

PRAIRIE GROVE

Village News ~ Spring 2021

Greetings and Happy Spring! I am excited to announce the return of the village's quarterly newsletter, and hope that it will serve as a platform to bring our community closer together and provide relevant information to you on a regular basis.

There is no doubt that 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to the village and its residents. I am very proud of our staff for rising to the occasion and keeping our government services fully functional throughout the pandemic. With vaccinations increasing and restrictions easing, brighter days surely lie ahead. Like you, I welcome a return to normalcy!

Despite a necessity to conduct meetings virtually, the village board has been hard at work addressing a range of issues: the Route 31 expansion, negotiating annexations to bring in new businesses, adopting a cost-effective and balanced budget, hiring an outstanding new chief of police, planning for road improvements and being responsible stewards of the environment in which we live. I am very excited to announce proposed plans for an environmentally-focused, half-mile walking path on village hall grounds. The path will be accented by native- and carbon-reducing trees, forbs, and shrubs to create a beautiful, tranquil, and environmentally positive landmark that we can all be proud of and enjoy year round.

I welcome your questions, comments, and ideas for making Prairie Grove an even better place to live! Feel free to email me at president@prariegrove.org

With my best regards,
David F. Underwood, Ph.D., Village President

Prairie Grove: #1 in Green Energy

Last year, the Prairie Grove Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to participate in a municipal energy aggregation program for the village's energy needs. The program allows villages to choose where their energy comes from – selecting between traditional sources and cost-effective, renewable, or 'green' energy sources. The Board felt that choosing green energy for our electricity needs reflected the value that our community places on the environment and our surroundings, making Prairie Grove an Environmental Protection Agency "Green Power Community."

The EPA ranks Green Power Communities across the whole country, and Prairie Grove just placed **NUMBER ONE– the greenest community in the United States**, measured by green power as a percent of total electricity use! The rankings and additional information can be found on the Green Power Communities page at epa.gov

EXCITING NEWS!!

The Village Board recently passed an ordinance allowing properly registered non-highway vehicles to be legally driven on certain streets throughout the Village of Prairie Grove from **May 1st through November 1st**.

The fee for new registrations is \$100 for the first year. Those owners renewing their same non-highway vehicle pay a \$50 renewal fee. Visit prairiegrove.org get a full copy of the local ordinance and a usage map regulating legal operation on Village streets.

After you submit an application, Police Department staff will contact applicants for the required vehicle inspection. Inspection location (your residence or the Police Department parking lot) will be determined by the inspecting officer once you are contacted. Please read the ordinance carefully so that you have all the required functional equipment needed to obtain a registration. You will also need to provide proof of vehicle insurance in accordance with the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code. Once the inspection is complete, registration stickers will be issued to the applicant upon payment. Payment can be presented in the form of a check at the time of inspection made payable to the Village of Prairie Grove. You may also pay online at prairiegrove.org with a credit card.

PRAIRIE GROVE *Police Department*

WELCOME CHIEF LARRY CANADA



My name is Larry Canada and I was sworn in as the Police Chief of the Prairie Grove, IL Police Department on February 16th. It is an honor to serve alongside the men and women who help keep our community a safe place to live and work.

I wanted to take a moment to formally introduce myself. I have over 30 years of law enforcement experience and recently retired from the Palatine Police Department as the department's Training Commander. I am a graduate of Western Illinois University, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and the FBI National Academy.

My wife and I live in Crystal Lake and love to go camping with our dogs as well as hike, exercise, and spend time in our garden.



On Saturday May 22nd at 10 AM, I would like an opportunity to meet you in person. Please join us for **"Coffee with The Chief"** at the pavilion next to village hall. Refreshments will be provided, and we'll have a coloring contest along with giveaways for the kids. I look forward to representing Prairie Grove in the coming years and hope you join us on May 22nd.

VEHICLE SAFETY

- DON'T LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNLOCKED AND UNATTENDED
- APPROACH YOUR VEHICLE WITH KEYS IN HAND. GET IN AND OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE WITH PURPOSE
- BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS
- PARK IN A WELL-LIGHTED AREA WITH GOOD VISIBILITY
- IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS, CALL 911 WITH A DESCRIPTION
- BE ALERT AT INTERSECTIONS AND GAS STATIONS
- GIVE YOURSELF SPACE BETWEEN VEHICLES AT INTERSECTIONS
- WHILE DRIVING, KEEP YOUR DOORS LOCKED AND WINDOWS ROLLED UP
- REFRAIN FROM SITTING IN YOUR CAR LISTENING TO MUSIC OR TALKING ON THE PHONE

Are you a victim of Unemployment Insurance benefits fraud?

Like other agencies across the state, the Prairie Grove Police Department has seen a significant increase in unemployment insurance identity theft. If you receive a debit card or an Unemployment Insurance (UI) Funding Letter and did not file for unemployment benefits:

- Contact the police department to file a report.
- Report the fraudulent claim to the Illinois Department of Employment Security on their website of www2.illinois.gov/ides
- DO NOT activate the debit card that was mailed to you.
- Request your free credit reports via www.annualcreditreport.com and review the reports for other fraudulent activities

PRAIRIE GROVE

Public Works

Message from Public Works

Now that spring is here so are the litter bugs. Please help us keep the Village clean. If you see someone throwing trash out along the roads, don't be afraid to report them to the proper authorities. Also please do not burn in your ditch or on the road. This causes the ditch to fill up with the left-over debris and prevents the proper flow of water. Burning on the road melts the asphalt and causes the road to breakdown. Your help with these items is appreciated. As always stay safe and contact me if you have any questions of concerns.

Thank You,
Josh Singer
Village of Prairie Grove Superintendent



**Summer 2021
Valley View
Road will be
resurfaced**



Just a reminder!

Burning is permitted only on the weekends, between dawn & dusk during the months of April, May, October & November

SPRING 2021 BRUSH PICKUP PROGRAM MAY 3rd & 4th



The Village will begin its spring brush pick-up program on May 3, 2021 & May 4, 2021 for the entire village. All residents must have their brush out to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on May 3rd. Crews will visit each street once and continue until they have gone through the entire Village. **No callbacks will be made.**

This program is for tree material only. This program is intended for larger tree branches resulting from trimming or storm damage and is for residential properties only. No stumps or roots will be taken. Branches should be no longer than 15 feet and no more than 5 inches in diameter. Residents are advised to place brush on the parkway parallel to the street but not in the street. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department

Building Department

Why Do I Need a Building Permit?

Permits ensure that Building Codes are met. Building Codes are intended to protect the public and set a minimum standard for the building design. They anticipate the everyday needs of occupants, as well as emergency procedures in case something goes wrong like a fire.

It is important to check if your project needs a permit. If you have any questions, call 815-455-0920.

VILLAGE OF PRAIRIE GROVE

Village of Prairie Grove
3125 Barreville Road
Prairie Grove, IL 60012

Village President

David Underwood, Ph.D.

Village Board of Trustees

Lisa Behm
Phil Baggio
Ronee Haisler
Charlotte Kremer
Bob Saley
Kevin Werner, Ph.D.

**Village Administrator &
Treasurer**

Michael P. Freese

Village Clerk

Monte Johnson

Public Works Superintendent

Josh Singer

Police Records Clerk & Building

Laura Jonasen

Village Attorney

David McArdle

Chief of Police

Lawrence Canada

Police Emergency Number

911

Police Non-Emergency

815-338-2144

Village of Prairie Grove
3125 Barreville Road
Prairie Grove, IL 60012
815-455-1411 Office
815-455-0783 Fax
8:30am-4:30pm M-F

www.prairiegrove.org

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- Like us on Facebook
- Visit our website at www.prairiegrove.org and sign up for Nixle



Calendar

APRIL 2021

- April 2, 2021- Holiday – Village Hall Closed
- April 6, 2021 – Village Board of Trustees Election
- April 10, 2021 – Architecture Review Committee 8am
- April 20, 2021 – Village Board Meeting 7pm

MAY 2021

- May 1, 2021 - Architecture Review Committee 8am
- May 3 & 4, 2021 – Brush Pickup
- May 18, 2021 – Village Board Meeting 7pm
- May 22, 2021 – Coffee with the Chief 10am
- May 31, 2021 – Holiday- Village Hall Closed

JUNE 2021

- June 5, 2021 - Architecture Review Committee 8am
- June 15, 2021 – Village Board Meeting 7pm