

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

October 2026 | October 1, 2026

PROGRESS YOU CAN SEE. A FUTURE WE CAN BUILD TOGETHER.

A new season. Continued progress. A shared commitment to Pinckney.

As we begin October, there is plenty to feel good about in our Village. New construction, improvements to existing buildings, and investment in local businesses are helping shape our future. Fall also brings opportunities to gather, support our downtown, and enjoy the community we call home.

My focus remains on responsible growth, dependable services, and making the most of the resources we have. The progress around us reflects the work of business owners, residents, volunteers, Village staff, and our boards working toward a stronger Pinckney.

Investment You Can See

Mugg & Bopps continues to be an important development at 75 S. Dexter Road. The project represents a substantial investment at an entrance to our Village. Its proposed monument signs are moving through the special land use review process, with a Planning Commission public hearing scheduled for October 5. That review gives the community an opportunity to be heard as the Commission considers the requests.

High Profile, at the former Putnam Township Fire Hall, is another example of a familiar building finding a new purpose. Recent design discussions have included proposed interior display panels and landscaping adjustments. Along with the other cannabis business development, this investment is helping bring underused properties back into productive use.

Exalt Fitness and the improvements to its Main Street building are bringing fresh energy to downtown. **Pinckney Fitness**, in the former Snap Fitness location, adds another local option for residents. These investments show confidence in our community and give people more reasons to spend time here.

Ironshore Tattoos, in the Marco's Pizza building, is part of that expanding mix of local businesses. Rehabilitation of older buildings, including the brick building on Main Street across from the former PNC building, also highlights the value of reinvesting in the places that are already part of Pinckney's character.

Every improved building and active storefront helps strengthen the Village we share.

Support the Businesses That Support Our Village

Our local business community gives Pinckney its character. **Heritage Pharmacy** provides an important service close to home. **Bliss & Fish, Taqueria Los Dos Potrillos, and Hazy Shores Coffee Co.** add to our downtown dining and gathering options. Longtime favorites such as **Pinckney Diner** and **The Dio - Dining & Entertainment** continue to give residents and visitors reasons to return.

Pinckney Chrysler has planned parking lot and showroom improvements, another example of a longtime business investing in its future here. Our retailers, service providers, manufacturers, tradespeople, and family-owned businesses all contribute to the strength of the Village. Please make an effort to shop locally and support them this fall.

Planning for Homes and Long-Term Growth

The proposal for the Village property at **1600 Patterson Lake Road** includes three homes and a commitment to begin construction within six months of an agreement. The Village received one bid through its public bid process. The proposal has been brought forward for Council consideration; a completed sale should not be assumed.

The opportunity extends beyond a purchase price. New homes can bring neighbors and recurring property tax revenue to support Village services over time. Council must weigh those benefits alongside the terms of the agreement and the property's development limitations.

Helping Residents Care for Their Homes

The Village's approved housing repair funding through the **Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Community Development Block Grant program** remains an important opportunity for qualifying homeowners. As outlined in September, the program could provide grants of up to \$24,999 for eligible repairs, subject to program requirements.

Repairs may include roofs, furnaces, electrical or plumbing work, accessibility improvements, and other eligible needs. Remaining administrative steps and program arrangements must be completed before applications can move forward. The Village will share eligibility requirements and application information when those details are finalized.

Connections That Make Pinckney Stronger

The **\$5,000 Gateway to Play tourism award** supports efforts to better connect downtown, parks, trails, businesses, and recreational destinations. Our **Downtown Development Authority** also continues its work on beautification and community improvements, including bike racks, tree grates, streetlights, the community garden, the Depot project, and planning initiatives. Together, these efforts help make Pinckney more welcoming and easier to enjoy.

Infrastructure With Attention to Residents

Surf Internet's fiber installation is an investment in modern connectivity for residents and businesses. At the same time, residents have reported concerns about yard restoration, ruts, sidewalk areas, and sprinkler damage following installation work. Those concerns deserve follow-through. Bringing better internet to the Village must include attention to the properties and public areas affected by the work.

Responsible Stewardship of Village Services

We continue working through the Village's financial challenges and the cost of providing services. Police staffing and funding remain part of that work. Council placed a **2.5-mill police proposal** on the November ballot for voters to decide. Whatever the outcome, we need a practical plan that matches service commitments with available resources.

I remain committed to working with Council and staff to control costs, review our options, and explain decisions clearly. A stronger Village depends on both new investment and responsible management of the money entrusted to us.

Fall Brings Us Together

As we move into the fall season, **Spooktacular** gives families another reason to enjoy our community. Looking ahead, **Light Up the Park is planned for November 28**, and **Wreaths Across America** offers an opportunity to remember and honor those who served. Please watch Village and event-organizer announcements for schedules and details.

Thank you to the DDA, event organizers, volunteers, local businesses, and community partners who make these gatherings possible. The summer markets, music, food trucks, and other events brought people together. That same community spirit carries into the fall and holiday season.

Moving Forward Together

I also want to thank our Planning Commission, Village Council, employees, and everyone who gives time to serving Pinckney. A special thank-you to **Alex Smith** for nearly three years of service on the Planning Commission. We appreciate his contribution and wish him well as he takes on new commitments.

I have lived here for more than 30 years, and I know how much this community has to offer. We have work ahead of us, but we also have people willing to invest, volunteer, and help their neighbors. That is a strong foundation to build on.

I am proud of the progress we are making and grateful to everyone helping move it forward. Let's keep supporting one another, caring for our Village, and building a future we can be proud to leave to the next generation.

Jeff Buerman

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