

## Bus Service to Pleasant Prairie Locations Will Be Discontinued in January



Kenosha Area Transit will discontinue city bus service to Pleasant Prairie locations in January of 2011. The Village locations that will be impacted include:

- *St. Catherine's Medical Center Campus*
- *The Prairie Ridge retail development and senior campus*
- *St. Joseph's Home for the Aged*
- *LakeView Corporate Park*

### **History of Busing in the Village**

Kenosha Area Transit began providing city bus service to: St. Catherine's Medical Center Campus and the Prairie Ridge development in 2003; LakeView Corporate Park in 2002/2003; and St. Joseph's Home for the Aged while Pleasant Prairie was still a town, more than twenty years ago. Because the majority of Village residents do not utilize the transit system, the Village does not absorb these expenses into the General Property Tax Levy. Businesses who benefit from city busing have been paying for the service. *Village taxes do not pay for city transit services provided to private businesses.*

For bus service to St. Catherine's and Prairie Ridge, the City, in the past, has sent a bill to Pleasant Prairie, and the Village, in turn, has billed the hospital and the developer of Prairie Ridge. LakeView Corporate Park worked directly with the City to obtain bus service, and Kenosha Area Transit has not billed for bus service to St. Joseph's Home for the Aged before.

### **316% Fee Increase Proposed for 2011 City Bus Service**

In late September of 2010, Kenosha Area Transit sent the Village a summary of Transit Services, highlighting their net cost per mile of \$1.6958 and the fees they would be charging for bus service to Village locations during 2011. The summary proposed a fee increase of 316% for bus service to locations in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Fees for a bus route traveling to LakeView Corporate Park increased from \$7,725 per year to \$43,588 per year. Fees for bus routes traveling to St. Joseph's, St. Catherine's and the Prairie Ridge development

increased from \$9,270 to \$27,177 per year. In response, the Village shared information about the proposed fee increase with the locations that have been impacted.

### **Outcome**

As a result of the large fee increase, the businesses who pay for the bus service to these locations in the Village have opted to stop using the service. As of January 1, 2010, city busses will no longer stop at locations in the Village.

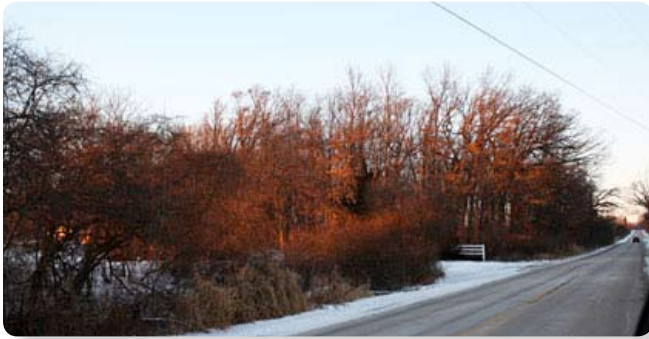
Currently, Pleasant Prairie *is not* considering the creation of an additional transit system. "In the past, the Village has looked at the cost of operating a transit system," explained Village Administrator Mike Pollocoff. "Operating an independent transit system in the Village would not make sense financially. Should circumstances change at some point in the future, we could always take another look." □



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# Village Receives Land Donation for Future Park

*Land will become known as Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farm*



In mid-November, the Village of Pleasant Prairie received a land donation that will become part of a future Village park. Pleasant Prairie resident, Jay R. Sorensen, donated 6.56 acres of wooded oak savanna to the Village with the intention of having the land preserved, protected, and restored with walking trails for future use as a public, scenic

park area. The property will become known as Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farm. The land is located on the west side of the 11400 block of 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is valued at \$286,000. Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farm will remain in the Village's ownership permanently for use as part of the future Kildeer Park. Mr. Sorensen wishes to see the wooded lands preserved and walking trails on the land enhanced.

Mr. Sorensen is a lifelong resident of Pleasant Prairie and has been an active farmer in the Village for more than 40 years. He recently acquired a large property near 116<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the purpose of continuing his life's work. Because of the significant woodland and scenic area on the property, Mr. Sorensen wished for this portion of the land he purchased to be preserved permanently in order to maintain the natural beauty of the area. □

## Pleasant Prairie Historical Society Welcomes Founding Membership

The Pleasant Prairie Historical Society is a newly formed volunteer-based, non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and exhibiting locally important archeological, historic and cultural materials, and providing educational opportunities to promote an appreciation of Pleasant Prairie's historical significance. The Society will encourage interest in community history and local heritage by the sharing of stories and oral history dialogs about family life.

### Old Records Found

While cleaning out the Village Hall basement, the Village Clerk came across a dusty, sealed box stacked in a corner file cabinet. She had uncovered the original Pleasant Prairie hand-scribed meeting minutes and budget ledgers from the first gathering of the prairie community in 1842. The documents detail local business of the time, including ownership, new laws, and the local tax roll.



### Founding Membership Campaign

The Society is beginning its 2011 Founding Membership Campaign by reaching out to residents and businesses. Membership is open to anyone seeking to share, understand and preserve local history. Volunteer opportunities available include: researching collections, fundraising, marketing, creating exhibits,

coordinating special events and records management. The Society is also seeking those who may have historical artifacts, documents, photographs, paintings, clothing, furniture, tools or other items as well as stories to share that could be added to the Society's collection.

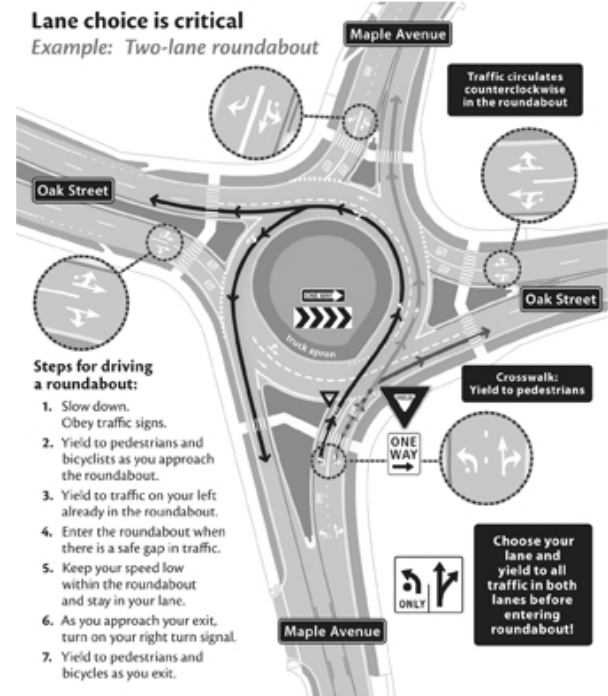
If you would like to become a founding member or have information that you would like to share, please contact Jean Werbie-Harris, Society Vice President/Secretary, at 262/925-6718 or by mail at PO Box 580866, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158-0866. □

# Highway 165 Improvements Update

During 2011, State Highway 165 will be improved between Springbrook Road (CTH ML) and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue (CTH EZ). Plans call for four vehicle lanes, separated by a raised median and complemented by bicycle lanes. Plans also call for the installation of two roundabouts, one at Springbrook Road and the other at 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) has begun using roundabouts to create slower speeds and fewer conflict points to reduce injury accidents.

Because of traffic accident and collision history, the Village sees traffic control at these two intersections as essential. The Village, in response, asked the State to install signalized intersections at these locations, however, the State's evaluation revealed that roundabouts were warranted. In light of the safety statistics regarding injury accidents (accidents with injuries as opposed to just vehicle damage) and roundabouts, the Village supported the State's decision.

"Though, according to the State, the improvement of the highway between the two intersections is ahead of schedule, the improvement of the two intersections is not," explained Mike Pollockoff, Village Administrator. "The need for improved traffic flow and safety have existed here for some time, and safety statistics tell us that the design of the roundabouts will handle peak traffic levels with less potential for serious injury accidents." During June of 2009, residents were invited to an open house-style meeting conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation regarding the upcoming changes. During 2010, the State completed the acquisition of properties for the project, and work to relocate related utilities began.



The image above depicts the traffic flow at a *sample* roundabout.

The Village will work with residents adjacent to the project and the State to ensure that the acquisition of property was fair and reasonable and that the remaining residential properties remain usable and maintain their greatest possible value. The project is expected to be complete near the end of 2011. □

## 2010 Property Tax Bills

### *Finding Information About Your 2010 Property Tax*

During the first half of December, you should have received your 2010 property tax bill. Included with your bill, you received an informational insert that explains when and how property owners can make tax payments, where the Village intends to spend the 19% of your payment that remains in Pleasant Prairie, and which other entities receive the remaining 81% of your payment.

Additional information regarding the Village budget and projects planned for 2011 was included in your November Village Newsletter. If you would like an additional copy of this information, you can find these publications posted online under the [News](#) link at [PleasantPrairieOnline.com](http://PleasantPrairieOnline.com). □

*Join us this July for the return of some good old-fashioned family fun at...*

## **PRAIRIE FAMILY DAYS** **July 23 & 24**

Watch for some of your favorite activities to return this summer in Prairie Family Days fashion with great food, fun family activities and more!! During July of 2011, the Village will once again host Prairie Family Days, a family centered, summer celebration with sporting competitions, great food, and many of the community's favorite youth oriented activities. The Village invites all who may be interested to help plan and participate in this year's celebration.

If you would like to help, please contact Chris Finkel at [262/948-8902](tel:2629488902). □





## The Village wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Village offices will be closed on Christmas Eve and the Monday following Christmas Day, December 24 and 27. Offices will also be closed New Year's Eve and the Monday following New Year's Day, December 31 and January 3. **Garbage collection will continue as normal throughout this holiday season.** □



Holiday tree drop-off sites will be open for Village residents from December 26 through January 31. Only trees are accepted. Please remove all wreaths, garland, lights, ornaments, tree bags, stands, nails and other metal objects. Simply drop your holiday tree inside the fenced area. Drop off sites are located at: *Village Hall* (9915 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue); *Pleasant Prairie Park* (Bain Station Road and 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue); and *Carol Beach Park* (111<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue). □

## 2011 Calendar



The 2011 Village Calendar and Resource Directory should be arriving in residents' mailboxes this December. Inside, you'll find contact information for Village departments, information on voting, garbage, recycling, leaf collection, the Compost Site, Village meetings and more. If you do not receive your Calendar in the mail this December, please stop at Village Hall or the Roger Prange Municipal Center to pick up a copy while supplies last. □



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## New Year's Resolution

### A Great Gift for the Holidays!

### MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

Village Residents ONLY. New Year, New You! Start 2011 by saving money and getting in shape. **SAVE \$100** on a **NEW** RecPlex membership. Great for the whole family. Limited time ONLY, Jan. 1-Jan. 31, 2011. Some restrictions apply, call Guest Services for details.

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