



# The Grove

## February 2026

*The Official Newsletter of the  
Buffalo Golf Club*

Kevin Starr, Editor

Organized in 1912 110+ years and counting  
[www.bgcgolfclub.com](http://www.bgcgolfclub.com)

President: **Kevin Starr** Vice-President: **Matt Mariconda** Treasurer: **Joseph Attea**  
Secretary: **John Barrett**

Board Members: **Mike Bass, Joe Coyne, Tom Czerniejewski, Richard Fries, Ken Hupkowicz, Greg Kaszubski, Dan Lach, Nick Lowery**

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**Spring Stag** – Keep an eye on your email for information regarding our first stag of the season. Based on previous years' attendance and other considerations, the Board of Directors has determined that we will combine the winter and spring stags into a single event. In light of increasing costs, such as rising GHIN fees, we believe that this is in our members' best interests as it will allow us to maintain our dues at the present level. The tentative date of this event is **Sunday, April 19 from 1-4 PM**. The site is to be determined. We are strongly considering requiring that all members attending RSVP with their intention to do so. This will enable us to plan for food, drinks, and prizes more efficiently. Please save the date; we will be following up with an email in mid-March.

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### **2026 BGC Membership Dues**

Despite the 2026 increase in GHIN fees from \$32.50 to \$39.00 per member, there will be no increase in regular membership BGC dues for the upcoming season. The Board feels that the membership dues are an excellent deal considering the number of tournaments and parties that are held throughout the season.

Here are the 2026 dues:

**Regular membership** - \$120. The hole-in-one jackpot fund is an additional \$5. **Therefore – members who pay regular dues and participate in the hole-in-one jackpot will owe \$125.** New member initiation fee will remain at \$25. Members who were granted a leave of absence for last year and who did not pay dues for the 2025 season will not have to pay the additional \$25 initiation fee if they are reactivating their membership for the coming season

**Life Members** - \$75. Dues for life members are being increased by \$10 to offset the increased cost of stags and GHIN fees. **Life members who participate in the hole in one jackpot will have a total payment of \$80 due.** After accounting for the \$39.00 GHIN fee, life members are only paying an

additional \$36.00 for the club's parties and tournaments.

Social membership - \$60

Many BGC members choose to pay their dues at our Spring Stag. This is an option again this year. Members may also mail their dues checks to BGC Treasurer Joe Attea, 284 Blackstone Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY 14150. Checks should be made out to The Buffalo Golf Club. Joe will also accept payments via Venmo - @Joseph-Attea. **(Make sure to use this exact Venmo address. There is another Joe Attea on Venmo that has inadvertently received some members' dues payments due to typing errors).** Please consider paying your dues before the season starts. This will help streamline our membership process.

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### Rest in Peace, Tom Alajko

Condolences to the family and friends of Tom Alajko, longtime BGC member, who passed away on January 5. This is a photo of Tom after his hole-in-one.



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Erie County Season Passes/Tee Time System – from the Erie County Parks Department:

*Dear Valued Pass Holder,*

*I hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to share with you some information about the 2026 golf season at Erie County Parks.*

*All prices and rates for passes, fees, carts, etc. will remain the same.*

*Golf passes will be available for sale beginning January 8, 2026 at 8:30am at the Rath Building, 95 Franklin St., Room 1260. Please do not come to the Rath to renew your pass until that date.*

*Additionally, we will be selling golf passes at the golf courses on select dates:*

*Friday, February 27, 10am-2pm at Grover Cleveland*

*Saturday, February 28, 10am-2pm at Grover Cleveland*

*Friday, April 10, 10am-2pm at Elma Meadows*

*Saturday, April 11, 10am-2pm at Elma Meadows*

*Please find enclosed Erie County Golf Course Policies & Procedures, with a few noted changes:*

- *In 2025 we saw 4,626 missed tee times. In an effort to improve fairness, open up additional tee times to the public, and reduce abuse of the tee time system, we have implemented a three-strike policy. Three no-shows or late cancellations (less than 4 hours in advance) will result in a loss of tee time privileges for 30 days. No refunds will be given. Cancellation of or changes to (# of players) must be made at least 4 hours in advance. Cancellations can be made in person, by phone, or via our tee time system.*
- *No personal golf carts/golf boards allowed.*
- *Only one shotgun tournament/outing per weekend, per course will be permitted. Only one 2-day shotgun tournament/outing per month, per course will be permitted. Tournaments/outings may take place on Fridays or Saturdays, with no tournaments/outings to be scheduled on Sundays. No one organization can have more than one tournament/outing per month.*

*We look forward to a great 2026 golf season!*

*Sincerely,*

*Nicole Ruberto, Deputy Commissioner of Recreation*

Be sure to check the website regularly for updates: <https://www3.erie.gov/parks/golf> .

*This site also has a link to the form that you can print and mail if you'd prefer to get your pass that way.*

**Important clarification regarding match play tournaments (repeated from 2025):**

We have had numerous members who have inquired about playing weekly tournaments at the same time that they are playing a match play round (President's Cup, Harvest Cup, or Match Play Championship). Keep in mind that this is not permitted due to conflicting playing rules for the two types of tournaments.

**Sponsors!!!** -We are always looking for new businesses/organizations/individuals to support the BGC by sponsoring our weekly tournaments or providing door prizes for our stags. \$150 buys a full-page ad in our program book and provides funding for prizes for one tournament. Please contact a Board member if you have any connections with or ideas for potential new sponsors. Remember to support our sponsors and let them know that we appreciate their support.

**2026 Program Book** – The book will be digital only again this year; we plan to upload it to the BGC website in late April.

**Posting winter golf scores** – Please remember to post your scores to GHIN for rounds played in southern states (and southern countries) during the winter. Rounds played in New York State don't qualify until April 15. Also – if you had any aces over the winter, let us know so that we can post the good news on the BGC website.

**Recognition for members who have “shot their age”** - We have a page on the BGC website recognizing members who have “shot their age.” Fran Barone, Larry Hamilton, Cleo King, and Denis

Lichtenberger are the current members of this very exclusive club. Please keep us informed about any additional members who accomplish this great feat.

### **2026 Howie Biondi Invitational**

As you probably recall, we had to cancel the 2025 Invitational due to an insufficient number of participants. We are determined to resurrect this great event for the 2026 season. At this time, we are leaning toward scheduling the event in early/mid-July rather than in August, when it has been held in the past. Stay tuned for further details.

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