

NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2021-22

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

Photo courtesy Tori Jennings



From the Village President –

Dear Park Ridge neighbors,

Planning continues to be a big priority for the Village, as evidenced by the work over the past year by our Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC), chaired by Lee Bendtsen, and our more recently-created Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF), chaired by Matt Chitwood.

Thanks to the leadership of Lee and Matt and the steadfast commitment of their committee volunteers, both groups are aiming to complete their immediate assignments on schedule in the coming months: CPC – to update the Village's Comprehensive Plan (per Wis. Stats. § 66.1001); and SPTF – to assist the trustees in identifying, clarifying and prioritizing the Village's needs with citizen input, and recommending a strategy for managing the financial resources necessary to meet these needs over time.

The work of these two committees is not only necessary and important but also, in many ways, urgent. The strategic planning work of SPTF is particularly timely, as the Village will soon need to make crucial decisions regarding important services and infrastructure. SPTF has met at least once every single month since May. They planned and hosted the *"It Takes a Village to Imagine a Future"* public participation event on October 27, attended by 35 Village resident participants. Also in October, they conducted an on-line Park Ridge Community Survey and received responses from 75 residents.

The SPTF, along with UW Extension professionals Nathan Sandwick (Portage County) and Daniel Foth (UW-Madison), are continuing to gather public input and will be working on developing a proposed list of the Village's top priorities based on this input. The group plans to host another public participation event in the coming weeks to seek additional feedback from Village residents. As part of this process, they will also be drafting and sharing a Village mission, vision and values statement for residents to consider.

Judging by the input you have given us so far, we as a Village have a lot of work to do. Survey respondents, for example, told us their most important priorities are to improve our streets, our access to safe drinking water, our fire protection, our snow removal services, and our storm water management. All of these would require significant expenditures. Investments to address these important needs have been deferred for many years, perhaps in the trustees' good faith efforts to be frugal and to keep property taxes low. However, judging by feedback we received from you, our residents, it appears we have reached a point where we can no longer kick the can down the road. As a neighbor and fellow resident recently told me, we have a "hidden debt" that needs to be addressed.

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Village Caucus scheduled for January 19

Please mark your calendar for the 2022 Village Caucus, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2022 in the All Purpose Lodge at Iverson Park (top of the hill, next to the skating rink and toboggan slides). The Caucus will be held in-person and face masks will be required.

What is a "Caucus"? Simply put, it is a method used by many towns and villages for nominating candidates to be placed on the Spring Election ballot. The caucus is open to the public, but only qualified electors of the municipality may nominate and vote for candidates. A person is not required to be a registered voter in order to participate in the caucus.

This year's Village Caucus will determine

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But there is good news. First, most of you – over 70% – who participated in the on-line survey told us you would support an increase in taxes if it were necessary to fund important improvements. Second, the Village's current tax mill rate is just \$16.72, significantly lower than the \$25.14 mill rate for Stevens Point residents. It is also the *lowest rate among urban municipalities in the County, including the villages of Whiting, Plover, Junction City, Rosholt and Amherst*. This suggests we have an opportunity to support the improvements we want for our Village. But this will require responsible decision-making based on public input, creative financing, and...a plan!

Stay tuned. Get involved in the next phase of public participation. Tell us what you think. We are all in this *together*. ■



Steve Menzel
President/Trustee
Email: smenzel@park-ridge.us
Phone: 715-341-7882



Mark your calendar...

- January 19, 2022 - Village Caucus
- February 15, 2022 - Spring Primary (if required)
- April 1 - Dog license late fees begin
- April 5, 2022 - Spring Election
- May 7 – Village Rummage Sale (tentative based on COVID restrictions)
- August 9, 2022 - Partisan Primary
- November 8, 2022 - General Election ■

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.
- **Election Inspectors (Poll Workers)** - paid positions

Please contact the Village Clerk at clerk@park-ridge.us to volunteer. ■



who will be on the April 5 spring election ballot for two (2) Village trustee positions – currently held by Charm Fournier and William Dunham – whose 2-year terms end in April.

To learn more about how caucuses work, visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at: <https://elections.wi.gov/publications/manuals/caucus>, or contact the Village Clerk at 715-343-1590 or email clerk@park-ridge.us if you'd like to obtain a copy of the caucus procedures. ■

Winter reminders:

- Snow sticks are the owner's responsibility and should be placed no closer than 1 ft. from the pavement's edge.
- Please do not park on the street when 2 inches or more of snow is expected.
- Please trim branches that may sag under the weight of snow and obstruct stop signs or pose a hazard to school buses or snowplows.
- Sand/salt mix is available behind the Village Hall – bring a container. Free to residents.
- Snowplow damage to mailboxes: save your receipts. T&C Services will reimburse the cost of materials ONLY. Maximum \$75. ■

Want to stay connected?

Want to keep up with what's happening in Village Hall? Sign up to receive notifications from the Village website for postings relating to Village board and committee meetings, agendas, minutes, meeting packets, news and notices. To subscribe, go to: <https://park-ridge.us/subscribe-to-updates> ■

2022

Village of Park Ridge – Trash & Recycling Calendar

January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						★
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 **Trash & Recycle**

Large Item Pick-Up - Please contact Harters to schedule a large item pickup – 888-804-8556 or 715-253-2619. Large item pickups are scheduled every other Thursday. Annual Village large item pick up is scheduled in Fall.



Holiday Observance

Jan 1st - New Year's Day
May 30th- Memorial Day
July 4th - Independence Day
Sept 5th - Labor Day
Nov 24th - Thanksgiving Day
Dec 25th - Christmas Day

2022 Village Budget

(Adopted Nov. 15, 2021)

Budget takeaways for 2022

Here are some key takeaways from the 2022 Village budget:

- Following a trend of recent years, the Village's total **revenues continue to fall short of expenditures**, making it necessary to allow for a draw from reserves (\$14,506) again this year. This of course is not sustainable, and we will be seeking solutions as part of our strategic planning work.
- Due to considerable feedback from residents, the Village reinstated its longtime annual **support for the City parks** in the amount of \$2,778.
- The Village's current tax mill rate is just \$16.72 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, significantly lower than the \$25.14 mill rate for City of Stevens Point residents. It is also the **lowest mill rate among urban municipalities in the entire County, including the villages of Whiting, Plover, Junction City, Rosholt and Amherst.** ■

VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE				
The following is a summary of the proposed 2022 budget:				
	2021 BUDGET	2021 ANTICIPATED	2022 BUDGET	INCREASE/ DECREASE
GENERAL FUND				
REVENUES				
General Property Taxes	186,776	186,807	198,787	12,011
Intergovernmental Revenues	30,128	30,266	41,982	11,854
Licenses	2,110	2,398	2,706	596
Public Charges for Services	50	90	90	40
Cable Franchise Fees	8,000	8,000	8,000	-
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,420	1,742	3,370	1,950
Transfer from Reserves (Savings) Acct			14,506	14,506
TOTAL REVENUES	228,484	229,303	269,441	40,957
Less LRIP funds (not received)	(11,000)			
EXPENDITURES				
LOAN PRINCIPAL/INTEREST (LINWOOD AVE)		3,988	8,250	8,250
General Government	86,044	100,513	96,618	10,574
Public Safety	50,890	39,301	52,890	2,000
Public Works	90,500	90,500	107,510	17,010
Health & Human Services	1,050	686	895	(155)
Culture, Recreation & Education	-		3,278	3,278
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	228,484	234,989	269,441	40,957
Less LRIP Expenses (not used)	(11,000)			
Designated Reserves = \$23,466				
Undesignated Reserves = \$116,507				
General Fund Balance Jan 1, 2021	139,972			
Total Revenues		229,303	269,441	
Total Expenditures		234,989	269,441	
Estimated General Fund Balance Jan 1, 2022			126,957	
Estimated Designated Reserves = \$ 30,966				
Estimated Undesignated Reserves = \$ 95,991				
Approved by the Village Board on November 15, 2021				

TAX LEVY/MILL RATES				
TAXING AUTHORITY	2021 MILL RATE	2021 LEVY	2022 MILL RATE	2022 LEVY
LOCAL	3.4700088	186,776	3.624493	198,769
MID-STATE TECH COLLEGE	1.0197853	54,891	0.9739213	53,410
STEVENS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT	8.8313145	475,353	8.1109022	444,806
SCHOOL REFERENDUM	0.09571347	51,519	0.0967266	53,045
COUNTY	5.6011556	301,487	5.4251998	297,521
COUNTY REFERENDUM	0.02413547	12,991	0.02294321	12,582
TOTAL	19.042113	1,083,017	18.25418611	1,060,133
LESS TATE SCHOOL TAX CREDIT	1.5266697	82,174	1.5325032	84,043
NET	17.515443	1,000,843	16.72168291	976,090
TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE:		53,825,800		54,840,500

Paying Your Taxes:

- Pay your Real Estate Taxes at the Portage County Treasurer's Office:
Portage County Treasurer
1516 Church Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone: (715) 346-1346
- You may also pay your taxes with a credit card or debit card by calling 1-877-782-4828
NOTE: Visa debit card \$3.95 fee for online payments (2.39% fee if called in). Credit cards and non-Visa debit card fee 2.39%. E-check fee \$1.50. ■

2121 First Dollar Credit is \$55.84 and the Lottery Credit is \$198.05

**VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE
2022 DOG LICENSE APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Section 174.052, Wisconsin Statutes, all dog owners in Portage County are required to vaccinate their dogs against rabies and obtain dog licenses. All dogs five (5) months of age and older require a license. Wisconsin Statutes require evidence that a dog is currently immunized against rabies before a dog license can be issued.

All current 2021 licenses expire on December 31, 2021. A \$5.00 late fee will be charged any owner failing to obtain a 2022 license by March 31, 2022.

PER DOG

If you own any dogs five (5) months of age or older, please fill out the form below and return it with the proper fee to the Village Clerk. Please make your check payable to "VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE".

Please include a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination certificate with your application. It will be returned to you along with your new license. **NO LICENSE WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS PROVIDED.** CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN FOR A REPLACEMENT RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE IF YOU CANNOT LOCATE THE ONE GIVEN TO YOU AT THE TIME OF VACCINATION.

FEES: Neutered Male or Spayed Female Dog \$15.00
Male or Female Dog \$25.00

DOG	NAME OF DOG	MALE		FEMALE		COLOR	BREED
		NEUTERED	NOT NEUTERED	SPAYED	NOT SPAYED		
1							
2							
3							

LATE FEE \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

OWNER'S NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MAIL THIS FORM WITH A COPY OF YOUR PET'S CURRENT IMMUNIZATION CERTIFICATE & PAYMENT TO:
Please make check payable to "Village of Park Ridge"

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



Santa visits are a big success

A big *THANK YOU* to our Fire Department and to Santa's Chief Elf (aka Gert Neuendorf) for keeping the longstanding tradition of Park Ridge Santa Visits alive again this year. Thanks to their efforts, special gift packages were delivered to 45 kids in the Village on Monday, December 13. ■



Luminaries, holiday yard displays light up Village homes

Park Ridge was aglow for the Holidays again this year, and for the second straight year, some Village residents put out luminaries on Christmas Eve night. Thanks to **Jeannie Tauchman** for organizing the show. ■



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

Village Board and Staff Contact Information

President:	Steve Menzel	smenzel@park-ridge.us	715-341-7882
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	715-252-9139
	Kristin Paulson	kpaulson@park-ridge.us	715-209-7417
Clerk/Treasurer:	Shanna Behrend	clerk@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@gmail.com	715-310-3156
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

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. ■