

# Village President's Report

Prepared by: Jeff Buerman

Date: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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## Development & Construction Projects

- **Essence Micro Cannabis Store**  
Coordinating with developers and staff to schedule a pre-construction meeting. Initial site work has been completed. Awaiting scheduling of the next construction meeting.
- **Lakeland Knoll**  
Working to schedule a construction meeting to move the project forward. Developer is targeting a construction start date of June 1, 2026.
- **Mugg & Bopp's (New Gas Station)**  
Final site plan review completed. Awaiting final approval from the County and scheduling of the construction start meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin in late April.
- **Ashton Street Land Split**  
Approved by both the Planning Commission and Village Council on October 27, 2025. Project complete.
- **425 Dexter**  
Assisting property owners with building permit approvals. Working with the County to resolve delays related to a roof replacement. Project remains in progress.
- **609 E. Main Street (Pole Barn / Building Project)**  
Project transitioned to a metal building due to contractor availability. Foundation work completed November 25, 2025. Project complete.
- **Old Fire Station Redevelopment**  
Approved for Special Land Use as a marijuana retailer. License approved February 19, 2026. Awaiting site plan submission and Planning Commission review. Coordination ongoing with Village Planner and Engineer. Applicant has six months from March 13, 2026, to demonstrate progress.
- **Essence Vacant Property**  
Special Land Use Permit approved November 3, 2025, and subsequently by Village Council. License approved February 19, 2026. Awaiting site plan review and coordination with Village Planner and Engineer.
- **Surf Internet (Fiber Installation Project)**  
Permits secured November 1, 2025, and Metro Act permit issued December 1, 2025. Project expected to begin in early April, pending a construction meeting. Estimated completion timeline is 6–8 months.

- **911 / 800 MHz Tower Project**  
Coordination meeting held November 3, 2025. Project will improve emergency communication coverage in southwest Livingston County. No new updates at this time.
  - **Pinckney Chrysler**  
Pre-planning meeting completed with Village Planner and Engineer. Awaiting site plan submission and Planning Commission review.
  - **Cooke Coaching LLC (140 Main Street)**  
Pre-planning meeting completed with no required changes. Construction is expected to begin in late April.
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## Grants, Projects & Partnerships

- **Pinckney Community Youth Development Initiative Grant (\$40,000)**  
Grant finalized, and contract executed. Reimbursement process underway. Approximately \$3,000 has been spent to date.
  - **Social District Initiative (Bless & Fish, DDA, Chamber)**  
Ongoing collaboration with partners and Village Attorney. Initial discussions held with Hell Survivors. No new updates at this time.
  - **Pinckney Business Group**  
Monthly meetings continue to support local businesses.
    - April 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM – Putnam Township Senior Center
    - May 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM – Putnam Township Senior Center
  - **Depot Project**  
Working with Anayna Moricz and Jo Self on fundraising and compliance requirements. Exploring potential use of ARPA funds.
  - **Recast City – [www.recastcity.com](http://www.recastcity.com)**
    - **Funding provided by Robert C Wilson Foundation & Michigan Municipal League**
    - They dive deep with our village on a 4 month project that includes one-on-one work with our village 4 volunteers to fix policies, Launch new programs, to make our downtown and local economy amazing again!
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## Village Policies & Ordinances

- **Special Events & Street Closures Policy**  
New policy adopted to ensure cost recovery for DPW services.
- **Village Code Updates**  
Five ordinance updates in progress. Three citations issued to date.
- **No Parking on Grass Ordinance**  
Adopted by Planning Commission and approved January 5, 2026.

- **Cannabis Committee**  
Updated scoring rubric and licensing process adopted.  
Ordinance No. 152 revised to clarify procedures.  
Committee restructuring approved November 24, 2025.  
Ongoing updates to align with state regulations.
  - **CDBG Grant**  
Working with MSHDA and Revitalization LLC.  
Grant application submitted and under review.  
Public hearing scheduled for March 23, 2026.  
Third-party administrator bids open April 13, 2026.  
Submission deadline: April 17, 2026.
  - **Parking Ordinances**  
Updates approved by Planning Commission (January 5, 2026) and Village Council (January 12, 2026).  
Sign ordinance review scheduled for upcoming Planning Commission meeting.
  - **Residential Rental Ordinance**
    - April 6 planning commission meeting will review and vote to send an updated version of this ordinance to Village Council
    - Public hearing also on April 6, 2026
    - Planning Commission sent a resolution for Council to approve.
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## Infrastructure

- **Water & Sewer**  
Analysis underway with staff. Rate adjustments delayed pending audit completion.  
Proposed 10% increase implemented January 2026.  
System currently operating at a deficit.
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## Staffing & Administration

- **Office Manager**  
Lori Echols hired and began November 24, 2025. Performing well and contributing to process improvements.
- **Treasurer Transition**  
Tabitha Dolan appointed October 27, 2025. Transition from Maris Metz completed successfully.
- **Audit**  
Audit completed December 1, 2025. Minor adjustments identified and being addressed.  
Appreciation extended to Kim Hanes and Tabitha Dolan.
- **Purchase Policy**  
Updated and approved September 22, 2025.

- **Records Digitization**  
Ongoing effort to digitize Village records dating back to the 1970s.  
This project significantly improves long-term record security and accessibility.  
Special thanks to Tracy and staff for their continued efforts.
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## **Parks & Recreation**

- **Parks Committee**  
Continuing collaboration to enhance Village Park system.
  - **Lody Bond Park**  
Improvements completed. Painting scheduled for May 2026. Volunteers welcome.
  - **Parlay Park**  
Improvements currently underway. Project expected to be completed by the end of April.
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## **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**

- **New Food Pantry at Village Hall! Check it out!**
  - **Events Coordinator**  
Jo Self-appointed. Supporting event coordination and community initiatives.
  - **Community Initiatives & Events**
    - Wreaths Across America – Successful fundraising effort
    - Community Garden – Location retained after review.
    - Depot Fundraiser – Raised over \$2,000.
    - Light Up the Park – Strong community participation
    - Women’s Summit – 27 attendees, highly successful
  - **Upcoming Events**
    - April 10 – DDA Meeting
    - April 11 – Spring Cleanup Day
    - May 2 – Fire Department Open House & EMS Grand Opening
    - May 30–31 – Art in the Park
    - June, July, August – Food Truck Fridays
    - October 3–4 – Pinckney Harvest Days
    - April – Women’s Summit – more info coming.
    - Thursday this summer – Hooten in the Park – more info to come.
    - Thursday this summer – Farmers Market – more info to come.
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## Meetings & Representation

- Regular attendance at:
    - Planning Commission
    - DDA
    - Chamber of Commerce
    - Putnam Township Meetings
    - Huron Valley Federal Aid Committee
    - Livingston Watershed Advisory Group
    - SEMCOG Outreach
    - Livingston County MTA
    - EBHA Tourism Committee
  - Ongoing engagement with residents, businesses, and regional partners.
  - **SEMCOG**
    - Working with their Manager of Transportation to get help with the Livingston County Road Commission to get some improvements to Pearl ST.
    - Working with their Government Affairs Manager on help for grants, DDA and budgets.
    - Working with their Government Affairs Specialist getting help with funding from the state of Michigan.
    - Putting together a committee – how to get Gap money for Grants for small communities like Pinckney.
    - SEMCOG – will put together a Video of Pinckney / that will promote Pinckney for our website, Facebook and any events we are hosting. At no Charge to us.
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## Closing Note

The Village of Pinckney continues to make meaningful progress across infrastructure planning, ordinance modernization, community partnerships, and economic development.

These efforts reflect our shared commitment to preserving Pinckney's character while building a more sustainable and vibrant future.

I appreciate the continued dedication of our staff, Council, and community partners as we work collaboratively to address challenges and move our Village forward.

I look forward to continuing this work together as we strengthen Pinckney's **Respectfully submitted,**

Jeffrey Buerman  
Village President