

# Village of Park Ridge

Village Hall (Fire Dept. & Meeting Room): 24 Crestwood Drive

Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office: 516 Sunrise Avenue, 715-343-1590

villageofparkridge@gmail.com

www.park-ridge.us

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### September 18

Absentee ballots for November election available for mailing to voters

### September 25

Large item pick-up ([see p. 5](#))

### October 20

In-person absentee voting with clerk begins for November election

### October 31

In-person absentee voting ends

### November 1

Deadline for moving recreational vehicles ([see p. 2](#))

### November 4

Fall General Election

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## ELECTION RESULTS

Election results following an election may be found on the Park Ridge website (for Village vote totals):

[www.park-ridge.us](http://www.park-ridge.us)

and on the Portage County website (for county-wide vote totals):

[www.co.portage.wi.us/elections/](http://www.co.portage.wi.us/elections/)

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## 8/12/14 PARTISAN PRIMARY RESULTS – PARK RIDGE

150 OF 360 REGISTERED VOTERS (11 ABSENTEE BALLOTS)

	DEMOCRATIC		REPUBLICAN	
GOVERNOR	Burke	90	Walker	21
	Hulsey	20	Evans	0
LT. GOVERNOR	Lehman	45	Kleefisch	20
	Walters	35		
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Happ	37	Schimel	18
	Ozanne	13		
	Richards	25		
SECRETARY OF STATE	LaFollette	85	Bradley	11
			Bies	5
STATE TREASURER	Leeper	41	Adamczyk	14
	Sartori	21	Melchert	2
REP. IN CONGRESS	Kind	84	Kurtz	12
			Van Doren	2
			Mueller	2
REP. TO ASSEMBLY	Shankland	92	Write-in: John Wayne	1
SHERIFF	Lukas	89		
	Sorenson	20		
	Grubba	17		
	Golla	1		
CORONER			Scott Rifleman	15
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT	Baker	90	Write-in: Rusty Shackelford	1

In partisan primaries, if an elector writes in the name of an individual on a ballot other than the one on which that individual's name is shown as a candidate, the write-in vote shall not be counted.

Candidates named on the Democratic ballot were written in on Republican ballots. The following tallies were not counted as votes for these candidates:

Lukas – 4; Sorenson – 2; Grubba – 3; Golla – 1; Baker – 3

Similarly, candidates named on the Republican ballot were written in on Democratic ballots. The following tallies were not counted as votes for these candidates:

Walker – 1; Rifleman – 2

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*Let the Village Clerk know if you would like newsletters emailed to you. Help us save on printing and postage costs!*

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## PARK RIDGE WELCOMES NEW FIRE CHIEF

On August 1, Brian Lepper became Fire Chief, succeeding Ronald Slicer who served as Interim Fire Chief for almost 2 years. Slicer also served as Fire Chief 2001-2009, and will remain on the fire department roster.

Lepper has 20 years of emergency services experience, beginning as a First Responder. In the mid-1990s, he was a member of the Portage County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Rescue Squad before joining the Town of Dewey Volunteer Fire Department, where he remains active as a Captain. In 2001, Lepper started Dewey's Emergency Medical Response unit, which he heads today.

Lepper is the current Vice-President of the Portage County EMS Association. He is also a member of the Portage County Local Emergency Planning Committee and various state and national emergency services associations.

Tight budgets and a shrinking roster are the two biggest concerns of Lepper. "While somewhat intimidating, I am looking forward to the challenges ahead of me, the Fire Department, and the Village Board," said Lepper. "The budget ultimately comes down to what the residents are willing to support, but staffing is something that will take the efforts of many and certainly is not an issue specific to the Village of Park Ridge."

Chief Lepper and his family reside in the City of Stevens Point.

### Move to Amend Referendum on November Ballot

A 'Direct Legislation Petition' was presented to the Village Board in June. Residents of cities and villages in Wisconsin can petition their governing bodies to place issues on the ballot if they obtain sufficient signatures. In this case, Park Ridge residents asked the Village Board to adopt a resolution regarding the *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* decision. The question that will appear on the ballot is as follows:

"Shall the Village of Park Ridge adopt the following resolution?

**Whereas**, the Supreme Court's decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* and related case law allows unlimited political campaign spending to influence local, state, and federal elections;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that "We the People" of the Village of Park Ridge, Wisconsin, call for reclaiming democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending. We stand with the Move to Amend campaign and communities across the country supporting passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating:

**1. Only human beings – not corporations, limited liability companies, unions, non-profit organizations, or similar associations – are endowed with constitutional rights; and**

**2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort."

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing the submission of the question can be obtained from the Village Clerk.

## BUILDING PERMITS

Jim Zepp, Building Inspector –

jzepp55@charter.net

715-310-3157 (after 4 pm).

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## REMINDERS

### Recreational Vehicles:

Residents with recreational vehicles (including boats, canoes, boat and utility trailers, motor homes, campers, personal water vehicles and kayaks) are reminded that these vehicles are not to be stored on any street right-of-way, or within the front setback including the driveway, or in a side yard if the side yard borders a street, from November 1 through March 31. [Ordinance 10.06, 'Junk, Certain Vehicles and Firewood'].

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### Displaying House Numbers –

Per Village Ordinance 11.14, house numbers not less than three inches high should be placed on the front of your home – so responding units will be able to find your home in the event of a 911 emergency.

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### Leash Law Applies to Cats,

**Too** – Per Village and County ordinances, dogs and cats must be on a leash anytime they are off the owner's property. There have been numerous complaints of cats roaming the Village, stalking birds at feeders, causing issues with indoor pets observing them, etc. Keep your cats at home. Call the Humane Society at 715-344-6012 to pick up stray cats and dogs.

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## FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT....

It was raining this morning as I began to compose this message. It has rained almost every day in the last 5 days and rain is forecast for the next week. Areas around us have had up to 7 inches in a single day. Even the farmers are complaining about being unable to get into some of their fields. Enough already! We need to get on with one of our beautiful fall seasons we expect here in central Wisconsin.

The first thing I want to talk to you about is mostly a reminder. It has to do with the ordinance prohibiting dead or diseased trees. The implied right to enter properties to determine lot lines, inspect trees and shrubs, and then mark vegetation in need of removal is now clearly stated in the text of the ordinance. It makes the job easier for the inspector to examine trees, and the markings make it clear to owners which trees are causes for concern. The ordinance also calls for a maximum height of 3 feet for shrubs which may block a driver's vision at intersections. The survey of vegetation usually occurs in the fall, but it may happen at any time (if there are safety concerns, for example). For more information, please see Ordinance 10.08, Trees & Shrubs, found on our village website, [www.park-ridge.us](http://www.park-ridge.us), or contact trustees LaMar or Renfert.

The second issue has drawn a lot of media attention in recent weeks. Firefighting in the Village relies on our hose wagon laying a 5-inch hose from a hydrant to the fire. Our hose wagon is 34 years old, with a manual transmission and two-speed rear axle. This type of shifting is difficult for firefighters used to automatic transmissions. It is also becoming very difficult to find replacement parts. We therefore need to replace or update that hose wagon. We are in the process of looking at the costs/benefits of replacing the chassis with a new or used one with an automatic transmission and using our old pump, water tank and box. Upgrades to the old pump, tank and box might be included. We will also look for a different new or used truck if we can find one that fits our needs. Prices for these various options range from approximately \$79,000 to \$220,000. The Village would borrow for this and we would distribute information before a decision would be made by the Village Board. A referendum would not be required.

The other fire department issue might result in a referendum. We are the only department in Portage County that does not compensate its firefighters. When all of the volunteer firefighters were Park Ridge residents, this was not an issue; however, none are Village residents today and we need to be competitive with surrounding departments to attract firefighters. Various compensation systems are being considered. We also need to raise the total fire department budget which has been frozen for the last 4+ years by state controls on our levy limit. The costs of every aspect of firefighting are up and we need to continue to support our department. To exceed our levy limit, state law requires that we pass a referendum. More information on this issue will also be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Your Village Board tries to spend your tax dollars carefully. We do what is needed to keep the Village a place we can be proud to live. I always like to remind residents of the motto which appears on our village flag: "Neighbors helping neighbors." This is good advice for us all. We can all be far better off if we look for ways to help each other out whenever we can. We moved to Park Ridge because of the friendly atmosphere and it is important to do what we can to keep things that way. Remember to contact your Village clerk/treasurer or trustees when you have a question or concern. We are only a phone call away.

**--Tom Gludemans**  
*For the Village Board*

### **WANTED: VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

Chief Lepper would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer firefighter with the Park Ridge Fire Department. Residents are especially encouraged – contact Chief Lepper at [parkridgestation52@gmail.com](mailto:parkridgestation52@gmail.com) or 715-347-6152.

### **WANTED: ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

The Village is seeking an individual to administer/enforce zoning ordinances. This is a compensated part-time position. Please contact Tom Gludemans, Village President, at 715-341-4450 if you are interested in learning more.

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## RAIN GARDENS – A ‘GREEN’ SOLUTION

*The WisDOT, WisDNR and US Army Corps of Engineers work cooperatively to implement innovative solutions to manage and treat storm water. In this article, Dan Holloway, a Village resident and WisDOT civil engineer, provides information on **rain gardens** used to manage, retain, purify, and release rainwater in ways that minimize negative impacts to the natural environment.*

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When I moved to Park Ridge 4 years ago, I immediately recognized the lack of drainage conditions we strive for on our WisDOT projects. I was most concerned by the ponding water on street surfaces and the presence of many “french drains” throughout the Village. Aside from the obvious issues with ponding water, it can also decrease the life of street pavements and increase street maintenance costs. My concerns with french drains are the direct conduit they provide for unfiltered, polluted street water to reach our groundwater - groundwater that we rely on for our drinking water supply - and their lack of capacity during spring thaws and major storm events.

A rain garden is an innovative, natural system of rainwater management. The concept has been around for many years, and is well known by professional landscapers. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studies have shown that rain gardens even improve drainage during winter (frozen ground) conditions.

**What is a rain garden, you ask?** The simple definition is: “A depressed area of earth that is constructed with modified soil and planted with select species of plants (not turf grasses).” The depression is typically shallow (4 to 8 inches) with the main characteristic being that the grade is lower than the area to be drained. The soil is typically a mixture of organics, sand, and topsoil that is designed to retain, filter, and relatively quickly pass rainwater through and down to the groundwater. The plants can be any number of common landscaping plants (typically perennials) that are known to be tolerant of varying wet/dry conditions, as well as resistant to pollutants such as salt and oil.

**How can rain gardens help Park Ridge?** The typical yard in the Village is higher than the street, with soil/turf forming a “curb” along the street pavement edge. Therein lies the problem. Without a storm sewer system or ditches (which would require more space and tree removal), water ponds on the streets. In the absence of storm sewers and ditches, rain gardens are the next best thing. If even a few residents construct rain gardens in the front of their properties (preferably along street edges), ponding would be reduced or eliminated in those areas. If enough people construct them, the ultimate result could be that much of the ponding in the Village is eliminated, and the amount of flow entering the french drains is significantly reduced.

The Village of Park Ridge is open to the concept of rain gardens, and I suggest that you contact the Village prior to constructing one in the street right-of-way. And finally... keep watch at 509 Linwood, as there will be a rain garden going in our front yard in the not too distant future.

Happy Gardening!!

Dan Holloway, 509 Linwood Ave.

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## Resources

Every rain garden is different, and there are seemingly endless varieties of “typical” designs. Rain gardens in Park Ridge should be designed for SANDY soils. You can consult with a professional landscaper to design your rain garden, or you may choose to do it yourself. There is a lot of information on the internet to help with the design of your garden:

### WisDNR

[www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/raingarden](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/raingarden)  
(includes a great “how to” manual)

### City of Madison

[www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens](http://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/raingardens)

If you do choose to construct a rain garden and have questions, please feel free to contact me:

**Dan Holloway**  
**715-459-2882**  
**Daniel-holloway@att.net**

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For all of your recycling and solid waste disposal questions, contact the Portage County Solid Waste Department:

**715-343-6297**

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## COMPOSTING & MULCHING RECOMMENDED

Fall is almost here and we'll soon be raking leaves! The Portage County Solid Waste Department discourages people from burning leaves because it pollutes the air, causing potential health hazards for the elderly, very young, and people with asthma. Composting and mulching are healthful alternatives.

If you decide to burn leaves, the leaves MUST BE COMPLETELY DRY. A smoking fire means wet leaves and branches, and the smoke can be a nuisance and/or health hazard for your next door neighbor.

### **BURNING IS ALLOWED:**

TUES – FRI: 5-9 p.m. SAT: Noon-9 p.m.

### **BURNING IS NOT ALLOWED ON SUNDAY OR MONDAY.**

Do not burn when winds are over 9 MPH. Do not burn on street surfaces.

***Be respectful of your neighbors*** -- burn only **COMPLETELY DRY YARD MATERIALS**. Piles larger than 4 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet are prohibited. The fire load shall be controllable with the water, implements and personnel on hand. Persons utilizing and maintaining outdoor fires shall be responsible for any liability resulting from damage caused by the fires. Keep a charged hose on hand at all times while the fire is burning.

If composting and mulching are not options for you, **you can take your yard materials (no fees) to the City Garage**, 100 Sixth Avenue, which is open year-round (except for holidays) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The City will accept grass clippings, pine needles, leaves, and branches up to 4 inches in diameter with no set length. All yard materials must be removed from plastic bags. A container is available for disposing of plastic bags. **THE CITY WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RECYCLABLES FROM VILLAGE RESIDENTS.**

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## FALL 'LARGE ITEM PICK-UP' DAY SEPTEMBER 25

This is the time for you to clean out the basement and garage, and dispose of those **non-recyclable** items such as furniture, carpeting, mattresses, box springs, etc. **All items to be picked up must be placed at the end of the driveway or street-side by 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25.** **No** appliances, building/demolition materials, electronics, tires or toxic materials (paint thinners, pesticides, fertilizers, insecticides, etc.) will be picked up.

There will be only one "run" by Harter's through the Village, so items put out later in the day will not be picked up. Don't miss it-- this opportunity to dispose of non-recyclable items which would normally require a special pick-up is offered only once/year!!

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## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!



### Portage County Transfer Facility & Recycling Site

Located at 650 Moore Road, east of I-39 off of County Hwy B in Plover. Turn north onto Apache Drive. Stop at the scale speaker and the attendant will direct you from there. When done, weigh out and go to the scale office in the MRF (Material Recovery Facility) to make payment. Open Mon-Fri 7:30 am – 3:30 pm and Sat 7:30 am – 11:00 am. Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to closing. Fees vary and some restrictions apply, so call 715-343-6297 for more information or go to [www.co.portage.wi.us](http://www.co.portage.wi.us) and click on 'County Departments', 'Solid Waste'.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

**E-cycling** – As of 9/1/10, Wisconsin banned the landfilling and incineration of computers, laptops, printers, TVs, fax machines, DVD players, VCRs, phones with video displays, etc. For more information, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ecycle>.

**CFLs** – Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs contain small amounts of mercury that require special handling. You may bring CFLs to the MRF, Frank's Hardware or Menards for recycling.

## Village of Park Ridge

Jeri McGinley, Clerk/Treasurer  
516 Sunrise Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

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### Board and Staff

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President: Tom Gloudemans  
Trustees: Jim LaMar  
Gordon Renfert  
Kathy Budelier  
Trish Baker  
Clerk/Treasurer: Jeri McGinley  
Fire Chief: Brian Lepper  
Building Inspector: Jim Zepp  
Zoning Administrator: -Vacant-  
Maintenance: Bette Vogel  
Diggers Hotline: Mike Probst  
Crossing Guard: Lois Miller

**715-343-1590**

### The next Village newsletter will be out after Thanksgiving. Here are some 'snow' reminders:

**Snow Sticks** – While snow sticks can help guide snowplows when the first snows fall, they should be placed one foot from the pavement. The snowplow company will not be held liable for any broken snow sticks.

**Mailboxes** – Notify the Clerk if your mailbox is damaged by a snowplow. ConsTrucks will reimburse you for the cost of materials, up to \$75.

**Parking** – When three or more inches of snow are predicted, please do not park on the street.

**Sidewalks** – If you have a sidewalk on your property, Village ordinances require snow and ice removal within 24 hours after the snow stops falling. Please think of the pedestrians, bicyclists and disabled persons who rely on our sidewalks year-round – don't allow ice to build up or snow to become packed on the sidewalk surface.

**Sand/salt mix** will be available behind the Village Hall for residents' use.