



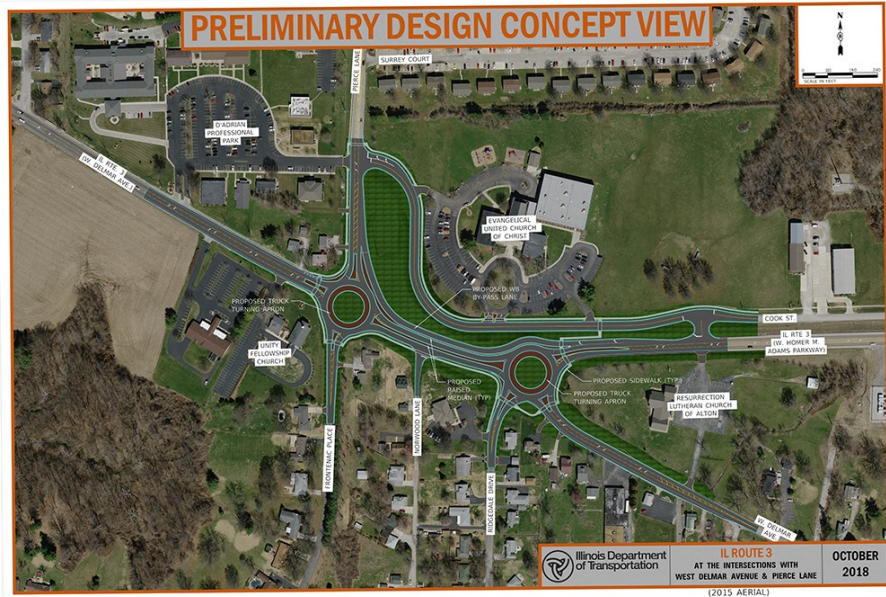
The Villager

January 2023

Getting There In A Roundabout Way?

Special points of interest:

- Getting There In A Roundabout Way?
- Why Roundabouts
- Winter Preparedness
- Featured Business of the Month—Landmark Realty
- Oh, and one more thing...



On December 5, 2022 a public meeting was held at Lewis and Clark Community College to provide information on a project to construct two roundabouts at the West Delmar and Pierce Lane area. Needless to say the meeting turned out to be very lively, and; thus has created a good deal of controversy.

IDOT provides the following information about this location:

"These intersections have experienced 90 reported crashes from 2008 to 2014. A large number of these crashes involved rear end type of crashes – sixty five (65) were reported with 12 crashes resulting in serious injuries. Traffic delays, driver confusion, and drivers using local streets to avoid these intersections have been observed by the local public." Additionally, Madison County Sheriff's department reports that from 2012 to 2022 there have been 178 accidents.

In an effort to address the high rate of accidents, IDOT engaged in the process of securing public input to develop a remedy for the situation by hosting Community Advisory Groups (CAG) on October 22, 2014 and March 30, 2016. The CAG is an important part of the public involvement process and is made up of members that represent a larger stakeholder group. Stakeholders include the public, property owners, business owners, state and local officials, federal and state resource & regulatory agencies, special interest groups, and motorists who utilize the facility. The CAG worked

with the Project Study Group (PSG) to convey input from the community, provide input on design alternatives, and convey the information shared at the CAG meetings to stakeholders. Below is a list of stake holders that were involved:

- D'Adrian Gardens Neighborhood
- W. Delmar & Pierce, across from Norwood
- Riverbend Growth Association
- Madison County Transit
- Blu Fountain Neighborhood
- D'Adrian Professional Park
- Godfrey Fire Protection District
- Summerfield HOA
- Levis Lane Neighborhoods
- Godfrey Public Works
- The Oaks Trail Subdivision
- Village of Godfrey
- Evangelical United Church
- Macias Insurance
- Frontenac Place
- River-Aire Subdivision
- Colonial Village

In the CAG meetings four options were reviewed. They were as followings:

- Do nothing

Village of Godfrey Office of Economic Development

6810 Godfrey Road

Phone: 618-466-3325

E-mail: jmager@godfreyil.org

You can see your future from here.



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor

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- Minor modifications (adding a third westbound lane to Delmar)
- New signal configurations and traffic realignment
- Dual roundabouts

The CAG and the IDOT project team concluded the proximity of these two intersections makes the movement through them difficult and often leads to traffic back-ups. During the Phase I study, it was determined that the dual roundabouts were the best option here to provide a safer and more efficient way to move the traffic through this area.

With the recommendations of the CAG's, the Illinois Department of Transportation held the IL 3 in Godfrey Public Meeting on Wednesday October 3, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL. This Public Meeting was an open forum meeting. The Project Study Team was available to answer questions, take comments, and provide information about the project. Informational hand outs were provided, comment forms were provided, and exhibits with information about this project were on display to view. A total of 137 people attended this Public Meeting.

As the project continued to develop, the Village of Godfrey Board of Trustees approved the expenditure of \$200,000 to provide landscaping for the roundabouts at it February 2020 meeting.

Final approval for the project occurred on February 2, 2021. At that point the project was scheduled to move forward and IDOT allocated to funds for the project.

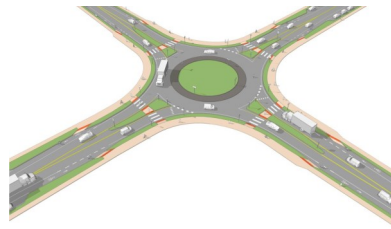
The Illinois Department of Transportation held a Public Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL. This meeting was to discuss the construction sequencing which proposed a full closure of both intersections of Homer Adams (IL 3)/W Delmar Avenue and W Delmar Avenue/Pierce Lane for approximately 6-9 months. IDOT representatives were available to answer questions, take comments, and provide information about the project. Informational handouts were distributed, comment forms were provided, and exhibits with information about the construction sequencing were on display to view. A total of 224 people signed in at this Public Meeting.

Immediately following the December 5 meeting, the Village of Godfrey and IDOT began to receive significant feedback from concerned citizens about the disruptions that would be created during construction. With those expressed concerns, a meeting was held on December 12, 2022. The meeting included representation from IDOT, Mayor McCormick, Illinois State Representatives Amy Elik and C.D. Davidsmeyer. The purpose and results of that meeting were to review how traffic disruptions could be minimized during project construction.

Another theme of recent comments from concerned residents is how \$8 million allocated for this project could be better spent elsewhere. This is an IDOT project and not the Village of Godfrey's. If this project were to be scuttled (and that is not the current plan), the money does not stay in Godfrey. It will most likely be spent in some other part of the state. Moreover, this would be the second time an approved major IDOT project in Godfrey was rejected at the local level — there might not be a third opportunity.

Why Roundabouts?

In recent years, roundabouts have been used in the United States to reduce crashes, traffic delays, fuel consumption, air pollution, and construction and maintenance costs.



Roundabouts often move more traffic and enhance intersection beauty. They

have also been used to control speed in residential neighborhoods and are accepted as one of the safest types of intersection designs.

While roundabouts are a relatively new type of intersection in several states, they are becoming more common as evidence of their benefits grows. Improved traffic flow, aesthetics and cost savings make roundabouts a good idea, and the safety gains are compelling.

- 90 percent reduction in fatal crashes;
- 76 percent reduction in injury crashes;
- 30 to 40 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes; and
- 10 percent reduction in bicycle crashes

Vehicles entering a roundabout must yield at entry, but are not required to stop if the roundabout is clear. This eliminates some stop-and-go traffic associated with stop sign or traffic signal controlled intersections. This leads to fewer vehicles idling while stopped at an intersection.

A traffic signal requires electricity 24 hours a day. In addition, the signals need maintenance by field personnel for burned out lights, loop detector replacement, etc. A typical roundabout generally only needs electricity for streetlights at night and maintenance for landscaping, if included.

A standard intersection requires a large paved area to accommodate all the turning movements. A roundabout provides opportunity to landscape the center island, providing green space within the intersection.

Pedestrians need only cross one direction of traffic at a time at each roundabout approach, as compared with two-way and all-way stop-controlled intersections. The conflict locations between vehicles and pedestrians are generally not affected by the presence of a roundabout, although conflicting vehicles come from a more defined path at roundabouts. In addition, the speeds of motorists entering and exiting a roundabout are reduced with good design. As with other crossings that require acceptance of gaps in traffic flow, roundabouts still present visually-impaired pedestrians with unique challenges.

Source: Iowa Department of Transportation

If you would like to stay informed about what the Village of Godfrey's Board of Trustees is addressing, you can find it meeting agendas and minutes at:

<https://godfreyil.org/boards-and-committees/village-board-of-trustees/>



It's that time of the year again! Godfrey's Public Safety Administrator/Emergency Manager Chris Sichra has provided some home safety tips for surviving yet another frigid season in the Riverbend area (sourced from FEMA's Ready.gov). While the kids love the prospect of a "snow day" parents know winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

A winter storm can:

- Last a few hours or several days.
- Cut off heat, power and communication services.
- Put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risk.

Tips on how to protect yourself from Winter Weather:

Know your National Weather Service winter weather terms and their meaning:

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, (3 - 5 inches in 12 hours), freezing rain (less than 1/2 inch), freezing drizzle, and sleet that could cause significant inconveniences; and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather is IMMEDIATE in the form of heavy snow, (6 inches in 12 hours or 8 inches in 24 hours) heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Preparing for Winter Weather:

Help your home retain its heat with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Have trees close to the home trimmed or pruned back so they don't fall on your house. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power.

Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for help.

In Case of Emergency:

Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.

- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia:

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck

Generator Safety

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important knowing how to use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.



With unparalleled industry knowledge, experience and local expertise, Landmark Realty Godfrey is the featured business of

the month.

Landmark Realty Godfrey has been a mainstay in Godfrey for over 50 years. Prior to being Landmark, the company was known by many as Don Bryant Gallery of Homes. The company became Landmark Realty in the 90's. Matt Horn, who has been a REALTOR for 22 years, purchased the company and continues to run the company under the name. As the only real estate firm headquartered in Godfrey, it is locally owned and operated. Landmark Realty Godfrey has twenty seven licensed REALTORS working in their office.

Featured Business of the Month: Landmark Realty

As a full service real estate firm, Landmark Godfrey assists with Residential Buyers and Sellers, Commercial Real Estate and Property Management. Landmark assists with buying a home by matching buyers with homes that correspond with their needs and guiding them through the home buying process from pre-approval to closing. Sellers have the advantage of Landmark agents' years of experience to guide them. Agents help Sellers with preparation, staging, professional photography, pricing, listing information, marketing and all other aspects of the sale of their home. Landmark Realty Godfrey's listings can be viewed at <http://www.godfreylandmark.com>

Aside from operating Landmark Realty Godfrey, Matt is very involved in the community. Matt serves as Vice President of the Godfrey Fire Protection District. He is active in St. Mary's Church charitable outreach efforts and is on the Senior Services Plus board of directors. Mr. Horn is also a

member of the Riverbend Growth Association and the East End Business Association, as well as the Southwestern Illinois Board of Realtors, Illinois Realtors and National Association of Realtors. As an office, Landmark supports many local organizations during the year, such as Crisis Food Pantry, Oasis, Salvation Army, ABOB, and others.



Landmark has had back to back record breaking sales performance in 2021 & 2022. Matt does see 2023's housing market possibly changing. "Changes in interest rates may effect the

housing market, but the local market for housing is still quite favorable," Matt said. He went on to say that, "This market is just part of a normal demand cycle, but Godfrey is still a great place to buy and sell."

Landmark Realty can be reached at:
3049 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, Illinois 62035
618-466-1513

The Village of Godfrey, in partnership with Big Z Media, is offering residents a chance to win a \$100 gift card for various Godfrey businesses. Each month a new business will be featured. By going to www.godfreyil.org, you will be invited to register by providing your name, address and email. Your contact information will remain with the Village and Big Z Media. You are under no obligation for registering.

Oh, and one more thing.....

Those who know me, know that I have strong libertarian leanings. The government that governs best, governs least.....and, I work for the government. When looking at what is going on in America, my trust of the government is nearly zero percent. The only people in government I trust are the roughly three dozen people working for the Village of Godfrey; and, that's because I can regularly see what is going on. I don't feel bad about my skepticism. Our Founding Fathers built government mistrust into the framework of our constitutional republic.

At this point in time, an individual's opportunity to have an impact at the state and federal level is nearly impossible. Most of us are not big enough to play in that sandbox. Yet, these levels of government do have direct impact on our daily lives.

You can make a difference at the local level! The City Council, School Board, County Board and other local jurisdictions are where one should focus their energies and efforts.

Village officials and employees take their obligation of public service seriously. From the Mayor and Board on down, each person is attempting to act in the best interests of Godfrey's residents. That is not to say there aren't disagreements on how things should be done. Conflict is also built into our system of government.

At the local level, involvement of the individual is welcome and necessary in helping affect governmental decision making. We have a right to question government action, we also have a civic duty to keep ourselves proactively informed about the issues (I realize people are busy and staying informed takes a lot of time). Thus, a reason for this monthly newsletter.

Making your informed voice heard is critically important. Waiting until the "train has left the station" to get involved is usually a little to late. Anyway, something to think about.....

The best in 2023!



Jim Mager

Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org