



Transformative Downtown Development Breaks Ground

The Linc and Lincoln Highway Garage construction now underway

The City of Valparaiso and HighGround, a subsidiary of Hageman, have broken ground for two transformational downtown projects. The combined \$54.4 million development includes The Linc, a multi-use apartment and retail development complex, and the Lincoln Highway Garage. At the same time, the projects will replace aging underground infrastructure, separating stormwater and sanitary sewers for long-term sustainability and environmental upgrades. Once complete, the development accomplishes longtime planning goals for the City's downtown district.

"The Linc turns the lights on for this part of downtown, extending the success story that is Valparaiso's



The Linc is a mixed-use development located on the north side of Lincolnway, which will include 121 modern apartments on the top floors and commercial suites on the ground floor facing Lincolnway.

downtown," said Mayor Matt Murphy. "We are eager to welcome new residents, new businesses and new opportunities to downtown. Together, we continue to create a downtown that defines our community."

Designed to add modern, amenity-rich living options to Valparaiso's

vibrant downtown, The Linc is a mixed-use development located on the north side of Lincolnway between Michigan Avenue and Morgan Boulevard. Developed by Carmel, Indiana-based HighGround, the project includes three four-story buildings with modern apartment homes on the top floors and commercial suites on the ground floor facing Lincolnway.

"We are so impressed with Valpo's downtown district. The community's leadership and investment have made it one of the best downtowns in the state. We are excited to have the opportunity to add The Linc to the vibrancy of downtown," said Tom Dickey, President of HighGround.

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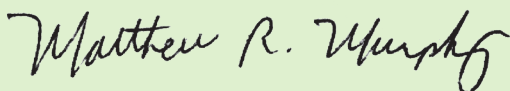
Dear Neighbors,

So much activity in Valparaiso! As we watch the Lincoln Highway Garage and The Linc take shape, we look ahead to welcoming more residents and businesses and opportunity to our city - showcasing our thriving downtown. We celebrate the opening of Flounder and Friends Skatepark, a community-driven project that celebrates wheeled sports in a high-profile way. And we look forward to many celebrations at Journeyman, a project that elevates a formerly tired area of downtown.

I'm delighted to see so much engagement in our city this season. Our Mayor's Youth Council is inspiring us all to see the city through these young eyes. We look forward to highlighting engagement and volunteerism as we name our next Good Neighbor in December at the annual Tree Lighting event (nomination details are in this issue).

The holidays and end of year are coming at us fast, as is the end of my term as mayor. I am proud to have led an incredible team in efforts that have added efficiency, enhanced quality of life and strengthened our city. I want to thank this amazing community for your support and pledge my continued support of the good things happening in Valparaiso.

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Murphy



Transformative Downtown Development Breaks Ground, continued from p. 1

Future residents at The Linc will enjoy studio, one- and two-bedroom floor plans, gourmet kitchens, stylish interior design, in-unit washer and dryers and balconies with downtown views. Planned amenities for the new community includes a contemporary resident lounge with game room and kitchen, exterior patios with seating areas and grilling stations, courtyard areas with activities for residents, a pet park, a fitness center, indoor bike storage and a pet washing station.



Located at the northeast corner of Lincolnway and Morgan Boulevard, the Lincoln Highway Garage will include 362 spaces for The Linc and surrounding businesses and neighborhoods.

Complementing The Linc is the Lincoln Highway Garage, a 362-space parking garage located at the northeast corner of Lincolnway and Morgan Boulevard. Constructed by Tonn and Blank Construction, LLC, the garage will support parking for The Linc and surrounding businesses and neighborhoods. Both The Linc and the Lincoln Highway Garage have been designed to fit with Valparaiso's historic character and architecture.

The Linc is a public-private partnership with support from the Indiana Economic Development Commission (IEDC) and the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission. The IEDC awarded the project \$9.6 million in redevelopment tax credits as it increases opportunities for local businesses and housing for residents while enhancing the long-term sustainability of a thriving downtown.

"As a state, Indiana is focused on cultivating vibrant communities that foster entrepreneurship, support families and retain and attract top talent," said Vincent Ash, vice president of real estate development at the IEDC. "Strategic tools like redevelopment tax credits are helping neighborhoods revitalize abandoned buildings and vacant properties with mixed-use projects like The Linc, breathing new life and economic development into our urban hubs."

The Lincoln Highway Garage is expected to be complete by the end of 2024 and The Linc is slated for opening in the winter of 2024. Future resident and business tenants of The Linc are encouraged to join the interest list at TheLincValpo.com or follow the community's progress on Facebook and Instagram at @TheLincValpo.

Valpo Wins for Indiana's Green Project of the Year

The City of Valparaiso has been named Indiana's Green Project of the Year by Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (Aim) for the City's solar power initiative. The award recognizes Indiana's leading project for sustainable development, energy conservation and environmentally conscious decisions. Valpo's sustainable solar project added 772 solar panels to five City facilities, saving taxpayers more than \$5.2 million in electrical costs over the life of the panels.

"We're so pleased that this sustainable solar project has gained attention statewide

and beyond, but we're even more pleased to be able to share cost savings with our community," said Valparaiso Mayor Matt Murphy. "As part of our commitment to efficiency, Valparaiso City Services has had its eye on solar power for years, awaiting the day when the technology, wattage and pricing reached a point where it made good environmental sense for the City," he said.

Visitors to Valparaiso City Hall can see the energy data on TV screens, showing the electrical meter harvesting solar energy in real time. Visitors may even see times



Valpo's sustainable solar project added 772 solar panels to five City facilities, saving taxpayers more than \$5.2 million in electrical costs over the life of the panels.

when the metering will move backwards as more energy is being generated than is being used in some facilities.

"The Valparaiso solar power initiative is a perfect example of how municipal leaders can make a difference in global efforts to deliver public services more efficiently. I particularly appreciate

the city's transparency by offering real-time data, visible to anyone visiting City Hall. I think this project is something other cities and towns will review to see if it can be replicated in their communities," said Aim CEO Matt Greller. View a video about the completed project at tinyurl.com/ValpoSolar.



OPENING SOON!

Flounder and Friends Skatepark is a community-inspired and inclusive skate park located at Fairgrounds Park. Phase 1 includes a spacious bowl in the shape of a fish with fins, a quarter pipe with pool coping, mini ramp with a bold end, stairset with hubbas and a rail, a musical manual pad that unlocks the melody to a song when skated and much more. The park welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. The community has been involved in both the design and raising the funds, contributing nearly \$1 million to the project – from large contributions to kids mowing lawns and selling lemonade. Flounder and Friends is part of the Valpo Parks bold Valpo For All Generations initiative.

City Wraps Up Seasonal Paving

The City of Valparaiso is completing its seasonal paving for streets and sidewalks, completing approximately 7.8 lane miles of roadway and replacing approximately 2.8 miles of sidewalk.



The 2023 infrastructure improvement plan included highly visible roadways, such as Vale Park Road (paved from Calumet Avenue east to Sturdy Road), portions of Yellowstone Road and Franklin Street, which also included significant underground work in separating storm sewers – a project that had long been on the City’s stormwater master plan. “It’s always advantageous when we can combine roadway work with underground improvements that provide long-term benefits for neighboring homes and businesses,” said Max Rehlander, Engineering Director. “The roadway projects at Brown Street and Campbell Road represent another advancement with underground improvements that will have lasting benefits for the community,” he said.

How Projects Are Chosen

“We make decisions about roadway and sidewalk upgrades based on a variety of factors, including condition of the surface, traffic count, safety and cost effectiveness of a project,” said Rehlander. “With more than 170 lane miles of roadway and 200 miles of sidewalks, we do our best to make the best use of resources year over year. With the use of crack sealing and other road extending treatments, we work to maximize our dollars, maintain safe surfaces and manage the unavoidable disruption of roadway/sidewalk upgrades,” he said. To report a roadway or sidewalk that needs attention, visit the City of Valparaiso website at Valpo.us and locate the “Voice a Concern” section to submit an area for review.

View Interactive Map of Projects

The City’s Engineering Department has created an interactive map showing roadway projects, including life-extending crack sealing, as well as sidewalk projects. The map allows users to find all 2023 infrastructure improvements and even enter addresses to find projects nearby. By clicking the project location on the map, users can learn more about the project scope and location. The map is available at tinyurl.com/ValpoInfra2023.

ChicaGo Dash

Express Bus to Chicago



Valpo’s own express bus to Chicago continues to provide convenient, comfortable and cost-effective transit to Chicago’s Loop each weekday. “I save about \$50 a day by taking the bus. It’s also nice to not have to drive in Chicago rush-hour traffic,” said rider Chris Urbanski. Riders appreciate the free Wi-Fi, free parking at the Brown Street lot in Valparaiso, and a clean, comfortable ride. The Dash offers airplane-like seating, on-board lavatories and bike racks to transport your own wheels to the city.

“I feel the bus is a safer/cleaner and closer to home alternative to other public transit lines to Chicago. I really enjoy the hour of rest I get while riding the Dash compared to driving myself,” said Rob Baughard, another rider. To find daily schedules and purchase tickets, visit tinyurl.com/ValpoDash.

Valpo's Art Walk Features 17 New Works

The City of Valparaiso has unveiled 17 new works in its Art Walk at Cumberland Crossing, located at the northeast corner of Cumberland Drive and Vale Park Road. The new pieces are metal sculptures created by brothers Greg and Alex Mendez of Decatur, Indiana, using steel like that manufactured throughout the Northwest Indiana region. The pieces were selected by the City's volunteer Art Advisory Committee.

Valparaiso's Art Walk was introduced in 2011 as a celebration of public art and has included a revolving free display of outdoor sculptures that

can be enjoyed year-round. The display is possible through the generous support of the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission, private donors and Urschel Development Corporation. Current sponsors include 1st Source Bank, Centier Bank, Kyle and Maggie Clifton, Patricia Crise, OnePointe Management, Pines Village Retirement Communities, the Sarkisian Family,



Artists Greg and Alex Mendez with Alex's work entitled "3.1." For more information, visit tinyurl.com/PublicArtValpo

Megan and Stu Summers Family, Thorgren Tool & Molding, Inc., and Urschel Giving.

The current Mendez installation will be on display through Spring 2025. Works are available for purchase with more information available at tinyurl.com/PublicArtValpo.

The Art Walk has been organized by the City of Valparaiso's Office of Community Engagement.

Valparaiso Offers Neighborhood Grants for 2024



Recently the Banta neighborhood organized a tree planting with support from a Neighborhood Improvement Grant through the City of Valparaiso. The City will be accepting applications for 2024 Neighborhood Improvement Grants through March 1, 2024.

The City of Valparaiso is inviting neighborhoods to submit applications for the annual Neighborhood Improvement Grant program, announced Maggie Clifton, Valparaiso's Community Engagement Director. Applications for the upcoming grant cycle will be due on March 1, 2024, with grant recipients announced by March 15, 2024.

"The Neighborhood Improvement Grant program has succeeded in funding 98 projects since we introduced the program in 2018," said Clifton. "The City is delighted to lead this program which unites neighborhoods and inspires positive projects. With matching funds, these grants have resulted in more than \$1.3 million in neighborhood improvements over the past six years," she said.

Neighborhood Improvement Grants help neighbors come together for common goals. Previous projects awarded Neighborhood Improvement Grants have included:

- Community spaces, like bus stop benches and pavilions for gathering
- Neighborhood signage/branding that instills unity and a sense of pride
- Public art displays that add unique character by representing the neighborhood
- Physical improvements, like planting trees or enhancing park equipment

Neighborhoods may submit applications for up to \$15,000 in qualified funding through the Neighborhood Improvement Grant. The program is funded by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission and administered by the Community Engagement Department. A grant review committee assists in the selection process.

2024 Applications are due March 1, 2024

Grant guidelines and application materials are available on the Community Engagement page at [Valpo.us](https://valpo.us), accessed at tinyurl.com/ValpoGrant2024. For questions or guidance, Maggie Clifton is available at MClifton@valpo.us or at City Hall, (219) 462-1161.

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Valparaiso Swears in Mayor's Youth Council

The City of Valparaiso has sworn in a new class for the 2023-2024 Mayor's Youth Council. "We're excited to welcome



The Mayor's Youth Council has been sworn in for 2023-2024.

our third group of students to the Mayor's Youth Council. The Council is an opportunity for students to learn about city government, develop leadership skills and encourage civic engagement," said Mayor Matt Murphy in introducing the new Council. "We welcome this new Council and thank them for their interest in their community."

The Mayor's Youth Council was introduced in 2021 with support from Valparaiso High School, inviting 11th graders to apply to participate. The council meets monthly, learning from elected and appointed officials, participating in volunteer opportunities and cultivating leadership skills, beginning with a Youth Retreat on Aug. 19.

The first two youth council classes have culminated their year of learning with a Color Fun Run fundraiser to benefit Valpo Parks. "We learn a lot from our Youth Council members each year, making the program even better for the next year. I'm excited to get to know this new class. It's been so gratifying to see graduates of the Youth Council go on and become more engaged in the community. We value their insights and contribution," said Murphy.

To learn more about the Mayor's Youth Council, visit the Mayor's page at Valpo.us.

Nominate a Good Neighbor!

The City of Valparaiso is seeking nominations for its annual Good Neighbor Recognition, highlighting an individual who demonstrates exemplary commitment to their neighborhood or community through volunteerism and service. "Anyone is eligible to be nominated – all ages and interests. We are looking for special people who live and make a difference in Valpo," said Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement Director.

The winner is chosen each year by a committee of volunteers, with the award presented by Mayor Murphy at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Central Park Plaza on Nov. 25, 2023. Nomination forms and more information are available on the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us. Nominations are due by Nov. 3 to be considered for the 2023 award.

To learn more, contact Maggie Clifton at City Hall, (219) 462-1161 or mclifton@valpo.us.



Last year Joe Baczynski was named Good Neighbor for Valparaiso. Nominations are open for 2023.