



RIDGGER

NEWS & EVENTS • CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE, MICHIGAN • JAN.-MAR., 2021



It's a New Year!

Photo courtesy of: Tom Treuter

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...and so much more!

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state of the

By Kurt Metzger, Pleasant Ridge Mayor



The 2020 State of the City memo marks my seventh as Mayor of Pleasant Ridge. What a year it has been.

We have had to deal with a myriad of disappointments due to the coronavirus, but, as I write this, I am listening to news reports of the first vaccine being given to a healthcare worker in New York City. We can finally see the return to normalcy in our future. Pleasant Ridge residents have stepped up to the challenge – watching out for our neighbors, contributing to those less fortunate, and celebrating our first responders. I am constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this community.

While COVID has brought many changes since the State's initial shutdown in March, the City has made it through relatively unscathed. Staff and police have kept operations going, and have had only minor disruptions. Chief Nowak is currently in the process of filling two full-time positions, which should be done by early-mid January. The City Commission has continued to meet monthly via Zoom and regular City business has continued on schedule.

Our recreation and social events – activities that comprise the soul of our City – have faced the largest disruptions. Most of our recreation programming was cancelled this year, though Shawnie and Greg have worked hard to provide some online programming, were able to reopen the Wellness Center under safety restrictions, held a socially distanced Halloween experience, and even provided the opportunity for some photos with Santa.

While the Historical Commission continued to revise and update *Pleasant Ridge Then and Now*, there is little to report on the social event side, as most events – particularly the Annual Foundation Auction – were cancelled this year. Nevertheless, know that the Foundation, Garden Club, and Women's Club continued to support the community, in spite of the cancellation of their fundraising events. Let us all be ready to support them again once we can resume activities.

Infrastructure / Capital Improvement

The State has dictated that cities replace all lead service lines over the next 15-20 years. In order to better understand what this will entail, the city replaced 7 lead service lines (on Amherst) as a test run of the lead service line replacement process. You will be hearing much more about this effort in 2021. We also completed our sewer cleaning and inspection project this year, a task that we do every 10 years. I am happy to report that, because we have been making preventative maintenance and repairs each year, no major issues were found and the sewers are functioning well. We also planted 110 new trees this year, continuing to keep our PR tree canopy full.

While we were unable to open the pool this summer, we were able to build the new pavilion at the pool, and will be constructing the Gainsboro pavilion over the winter/spring, ready for a great deal of expected use next year. We also built crosswalks to connect the walking paths through the Woodward parks, and added a direct crossover to City Hall on Oakland Park Blvd.

Outlook for 2021

While we anticipate a return to normal activities by June of 2021 [in time for Pool Opening], there are a number of projects/activities on the schedule.

The Woodward streetscape project, which is being funded by the DDA and in \$1,000,000 in EGLE and MDOT grants, is in its design phase and expected to begin in the summer or fall of 2021. This will be on the east side of Woodward to benefit our business strip. It will incorporate green infrastructure to infiltrate rainwater into the ground instead of the sewers, and will include a two-way cycle track from Sylvan to 696 to link our local bike route with Main Street in Royal Oak. We expect this to be the first segment of more extensive bicycle infrastructure along Woodward.

As stated above, we will be completing the Gainsboro pavilion, and will be initiating our water meter replacement project in the first half of 2021. This is routine replacement of water meters that must be done every 20 years or so. The new meters will offer real-time monitoring of water usage through the web or an app, and residents will be able to get leak detection alerts to better control their water usage and identify issues before they waste a lot of water and become very expensive.

The water main and lead service line replacement project will start to ramp up in 2021. Most of our water mains are 100 years old and undersized, and the state is mandating that we replace all lead service lines, including both public and private portions. This will be an expensive project that is being mandated by the State that will impact our water rates, so residents should expect to hear more about this in the coming months.

The Recreation Department is working to keep residents busy during the winter months by hosting a variety of virtual programs, such as themed trivia nights, virtual 10K runs, BINGO nights, themed activities and more. They hope to host the Oscar Series again in March/April (at least some version of it) because it was a HUGE hit this year! (Hard to remember that there were movies and movie theaters in early 2020.) Staff are already working on 2021 Spring/Summer programming!

I want to thank all of you for hanging together through a very difficult year. The end of this pandemic is in sight, and I look forward to a 2021 with all the Pleasant Ridge Trimmings.



Water Infrastructure Update

The State of Michigan has recently adopted new rules that require the City to remove and replace all lead water service lines by 2041. We have been preparing a plan to meet these rules and to start replacing our water infrastructure. This is a challenge for Pleasant Ridge, as a preliminary investigation shows that about 60% of our water service lines are lead – one of the highest percentages in the State. Our water mains are also approaching 100 years old.

It is important to note that our water quality is good. We are required to test water quality at houses with lead service lines yearly, and our test results are well below the allowed limit for lead. The past two years our test results have shown 5.7 and 7 parts per billion for lead, while 15ppb is the allowed limit.

Water System Overview

The water system is comprised of:

- **Water Mains.** Those in Pleasant Ridge are ductile iron, most installed nearly 100 years ago. Mains are owned and maintained by the City. Over time corrosion causes the interior of the pipe to narrow, so our mains are functionally smaller than their original 6-inch diameter, which reduces the flow rate and system water pressure during times of high demand.

- **Service Line.** The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the meter inside your house. Nearly all are made of lead or copper, although galvanized steel or plastic (pex) can also be used. The service line is owned partially by the City and partially by the homeowner. The City-owned portion extends from the main to the stop box which is located near the property line on the house side of the sidewalk. The privately owned portion extends from the stop box to the meter inside of the house (see corresponding diagram).

- **Water Meter.** Meters are owned by the City, and homeowners are required to grant access to the meter inside the house for maintenance purposes.

Water Meter Replacement

Water meters have an effective lifespan of 20-25 years. Our water meters were last replaced 25 years ago, and it is now time to replace them. The City has contracted with HydroCorp to replace all water meters in the City. This project will begin in January, 2021 and will be substantially complete by June, 2021. Please expect to see (if you haven't already) letters and notice cards in the mail about this project. You will be able to schedule a time for HydroCorp to come out and replace your meter.

Lead Service Line Replacement

The City must replace at least 5% annually of our lead service lines starting in 2021. This equals 30 services per year. The City is also required to replace the *entire* service line, including

the public portion and the privately owned portion, at public expense. The overall cost to replace all 600 of our suspected lead service lines will therefore be about \$7.2 million.

Water Main Replacement

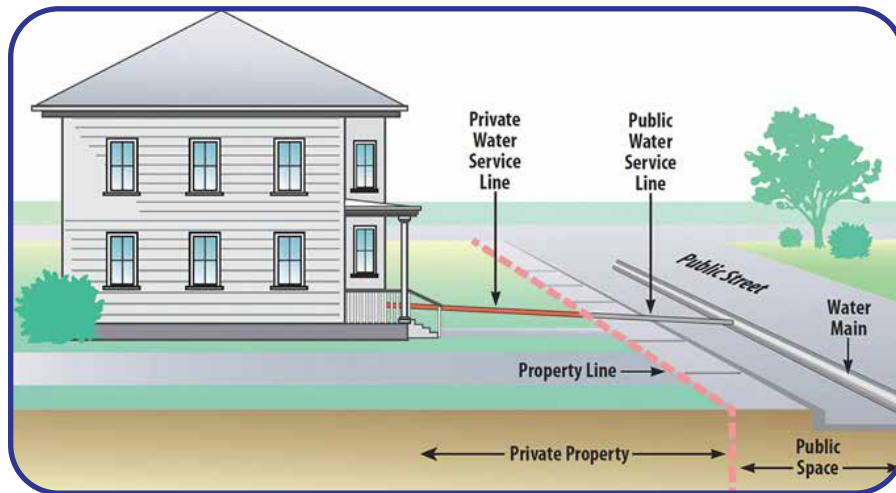
Our water system has been very reliable. Most of our water mains have not been replaced since they were first constructed in the 1920s. Now approaching 100 years old, these lines are at the end of their life span and require replacement. Existing mains are also undersized based on today's standards. We will replace all of the undersized 6-inch mains and other water main projects are also in the works – please email or call for details.

Benefits

Most residents will directly benefit by having their lead service line replaced, a \$12,000 improvement. Water main upgrades will benefit all residents with improved water pressure, fire flow rates, and reliability.

Cost Impact

- **Total Cost.** The total cost to complete the water main and lead service line replacement project will be about \$21.5 million over 25 years, or about \$850,000 per year.



• Can the Infrastructure Millage Pay for This?

Only a small portion. Our infrastructure millage generates about \$420,000 a year in revenue, with \$275,000 of that going towards repayment of the street reconstruction bonds. Our infrastructure millage also pays for annual maintenance and repair for our streets to keep them in good shape. Once the bond repayment and street maintenance costs are deducted, we estimate that the millage can contribute perhaps \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually towards the water infrastructure project.

- **Water Fund Impact.** Our water fund currently operates on a \$1.2 million budget, which includes about \$100,000 budgeted for water system capital improvements. We expect the water fund will have to contribute about \$800,000 annually towards this project, requiring new revenue to cover these higher costs. Yes, this means higher water rates than we already have, but residents will see a direct benefit in the form of private and public infrastructure upgrades.

Next Steps

The City is working with the State on approval of our water system capital improvement plan. Once that is approved, staff will develop a water rate proposal with the City Commission and hold public meetings in the spring to discuss this in detail with the residents. Expect to see those meetings occur in March/April of 2021.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact City Manager Jim Breuckman with any questions or comments at 248-541-2901 or citymanager@cityofpleasantridge.org.



What's Happening

Disney Family Trivia

Mon., Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. Family trivia fun! Join us via Zoom. Free. Please pre-register.

Community Blood Drive

Thu., Jan. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Give blood. Help save lives! To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code *pleasantridge*, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Virtual BINGO

Join us for some virtual bingo! You must be pre-registered by noon the Wednesday prior. Call for info.

Third Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.:
Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18

Quizzo Trivia: Golden Girls Edition

Wed., Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Fun for ages 18 and over! Join us via Zoom. Free. Please pre-register.

"Freeze Your Mask Off" Virtual 10k
February, 2021. Log 10k (6.2 miles) to receive your certificate of participation!

A Virtual Race is a race you can run at any location, at your pace, outside or on a treadmill, alone or safely with a group of friends. Train and stay active, run for good health!

Virtual Holiday Craft Activities

Valentine's Day Craft: Thu., Feb. 11 at 4 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Craft: Wed., Mar. 17 at 4 p.m.
Free. Please pre-register.

Pictures with the Easter Bunny

Sat., Mar. 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$7 per time slot.

Save the Date

Safety Day: Saturday, May 8

PR Foundation Auction: Saturday, May 15

Daddy & Daughter Evening: Friday, June 4

Citywide Garage Sale: Saturday, August 7



It's EASY to register online for activities and Wellness Center time slots!

Visit www.cityofpleasantridge.org and click on "Recreation Program Registration" under QUICK LINKS or scan the QR code with your device!

Refund Policy: No refunds will be issued for any programs or activities unless canceled by the Recreation Department.

Looking ahead to *Summer*

Dive into 2021!

Gear up for swim team! For more info, please contact Coach Abilyn Cardelli. Email: prswim@cityofpleasantridge.org Follow us on FB at PR Piranhas Swim Club. Watch for more information to follow in the next issue of the Ridger!



Summer Day Camp: Jun. 21 - Aug. 5

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Ages 7 (in the 2021 calendar year)-15

Watch for more info in the next edition of the Ridger!

Adult Volleyball League

Deadline to register: March 21, \$250 per team. Games begin mid-May, end Mid-July.

Summer Employment Opportunities

PR Rec has summer job opportunities for the following positions:

Camp Counselor

- Camp runs 6/21 - 8/5, M-Th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Must enjoy creating memories for kids ages 7-15

Lifeguard/Swim Instructor

- American Red Cross Certified (Lifeguard, CPR & First Aid thru 9/8/2021)
- Pool is open Memorial Day - Labor Day

Head Lifeguard

- American Red Cross Certified (Lifeguard, CPR & First Aid thru 9/8/2021)
- Must be 18 years or older
- Must have min. of 2 years guarding experience

All job positions will have training, dates TBD.

Submit an application online at: www.cityofpleasantridge.org/recreation

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 12, 2021



2021

The Oscars Preview!

Stay tuned for more info to follow after March 15. The 93rd Annual Academy Awards Show will be on April 25, 2021!

All events and activities are subject to change and cancellation.



Pleasant Ridge Foundation William Tigertt Scholarship

Each year the Pleasant Ridge Foundation awards several \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors, based on community service as well as academics and participation in extracurricular activities. All high school seniors (public or private school) who reside in the Ferndale School District may apply.

Applications are available online at: www.pleasantridgefoundation.org. Applications are due March 26, 2021. Email Karen King at: kingbaum@aol.com for more information.

PR Woman's Club Scholarships Available

The Pleasant Ridge Woman's Club is once again offering college/vocational scholarships to graduating seniors of the Class of 2021. Scholarships are available to students residing in the Ferndale School District, from public or private schools.

Applications are available after Jan. 15, 2021 — visit www.cityofpleasantridge.org for an application or pick one up at Ferndale High School. The deadline date for application — March 15, 2021. Non-FHS students may return them to Kathi Snow, 35 Oakland Park. Contact Kathy Cavazos @ 248-762-1041 or kcavazos@wowway.com.

Oakland County Health Department's Nurse on Call

The Nurse on Call is a valuable resource for questions about Covid-19, where to get tested and anything non-pandemic-related as well. Call (800) 848-5533 or email NOC@Oakgov.com. If you feel like you may have Covid-19 and would like to get tested, county drive-thru testing is available (as of press time). Call the Nurse on Call number to make an appointment. No prescription is needed, but you must have an appointment.

Call Jennifer at 248-581-2712 for info about City services/additional resources.

HW Public Library Info



Huntington Woods Library
26415 Scotia Rd.
Huntington Woods, MI 48070
248-543-9720

Curbside Hours
Monday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Tuesday: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Stream Award-Winning Films with Kanopy

Use your HW library card to access over 30,000 movies for free with Kanopy! **Sign up: www.huntingtonwoods.kanopy.com.** Available for most platforms, including iOS, Android, Roku, Chromecast, FireTV, and more!

News & Info

Neighborhood Volunteer Hub

During this extraordinary time we may have residents who need help completing tasks that they are unable to do due to the virus.

If you need help with things like shopping or pharmacy pick-ups, pet care, yard work, or anything else — you can let us know by calling, emailing, or filling out a help form online. We will post opportunities to help on this page. If you want to help with a task, contact Shawnie or Greg. We will verify your identity and connect you with a person in need.

Please note that the City is serving as a matchmaker to help connect residents in need with those who need help. We cannot guarantee that volunteers will be available or the time frame in which the task will be completed.

<https://cityofpleasantridge.org/volunteer>

Snow removal/emergency

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 a safe height so as to not 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 effective snow removal/salting.

Salt Delivery Available

The City delivers salt to residents on the third Tuesday of the month from November through April. Residents may place up to a 5-gal. bucket at the foot of their driveway and the City will fill it. Please do not place buckets out on Monday, because there is a good chance that the bucket will be taken with garbage/recycling pickup.



Street Tree Purchase Program

Residents 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.

Residents who participate in the program will have a tree planted according to the Street Tree Planting Manual, which can be accessed at: www.cityofpleasantridge.org/lsvr_document_cat/public-works/. Species are identified for each street in the manual.

The deadline to participate in this program is Thu., Feb. 4, 2021. In order to be included in the order, residents must have payment to City Hall by that date. Trees will be planted in the spring, usually in April. **Contact City Hall with any questions. 248-541-2901**



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

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WELLNESS CENTER INFO

The PR Wellness Center is open, and we ask that patrons continue to follow these rules:

- Residents 18 and over may use the facility. Residents ages 16 and 17 may use the facility if accompanied by an adult relative.
- Members **MUST** have a reservation to workout.
- A face covering must be worn at all times indoors.
- Temperatures and health questionnaire must be completed before a workout.
- Reservations may be made one week in advance.
- Members allowed one one-hour time block per day.

For additional guidelines and to reserve your Wellness Center time slot, visit: www.cityofpleasantry.org

**HOURS: MON. – THU. 8 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.
FRI. 8 A.M. – 3 P.M., SAT. 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.**

From the Ferndale Public Schools:

Updates, events, & stories
from inside your schools
and around the district.

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