



# The Villager

May 2023

## Special points of interest:

- New Village Board Members
- Recognizing Retiring Board Members
- Godfrey Developing A New Visitors Webpage
- Roundabout Update
- Fox Woods Mascot
- Susan Robbins Sworn In As Village Clerk
- Arbor Day Fishing Derby
- Mayor Presents Business of the Month Plaques
- Business of the Month – Josephine’s Tea Room
- Growth Association Business of the Month – Freer Auto Body
- Oh, and one more thing...

### Village of Godfrey Office of Economic Development

6810 Godfrey Road

Phone: 618-466-3325

E-mail: [jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)

**You can see your future from here.**



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor

## New Members to Join Board of Trustees



Craig Lombardi

With the election in April, two new members will be joining the Village of Godfrey Board of Trustees at their May 16th meeting. They will be replacing retiring members Ben Allen and Virginia Woulfe-Beile.

Godfrey native and long-time resident Craig Lombardi grew up in the Villa Marie neighborhood and currently lives in Heritage Gardens. Mr. Lombardi is an account executive for Hubbard Broadcasting, which owns St. Louis radio stations KSHE, WIL, the ARCH, the POINT and ESPN 101. In that job, he has been a top sales representative for 23 years. He started his career with an engineering degree from SIUE and was a manager for Fastenal in East Alton.

Craig is very active in the community. “Sports are my life,” he said. He is active in local athletic associations, such as Bluff City Baseball, Alton High Soccer, and the Alton Athletic Association. He even announces games for the Alton Red Birds. He is a member of Rotary and the North Alton/Godfrey Business Council.

When asked why he ran to be a trustee, he said, “I love Godfrey. We have great parks and I walk in Glazebok Park almost every night. My goal as a trustee is for when someone wants to move, they want Godfrey to be their number one choice to live.”

Craig and his wife, Amy, have three sons: Colin (23), Jake (21), and Jack (16).

Also joining the board is Mike Fisher. Born in Alton, he has been a Godfrey resident since 1995. He has a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a Masters in Corporate Security Leadership from Missouri Baptist University/LCCC.

Mr. Fisher’s career has been in law enforcement. With over 27 years of service, he retired with the rank of sergeant from the Illinois State Police in December of 2021. In his tenure, he worked in both districts 11 and 15. He served many roles including trooper, working in investi-



Mike Fisher and Rosy

gations, and working with Argosy.

Working through the U.S. Marshall Service, he currently serves as a Court Security Officer at the Eagleton Law Center in St. Louis. In order to maintain his certifications, he also works part-time with various other law enforcement agencies.

Like Mr. Lombardi, Mr. Fisher has been very active in local sports through his children, Alexis (23) and Thomas (11).

When asked what he would like to accomplish as trustee, he said, “Godfrey is the third safest community in Illinois. With my law enforcement background, I’d like to even improve that statistic.”

Who is Rosy? She is an explosives dog. Mike had the pleasurer to work with her handler over the last few years as a member of the Illinois State Police Weapons of Mass Destruction Team, specializing in large scale events looking for weapons and bombs of mass destruction.



Retiring Board of Trustees members Ben Allen and Virginia Woulfe-Beile. Ben served two terms and Virginia served one. Thank you, Ben and Virginia, for your service and dedication to the Village of Godfrey.

Each month you can go to ‘[www.gotogodfrey](http://www.gotogodfrey)’ and register to win a \$100 gift card to one of our premier establishments around town. There is no obligation for registering; and, you have an opportunity to express your opinion on what you think would make Godfrey even better. The featured business for May is Godfrey Meat Market. Register now!

## Godfrey To Create A "Visit Godfrey" Webpage



Last fall, Godfrey entered into a partnership with BigZ Media to promote the Village. If you listen to radio stations WBGZ or MyMix 94.3, you will hear 30 second spots highlighting Godfrey attractions and businesses. You can also be watching for advertisements in both the Riverbend and Jerseyville Advantage. Perhaps you have seen spots on your Facebook and YouTube viewing?

Big Z Media has been promoting businesses through a campaign called, "Gotogodfrey." Each month, people can register to win a \$100 gift card from the participating establishment by going to [www.gotogodfrey.com](http://www.gotogodfrey.com). When at that website, there is a link that takes one to the Village webpage.

Going to the Village webpage ([www.godfreyil.org](http://www.godfreyil.org)) a person finds a "municipal" webpage. As designed, it provides valuable information about ordinances, meetings, contact information for the offices and officials, etc. What it does not provide is interesting information about Godfrey's assets as they relate to visitors and quality of life for our residents.

Godfrey is like many communities that only have municipal webpages. What many communities are doing is to also develop webpages that create awareness and participation in parks, events, shopping, dining, entertainment and other attractions.

A nice example of what Godfrey hopes to accomplish with the new site can be seen at [www.discoverstcharles.com](http://www.discoverstcharles.com). The site creates a sense of interest and excitement for what the community has to offer to its visitors and residents.

## Roundabout Update:



Plans for the construction of two roundabouts on West Delmar became controversial when details were presented at a December 2022 public meeting. Public opinions ranged from the roundabouts being a great idea to one of they should never, ever be built.

Somewhere in the middle was the concern that IDOT planned to close West Delmar (Illinois Rt 3) for approximately one year to allow for construction. Such a closure would have created significant disruption of traffic flow in the area. With the expression of great public concern, Mayor McCormick, Amy Elik, CD Davidsmeyer and IDOT officials had several meetings to reevaluate construction plans.

## Godfrey Neighborhood "Chips" In To Create Mascot



Steve Noss recently completed the family's new home at the entrance of Fox Woods subdivision in Godfrey. He has been diligently



cleaning up the wooded area behind his new home.

The wooded area was filled with hedge (osage orange) trees. One of the trees was large and resulted in a significant stump.

Steve and his neighbors had the idea of having the stump sculptured into the image of a fox. With that thought in mind, they raised funds to have a professional chainsaw sculptor to create the art piece.

On April 14, Luca Chainsaw Carving from Chester, Illinois worked his magic to convert a tree stump into the statue of a fox. For now, the sculpture needs to dry and cure. In time, the piece will be painted to transform the sculpture into something appearing even more realistic.

If you would like to receive the monthly issue of "The Villager" by email, please contact Jim Mager at;

[jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)

As a result of those meetings and efforts, Tiffany Brase, IDOT engineer, has recently shared revised plans for development of the roundabouts.

The overall final plan for the roundabouts has not changed, but the staging of the construction has been revised. The plan revision calls for developing temporary routing of two-way traffic through the area while phased construction of the roundabout takes place. While traffic flow will be maintained throughout the process it will lengthen the construction time from one year to two years. A detailed description of the construction plan can be found at <https://idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-3-Godfrey>. Once you get to that site, you can link through to details and construction maps.



### Susan Robbins Assumes Her New Role as Village Clerk



Susan Robbins officially became Village Clerk April 4, 2023. She assumed the role left vacant with the passing of Bethany Bohn on March 16. Susan had served as Deputy Clerk since January 2019.

"I like being able to help people with their needs, question and concerns. The Clerk's office receives many phone calls from people who do not know what department they need," said Susan.

Ms. Robbin's personal interests include spending time with her husband, kids, grandkids and reading.

Susan can be reached at: 618-466-3381; or, clerk@godfreyil.org

Office hours are:

M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Office closes Noon to 1:00 p.m.



Cousins Aubree and Easton Gibson display their catch at the Fishing Derby held during the Arbor Day Celebrations, April 29 at Glazebrook Park. Forty-seven young anglers participated in the derby. Several prizes and awards were given based upon the number of fish caught, the size of the catch; and the strangest catch, such as a turtle or pine tree limb. In celebration of Arbor Day, tree saplings were given to the first 300 visitors to the event.



Arbor Day is an annual event held at Glazebrook Park in late April.



Mayor McCormick presents Mary (Vambaketes) Matthews with a plaque commemorating Tony's Ranch House for being Godfrey's Business of the Month for February 2023. There are three Vambaketes siblings involved in the business. Bothers Johnny and AJ and sister, Mary. The Ranch House is open for lunch and dinner and provides a family-style atmosphere with daily menu specials.

Tony's Ranch House is located at 3330 Godfrey Road.

Mon. thru Thurs.

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday and Saturday

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.



Mayor McCormick presents Brandon Roper with a plaque commemorating Roper's Regal Beagle for being Godfrey's Business of the Month for March 2023. Roper's has a reputation for good food and a clean atmosphere. On a nice warm evening the patio and common areas are full of folks enjoying good food, drinks and live music. Roper's Regal Beagle is located at 3043 Godfrey Road

Hours of operation:

Sunday - Thurs 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Fridays 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.



**Featured Business of the Month:  
Josephine's Tea Room**



For the ladies who are planning a day trip, Godfrey has a great destination. Good food, refined shopping and an exclusive experience awaits at Josephine's Tea Room.

Fred and Sherri Whitworth started Josephine's in 1979. Mr. Whitworth was in the auto supply business and owned stores in Carrollton and Greenfield. He sold those businesses and was involved in a job that required him to travel extensively.

Sherry said to Fred that she would like to open a gift shop. He replied that would be fine as long as he did not have to be involved. One day they were driving down Godfrey Road and Sherri saw, and liked, the house where the business is located. They bought the property and Sherri started the business.

While on the road, Fred sent Sherri some flowers to cheer her up because he thought she would not have any business. When he called Sherry said, "I'm too busy to talk to you." The rest is his history.

Josephine's strives to be excellent in providing customer service. "It is a feel good place," said Mr. Whitworth. People can dine, shop and then spend time in the beautiful lawn and green spaces that surround the property. They serve customers with dedicated staff members having tenures of 25 to 30 years. Selective hiring and treating employees with respect is key to the company's strategy. To provide a unique shopping experience, Josephine's has four buyers that travel to fashion and gift trade shows in Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago and New York.

Josephine's just completed one of their semi-annual fashion shows. With the recent show, they broke their sales record.

Customers travel from St. Louis and West County, Belleville, Fairview Heights and areas south. People also travel from Jacksonville, Springfield and points north. Local support of customers is great.

Mr. Whitworth feels that Godfrey is a good

place to do business. "I also like the access to government. I can just come and see Mayor McCormick with an issue," said Fred.

6109 Godfrey Road  
Godfrey, IL 62035  
618.466.7796

[skjosephinesltd@yahoo.com](mailto:skjosephinesltd@yahoo.com)

**Hours of operation:**

Tea Room

Mon - Fri: 11:00am - 2:00pm  
Saturday: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Gift Shops

Mon - Fri: 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:30pm



**Keep on Truckin' .....**



The annual Big Truck Day was held May 4 at Glazebrook Park. As usual, it was a great hit with the

kids and parents alike. After all, who does not like big trucks! Many of the organizations that provided vehicles also brought various gifts and handouts for the kids. There have been suggestions that Big Truck Day be moved to a Saturday. Having this event during the

middle of the week in the first part of May, provides an excellent opportunity for field trips at the end of the school year. A big "thank you" goes out to the many businesses and organizations that brought in equipment and giveaways!

**Oh, and one more thing.....**

So many great things going on in Godfrey that I ran out of space for comment. I'm pretty much speechless, anyway!

One thing I can comment on is how my grandson, William, showed up at my farm wearing a yellow plastic "hard hat" he got at Big Truck Day..... priceless.

Enjoy the nice weather.

**Congratulations Growth Association' May  
Business of the Month!**



*Jim Mager*

*Economic Development*

618-466-3325

[jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)