

Dear Citizens:

As we begin 2011, I'm also pleased to reflect on what 2010 brought to Valpo. Despite a challenging economy, your city is fiscally fit. We've managed to create a

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Rainy Day fund of more than \$3.5 million, we've attracted more than \$45.5 million in grants to invest in our city and we've held the line on adding staff. In fact, if you take out the paramedics we've added to staff our new dedicated ambulance service,

we actually have about 6 fewer employees today than a decade ago. This is all the more impressive when you consider that we've added 25% to the city through annexations. My hat is off to our talented (and resourceful) leadership team!

We're also excited to see that our investments continue to pay off in helping us to secure more grants and also to attract more private investment. Companies are choosing Valpo for new businesses and expansions. We hope to share more details in this new year.

I hope 2011 brings good things to you and your family. It's an honor to serve such a remarkable city.

All the best,

Jon Costas

Jon Costas
Mayor

Valpo Serving Seniors

City leads nation in anticipating needs for aging population

One baby boomer turns 60 every seven seconds! Between 2002 and 2030, the older population will more than double nationwide. To meet the needs of Valparaiso's vital senior population, the city has formed a special partnership with Pines Village Retirement Communities, called ElderStyle. The partnership means that Pines Village manages the city's Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta in exchange for the Parks Department's services in maintaining grounds at Pines Village campuses.

"As we researched successful communities, we learned that Valparaiso's interest in planning for an aging community really is cutting edge," said Laurie Mullet, CEO of Pines Village Retirement Communities. "Few communities are embracing this as we are. We're looking at cities like San Jose, California as examples and other cities are watching us."



Valparaiso is working to meet the needs of seniors, the fastest growing population in North America.

The ElderStyle partnership is working as more than 500 seniors are involved in the city's Village Park Enrichment Center at Banta – socializing, exercising, learning, using the computer lab, and more. "I think it speaks well for Valparaiso that we have a center like this," said Jeannette Knowlton, a longtime Valparaiso resident. "I don't have family nearby and it's reassuring to have services available in Valparaiso. My sister lives in an elite area of Nevada and they don't have the same advantages," she said.

ElderStyle going to the next level

Valpo's ElderStyle initiative is going to the next level this winter as a consultant will help the city to evaluate services and develop a Master Plan for serving seniors. The plan will address areas such as housing, health and wellness, transportation, legal assistance, and community engagement. The project will be funded through local grants.

"It makes good sense to embrace our senior population and plan ahead. As we boomers age our numbers will have the greatest impact on our community and our nation. With any luck, we'll all be seniors one day," said Mayor Jon Costas.