

City Adopts Human Rights Ordinance

This spring, Valparaiso's City Council adopted a Human Rights Ordinance, drafted with public input, which outlines a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, veteran status or familial status. "This ordinance strengthens and extends civil rights protections at the local level, making it clear that the city of Valparaiso has a no tolerance policy when it comes to discrimination," said Heath Carter, Chairman of the city's Human Relations Council.

The ordinance establishes procedures for filing complaints, designed to promote reconciliation and understanding of difference. "I couldn't be more proud of our city and its strong commitment to being a place where anyone and everyone can feel right at home," said Carter. To read the entire ordinance and procedures for bringing any problems to light, visit the city's website at Valpo.us and search "Human Rights Ordinance."

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-- Heath Carter, Chairman of Valparaiso's Human Relations Council



Officials representing the City of Valparaiso, the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission, the Valparaiso Economic Development Corporation, Weiss Entities, LLC, and Garmong Construction Services were on hand to celebrate the groundbreaking of an 80,000-square foot industrial shell at The Lakes of Valparaiso. When complete, in 2017, the \$6 million project will provide ready space for new and expanding businesses as well as added jobs.

Garmong Breaks Ground

80,000-sq. ft. industrial building to welcome businesses, jobs

Garmong Construction Services has begun work on an 80,000-square foot industrial shell building at The Lakes of Valparaiso, just east of Ind. 49 between Vale Park Road and Evans Avenue. "This is an exciting project for Valpo for two reasons: First, it was positive to be chosen for the \$6 million project. Secondly, the availability of ready building space makes Valparaiso even more attractive for future business and job growth," said Mayor Jon Costas.

This job-creating project is the result of collaboration between Garmong, the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission and the City of Valparaiso. The state-of-the-art industrial building is expected to be complete by spring, 2017 and will be constructed of pre-cast concrete, with a clear height of 32', providing the flexibility to accommodate designs for a wide variety of industrial uses. The Lakes of Valparaiso is a 150-acre planned, multi-purpose development, which will include 55 acres of multi-family residences, 90 acres of business/corporate park, and 5 acres of retail space.

Dear Neighbors,

Colored leaves and yellow school buses mean fall in Valparaiso. Fall also means extending a warm welcome back to more than 4,500 Valparaiso University students, representing more than 20 countries around the world. I enjoy looking at our city with their fresh eyes and I like what I see.

Visit www.valpo.us for City News, Announcements & Events



We're wrapping up some impressive projects these days as we improve Burlington Beach Road at Calumet and 149, improving traffic flow and water flow. We're also pleased to open new pathways, bringing our pathways and bike lanes to nearly 18 miles.

We're excited to see construction of the business-ready industrial shell building at Lakes of Valparaiso on our city's east side. Having available space like this is key to our economic development efforts, attracting new businesses and new jobs to our city.

It's good to have so much "good" to report as we provide reassurance on our water quality, our efforts to protect human rights, and the positive partnerships that are leading to the rise of Tower Park. I want to express my gratitude to all of those who make this possible – city employees, engaged citizens, and active businesses. Here's looking forward to another beautiful and productive autumn.

Sincerely,

Jon Costas

Jon Costas, Mayor

Tower Park Rises

Valpo Parks has begun the much-anticipated \$700,000+ renovation of Tower Park, funded through private/public partnerships as part of "Leaders Giving Back," a campaign led by the Valpo Parks Foundation. The exciting enhancements include:

- A Purdue themed basketball court, supported by a leadership gift from Brian Cardinal and the Purdue Community Hoops program.
- A Valparaiso High School themed basketball court, supported by leadership gifts from former VHS standouts and their families, Bryce, Scott and Dana Drew, Robbie Hummel, Rob Cavanaugh, and the Friends of Tim Bishop.
- A third court will be lined for pickle ball and for half court basketball.

- Renovation of Tower Park baseball field, supported by a leadership gift from Jeff Samardzija and the Samardzija family.
- A new sidewalk to additional parking, new court hardware and bleachers, and replacement of court lighting.

Generous gifts, in conjunction with dedicated public funds, have initially raised \$450,000 for construction of the local park's signature facilities. The Leaders Giving Back campaign is working to raise an additional \$100,000 for the courts by the end of the year and an additional \$150,000 by June 1, 2017. VHS alumni, Purdue Alumni, community-spirited individuals and businesses are invited to participate in the campaign and be recognized. For more information, contact the Valpo Parks Foundation at 219-462-5144 or ValpoParksFoundation.org



TOWER PARK MASTER PLAN VALPARAISO PARKS & RECREATION



Tower Park is getting a major upgrade, including a Purdue-themed basketball court, a VHS-themed basketball court, and a renovation of the baseball field, largely funded by public-private partnerships through the Leaders Giving Back campaign. To get involved, contact the Valpo Parks Foundation at 219-462-5144.



Get the app!

Valpo has a FREE app that keeps you informed of all downtown events and even where to find parking or an ATM.

Simply search "Valparaiso downtown" in your app store.



Water Watch

No Worries About Lead Levels in Valpo Water

The recent water crisis in Flint, Michigan has people nationwide wondering about the safety of the water they drink. "As a water utility, we monitor Valparaiso's water quality closely and can assure our customers that the treated water entering the city's water distribution system is safe to drink," said Utilities Director Steve Poulos. Here are some frequently asked questions surrounding water regulation and lead levels:

How do we know that Valpo's water doesn't contain dangerous amounts of lead?

Valparaiso tests the treated water supply, complying with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), which monitors all community water systems. According to the USEPA, a community is subject to additional monitoring and further action if the lead level measures at 15 parts per billion or higher. Valparaiso's levels are consistently far below this.

Why is lead dangerous?

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

How does lead get into water?

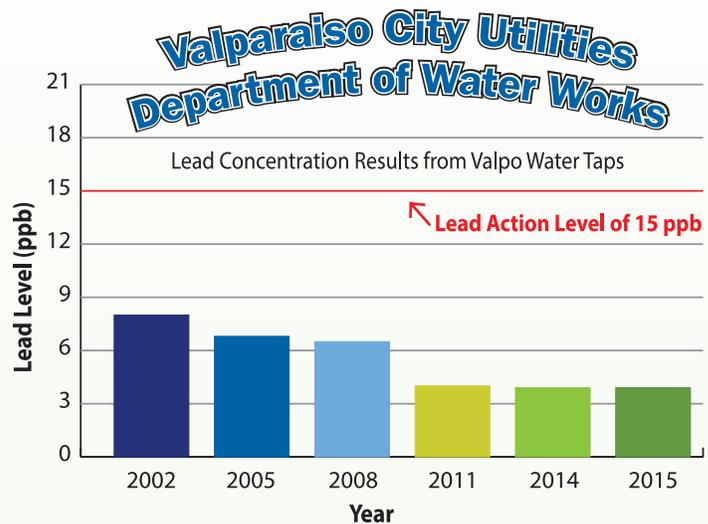
Lead enters drinking water mainly from the corrosion of plumbing materials containing lead.

What does Valpo do to avoid lead contamination?

As part of the water treatment process, the city adds orthophosphate to the water as a corrosion inhibitor, forming a protective layer on the interior walls of the water pipe to help prevent lead in the plumbing from leaching into the water. The city also continues to work at identifying and replacing the few remaining (estimated at 5 percent) service lines that may contain lead.

What about the plumbing within my home?

Valparaiso City Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water to each home, but cannot control the variety of materials used in home plumbing components. If your home contains lead pipes, you can minimize your potential



Valparaiso continually monitors lead levels in the city's treated water supply. Lead levels continue to fall as infrastructure is replaced.

lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking (particularly when your water has been sitting for several hours).

How can I test the water in my home?

If you are concerned about possible lead from the pipes in your home, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available on the United States EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. You can also find our 2016 Consumer Confidence Report at www.valparaisoutilities.org.

Pathways Progress

A nearly complete scenic pathway extends Vale Park Road west of Valparaiso High School and features a 200-foot long wooden bridge, as well as scenic stopping points with benches and a water fountain. This new link, along with new pathways along the east side of Calumet Avenue and the north side of Burlington Beach Road brings the city's pathways and bike lanes to nearly 18 miles by the end of 2016.



Upcoming EVENTS

Eat Up Wine Down

5–10 pm • 1st Thursday
of EVERY Month

\$5 Specials at Valpo Dining Restaurants the First Thursday of EVERY Month. Come out and taste downtown's finest restaurants.

Valparaiso Market

Tuesdays • 8 am – 2 pm
Saturdays • 8 am – Noon

June 2 through October 13

Visit the market weekly to shop for fresh local produce, handmade products, and beautiful plants and flowers.

Fall Harvest Festival

Friday, October 14, 2016
4 pm – 6 pm

Saturday, October 15, 2016
11 am – 2 pm

"Fall" into fun with the annual Fall Harvest Festival – now a 2-day event! On Friday night, dress up in your spookiest or silliest costume and go door-to-door for tasty treats from our various restaurants and retailers and other organizations, plus free hayrides.

On Saturday, enjoy live music, balloon twisting, a Pooch Parade, inflatable corn maze, face painting, and taffy apples.

Visit www.valparaisoevents.org for more information and specific times!

Rethinking Recycling

Market declines for recycling materials

Valparaiso has become known as a recycling city as residents work to recycle more than they throw in the trash. However, a declining market for recycling materials is creating less of an incentive for cities across the nation, and that includes Valparaiso. "Five years ago the city was receiving \$4,000 to \$6,000 monthly as revenue by selling its recyclables and this revenue helped offset the cost of our solid waste service. However, by 2013, the market for recycling declined and we stopped getting a check. In fact, if the last 12 months are any indication of the future, we could be paying a hauler \$9,000 per month to take our recycling, said Public Works Director Matt Evans.

The declining market for recycling materials is a global issue as a decline in China's economy reduced their demand for American recyclables, among other factors. Recycling haulers also began shying away from recycled glass as it frequently broke and contaminated other valuable products, such as paper and cardboard.

As the revenue for recycling materials no longer offsets the costs to collect and sort recycling, the city may be faced with hard decisions about the future of curbside recycling services, according to Evans. "It would be a shame to landfill it after all these years of changing our habits," he said. The city is investigating options such as contracting with a firm that pays to advertise on the recycling cans, providing revenue to fund curbside pick up.

"In terms of the 'Reduce, Recycle, Reuse,' now is the time for us to shift consumption habits to reduce and reuse," said Evans. "As a city we are charging \$12 per month for waste hauling, yet the actual cost is more than double. So, the city is supplementing the service. Yet, by supplementing the service, it means that something else isn't getting funded. It's an issue we can only bury for so long. Ultimately, we'll either have to pay more or change our habits," he said.



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Valparaiso Now