

a fresh face

City's original water tower gets new look

In a high-profile infrastructure project, the City's original water tower – located at Tower Park – is getting a fresh new finish, inside and out this summer, preserving its surfaces into the future. Built in 1936, the tower's interior and exterior will be sandblasted and resurfaced, with the exterior featuring a fresh new brand for the City of Valparaiso.

"We're excited to showcase a new look that also updates the water tower, maintaining surfaces for the future," said Mayor Matt Murphy. The project kicked off at the end of June and contractors will work seven days a week to complete the project by the end of August. The tower will be out of service during the project, including time for the surfaces to cure, followed by sterilizing the interior and repeated laboratory testing.

Recoating the water tower adds life to the surfaces, protecting them from the elements. The exterior process involves creating a large stencil of the artwork and then rolling/brushing the color over the white base coat – all done by hand. The new surface is expected to last

20 years with proper maintenance. The cost for this specialized process is \$476,000, which is covered by fees the City earns by leasing cellular antennas located on the tower to outside services.

Valparaiso City Services has the city's three water towers inspected and maintained regularly to maximize their lifespans. Next up, the Silhavy water tower will likely be recoated in the next several years, followed by the Campbell Street tower, which is the city's newest tower.

While the tower is out of service, the City still maintains a robust 1.5 million gallons of water through the remaining two towers. "Water towers are very valuable to a community as they ensure water pressure throughout the city, 24/7, 365 days a year, regardless of weather or usage levels," said Bob Garmon, Collections & Distribution Manager for Valparaiso City Services. "Not only is pressure important for home use, but in case of fire, you want consistent water pressure at all times. Valparaiso provides this stability each day," he said.



fun facts

about the Tower Park Water Tower

- Built in 1936, the Tower Park Water Tower at 205 Billings St. is the city's original tower.
- Height is 127 feet, 4-7/16 inches
- Capacity is 500,000 gallons

The City of Valparaiso's water comes from 20 underground wells, which pump water into two treatment plants where it is then filtered and stored in the City's four ground storage tanks (5 million gallons) then, as needed, pumped into the three water towers. The water in towers is turned over daily, filling during off-peak hours and pumping out during on-demand hours, typically approximately 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Water levels and pumps are constantly monitored to ensure consistent service. 

Dear Neighbors,

What a pleasure this year has been, starting fresh projects and refreshing others. We're excited to unveil a new look in this issue of Valpo Works.

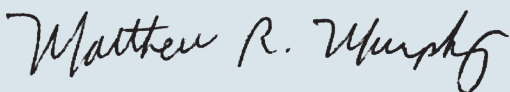
Equally exciting is the new high profile look of the city's original water tower – overlooking Tower Park. I grew up a stone's throw from this soaring water tower, another constant and reliable symbol of the City of Valparaiso and its service to the community.

This season has brought us many new things to enjoy together, including the public art throughout the city. It's fun to see all ages spotting the new Birds of Paradise sculptures throughout downtown. I invite you to spot them yourself (get your coloring book of clues at Valparaiso Public Library). Please also stop in at City Hall to see the collaborative masterpiece created by thousands of Valparaiso students and enjoy the new colorful pieces at the Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing.

Watch also as we see upgrades to infrastructure – pathways and alleys, plus streets and sidewalks we travel daily. This year's project list includes some key links as well as upgrades to safety – many projects are a direct response to community input.

It has been gratifying to see so much engagement this year – in celebrations, community events, the City Government Academy, Mayor's Youth Council and more. The excitement... is energizing. I thank you for passing it on.

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Murphy



on brand

City unveils new logo



**CITY OF
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A lasting look for a forward-thinking city – that was the mission, as the City of Valparaiso looked to update its graphic identity. “We’ve made some positive changes recently, including uniting Valparaiso Public Works and Valparaiso City Utilities into a unified and more efficient brand. We felt like it was important to create a new look that boldly identifies the City of Valparaiso into the future,” said Mike Jessen, City Administrator.

The new look, which you see on this newsletter, will be used throughout the city, complementing the Valparaiso, the Perfect Place campaign, led by the Valparaiso Economic Development Corporation. Look for the new identity to appear on City Services vehicles, City facilities, communications pieces and the new water tower project at Tower Park. 

city government academy

Promotes community engagement

The City Government Academy recently congratulated the class of 2022. The Academy gathers weekly each spring, meeting in locations throughout the city and interacting with the city's leadership team to learn more about how local government works and how residents can become more engaged. More than 100 residents have participated in this annual program. To learn more, visit the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us. 

miles of projects

City shares aggressive plans to enhance infrastructure, including roadway

With more than 172 miles of roadways and even more sidewalks and pathways, the City of Valparaiso works strategically to maximize the miles and lifespan for surfaces. This season, the City has planned expansive projects to enhance infrastructure, including roadways, alleys, sidewalks and pathways, plus an extensive analysis directing the future to extend the lifespan for these surfaces.

“Responsible infrastructure maintenance is all about choosing the right treatment at the right time,” said City Engineer Mike Jabo. This year’s ambitious \$5.6 million pavement maintenance program includes a combination of resurfacing, new sidewalks and pathways, as well as roadway extending strategies, such as crack sealing



The City is adding miles of roadway and sidewalk enhancements this season, as well as safety upgrades such as radar feedback signs, flashing beacons and traffic-calming bulbouts.

and patching. “This ambitious program is a direct result of public input. We’re grateful to all of the citizens and businesses who have helped to shape these priorities,” he said. The 2022 program includes the following:

Paving Projects

Following up on last year’s projects which resurfaced some of the city’s most traveled roadways of Calumet Avenue, Roosevelt Road and Morgan Boulevard, this year’s program will enhance the surfaces of nearly seven miles throughout the city and neighborhoods. This work, on 14 roadways, will provide structural resurfacing, which extends the life of a

roadway. Roads are selected for resurfacing based on a combination of factors, including overall wear, safety and traffic level using a rating scale.



ys, alleys, sidewalks and pathways

Roadway Rehab

Using crack sealing, an additional eight miles will be treated this season. "Crack sealing is a very effective way to preserve roadways over time. We can do more miles for less money than resurfacing, allowing our funding to go further and extending the lifespans for many roadways," said Jabo. In addition, 54 locations throughout the city will be patched with a hot mix, providing smoother and safer surfaces.

"This past winter was particularly hard on our roadways with frequent freezing and thawing," said Jabo.

"Strategically patching our road surfaces is much more cost effective and less disruptive to traffic than full surface repaving."

Alleys

The City has recognized the need for overdue maintenance in alleys throughout the city. This year's program includes a more aggressive approach to alley maintenance, enhancing more linear feet of alley than any other year in recent history.

Pedestrian-Friendly Sidewalks and Pathways

"We're always looking to fill missing sidewalk links as well as attend to the pedestrian surfaces we have," said Jabo. This year the City will be investing \$1.9 million in one of the most aggressive sidewalk/pathway enhancement packages ever undertaken in a single year. "We're pleased to include many projects that have been submitted by neighbors themselves," said Jabo. Some of the most notable pedestrian projects include the addition of three blocks of sidewalks along Center Street, which will make travel to school safer for nearby students, plus initiating a new pathway along Harrison Boulevard from Ogden Gardens west. This pathway is designed ultimately to reach Froberg Road, with construction advancing annually. Many neighborhood sidewalk connections will also be completed this year, including those included in the City's Neighborhood Improvement Grant program.



To further enhance safety, the City has installed a rapid flashing beacon at the new Boys & Girls Club of Valparaiso on Evans Avenue. The flashing beacon makes it easier and safer for Club members to enjoy using Fairgrounds Park across the street.

Safety Upgrades

The City is always looking for ways to upgrade safety for motorists and pedestrians. This year, the City will add several permanent radar feedback signs to alert motorists to speeding, placing them in locations where speeding has been an ongoing safety concern -- such as Harrison Boulevard, Ransom Road and Joliet Road. In other safety enhancements, the City will add solar-powered flashing beacons to pedestrian crosswalks and traffic calming bump outs at key pedestrian intersections, such as at Chicago and Washington streets.

Down the Road

The City of Valparaiso is currently conducting an analysis of all surfaces to better plan for long-term infrastructure projects and maintenance. "We need to be very smart about where and when we do projects and maximize our road-extending tools like crack sealing in order to provide the best surfaces for the longest term at the most effective cost," said Jabo. Look for a more complete analysis and future projects to come later this year.

An Online Overview

Led by progressive student interns, the City of Valparaiso is introducing an interactive overview map of City infrastructure projects for the season. To view roadway, sidewalk, pathway and alley enhancements planned for this season, visit tinyurl.com/ValpoWorks. 

arts aplenty

Community art abounds in Valparaiso

The City of Valparaiso has made public art a priority, with plenty of spots to enjoy pieces in person. Look for art here:

Birds of Paradise – a sculpture scavenger hunt

A flock of original bird art has landed for the Birds of Paradise sculpture scavenger hunt. This year-round event features 10 original metal sculptures by Valpo sculptor Chad Copeland and a clever coloring book of clues by local illustrator Melissa Washburn. The native birds are perched throughout downtown, and the coloring book shares information about each bird, including a link to hear its unique call or song. Birds of Paradise was coordinated by the City of Valparaiso Community Engagement Department, with support from the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission, generous sponsors and community partners including the Porter County Public Library System, Indiana Audubon Society and Valparaiso Creative Council.

The coloring book of clues for the walkable scavenger hunt is available at the Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St., during business hours. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/ValpoBirds.



Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing

The Art Walk has been completely refreshed this year, featuring whimsical works by artist Martha Cares of nearby Sawyer, Michigan. This is the 11th year for the Art Walk, initiated by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission. The new pieces are a lively bunch of colorful creatures – dogs and cats, ducks and bears and more. You can enjoy these pieces along Cumberland Walk through next May. The Art Walk is made possible by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission with support from the City of Valparaiso Community Engagement, Project Management and City Services Departments.

Spring Into the Arts

This annual celebration of the arts, sponsored by Valparaiso Community Schools, invites students to create and share their work in public venues. This year, more than 1,000 pieces of student art appeared in seven downtown venues, including City Hall and the Indiana Beverage Center at Central Park Plaza. To culminate the celebration, thousands of students came together to complete a multi-panel display now permanently installed at City Hall. The City of Valparaiso hosted several public art events at City Hall, bringing together young artists, families and businesses.

Recovery Art Series

The Valparaiso Police Department has partnered with organizations in the recovery community to sponsor this Recovery Art Series, which invites the community to attend monthly art events, joining together to create lasting pieces on display. To learn more, including where to participate, visit tinyurl.com/VPD-Recovery. 



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mayor's youth council

Culminates year with fundraiser

The inaugural Mayor's Youth Council wrapped up its year with a Color Fun Run fundraiser to benefit Valparaiso Parks. The Youth Council is an opportunity for Valparaiso High School juniors to learn more about local government and civic participation, build leadership skills and interact with community leaders. "Participating in the Mayor's Youth Council was informative, but also fun, and I learned so much about leading and working with others," said William Young, Valparaiso High School Student and member of the first-ever Youth Council.

The Mayor's Youth Council meets monthly throughout the school year. To learn more, visit the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us. 