

# Pingree Grove News



## President's Message



Amber Kubiak  
Village President

Dear Fellow Residents,

I am so excited that the Village Board came to an agreement on the hiring of our new Village Manager, Andy Ferrini. Andy has come in and hit the ground running! At a recent meeting, the Board approved an inter-governmental agreement with the Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District to donate vacant land situated next to the Municipal Center to the Library District, for the potential construction of a new library facility. A new branch location would allow the Library District to expand their programs in Hampshire and provide programs in Pingree Grove. I am excited by the idea of grabbing an ice cream cone at The Milk House, a book at the library, and then walking over to sit and enjoy the Community Pollinator Garden to read. As the holidays approach, the Village is pleased to announce the return of the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railway **Holiday Train!** The train is scheduled to stop in Pingree Grove on **Sunday, November 26 at 8:45 am**

with a show from **9:00 am - 9:30 am**. Please consider donating a monetary or non-perishable food item that will be distributed to the local food pantry! Goebbert's Farm will provide donuts to attendees! On **December 2**, the Community Events Committee is hosting this year's **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** at the **Municipal Center** from **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. The Village's annual events would not be possible without the volunteer efforts of the Community Events Committee. Additional volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! Please contact [events@pingreegrove.org](mailto:events@pingreegrove.org) for additional information. Work continues on our new water treatment plant and our wastewater treatment plant expansion. Bringing clean water to our community is of the utmost importance and we continue to work through these projects to be able to provide these services for our residents. The Village would like to congratulate three of our Patrol Officers - Eric Huber, Nisa Santana, and Laura Freudenberger - who were awarded with a 2023 Life Saving Award for their selfless life-saving actions. I cannot say enough about how happy I am to live in this wonderful Village, both the residents and the Village employees make this a great place to live. I cannot wait to see what 2024 brings for Pingree Grove! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [akubiak@pingreegrove.org](mailto:akubiak@pingreegrove.org). Wishing you and your family **Happy Holidays!**



## Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway 2023 Holiday Train

Pingree Grove is fortunate for being included as one of the two Illinois stops for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Train program on **Sunday, November 26 at 8:45 am**, with a show from **9:00am - 9:30 am**, at **Railroad St & Reinking Rd**. CPKC in conjunction with the local food bank, will be accepting monetary and food donations to help ease hunger for those in need. Although this is a **morning event**, the holiday lights and sounds are spectacular! Don't miss it!



## Community Events Committee Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony



The Community Events Committee is excited to host this year's annual Holiday tree lighting ceremony on **Saturday, December 2** from **5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**, held indoors at the **Municipal Center**. Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate, donuts, kids' activities, and of course, the official Holiday tree lighting ceremony.

This year's event will also feature Holiday trees, sponsored and decorated by local families, businesses, and group organizations. If you would like to decorate a tree, please contact the Community Events Committee [events@pingreegrove.org](mailto:events@pingreegrove.org).



The Village has entered into an agreement with the US Census Bureau, to conduct a 2024 Special Census. The Village's population has experienced a significant increase since the 2020 Census reporting of 10,365. State and federal funding are generally population-based, and in the best interests of the community, the Village would like to ensure that it is receiving its proportionate share of revenues and benefits. The Special Census will be conducted through an online self-reporting response, with resident instruction mailings beginning in late March. We ask that all residents participate by responding to this important population count for our community.



L-R: Pingree Grove Patrol Officers Nisa Santana, Eric Huber, and Laura Freudenberger were presented with the 2023 Life Saving Award at the October 16 Board Meeting.

### 2023 Life Saving Award Recipients

At the October 2, Village Board meeting, Interim Police Chief, Chris Harris, presented Patrol Officers – Nisa Santana, Eric Huber, and Laura Freudenberger, with a 2023 Life Saving Award. The Board of Trustees joins the Pingree Grove Police Department in congratulating these officers for their swift actions and outstanding efforts in their dedication to serving the community.



### Financial Highlights

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Village of Pingree Grove was presented with the Government Finance Officers Association's **"Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting,"** for its Annual Comprehensive Finance Report for Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2022.

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) is the Village's annual report to its taxpayers, governing board, oversight bodies, investors, and creditors. The Village's accounting firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP has completed its annual audit of the Village for Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2023, reporting that the Village's net position of governmental activities increased by 5.5%, and a net position of business-type activities increased by 1.2%. Government-wide revenues totaled \$11,353,590 while expenses totaled \$9,032,504; an increase to net position of \$2,321,086. The Village's net position totaled \$83,268,741 on April 30, 2023, which includes \$63,424,084 net investment capital assets, \$2,080,983 of which are subject to external restrictions, and a \$17,763,674 unrestricted net position. The Village's General Fund reported an increase in current year of 2%, which includes an increase in total revenues of \$961,762 compared to prior year, resulting in ending fund balance of \$4,943,464.

### Ask Andy!

*By Andy Ferrini,  
Village Manager*



Have you ever wondered what the role of a Village Manager is? Do you wonder what is covered under the capital improvements charge on your utility bill? What does non-home rule mean, you ask? Or do you have other questions about how the Village operates but don't have the time to stop in and ask? Well now, you can - **Ask Andy!**

The **Ask Andy!** column will be dedicated to answering Village-related questions submitted by members of the community. Responses to questions will be printed in the **Ask Andy!** column in the Village's quarterly newsletter, beginning with the first quarter of 2024. Questions may be submitted to [info@pingreegrove.org](mailto:info@pingreegrove.org), with "Ask Andy" in the subject line.

Please keep questions to Village related topics. Questions of a personal nature will not be addressed.

Until the next question.

Best,

*Andy*  
Andy



Questions to **"Ask Andy!"** may be submitted by e-mail to [info@pingreegrove.org](mailto:info@pingreegrove.org).





## RECENT BOARD ACTION

### Pingree Grove & Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District Inter-Governmental Agreement

At the October 2 Board meeting, the Village Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District. The Agreement allows for the Village to donate the vacant land, situated north of the Municipal Center and south of the Community Gardens, for the potential construction of a 20,000 – 30,000 sq. ft. public library facility. Any library would be constructed and operated by the Library District.

Although the proposed library branch facility would serve as the District's primary administrative branch, it would not affect the existing library branch in Hampshire, but it would allow for the opportunity to enhance its program offerings.

For the public library proposal to proceed, a referendum will be presented to the voters for their consideration in approving the issuance of bonds to cover the costs of construction financing. The referendum would be presented during the 2024 election year.

If the Library District is unsuccessful in securing bond approval and completing the facility construction within six (6) years of the Agreement, the land would be returned to the Village.

The Village will keep the community apprised of additional information and ongoing developments.

## Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements

In 2022, the Board authorized the construction of a new well, drilled at Daniel Blvd. and Reinking Rd.,



to accommodate a new 1,100 gallons per minute (gpm) water treatment plant (WTP) facility. The new WTP expansion was designed to serve the expected growth of Pingree Grove over the next 20 years, by continuing to provide essential clean drinking water to the community. The cost of the WTP construction is being funded in part through a low-interest Water Supply Loan Program through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and a federal Community Project Funding grant previously awarded by Representative Underwood. As of this writing, the WTP is nearing completion with continuation of exterior site work and communications cabling, while awaiting final approval of water samples to obtain an operating permit from the IEPA. Earlier this year the Board also authorized the construction of a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) expansion as the existing wastewater treatment infrastructure is undersized and has reached critical capacity limitations. Mass grading has begun on the site of the new WWTP located next to the existing WWTP and behind the police department. The Village received an IEPA loan from the Illinois Water Pollution Loan Program in addition to CPF funding from Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi to help fund the project.



Aerial of the location for the new wastewater treatment plant.

Your help is needed! The Village's annual events would not be possible without the assistance of resident volunteers! Please consider volunteering for a couple of hours, a specific event, or go all in and become a member of the **Community Events Committee!**

# VOLUNTEER

## Community Events Committee

E-mail: [events@pingreegrove.org](mailto:events@pingreegrove.org)



### VILLAGE OF PINGREE GROVE

555 Reinking Rd  
Pingree Grove, IL 60140

#### Municipal Center

Office Hours:

8:00 am – 4:30 pm Mon-Fri  
(847) 464-5533

E-mail: [info@pingreegrove.org](mailto:info@pingreegrove.org)

Web: [www.pingreegrove.org](http://www.pingreegrove.org)

#### Board of Trustees Meetings

Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday  
7:00 pm

#### Police Department

One Police Plaza

Pingree Grove, IL 60140  
(847) 464-4600

E-mail: [info@pingreepolice.org](mailto:info@pingreepolice.org)

#### Non-Emergency Dispatch

(630) 232-8400

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Pingree Grove, IL 60140

### Will Your Mailbox Withstand Winter Snow Removal?



Homeowners have the responsibility of keeping their mailbox in good repair and ensure that it conforms to USPS mailbox placement guidelines. Improperly maintained mailboxes, such as those that lean over the curb due to a weakened support post, may affect mail delivery or result in costly homeowner repair during curb-to-curb snow removal. The Village is not responsible for repairing or replacing unmaintained/ non-compliant mailboxes.



**Pingree Grove Police & Everbridge  
Emergency Notifications**



The Police Department has joined with Everbridge, an emergency alert notification system used to quickly relay communications to Village residents and businesses in real time. Registration is required for inclusion, sign up for notifications today at

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/311715841441955>

### VILLAGE CALENDAR

Date	Subject	Detail
11/6/23	Board Meeting	Municipal Center 7:00 pm
11/8/23	Police Commissioners Meeting	Police Dept 7:00 pm
11/20/23	Board Meeting	Municipal Center 7:00 pm
11/23/23	Thanksgiving Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
11/24/23	Thanksgiving Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
11/25/23	Delayed Garbage Pickup	11/23 Holiday Observed
11/26/23	Holiday Train (CPKC)	8:45 am – 9:30 am
12/1/23	Utility Bill Payment Due	Service Sep 1 – Oct 31
12/2/23	Community Events Committee Holiday Tree Lighting	Municipal Center 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
12/25/23	Christmas Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
12/26/23	Christmas Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
12/29/23	New Year's Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
12/30/23	Delayed Garbage Pickup	12/25 Holiday Observed
1/1/24	New Year's Holiday Observed	Municipal Center Closed
1/6/24	Delayed Garbage Pickup	1/1 Holiday Observed
1/15/24	Martin Luther King Jr. Observed	Municipal Center Closed
1/16/24	Board Meeting	Municipal Center 7:00 pm
2/1/24	Utility Bill Payment Due	Service Nov 1 – Dec 31