

# theVillage

November/December 2020



Photographed by Carolyn Gage

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## Let's Get Social



## Follow Pleasant Prairie on Social Media

Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter @PLPrairieWi



Printed on recycled paper

## Have a Wonderful Holiday Season

### 2021 Village Newsletters

The Village will continue issuing bi-monthly editions of the Village Newsletter in 2021. Residents are also encouraged to visit [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](https://PleasantPrairieWi.gov) and Village social media channels to stay up-to-date on announcements and news in between issues. □





## Plans to Acquire Land for Park Expansion



The Village is taking steps toward expanding Pleasant Prairie Park, located at Bain Station Road and 104th Avenue. In June, David Gentz approached Village staff and expressed interest in selling three family-owned parcels abutting Pleasant Prairie Park's west end. The land is east of 108th Avenue and north of 84th Street.

The land acquisition supports the Pleasant Prairie Park expansion outlined in the 2018 Park and Open Space Plan. The property is mostly undeveloped with one single-family home.

Gentz supplied a letter to the Village asking \$425,000 for three tax parcels, 91-4-122-074-0390, 91-4-122-074-0395, and 91-122-074-0400. The combined size of the three properties totals approximately 4.4-acres.

The Village Board approved the land purchase during their October 5 meeting. Funds for the investment created an unexpected expense that was not included in the Village budget for 2020. The Village added the parkland's purchase to the General Obligation Resolution, approved earlier in the meeting, to accommodate the acquisition and will use Park Impact Fee reserves for future park improvements.

Pleasant Prairie Park is currently a 22-acre community park. With the new property purchase, the park will expand to 26.4-acres and connect to 108th Avenue. Presently, the park offers a youth soccer

field, restrooms, two playground areas, open green space for passive recreational activities, basketball hoops, tennis courts, and two parking areas. Plans for the expansion propose including additional parking and a disc golf course.

The original concept plan for Pleasant Prairie Park was created in 2006 as part of the first Village Park and Open Space Plan. Every five years, Village staff updates and refines the plan based on changes in the community. This process enables the Village to remain qualified for certification from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and therefore maintain eligibility to qualify for matching grant funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. ☐



*Invested in  
Community!*



# Tax Incremental District No. 8 Boundaries Established

The Plan Commission, on September 14, approved a resolution designating the boundaries of Tax Incremental District (TID) No. 8 in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. The new district consists of 130 parcels, totaling 127 acres of land, generally located south of Highway 50, between 104th and 115th Avenues.

The creation of TID 8 is necessary to accommodate the mixed-use, multi-phase developments planned for the district. Fiduciary Real Estate Development is the developer proposing this project and requesting TID financial support.



The total improvement cost attributed to the TID is estimated to be around \$12 million, including design, construction, and administration. Proposed public infrastructure improvements include completing 77th Street, 109th and 115th Avenues, stormwater management, utility installations, and other eligible project costs. The Village staff is currently working with the developer to finalize the Project Plan and Development Agreement.

The Village Board, on February 3, approved a Conceptual Plan for 300 upscale apartments. The developer intends to begin construction in 2021 on the approximately 29-acre multi-family apartment project, known as Seasons at River View. This development is the first phase planned for TID 8. The proposed remaining stages for TID 8 consist of two commercial development sites and a senior housing complex.

The approval process to create the Tax Incremental Financing District for TID 8 is being completed in three phases. The Tax Incremental District requires approval from the Joint Review Board (JRB), Plan Commission, and Village Board. □

## HARIBO Extends Building Permits

On October 12, the Plan Commission approved HARIBO's request to extend the Master Conceptual Plan and Final Site and Operational Plan Building Permits for its Pleasant Prairie manufacturing plant. The extension is a precautionary measure added due to the overlap of expiration dates, the time needed for the State's approval process, and the challenges posed this year due to COVID-19.

The previous Master Conceptual Plan was expiring November 7, 2020, and the Final Site and Operational Plan was expiring November 11, 2020. While having the extension, HARIBO still intends to meet the deadlines by submitting Final Plans to the Village Board and filing for permits in November. The project is progressing; HARIBO recently announced Gilbane Building Company is the development's general contractor and stated the new facility involves an investment well above \$300 million.

Due to the tight time frame, Village staff determined it was best to extend the expiration dates out of caution to allow more time to obtain State approvals. HARIBO has already received conditional approval from the State of Wisconsin for the production building and is working with the State to obtain conditional consent for its warehouse.

"We're working closely with the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the State of Wisconsin as we're making great progress to move forward with our U.S. factory, and to do this during our 100 Year Anniversary is something special," said Arndt Ruesges, Chief Production Officer, HARIBO of America. "All along we've said we want to build a top-quality facility that is woven into the fabric of the community, and as we're taking these next important steps we're closer to bringing that to life."

"HARIBO is a great partner and a pivotal addition to Prairie Highlands Corporate Park," said Nathan Thiel, Village Administrator. "The project reflects a large investment in the community that will create jobs and benefit the local economy. Pleasant Prairie looks forward to seeing this highly anticipated development take shape."

The Pleasant Prairie facility will be HARIBO's first-ever North American plant. The campus development is planned to be completed in phases on 136.8 acres of property located at the southwest corner of 122nd Avenue (West Frontage Road) and CTH C (Wilmot Road) in the Prairie Highlands Corporate Park. □



## General Government Budget

On November 2, Village staff presented the proposed 2021 General Government Budget to the Village Board. The budget proposes raising the tax levy from \$12,652,261 in 2020 to \$13,296,940 for 2021, an increase of \$644,679. The levy change will have a small impact on the property tax bill. An average home in the Village valued at \$237,200 will translate to a \$9.64 increase in the Village portion of the tax bill.

The funds will cover Village services such as fire and rescue, police, community development, road improvements, and snow plowing. The proposed 2021 budget includes inflationary increases across most departments, but no new positions or additional programs are being added. Proposed capital purchases include road improvements of \$2.3 million, replacing two fire engines with a quint engine, Pleasant Prairie Park Improvements, designing a new law enforcement facility, replacing police vehicles, and land acquisitions for the Highway 50 reconstruction project.

The Village will also consider an additional tax levy of \$1.5 million to assist RecPlex with the facility's \$2.5 million annual debt service payment. The RecPlex was the hardest-hit Village-owned entity in 2020 due to COVID-19. Since October 2000, when the Village initially issued General Obligation debt to construct the comprehensive workout center, the RecPlex has remained self-sufficient with its revenues. For the first time in 20 years, the sports complex requires Village tax dollar assistance due to the pandemic. Adding the RecPlex debt to the levy would result in another \$119.65 increase for the median-valued home. The total Village portion of the property tax payment would increase from \$1,051 in 2020 to \$1,180 in 2021.

A public hearing for the 2021 General Government budget is planned for Monday, November 30, at 5:00 p.m. The hearing will be held virtually; visit [PleasantPrairiewi.gov/Goto](https://PleasantPrairiewi.gov/Goto) to register. □

## COVID-19 Effect on RecPlex Operations



State and County health mandates surrounding COVID-19 restricted the RecPlex facility's use over the past six months in terms of occupancy and spectators. The complex was mandated to close operations for ten consecutive weeks. Orders limited the ability to recruit new members and encouraged membership cancellations, resulting in an estimated revenue loss of \$3.6 million. RecPlex staff established proactive measures to handle revenue loss, reducing operating expenses by \$1 million, and utilizing \$1.6 million of \$2 million in cash reserves. Despite countless staff hours spent petitioning for assistance, the RecPlex did not qualify for any State and Federal relief aid because it is municipal-owned. The Village redirected over \$1 million as an inter-fund loan to help cover the RecPlex's debt.

Projections for RecPlex in 2021 estimate a \$1.8 million revenue loss. RecPlex plans to continue the facility's expense reductions and salary attrition to reduce cost by an additional \$250,000. The 2021 RecPlex budget covers all operation costs and debt interest. Over \$300,000 in planned capital improvements are being placed on hold. Proposed tax levy funds will cover \$1.5 million of debt principal. To compensate for the Village tax dollar support, RecPlex plans to offer Pleasant Prairie taxpaying households five guest passes to use the facility, free Lake Andrea beach access, and a free parking pass with a RecPlex membership.

"For its 20th anniversary, 2020 should have been all celebration for the RecPlex," said Nathan Thiel, Village Administrator. "Despite this year's struggles, I am confident the Village will come together to support this incredible community asset."

RecPlex is the largest municipal-owned recreational facility in North America; it has a significant economic impact on the region. Conservatively, in 2019, RecPlex events brought \$7.18 million into the community. The complex is used by many area businesses as a recruitment tool, serving corporate fitness programs and family services. RecPlex also provides childcare and therapeutic recreation for residents and offers over 200 jobs to the community. □



### What to do with your PUMPKIN?

Bring unwanted pumpkins to:  
Residential Recycling Center  
8000 128th Street

Pumpkins are considered compost. Village residents are welcome to drop off their unwanted pumpkins at the Residential Recycling Center **free of cost.** □

## 2021 Solid Waste Utility Budget




### What Is Solid Waste Utility?

The Solid Waste Utility provides curbside garbage, recycling, and leaf collection for approximately 7,540 homes. The utility also operates the Residential Recycling Center (RRC). It offers hazardous waste collection the first Saturday of each month, along with free compost, mulch, shred events, and Christmas tree drop-off sites.

### What to Expect During 2021?

As part of the 2021 Solid Waste Budget, the Village plans to continue all services, including the new billable service offered in 2020 that picks up brush and branches from resident homes. The types of items collected at the RRC will remain the same. Some changes to the Village's costs in 2021 includes a higher volume of waste being collected at slightly higher tipping fees and an increase in hours needed to collect recycling, garbage, and leaves. A monthly \$2.00 rate increase is being proposed to cover the increased costs for the services offered. Unlimited volumes of recycling and household hazardous waste can still be dropped off at no additional charge.

### Where to Learn More About Solid Waste Services?

You can find more information about solid waste services on pages six through eleven of your 2021 Village Calendar. You can also find more information about solid waste services online at [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](https://PleasantPrairieWi.gov) under the **Services** tab. 

## 2021 Clean Water Utility Budget

### What is the Clean Water Utility?

The Clean Water Utility, operating since 2006, was created to protect lakes, streams, rivers, and groundwater from contaminated stormwater runoff. Federal mandates require municipalities to improve stormwater quality. Stormwater comes from rain or melting snow that collects contaminants and transports them through the storm sewer and into local waterways. The Public Works department's efforts reduce pollutants and keep the waterways clean.




The maintenance and replacement of existing stormwater infrastructures are both funded by the Clean Water Utility. New stormwater projects that improve drainage in specific areas are funded by the affected property owners. The Village collects a stormwater fee from property owners based on how a property generates stormwater runoff.

All properties contribute to stormwater runoff in varying degrees based on soil type, surface, and property use. Funds collected by the stormwater fee are used to pay for the maintenance of Village-owned stormwater infrastructures, maintaining catch basins, and preserving natural drainage systems like streams and buffers. Infrastructure supported by the Clean Water Utility is valued at more than \$27.1 million dollars.


### What to Expect During 2021?

The Clean Water Utility will continue to perform street sweeping, outfall inspections, and catch basin cleaning. The Village is considering one new infrastructure stormwater improvement project for 2021 in Beverly Woods. There is also a \$1 per Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) increase proposed for 2021.

More information about the Clean Water Utility, including an informational video, is available under the **Services** tab at [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](https://PleasantPrairieWi.gov). 

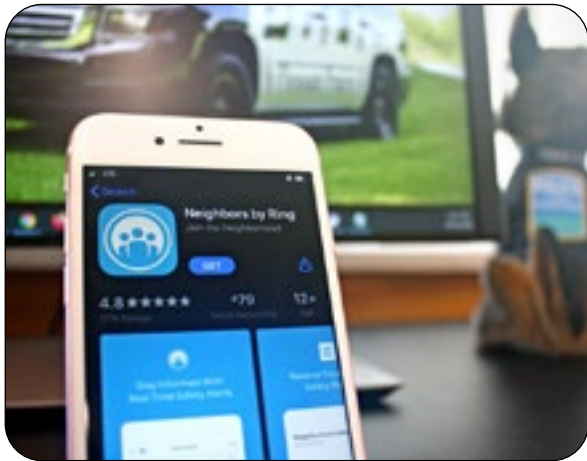
## Utility Bills & Payments Online

Save on postage and request an email version of your utility bill. The Village also has options of paying your utility payments online by credit card. There is a 3% convenience fee for online credit card payments. Paying by e-check is still free.

To request an e-bill go to [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](https://PleasantPrairieWi.gov) > How Do I > Pay > Utility Bills > Request Email Bill and follow prompts. To pay utility bill online follow the same instructions listed above until you click on Utility Bills and follow prompts. 



## Police Department Joins Ring Neighbors



The Pleasant Prairie Police Department has joined Ring Neighbors. This network that allows residents to share safety concerns about local crime with the community. With the Neighbors app, users can post videos captured from cameras, distribute photos, post text, and receive real-time safety alerts.

"There are numerous Ring cameras in our community, and we understand the value those cameras can provide during investigations," said Dave Smetana, Police Chief. "Being able to reach out on the Neighbors app when there is a crime or incident and ask the community to share footage and information is incredible. The technology allows public safety agencies to create safer communities by connecting with residents in a new way."

Residents do not need a Ring device to join Neighbors. Anyone can participate by downloading the Neighbors app to their smartphone. Devices with the app can receive updates and post photos, text, or videos. All posts are anonymous, and a user's name or address will only be shown if a user chooses to display it.

The Neighbors app works in tandem with the Community Camera Partnership. The ongoing crime-fighting partnership with Village residents enables residents to share video footage from home security cameras if a crime or suspicious activity occurs. The two platforms are modern-day extensions of the Neighborhood Watch Program. All aspects of these programs are entirely voluntary. Police would not have remote access to security systems or Ring devices. The homeowner remains in complete control of their camera systems. □

## Police Officers Awarded for Their Courageous Actions

Pleasant Prairie Police and Fire & Rescue units responded to a house fire in the 8300 block of Old Green Bay Road on September 28. As the Police officers arrived, they were advised that an individual was trapped on the second floor. Officer Jeremiah Gates and Sergeant Derek Andrews entered the structure to attempt a rescue; however, they could not locate the trapped individual due to intense smoke. Lieutenant Pete Jung joined the officers' efforts. All three officers entered the burning structure several times and found the fire victim in a second-floor bedroom. The officers worked as a team to remove the individual who had succumbed to injuries due to the fire.

On October 7, all three officers were awarded written commendations and department challenge coins for their courageous actions. Each officer demonstrated extreme bravery and dedication to their profession and community. □



## Village Calendars

The 2021 Village Calendar and Resource Directories have arrived at residents' homes that were registered to receive them in their mailbox. Village Calendars are also available for pick up at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue) and Rodger Prange Municipal Building (8600 Green Bay Road) while supplies last.



Register  
Village  
Calendar

If you did not receive a 2021 calendar by mail and would like to be included on the mailing list for future editions, please visit [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](https://www.pleasantprairiewi.gov). Click the calendar icon near the homepage's bottom, and register to be added to the calendar's mail list. □

## 15th Annual Shop with a Cop/Firefighter

The Pleasant Prairie Professional Police Association is proud to announce the 15th Annual Pleasant Prairie Shop with a Cop/Firefighter charity event will be held in December. Shop with a Cop/Firefighter is a way for members of Pleasant Prairie's Police and Fire & Rescue Departments to give back to the community by helping local families who may not otherwise be able to celebrate the holidays in a traditional manner. Children from underprivileged families pair off with a Police Officer or Firefighter and select gifts for their family members. The Shop with a Cop program not only helps families celebrate during the holidays, but it allows families to meet first responders outside of crises.

The Association is now accepting donations in support of this year's **Shop with a Cop and Firefighter**. 100% of every donation directly supports the event.

*Those wishing to donate may do so in person or by mail at the following address: Pleasant Prairie Professional Police Association; Shop with a Cop; 8600 Green Bay Road; Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158. ☐*



## New Chaplain for Police Department

Pastor Dave Pagel has accepted the role of chaplain for the Pleasant Prairie Police Department. He plans to provide Village law enforcement officers with support and encouragement.



Pastor Pagel has been the pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church since 2002. He graduated from Northwestern College in 1992 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1996. His intern year was spent in Kenosha at Bethany. Upon graduation, Pastor Dave was assigned to the Pacific Northwest and found himself in Beaverton, Oregon, where he started a church from scratch. Chaplain Pagel is available to respond to emergencies and assist officers and their families. He has already had an opportunity to ride along with police, participate in physical training, and cook breakfast for officers. ☐

## Ingram Park Sledding Hill

The sledding hill at Ingram Park is ready for use, pending an adequate amount of snowfall.

**Ingram Park is located at 5724 93rd Street.** Rules for the park are posted on-site; all guests are asked to sled safely and responsibly. ☐



## Did you know?



**Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment.**

Keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during the holidays is essential, especially when there are many activities and people. While preparing a holiday schedule to organize a large family feast, remember to follow these simple safety tips to help keep yourself and your family safe from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking, so you can keep an eye on the food, and stay home when cooking your turkey so that you can check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks, or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. ☐

# Twelfth Night Tree Burning Ceremony Returns

The Village of Pleasant Prairie's historic Twelfth Night event began in 1980, continued through 1993, and resumed in 2020. The ceremony will return in 2021, with the traditional holiday tree burning bonfire.

Area communities are welcome to attend to help celebrate the Twelfth Night tradition. The 2021 ceremony is planned for January 6, starting at 6:00 p.m. at RecPlex Wruck (Beach) Pavilion, located along Park Drive on the west side of Lake Andrea in Pleasant Prairie. The Pleasant Prairie Convention and Visitors Bureau (PPCVB), Pleasant Prairie Historical Society, and Village of Pleasant Prairie are hosting the event.

The Village utilizes this historic ceremony to dispose of dried holiday trees. The preferred drop-off location to contribute a tree to the event is inside the fenced-in area along Park Drive, on Lake Andrea's west side, near the beach. The holiday tree drop-off site opens for Village residents starting December 26.

Public safety at the event is a top priority. The bonfire area will be at least 100 square feet and is subject to the Fire Chief and onsite Public Safety Personnel judgment. Community members are encouraged to wear masks, maintain social distances, and follow COVID-19 recommendations. Parking along Park Drive will be reserved for Fire and Rescue to keep safety trucks and equipment closest to the fire. Guests may park in lots on either side of the Wruck Pavilion.

The Twelfth Night Celebration is free and open to the public. The Village, Historical Society, and PPCVB look forward to seeing guests attend the event. Festivities will kick off at 6:00 p.m. with a welcome from PPCVB Executive Director Michelle Williamson. The holiday tree bonfire will start at 6:15 p.m., followed by hot chocolate outside the Wruck Pavilion. Donations for the Twelfth Night are welcome to support the Historical Society that recently finished renovations to the historic Dublin School and opened the Pleasant Prairie History Museum to the community. ☐



## Tree Drop-Off Sites

### ***Prairie Springs Park***

West side of Park Drive  
by Lake Andrea Beach  
(Preferred drop-off location)

### ***Village Hall***

9915 39th Avenue

### ***Pleasant Prairie Park***

8400 104th Avenue

### ***Carol Beach Park***

111<sup>th</sup> Street and 10th Avenue

### ***Ingram Park***

93rd Street and 57th Avenue

### ***Residential Recycling Center (Saturdays only)***

8000 128th Street

## Holiday Tree Drop-Off Sites and Fire Safety

The Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue Department would like to remind residents to get rid of trees after the holiday or when they become dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the house or garage or placed outside against the home.

Listed (on the left) are six holiday tree drop-off locations available for residents from December 26 through January 31.

**Only trees are accepted.**

Please remove all wreaths, garland, lights, ornaments, tree bags, stands, and nails before placing the holiday tree inside the fenced area.



### **National Fire Protection Association Facts:**

- Holiday trees are combustible items that become increasingly flammable as they continue to dry out in your home.
- 44% of home holiday tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- 25% of holiday tree fires are due to heat sources being too close to the tree. ☐



# Winter Weather Snow Safety



When the snow starts to fall, the Public Works Department activates its **Snow and Ice Removal Plan**. Exactly what happens under the plan depends on the amount of precipitation that has fallen, is predicted to fall, the temperature, duration of the storm, and moisture content.


Remove your vehicles from public streets when approximately **2 inches** of snow has fallen or is predicted to fall. Vehicles parked in the road not only make it more difficult to clean the streets, but it also endangers safety by forcing drivers to zigzag in and out of traffic on slippery roads. *As a reminder, the Village will ticket violators.*

Snow emergencies are announced on Time Warner Cable Channel 25, at [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](http://PleasantPrairieWi.gov), by text or email through [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com), via Twitter and Facebook, and through local television, radio, and print media.

There are also steps you, as a resident, can take to ensure that snow removal operations run safely and smoothly:

1. Please **avoid driving or parking on the road** during heavy snowstorms. Our primary purpose is to clear streets for emergency vehicles. If you must be out, please use extreme caution and do not drive too fast for conditions, wear a seat belt, drive sober, and avoid distractions.
2. Use caution when you encounter a snowplow. State law requires that you **stay at least 200 feet** behind a working snowplow. When following a snowplow, make sure that you can see the driver's mirrors so the driver is able to see you.
3. **Do not shovel or blow snow into public streets.** This not only defeats the purpose of our snow plowing, but it is a violation of Village Ordinances because it causes unsafe conditions for all drivers. All shoveled or blown snow must be piled in your yard or parkway.
4. If you live in a portion of the Village where sidewalks have been installed, please remove snow and ice from your **sidewalk within 24 hours** of a snowfall. Clear snow and ice away from fire hydrants located on or near your property. Keeping hydrants clear will help save valuable time, should a fire emergency occur in your neighborhood.
5. The Village encourages all residents to please **assist your elderly neighbors** with snow removal tasks whenever possible.

More information related to **Pleasant Prairie's Snow and Ice Removal Plan** is available at [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](http://PleasantPrairieWi.gov).

*Find winter road conditions and traffic information at 5-1-1. Via phone, text or online, 5-1-1 can help you plan for safer travel during the winter weather season. Learn more about this Wisconsin Department of Transportation service at [www.511wi.gov](http://www.511wi.gov). *

**E-Newsletter:** Interested in receiving an email version of the Village Newsletter? Visit [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](http://PleasantPrairieWi.gov) and click on the newsletter icon near the bottom of the page to sign up for digital delivery. You can also choose to opt off of the paper mailing list by emailing [newsletter@plprairie.com](mailto:newsletter@plprairie.com). Include your name and postal mailing address along with the words "email only." 



Public Works crew members discovered a fossil of sorts while working on a project.

## Residential Recycling Center and Hazardous Waste Collection

Starting December 5, the Residential Recycling Center will only be open on Saturdays between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The site will resume Monday through Friday hours on March 22, 2021.

Hazardous Waste Collection will continue on the first Saturday of every month year-round. ☐



## 2021 Election Dates

Spring Primary Election  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

Spring Election  
**Tuesday, April 6, 2021** ☐

## uBreakiFix Opens in Village

The Village is happy to welcome uBreakiFix to the community, located in Prairie Ridge, at 9755 76th Street. The professional electronics repairs shop fixes game consoles, computers, tablets, and smartphones. ☐



## Polling Locations

Open 7:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m.

### Village Hall Auditorium

9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue (south parking lot)  
Wards 1, 2 and 3

### Village Hall Courtroom

9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue (north parking lots)  
Wards 4 and 5

### Caterpillar College Preschool

8411 Old Green Bay Road  
Wards 6, 7 and 12

### RecPlex

9900 Terwall Terrace  
Wards 8, 9, 10 and 11

### The Addison of Pleasant Prairie

9651 Prairie Ridge Boulevard  
Wards 13 and 14

If you do not know which polling location you should visit in order to vote, go to [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) and select the **Find My Polling Place**. If you are interested in assisting voters on election days, contact the Village Clerk's Office for an application at [262.694.1400](tel:262.694.1400). ☐



# Seasons in the Prairie Photo Contest Winners

The Village wants to thank all of those who participated in the Seasons in the Prairie Photo Contest. There were over 80 photo submissions of scenic views, landscapes, and natural areas in Pleasant Prairie. Residents voted for their favorite photos, honorable mentions (pictured below) were also selected.

The three winning photos are to the right, with titles and entrant names listed below. The black and white images do not capture the true beauty of these photos. If you want to view them in all their glory, you can see the color version at [PleasantPrairieWi.gov](http://PleasantPrairieWi.gov). You can also see them in the 2021 Village Calendar, now available for pick up at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue) and Rodger Prange Municipal Building (8600 Green Bay Road) while supplies last. ☐



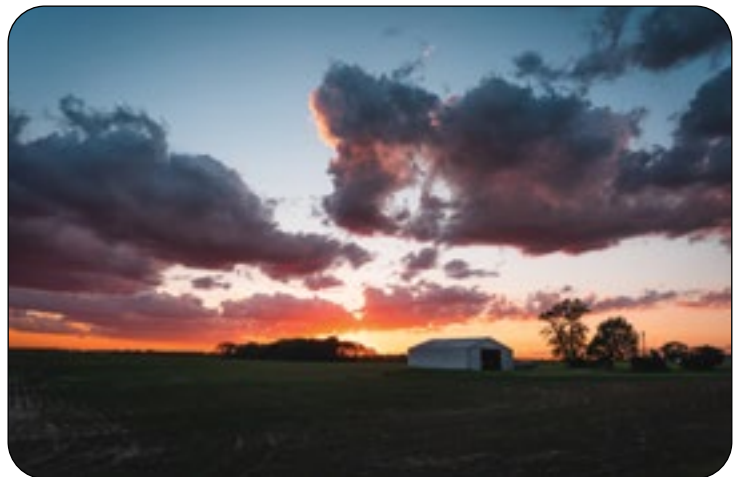
***Sunset at RecPlex*** by Kylee Kinsman



*Photo Contest Honorable Mentions*



***Batten Down the Hatches*** by Debra Webster



***Prairie Sunset*** by Matt Betz



# Historical Society

## History of Preservation on the Prairie

On a winter evening in 1965, conservationists from across the State drove through a snowstorm to attend a Kenosha County board meeting. The County was voting on plans for a huge marina in Pleasant Prairie that could very well have damaged the Chiwaukee. The Chiwaukee Prairie is located in the southeastern corner of the Village. Dr. Hugh Iltis, a UW-Madison plant geographer, educator, conservationist and one of the founders of the Wisconsin branch of The Nature Conservancy, drove from Madison to voice his opposition, saying, "Your children will ask, what is a pleasant prairie? and you will have no answer—for you will have destroyed it."

Even though the private marina plans were approved, a passion was stirred by a concerned group of local citizens to join together and find a way to minimize the disturbance of this important prairie lowland and upland conservation area. The Chiwaukee Prairie is part of the last unbroken stretch of prairie of its kind in Wisconsin. Its diverse area provides wetlands, dunes, savannas and prairie habitat areas for hundreds of native plants and animals, many of which are listed as threatened or endangered. With the help of The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, this citizen's group was able to buy a small strip of land which made it impossible to build a road leading east to the marina from Sheridan Road. The bulk of the prairie land was temporarily preserved, and the private interests of the marina proceeded. This citizens' group plus a number of private and public entities continued land acquisition to protect the prairie.



Photo of Chiwaukee Prairie, taken by Phil Sander.

### Local Preservation Fund is Formed

In 1985, Donna Peterson and Joan Rohan founded the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit. This local citizen group has been raising money and slowly purchasing more property in the Prairie. Today the Preservation Fund continues its mission to acquire, restore, preserve and manage prairie lands in the Chiwaukee Prairie and Carol Beach area. Visit [chiwaukee.org](http://chiwaukee.org) for contact and volunteer opportunities.



The Historical Society can be reached at [262.577.5115](tel:262.577.5115) or [HistoricalSociety@plprairie.org](mailto:HistoricalSociety@plprairie.org). Check out the website, [PleasantPrairieHistoricalSociety.org](http://PleasantPrairieHistoricalSociety.org), and follow at [Facebook.com/PIPrairieHistoricalSociety](https://Facebook.com/PIPrairieHistoricalSociety). □

## Thanksgiving Holiday

***Village offices will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in honor of the Thanksgiving Holiday.*** Village offices will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, November 30. There will be no recycling or garbage collection on November 26. It will resume on November 27, with pick-ups delayed by one day.



White goods and electronics will not be collected during Thanksgiving week but may be brought to the Residential Recycling Center. The Residential Recycling Center will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and will reopen for regular business hours on Friday, November 27.

## Winter Holidays

***Village offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, in honor of the Christmas Holiday.*** Village offices will reopen on December 28 for regular business hours. There will be no garbage collection on December 25, and it will resume on December 26, with pick-ups delayed by one day.

***Village offices will also be closed on Thursday, December 31, and Friday, January 1, in honor of the New Year's Holiday.*** Village offices will reopen on January 4 for regular business hours. There will be no garbage collection on January 1; garbage pick-up will resume on January 2.

RecPlex will be **closed** on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Have a safe and joyful holiday season. □