

# NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2021

## VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE

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VILLAGE HALL: 24 CRESTWOOD DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

OFFICE OF VILLAGE CLERK & TREASURER: 715-343-1590

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

VILLAGE CLERK: CHAR WOYAK: CLERK@PARK-RIDGE.US

VILLAGE TREASURER: KATHY BEMOWSKI: TREASURER@PARK-RIDGE.US



### From the Village President

Dear Park Ridge Neighbors:

I hope you are all well and enjoying the start of Spring. This is my favorite time of year, especially in Park Ridge, where the trees, gardens, lawns and landscaping show how much our residents care about their property and our Village community.

In so many ways, spring is also a time for renewal, whether it's that kitchen or bathroom remodel that you are finally going to tackle this year, or – especially this spring – just getting back to some sense of normalcy. The past year has certainly been a challenge! The pandemic dramatically changed life for most of us, disrupting so many activities we took for granted. I have been amazed, however, at how resilient and resourceful Park Ridge residents have been through it all – especially our young parents, who somehow found a way to juggle their parenting and job responsibilities, often accomplishing both tasks simultaneously at home!

2020 also brought about some angst regarding Village government affairs, with opposing viewpoints being expressed about Village needs and priorities. This regrettably caused some stress and hard feelings at times, but our democracy by its very nature has a long history of internal strife. I am hopeful that in the coming months these diverse viewpoints will come together to inspire conversations about what we want our Village to be today, tomorrow, five years from now, twenty years from now. To that end, the Village board and key volunteers in our community will be undertaking the important task of comprehensive and strategic planning. Our Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), led by volunteer chair Lee Bendtsen, has already begun the task of updating the Village's [Comprehensive Plan](#), which is not only a state requirement, but will also provide the foundation for our goals, policies, and day-to-day decisions so they make sense in the future.

Complementing and paralleling the work of the CPC will be a newly-formed ad hoc body called the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF), whose charge is to assist the board in:

*(continued on page 2)*

### Spring Reminders

#### Burning policies and tips

**Composting** is the preferred method of disposing of yard materials. Smoke from burning leaves can affect young children and residents with asthma or other health issues and can prevent neighbors from enjoying outdoor activities. Residents may take grass clippings, pine needles, leaves and branches up to 4" in diameter to the City Garage at 100 Sixth Avenue, which is open Tuesday & Thursday afternoons and from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday.

**Burning** is allowed from 4 pm – 9 pm.

- Piles larger than 4'x4'x3' are prohibited.
- An operable garden hose or fire extinguisher must be on hand and the fire monitored AT ALL TIMES.
- No burning shall take place when the wind velocity exceeds 9 M.P.H.
- No burning in any street right-of-way.
- Approved burning shall take place 30' or more from any structure, flammable

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from 1 - President's letter)

1. Identifying and clarifying the Village's needs;
2. Prioritizing those needs with citizen input, and;
3. Determining a strategy for managing the financial resources necessary to meet those needs over time, using professional consultants if necessary.

The most important element for this process will be number 2 – **citizen input**...from **YOU!** Stay tuned.

The Village will soon need to make critical decisions about how to invest its limited financial resources to address growing concerns about our streets, water supply, fire protection, stormwater management, and Village Hall staffing and public meeting spaces. In the coming months, I invite you to participate in the conversations and share your ideas for how we can create an exciting future for this beautiful 145-acre community we call Park Ridge.

See you on the trail,

*Steve Menzel*

Steve Menzel  
President/Trustee  
smenzel@park-ridge.us



(continued from 1 - Burning)

liquid, or other material which constitutes a potential fire hazard.

- **BE RESPECTFUL OF YOUR NEIGHBORS IF YOU CHOOSE TO BURN.**

## Fire Pits/ Campfires

- Only clean wood (i.e., sawn wood) may be burned. No yard waste and construction materials.
- Hours are noon to midnight.
- Fire pits (i.e., campfires) may not exceed thirty-six (36) inches diameter, shall be located a minimum of twenty (20) feet from any structure and/or fifteen (15) feet from any lot line.



## Change Your Smoke Alarms Batteries

Change the batteries at least once a year.

Smoke alarms should be installed inside and outside each bedroom, on every level, and in the basement.

Interconnected smoke alarms are best. When one alarm sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms each month. Consider using both ionization alarms (quicker to warn about flaming fires) and photoelectric alarms (quicker to warn about smoldering fires). Hearing-impaired



## Volunteers Wanted

Please consider serving your Village by volunteering your time for one of the following:

- **Zoning Board of Appeals** - alternate member needed.
- **Ordinance updating** - we need two good proofreaders to update and reconcile our Village Ordinance binder.
- **School crossing guard alternates** needed.

Please contact the Village Clerk at 715-343-1590 or [clerk@park-ridge.us](mailto:clerk@park-ridge.us) to volunteer.



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## New Village custodian hired

(Continued from 2 - Smoke Alarms)

Please welcome **Rebecca Lepak**, who was recently hired as custodian for the Village Hall. Rebecca is from the Rosholt area will take over the custodial responsibilities from John Kraft, who served the Village for many years. A special thank you to John for his past service!

## Thank you for your service!

### Holiday Santa Visit volunteers:

- Gert Neuendorf, Fire Chief Brian Lepper, and members of the Park Ridge Fire Department.

### Poll workers:

- Gert Neuendorf (Chief Inspector)
- Joan Dorschner
- Nancy LaMar
- Bette Vogel
- Charm Fournier
- Becky Woodward
- David Blado
- Christine Neidlein



### Zoning Committee and Zoning

#### Board of Appeals volunteer members:

- Jim Sachs (Chair); Judy Cable Anderson; Heidi Chitwood; Tom McCarten; Christine Neidlein; Doug Myers; and Thom Patton; Steve Menzel; Bill Dunham.

### Comprehensive Planning Committee volunteer members:

- Lee Bendtsen (Chair); Dan Holloway; Gert Neuendorf; Thom Patton; Matt Chitwood; Meg Erler; Brian Kozlowski; Joe Thompson; Phil Kruthoff; Bill Dunham; Gordon Renfert



people can use special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Contact Fire Chief Brian Lepper at 715-347-6152 if you have any questions about smoke or carbon monoxide alarms, installation of them, or home fire escape plans.



## Building Permits

Many Village property owners may be considering building projects this spring and summer. Here are some general guidelines:

A permit **IS REQUIRED** to change or add structures:

- Enlarging a concrete or asphalt slab.
- Replacing windows with larger windows.
- Changing a roofline when repairing a roof.
- Changing a screened patio into one that is weatherproof, heated or has electrical outlets.
- Replacing an existing furnace, air conditioner or water heater if: changing from gas to electric or vice versa; or changing the location of electrical, plumbing or ventilation to the new unit.
- Installation of a new fence or repairing/replacing more than 40% of an existing fence's length.
- Replacing doors with new, wider ones.
- Building a new interior wall or moving a wall when doing siding.
- Building any new structure (Ordinance 11.13)
- Anytime electrical, plumbing, or HVAC systems are modified or added to.

Permits must be obtained before work begins and displayed so they are visible from the street. Failure to obtain a permit may result in additional fees and fines. Always remember to adhere to setback requirements for all structures or additions.

**NO PERMIT** is required to replace or repair existing structures—

- Repairing a cracked concrete or asphalt slab in the same area as before.
- Replacing old windows with new ones of the same size.

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## Portage County Community Alert

### Sign up for Community Alert

To receive emergency notifications from the Village of Park Ridge please sign up for Community Alert at:

<https://portagecountycommunityalert.bbcportal.com>

- Click "Sign Me Up"
- Provide your contact information and subscribe to receive your preferred types of messages
- Download the "Blackboard MyConnect" app

Contact the Village Clerk if you need assistance.

- Replacing siding or roofing with no changes made to the structure or roofline.
- Replacing patio screens with new screens.
- Replacing an existing furnace, air conditioner or water heater with the same type without any electrical, plumbing or ventilation changes.
- Repairing or replacing less than 40% of an existing fence's length.
- Replacing doors with new ones of the same size.

For permits or more information, contact:

**Jim Zepp, Village Building Inspector**

**[jzepp55@charter.net](mailto:jzepp55@charter.net)**

**715-310-3157**

### Tree, shrubs and hedges

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 feet.

### 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.

### Reminder: Get your well water tested!

Most Village residents get their drinking water from a private well located somewhere on their lot. Since there is no requirement to test a private well (except for bacteria when it is first drilled or the pump is changed), **YOU** are responsible for making sure your water is safe.

Most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water; however, contaminants can pollute private wells, and unfortunately you cannot see, smell or taste most of them. Consequently, **you should test your water on a regular basis**. We are fortunate to have a state-certified water testing facility that is within minutes of the Village: UWSP's Water and Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL).

For Village wells, WEAL recommends their "Homeowners Package" test (\$55). See an excellent instructional video at: <https://youtu.be/eqEF3y9Y5iY>. Find more information on the WEAL water testing web page at <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/weal/Pages/Homeowner.aspx>, or contact: 715-346-3209 or [weal@uwsp.edu](mailto:weal@uwsp.edu).



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(continued from 4 - Spring Reminders)

## Village alley right-of-ways

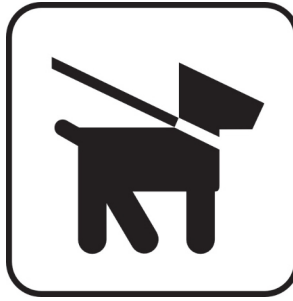
Many Village properties are adjacent to Village right-of-way alleys. Please *keep these alleys clear and accessible* at all times so that utility and emergency crews are able to get their trucks through.

## Pet leashes

Village and County ordinances requires that *dogs and cats must be on a leash* anytime they are off the owner's

property. To report a stray cat or dog, please call the Portage County Humane Society at 715-344-6012.

## Dog licenses



If you have a dog over 5 months old, state law requires licensing. 2020 licenses expired 12/31/20. Late fees will apply to all 2021 applications received in the Clerk's office after March 31, 2021. The fine for not licensing your dog is \$169.00. Unlicensed animals will be reported to the Humane Society.

## Park Ridge All Village Rummage Sale

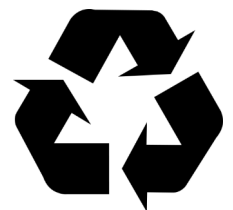
**Saturday, May 8 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

At 2:00 p.m., the Community Thrift Store will be picking up items left by the street. No TVs or non-working electronics will be accepted, and only clean mattresses will be taken. To minimize risk during the pandemic, please observe these guidelines from Portage County Health and Human Services:

- **SELLERS SHOULD:** Hold rummage sales outdoors rather than indoors. ■ Provide physical guides, such as tape or chalk marks on the ground, to establish traffic flow plans to maintain physical distancing. ■ Encourage shoppers to wear masks and consider providing masks for people who do not bring their own. ■ Consider placing hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) throughout the area for shoppers to use. ■ Post signs that promote everyday protective measures, like properly wearing a mask and maintaining 6 feet of distance from others. ■ Use disposable gloves when handling cash and use hand sanitizer. ■ Hold rummage sales outdoors rather than indoors. ■ Encourage shoppers to wear masks and consider providing masks for people who do not bring their own. ■ Consider placing hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) throughout the area for shoppers to use. ■ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as pens, counters, or hard surfaces between use.
- **SHOPPERS SHOULD:** Stay home if you are sick. ■ Shop alone or with as few people as possible. ■ Do not handle items unless you intend to purchase them. ■ Wash/sanitize hands often. ■ Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from other people whenever possible.

## Recycle / Reuse

For all of your recycling and solid waste disposal questions, contact the Portage County Solid Waste Department at 715-343-6297



The Portage County Transfer Facility & Recycling site is located at 650 Moore Road, east of I-39 off of County Hwy B in Plover. Turn north onto Apache Drive. Stop at the scale speaker and the attendant will direct you from there. When done, weigh out and go to the scale office in the MRF (Material Recovery Facility) to make payment. The facility is open Mon-Fri 7:30 am – 3:30 pm and Sat 7:30 am – 11:00 am. Arrive at least 30 minutes before closing. Fees vary and some restrictions apply, so call 715-343-6297 for more information or go to the [Portage County Solid Waste Department website](#). Rates for Residential, Commercial and Construction/Demolition: \$20 minimum charge for any load of 600 lbs. or less. Loads weighing more than 600 lbs. are subject to a standard rate of \$65.75 per ton.

## Yard Waste

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>



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

## Village Board and Staff Contact Information

President:	Steve Menzel	smenzel@park-ridge.us	715-345-0799
Trustees:	Bill Dunham	bdunham@park-ridge.us	312-318-6762
	Charm Fournier	cfournier@park-ridge.us	715-344-2396
	Gord Renfert	grenfert@park-ridge.us	715-344-7906
	Kristin Paulson	kpaulson@park-ridge.us	715-209-7417
Clerk:	Char Woyak	clerk@park-ridge.us	715-343-1590
Treasurer:	Kathy Bemowski	treasureri@park-ridge.us	715-343-1590
Fire Chief:	Brian Lepper	parkridgefd52@park-ridge.us	715-344-2134 (FD) or 715 -347-6152 (cell)
Building Inspector:	Jim Zepp	Jzepp55@charter.net	715-310-3157
Zoning Administrator:	J.D. Manville	jadeco@charter.net	715-498-1111
Diggers Hotline:	John Kraft	krafty605@charter.net	715-498-7700
Crossing Guard:	Lois Miller	clerk@park-ridge.us	715-343-1590