

theVillage

March/April 2019



2018 Village Photo Contest Honorable Mention Doug Stacey

Index

- | | |
|---|--|
| page 1
Police K-9 Unit Coming Soon | page 7
Village Hazardous Waste Collection
County Hazardous Waste Collection |
| page 2
Community Collaboration Update
Strategic Planning Meeting | page 8
Statewide Tornado Drill
Citizen Awards Presented
Stop the Bleed Training |
| page 3
Stateline 94 Corporate Park Update
Advocate Aurora Beam Signing | page 9
Photo Contest
Kids and Family Expo |
| page 4
Voting Reminders
Nixle Update | page 10
Village Shred Event
Pet Waste Reminder
Walter Graeber Retirement
Police Honor Guard Commemoration
Welcome Greg Czarny |
| page 5
Bluestem Energy Solutions
Safety Tips
E-Newsletter
Village Calendars | page 11
Historical Society |
| page 6
Spring Leaf Collection
Wisconsin Marathon | |

Let's Get Social



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Facebook [@villageofpleasantprairiewi](https://www.facebook.com/villageofpleasantprairiewi)



printed on recycled paper

Village Offices Closed Friday, April 19

Good Friday Garbage/Recycling Collection

Village offices, including the Residential Recycling Center, will be closed on Good Friday, April 19. Offices will reopen for regular business hours on Monday, April 22, while the **Residential Recycling Center will be open for regular hours on Saturday, April 20.**

Garbage and recycling collection will take place as regularly scheduled on Friday, April 19.

Electronics and white goods will not be collected on Friday, April 19. These collections will instead be scheduled for Thursday, April 18.

RecPlex will be closed Easter Sunday, April 20.





New Police K-9 Unit Coming Soon

A donation was made to the Pleasant Prairie Police Department to obtain a new Police K-9 Unit. Pleasant Prairie Police previous K-9 Unit, Echo, retired in fall of 2018 and is under the care of Detective Scott Beaumier. The Department has been without a K-9 Unit since.

The new K-9 Unit will begin training with TOPS Kennel in Grayslake, Illinois, in April. Similar to Echo, this K-9 Unit will be a multiuse K-9 trained in drug detection, tracking, and officer safety. The K-9 Unit will assist officers with various cases that include: drug cases, tracking lost children, tracking adults with dementia, search warrants, home and business searches, school drug sniffs, and criminal apprehensions.

The new Pleasant Prairie Police K-9 Handler will be Officer Mike Algiers. Officer Algiers has been with the Pleasant Prairie Police Department for 5 years

and is a Field Training Officer for the department. He also serves as a member of the Kenosha County Tactical Response Team.

Officer Algiers will travel to Illinois to train and bond with the new K-9 Unit for weeks before arriving back to the Village for duty. As the K-9 Handler, Officer Algiers will not only be responsible for the K-9 Unit reporting for service but will also care for dog as part of his family.

The Pleasant Prairie Police Department K-9 Unit fund is always open for donations. Funds will go toward the K-9 Unit's equipment and supplies. Material donations such as dog food or toys of any kind will not be accepted.

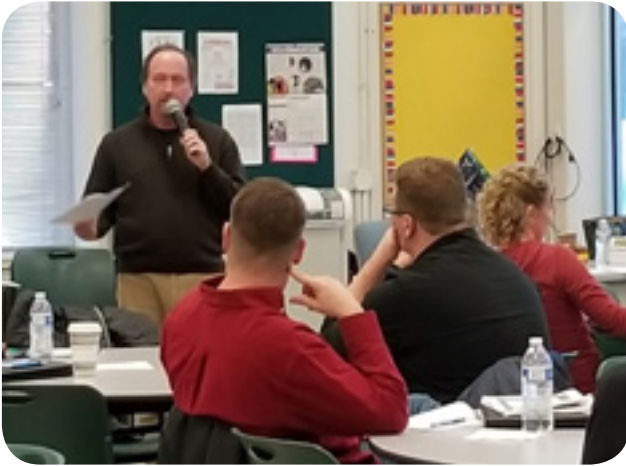
In December of 2018, a Pleasant Prairie Police K-9 Unit Supporter apparel sale was available to raise funds to support the new K-9 Unit. Another apparel sale

is available during the month of March. Order forms are available in the News section at PleasantPrairieWi.gov, the Police Department's Facebook page (facebook.com/Pleasant-Prairie-Police-Department), and at the Pleasant Prairie Police Department (8600 Green Bay Road). Orders are due March 31. ☐



*A great place to
live, work & play!*

Community Collaboration Update



Community Collaboration began meeting in February to discuss and plan the development of approximately 180 acres of Village Green Center into a beautiful downtown district attracting residents and visitors day and night, seven days a week. Here is an overview of the project process so far:

January 17 Meeting - 160 attendees at kick-off
- 90+ signed up to participate
February 7 Meeting - 60+ participants
February 21 Meeting - 60+ participants
March 7 Meeting - 70+ participants

Guest speakers are scheduled to present in future meetings including Matt Rinka and Steve Morales on March 21 (master planned communities), Rodger Motiska on April 4 (branding and way finding), and Anne Katz on May 2 (arts).

Thank you to everyone participating in this project. The Village is proud to have residents that are committed to enhance the community. □

2019 Village Newsletters

The Village as of January 2019 began issuing bi-monthly editions of the Village Newsletter. Residents are encouraged to visit the News section at PleasantPrairieWi.gov and Village social media channels to stay up-to-date on announcements and news items in between issues. □

Strategic Planning Meeting



The Village Board and staff met on Saturday, February 23, for a Strategic Planning Session to set the vision of the future for Pleasant Prairie. Promoting and preserving investment became a significant and common theme throughout the discussion. The Village team identified six strategic issues as the key priorities:

Securing Fiscal Stability: With the closure of P4 (Pleasant Prairie Power Plant) and continued pressure on the tax levy with levy limits and Dark Store and Walgreens rulings, the Village is committed to facilitating local budget and State legislative solutions that promote and preserve community investment.

Staffing Levels: As the population and development grows, there is significant pressure to provide municipal services. The Village will appropriately increase staffing to maintain quality service levels.

Village Green Center: The Village will continue to work to develop the Village Green in order to establish a community identity and gathering space for our residents and businesses.

Succession Planning: As our professional workforce ages, the Village will continue to train mid-management and identify opportunities to improve retention and recognition of current employees.

Managing New Development: There continues to be increased pressure to relax development standards. The Village is committed to evaluate and set formal policies that promote the proper balance for smart and sustainable growth.

Housing: The Village recognizes a housing shortage and will focus efforts to identify solutions that attract quality and diverse housing stock.

This was the initial planning meeting. Next steps, the Village will formalize a mission and vision statement as well as establish strategic initiatives to address the issues identified. □

Stateline 94 Corporate Park Update



In August of 2018, the Village Board considered and approved a Development Agreement between the Village of Pleasant Prairie and Riverview Group, LLC. The company plans to develop approximately 308 acres of property generally located between 110th Street and 122nd Street, and along the east side of the I-94 East Frontage Road (120th Avenue) for construction of five industrial buildings.

The developer, Venture One, announced the first building to be constructed in Stateline 94 Corporate Park to be a 590,525 square foot office, processing, and assembling facility. The occupant will be Fresenius Kabi, a global healthcare company that specializes in lifesaving medicines and technologies for infusion, transfusion, and clinical nutrition.

“Pleasant Prairie congratulates Fresenius Kabi on its growth,” said Village Administrator Nathan Thiel, “Another excellent example of Pleasant Prairie as an attractive location for new businesses.”

It is estimated that there will be 100 full-time employees at this facility. The project will also bring hundreds of construction jobs to the area as the site is developed and the facility is being built. Venture One plans to begin construction during spring of 2019 with anticipated completion during the spring of 2020.

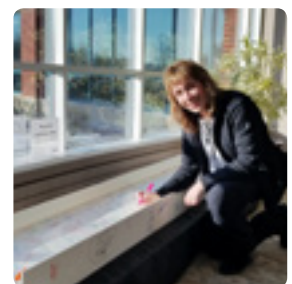
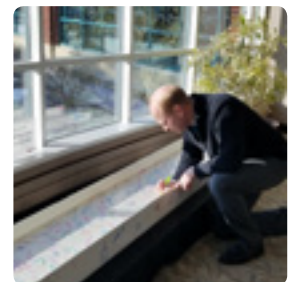
In April of 2018, the Village approved the project plan and boundaries for Tax Incremental District #7 for the developer, Venture One, to fund public infrastructure and roadway improvements, and other utilities for this development. Venture One is responsible for financing several area public improvements, and will be reimbursed through tax increment generated by the project. Public area improvements along 120th Avenue, 122nd Street, and 116th Avenue include; street upgrades, sanitary sewer extensions, watermain, street trees, sidewalks, street lights, and sitework. A permanent sanitary sewer lift station will also be installed. □

Advocate Aurora Beam Signing

In the beginning of March, Village officials signed a beam at Aurora Medical Center. The beam is destined to become part of Advocate Aurora Health Center Pleasant Prairie which is currently under construction.

Construction workers soon will place the last steel beam atop the medical office building, signaling that the structure has reached its ultimate height. Construction firm Boldt brought a beam to the hospital's atrium for team members to sign in honor of the milestone.

Advocate Aurora Health Care will be located at the northwest corner of CTH Q (104th Avenue) and 120th Avenue (West Frontage Road) in the Prairie Highlands Corporate Park. Facility construction is anticipated to be complete during the summer of 2020. □



Voting Reminders

The 2019 Spring Election will take place on Tuesday, April 2. On Election Day, polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you have not already registered to vote in the Village of Pleasant Prairie, or if you have recently had a name or address change; you can save time at the polls by registering to vote ahead of time at [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) or at Village Hall (9915 39th Ave). You can learn where to vote in the Village of Pleasant Prairie by visiting [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov).

Please remember that you will need photo identification to vote with an absentee ballot at Village Hall or at the polls on election day. To keep up to date on the latest voter ID requirements, visit [BringItWisconsin.com](https://bringitwisconsin.com).

New at the Spring Election, the Village of Pleasant Prairie will be implementing an electronic poll book system designed by the Wisconsin Election Commission at all or some of our polling locations. The "Badger Book" is an electronic poll book software that is specific to Wisconsin elections practices and statutes. Badger Books do not use an internet connection.

The Badger Book is primarily used to check in voters, process absentee ballots, and register voters on Election Day. After Election Day, a data file generated from the Badger Book is used to upload election participation and Election Day Registration information into state wide system known as WisVote.

If you are interested in becoming a Poll Worker, please contact the Village Clerk at [262.694.1400](tel:262.694.1400) or clerksoffice@plprairie.com. ☐



Nixle Update

Important changes have been made to the emergency notification system, and they will affect the way you receive messages from the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department.

The Village will only be able to send red/alert notifications via text message. These types of notifications are saved for emergency circumstances only (e.g. shelter in place, natural disasters). These will still be sent via text message.

All other messages (non-emergency) will no longer be sent via text message. This means you will no longer receive text messages about events like snow emergencies, road closures, and 'avoid the area' notices. **These notifications can only be received via email.**

If you wish to continue receiving ALL types of messages (emergency and non-emergency) from the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department please sign up for email notifications at [Nixle.com](https://nixle.com). If you do not want to sign up for emails you can find us on Facebook (facebook.com/Pleasant-Prairie-Police-Department and facebook.com/villageofpleasantprairiewi) and Twitter (twitter.com/pppd and twitter.com/PIPrairieWI).

Thank you for your patience with this adjustment. We know how important communication is to our community, especially as it relates to safety. In a message to the department, Nixle noted increasing costs of SMS messages as the reason for the change. Thankfully, there are many ways to receive messages from the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department.

If you are interested in receiving emergency emails please create an account at [Nixle.com](https://nixle.com) and choose the resident option. ☐

Bluestem Energy Solutions

Bluestem Energy Solutions (BES) will conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential for renewable energy development for the Village of Pleasant Prairie. As the municipality works to create more economic value and diversify their energy generation to increase resiliency.

The BES study, for which Pleasant Prairie has no financial or contractual obligation, will include an analysis of the Municipal energy usage patterns and costs. That information and other data will then be used to assess the economic feasibility of renewable energy projects that will help reduce energy costs, create economic value, and increase resiliency.

“Investing in renewable energy for the Village will enhance operations and modernize our systems” said Village Administrator Nathan Thiel, “We are eager for Bluestem to offer sustainable energy solutions for Village facilities.”

If Village Trustees and BES determine a renewable energy project in Pleasant Prairie is realistic, development would proceed under a public-private partnership similar to what the company has done with public partners across the United States.

Building local, renewable energy represents economic opportunities for the community in the form of construction jobs and economic development opportunities. A project like this would also help Pleasant Prairie meet the needs of local business with sustainability initiatives. As more companies continue to develop and execute their own sustainable energy goals, low-carbon energy resources are proving increasingly important in the site-selection process.

“Bluestem is working in many states across the country and we have a good idea of which communities are situated for success when it comes to our business model,” BES Consultant Jake Griggs said. “We’re excited to partner with the Village of Pleasant Prairie as we work towards creating economic value for the Village and its residents.”

BES is a developer, owner and operator of low carbon energy generation facilities ranging in sizes and technologies. Located in Omaha, Nebraska, BES has been active in renewable energy generation across the country since 2009. □

Safety Tips for Walkers, Joggers and Cyclists

The Pleasant Prairie Police Department wants to remind walkers, joggers, 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 time
- 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 your keys ready
- 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. □

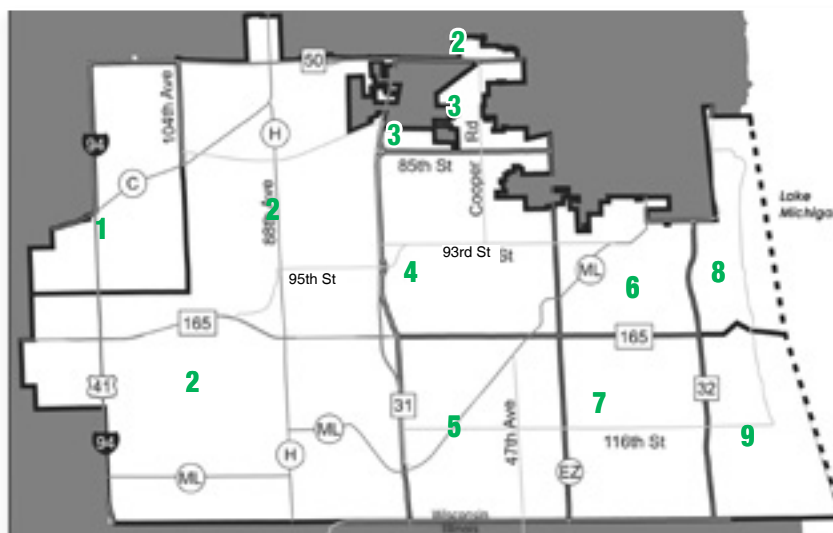
E-Newsletter: If you are interested in receiving the email version of the Village Newsletter, visit PleasantPrairieWi.gov and *click* the **Newsletter Icon** towards the bottom of the page. You can choose to opt off of the paper mailing list by emailing newsletter@plprairie.com. Include your name and postal mailing address along with the words “email only.” □

Village Calendars

The Village will no longer automatically send out the Village Calendar and Resource Directory to homes within Pleasant Prairie.

If you are interested in receiving future editions of the Village Calendar directly to your mailbox, please register at PleasantPrairieWi.gov and *click* on the Calendar icon near the bottom of the page or call **262.925.6701**. You only need to register once to receive future editions of the Village Calendar. You can also opt off the mailing list at any time if you no longer wish to receive the Village Calendar. □

Spring Residential Leaf Collection



2019 Spring Leaf Collection Schedule

Zone Number	Spring Round 1	Spring Round 2
1	April 1	April 15
2	April 2	April 15
3	April 3	April 16
4	April 4	April 17
5	April 5	April 17
6	April 8	April 18
7	April 9	April 19
8	April 10	April 19
9	April 11	April 22

As a part of the Solid Waste Services provided to Village residents, crews collect loose, un-bagged leaves directly from your curb or roadside. **Two rounds of leaf collection will take place this spring.** Weather permitting, leaf collection will begin on April 1. To have your leaves collected, please follow the steps below.

- See the map above and identify your collection zone.
- See the schedule above to identify your collection dates.
- Have leaves ready by 7:00 a.m.
- Rake leaves into a pile at your curb or on your roadside.
- *Leaves must be within 6 feet of the road.*
- Keep leaves off of the asphalt.
- For residents with curb and gutter, place loose leaves on the grass by your curb.
- For residents with a ditch, place loose leaves on the grass along the roadside of the ditch.
- Because leaves are collected with a vacuum they must be piled loose.
- Bagged leaves or grass, branches, and other yard waste will not be collected.
- Watch a *How To: Prep for Leaf Collection* video at PleasantPrairieWi.gov or on YouTube.

Do not mix other yard waste, such as potted/garden plants or branches, into your pile of leaves. Doing so can damage the leaf collection vacuum and may cause costly delays. Leaves mixed with other yard waste will not be collected.

Please keep in mind that though collection staff abides by the schedule above, there are certain circumstances that may delay collection by one or more days. These circumstances could include: unanticipated delays due to weather, emergency situations that may draw staff away from their regular duties, or damage to collection equipment that would require repair or unscheduled service.

If you miss your scheduled collection day, leaves and other yard waste may also be taken to the Residential Recycling Center at 8000 128th Street. The site will open for on-season hours on March 25 and remain open through December 7 (weather permitting). The site will remain open on Saturdays year-round. Hours for the Residential Recycling Center are available on page 11 of your **2019 Village Calendar and Resource Directory** or at PleasantPrairieWi.gov. ☐

Wisconsin Marathon Street Closures/Access

The Wisconsin Marathon will take place on Saturday, May 4. The race course begins and ends in the City of Kenosha, and a portion of the marathon course travels into the Village of Pleasant Prairie along the lake shore in the Carol Beach area.

Access around 3rd Avenue near the lake shore will be limited

to local traffic only, between 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Residents living along the course will have access to and from homes.

Law enforcement and/or course marshals will guide local traffic through the course as gaps in the groups of runners allow. Please plan extra time for travel through the area during the race.

To learn more about the Wisconsin Marathon and opportunities to participate, or to view a course map, please visit WisconsinMarathon.com. ☐

Hazardous Waste Collection

1st Saturday of the Month

Household hazardous wastes are common products found in the home. People usually store these materials for a time and eventually discard the unwanted items and their containers. When products are used according to label directions, most are not hazardous.

Environmental problems can arise, however, if items are not disposed of properly. ***Do NOT burn, bury, dump (in any yard, toilet or down a storm sewer) or mix leftover products.*** Chemical containers should not be reused for any other purpose.

Hazardous Waste Collection takes place at the Residential Recycling Center (8000 128th Street) on the first Saturday of every month from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

You may bring products that say:

- caution
- combustible
- corrosive
- danger
- flammable
- pesticide
- poison
- reactive
- toxic
- warning

Items not accepted:

- biological
- material or medical wastes
- commercial waste
- propane cylinders
- explosives
- radioactive materials
- latex paint (not considered hazardous)
- tires

If you have questions about monthly hazardous waste collection, please email pw@plprairie.com, call 925.6700, or visit PleasantPrairieWi.gov. □

Accepted Hazardous Waste Products Include:

Aerosol cans
Bug sprays
Floor care products
Metal polish
Furniture polish
Oven cleaners
Drain cleaners
Bathroom cleaners
Tile cleaners
Disinfectant
Batteries
Old gasoline
Gasoline/oil mixed
Brake fluid
Auto repair products
Transmission fluid
Other oils/cleaners
Oil paints
Paint thinner
Paint stripper
Varnish
Antifreeze
Chemical fertilizer
Fungicides
Herbicides
Rat poison
Artists' paints
Fiberglass epoxy
Gun cleaning solvents
Moth balls
Pool chemicals
Photographic chemicals
Fluorescent bulbs



Kenosha County Household Hazardous Waste Program

Saturday, May 4

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

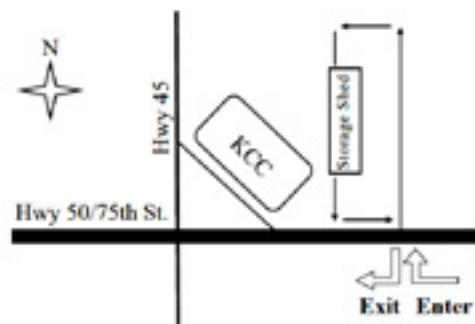
Kenosha County will provide Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Kenosha County Center (19600 75th Street) on Saturday, May 4. In addition to hazardous wastes, Kenosha County will collect e-waste and refrigerant waste (items containing freon).

Accepted e-waste items include: computers, laptops, fax machines, keyboards, computer mice, stereos, scanners, tablets, iPods, TVs, VCRs, DVD, CD and MP3 players, printers, phones, copiers, power tools, toner cartridges, and electronic toys.

Refrigerant waste items include: refrigerators, water coolers, freezers, air conditioners, water heaters, dehumidifiers, microwaves, and other household appliances.

The following items will NOT be accepted: lead acid batteries, vehicle and power tool batteries, latex paint, tires, infectious or biological waste, compressed gas cylinders, explosives, radioactive waste, medical and pharmaceutical waste, and commercial or business waste.

The driveway for the Kenosha County Public Works Garage is located on the north side of Highway 50 (19600 75th Street), east of the main entrance to the Kenosha County Center. Please watch for signage on Highway 50.



Information is also available at KenoshaCounty.org or by calling the UW-Extension at 262-857-1945. □

Statewide Tornado Drills



On the afternoon of Thursday, April 11, at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. the National Weather Service will conduct a statewide tornado drill in Wisconsin offering families and businesses the opportunity to test their severe weather emergency plans.

For additional details please visit the National Weather Service website at:

[Weather.gov/safety/events_calendar](https://www.weather.gov/safety/events_calendar) 

Citizen Awards Presented




On Monday, February 4, Chief Roepke of the Pleasant Prairie Fire and Rescue Department presented a citizen award to Gwen Gernenz and Cory Baker who successfully resuscitated a 60-year-old patient.

On Wednesday, January 16, the 60-year-old patient passed out and was found unresponsive in the Costco parking lot. Gernenz witnessed the fall and immediately started CPR chest compressions. Baker (a Costco employee) arrived with an AED.

Cory applied the AED, allowed it to perform its analysis and the unit advised that a shock was indicated. Baker immediately delivered the electric shock to which both determined there was a pulse and the 60-year-old patient resumed breathing. When the Pleasant Prairie paramedics arrived the patient was conscious and speaking with both individuals. The patient was transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

"The interventions and decision to become involved by both individuals is without a doubt the only reason this patient survived," said Chief Roepke, "It is a textbook example that demonstrates when efforts are taken to train and equip civilian bystanders and they engage in a crisis, that spectacular outcomes can occur. This is what we strive for."

Gernenz is currently a nursing student at Herzing University in Kenosha. Baker is a Costco Tire Center supervisor and a volunteer Firefighter/EMT for local fire departments in Twin Lakes and Lake Geneva. Baker also assists teaching First-Aid & CPR to other Costco employees in Pleasant Prairie. 

PLEASANT PRAIRIE FIRE & RESCUE
PRESENTS

STOP THE BLEED TRAINING

Open to the public.
Tourniquet demonstrations.
Learn how to control life threatening
bleeding.

MARCH 31 | 10 AM - 2 PM
RECPLEX LOBBY - 9900 TERWALL TER.

NATIONAL STOP THE BLEED DAY MARCH 31, 2019
LEARN.MORE.BLEEDINGCONTROL.ORG

Photo Contest

FLOWER POWER!

Have you photographed the beauty of the many natural areas in Pleasant Prairie or do you have an amazing picture of your garden? If you answered yes then you should enter your photos in the **Flower Power** photo contest.

Your photos could appear in a Village Calendar, on the Village website, or in other Village communications. We're seeking photos that take place in all four seasons and portray a wide range of plants and trees.

Photos will be judged based on content and quality. We ask that all photos be taken within the Village of Pleasant Prairie and that no people are in the photos. Minors must have parental consent to enter the contest. Entry forms and a complete list of contest rules are available on the website at PleasantPrairieWi.gov by clicking the photo contest icon at the bottom of the homepage or at Village Hall (9915 39th Avenue).

Entries submitted between May 1 and September 21, 2019 will be judged in late September, and three winners will be selected. Winners will receive a gift certificate to a Pleasant Prairie place of business. Winners will be contacted via phone call and will be announced in the Village Newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of the **Flower Power** photos.



REGISTER EARLY TO SAVE!!!

Kids & Family

expo

SAT, MARCH 30, 2019

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

RECPLEX

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL:

One day ONLY! New membership ONLY. Some restrictions apply.

SPONSORED BY:

NORTH SHORE BANK

CAMP RECPLEX

Top Choice Rentals

RECPLEX

SUMMER

CAMP

RECPLEX

FREE

ADMISSION

INCLUDES:

- 1** A chance to win a FREE Birthday Party!
- 2** FREE Bounce House!
- 3** Over 50 Exhibitors, Prizes & More!

Kids are FREE

- OR -

1/2 OFF

Facility Fee

Village Shred Event

May 11 | 9:00 a.m. - noon



On Saturday, May 11 between 9:00 a.m. and noon, Village residents can bring unwanted personal documents to the Residential Recycling

Center, located at 8000 128th Street, for on-site destruction. Residents may bring as many personal documents as they can carry for shredding by Paper Tiger.

Paper Tiger provides on-site document destruction. They provide trucks with custom-built shredders that can efficiently destroy confidential paper documents and CDs.

Destroying old documents containing personal information is a simple step towards protecting yourself from fraud and identity theft. Recycling the shredded documents is also an easy way to protect the environment.

For more information about the Village's Shred and Recycle Event, please call Public Works at [262.925.6700](tel:262.925.6700) or email pw@plprairie.com.

You can learn more about Paper Tiger by visiting YourPaperTiger.com. □

Reminder to Clean Up Pet Waste



Pet waste is a pollutant. When left on the grass, rain water eventually washes it into storm sewers that take it directly to our lakes and rivers.

In the lake or river, pet waste can release ammonia as it decays, which along with low oxygen levels and warm temperatures can kill fish. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth, and it carries contaminants and diseases that can make the water unsafe for people and pets alike, such as fecal coliform.

Be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pet. Learn more at RespectOurWaters.org. □

Retirement



Walter Graeber, pictured above while being presented with a Resolution of Appreciation, retired from the Village on February 27, 2019 after 23 years of outstanding service. Walter has served the Village with the highest degree of integrity in his role as Senior Appraiser within the Office of Assessment Administration.

The Village thanks Walter for his outstanding service and wishes him a congratulation's on his retirement. □

Commemoration



During a Village Board meeting that took place on Monday, February 18, the Pleasant Prairie Police Department presented Recognition to Detective Andrea Brey to commemorate her service with distinction of merit of over eight years to the Pleasant Prairie Ceremonial Honor Guard. □

Welcome



The Village would like to welcome our newest employee, Greg Czarny, to the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Greg works as the newly created position of Code Enforcement Officer. Welcome to the community Greg! □

Historical Society

The Ideal Race Track: A “Haven” for Gamblers

A “haven” for gamblers might not seem like a description fit for Pleasant Prairie, but for a brief period of time in 1896, that was how many saw it. The reason for this was the Ideal Race Track, a mile-long horse race track located between CTH H (88th Avenue) and the Canadian Pacific Railroad (south of 122nd Street).

In August 1896, the plot of land was purchased by Henry Meyers, Jr. Soon after the purchase the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported the formation of the Ideal Park Racing Association. The Association was made up of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul Railroad, and two of the “largest brewing corporations of Milwaukee.” These breweries were unnamed but believed to be Pabst and Schlitz.



The Ideal Race Track was no small deal. The grandstand held 2,000 people and the stable could hold 500 horses. Specially equipped trains ran from Chicago to the track, advertised as making the trip in 50 minutes. The image below is an ad from a Chicago newspaper, The Daily Inter Ocean, where it refers to Pleasant Prairie as “Ideal Park.”

Before the race track opened there were rumors of efforts in the Wisconsin Legislature to shut down state track gambling. Wisconsin had reportedly become a haven for race track gamblers, since other states had already introduced legislation adverse to such activities. The rumors turned out to be true and in 1897 Wisconsin put an end to race track gambling. The Ideal Race Track eventually announced it would be closing as a result.

However, that was not the end of racing at that mile-long track. In 1913, Emil H. Schultz, (pictured top right) on a ride with his favorite race horse, Dandy Stewart, bought the Ideal Race Track and once again it was open for horse racing. Schultz also introduced automobile, motorcycle, and snowmobile racing to the track. The Ideal Race Track closed again a few years after reopening, but automobiles and motorcycles continued to race around the track all the way through the early 1960s.



Racing ended at the Ideal Race Track by the 1970s when the track was leased by Outboard Marine Corporation (Johnson Motors), who used the track to test their snowmobiles. The track has laid vacant for past several decades, other than the center of the track becoming farmland.

This postcard (pictured bottom right) shows a harness race at the Ideal Race Track on September 28, 1913.



If you know any stories related to the Ideal Race Track, please contact us at HistoricalSociety@plprairie.org or 262-947-3600. ☐

Discover our past
on the new Historical Society website:
PleasantPrairieHistoricalSociety.org