

### Special Dates:

**Dec. 19, 2013:**  
Santa's Visit

**Jan. 6, 2014:**  
Holiday Tree  
Re-Use (see p. 4)

**January 2014:**  
Village Caucus  
(date TBD)

**Feb. 18, 2014:**  
Spring Primary (if  
needed)

**Apr. 1, 2014:**  
Spring Election

## Santa's Visit December 19<sup>th</sup>

Since 1940, children in Park Ridge have visited with Santa every December. In the early years, Santa made the rounds in a horse-drawn sleigh. These days, Santa travels from house to house on one of the Village fire trucks.

If you have children or grandchildren who would like a visit from Santa at your house, **contact Gert Neuendorf by Dec. 15** at 715-344-7906 – be sure to tell Gert your name, address, phone number and the first names of the children at your house.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> make sure your house number is visible and turn on your outside lights by 5:00 p.m. so Santa can find your house.

Special thanks to the volunteers who make this event possible!

## New in 2014: Trash/Recycling Collection Changes

As of January 1, 2014, Park Ridge will have a new trash/recycling collection company, Harter's Fox Valley Disposal. Please see the President's letter on page 3 for more information and see the collection calendar enclosed in this newsletter. Some highlights of the change:

- Recycling will be collected every week with trash.
- Collection day will change from Friday to Thursday.
- You may continue to use your own containers or you may rent cans from the company. (Contact Advanced Disposal if you are currently renting cans from them.)

## New in 2014: NO Spring Brush/Branch Pick-up

There will not be a spring brush/branch pick-up in 2014. See the President's letter on page 3 for more information. Please remember that Park Ridge has an agreement with Stevens Point for year-round yard materials disposal at the City Garage. While there is no charge when you use this service, Park Ridge does pay an annual fee to the City. More information on the City drop-off site is on page 4.

### DOG LICENSING

**If you have a dog over 5 months old, state law requires licensing.**

**A 2014 dog license application is found on page 5 of this newsletter (you may also download an application from the Village web site).**

**The fine for not licensing your dog ranges from \$169.00 to \$263.50.**

### **Roaming Cats...**

There have been many complaints this year of cats roaming the Village, stalking birds at feeders, causing issues with indoor pets observing them, etc. Please remember that County and Village ordinances prohibit pets running at-large off their owners' properties. Keep your cats at home. Call the Humane Society at 715-344-6012 to pick up stray cats and dogs.

### **2014 Elections**

2014 will be a busy election year! While bills governing elections continue to be introduced in Madison, voters are NOT required to show photo ID at the polls. We will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes that occur that would affect you on Election Day.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! FROM:

President Tom Gloudemans

Trustee Jim LaMar

Trustee Gordon Renfert

Trustee Kathy Budelier

Trustee Patricia Baker

Clerk/Treasurer Jeri McGinley

### NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

Pursuant to Village Ordinance 8.05, Snow and Ice Removal, all sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within twenty-four (24) hours after snow ceases to fall. If this is not done, the Village shall remove the snow and/or sand any ice present and the cost shall be billed to the property owner. If not paid within thirty (30) days, said delinquent charge shall be included in the current or next tax roll as a special charge for current services, as provided for in Wisconsin State Statutes § 66.0907(5).

### Semis Not Allowed in the Village

Village streets are posted as 'No Truck Routes', meaning semis may not enter the Village unless their end destination is in the Village (a moving truck or furniture delivery truck are examples of permitted traffic).

Large freight companies have instructed their drivers not to cut through the Village. If you see a semi in the Village that appears to be using our streets as a short-cut, please do the following: note the date/time, where you saw the semi, what direction it was going, the name of the trucking company and the six-digit US DOT number on the side of the cab. You can report this information to either the Village Clerk (715-343-1590) or the Portage County Sheriff's Department (715-346-1400). The Sheriff's Department will contact the trucking company's safety officer, who will then follow up with its drivers.

## Tax Levy/Mill Rates

TAXING AUTHORITY	2012 MILL RATE	2012 LEVY	2013 MILL RATE	2013 LEVY
LOCAL (PARK RIDGE)	3.791333	175,748.00	3.802218	175,748.00
VTAE (MID-STATE TECH COLLEGE)	1.760417	81,604.50	1.625081	75,115.30
STEVENS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT	8.724769	404,438.43	8.353726	386,130.08
STATE	0.172231	7,983.79	0.159554	7,374.98
COUNTY	5.336211	247,361.15	5.039892	232,956.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.784961</b>	<b>917,135.87</b>	<b>18.980471</b>	<b>877,324.79</b>
LESS STATE SCHOOL TAX CREDIT*	1.423411	65,982.50	1.362288	62,968.31
<b>NET</b>	<b>18.361550</b>	<b>851,153.37</b>	<b>17.618183</b>	<b>814,356.48</b>
<b>PERCENT CHANGE (NET MILL RATE): -4.1</b>				
<b>TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE</b>		<b>46,355,200</b>		<b>46,222,500</b>

#### Village Mill Rates:

2013: \$3.80  
2012: \$3.79  
2011: \$3.79  
2010: \$3.77

\*First Dollar and Lottery Credits may also reduce your tax bill.

## Escrow Accounts/Property Tax Payments

Tax bills will be mailed in December. Property owners are responsible for escrow account payments. Anyone wishing to claim payment for 2013 taxes in 2013 must have his/her payment in the Portage Co. Treasurer's office on or before December 31, 2013. If you choose to pay your 2013 taxes in 2014, the first of two installments or payment-in-full is due on or before January 31, 2014. All personal property taxes, special charges or delinquent sewer/water bills and all real estate tax bills of \$99 or less **per tax bill** must be paid in full by January 31, 2014.

**Mail your tax payments to  
(or pay in-person):**

**Portage County Treasurer  
1516 Church Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

# Letter from the Village President

As I sit here to write this message the weather is looking more like winter for a few days and then it tries to hold onto the last vestiges of fall for the next few. So goes Wisconsin weather this time of year. The newspaper is getting thicker each week as the holiday sales flyers are getting larger and more plentiful. The Village's snowflake decorations are ready to be hung and tonight the Board will pass the 2014 budget after a public hearing. It is a good time to tell residents about three village issues: the street survey, the spring brush/branch pickup, and the new trash/recycling contract.

Twenty-two percent, or 51, of Park Ridge's households returned completed street surveys (included in the fall newsletter in late August). As readers can see from the results table below, over half selected Option #1, which is to continue current practice. The survey results confirm that what the Board has been doing with our streets is what respondents want. It also shows that many residents want us to be a bit more aggressive and consideration will be given to repairing some of the worst dips in our streets as annual budgets allow. It also shows that only a few residents would like a major street renewal project costing almost \$1 million with repairs and financing. You can be assured that your Village Board will consider these recommendations as we budget for street repairs in the future.

The second issue I need to mention is the spring brush/branch pickup. When we looked at expenditures for 2014, we also reviewed how the State has imposed cost controls on local governments like ours. Suffice it to say the Board has had to hold to a zero percent increase in our 2012, 2013 and 2014 tax levies, and for the four years before that we were allowed only 2-3% increases each year. New construction is the only thing that can help raise our levy without a referendum and we haven't

had many new buildings in recent years. On top of this, the State has reduced state aids to the Village. The costs of heat, electricity, snowplowing, street repair and other essential Village expenditures have exceeded our allowable tax increases for many years now. The Board has done an excellent job of reducing costs where we can, but the belt has been getting tighter each year. Brush and branch removal is an expensive item for the Village, costing \$1800. Since we already have an agreement with Stevens Point to recycle yard materials, many do not use the spring pick-up. Others see it as a chance to do major pruning at their neighbors' expense, far exceeding the intended pick-up of only branches that fell during the winter. The Board has decided to drop this item from the 2014 budget. We spend about \$6500 annually to allow residents to access the City's yard materials recycling site and urge residents to use this service to dispose of their yard materials. The advantage of the City drop-off site over the annual pick-up is that it is available all year rather than one day.

The last item for my missive concerns our garbage and recycling collection service. Advanced Disposal (previously Veolia) has done a good job for the Village, but its rates have been increasing. When we made a request for vendor proposals for 2014 we received a less expensive proposal from Harter's. They are a local company out of Wittenberg and have a facility in Stevens Point. Their cost would be about \$2.30 per household per month less than our current hauler's proposal and they have given us firm amounts for the next 3 years allowing us to plan ahead for the costs. They will continue to allow us to use our containers and since their trucks all have both garbage and recycling collection capabilities they will be able to give us recycling pickup every week rather than every other

*(Continued on p. 4)*

## 2013 Street Survey Results

Option #1: Current practice of patching and chip sealing - \$28,000/year - currently budgeted for each year	Option #2: Cut and patch or feather in dips (likely requiring a referendum)	Option #3: Rebuild streets		
		Rebuild one north-south street each year - \$95,000 - referendum REQUIRED	Rebuild all north- south streets - \$665,000 - referendum REQUIRED	Renew all Village streets - \$865,000 - referendum REQUIRED
<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>

*(Letter from the Village President continued from p. 3)*

week as we now have. For these reasons we will switch to Harter's on January 1, 2014. Our pick-up day will change from Friday to Thursday, which may be better for residents who like to leave town for the occasional weekend. Watch your mail for a postcard from Harter's in mid-December and see the collection calendar in this newsletter.

So change is upon us and yet we continue to have the necessary stability in the Village. Our mill rate has essentially remained the same since 2009, partly due to the State constraints. The Board has done its best to continue to provide necessary services while keeping down costs whenever possible. It is always important for residents to communicate with Board members. We are a small village but we remain a desirable place to live. Our motto, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, shows our intent to live together as more than nearby property owners.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday season. Remember that the season means much more than shopping for bargains and parties. These should play second fiddle to families and friends. I often like Thanksgiving most because it emphasizes getting together rather than the commercialization of Christmas (OK, I get it about Black Friday). Make your Christmas more about friends and family and faith and it will be better for us all.

*--Tom Gloudemans, Village President  
For the Village Board*

## Disposing of Yard Materials

**Composting is the preferred method of disposing of yard materials.**

Residents may take yard materials to the City Garage which is open year-round. The City's recycling and yard waste drop-off site is located one block north of the entrance to Bukolt Park, in front of the City Garage at 100 Sixth Ave. The drop-off is for *residential, non-commercial* use only.

Hours of Operation:

- **April 15 - October 15**  
Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
- **October 16 - April 14**  
Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The City will accept grass clippings, pine needles, leaves and branches up to 4" in diameter with no set length. No plastic bags. There is no fee for Park Ridge residents, but be prepared to show proof of residency.

### Holiday Tree Re-Use

Drop off your tree(s) behind the Village Hall before 8 a.m. on Mon., Jan. 6. For fire safety, please do not take your tree(s) to the Village Hall before Sun., Jan. 5. The trees will be used by the Bill Cook Chapter of IWLA (Izaak Walton League of America) to assist the DNR in stream improvement projects on Emmons Creek in southeast Portage County.

### Life in the city...what to know about the sewer system we all share...

*[Our municipal insurance company and the City of Stevens Point Water/Sewage Department have suggested that the following information be shared with Village residents on a regular basis.]*

The City of Stevens Point maintains our sewers. If a Village resident has the misfortune of experiencing a sewer back-up, it is not the liability of the Village of Park Ridge or the City of Stevens Point. Call 715-345-5260 at the first sign of trouble. Should the problem rest in your lateral sewer line, you may have to hire a private contractor to clean it out at your expense. If the problem is in the main sewer lines, the City will remedy the situation as soon as possible. We encourage homeowners to check with their insurance carriers to find out how much coverage they have, if any, for sewer back-ups (sometimes referred to as "back-up of sewer and drains" coverage).

# 2014 Dog License Application (licenses expire December 31<sup>st</sup> each year)

You may also download the 2014 Dog License Application from the Village web site, [www.park-ridge.us](http://www.park-ridge.us).

DOG	NAME OF DOG	MALE		FEMALE		COLOR	BREED
		NEUTERED	NOT NEUTERED	SPAYED	NOT SPAYED		
1							
2							
3							

If you own any dog five (5) months of age or older, state law requires that you vaccinate your pet against rabies and obtain a dog license from your municipality. Make your check payable to 'VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE'. Please include a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination certificate with your application. ***It will be returned to you along with your new license. NO LICENSE WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS PROVIDED.***

**FEES:** Neutered Male or Spayed Female Dog \$ 8.00  
Male or Female Dog \$18.00

**OWNER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form, your payment, and a current rabies vaccination certificate for each dog (contact your veterinarian for replacement certificates) to:

**Jeri McGinley  
Village of Park Ridge  
516 Sunrise Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

## 2014 Village Budget

GENERAL FUND	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET	% CHANGE
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
General Property Taxes	175,748	175,748	0%
Intergovernmental Revenues	25,005	25,105	
Licenses	1,300	1,300	
Public Charges for Services	75	75	
Cable Franchise Fees	6,250	6,500	
Interest on Investments	250	250	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>208,628</b>	<b>208,978</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
General Government	68,006	68,387	
Public Safety	30,565	31,510	
Public Works	106,577	105,591	
Health & Human Services	1,000	1,000	
Culture, Recreation & Education	2,480	2,490	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>208,628</b>	<b>208,978</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>General Fund Balance Jan. 1</b>		<b>101,197</b>	
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>208,978</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>208,978</b>	
<b>General Fund Balance Dec. 31</b>		<b>101,197</b>	

Note: General Fund Balance: Designated Reserves, \$50,032; Undesignated Reserves, \$51,165

2014 is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the State's next biennial budget. As in 2013, the State mandated that the Village be held to a **0%** levy increase (or % net new construction) after 6 years of similar limits. The Village Board has continued to seek ways to offset rising fixed expenses such as electricity, natural gas, insurance, trash & recycling collection, and snow plowing in the face of these restrictions and losses in state aids. Please feel free to contact any Village Board member if you have any questions about Village finances.

## VILLAGE OF PARK RIDGE

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

# Winter 2013-14 Newsletter

### Village of Park Ridge

516 Sunrise Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

**PHONE:**  
715-343-1590

**E-MAIL:**  
villageofparkridge@gmail.com

#### Village Board:

Tom Gloudemans, President  
Jim LaMar, Trustee  
Gordon Renfert, Trustee  
Kathy Budelier, Trustee  
Patricia Baker, Trustee

#### Clerk/Treasurer:

Jeri McGinley

**www.park-ridge.us**

## Portage County Transfer Facility & Recycling Site

PCSWD Transfer Facility and Recycling Site is located at 650 Moore Rd., east of I-39 off of County Hwy B in the Village of Plover. Turn north onto Apache Dr. Stop at the scale speaker. The attendant will direct you

from there. When done, weigh out and go to the scale office in the Material Recovery Facility to make payments and pick up PCSWD brochures. Open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. & Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to closing.**

Fees vary and some restrictions apply, so call the Transfer Facility (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'.

## Winter-time Reminders

1. Please do not park on Village streets when 3" or more of snow is expected. The plows need to clear the streets of snow.
2. Please trim branches that may obstruct stop signs under the weight of snow, or hang lower than 14' over the street surface and pose a hazard to snowplows and school buses.
3. 'Snow sticks' should be placed at least one foot from the edge of the roadway and are the homeowner's responsibility. If they are broken off by plows, neither the Village nor the snowplow company will be responsible for replacing them.
4. A sand/salt mix is available behind the Village Hall—bring a container. Free to residents.