theVillage

May/June 2022



# **Voters Approve Public Safety Referendum**

On April 5, voters in the Village of Pleasant Prairie approved a Public Safety Referendum that supports increasing the Village's annual tax levy by \$1.6 million, beginning in 2023, to hire and retain four additional police officers and 12 additional fire and rescue staff. The results from Kenosha County show the referendum received support from about 52% of voters. Approval of the referendum by the majority of voters enables Pleasant Prairie to hire the necessary staff to maintain quality public safety services into the future.

"On behalf of the Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department, I would like to thank residents for supporting the public safety referendum," said Craig Roepke, Chief of Fire & Rescue. "I am extremely grateful; the additional personnel will be an invaluable resource that improves response times and helps manage the Department's increased call volumes."

Over the last decade, the population of Pleasant Prairie has grown nearly 16%. In that same time, Fire & Rescue calls increased by 83%, with 40% of those calls overlapping. The growth increased service demands and outpaced staffing levels, causing Fire & Rescue to rely heavily on mutual aid from neighboring fire departments.

In addition, the Pleasant Prairie Police Department experienced low staffing-toservice ratios, with some shifts only having three officers on duty responsible for protecting the entire Village. Police Chief David Smetana stated, "I am appreciative that residents understood the public safety needs within the community and voted to pass the referendum. The approval will place four more officers on the street to enhance community safety across the three patrol shifts, providing proactive coverage to help protect the 33-square-mile area."

Under the approved referendum, the estimated property tax impact is projected to increase by \$3.50 per month or \$42 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. Commercial and residential property owners will pay an equal share of the tax increase as the Village draws from half residential and half commercial properties to support the levy.

"The Village appreciates the community support and takes pride in maintaining a fiscally responsible municipality," explained Nathan Thiel, Village Administrator. "The additional public safety personnel in the Fire & Rescue and Police Departments will ensure the necessary staff is available when residents, visitors, and

businesses need quality public safety services."

> Invested in Community!

PRAIRIE

### **2050 Comprehensive Plan Update**



On March 21, Plan Commissioners approved Resolution #22-03 to initiate the process for updating the Village of Pleasant Prairie 2035 Village Comprehensive Plan through the 2050 design year.

A week later, on March 28, Village Board members approved Resolution #22-13 to adopt a Public Participation Plan for updating the 2035 Village Comprehensive Plan. This public participation plan intends to provide opportunities for public input throughout the comprehensive planning update process, and adopt a Public Participation Plan, which is a requirement of the Wisconsin comprehensive planning law (Wis. Stats. Section 66.1001).

Throughout the process the Village Plan Commission and Village staff will actively solicit comments from Village residents, local businesses, and other interested parties. The Plan Commission will hold and consider updates to the chapters of the Comprehensive Plan at regularly scheduled meetings during the planning process.

All meetings will be open to the public, and an opportunity for public comment will be provided during each meeting. Information related to the Plan update including upcoming meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Village website, *PleasantPrairieWi.gov/2050update*. Planning information will also be provided via Village Newsletters, press releases, and social media outlets.

The Village believes that regular and meaningful public involvement in the comprehensive planning process is important to ensure that the updated Comprehensive Plan reflects input from the public. Interested parties can find links to provide comments via email and register for an email list that will send notifications on future meetings related to the update. These links and other information related to the Comprehensive Plan update can be found at PleasantPrairieWi.gov > Departments > Community Development > Comprehensive Plan 2050 Update. □

## **Rehrig Pacific Expansion**

On March 21, the Plan Commission approved Site and Operational Plans for Jack Heide, agent on behalf of Rehrig Pacific Co., for a proposed approximate 49,000 square foot manufacturing addition and associated site improvements to its existing facility located at 7800 100th Street within the LakeView Corporate Park.

Rehrig Pacific has occupied their LakeView Corporate Park facility since the building was constructed in 1996. The expansion will create the capacity to fulfill a new customer base that is expected to add up to nine million units annually. The building expansion will house approximately 17 plastics injection molding machines to accommodate customer demands. Rehrig Pacific anticipates adding up to 36 new jobs to facilitate the added capacity. As a part of the expansion, Rehrig will provide up to 82 parking spaces and five additional shipping docks to accommodate logistical needs. The expansion project is anticipated to start in May 2022 and be completed by November 2022.



Rehrig Pacific is a fourth-generation privately held company established in 1913. Its businesses include plastics manufacturing, mechanical systems, and technology. Rehrig Pacific employs approximately 1600 full-time employees across the United States. The company manufactures nearly 300 million pounds of plastics annually and places a heavy focus on sustainability and a circular plastics economy. As a result, up to 90 million pounds of recycled material is processed into their products annually.

#### **Nosco to Expand**

Nosco, Inc., a subsidiary of Holden Industries, Inc., announced in March the expansion of its Pleasant Prairie Packaging Innovation Center and headquarters facility. The location will grow from 98,000 square feet to 271,000 square feet. The facility expansion will support added capacity and growth, as well as the ability to implement supply chain solutions for the warehousing of raw materials and finished goods.

Nosco previously announced that it would begin with folding carton and label production at the 175,000 square-foot facility in July of 2021. Initially, the facility was designed to provide redundant production capabilities and expand Nosco's efforts into a new era of printed packaging for the healthcare industry. The company's expansion project will augment these efforts — adding additional supply chain capabilities and operational efficiencies to the mix.



The new facility has already helped support additional output with more space and people to meet the needs of the market.  $\Box$ 

# **Village Green Center Master Conceptual Plan**

On March 28, the Pleasant Prairie Village Board considered and approved the revised Master Conceptual Plan for the proposed Village Green Center (VGC) mixed-use development of approximately 180 acres of land, generally located at Springbrook Road, 39th Avenue, and State Highway 165. Public discussions for a Village Center began more than twenty-five years ago. Over the years, Village staff has gathered community feedback and worked to create a plan for a downtown community space that fits into the surrounding neighborhoods and offers amenities for residents and area visitors.

The Village Board initially considered the revised plan in December 2021. The updated Master Conceptual Plan reduces the residential density from an earlier concept, lowering the residential units from 533 to 380 units in the western and eastern portions. It also illustrates potential locations for up to 75,000 square feet of commercial development around the central open green space. The overall plan received Village Board support in December; however, before moving forward, Board members requested the Plan Commission review the new proposed density and the demand for retail in the area.

The Village Plan Commission reviewed the updated Master Conceptual Plan on March 21 and gave a favorable recommendation for the plan to the Village Board. The plan includes a combination of high, medium, and low-density residential housing and mixed-use, civic, commercial, and hospitality developments. It consists of a central green space with pedestrian-friendly connections that provides a community gathering space and encourages walkable access to housing, commercial, and event spaces.



The higher-density commercial buildings are planned for the central area of VGC. The density then transitions outward, reducing the number of housing units, creating various housing types that fit into the surrounding neighborhoods and offer a range of housing price points.

RINKA (architects, planners, and designers) developed the overall Master Conceptual Plan from ideas generated in 2019 by the Community Collaboration group and feedback from the 2020 Draft Master Conceptual Plan. Over the past two years, Village staff has worked with RINKA to ensure key design drivers were maintained and determine the viability of project components. The updated plan incorporates Village Board recommendations to reduce retail space and Plan Commission recommendations to reduce the number of housing units at the perimeter of VGC.  $\square$ 

### **Positions Available in the Recreation Department**

Are you looking for a fun place to work this summer? The Village of Pleasant Prairie Recreation Department at RecPlex has you covered. RecPlex is America's largest municipal-owned recreation facility, located on the shores of Lake Andrea in Prairie Springs Park. The Recreation Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life through fitness and activities that provide athletic support, guidance, care, and education to guests. The Recreation Department has a variety of professional opportunities available in Aquatics, Concessions, Member Services, Therapeutic Rec, and Youth.

Working for the Village Recreation Department is not the same as working for a local gym. Positions at RecPlex provide access to a fitness center that includes ice rinks, pools, inside courts, outdoor playing fields, and various fitness programs. In addition, staff often experience career growth through on-the-job training. Kacie Cecchi, RecPlex Athletics and Recreation Supervisor, stated, "I like working at RecPlex because of all the different opportunities here. I started as a Guest Services Administrator, and now I am the Athletics Supervisor. It's refreshing to come to a job where you are friends with your co-workers, and you know your voice is heard to improve the organization."

The Recreation Department has improved the pay structure by increasing wages for specific positions and developing new incentive programs. There is currently a working bonus for summer camp positions that provides up to an additional \$1,200 for hours worked between June and August 2022. Ian Chatman, a previous RecPlex camp counselor, explained, "The work was extremely rewarding and has prepared me for my career in education. If you love working with children and want an experience that will look great on your resume, I highly recommend applying for a camp counselor position."

Outside of youth programs, there are many exciting opportunities at RecPlex. For those involved in or pursuing professional sports, the recreational facility can provide a path to future careers in fitness management, sports training, coaching, and more. RecPlex Staff gain techniques that help prepare athletes for competition and have the opportunity to assist youth gain interest, knowledge, and skills in health, fitness, and sports. If you are interested in joining the Village Recreation Department, go to recplexonline.com/jobs and submit your interest.





#### **Get Connected with the Village of Pleasant Prairie on Facebook**

Like, comment, share, and follow the Village on social media.



Visit Facebook.com/PLPrairieWI
or scan this code with your phone camera



# **Frisbee Disc Golf Course Opens**

Pleasant Prairie's new frisbee disc golf course at Pleasant Prairie Park (located at 8400 104th Avenue) is open and ready for the public to play.

Frisbee disc golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc at a target or basket. It is played using rules similar to golf. There are nine baskets at Pleasant Prairie Park, and each basket is a par three. Scorecards are available on *PleasantPrairieWi.gov* for players to print and use under Visitors > Parks and Beaches > Frisbee Disc Golf.

#### **Course Description**

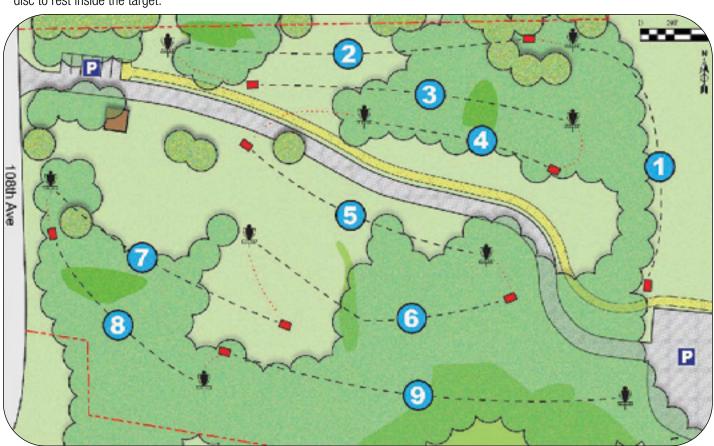
The course consists of nine holes for beginner and intermediate disc golfers. Recommended group size is three to five people to ensure speed of play. It takes about 1.5 hours to play through the course.

#### **Disc Golf Basic Rules**

- 1. The purpose of the game is to get a disc from the tee to the target with the least amount of throws possible. You may use a selection of discs.
- After the initial throw, the player farthest from the target throws next. Subsequent shots will be thrown from where the disc came to rest. Players will throw as many times as is needed to get the disc to rest inside the target.

- 3. If the disc is within ten meters (approximately 33 feet) to the target, the throw is called a putt and cannot be stepped over.
- 4. Each hole is finished when the disc comes to rest inside the target. The player who has completed all holes at the lowest score is the winner.
- 5. Safety is the top priority. If you might hit someone with a disc, shout "Four!" or anything loud to warn the individual. Please be polite to others users in the area. Always wait until the hole is clear of all players/pedestrians before throwing. And leave the course in good condition.
- 6. Players are required to follow both disc golf and park rules. Please do not litter.

For complete disc golf rules of play, please visit **pdga.com**.



#### **Deb Skarda Retires**

The Village extends sincere appreciation and gratitude to Deb Skarda for her nearly 10 years of commitment of attentive service to the Village of Pleasant Prairie in the cause of quality municipal planning. Deb served on the Village Board of Appeals for a year and a half (May 2013-November 2014). And served on the Village Plan Commission for eight years (October 2014-March 2022).



Deb Skarda

"Deb has been a wonderful asset to the Village ever since she began serving the community nearly 10 years ago," said Plan Commission Chairperson Mike Serpe, "She deeply cared about the Pleasant Prairie community. She will be greatly missed."

The Village of Pleasant Prairie would like to acknowledge and express gratitude to Deb for her contributions made while serving on the Board of Appeals and Plan Commission.

Deb submitted her resignation as she will be relocating outside the area. Michelle Burnett has served on the Plan Commission as Alternative #1 since October 2019 and is recommended to be appointed to a permanent member of the Plan Commission to fill out Deb's term ending April 30, 2024. □

# **Re-Elected and Elected Village Officials**

On Tuesday April 5, 2022, Michael Pollocoff was re-elected as Trustee #2 to the Pleasant Prairie Village Board. Trustee Pollocoff has been serving on the Village Board for the past four years and served as the Village Administrator for 32 years prior to his retirement in May of 2017.

James Kedrow was elected as Trustee #4 to the Village Board. Trustee Kedrow is a retired physician's assistant and U.S. Army veteran.

Trustee Pollocoff and Trustee Kedrow began their two-year terms on April 19, 2022. Contact information for Pleasant Prairie Village Board Members is available at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue), or online at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov.* □



Michael Pollocoff, Trustee #2



James Kedrow, Trustee #4

# **Recognition of Honor Guard Service**

A recognition of Honor Guard service was presented at the March 28 Village Board meeting as four members retire from the Pleasant Prairie Honor Guard. Sergeant Chad Brown presented Ceremonial Paddles to Captain Paul Marik, Detective Scott Beaumier, Detective James Hackney, and Officer Patrick Gainer.



The Pleasant Prairie
Police Department's Honor
Guard began in 2000. The
Honor Guard functions as
ambassadors for the Police
Department and the Village of
Pleasant Prairie. □

Left to right: Captain Paul Marik and Detective James Hackney.

## **HARIBO Update**



As the Village loses one industrial landmark with the deconstruction of the We-Energies Power Plant, it is gaining a sizeable manufacturing plant that will serve as a new landmark for the community. The HARIBO development represents the first-ever North American manufacturing facility for the company. It is a significant investment that will bring economic growth to the region and support the local economy by creating professional jobs to support the manufacturing and distribution of HARIBO's

gummi bear candies. The facility hopes to produce sweet treats this year.

#### **Village Board Names Interim Administrator**



The Pleasant Prairie Village Board will be entering into a mutual separation agreement with Village Administrator Nathan Thiel that will be effective April 30, 2022. During the April 25 meeting, the Village Board named an Interim Village Administrator to manage Village operations while the Village conducts a nationwide search for the next Village Administrator. The current Finance Director at Village of Pleasant Prairie, Kathy Goessl, was selected as Interim Administrator.

Goessl is an extremely capable professional that the Village Board is confident will manage operations while the Village searches for quality candidates and goes through the selection process. She will have the support of the highly trained and experienced management team at the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

Goessl is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master of Business Administration and Management from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside plus a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Her career as Finance Director with the Village began in 1995. She oversees and manages financial operations for Pleasant Prairie, including various enterprise funds and Tax Incremental Financing Districts.

Kathy Goessl

Interim Administrator

Her areas of expertise include budgeting, financial reporting, debt administration, cash management, and risk mitigation.

## **Dog Park Information**



The dog park at Ingram Park (5724 93rd Street) features two sections, one for larger dogs and one for smaller dogs. The dog park is open from dawn until dusk daily. Fees for dog park tags follow. The fees collected are used for upkeep and future improvements to the dog park.

#### **ANNUAL**

Village resident for first dog	\$20
Senior (60+)/disabled	\$10
Non-resident for first dog	\$25
Additional tag for each dog (up to 2)	\$5
Annual tag replacement fee	\$5

#### DAILY

Village resident per dog/per day	\$2
Non-resident per dog/per day	\$5

A pay station, similar to those used in State parks has been placed at the entrance to the dog park for those who would like to pay for their dog park tag on a daily basis. Those wishing to purchase an annual dog park tag can visit Village Hall at 9915 39th Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The related rules are also posted at the entrance to the dog park. Please remember that based on Village Code 119-7, it is the responsibility of the owner to clean up after their pet. The Village would like to thank dog owners for their consideration of others as their dogs engage in play. 🖵



## **2021 Water Quality Report Now Available**

The 2021 Water Quality Report is now available at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov* and, at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue) or Prange Municipal Center (8600 Green Bay Road).

To learn more about drinking water safety you can also visit the Wisconsin DNR website at, dnr.wi.gov/topic/drinkingwater.

If you have questions regarding Pleasant Prairie's Water Utility or water quality, you can reach Public Works by telephone at 262.925.6700 Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

# **Pleasant Prairie Triathlon**

#### Road Closures Planned Sunday, June 26 between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.



The Village will host the Pleasant Prairie Junior and Adult Triathlons on June 25 and 26, with proceeds helping to support the Dare to Tri program for paratriathletes. The swim and run courses will be held entirely within Prairie Springs Park, however, on Sunday, June 26, athletes will bike through the Village.

A map of the bike route, road closures, detours, and details for truck traffic will be released in the News section of the Village website once the information becomes available.

Bike route roads will be closed to through traffic between 6:00 a.m. and noon. Car traffic for businesses along the bike route will be able to travel on the closed roadways, provided extreme caution is exercised and the shortest route to and from your destination is used. For safety sake, all are asked to please leash all outside pets adjacent to the bike route.

If you have questions regarding these road closures, please call the Pleasant Prairie Police Department at *262.694.7353*. To learn more about the Pleasant Prairie Triathlon, visit *PleasantPrairieTri.com*.



### **Village Calendars**

If you are interested in receiving future editions of the Village Calendar (2023 and beyond) directly to your mailbox, please register at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov/Calendar*. You only need to register once to receive future editions of the Village Calendar.

The 2022 Village Calendar and Resource Directory has already been delivered to registered homes.

Calendars are available for pickup at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue) and Prange Municipal Center (8600 Green Bay Road) while supplies last. □



### Rummage/Garage Sale Seasonal Reminders

The Village has specific guidelines that must be followed when you consider having a rummage/garage sale.

Rummage/garage sales may be held no more than six calendar days, whether or not consecutive, within any calendar year per property. Only personal property can be sold.

Rummage/garage sales cannot be held between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. One unlighted temporary sign of not more than 18 square feet per side and less than five feet in height is permitted on the property having the sale. The sign may only be displayed for three days and must be removed within 24 hours of the close of sale.

If you have any questions related to rummage/garage sales ordinance, contact the Village Clerk by email at *clerksoffice@ plprairie.com* or call *262.694.1400.* □



### **Fire & Rescue Water Training**







Due to the types of calls for service the Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department receives, the need for ongoing specialized training for Medical EMS, Fire Suppression, and Technical Rescue has increased. In March, safety personnel trained in water with fins, victim rescue, throw ropes, and self-rescue efforts. Firemedic Ron Weavel (pictured in the center photo standing on the walkway) leads the training on various techniques on victim rescue and understanding one's ability in the water. Ron is a certified Master Diver and has been diving since 1987. The Department also has water equipment to perform cold water and ICE rescues. Training exercises like this give safety staff the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively mobilize, organize, and deploy resources when emergencies occur. The Department trained in the RecPlex Aqua Arena 50-meter Olympic pool. The pool is a great asset and provides a space to train year round.

## **Vehicle Fire at Roger Prange Municipal Center**



On Saturday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m., the Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department was alerted to a fire in the vehicle storage garage at the Roger Prange Municipal Center, 8600 Green Bay Road. Units responded and found heavy smoke coming from the southern vehicle storage garage. Once inside the garage, crews found an active fire inside a 2009 snow plow truck.

Fire & Rescue began accessing the fire to extinguish the flame and get the fire under control. Operations continued, and at 6:24 p.m. Fire & Rescue crews reported the fire was completely out. No civilian or fire personnel injuries were reported. The fire suppression equipment within the garage kept the fire contained and the damage localized to the engine compartment and cab of the Department of Public Works vehicle.

The cause of the fire is unknown but appeared to centralize in the engine compartment of the plow truck. Fire & Rescue units cleared the scene at 7:04 p.m.

Pleasant Prairie was assisted by mutual-aid departments, including Beach Park (IL), Newport Fire District (IL), Winthrop Harbor (IL), and Zion Fire (IL). In addition, both Bristol (WI) and Salem Lakes Fire (WI) provided a change of quarters apparatus for normal daily call response.  $\square$ 

#### **Retired K-9 Echo Passes**

The Pleasant Prairie Police Department mournfully announced the death of retired K-9 Echo on February 19, 2022.

Echo, a mix of German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois, was born in Hungary on January 18, 2011. Echo joined the department in April of 2012 and then completed training with his handler, Detective Scott Beaumier at Southern Police K-9 Inc. in Spring Hope, NC. Echo was a multiuse K-9 trained in drug detection, scent tracking, and officer safety. Echo retired in August of 2018 and enjoyed his remaining days as a beloved family pet with Scott and his family.



For over six years, Scott and Echo served an important role for the department by providing critical assistance during calls for service related to finding missing persons, discovering concealed drugs, and apprehending fugitives. Scott and Echo also helped foster public relations by providing numerous public demonstrations to help educate the public on the important role a police K-9 has in accomplishing law enforcement goals.

Police Chief David Smetana commented, "We thank Detective Beaumier and his family for the care they provided to Echo during his years of service and his post retirement years. Police K-9's like Echo, play a vital role in keeping both our officers and our community safe and we are thankful for the years of service Echo provided to the Village of Pleasant Prairie."

### **Daily Dose to Relocate to Pleasant Prairie**



A Kenosha cafe is relocating to Pleasant Prairie this fall. The Daily Dose Cafe will move from its current location at 6010 40th Avenue to a much larger building approximately two miles away at 4512 75th Street (former Garbo Motor Sales used vehicle dealership) in Pleasant Prairie. It plans to open at the new location in September.

The cafe operated for nearly 15 years and outgrew its current 800-square-foot location. Owner Jennifer Capponi searched for a larger building for five years. The new location will be three times as large as the original location when renovations are complete. It will also include a drive-through and outdoor dining.

The Daily Dose serves coffee drinks and a variety of house-made salads, paninis, biscuits and frittatas. Capponi plans to expand the menu when the new location opens.

The Daily Dose Cafe currently has 14 full-time and parttime employees and plans to hire additional positions in the coming months.

The Daily Dose is open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. □



# **Power Plant Implosion**

A portion of the former Pleasant Prairie We Energies Power Plant was blown up in a controlled implosion on March 16. The plant opened in 1980 in the 8000 block of 95th Street was shut down by We Energies in 2018 and was one of the largest coal-fired power plants in the region. We Energies initiated abatement plans for the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant in July 2020 and is nearing completion. The main facility building is currently being dismantled and will bring a new look to the Pleasant Prairie horizon.

## **Save the Stamp with Convenient Payment Options**

The Village has a new online billing and payment solution for utility billing (water, sewer, garbage/recycling, clean water bills), offering more ways to pay, view statements electronically, and choose to go paperless.

Users can make a quick, one-time payment without registration or create an account to enjoy more features like setting up automatic payments, saving payment information for later use, and viewing history (June 2021 and beyond). Payments can be made 24/7 by phone or pay by text with a credit card. There is a 3% convenience fee for credit and debit card payments; however, paying your utility bill by e-check is still free.

The payment vendor also handles payments for property taxes, general bills, fire department billings, police records request, and parking citations. These payments can be added to the cart and paid along with your utility bill.

Go to PleasantPrairiewi.gov>How do I>Pay>select what to pay from the left menu and follow the prompts to make a payment.

# **Invoice**Cloud<sup>®</sup>



"The payment service brings modern online payment solutions and offers more choices for Village residents," said Kathy Goessl, Finance Director. "The main goal behind switching to the new payment solution is to create a simple and secure experience for users to pay when, how, and where they want. Additionally, combining the Village's various payments in one place brings convenient options that allow users to set payment reminders and schedule digital payments."

# **Residential Recycling Center Sticker**

Recycling stickers are available at the Residential Recycling Center, **free of charge for residents**. These stickers help the recycling center material drop off process move quickly and efficiently.

Pleasant Prairie residents that pay a monthly solid waste fee are eligible to obtain a sticker. If you are interested in a sticker please bring proof of Village residence to your next visit to the Residential Recycling Center.

The stickers are valid for three years. The recycling attendant on duty will place the sticker on the inside of the windshield of the vehicle and it should not be removed. If a resident happens to lose a sticker, they need to go to the Residential Recycling Center to obtain a new one.

The Residential Recycling Center is located at 8000 128th Street and open year round on the first Saturday of every month from 7:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. On season hours (March - December) are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and closed on the first Wednesday of each month for grinding operations. □

#### **NIXLE**

The best way to be prepared is to sign up before an emergency occurs.

Receive emergency text messages and emails on your smartphone, text "53158" to 888777, or visit NIXLE.com.



#### **E-Newsletter**

If you are interested in receiving the email version of the Village Newsletter, visit *PleasantPrairieWi.gov* and click on the icon near the bottom of the page.

You can choose to opt off of the paper mailing list by emailing *newsletter@plprairie.com*. Include your name and postal mailing address along with the words "email only."

#### **Kenosha County Treasurer Promotes Help for Homeowners**



On behalf of Kenosha County...

Kenosha County Treasurer Teri Jacobson is encouraging homeowners with financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic to access a new state program that is providing assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes and utility bills.

The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program, announced by Gov. Tony Evers, is set to provide more than \$92 million in financial assistance, using support provided through the American Rescue Plan Act. This program was an outgrowth of the work of a Treasurers' Homeowners Task Force that State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski selected Jacobson to chair in 2020.

The program offers eligible homeowners assistance with mortgage payments, local property taxes and utilities (including internet), as well as financial counseling and legal services. It is available to Wisconsin homeowners who live in single-family residences,

condominiums, duplexes, or factory-build homes as a primary residence, have experienced a qualified financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020, and earn a household income at or below 100 percent of the area median income. (An income calculator is available at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2021/select Geography haf.odn.)

"This program has the power to improve the lives of many Kenosha County homeowners," Jacobson said. "I encourage people to reach out and see how it might be able to help them. The program is being administered locally by the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, which has already helped so many residents in our area."

An online application and more information about the program are available on the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners website, at **homeownerhelp.wi.gov.** A call center is also offering information about application options, at 855-2-HOME-WI.

### **Burglary Scam Alert!**

The Police Department is working to notify the community of the scheme that often consists of subjects that distract homeowners while another enters the home to steal property. Please see the tips below on how to prevent becoming a victim

#### **How Does it Happen?**

- Individuals will use a ruse to maneuver homeowners outside or to another area of the home.
- Common ruses include tree trimming, roof repair, contractor, utility, or cable/TV work.
- While one individual distracts the homeowner, another enters the residence to burglarize.
- Cash and jewelry are common targets.
- The elderly are the most frequent victims of ruse burglaries.

#### What Can I do?

- Never allow anyone into your home without a prescheduled appointment.
- Call companies to confirm identities and ensure there are legitimate workers in the area.
- Store any cash or jewelry in a safe or lockbox.
- Keep an eye out in your neighborhood and immediately report any activity to the police.
- Never leave doors unlocked.
- Educate family and neighbors about these types of crimes.

Keep an eye on neighbors and call the Police Department at *262.694.7353* to report any suspicious activity. If possible, try to obtain the vehicle license plate, color, make/model, and offender description. □

#### **Photo Contest**

Do you love living in Pleasant Prairie? Show off your photography skills and your love for the community by entering your photos to the Pleasant Prairie 2022 Through Your Frame Photo Contest.



Your photos could appear in a Village Calendar, on the Village website, social media channels or in other Village publications. We are seeking photos that portray the beauty of our community throughout the year.

Photos will be judged based on content and quality. Photos must be taken within the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Minors must have parental consent to enter the contest. Photo submission portal and contest rules are available at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov/Photo.* 

Entries must be submitted between May 2 and August 12. Open voting will be available on select photos on the Village website from August 15 through August 19. Three winners will be selected along with nine honorable mentions. We look forward to seeing your photos!

# Walkers, Runners, and Cyclists Safety

The Pleasant Prairie Police Department wants to remind walkers, runners, and cyclists to take the following steps to remain safe when out on the bike trails and when walking in public areas.

- When possible walk, jog or bike with a buddy.
- Wear reflective or light-colored clothing at night.
- Always take a cell phone or other device to communicate in case you need to call for help.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid walking alone in secluded areas.
- Keep vour kevs readv.
- Walk with confidence.
- Carry an alarm or whistle.
- Don't talk on a cell phone.
- Avoid using earbuds or headsets.
- Make eye contact.
- Go with your instincts.

These are just a few preventative safety tips, but if you see something suspicious call the police.  $\Box$ 

## **Police Department**

# **New Members** & Promotions

On Friday, March 25, a swearing in and recognition of promotion ceremony took place to welcome recently recruited Police Officers and honor recently promoted department members. Please welcome the four newest members of the Pleasant Prairie Police Department:



Left to right: Officer Joshua Girdaukas, Officer Brian Buster, Chief David Smetana, Officer Richard Stettner, and Officer Tiffany Diaz.

Congratulations are in order for four individuals who were promoted within the Pleasant Prairie Police Department:



Left to right: Lieutenant Zachary Quever, Sergeant Sean Flahive, Sergeant Brianna Kraus, and Sergeant Zachary Dutter.

## **Public Safety Social Media**

Like or Follow Pleasant Prairie public safety social media channels to stay informed about what is happening in the community.  $\Box$ 

#### **Pleasant Prairie Police Department**



facebook.com/PleasantPrairiePoliceDepartment



twitter.com/pppd

#### Pleasant Prairie Fire & Rescue Department



facebook.com/PleasantPrairieFireWl

#### **Dog Ownership Reminder**



It is considered a public nusiance to allow your dog to frequently or continuously bark outside of the home. Please keep dogs indoors if they are creating too much noise. Village ordinances can be found at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov*. When taking your dog off your property, please keep your dog properly leashed and pick up dog waste. 🖵

#### **Vacation Home Checks**



If you are planning to be away from home for a vacation or for an extended period of time, you can contact the Pleasant Prairie Police Department at 262.694.7353 to schedule a Vacation Home Check. Department staff will take some basic information in regards to your absence so that officers on patrol can to identify situations that are out of the ordinary.

# **Kenosha County Unveils Apps for Parks and Bicycling**

On behalf of Kenosha County...

Two new web applications showcasing Kenosha County's park and bike amenities are now available for the public's use. The Kenosha County Parks app at kenoshacounty.org/parksapp and The Bike Kenosha County app at kenoshacounty.org/bikeapp.

Both apps include interactive maps with information about park, trail and bicycle route locations, as well as event listings, news, and more.

"Our goal with these apps was to make it easy for people to learn more about the many recreational opportunities Kenosha County has to offer, all while they're on the go with their smartphones," County Executive Jim Kreuser said. "And being springtime, it's the perfect time to start planning your summer park and trail adventures."

The Parks app also includes links to the online park pavilion reservation system and a tool that allows people to quickly and easily report any issues that they find in the parks, such as downed trees, trail obstructions, and other maintenance needs.

The Bike Kenosha County app also includes information about bicycle safety and the Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze Level status that the County received last year from the League of American Bicyclists.

Introduction of the app dovetails with the 2021 installation of bicycle wayfinding signage throughout the county. The signage and the app were developed in partnership with the County's 11 municipalities, as an outgrowth of the efforts of the Kenosha County Multiuse Trail Committee.

Both apps are web-based, which means they do not need to be downloaded from an app store. Smartphone users can bookmark the apps and can add buttons for them on their home screen, following user instructions for their phone. The apps can also be viewed on a computer or tablet.



## **Historical Society "Tee Off to Summer" Fundraiser**

This year, the Historical Society invites the public to "Tee Off to Summer" at the Society's family friendly open house style fundraiser on Tuesday, June 21, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., hosted at Pineway Golf Co. at 1621 116th Street in Pleasant Prairie (the former Transcendental Golf range). Entry tickets will be sold at the door and include the following:

Adult Entry - \$20

1 beverage and 4 tickets, which can be used to participate in golf contests, mini-golf, and/or driving golf balls.

Youth Entry (12 and under) - \$10

1 beverage and 2 tickets, which can be used to participate in golf contests, mini-golf, and/or driving golf balls.

Golf contests for longest drive and closest to the pin will take place hourly, with prizes for each winner.

Additional tickets to participate in golf contests, mini-golf and/or driving golf balls will be sold for \$5 each. Beer, wine, and soda will be for sale at the event. Food trucks will have food available for purchase. There will also be a "cork pull" style fundraiser at \$20 per cork and everyone is a winner!

After over 8 years of hard work and fundraising by hundreds of community volunteers and local businesses, the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society celebrated the opening of the Pleasant Prairie



History Museum last year at 3875 116th Street. The Society now needs to annually raise funds to maintain the historic Dublin School artifact, and create new and interesting exhibits for the community. Your support will benefit local history! For more information contact the Pleasant Prairie History Museum Curator Kate Bennett at (262) 577-5115.

The Pleasant Prairie History Museum is located in the historic Dublin School at 3875 116th Street, Pleasant Prairie, WI. The Historical Society can be reached at *262.577.5115* or *info@pleasantprairieHistoricalsociety.org*. Check out the website, *PleasantPrairieHistoricalSociety.org*, and follow at *Facebook.com/PIPrairieHistoricalSociety*.

#### **Work with Us!**

We have a number of job opportunities throughout the Village for full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment.

Police - Public Works - Fire and Rescue - RecPlex

Apply at *PleasantPrairieWi.gov/Employment*.



#### **Memorial Day, May 30**

Village offices and the Residential Recycling Center will be closed on Monday, May 30 in honor of Memorial Day. There will be no garbage collection on Memorial Day. Scheduled pick-ups will resume on Tuesday, May 31, and be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

#### **Independence Day, July 4**

Village offices and Residential Recycling Center will be closed on Monday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day. There will be no garbage or recycling collection on Independence day. Scheduled pick-ups will resume on Tuesday, July 5, and be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

#### **Lake Andrea Beach Opens June 10**

Daily and seasonal park passes are sold at the entrance to the beach. Please visit *RecPlexOnline.com* to learn more about Lake Andrea Beach and the summer hours of operation.



May/June 2022

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