



RIDGER

NEWS & EVENTS • CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE, MICHIGAN • OCT.-DEC., 2021



it's in
the air **fall**

Photo courtesy of: Tom Treuter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall Leaf Pickup New Info

2021 Election What to Know

Get Involved! **Fall Activities**

...and so much more!

Mayor: Kurt Metzger

kmetzger@cityofpleasantridge.org

City Commission:

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Ann Perry aperry@cityofpleasantridge.org

Bret Scott bscott@cityofpleasantridge.org

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City Manager: James Breuckman

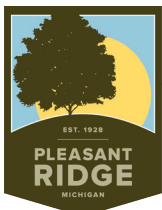
citymanager@cityofpleasantridge.org

Recreation Director: Shawnie Stamper

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Police Chief: Kevin Nowak

policechief@cityofpleasantridge.org



police 248-541-2900 • city hall & dept. of public works 248-541-2901 • recreation dept. 248-541-2902

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



Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Vote at the PR Community Center, 4 Ridge Road. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

vote
vote
vote

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - General Election

Close of Registration for the November Election is Monday, October 18, 2021, for any manner other than in person at the City Clerks office. In-person registration at the City Clerks office will be Tuesday October 19 through Tuesday, November 2, 2021, with appropriate proof of residency.

Qualified persons who are unable to vote in person may apply for an Absentee Ballot by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (248) 541-2901 or cityclerk@cityofpleasantridge.org.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. All Pleasant Ridge residents vote at the Pleasant Ridge Community Center. Election inspectors will be available to answer any questions you may have on Election Day.

All Michigan voters are required to show a photo ID at the polls.

Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- Valid driver's license
- Federal or State ID with photo
- U.S. Passport
- Current student ID from high school or college with photo
- Military ID with photo
- Tribal ID with photo

If the voter states they have no valid form

identification with photo, the voter may obtain a ballot by completing and signing an affidavit. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the City Clerk's Office.

Absentee Ballot Information

The Absentee Ballot can be mailed to your home, or any other address you desire.

Absentee Ballot applications are available to Pleasant Ridge registered voters. You must fill out an application for each and every election before a ballot can be mailed to you.

The form can be picked up at the Clerk's office, requested by telephone, or in writing. When you receive the Absentee Ballot application, simply fill out the information. Return the form by mail, or in person. The ballot will be mailed to you at the appropriate time.

If you wish to receive an Absentee Ballot application automatically, you must contact the City Offices. Being placed on the permanent absentee voter's list will ensure that you receive an absentee voter's application for each election. It is Michigan Election law that you complete a new application for each ballot you receive.



If you meet the above guidelines and desire to become a permanent Absentee Ballot voter, simply call City Hall.

On the Ballot: November 2021

Voters will consider the following candidates at the polls:

Mayor: Vote for not more than one (1): Bret Scott

City Commissioner: Vote for not more than two (2): Alex P. Lenko • Katy Schmier • Tom Wilkinson

And the following proposals:

Water Infrastructure Millage Proposal

Shall the City of Pleasant Ridge be authorized levy up to three and one half (3.5) mills per year, for years 2022 through 2051, in excess of its Charter authorized tax rate as reduced by Section 34, Article IX of the 1963 State Constitution, such additional millage to be used to finance water infrastructure projects including water main replacement and construction, public and private lead service line replacement, and associated restoration work within the City of Pleasant Ridge? It is estimated that 3.5 mills would provide \$620,993 if levied in full in 2022.

Fall Leaf Pickup 2021 Information

Leaf pickup alternates between sides of the City each week. Cambridge East (between Ridge and Woodward) and Woodward Heights are picked up each week due to the large volume of leaves and traffic on those streets. The side of the City that is picked up first alternates each year, as well. This year we are starting on the West Side. *If all leaves are picked up from one side of the City early in the week, Brilar may move on and pick up some leaves from the other side of the City. If you live on the non-scheduled side of the City and Brilar does a supplemental pickup, don't worry, they will be back the following week as scheduled.*

Fall Weather and Schedule Adjustments In the event of unpredictable fall weather that impacts the pickup schedule, updates will be posted to the website.

Will We Extend Leaf Collection? No. As we get into December the risk of significant snowfall greatly increases. If leaves are still out on the street and it snows, we may not be able to pick up the leaves and will have to plow them back onto the lawn creating a mess. Based on experience from past years we will not extend the leaf pickup schedule. You can place leaves in yard waste bags at the curb on for compost pickup on trash days until December 13.

Collection Schedule:

Week of November 1: West Side + Woodward Heights

Week of November 8: East Side + Cambridge

Week of November 15: West Side + Woodward Heights

Week of November 22: East Side + Cambridge

Week of November 29*: Final pickup begins starting with the West Side.

** Pickup will continue into the following week until all streets have been picked up.*



Leaf collection is a major task, as we generate more leaves per capita than any other nearby community. We ask for your cooperation to ensure that the process is as smooth and efficient as possible. The best thing you can do to help us is ensure that only leaves are placed at the curb, and that cars are not parked on the street during the day until the leaves are picked up during your pickup week. Please see the leaf FAQs on the City website at www.cityofpleasantridge.org for more information about how you can help expedite the process.

Did You Know?

In 2015 the City created a parks and recreation endowment fund using a provision in state law allows parks special revenue funds to be invested under the pension rules rather than the much more restrictive local government fund rules. \$2 million was allocated to the parks endowment fund from the Segregated Capital Assets Fund, which was the settlement the City received from MDOT in the 1990s related to the construction of I-696. The SCAF-PSRF acts like a parks endowment fund for the City.



The new pavilions at the pool and Gainsboro Park were paid for using money from the parks endowment fund. These projects did not use property tax funding, and are an example of extra projects that we can do because we have the endowment fund.

The parks endowment fund has returned over \$1.2 million since 2015, and the fund currently sits at about \$2.9 million after using about \$300,000 to construct the pavilions at the pool and Gainsboro Park. Had the money remained invested in funds otherwise available to local governments, it would have returned \$184,000 over the same time period.



Neighbor Notes

Lock it or Lose it—Keep your cars and garage LOCKED! Never leave valuables or packages in your car that can be seen.

Garbage Cans may be placed at the curb after 6 p.m. on Sundays for collection on Mondays. Cans must be removed from the curb by noon on Tuesday. (Garbage is delayed one day if a holiday falls on a Monday). Cans must be stored in the rear yard, not visible from the street. All garbage must be placed in a watertight container.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times when not in a fenced private yard or within the dog park. You cannot have your dog off leash in parks or while on walks.

RIDGE RESALE FALL SALE DATES:

- **Sat., Oct. 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**
- **Sat., Nov. 13*, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Please continue to support us through your shopping and donations. **Questions?**

Please call Sharon Barrett 248.548.6097 or Jodi McGuire 248.398.6404. *weather dependent

Face Mask Rule — effective 9/7

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL COMMUNITY CENTER VISITORS AND ALL INDOOR COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES—INCLUDING THE WELLNESS CENTER.

From the Ferndale Public Schools:

A BRAND NEW ELEMENTARY IN OAK PARK

Ferndale Public Schools has purchased the Jackson Park land from the City of Oak Park, after having obtained the needed amount of YES votes to lift a deed restriction on that property.

Ferndale Schools plans to demolish the Jackson School building—currently CASA—and construct a brand new Ferndale Lower Elementary School for all district Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. CASA will then be housed at the Roosevelt School building, current site of Ferndale Lower Elementary. This new state-of-the-art elementary building will begin construction soon.



Learn more: FerndaleSchools.org/bond



Water Infrastructure Millage Executive Summary

Why Is the City Asking for This Millage?

In 2018 the State adopted new lead and copper drinking water rules that require all water suppliers to replace all lead service lines at public cost. In Pleasant Ridge about 60% of our lead service lines are lead, and we estimate that it will cost about \$8.5 million to replace all of them. At the same time, our water mains are nearly 100 years old, are at the end of their useful life, and require replacement. Replacing our water mains is estimated to cost about \$16.5 million, for a total project cost of \$25 million.

The City Commission approved new water rates that will result in about a 35% utility bill cost increase for residents for FY22 (for water usage from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022). Approval of the millage in November would result in a total cost increase of about 6%, while allowing the City to restore water rates back to 2020 levels starting July 1, 2022 when the new millage takes effect for all residents.

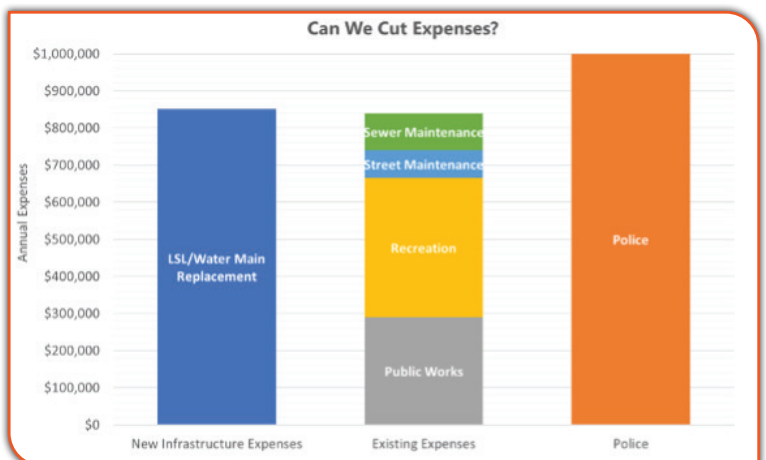
Millage Overview

The City Commission placed a request for a 3.5 mill water infrastructure property tax on the November 2021 ballot. If approved the millage would provide funds for the City to complete water infrastructure projects including water main replacement, public and private lead service line replacement, and associated restoration work.

Can The City Fund This Project Without Raising Property Tax Rates?

The short answer is no. The annual cost to complete the water infrastructure project will be about \$850,000 of new expenses. Our entire water fund had a budget of about \$1.2 million before this project, so the new cost is significant. The chart below shows what the City would have to cut to equal the new revenue needed to complete the water infrastructure project. It would require us to either:

- Eliminate all current sewer maintenance, street maintenance, the recreation department and all recreation programs, and all public works spending (i.e. DPW staff, lawn maintenance, tree maintenance, landscape



maintenance, flower planting, etc.). Or,

- Eliminate the police department.

These cuts are not practical, but provide a comparison for the scale of the water infrastructure project and its cost relative to existing City services.

What Are the Benefits of the Water Infrastructure Project?

There are two primary benefits that residents will see from this project:

1. Removal of all lead service lines from the water system (33% of total project cost), and
2. Replacement of our 100-year-old cast iron water mains that are at the end of their useful life (66% of total project cost)

Every resident who has a lead service line (the pipe running from the water main into the water meter in your house) will have that removed and replaced at public cost.

All the City's old cast iron water mains will be replaced. The existing water mains are 6 inches in diameter, while by current standards 8 inches is the minimum size for a water main.

Our mains are nearly 100 years old and are suffering from internal corrosion which reduces their effective size (see photo at right). The corrosion in the pipes is what causes brown water for a time after a fire hydrant is used – the high volume of water flowing through the main to the hydrant causes some of the corrosion to become dislodged, browning the water.

The old, small, corroded pipes cause reduced water pressure in our system. Our water system is still adequate for normal day to day water supply, but whenever a fire hydrant is opened it causes unacceptable pressure drops throughout the city. This is a result of the reduced capacity in our water mains due to age and corrosion.

Replacing the City's water mains will improve water pressure, fire flow rates, and overall system reliability. Our water distribution system is at its useful life and investing in our water infrastructure will ensure that we have reliable water service for the next 100 years. If we do not address this issue, it will only increase the cost to repair and replace our water infrastructure on an emergency basis in the future after it begins to fail.



Corroded iron water main

Save the Date!

Water Infrastructure Millage Open House

Tue., Oct. 5, 7-8 p.m.
at the PR Community Center, 4 Ridge Rd.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the water infrastructure project, we will be holding an open house on Tuesday, October 5. There will be a very brief overview of the project, with most of the time being devoted to a question and answer session. All background information and previous presentations for the infrastructure project and millage request are available at www.cityofpleasantridge.org/water.

What Happens If the Millage Is Not Approved?

If the millage request is not approved in November, the water infrastructure project will continue to be paid for by increased water rates.

A concern with the higher water rates is that residents will use less water, generating less revenue for the water fund, creating shortfalls in the funding needed to complete the infrastructure projects, requiring the City to raise water rates even higher, causing residents to further reduce water usage, leading to new revenue shortfalls, and so on.

A property tax millage would provide a steady revenue source for the water infrastructure projects while allowing water rates to return to their previous level.

The question is not whether the City should take on this extra expense, but rather how we should pay for it.

Where Can I Find More Information?

More information about the water infrastructure project, including background documents, presentation materials and video from the April water town hall meeting is available online at: www.cityofpleasantridge.org/water



Movie of the Month

12 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month

October: Cruella, Rated: PG-13

November & December: TBA



Fall Fest & Hayride

Sun., Oct. 10, 4-6 p.m. Fun for the whole family! Come for hayrides, balloons, glitter tattoos, and petting farm! Concession Stand: Hero or Villain and Treat Dreams—accepts cash or credit. Donuts donated by Robert Campbell, Pumpkins donated by Brilar.

Mom2Mom Sale

Sat., Oct. 16, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. \$15 for one table/\$25 for two tables. Whether you are looking to buy or sell gently used toys, clothes, books or parenting times, then this is the place for you! Vendor space is limited to vendors on a first-come, first-served basis. Shopping admission is \$1 per adult.

Teen Trip to Cedar Point

Sat., Oct. 16, 7:30 a.m.-1 a.m. \$85R/\$95NR
Must be in 7th grade or older.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Wed., Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Give blood. Help save lives! To schedule, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code pleasantridge, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Coats for the Cold Coat Drive: Nov. 1-30

Coats can be dropped off at the Community Center or at City Hall during business hours.

THE WOODS GALLERY at the Huntington Woods Public Library, located in the lower level, features rotating artists from the community. Exhibits:



Exactly What's Wrong With Me? Through Oct. 21.
Reception: Thu., Sep. 23, 6 - 8 p.m.

The Artist and the Art Therapist, Oct. 30 - Dec. 9
Reception: Thu., Nov. 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

If interested in displaying work in the Gallery, please contact Woods Gallery Coordinator, Karen Dubrinsky at woodsgallery@huntingtonwoodslib.org.



It's EASY to register online for activities
Visit www.cityofpleasantridge.org and click on "Recreation Program Registration" under QUICK LINKS or scan the QR code with your device!

Pleasant Ridge Foundation Auction & Gala

Sat. Oct. 9, 5:30 - 10 p.m.

The annual auction is back for 2021 with some new features! As usual, there will be an in-person event at the Recreation Center at 4 Ridge Rd., but all bidding for auction items will be online using an auction platform. Items will be available to see and bid on about a week before the actual event. **Scan the code to buy tickets or visit pleasantridgefoundation.org.**



50+ Club Day Trips

Stahl's Auto Collection & Lunch

Tue., Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Trip cost: \$8/Lunch cost is on your own. The Stahl's Automotive Foundation was created to build an appreciation for history.

Ms. Mary's & Pete Too and The Anatomy of Death Museum Thu., Oct 28, 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.

After lunch at this East side hidden gem, enjoy something to talk about for years to come: The Anatomy of Death Museum! So many interesting and amazing things are packed into this place. Everywhere you turn is another item with a unique and deathly story. Be amazed by the oddity shop too!

Sign Up Today for Your Flu Shot!

Thu., Nov. 4, 1-5 p.m. PR Rec Center

Get your flu shot! Sponsored by Walgreens and the City. Limited number of shots available, pre-registration is required and recommended. Time slots are filling fast! Register online; contact the Rec Center for more info.



Gleaners Virtual Food Drive

Dec. 1-18; Sign-up link coming soon!

We are hosting a virtual food drive to help raise money and fight hunger in our community. This holiday season let's as a community come together to support our fellow metro Detroiters. Every dollar will provide 3 meals to someone in need. Let's beat our total of \$2000 from 2020!



Halloween in the Ridge

Halloween Movie at Gainsboro

Fri., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. Fun evening for the whole family! Don't forget to bring your lawn chair, blanket and snacks! Movie will be shown at the dead end of Maywood. Movie: **Beetlejuice**, Rated: PG

3rd Annual Halloween House Decorating Contest

Share your wicked ways and talents! Out-BOO your neighbors by entering the Haunted House Decorating Contest! This year's categories are as follows:

- **Creepiest Skeleton Award:** Entries will be judged on creepiest and most original.
- **Best Decorated Pumpkins:** Entries will be judged on originality.
- **Scariest:** Entries will be judged on special effects and overall sense of fright!
- **Judges' Favorite:** This category is decided by the judges. All judging done by the PR Rec Commission. **Please email a picture of your decorated home and address to Greg at gcalbeck@cityofpleasantridge.org by Oct. 21.**

Trick or Treating

Sun., Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m. Recommended hours for trick or treating are 5-8 p.m. and homeowners who plan to give out candy are urged to turn on their porch lights.

Halloween Safety Tips

- Wear light-reflective material or carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Ensure kids have a clear field of vision and can hear properly.
- A responsible adult should accompany trick-or-treaters.
- Normal street crossing and safety rules apply. All violators will be ticketed. — **Please walk with your children (don't follow behind them while driving)** — **Parking lots are located at the PR Community Center, Ferndale Lower, and City Hall.**



Parents who check their children's candy and discover something that raises concerns may call the Police Department at 248-541-2900 with any questions.

Celebrate in 2021! *Hometown Holidays*

Thanksgiving Day Bingo

Thu., Nov. 18, 6 p.m. Dinner and Prizes included. Cost is \$7. Registration deadline is 11/11.

Christmas Home Decorating Contest

Email photos and your address to Greg at gcalbeck@cityofpleasantridge.org by 12/17. *Categories: Best Decorations and Best Indoor Decorations.*

Letters to Santa: Due Fri., Dec. 17

Open to PR residents only. Hi Kids! Every year Santa looks forward to hearing from his friends in Pleasant Ridge. Mailboxes will be located at the Community Center and City Hall to receive your letters. Include your name and address on the letter so that Santa can write back! Get wishing!

Holiday Arrangement Workshop

Presented by Olive's Bloombox

Wed., Dec. 8, 6:15 p.m. \$52/\$62NR. Min. 20/Max. 50 participants. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Registration begins Mon., Oct. 11

Dinner with Santa NEW DATE!

Fri., Dec. 17, 6 p.m. \$10 per adult/\$7 per kid ages

2-17. Registration begins on 11/15; if the event is cancelled, Pictures with Santa will be held during this time frame. Watch for more details!

Tree Lighting

Mon., Dec. 6, 6 p.m. at Memorial Park. Welcome the spirit of the season with your friends, neighbors and Santa! Stay for photos with Santa.

Gingerbread House Making

Wed., Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$15. Registration begins 11/1. Join us for a festive morning learning how to make your very own gingerbread house! Every participant gets to keep their decorated house at the end. With holiday tunes playing and hot cocoa flowing, spread the holiday spirit by inviting friends to join you for this special event!

***This is a drop-off event for kids K-6.**





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

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GET TO KNOW YOUR PR WELLNESS CENTER!

**Open 5 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week,
including weekends & holidays!**

Stop at the front desk during open hours to get your key fob. You must be a PR resident and at least 16 years of age. Wellness Center key fob replacement is \$10. A picture ID is required for all new and replacement key fobs.

- TREADMILLS • STAIR CLIMBER • STATIONARY BIKES • ELLIPTICAL • FREE WEIGHTS
- WEIGHT MACHINES • SMITH MACHINE
- FREE PUBLIC WI-FI



The Recreation Department would like to thank the Camp Counselors, Head Guards, Swim Team Coaches, Lifeguards and LIT's for making this summer great for all residents! Without all of you, we couldn't make the magic of the summer happen!