by a national panel of commissioners, and the Department received its fourth reaccreditation since initially applying for accreditation in 2007!



flock safety

Subdivision Camera Update - For approximately 10 years, the Village has collaborated with the Home Owners Associations of many subdivisions in

town to implement a joint video surveillance program. In partnership with **Flock Safety**, we will be implementing the "Wing" program, which will turn these surveillance systems into searchable systems with license plate recognition and alerting. Currently, there are sixteen Home Owners Associations opting in for the video program, with 75 cameras currently in operation. This program greatly enhances public safety and is critical in keeping our community safe.

Pandemic Response - In March we were hit with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to this day. The employees of the Police Department faced the challenge head on, altering the manner in which we handle calls (phone reports, social distancing, personal protective equipment, etc.), and contributing to a safe and healthy work environment. The Department received many donations of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies that were much appreciated! Thank you to the residents and businesses of Burr Ridge who donated items!



Officer Kyle Jarolimek with donated items.

Civil Unrest - In the midst of the pandemic, the Nation faced several weeks of social unrest, which did have an impact on our operations. Our officers responded admirably. Days off were cancelled and many officers assisted surrounding agencies with mutual aid. Our NIPAS and MERIT Team members were deployed to assist agencies that were hit hard by riots and upheaval. Officer Brain Gutierrez was deployed to Chicago as a member of the National Guard during this time.

Safe at Home - Burr Ridge and surrounding communities have continued to be the target of car thieves, with 11 vehicles reported stolen in Burr Ridge in 2020, all of which involved vehicles that were left unlocked, or the owners had left the key fob inside the car. These thieves



are smart, they know that many cars these days start with a key fob push button system. They also know that many residents keep their garage door openers inside their cars. This poses a greater risk to residents than just their car being stolen, as the thieves now have access to your home. **Please, be sure to lock your cars at all times, and ALWAYS take your keys/key fobs with you!!** Don't forget about your garage door openers inside your car - be sure to keep your house to garage door locked at all times, for your own safety. **We all need to do our part to keep our cars, homes, and families safe!**

Prescription Medication Disposal Box Back in Service - The medicine drop-off box for expired, unwanted medicines is back in service! The dropbox is located inside the Police Station lobby, and is available during business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sharps/syringes are not accepted, please place all medications in a clear, ziplock bag. Pill bottles are not recyclable.

PUBLIC WORKS

Neighborhood Street Maintenance Staying On-Schedule -

The Street Policy Committee, Mayor Grasso, and the Board of Trustees recognize the importance of our Village streets to your neighborhood's aesthetics, property values, and economic development. Despite the pandemic's impacts, the Village stayed on-schedule with its 2020 street rehabilitation programs, resurfacing 2 miles of Village streets: Lake Ridge; 81st St., Ridgepoint Dr., Lake Ridge Dr., Lake Ridge Ct.; Devon Ridge: Devon Ridge Dr., Devon Ridge Ct., Circle Ridge Dr., Circle Ridge Ct.; Erin Lane. The total cost for all 2020 street maintenance contracts was \$617,998, with diligent contract management resulting in savings of \$69,112 for the Village for this work.

Funding for the road program will increase 60% from last year, and will include a larger program for street resurfacing as follows: Dartmouth Ct.; Lakewood, between 83rd and 87th Streets: Heather Dr., Heather Ct., Wedgewood Dr., Lakewood Cir.; Braemoor (South of 83rd Street): Park Ave., Bennacott Ln.; Braemoor Estates, between 79th and 83rd Streets: Garfield Ave., 81st St., Park Ave., Kathryn Ct.; Old Oak Highlands: Hamilton Ave., Highland Ct., Old Oak Court.



County Line Road Sidewalk Construction to Resume near Katherine Legge Park -

Construction should re-start this Spring for the north sidewalk connection on County Line Road between Longwood Drive and 60th Street. This priority project began in late July 2019, and during that first period, all tree removal and utility relocation work was completed to make way for the sidewalk. Construction halted in November 2019 for the early winter-season shutdown and did not resume in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Remaining work should be completed by Summer 2021 and will include constructing a block retaining wall, removing and relocating the steel guardrail, forming and pouring the concrete sidewalk, installing the aluminum railing, and restoring the turf and landscaping. More than 40% of the project's construction cost will be offset by a State and federal grant in the amount of \$284,000.



Sanitary Sewage Lift Station to be Replaced - The sanitary sewage pumping system has failed at our station located behind Chasemoor on the west side of Burr Oak Lane. This vault and its pumps were constructed in 1987 to serve the Ambiance! and Chasemoor subdivisions along with all Burr Ridge homes south of 79th Street in Cook County. The station is over 21 feet deep and pumps 1,000 gallons per minute of raw sanitary sewage. Electrical problems caused catastrophic pump failures, which systems are obsolete and require major renovations. The estimated cost for this renovation project is approximately \$475,000. Time is of the essence to design, bid, and construct the project while temporary pumps are sustaining the station's operation. Work is anticipated to begin in late Spring 2021. Residents' sanitary service will not be interrupted during this project.

Water Rates and Water Main Replacements to be Studied -

The Village's Water Committee selected a consultant to complete a comprehensive study of the Village's water distribution system with respect to its limitations, future capital improvements, and methods of financing. This comprehensive study will include modeling the actual capacity of the distribution system, assessing the system's security risks and vulnerability, developing a 10-year capital project construction plan, and studying the financial status of our current water rate structure. A multi-year study is underway this Spring, and will provide several opportunities for open public meetings with the Water Committee to discuss preliminary findings.

Parkway Trees Thriving in the Village -

In 2019, our Arborist removed 37 large parkway trees, of which four (4) were the ash variety affected by the emerald ash borer. This year's ash tree removal is a remarkable improvement from the previous low of 85 ash trees in 2019, and the high of 450 ash trees in 2016 following the peak EAB infestation. To-date, the Village has removed 1,535 parkway ash trees, and a total of 545 parkway ash trees will remain. The Village continues to use imidacloprid soil drench treatments to calm the devastating effects of the emerald ash borer.



Textile and Electronics Recycling Available in Burr Ridge -

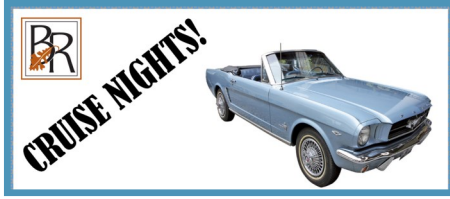


you know that nearly 25% of the electronic recycling occurs at our recycling center? The Village of Burr Ridge continues to partner with DuPage County to provide an electronics and textiles recycling center outside our Public Works building located at 451 Commerce Street. The center is operated by eWorks and RewearAble for the collection of a wide variety of electronics, old clothing, bedding, towels, and fabrics. eWorks and RewearAble offer job creation programs committed to helping people with developmental disabilities pursue sustainable employment in the recycling sector. Check the DuPage County website for a complete listing of items accepted at the Burr Ridge site, located at 451 Commerce Street, open weekdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cruise Nights - Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, the annual Car Show was not held this year. That didn't stop a small number of car aficionados from sharing their favorite vehicles and their stories this summer! Cruise Nights were held every other Tuesday evening at the Village Center outlot across from Starbucks. Cars and their drivers were spaced apart in the parking lot, and lookers with masks on roamed from car to car, taking in the sights. The Cruise Nights were very small, but enjoyed by those who participated.



Concerts on the Green - Also greatly affected by the pandemic were the Concerts on the Green series, typically held each week on the Village Green. All bands have been re-booked for the 2021 concert season, and we will hopefully be able to have live music to listen to in person this summer. With the uncertainty of gathering limitations, staff has been looking into live streaming the concerts as a possible option for this summer, with limited in-person seating offered week to week. We will keep you posted!!



Run The Ridge Turkey Trot 10k - Runners lined up in corrals of 10 and spaced 6 feet apart with staggered times to run the first-ever Burr Ridge "Run the Ridge Turkey Trot 10k!" Runners came with their masks in place until race time, and were given masks to don at the finish line for the 10k, 5k, and 1k Run/Walk. Participants were treated to goody bags with items from local race sponsors, and were encouraged to dress up in their favorite Turkey gear! Not to be confused with any of the runners, Henry the Turkey from the Hansen Center was there to strut, crow and offer his support. The Hansen Center is part of the larger Ray Graham Association for individuals with disabilities and was the benefactor for the Turkey Trot 10k this year. We had so much fun that we're planning to do it again in November of 2021, in place of the usual Run the Ridge held in June each year. Turkey gear is encouraged, but optional!



Santa Stop - Alas, with the pandemic still raging, we decided it was best not to host the annual Jingle Mingle, the biggest event and crowd attraction in Burr Ridge every year. Not to worry though, we were determined to make sure that Santa knew Burr Ridge was still on his delivery route –pandemic or not! Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up at the Village Hall on Friday, December 11 and gave out candy canes and small giveaway items to all the kids and families who drove through the Village Hall's reception line. Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the kids and families from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., even braving the cold rain to see the kids and pass out candy canes.



Secretary of State's Mobile Services Returns

The Secretary of State's Mobile Driver Services Facility came to the Burr Ridge Village Hall (7660 County Line Road) twice in 2020. Burr Ridge was one of the first and only sites in which the Secretary of State's Mobile Services visited with the ongoing pandemic, and our third date in November had to be cancelled. Vision screens were waived during these visits for health purposes. We have scheduled visits for August 12 and November 18 of this year and will keep you posted if they are able to visit sooner. The mobile facility offers vision screening, duplicate and/or corrected drivers' licenses, new ID cards and vehicle renewal stickers. "Real Id" licenses still must be obtained at a regular driver's facility location. To learn more, visit the Secretary of State's web site at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Armed Forces Day - was not a go this past year, as everyone was right in the middle of the stay at home order. Luckily for Burr Ridge, we have the Veterans Memorial to ensure that we are always ready to honor our men and women who have and are serving in our Armed Forces. The Veterans Committee is planning for Armed Forces Day this year on Saturday, May 15th. We will once again be accepting nominations for the Patriot Award, renamed this year as the "Jack Schaus Patriot Award" in honor of one of the founding members of the Veterans Committee and original builders of the Veterans Memorial who recently passed away. For more information, go to www.burr-ridge.gov/events/Armed Forces Day.



VILLAGE OF BURR RIDGE
7660 S. COUNTY LINE ROAD
BURR RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60527

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STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
HINSDALE, IL
PERMIT NO. 94**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL
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PROMPTLY**

VILLAGE OF BURR RIDGE

WWW.BURR-RIDGE.GOV

A VERY SPECIAL PLACE

MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR*

FEBRUARY

- 3 Economic Development - 5:00 p.m.
- 8 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Stormwater Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m.@ PW
- 10 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners - 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Veterans Memorial Committee - 4:00 p.m.

MARCH

- 1 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Economic Development - 5:00 p.m.
- 8 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners - 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Pathway Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 15 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Secretary of State - MDSF - CANCELLED
- 17 Bike Committee - 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 31 Veterans Memorial Committee - 4:00 p.m.

APRIL

- 7 Economic Development - 5:00 p.m.
- 12 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Police Pension Board - 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners - 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Village Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Veterans Memorial Committee - 4:00 p.m.

MAY

- 3 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Economic Development Committee - 5:00 p.m.
- 10 Village Board - 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Stormwater Committee - 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Board of Fire & Police Commissioners - 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Pathway Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Armed Forces Day Celebration - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 17 Plan Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Village Board - 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Veterans Memorial Committee - 4:00 p.m.
- 31 *Memorial Day - Village Hall Closed*

** Meeting updates/cancellations will be posted on the Village Website Calendar at: www.burr-ridge.gov/ calendar. Weekly meeting agendas will be posted as soon as they are available from the Committee Chairperson.*

Keep in touch! Visit our website and social media sites for up-to-date Village information. Like, Follow, and Watch us at: "BRVillage"



To receive continual Covid19 updates and emergency updates, sign up for Nixle and E-Briefs on our website's front page: Www.burr-ridge.gov

