

# NEWSLETTER - FALL 2023

## VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE

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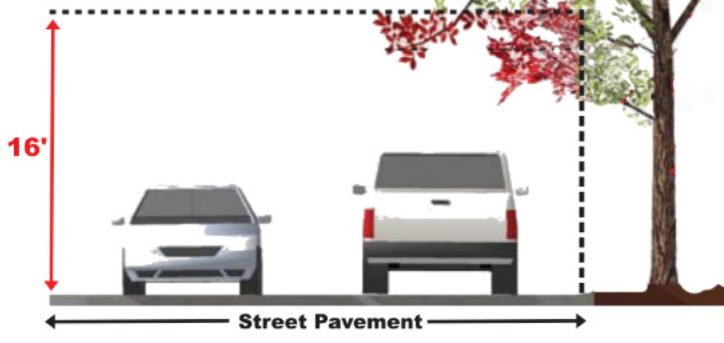
VILLAGE HALL: 24 CRESTWOOD DRIVE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481  
OFFICE OF VILLAGE CLERK / TREASURER: 715-343-1590  
OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Photo courtesy Steve Menzel

### Fall Street Right-of-Way Pruning

Branches and brush in RED must be removed to a height of 16 ft. and to the edge of street pavement



## ALERT: Village to conduct fall pruning and brush removal in street rights-of-way

Due to increasing concerns from our Village's contracted service providers, Affordable Tree Service has been hired to conduct tree pruning and brush removal this fall in the Village street rights-of-way. The Village has a long and wonderful history of voluntary cooperation among its residents, however there are many areas that are now overgrown, bringing increased risk of damage to emergency vehicles, garbage trucks, snowplows, school buses, delivery and utility trucks, and other service vehicles.

Normally it is the responsibility of each homeowner to prune trees and shrubs in the Village right-of-way on their property – see Village [Ordinance 10.08, Sect. V](#), "No shrub, hedge or other growth exceeding 36 inches in height above street grade shall be permitted in any clear vision triangle extending 25 feet from any street corner within the

*(continued on page 2)*

## Trick-or-Treat Tuesday, Oct. 31 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Official Halloween trick-or-treat hours in the are 5 p.m. To 8 p.m. On Tuesday, October 31.



This coincides with Stevens Point, Plover and Whiting. ■

## Santa Visits

It's that time of year again and Santa is making his lists. Santa will be visiting Park Ridge on Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. If you wish your child(ren) age 10 and under to be on Santa's list, please complete and return the registration form (see Village website) by December 5th to the Village clerk at the Village Hall, 24 Crestwood Drive, or email the form to [clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov](mailto:clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov).



### WANTED:

- 2 Santas and 2 elves (or Mrs. Clauses)
- Volunteers to help wrap gifts
- Donations of children's gifts

Email [clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov](mailto:clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov) if you are interested in helping. ■

*(continued from page 1 - ROW Pruning)*

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 16 feet.”). However, this fall it is urgent that the work get done before the snow flies.

If property owners prefer to do the pruning themselves, they are advised to do so by the end of October, as Affordable Tree Service is scheduled to begin pruning after the first hard frost (likely in early November). ■

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## From the Village President –

Dear Park Ridge neighbors,

**O**n behalf of my fellow Village trustees, I want to thank you for the vote of confidence in last April’s election, allowing us to exceed our levy limit by \$130,000 to support the increasing costs of contracted services, Village operations, enhanced fire protection, and capital improvement debt service.

This has allowed the Village to begin working on several key goals spelled out in the Village’s Strategic Plan adopted in 2022: *improve and maintain streets and complementary infrastructure over time; ensure and protect the Village’s water supply; enhance capacity to fund village government functions, including capital improvements and routine maintenance; and provide services that make Park Ridge safer.*

We immediately addressed public safety by contracting with the Stevens Point Fire Department for fire protection and EMR services, perhaps the best available in Portage County. This move has also launched an effort to add more hydrants – therefore, municipal water mains – in the Village, and we have been working closely with Fire Chief JB Moody and the City’s Public Utilities staff to accomplish that.

Since adding water mains and hydrants will require digging up Village streets, this summer we hired an engineering consulting firm – MSA Professional Services, Inc., of Marshfield, WI – to develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to help us coordinate and prioritize street reconstruction with water main/hydrant installation. MSA is close to completing the CIP – which will soon be shared with Village residents – and they have identified 2 street projects as initial priorities to complete in the next 5 years or so.

The first project is street reconstruction/hydrant installations on **Hillcrest Avenue and the north half of Greenbriar Avenue**. The second project is street reconstruction/hydrant installations on **Ridgewood Drive and the south half of Greenbriar Avenue**.

*(continued on page 3)*

## Upcoming Elections - mark your calendar

- **January 17, 2024 - Village Caucus - All Purpose Lodge at Iverson Park**
- **February 20, 2024 - Spring Primary (if necessary)**
- **April 2, 2024 - Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary**
- **August 13, 2024 - Primary Election**
- **November 5, 2024 - General Election** ■



### 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 and mail to: Zblewski Bros. LLC, 1521 Porter Road, Plover, WI 54467. They will reimburse the cost of materials ONLY up to \$75, if the mailbox is directly hit by the snowplow or snowplow equipment. ■

### Alleys and street corners: keep clear

- Please keep the alleys mowed and open to emergency vehicles.
- The alleys may also be used by all residences that are located on an alley. However, please do not block any alley entrances or exits.
- If you live on a corner lot, it is your responsibility to cut back any branches that prevent a clear vision of the stop sign. Village [Ordinance 10.08, Section V](#) states: *“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.”* ■

(continued from page 2 – From the Village President)

These projects rise to priority level because they have the largest impact on public safety, as we currently have no hydrants located south of Hillcrest Avenue or east of Sunset Avenue.

Funding these capital improvements will be a challenge: at this point the total estimate for street reconstruction, water main/hydrant installation and street light replacement for the two projects looks to be about \$4 million. That said, except for the north half of Linwood Avenue, the Village has not reconstructed or resurfaced a single street south of Park Ridge Drive since the 1950s – 70 years ago!



Most Village streets were constructed in the 1950s and now have many transverse dips, cracks and potholes.

The good news is there is State and Federal grant money available for municipal street improvements, and the Village has hired MSA to write grant applications to help fund both projects. Our Ridgewood/Greenbriar S grant application is for the Surface Transportation Program - Urban grant program, which if successful awards up to 80% of project costs (excluding water mains) through Federal funding. The Hillcrest/Greenbriar N grant application is for Wisconsin’s Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP), which if successful awards up to 90% of project costs (excluding water mains) through State funding.

As of this writing, these two grant applications are scheduled to go out within the next few weeks. Depending on whether we are able to secure this grant money, the Village can then decide what we are able to afford.

Such investments will undoubtedly require adding debt service to our budget. Although State Statutes allow municipalities to carry a debt load of up to 5% of equalized valuation (about \$3.5 million for Park Ridge), the Village board would prefer to carry a much lower debt load – perhaps 3% of our equalized value, or \$2 - \$2.25 million.

We won’t know a lot about possible next steps until we receive word on our grant applications. In the meantime, I encourage Village residents to look for and read our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which will soon be completed and shared on the Village website. We have a lot of work to do, but I am hopeful we can accomplish much and stay within our means. Stay tuned, and please consider attending our board meetings to stay informed and to share your thoughts. ■

Steve Menzel  
President/Trustee  
Email: smenzel@vi.parkridge.wi.gov  
Phone: 715-340-7228

*“...except for the north half of Linwood Avenue, the Village has not reconstructed or resurfaced a single street south of Park Ridge Drive since the 1950s.”*

## Fire safety tips for the heating season

Cleaning and inspecting the integrity of any wood burning **chimney** is crucial to prevent fires from starting in your chimney. Like chimneys, an annual cleaning and inspection of your **furnace** is one way to help provide peace of mind that your furnace is ready for winter. Smoke and carbon monoxide **alarms** are life savers. They won’t stop a fire, but will alert you to the presence of danger. Generally, batteries should be changed twice per year. The suggested time to do so is in conjunction with daylight savings time. ■



## Time to move those RVs, trailers and boats!



Residents with recreational vehicles – including boats, canoes, boat and utility trailers, motor homes, campers, personal water vehicles and kayaks – are reminded that from November 1st through March 31st these items 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 it faces a street, for more than 96 hours.

[\(Ordinance 10.06, Sect. I, E\)](#)

■

## Building Permits

Many Village property owners may be considering building projects in the near future. 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 roof line 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.
- Replacing siding or roofing with no changes made to the structure or roof line.
- 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, at [jzepp55@gmail.com](mailto:jzepp55@gmail.com) or 715-310-3156. ■

## Firewood reminder

Village residents may only store firewood for use on their premises. And no firewood pile may be located within the front yard or within 5 feet of any side or rear property line, unless it is blocked from view by a fence, landscaping or structure.

([Ordinance 10.06, Sect. I, D](#)) ■

## Dog license fee increase

Effective January 1, 2024, the Animal License Fees will increase as follows:

- **Neutered Male or Spayed Female Dogs – increased from \$15 to \$17**
- **Male or Female Dogs – increased from \$25 to \$27**

The increase mirrors new rates adopted by Portage County and was approved by the Village Board at its Oct. 16 meeting. The dog license application form may be downloaded at: <https://vi.parkridge.wi.gov/forms-permits/> ■

## Reminders to pet owners

- Please clean up after your pets. Do not leave animal droppings in another resident's yard. ([Ord. 10.03, sect. 13](#))
- Please do not allow your cats (or other pets) to roam off your premises. The leash law applies to cats, too! ([Ord. 10.03, sect. 7](#))
- Noisy animals or fowl are prohibited in the Village. ([Ord. 10.05, sect. 10](#)) ■



## Yard Waste

The Village has an agreement with the City of Stevens Point to allow Village residents to drop off yard waste – leaves, grass clippings, plant stalks, flowers, twigs/ sticks, and brush up to 6" diameter – at the City's drop-off site at the City Garage near Bukolt Park, 100 Sixth Avenue. Please visit the website for a list of hours. <https://stevenspoint.com/368/Drop-Off>. ■



## New Village Facebook page

The Village has a new government Facebook page, which will provide another way for residents to stay in touch with official Village happenings, including, notices, announcements, and things to do in the area. Visit us at

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Village-of-Park-Ridge/100094620441811/> ■



## Recycle / Reuse

For all your recycling and solid waste disposal questions, contact the Portage County Solid Waste Department at 715-343-6297 or visit their website at: <https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/396/Solid-Waste>.

The Portage County Transfer Facility & Recycling site is located at 600 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 – 3:00 pm and Sat 7:30 am – 10:30 am. Arrive at least 30 minutes before closing. Fees vary and some restrictions apply, so call 715-343-6297 for more information. Rates for Residential, Commercial and Construction/Demolition: \$20 minimum charge for any load of 560 lbs. or less. Loads weighing more than 560 lbs. are subject to a standard rate of \$71.35 per ton. ■

## Want to stay connected? Sign up for:

### • Village notifications

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://vi.parkridge.wi.gov/subscribe-to-updates> ■

### • 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. ■

## Fall leaves and yard cleanup

The Village recommends composting and mulching leaves and clippings whenever possible. Or consider taking leaves and other yard waste to the City recycling and yard waste drop-off site located at Bukolt Park. For hours and information, go to: <https://stevenspoint.com/368/Drop-Off>. For information on composting, go to: <https://stevenspoint.com/768/Composting>



## Burning is discouraged, but if you must burn...

Please comply with these 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 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. ■

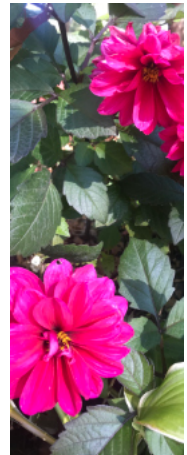




Village of Park Ridge  
 24 Crestwood Dr.  
 Stevens Point, WI 54481  
<https://vi.parkridge.wi.gov>

### Village Board and Staff Contact Information

President:	Steve Menzel	smenzel@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-340-7228
Trustees:	Barbara Freidrich	bfriedrich@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-572-1563
	Daniel Holloway	dholloway@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-459-2882
	Gord Renfert	grenfert@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-252-9139
	Kristin Paulson	kpaulson@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-209-7417
	Clerk/Treasurer:	Katie McKelvey	clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov
Fire Chief (SPFD):	JB Moody	Non-Emergency	715-344-1833
		Emergency	911
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@vi.parkridge.wi.gov	715-343-1590



### Volunteers Wanted

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

- **Zoning Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals** - alternate members needed
- **Ordinance updating** - we need two good proofreaders to update/reconcile our Village Ordinance binder
- **School crossing guard alternates** needed - paid positions
- **Election Inspectors (Poll Workers)** - paid positions
- **2 Santas and 2 Elves** - for Santa Visits on December 12

Please contact the Village Clerk at [clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov](mailto:clerk@vi.parkridge.wi.gov) to volunteer. ■