



# RIDGGER

NEWS & EVENTS • CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE, MICHIGAN • JAN.-MAR., 2016



wishing you  
a warm  
**new  
year**

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Visit us online: [www.cityofpleasantridge.org](http://www.cityofpleasantridge.org) or [www.facebook.com/PleasantRidgeMI](http://www.facebook.com/PleasantRidgeMI) for information, updates and much more!



# state of the city



By Kurt Metzger, Pleasant Ridge Mayor

It has been a great year in Pleasant Ridge on many fronts. The housing market is extremely healthy and homes are selling quickly. Events such as the Ice Cream Social and Halloween Hayride have seen record attendance as the many new families that have moved to town join our long-time residents at these community celebrations. The pool season was a big success and the zero depth entry, with turtle, was enjoyed by many. This year, the Ice Cream Social kicked off a unique 5-day series of community engagement activities where hundreds of residents, of all ages, provided their visions for a new Gainsboro Park through words and pictures. We came together as a community to salute the Veterans and to light the Christmas tree and welcome Santa Claus.

Our residents, through clubs, committees and commissions, provided a wealth of opportunities to learn, to eat and to socialize. We were able to participate in a home and garden tour, celebrate a new batch of centennial homes, learn about trees and the environment, recycle our electronics, eat some great lasagna, benefit from beautifully maintained volunteer gardens, plant vegetables at Ridge Roots, and much more.

Due to the approval of the millages in November of 2014, we were able to make significant improvements and investments in the City. It is important that we take a moment to recognize how fortunate we are to have a strong list of accomplishments to review.

- **The purchase of a new police car** has given our Police a reliable vehicle, and has already saved the City thousands on maintenance and repairs that we were paying for our old, outdated cars.

- **The new utility rates took effect in July**, lowering the cost of water and garbage pickup for all residents. Our neighboring communities saw an average rate increase of 9% while our utility costs went down 11% for the average household. Our water rates are now competitive with surrounding communities.
- **We continued to invest in our infrastructure**, rebuilding Oxford and the east side Woodward alleys from the 696 service drive to Devonshire, and from Amherst to Sylvan.
- **We were able to begin sidewalk replacement and repair**, with 80 sidewalk flags being replaced on the east side and a grinding program to level small heaves starting on Maplefield.
- **All 180 of the City's streetlights were converted to LED fixtures**. This will save the City approximately \$11,000 each year in street lighting costs and reduces the City's street lighting carbon footprint by half.
- **Improvements were made to the Woodward streetscape** – new trees were planted to fill in empty tree wells, and planting beds were installed to soften and beautify the streetscape area.
- **The City purchased the property at 99 Kensington**, allowing us to connect Gainsboro Park with the Dog Park property, and providing a continuous park space that extends from Sylvan all the way to the north end of Indiana.
- **Complete streets and traffic calming test projects were completed** on Woodward/Main Street and on Ridge next to Roosevelt school. The results of these test projects

indicate that permanent changes can be made to Main Street and Ridge in a way that improves walkability while maintaining traffic flow at current levels. The City will start to plan for the permanent improvements in 2016.

- **Through the City's efforts over the past two years to find savings** in things like phone service, streetlights, employee health care, and other budget line items, we were able to make all of the above improvements while also building our fund balance by \$35,000. Our fund balance started the year at about 16% of general fund expenditures and ended the year at about 19% of our annual general fund revenues. It is our goal to increase this to 25% over the coming years.

Now that our leaves have been successfully picked up, let us hope that Brilar has an easy winter of snow removal. Once the leaves return to the trees in the spring, we will be implementing the Gainsboro Park improvements, continuing our sidewalk and street tree programs, and providing recreation programming for one and all. On the financial side, the City will be strategizing on how best to control pension and retiree health care costs, which have been and promise to continue to be the largest cost increases the City faces.

**On behalf of the City Commission and City Administration, thank you for letting us serve you in 2015. We all look forward to an exciting and prosperous new year.**





## Cooperative Street Tree Purchase Program

Residents who want a street tree planted in front of their house may participate in a cooperative purchase program with the City. The cost to the resident is \$125, or about 1/3 of the total cost to purchase and plant a tree. The City will cover the rest. Please note that residents who participate in the cooperative purchase program will not be able to choose which species of tree is planted. The tree species will be selected according to the City's adopted Street Tree Planting Manual, which can be accessed at <http://cityofpleasantridge.org/documents/treemanual.pdf>. Tree species are identified for each street in the manual.

Please note that the City will be planting trees on West Cambridge and Oxford due to the tree losses as part of the recent construction projects.

**The deadline to participate in this program is February 4.** In order to be included in the order, residents must have payment to City Hall by that date. The trees will be planted in the spring. Contact City Hall at 248-541-2901 with any questions about participating in the cooperative tree purchase program.

almost time to  
*think  
spring!*

## 2016 Community Survey

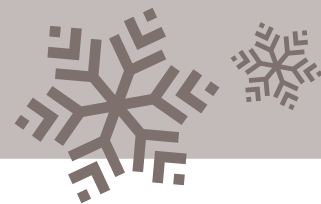
The City of Pleasant Ridge is conducting a public opinion survey of our residents. Your attitudes, concerns, and values are very important considerations in carrying out the responsibilities of local government.

The survey is available online and may be completed by any resident. It should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey will be used to improve the delivery of government services, and will help the City Commission prioritize budget allocations to best reflect the services and improvements that our residents value.

Residents may complete the survey online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/pleasantridge2016](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pleasantridge2016) or may complete a paper copy. Paper copies are available at City Hall and the Community Center. You may also call City Hall at 248-541-2901 and we will deliver a paper copy of the survey to you.

**The deadline to complete surveys is Friday, February 5.**

We hope you will participate in our survey – your feedback is important!



### **Dangerous Animals Town Hall Meeting:** Tuesday, January 19 – 6:30 p.m. at 4 Ridge

The City Commission is considering the development of an ordinance that would regulate dangerous and potentially dangerous animals in the City. Breed-specific bans or regulations are not under consideration. Instead, the ordinance would identify how an animal would be determined to be dangerous or potentially dangerous, specific review and appeal options available to the animal's owner, and the requirements that would apply to a dangerous or potentially dangerous animal and its owner.

The ordinance has not yet been drafted. City staff will present an overview of options as to how such an ordinance would work. Residents will have the opportunity for comment and discussion on the options presented. This will assist the City Commission in its development of the ordinance, or to make the decision that no action is necessary.

If you have interest in this topic, please plan on joining us on January 19 at the Community Center.

**for more info** call city hall 248-541-2901 email [cityclerk@cityofpleasantridge.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpleasantridge.org)



# get involved 2016

## Imagination Station FREE!

**Saturdays: 2/6, 3/5, 4/2 at 10 a.m.**

A place where your child(ren) can come to play, pretend, imagine, and have fun. Ages 1-6 welcome. Each month we have a "themed" play. Join us the first Saturday of each month at the PR Community Center.

## Mom2Mom Sale

Saturday, 3/26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$1 general admission; \$15 per table/\$22 for two tables

## Special Events

### Essential Oils Make & Take Series

Instructor: Ann Fancy, \$10 per class

Classes start at 5:30 p.m.

Includes: light intro to oils, instruction, materials and oils. Workshop is about 90 mins. long; minimum of 5 participants needed.

1/21: Foaming Hand Soap & Bath Balls

2/4: Massage Bar

3/3: Salt Scrub

### Daddy & Daughter Dance 2016

2/5, 6:30-8 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person

Come and dance the night away with the most special little lady in your life! Hors d'oeuvres & drinks will be served. Each couple will receive a complimentary keepsake photo!



## Egg Hunt/Brunch 3/19

10 a.m. brunch & 11:30 a.m. egg hunt

Cost (brunch only): \$3 adults, \$1 children

(ages 5-12, with a parent), 4 and under free.

This is always a great time for the WHOLE family!

The brunch will include: pancakes, sausage, juice,

milk & coffee. The egg hunt will begin at 11:30 a.m.

SHARP, (immediately following brunch).

Egg Hunt Ages: 4 & under, 5-8, 9-12

## Karate

A dynamic program of Mixed Martial Arts based in the Korean Martial Art of Tang Soo Do and including instruction in the Arts of Kali, Muay Thai Kick Boxing, Capoeira, Western Boxing and women's self-defense. Instruction given by three certified Black Belts: Kevin, Gaylyn and Kamran Lauderdale, with over 20 years of training and teaching experience in multiple arts.

Sessions begin in January and March.

Class meets Tues. & Weds., 7-8 p.m., all ages

8-week sessions. Cost: \$100 for Individuals.

\$75 per person, for Families/Couples (two)

\$65 per person, for Families/Groups (3 or more)

Class is a continuing course, new students welcome.



## Nurturing the Native Landscape: Training for Community Volunteers

*Events sponsored by SOCWA, Healthy Lawns and Gardens Program*

REGISTRATION: LFDean2@gmail.com or call 248-546-5818. Both events are held at the Community Center.

**FREE ADMISSION...BUT FIVE HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK REQUIRED**

### TREE ROOTS & HEALTHY SOILS: 3/7, 7-9 p.m.

*Michelle Mitchell, Oakland Community College; Certified Arborist*

### NATIVE SHRUBS FOR BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY: 4/14, 7-9 p.m.

*Laura Ziganth, Landscape Designer*

*The Pleasant Ridge Environmental Committee presents*

## The Effects of Pesticides on Health and the Environment

*An educational seminar discussing why and how to avoid pesticides in the lawn & garden.*

**Monday, 3/21, 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 4 Ridge Road.**

Pesticides are linked to multiple human health concerns, including cancer, infertility, learning disabilities, and neurotoxicity, as well as the decline of bees. Dr. Tom Kocarek, Researcher and Associate Professor at Wayne State University's Institute of Environmental Health Sciences will outline the latest in scientific research involving the impacts of pesticides on human and environmental health. Melissa Cooper Sargent, Environmental Health Educator at the Ecology Center, will provide tips to creating a lush and beautiful yard without pesticides. Let's create a healthier community with pesticide-free gardening!

This is a free event and open to the public. For further information and to RSVP, contact Leslie Jones at 248-506-4754 or p.ridgeenvironmental@gmail.com. Check our Facebook page for other environmental news and upcoming events. <https://www.facebook.com/pr.environmental/>.

# 50+ Club events & news



## 50+ Club Bus Trips

### Mystery Bus Trip

Date: 1/20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (lunch on your own)  
Cost: \$22 (lunch cost is on your own)  
Making stops at two surprise locations in  
Downtown Detroit. You will not be disappointed!

### Detroit Public Library Tour & Lunch

Date: 2/25, 9:30-2 p.m.  
Cost: \$12 (Lunch cost is on your own)  
Lunch will be at Chartreuse Kitchen.

### The Detroit Athletic Club Tour & Lunch

Date: 5/10, 9:30-2 p.m.  
Cost: \$12 (lunch cost is on your own)  
Lunch will be at the Dime Store (limited to 13 people).  
This will be a very popular trip, so register early!

## 50+ Club Events

You must RSVP for all events.

### Movie of the Month (2nd Thurs. of the month)

1/14: Walt Before Disney, 12:15 p.m.

2/11: Burnt, 12:15 p.m.

3/10: Life. The Story of James Dean, 12:15 p.m.

Come on out to the Community Center,  
the popcorn & movie are FREE!

### B. I. N. G. O. 2/11, 4/7 at 6 p.m.

Join us at the Community Center for appetizers  
and refreshments as we dabble in another fun  
night of bingo! Don't forget to bring those lucky  
charms. Prizes will be awarded each round!  
February is a SWEETHEART theme.

## SMART Transportation

As of Thursday, February 4, the City of Pleasant Ridge and City of Royal Oak have partnered to provide bus transportation for PR residents. This includes transportation to/from doctors' appointments as well as trips to the bank, pharmacy, grocery store, etc. (within a 5-mile radius of 4 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge, MI).

### Need a Ride? Service is available: 9:15 am - 3:30 pm on Thursdays (only)

Call RO dispatch number at 248-246-3914 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., up to two weeks ahead, to schedule your appointment (if handicapped lift is needed, notify the dispatcher).

### Call 248-246-3900 for return trip home.

Transportation Boundaries: Bus will not travel south of 8 Mile, east of Dequindre, north of 15 Mile Rd. or west of Southfield Rd.. Bus service will travel to: Providence Hospital Southfield, Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, and St. John Hospital Oakland. The bus will also travel to the Shopping Center at 15 Mile & Coolidge Hwy. (Target, Michaels, Kroger's and more). For other destinations within a 5-mile radius, please call to book.

\$3 for each one-way trip. \$4 for each round trip. (Please have correct change or ticket ready to pay driver at pick-up)

for more info call the rec department 248-541-2902 email [recreation@cityofpleasantridge.org](mailto:recreation@cityofpleasantridge.org)



# get healthy

2016 classes at the community center

Adult classes available: Yoga, Pilates, CSF, Total Body Fitness, Sit & Get Fit

**YOUR FIRST CLASS IS ALWAYS FREE!**

Contact Pleasant Ridge Recreation for class availability and schedules: **248-541-2902** or visit **www.cityofpleasantridge.org**.

## yoga

**YOGA WITH CARLA KRZYSIAK** ▶ Hatha Yoga: Mon. & Wed., 8:45 a.m.  
Beginning Yoga: Thurs., 8:45 a.m.  
Yoga with Meditation: Thurs., 7 p.m.

**YOGA WITH REPLENISH FOUNDATION** ▶ Parent/Child Yoga: Tues., 4 p.m.  
Tween Yoga: Tues., 5 p.m.  
Meltdown Yoga: Weds., 6 a.m.  
Gentle Yoga: Tues., 2 p.m.  
Hatha Yoga: Fri., 8:30 a.m.

**YOGA WITH MICHELE O'BRIEN** ▶ Kids' Yoga: Thurs., 4 p.m., K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## pilates

Pilates instructor: Pam Kampf  
Mon., 9 a.m. & 7 p.m., Tues. 5 p.m.

The Pilates concept of fitness is designed to improve posture; increase flexibility; strengthen and define muscles; and heighten mind/body awareness. A former professional dancer and studio owner, Pam Kampf has been teaching dance and fitness for 28 years. She is certified by the American Council of Exercise (ACE) and majored in dance at Eastern Michigan University. Please bring a mat (preferably foam or thick textured) to class.

## CSF

Cardio • Strength • Flexibility  
Instructor: Melanie Sevald



We will use body weight and resistance tools to increase strength and combine yoga, stretching and relaxation techniques to complete your spirit, mind, body circle. Beginning and experienced exercisers are welcome in this class which uses progressions to build challenges to create multiple levels of impact and intensity. Please bring your favorite hand weights and a mat for floor work.

Mon., Wed., Fri 10:30 a.m.

Session I: Jan. 4-Feb. 19 Session II: Feb. 22 - Apr. 8  
1 day \$70 2 days \$105 3 days \$140

Can't commit to a session? Drop-in \$10 per class (pay instructor).

## total body fitness

Instructor: Suzi Skkotarczyk

Tues., 10:30 a.m. \$70 per session  
Session I: Feb. 9-Mar. 22

This workout is designed for active Seniors. Class time will focus on: movement, strength, stretching, and relaxation. A perfect addition to your workout schedule! (Bring your own hand-held weights to class).

## sit & get fit

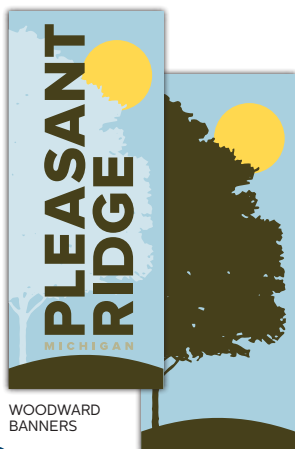
Instructor: Victoria Dickinson

Weds. & Fri., 9 a.m.; \$20 for a 10-visit punch card

Get a complete body workout using hand weights, resistance bands, and a small ball. These routines are designed to increase strength and improve balance, flexibility, and bone density. Enjoy working out to music and meeting great people. Participants are responsible for providing their own exercise equipment.

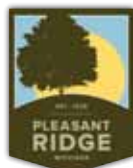
**WELLNESS CENTER HOURS** Mon.-Thu. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. • Fri. 6 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

## new in 2016



WOODWARD BANNERS

You may have noticed a new look gracing the pages of your Ridger...well, that's not all! The DDA is putting up new banners on Woodward and the City has a new logo to complement the official City Seal. We're excited about these changes and hope you are too.



LOGO



## around town

**Dec. 7, 2015:**  
Tree Lighting Ceremony.  
Festive holiday celebration with the Mayor, Santa, reindeer and residents.



# PR police are here for you

The Pleasant Ridge Police Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is not always someone in the police station, especially at night. If you need to contact the police after normal business hours **call 248-541-2900 and press 1 for police dispatch**. If you are at the police station there is a telephone in the parking lot on a blue pole marked "POLICE." Simply press the red button and it will ring to police dispatch. This phone may be used for regular and emergency calls.

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Remember to lock your vehicles and set alarms after parking/exiting, especially if parked for the night.
- Lock all doors and windows of your home prior to leaving your residence or before retiring for the evening.
- Install motion-activated lighting around the exterior of your home.
- When away from your home, lights left on, or on timers, as well as radios or televisions help to give the appearance that someone is home. A vehicle in the driveway has the same effect.
- "Beware of dog" signs and alarm signs posted on your home also help to deter would-be criminal activity.

If something seems out of place, or your gut tells you something may be wrong, call the police immediately and we will be happy to come check out the situation. Better to be safe than sorry!

## SNOW REMOVAL

Snow throwing/plowing from private property such as a sidewalk or driveway onto city streets is prohibited. Snow must be piled onto either side of the driveway or walkway, keeping it at safe height so as to not to impair vision while backing out of your driveway. During/after a snowfall please park in your driveway instead of parking on city streets to help facilitate the effective snow removal/salting by our DPW contractor.

The police department is here to help you in any way we can. Feel free to call or stop by with questions or concerns you may have.

### WHEN TO CALL THE PLEASANT RIDGE POLICE

CALL 248-541-2900  
(THEN PRESS 1 FOR POLICE DISPATCH)

- Suspicious Activity
- Animal complaints
- Solicitor complaints
- Alarms
- Loud parties
- Traffic complaints
- Crimes not in progress

### WHEN TO CALL 911

- Crimes in progress
- Someone injured
- Medical emergency
- Fire
- Fights
- Traffic crashes with injuries or air bag deployment
- Property being actively stolen or damaged

FERNDALE  
SCHOOLS

## UPDATE

What a great time to be a Ferndale Eagle! Months like this make sitting down to write an article really difficult. Why, you may ask? Because we have so many great things going on that it is going to be challenging to squeeze them all into this space!

To start, I wanted to take a moment and thank the citizens of our district for their overwhelming support during November's Non-Homestead Millage vote. This millage renewal passed with **almost 80% support!** It is amazing to work in a community that values the education of their children this highly.

Last month was also made extra special by our Ferndale High School Marching Band, who captured their 8th State Championship at the Michigan Competing Band Association Championships at Ford Field. The competition was tough for the Golden Eagles, but they won Flight IV with a total score of 93.150. The Golden Eagles also took all three Caption awards in their flight: **Outstanding Music Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance, and Outstanding General Effect.**

While Ferndale is known for our amazing arts programs, we are fortunate to be recognized for our great academic programming as well. This month, Ferndale Schools was

one of only 425 school districts in the United States and Canada to be placed on the College Board's 6th Annual Advanced Placement® District Honor Roll! Ferndale was recognized for increasing access to AP® course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP® Exams. Reaching these goals indicates that Ferndale is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP®. To be included on the 6th Annual Honor Roll, Ferndale Schools had to, since 2013, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

As you can see, this was one fantastic start to the school year in Ferndale! However, months like these are only possible due to the incredible support this community has for the education of our students.

With Eagle Pride,

**Blake J. Prewitt, Ed.S.**  
Superintendent

VISIT US AT [FERNDALESCHOOLS.ORG](http://FERNDALESCHOOLS.ORG)  
TO STAY UP TO DATE ON YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.



CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE  
23925 WOODWARD AVE.  
PLEASANT RIDGE, MI 48069

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# Youth Sports 2016

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



## Youth Soccer

- U6 Soccer-Spring (first game 4/9)
  - U8 Soccer-Spring (first game 4/9)
- \$50 per player (\$55 for non-residents).

**Registration deadline: 3/4/2016**

Please register for your division using player's age as of 8/1/2016. All teams are co-ed.

*Soccer registration fee includes jersey (for spring players only). We will try to accommodate coach requests, but no guarantees will be made.*

## Youth Baseball

- T-Ball (age 5-6): \$50
  - Machine Pitch (age 7-8): \$60
  - Pony Minors (ages 9-10): \$60
  - Minor (ages 11-12): \$60 (\$5 additional non-resident fee)
- Registration deadline: 5/1/2016**  
(Practice begins in mid-May)  
Please register for your division using player's age as of 7/31/2016. All teams are co-ed.



**Coaches**  
make the  
**GAME**

**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED FOR THE SEASON**

If interested, contact  
**Shawnie at [sstamper@cityofpleasantridge.org](mailto:ssstamper@cityofpleasantridge.org)**

For more info or to register, call the PR Community Center:  
248-541-2902 or email: [sstamper@cityofpleasantridge.org](mailto:ssstamper@cityofpleasantridge.org)