

Village of Park Ridge

Village Hall (Fire Dept. & Meeting Room): 24 Crestwood Drive

Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office: 24 Crestwood Drive, 715-343-1590

Village Clerk Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Village Clerk: Charlotte (Char) Woyak clerk@park-ridge.us

Village Treasurer: Kathy Bemowski treasurer@park-ridge.us

ESTABLISHED 1938

www.park-ridge.us



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 24

Large item pick-up (see p. 2)

November 1

Deadline for moving recreational vehicles

A LETTER FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Dear Park Ridge Residents:

As summer transitions to fall, so too there are several changes occurring with the Village's employed staff. As you may recall our clerk, Kathy Bemowski, tendered her resignation two months ago citing the demands and complexities of the combined clerk/treasurer position. The good news is that our search firm has found an acceptable candidate for the newly created clerk position. Charlotte (Char) Woyak will have assumed the newly created position on 9/8/2020. She will be trained by our current interim clerk. When Char is prepared to carry out all the defined clerk's duties, Kathy will assume the financial responsibilities of the Village as treasurer.

Several weeks ago, John Kraft, who provided maintenance services for the Village, notified the Village of his desire to step away from those duties. However, John will continue in his role fulfilling Diggers Hotline requests. On behalf of the Village residents, I want to thank him for his dedicated services to the Village. The position has been posted and the Village is currently in the process of completing background checks on the candidates seeking to be his replacement.

Our Village has been fortunate to have Brian Lepper as its fire chief. During his tenure our Volunteer Fire Service has been upgraded to standards that are at the forefront for providing this emergency service. His knowledge, ability to lead, and reputation in the areas of emergency services are widely recognized as he is the current Chair of the Portage County Emergency Planning Committee. The Village can be proud of our Volunteer Fire Service. I would also add that if a fire call comes from within the Village, our Fire Department will be the primary responders, not the Town of Stockton, as one of our residents suggested in a recent communication to the Board!

The Linwood Avenue reconstruction project is nearing completion. Point of Beginning has indicated there are several drainage issues that are continuing to be evaluated. Also, a final assessment regarding grass restoration remains to be completed. (continued on page 2)

**PLEASE VOTE
NOVEMBER 3,
2020
EARLY VOTING
STARTS
OCTOBER 20th
and ENDS
OCTOBER 30th
2020
(see page 3 for
more details)**

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR
NEW CLERK**

The Village of Park Ridge hired Charlotte (Char) Woyak as our new Clerk, who started on September 8, 2020. During the pandemic we are trying to keep our distance, but please consider stopping by the Village Hall to welcome our new Clerk and introduce yourself (please wear a mask).

President's Letter continued from page 1

In retrospect, the project with the small number of glitches encountered has progressed to its near completion with the least amount of inconvenience to the Village residents. Going forward, future plans for road enhancement will be considered. As discussions relating to the Fire Service have evolved, it is apparent that a network of strategically placed fire hydrants needs to be developed. For consideration in the future will be the reconstruction of Hillcrest Avenue. A project plan was developed by our Comprehensive Planning Committee that included the placement of fire hydrants along the right-of-way in addition to a bike/pedestrian path. This was submitted to the State when the Board applied for the one-time MLS grant money made available by Governor Evers. Competition for the limited money was intense and subsequently only 4 projects were funded in Portage County and unfortunately, we were not in the group.

With the unexpected resignation of our former President and following Board deliberation, I reluctantly agreed to complete the Former President's term to avoid a governance crisis. New to municipal government leadership, I fully agree with the comments made by a resident at our last meeting that there is a significant learning curve. The entire Board recognized its missteps as they relate to open meeting law regulation. To further compound this problem, is the pandemic and the scramble to conduct business virtually which the Village was ill prepared to do. We embrace the criticism of the recent Portage County D.A.'s report and have initiated steps to educate and to improve our performance. The Board hopes to avoid mistakes in the future and maintain transparency going forward. The Board is however saddened by the actions of a core group of individuals who have in all possible ways discredited the Board's actions.

Finally, I encourage you to read this Newsletter in its entirety, particularly the section addressing the upcoming election. Remember also that Board members will make time to sit and individually discuss with you issues you have concern over. All you have to do is send an email request.

Regards,
Steven Bergin
Village President

VILLAGE REMINDER FROM PRESIDENT BERGIN

On 9/6/20, the Village Office received an email from a member of Village Voices, Jeri McGinley, correctly pointing out that a number of Village residences were not in compliance with Ordinance 17.34. The Ordinance in question defines the number of signs that can be displayed on lawns at any given time. I physically surveyed the Village and the vast majority of signs relate to the upcoming November election. I would therefore assume that post-election the properties involved will once again come into compliance.

**'LARGE ITEM PICK-UP'
SEPTEMBER 24**

This is the time for you to clean out the basement and garage, and dispose of those **non-recyclable** items such as furniture, carpeting, mattresses, box springs, etc. **All items to be picked up must be placed at the end of the driveway or street-side by 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24th.** No appliances, building/demolition materials, electronics, tires or toxic materials (paint thinners, pesticides, fertilizers, insecticides, etc.) will be picked up. There will be only one "run" by Harter's through the Village, so items put out later in the day will not be picked up. Don't miss this opportunity to dispose of non-recyclable items which is offered only once/year!! To arrange for an individual large item pick-up throughout the year please contact Harters: 715-253-2619

Recreational Vehicles:

Residents with recreational vehicles (including boats, canoes, boat and utility trailers, motor homes, campers, personal water vehicles and kayaks) are reminded that these vehicles are not to be stored on any street right-of-way, or within the front setback including the driveway, or in a side yard if the side yard borders a street, from November 1 through March 31. [Ordinance 10.06, 'Junk, Certain Vehicles and Firewood'].

**ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

General Election: November 3, 2020

Polling Place: Village Hall

7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Please remember to bring a photo ID to the Polling Place

Election Law Updates - Prior to the August Election, the Wisconsin Supreme Court updated a couple election laws. The Early (In-Person) Voting time has been reduced to 10 days prior to Election Day. **Early Voting will start on October 20, 2020 and will end on October 30, 2020.** The Village Hall is open from Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for Early Voting. If your schedule does not allow you to stop by the Village Hall during the designated days/times, please send an email to clerk@park-ridge.us to schedule an appointment or call the Village Hall at 715-343-1590.

The Residency Requirement for Registration has also changed from 10 days to 28 days. If you are new to the Village, please stop by the Village Hall to register to vote or visit <https://myvote.gov.us>. You must be a Village resident for 28 days to vote in the Village. If you have lived in the Village for less than 28 days, please vote from your previous jurisdiction. Even if you move from one house to another in the Village, you will need to register to vote from your new address.

Of course, there is Absentee Voting too. If you would like to apply for an Absentee Ballot please visit <https://myvote.gov.us> or you may contact the Village clerk at clerk@park-ridge.us or call 715-343-1590. If you decide to Absentee Vote, you may send your completed ballot/envelope to the Village via U.S. Mail or there is a secure drop slot/box at the front door of the Village Hall. You may also stop by the Village Hall and hand your ballot envelope to the Village Clerk.

The Village Hall will be open on Election Day, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm to vote. Please bring your ID and wear a mask. Masks will be available if you forget yours.

Please direct your Election questions to the Village Clerk or visit <https://myvote.gov.us>

Displaying House Numbers –

Per Village Ordinance 11.14, house numbers not less than three inches high should be placed on the front of your home – so responding units will be able to find your home in the event of a 911 emergency. If your house number is not noticeable from the street, you will receive a letter from the Village.

School started September 8th – The Village crossing guard is on duty 30 minutes before and after school at the Sunset/66 intersection. Please slow down when you see the yellow school crossing signs and watch for children. Stevens Point Elementary Schools will begin the day at 8:45 am and end at 3:35 pm for the 2020/2021 school year. Thank you to our Crossing Guard, LoisJean Miller for watching over our children.

REMINDER

Fall is the time for raking leaves and yard clean-up. While Village Ordinances allow for the burning of leaves & other yard waste, we do not encourage it. Please see below for burning regulations and composting information on burning and disposing of yard materials. **The City yard waste site is located at Bukolt Park. Please visit the website for a list of hours.** <https://stevenspoint.com/368/Drop-Off>

Fall Leaf Composting & Mulching Recommended

Fall is almost here and we'll soon be raking leaves! The Portage County Solid Waste Department discourages people from burning leaves because it pollutes the air, causing potential health hazards for the elderly, very young, and people with asthma. Composting and mulching are healthy alternatives. If you decide to burn leaves, the leaves MUST BE COMPLETELY DRY.

Park Ridge Burning Regulations:

AUTHORITY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT: Per Village Ordinance, the Fire Chief, Fire Inspector, any appointed Fire Officer, or Law Enforcement Officer may order and/or cause to be extinguished any fire that may, in their singular opinion, be threatening the safety of persons or property in the Village. Non-compliance with regulations or orders of a Fire Department Official may result in a citation.

BURNING HOURS: 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

SIZE OF PILES: Piles larger than 4'x4'x3' are prohibited.

FIRE LOCATION: No burning shall take place in any street right-of-way. Approved burning shall take place 30' or more from any structure, flammable liquid, or other material which constitutes a potential fire hazard.

WIND REGULATIONS: No burning shall take place when the wind velocity exceeds 9 M.P.H. as indicated by a credible source or during periods when either the Village Fire Chief or the Department of Natural Resources has issued a burning ban.

FIRE PREVENTION: ALL fires must be attended at all times, by a responsible person equipped with either an operable garden hose or fire extinguisher. ALL FIRES MUST BE extinguished before such a person leaves the site. Fully extinguished means no heat can be felt emitting from the remains of the fire.

PARK RIDGE ALLEYS & STOP SIGNS

Please keep the alleys mowed and open to emergency vehicles.

Village Ordinance 10.09, Section 1. - No owner or occupant of any lot or parcel shall allow such property to become overgrown with any weeds or grass so as to constitute a public nuisance, as defined under Noxious Weeds, Ordinance 10.03.

The alleys shall be used by all residences that are located on an alley. Please do not block any alley entrances or exits.

If you have a stop sign on your property, it is your responsibility to cut back any branches that prevent a clear vision of the stop sign.

Village Ordinance 10.08, Section V, Subsection A. - No shrub, hedge or other growth exceeding thirty-six (36) inches in height above street grade shall be permitted in any clear vision triangle extending 25 feet from any street corner within the Village. Trees that are located in a clear vision triangle shall be kept trimmed so that the lowest branches projecting over the public street or right-of-way provide a clearance of not less than sixteen (16) feet.

Village of Park Ridge
24 Crestwood Dr.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Board and Staff

President: Steve Bergin
Trustees: Charm Fournier
Bill Dunham
Gert Neuendorf
Brian Kozlowski
Clerk: Charlotte Woyak
Treasurer: Kathy Bemowski
Fire Chief: Brian Lepper
Building Inspector: Jim Zepp
Zoning Administrator: J.D. Manville
Maintenance: John Kraft
Diggers Hotline: John Kraft
Crossing Guard: Lois Miller

Village Hall 715-343-1590

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY ALERT at
<https://portagecountycommunityalert.bbcportal.com> OR
email the Village Clerk.**

Community Alert is a means for the Village Board or Clerk to contact the Village residents regarding announcements, emergencies, etc.

The next Village newsletter will be out after Thanksgiving.

Here are some 'snow' reminders:

Snow Sticks – While snow sticks can help guide snowplows when the first snows fall, they should be placed at a minimum of one foot from the pavement. The Village and snowplow operator will not be held liable for any broken snow sticks.

Parking – When two or more inches of snow is predicted, please do not park on the street.

Driveways – Please do not push snow from your driveway into the street.

SAVE A TREE/SAVE A STAMP – Please contact the clerk to receive the newsletter by email