



# The Villager

The Newsletter for the Village of Pinckney

*From the desk of*

Rebecca Foster, Village President

As we move into fall, I am sure every Village resident is looking forward to the end of the construction season - I know I am! Between the closure of the Dexter-Pinckney bridge at Portage Lake, and all the closures for railroad crossing work, it's been hard to get out of town. Luckily, there have been plenty of things to do here in the Village - Art in the Park, Movies in the Park, our 175th Celebration, and Hootin' in the Park, among other events.

Our own construction projects are wrapping up as well. The Dexter-Pinckney water main project closed a loop in our water system, and came in on-time and under-budget! And the major summer project, Mill Street, is wrapping up as I write this, with only a few items left to complete. As I see residents around town, the most frequent comment I get about the Mill Street project is "Can all our streets look like this?" The street is indeed very attractive, and many of those features serve some important purposes as well. In these times of increasing environmental awareness and regulation,

the improvements on Mill Street accomplish several goals. The brick pavers are porous, allowing rain run-off to filter slowly through. Below ground, the storm pipes themselves are perforated, which also allows infiltration into the ground. Both these features reduce both the water flow and any sediments at the outfalls that drain into the Honey Creek wetland and stream system, and then into the Huron River watershed. Along North Mill Street near the former Village Education Center, a long biofiltration strip is planted with native wildflowers and grasses, which will help filter water runoff as well.



The Mill Street project was partially funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act funds, which added to the complexity of

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## Reminders from DPW

**TREES:** All Village residents need to trim their trees to eight and one-half feet above the street or sidewalks and branches shall be pruned so that they shall not encroach on the sidewalk or street. For any tree, bush or shrub on private property that has not been trimmed or pruned as directed, the village shall have them trimmed or removed at the expense of the property owner. Any bills not paid in a timely manner will be placed as a general assessment on the tax roll.

**BRUSH:** Please place brush and branches at the curb, cut ends facing the street. Trees and branches can be no larger than 10" in diameter and no longer than 8 feet. No stumps, landscape timbers or yard waste should be mixed into the brush piles. If brush is not stacked properly or items are mixed in your brush will not be picked up.

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## The Villager

September 2010

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### Special points of interest:

- ♦ Village of Pinckney Office Hours Monday-Thursday 8AM-4PM
- ♦ Check the Village website frequently for updates on activities, recycling schedules, tax information and more.
- ♦ Council meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of most months at 7pm in the Village Hall Council Chambers.
- ♦ The Police Department is open Monday-Friday 8AM-4PM. An officer is available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 911 for both emergencies and non-emergencies. You may also leave a message on the office service at 878-3700.

[www.villageofpinckney.org](http://www.villageofpinckney.org)

## Are you a prepared voter?

The November 2, 2010 election is a big one for the State of Michigan and the Village of Pinckney.

In the Village, the ballot will consist of candidates for President and Trustee. Candidates that met the August 10th filing deadline are:

### Candidates for President (Select 1)

Rebecca Foster (I)

### Candidates for Trustee (Select 3)

Linda Lavey (I)

Heather R. Menosky

Kurt W. Mohrmann (I)

Bobby J. Stone (I)

*Write-in candidates who seek election must file a Declaration of Intent with the Township Clerk no later than 4pm on Friday, October 22, 2010.*

*(I) indicates incumbent*

### Meet the Trustee Candidates -

Linda Lavey has been a Trustee since October 2005. She currently sits on the Sewer and Water Committee and serves as Pro Tem for the Council. Linda also chaired the Pinckney Celebrates 175 committee.

Heather Menosky has been a resident of the Village of Pinckney for more than 10 years. She is very excited to become more involved in the community by serving on Village Council. Heather has a Bachelor's

degree from CMU in Commercial Recreation with concentrations in Business Administration and Hospitality Services. She formerly worked for Walt Disney Corporation and Central Michigan University in the University Events department.

Heather, her husband Paul, and their three daughters are very active members of St. Mary Parish where you will often find them working in the kitchen, behind the scenes of athletic events, or organizing community events through the Parish.

Kurt Mohrmann joined the Council as a Trustee in March 2005. Kurt has served on the Budget Committee as Chair for several years.

Kurt loves living in the Village. He enjoys the small town feel and friendliness.

As a member of the Council, Kurt wants to maintain the high-quality of life we experience in Pinckney.

Kurt is married with 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He has a son at Pinckney High School and a daughter at Livingston Christian school.

Bobby Stone has served the Village of Pinckney for 6 years as a Trustee. Prior to becoming a Trustee, he served on the Planning Commission for more than 9 years.

Bob's goal for the village is that he would like to get more people involved in local government and community affairs

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## Zoning and Planning

### SHOP LOCAL

Please patronize your local Village merchants whenever possible.

- La Vita Bistro is schedule to open early November 2010. La Vita Bistro will be located at 102 S. Howell Street.

### Planning Commissioners Needed

The Village of Pinckney Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Village Hall. The Planning Commission is responsible for reviewing and updating the master plan and zoning ordinance, for conducting site plan reviews of new construction, and for hearing requests for rezoning and special uses.

To apply for a position on Planning Commission please visit the Village website or stop in to Village Hall.

## Weatherization Works

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a free service funded by the Federal Department of Energy (DOE). The service provides free energy conservation services for eligible low-income households. Weatherization can help reduce energy use and lower your energy bills. Services include wall, ceiling and attic insulation and ventilation, combustion appliance testing, furnace repair or replacement, air leakage reduction and many other energy-saving measures. Don't miss this opportunity to save money and lower your utility bills. Call OLHSA at 517-546-8500 for free assistance.



**FREE GREEN KITS STILL AVAILABLE!**

Pick up your kit at Village Hall, Monday—Thursday 8A– 4P.

## Pinckney Celebrates 175 Years



The best and truest examples of community, creativity, cooperation, and a sense of place, tempered with a little fun, were on display for Pinckney's 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, observed June 25-27. From the opening birthday cake contest through the fun run, tours, parade, and entertainments, the event was as unique as our village itself.

The weekend got off to a sweet start on Friday afternoon with the birthday cake contest, and the judges were hard-pressed to select the winners in each category as each cake was as delicious as it was beautiful, from the mouth-watering carrot cake and the robust chocolate sheet cake to the towering, three-tiered celebration cake wrapped in a flawless fondant

sporting hand-painted birds and fish, and topped with a miniature gazebo. Samples were had by all assembled, and in some cases many samples.

Pinckney Lions then offered food and music, leading up to that evening's special edition of Movies in the Park sponsored by Community Congregational Church, featuring "Shrek," played for a crowd of 200+ on a warm and starry evening.

Saturday offered a variety of events and amusements including something for everyone, with highlights including a pancake breakfast by St. Mary's Men's Club and Putnam Township (which collected more than \$1,000.00 in donations for Faith Medical Clinic); a 5K Fun Run-Walk organized by People's Church; entertainment from performers including Ed Sugar, Mystic Lotus Dancers, and Four Old Men and a Babe; the first installment of Pinckney's Got Talent featuring young singers, musicians, dancers, and gymnasts; waterball contests by the Putnam Township Firefighters; historical tours of the village center and the cemetery; and of course the pa-

rade. The Lions Club again supplied food and music into the evening.

Sunday's events stretched out around town, with breakfast at the American Legion Post, the Polish Feast at St. Mary's, and roast beef dinner at the Masonic Temple. On the Square, performers and fans gathered for the high school edition of Pinckney's Got Talent, and enjoyed an eclectic blend of music and dance. The impending thunderstorm held off until the winners were determined. By the time the Karaoke for Cancer started later in the afternoon, the sun was shining again.

Thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers, friends, family, participants, residents, and guests who came out to mark this anniversary of our home town. The weekend event was casual, relaxed, a little bit of everything but not too much of anything, just like Pinckney.



Photos courtesy of Photography by Sarah and Aurielle Martins



### Historical Fun Facts

In 1833 Sanford Marble, his wife, daughter and his younger brother came to Michigan from Connecticut and settled on the site of the township square. Before the arrival of the Kirkland family, there were about 70 people living in this area including James Pullen, Amariah Winchell, Claudius Britton and Colonel Solomon Peterson and Leonard Noble.

In 1835 after scouting property in South-eastern Michigan the Kirkland's agent purchased land in this area from Mr. Winchell; the Kirklands especially liked his choice so more land was purchased from Mr. Marble, Mr. Britton and Col. Peterson fulfilling the Kirkland's dream of building a town.

In 1837 when Kirklands plotted the village they set aside a whole block almost dead center of his plat for a public square. They deeded it to the Township, because at the time Pinckney did not have a government set up. During the following years the square was used for many things. People harvested the wild hay that grew there. Baseball was played on the square. Sheep & Horses grazed the land.

This situation would continue until one day in March 1883 when the citizens of the village were surprised to see loads of stone and lumber placed in what had always been known as the Public Square. The paper proclaimed **"Pearson claim jumps to the public square"** He had purchased this land from two land speculators who had contacted the Kirkland heirs wishing to purchase their holdings in Putnam

Township. Included in the land contract was the description of the public square, which no one noticed.

The citizens of Pinckney may have been surprised but they acted quickly. They contacted the Kirkland heirs and filed suit against Pearson. Many professional men lead by Dr. Haze put up their own money to fight Mr. Pearson in court.

In the end the Village won the lawsuit and the Public Square was deeded and recorded to the Township.

But Mr. Pearson got the last word. Above the door of the completed building he put these words.

"Pearson addition to the village of Pinckney, May 3, 1883 and don't you forget it"



#### Dr. Charles Haze

No person probably exerted greater control over Pinckney and its affairs then Dr. Charles Haze. He came to Pinckney in 1845 about the time the Kirklands were returning to New York State and took over much of their holdings. At one time he owned over a thousand acres of land. This was in the village, both sides of M-36 West, across the mill pond and north on the Howell Road.

Dr. Haze farmed extensively and employed more men than anyone else here. He raised sheep and horses. At one time he operated a store, but he devoted all his time to farming and practicing medicine. Dr. Haze was prominent in public life. He founded the Livingston County Masonic Lodge #76 and served 12 years as master. He was also president of the village several



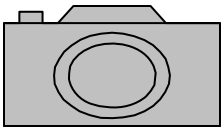
times. He served in the Michigan Legislature in 1871-72. He was a prominent booster of the Grand Trunk Railroad which arrived in 1883. An article written about Dr. Haze described him as a large tall man with a heavy black beard. Dr. Haze died of Tuberculosis in 1891 and is buried in Pinckney Cemetery.

#### Mill Street and Water Street

The first mill was opened here in Sept 20, 1836 by orders of Mr. Kirkland. The building was a four story mill having a basement and three stages of machinery above. It had a 12 foot overshot wheel with buckets to carry the water. Its four big mill stones and the machinery were hauled from Detroit by horses. The first grist was ground April 16, 1837. Although the mill would change ownership and millers many times, the Pinckney Purity Flour had a wide reputation and was on sale in all the nearby villages. In 1921 Henry Ford purchased the mill, along with water rights along the creek and Mill P, with the intentions of building a factory. The mill was torn down and the factory never came to be.

***Photos courtesy of the Friends of the Pinckney Library***





## Photos Needed

As part of the Village Hall renovation, we are trying to compile photographs of former Village Mayors and Presidents. If you or your family have lengthy ties to Pinckney, we can use help. We are missing photos of several individuals. We have included the years that they served for reference. All photos will be returned, we just need to scan them. Please check the list carefully. Thanks for your help in preserving our history!

*Thompson Grimes 1889-1892; 1895-96*

*Warren A Carr 1893*

*Ira J. Cook 1894*

*Claude L. Sigler 1897-1898; 1901-1903; 1913, 1917-1922*

*Alexander McIntyre 1899-1900*

*Emil R. Brown 1904 and 1906*

*William H. Placeway 1905*

*Jerry Dunn 1907*

*E. W. Kennedy 1908*

*George F. Green 1909*

*F.G. Jackson 1910*

*M.J. Reason 1912, 1914-1916 and 1923-1924*

*Percy Swarouth 1932-1934*

*Fred Slayton 1925*

*William Surgenor 1971*

*Richard Darrow June 1982-March 1983*

*Thomas Read 1986-1988 and 1990-1993*

*Bonnie Clark 1988-1990*

*Patrick Dewey 2003-2004*

## A message from Chief Amburgey

Thanks to all the residents of the Village of Pinckney for your continued support of the Fire Department.

The department purchases major equipment through a .4695 millage due to expire after the last collection in December 2010. The Putnam Township Board is considering a new millage of .4695 intended to replace the original .4695 equipment millage with expanded language to allow Fire Hall construction in addition to purchasing fire equipment.

The current Fire Hall was built in 1973 when the combined population of the Township and Village was 3354. The current population is approximately 8212—an almost 245% increase. During this time fire runs have increased approximately 600%. Along with equipment getting larger, storage needs are becoming greater. The constraints and location of the current fire hall endanger the safety of the fire fighters as well as pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

The good news is that the township can fund the construction of a modest yet functional Fire Hall on the current Township Hall property that will meet public and firefighter safety and equipment storage needs without increasing taxes.

Please take a moment to visit the township website,

[www.putnamtwp.us](http://www.putnamtwp.us) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Putnam Township Board of Trustees or myself. I can be reached at the Fire Hall at 734-878-6788.



The Pinckney

Police department has joined a community information service called Nixle. Log onto [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to follow the Village of Pinckney and get more details on the service.



**DTE Energy**

Street Light Outage Reporting

DTW Energy Community Lighting is making it easier for customers to report street light outages online. Simply enter the link below in your browser and report the outage for quick repair.

<https://www.dteenergy.com/cso/pltr/initTrouble.do?customerType=residential>

## Cemetery Update

- ◆ The Fall Cemetery Clean-up Day is scheduled for **Saturday, October 23rd—9A- Noon.** Meet near the Mill Pond in the rear of the cemetery. Bring gloves, rakes, blowers, wheel barrows or any other garden tools.
- ◆ The Columbarium is on-site and niches can be purchased through the Village Clerk. Each niche will house two sets of cremains (without urns).
- ◆ The Cemetery Board is planning a “research day.” As the cemetery records are old and sometimes inaccurate, there is some “investigation” we want conduct to ensure that the records are as accurate as possible. If you are interested in helping us sleuth around, contact Amy @ Village Hall for details on dates and times.

Keep updated on what is going on in the Village of Pinckney by joining us on facebook at the Village of Pinckney fan page.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.VILLAGEOFPINCKNEY.ORG](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFPINCKNEY.ORG)

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### *Continued from page 1 : Reminders from DPW*

**SIDEWALKS:** Please keep sidewalks clear of debris and snow. In several neighborhoods the grass needs to be edged as it is encroaching on the sidewalk by several inches reducing safe travel space for pedestrians.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Utility Billing Update**

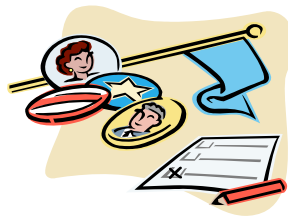
*Are you interested in getting your quarterly utility bills emailed to you rather than receiving the postcard by regular mail?*

A new feature has been added to our billing software that allows bills to be emailed quarterly. If you are interested in this service, email [clerk@villageofpinckney.org](mailto:clerk@villageofpinckney.org) with the email address you want used along with your property address.

### *Continued from page 1: From the desk of Rebecca Foster*

the project, but also made it possible to include the environmental features (many of which will help us with the federally-mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Yeah, that is what it's really called.).

The project has already attracted attention, and the Village hosted a meeting of the Livingston County Watershed Group and toured the project. We have also been invited to make a presentation on the project at a green infrastructure workshop in January 2011. I expect more tours and presentations as these types of low-impact development projects become the standard. ###



### *Meet the Candidates—Continued from page 2*

Bob is an active member of the Lions Club, American Legion Post 429 and enjoys volunteering for both the Putnam Senior Center and the VIABIL.

If you are not yet registered to vote in Village elections, visit any Secretary of State office or the Putnam Township Clerk's office. ###

**Consumers Energy**  
Count on Us

Did you know you can get \$30 if you recycle your old fridge or freezer through Consumer's Energy? Schedule a pick-up at [www.consumersenergy.com](http://www.consumersenergy.com)