

Pingree Grove News



President's Message



Amber Kubiak
Village President

Dear Fellow Residents,

Happy New Year! As a new year begins so do more exciting things happening in **Pingree Grove!** I am thrilled to let you know that the IEPA approved our operating permit for the second water treatment plant (WTP) and Public Works can now begin implementing start-up operations, expected mid-January. The start-up process of the new WTP will cause a temporary disturbance to the watermain, and your water's characteristics may differ from that which you are accustomed, but please know that your water is safe! This plant addition allows for system redundancy and of course will continue to provide clean water service to our community. We are also excited with the changes and continued expansion of police staffing, and the Village is fortunate to have the combined knowledge and law enforcement experience of both our newly sworn Chief of Police, Chris Harris and Deputy Chief of Police, Jeff Pokorney. The Police force now includes 16 full-time sworn

officers to help ensure public safety. The Village remains committed to government transparency and accountability; this is why the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the purchase and installation of audio and visual equipment in the Municipal Center board room, allowing for all **monthly board and commission meetings to soon be live streamed**. Live streaming will provide the community the opportunity to join public meetings without having to physically attend. This is so exciting, as we continue to grow our village it is important that we grow our departments and available technology and equipment assets, to ensure that the proper level of service is available for our residents. Now is the time of year that we begin our budget process and look for ways to improve our community and the services to residents, so, if you have any suggestions send them my way. You may have seen something in the paper or on the news regarding the push from our state legislators to expand IL Rt 47; we are hoping the governor's office will take notice and prompt IDOT to work on this project. Finally, I would like to remind you that the **2024 Special Census** will soon take place, and I strongly encourage you to participate by responding to the online questionnaire once received, as the results will directly affect the revenue share the Village receives from the state. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have akubiak@pingreegrove.org.

State & Local Sales Tax

State sales tax is collected from consumers while supporting local businesses through the purchase of their general goods and services. A state sales tax applies to all tangible and qualifying general merchandise such as convenience and ready to be consumed foods – from sandwiches, salads, and coffee – to furniture, appliances, and clothing and shoes; however, the rate of tax paid varies based on the municipality where the purchases are made. The state sales tax rate on purchases made within Pingree Grove is 7%, of which, the Village receives a 1.25% portion of the revenue. Municipalities utilize the state sales tax revenues to fund and maintain budget items, and programs and services, such as public infrastructure, road maintenance, public safety, and social services. The sales tax rate is higher in some areas because certain local jurisdictions are allowed to impose their own taxes that are combined with the state sales tax rate. **Pingree Grove currently does not impose a non-home rule municipal sales tax, "local sales tax," and therefore, relies on the 1.25% portion of sales tax revenue it receives from the state.** (Contd. on page 3)

For comparative purposes, following are a list of sales tax rates for surrounding communities showing how the varied tax rates affect the purchase price of a \$3.00 cup of coffee, and the share of tax revenue going to the community where the coffee was purchased. Assuming Pingree Grove has combined sales of 500 cups of coffee sold daily, over a year, a 1% local sales tax of 3¢ per \$3.00 cup of coffee would generate \$5,475 in new revenue for Pingree Grove annually.

(Psst...buy your coffee local – it's cheaper and it will help provide services for you and your community!)

MUNICIPALITY	State & Local Sales Tax Rate	Cost Large Coffee	State & Local Sales Tax	Total Cost	1.25% State Tax Revenue Share	Local Sales Tax Rate	Local Sales Tax Revenue	Total Purchase Revenue Share
Carpentersville	9.0%	\$3.00	\$0.27	\$3.27	\$0.04	2.00%	\$0.06	\$0.10
Elgin	8.5%	\$3.00	\$0.26	\$3.26	\$0.04	1.50%	\$0.05	\$0.09
Lake in the Hills	8.0%	\$3.00	\$0.24	\$3.24	\$0.04	1.00%	\$0.03	\$0.07
Huntley	8.0%	\$3.00	\$0.24	\$3.24	\$0.04	1.00%	\$0.03	\$0.07
Gilberts	8.0%	\$3.00	\$0.24	\$3.24	\$0.04	1.00%	\$0.03	\$0.07
Algonquin	8.0%	\$3.00	\$0.24	\$3.24	\$0.04	1.00%	\$0.03	\$0.07
South Elgin	7.5%	\$3.00	\$0.23	\$3.23	\$0.04	0.50%	\$0.02	\$0.06
Hampshire	7.0%	\$3.00	\$0.21	\$3.21	\$0.04	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.04
Pingree Grove CURRENT	7.0%	\$3.00	\$0.21	\$3.21	\$0.04	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.04
Pingree Grove PROPOSED	8.0%	\$3.00	\$0.24	\$3.24	\$0.04	1.00%	\$0.03	\$0.07

Police Department Appointments

On November 20, 2023, the Village Board consented to President Kubiak's appointment of **Chris Harris** from Deputy Chief and then interim Chief, to



the Village's new **Chief of Police**. Chief Harris' appointment provided an opportunity for the promotion of **Jeff Pokorney**, from Sergeant to **Deputy Chief**, on December 4, 2023. Chief Harris and Deputy Chief Pokorney both began their Village careers in 2008. Ms. Carol Lussky, who served as the Village's first chief of police in 2006 up until her retirement in 2015, and Mr. Shawn Beane, who served as the Village's second chief



from 2015-2021, performed the swearing-in and pinning of the badge ceremonies, respectively. The Village is committed to public safety and has a high regard and confidence that Chief Harris' and Deputy Chief Pokorney's operational knowledge of the Department coupled with their respective law enforcement experience, will be a tremendous asset in leading the Department in the years ahead.

Be Prepared for Winter Driving



You never know when you will encounter bad winter weather or an emergency road closure, so make sure your vehicle, as well as your driving skills, are prepared. The Pingree Grove Police Department is offering the following tips to help keep you safe while driving, especially during the winter months. **Stay safe!**

- ✓ Make sure your gas tank is full and your cell phone is fully charged before heading out.
- ✓ It is always a good practice to inform your family and/or friends on where you are going, the roads you plan on taking, and your expected arrival time.
- ✓ If you become stranded on the road call for help, stay with your car and do not try to walk to safety.
- ✓ Turn on the dome light and flashers to make your vehicle more noticeable.
- ✓ Consider carrying a survival kit in your vehicle that includes a cell phone backup battery and charger, blankets, extra clothing, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, bottles of water and high calorie non-perishable foods.

Pingree Grove 2024 Special Census

Our community's population size has grown considerably since the 2020 Census, and with the 2030 Census six years away, the Village entered an agreement with the US Census Bureau to conduct a Special Census, now. The goal of a 2024 Special Census is to gain an official count of our increase in population and therefore, seek an increase in the Village's allocation of Local Government Distribution Funds (LGDF). LGDF are designated proportions of state income tax revenues that municipalities currently receive on a per capita basis, used to fund roads, utilities and other services for the benefit of the community at large. The **Special Census will be conducted through an online questionnaire**. Information and instructions will be mailed out to all Pingree Grove households in late March, with responses due in April, and results reported in May. During this time-period Special Census representatives will also conduct field canvassing to capture any missing or unreported areas. An accurate population count during the Special Census is imperative to our community. In addition to funding and benefits, the Census data will be used in comprehensive and future planning of Village programs and services. **You Count, so be counted!**

Ask Andy!

By Andy Ferrini,
Village Manager



Q. Is Pingree Grove getting a library?

A. In October of 2023, the Village Board approved an agreement with the Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library District, to facilitate the construction of a new library next to the Village Municipal Center on Reinking Road. The Library will need to issue bonds in order to finance the construction of the new library. The Library District is planning on placing a referendum question on the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot, asking voters to vote on the approval of revenue bonds for financing the construction of a new library in Pingree Grove.

Q. What is non-home rule status?

A. Municipalities with home rule status (population of 25,000+) are allowed to exercise any power and perform any function unless it is specifically prohibited from doing so by state law. Home rule shifts much of the responsibility for local governments from the state legislature to the local community, allowing the ability to solve problems at a local level. In contrast, a non-home rule municipality may only exercise powers for which express authority is provided by state law; meaning non-home rule communities are dependent on obtaining granting authority from the General Assembly and Governor. The Village of Pingree Grove is a non-home rule municipality.

Until the next question.

Best,

Andy

Questions to "Ask Andy!" may be submitted by e-mail to info@pingreegrove.org.



RECENT VILLAGE BOARD ACTIONS

December 4, 2023, the Board approved an Ordinance (2023-O-24) calling for a referendum to levy a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax (which together are commonly referred to as "Municipal Sales Tax"). A referendum to impose a municipal sales tax at a rate of 1%, on eligible goods and services purchased in the Village of Pingree Grove, will be presented to voters on the ballot during the State Primary Election to be held on March 19, 2024.

December 18, 2023, in compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act, the Board held a public hearing and approved the proposed aggregate tax levy which exceeded 5% over the prior year's tax extension. The total amount of property taxes extended in 2022 were \$4,687,676.01 (the actual amount of property taxes that the Village received), and the estimated property taxes to be levied in 2023 are \$5,499,799.84 (the amount of property taxes the Village requests to be paid), representing a 17.32% increase over the previous year.

As the Village remains one of the fastest growing communities in the state, there is a significant amount of new taxable property in the village. Accordingly, the overall amount of taxes levied by the Village will increase in 2023 as compared to the prior year, which helps fund the cost of providing public services to a substantial number of new homes and properties.



Pingree Grove Is Going Live!

Village meetings are always open to the public. Soon, you will have an option of attending public meetings in person or virtually, as **Pingree Grove is going live in 2024!** The Village is in the final prep stage to begin streaming Village Board and committee meetings for viewing from your phone, tablet, or computer! Board meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm. Committee meetings are held on an as needed basis. All live-streamed meetings will be saved on the Village website for viewing at any time.



Utility Account Management

Water/sewer **utility bills are due on the 1st of even numbered months** (or first business day following). Stop by the Municipal Center to pick up a 2024 utility billing cycle schedule to help you manage your bi-monthly utility account in the new year. The billing cycle schedule can also be downloaded from the Village website at <https://www.villageofpingreegrove.org/492/Water-Sewer-Utilities>

Winter Snow Reminders

When snow and ice conditions are present, the Public Works Department gets in to gear with maintenance operations, beginning first with the collector roadways to maintain appropriate response times for emergency vehicles, then followed by residential streets. Public Works would like to remind residents:

- ❖ Parking on Village streets is prohibited when snowfall is, or is expected for 2" or more, and up and until 24 hours after snowfall has ceased.
- ❖ Keep children clear of snowplows and from building snow forts on parkways or near streets.
- ❖ Keep sidewalks and fire hydrants clear of snow and ice.
- ❖ Depositing snow into the street is prohibited.
- ❖ If depositing snow on the parkways place snow as far from curb line as possible, this will limit the amount of snow that snowplows deposit back into driveways as streets are cleared.
- ❖ Do not place garbage carts in the street.
- ❖ The Village is not responsible for the repair or replacement of unmaintained mailboxes (hang over the curb or have a weak support post) that may be damaged during curb-to-curb snow removal.



State & Local Taxes (Contd. from page 1)

The implementation of a 1% local sales tax is not a resident-targeted tax. A local sales tax would apply to all consumers purchasing eligible goods and services within the Village, including visitors and travelers from outside of our community. Local sales tax does not apply to the purchase of groceries, prescription and non-prescription drugs, medical appliances, or items that must be titled or registered with a state government agency. If the referendum is successful, the Village anticipates receiving \$325,000.00 in additional revenue annually. This additional revenue would be used towards expenditures for municipal operations and staff, including the necessary expansion of police, public works staff and equipment, and other growth-related services, and to help reduce the Village's reliance on property taxes. With a need to generate additional revenue to support the increase in expenditures of our growing community, the Village is putting forth a public question – a referendum – on the March 19, 2024, State Primary Election ballot, which will enable residents to determine whether to establish a local sales tax of 1% in Pingree Grove.

Municipal Center

555 Reinking Rd, Pingree Grove, IL 60140
 (847) 464-5533
 Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
info@pingreegrove.org | www.pingreegrove.org

Village Manager

Andy Ferrini | aferrini@pingreegrove.org

Board of Trustees Meetings

Monthly 1st & 3rd Monday – 7:00 pm

Village President

Amber Kubiak | akubiak@pingreegrove.org

Trustees

Brook Carey | bcarey@pingreegrove.org
 Adam Hagg | ahagg@pingreegrove.org
 Luke Hall | lhall@pingreegrove.org
 Joe Hirschbein | jhirschbein@pingreegrove.org
 Chris Romano | cromano@pingreegrove.org
 Ed Tarnow | etarnow@pingreegrove.org

Village Clerk & Customer Service Supervisor

Laura Ortega | lortega@pingreegrove.org

Finance Department

Albert Walczak | awalczak@pingreegrove.org

Public Works Department

Pat Doherty | pdoherty@pingreegrove.org

Police Department

One Police Plaza
 Pingree Grove, IL 60140
 (847) 464-4600 | info@pingreepolice.org
Non-Emergency Dispatch
 (630) 232-8400

Chief of Police

Chris Harris | charris@pingreepolice.org

Don't Throw it Out – Recycle!

Are you looking to dispose of your natural Christmas tree now that the holidays are behind us? Don't throw it out – consider recycling it instead! **Caillou's Calling Animal Rescue** is accepting natural pine trees that are free of any decorations and tinsel, for use in providing shelter to wild animals during the winter months, and nibbling for the goats! Trees are **accepted by drop off only** at **Caillou's Calling Animal Rescue**, 11N489 Peplow Road, in Hampshire. For questions call (847) 361-5025.



Flood Brothers will collect holiday greenery (trees, wreaths, swags, etc.) free of charge with normal trash and recycling collection during the first two-three weeks in January. Following that time, Christmas trees will be billed as bulk items.

Save the Date
Saturday, May 4



The Pingree Grove **Community Events Committee** will host the 2024 Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, May 4 from noon – 3:00 pm. Information on how to participate will be coming soon!



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Spring Forward
Sunday, March 10, 2024
 Change Your Clocks Ahead One Hour

Village Calendar

DATE	EVENT
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 of Trustees Meeting Municipal Center 7:00 pm
2/1/24	Utility Bill Payment Due Service Nov 1 – Dec 31
2/5/24	Board of Trustees Meeting Municipal Center 7:00 pm
2/19/24	President's Day Observed Municipal Center Closed
2/20/24	Board of Trustees Meeting Municipal Center 7:00 pm
3/4/24	Board of Trustees Meeting Municipal Center 7:00 pm
3/18/24	Board of Trustees Meeting Municipal Center 7:00 pm
3/19/24	General Primary Elections Voter Precinct Location