

A Season of Progress and Positivity in the Village of Pinckney, August 2025

By Jeff Buerman, Village President

Whoa—we're already into August! What a summer it's been so far. From successful events to new development and rising interest in our community, it's an exciting time to be in The Village of Pinckney.

Community Events Bringing Us Together

We've already hosted Art in the Park and two Food Truck Fridays—and both were big successes. With one more **Food Truck Friday on August 15th**. Attendance continues to grow, bringing more people downtown and shining a spotlight on our Village. I've been getting more calls from people interested in visiting, moving here, and even starting businesses. This is exactly the kind of energy we need.

Our summer concert series, **Hootin' in the Park**, is off to a strong start, with live music every Thursday from 6 to 8 PM in Township Square. Don't miss the remaining concerts this month—bring a lawn chair, relax, and enjoy the evening!

Don't forget the Farmers Market, happening every Sunday from Noon to 5 PM in the Township Square. Stop by, meet your neighbors, and support local vendors.

Just around the corner is our annual **Spooktacular** event, happening on Saturday, October 25th from 6 PM to 8 PM. Right before Spooktacular, they will have **Pumpkins in the Park** on Tuesday October 21st, from 5pm to 8pm. Watch for details as they're announced—and a special thanks to the M-36 Rotary for organizing this fantastic community tradition!

I'm currently working with the Village Council and community stakeholders to create a Social District for use during special events in the Township Park and closed streets. Stay tuned for updates as we develop this ordinance.

Development & Business News

We're seeing strong forward momentum on several business projects:

- Mugg & Bopps is progressing with their plans and will be seeking a setback variance at the August 25th Village Council meeting.

- Essence, the new micro-marijuana retailer planned for 1268 E. Michigan (just west of Taco Bell), is still waiting on a few approvals from the county but expects to start soon.
- Heritage Pharmacy is in its final preparation stage and should be opening soon at 130 Marion Street.
- 1066 E. Main, the former fire hall, has received Planning Commission approval for redevelopment.
- We're also excited to announce a brand-new business coming to 125 N. Pearl Street: Tropi Golf. They'll be installing two indoor golf simulators and aim to open next month. A fun new addition for residents and visitors alike!

Unfortunately, the old Pinckney Elementary School—"The Means Project"—has seen no new movement. The building remains for sale. We continue to stay optimistic that the right opportunity will come along.

Fiscal Planning & Leadership

We completed the Village's FY 2025–2026 Budget. While we're in a stable position now, we've been using our general fund to fill budget gaps—something that's not sustainable long-term. I've challenged all departments and the Village Council to work together and adopt a balanced budget by July 2026. It's a tough goal, but with the right planning and teamwork, I believe we can get there.

Staying Connected

We're excited to announce our next **Town Hall meeting on Friday, September 5th at 6:00 PM** in the Township Square. We've extended invitations to the **Putnam Township Board** and our **County Commissioner, Frank Sample**, and while we haven't yet received confirmation, the invitation remains open—we truly hope they'll join us.

A **joint Town Hall** is a meaningful opportunity to show unity and collaboration. When local leaders come together—village, township, and county—it sends a powerful message: that we're all working toward the same goal—making our community the best it can be.

We believe this meeting will be a valuable time for residents to hear updates, ask questions, and engage directly with their elected officials. And if you feel it's important to hear from your township and county representatives as well, we encourage you to reach out to them and let them know you'd like to see them there.

We look forward to seeing you—your voice matters. Let's continue building a strong, informed, and connected community—together.

Council Member Jo Self recently hosted her first Village Exchange Coffee Chat, and it was a hit! These chats are casual and friendly spaces for residents to connect with Council and DDA members. They happen monthly at different locations and times. Follow Village Exchange Coffee Chat on Facebook for updates—we'd love to see you there!

Our Downtown Development Authority (DDA) continues to grow, energized by new members including local business owners and residents. The DDA meets on the second Friday of each month at 9:30 AM, and public participation is always welcome.

Housekeeping & Reminders

- **Please remember to keep your lawns mowed and sidewalks clear of bushes and low-hanging tree limbs—let's all do our part to keep our Village clean and safe.**

- During heat waves or power outages, Village Hall will remain open as a cooling center for any resident in need.

- We're working on launching our new Village website—**progress is slower than I'd hoped**, but we're getting close. The updated site will make accessing forms, council updates, and community news much easier.

In Closing

To the Village Council, Planning Commission, DDA, DPW, Police Department, and our office staff—thank you. Your hard work is the backbone of our progress.

To our residents and local business owners—your support, feedback, and engagement are what make Pinckney a vibrant place to live and work. Together, we are building a future full of promise.

As always, I remain committed to serving you and leading with vision, transparency, and heart.

Jeff Buerman
Village President