



The Villager

July 2023

Special points of interest:

- The Village of Godfrey Promotes Its Many Assets
- Growth Association's Business of the Month
- A Blast From the Past
- Movie In the Park
- Andrew Ambrose Appointed to CPEDI Committee
- Godfrey Hemp Maze For 2023
- Streets in Storyland and W. Woodfield
- Featured Business of the Month: Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club
- Oh, and one more thing...

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

The Village of Godfrey Promotes Its Many Assets



Riverbender.com has built a new website for the Village of Godfrey. The goal is to attract visitors and tourism throughout the region. The interactive online guide will showcase amenities of The Village.

The presentation includes video and photography that highlight places to eat and drink, places to shop, things to see and do, the parks, hiking and biking trails, and more. The site is a destination for both residents of Godfrey, as well as visitors. It complements marketing efforts to grow the business district and the village in general. The new website supplements, not replaces, the existing municipal website, which keeps residents informed of Village matters such as department information, meetings, trash pickup, bill pay, etc. Together, the two sites will demonstrate Godfrey as a great place to live and an equally great place to visit!

The "VisitGodfrey.com" website is modeled after many attraction sites across the nation. The best sites have a heavy focus on great photography and video. Riverbender.com created a custom design that is a graphically pleasing presentation of Godfrey.

The home page features a video background leading to the following content:

- Events
- Things to do
- Restaurants
- Shopping; and
- More

Businesses, attractions, and venues are categorized by section and have their own pages with more information. Riverbender.com made reasonable efforts to collect information from the featured businesses. Providing and keeping the content current is the sole responsibility of the individual businesses. Using guidelines under a maintenance agreement, Riverbender.com will support the Village of Godfrey and the individual businesses to maintain current information.

In the future, a business may desire to have an enhanced custom video and information about their business. Such enhancements can be possible for additional costs to the business.

With any development, tweaking is common; but, feel free to visit the new site at:

www.VisitGodfrey.com

Over the last six months the Village has partnered with BigZ Media to promote Godfrey and its business district. In that campaign, radio and print promotions have been executed in order to increase the awareness of Village attractions, businesses and assets.

One of the highlights of the program has been the featured monthly gift card program through the "gotogodfrey" program. The program will continue.

The program with BigZ media will continue for another six month campaign. It will be modified to drop the "Youtube" portion and provide increased focus on "Facebook" and email promotions.

The effort will also include promoting select events with businesses that agree to participate in the gift certificate program surrounding the Advantage News advertisements. The campaign will continue to utilize radio spots and print space in both Advantage newspapers.

When contemplating purchasing of property in Godfrey with the intent of commercial or business use, be sure to check the zoning of the property. It is also advisable to determine if the property is in one of the business incentive districts:

- Business District
- TIF District
- Enterprise Zone

The time to make those determinations is prior to purchase.



Congratulations to Karen Wilson State Farm for being the Riverbend Growth Association's Business of the Month. Another GODFREY business!

A Blast From the Past

2 + /

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GODFREY TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of what was to become the Godfrey Township Civic Association was held at the Godfrey Town Hall on May 3rd, 1948 with 52 residents of Godfrey in attendance.

Mr. Carl W. Kosanke, manager of the Greater Alton Association of Commerce, was the speaker. He outlined the procedure of organizing a civic association. At this meeting 15 board members were elected, with Mr. H. S. Sedwick elected President, Mr. E. G. Johnesse, Secretary; and Dr. W. W. Emons, Treasure.

The purpose of the Association was stated; "The Godfrey Township Civic Association, a non-profit corporation, is organized for the purpose of advancing the civic, commercial, industrial, and general interest of the entire Township."

During the first year of the Association, it exerted a strong influence on the welfare of the community; effecting the establishment of traffic lights on Godfrey Road, for the protection of school children; and donating to the Godfrey Fire District, for the purchase of a resuscitator unit.

On September 15th, 1949, the membership voted to purchase the "airport property" on Tolle Lane (South Street), consisting of approximately two acres of land and an aircraft hanger building. Following this purchase there was a period of hard work, transforming the old "hanger" into a building suitable for the "Civic Center". In October 1949 the Editor of the Alton Evening Telegraph wrote in an editorial--"Without a cent of federal, state, county or township assistance, the Godfrey folks are building themselves a fine center in which to assemble for social and civic events. A lot of the result has been largely from the sweat of their own brows, instead of the tears of their cries for help. The whole thing is as fine an evidence of the resurgence of true American spirit as anything civic we've seen in a long time".

Down through the years the Civic Center has been used for countless purposes and the Association has

3

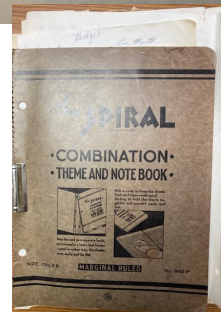
contributed much to the organizations of the Greater Alton Area.

The Civic Center Has Been used for purposes such as;

- American Red Cross Blood Bank
- "Mortgage Burning" of Civic Center-November, 1954
- Junior Service League, charity programs
- Youth programs with the Y.W.C.A.
- Teen-Age Dances
- Local Church Fund Raising Dinners
- Godfrey Fire Department's Christmas Parties
- Polling place for all elections
- Junior and Senior High spring dances
- Girl Scouts, Brownies and 4H Club meetings
- Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and Jaycees meetings
- Salvation Army Dinners
- Nike Base parties (U.S. Army Base at Grafton)
- Heart Fund
- March of Dimes
- and many others.

After a survey of the building in 1964, it was determined to try and build a new Civic Center, since time and the elements had dealt the old structure a hard blow. In the opinion of construction experts, it was useless to try and repair the old building, due to weakness of the basic structure.

In late 1965 a contract was awarded to Wilson Construction Company for construction of an all steel and brick building at a total cost of \$70,000. Total indebtedness on the project will be reduced by Fund Raising Drives now in progress, and contributions by individuals, businesses, and industries from throughout the area.



A Godfrey resident was going through the closet of a passed love one and came across this old binder full of printed and handwritten notes detailing early activities of the Godfrey Township Civic Association. The file is chucked full of history and information. Below is a "Brief History of the Godfrey Township Civic Association."



Movie In The Park
July 21
Glazebrook Park



Family Fun Fest
Glazebrook Park
July 4 -- Great Turnout!



Andrew Ambrose Appointed to CPEDI Committee

Andrew Ambrose has been appointed to the Community Planning & Economic Development Committee. He began his term on July 12.

He has an extensive background in banking and is a commercial loan officer for 1st National Bank of Waterloo. Andrew is also active with the North Alton Godfrey Business Council. He has a degree in business administration from SIUE and also studied music education from Eastern Illinois University. He resides in Godfrey with his wife and three children.

The Community Planning and Economic Development Committee acts as an advisory group to the Director of Economic Development and the Mayor. The group typically meets quarterly. Other members are Sharon O'Neal, Linda Wheaton, John Keller, Patrick Miller, Jennifer Russell, Karen McAtee, Susan Robbins and Sarah Woodman.

Godfrey Hemp Maze

For 2023



The design for the 2023 Godfrey Hemp Maze was revealed July 4 at Family Fun Fest. The maze is scheduled to open mid-September and run through the end of October. The Annual Fall Festival is September 23. Always a good time at Glazebrook Park — please plan to be there!

If you would like to receive the monthly issue of "The Villager" by email, please contact Jim at: jmager@godfreyil.org

New Streets in Storyland and W. Woodfield



The weather has been hot, but that has not deterred construction of new concrete repair of streets in the Storyland and W. Woodfield neighborhoods.

The photo at the top is in Storyland where the streets are being repaired due to deterioration. This repair is the last year of a five year plan.

The lower photo is in W. Woodfield where the existing concrete streets are in disrepair and in need of replacing. This section is at the very end of W. Woodfield at the location of the culdesac. In this neighborhood, it is the first repair year of a two to three year plan. Eventually, all of W. Woodfield will be replaced.

Determination of repairs is accomplished by Village Engineering reviewing every mile of concrete streets every two years. The streets are analyzed for the degree of deterioration in order to prioritize repair efforts. For efficiency, scheduled repairs are concentrated in a subdivision or neighborhood.

Featured Business of the Month: Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club



One may not realize this fact, but the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club is one of the oldest establishments in the Village of Godfrey.

According to an article in the archives of the Advantage, the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club was chartered by the state as a not-for-profit corporation on July 9, 1947. It was started with 12 members who loaned the money it took to get started. The individuals were sportsmen who wanted a place to go hunting, but could not individually afford property. So they pooled their resources and bought property at the current location. At the time, the property would have been very rural.

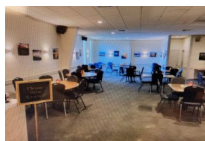
Those first meetings took place in member basements. In December of 1948, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of 53 acres in Godfrey (a portion of the current location) for \$10,000. The next year, a one-story clubhouse was erected. Over the next 25 years, the clubhouse would be renovated and expanded to accommodate the club's rapid growth. 1950 saw the addition of a fishing lake, with a trap house added in 1951, along with 711 acres (900 acres today) of river bottom land in 1953 in Pleasant Hill, Ill. In its heyday, the club reached 2,600 members.

At one point, membership was so tight it was decided by a lottery. All was looking up until March 11, 1975, when the clubhouse burned in a blazing fire which left members stunned.

Rallying together, they pooled resources, funds, and hard work, and by the close of 1976 the club had a brand new, larger clubhouse, big enough to host dances, events, and a restaurant still in operation to this day.

During the 1980s and into the 1990s, membership dropped dramatically, as was the trend with many non-profit organizations.

The Club's Pleasant Hill facility is located approximately 5 miles south of Pleasant Hill, Ill. on 700 acres of timber and farmland with a 3-story clubhouse. There are 60 permanent camper sites and 3 temporary camper sites, all surrounded by woods on the Mississippi River below the Clarksville Dam. The boat ramp provides easy access to the river for eligible members. There are duck blinds, and deer stands available for members that are eligible to use them. The clubhouse has restrooms, showers, bedrooms, refrigerators, and a fully stocked kitchen. Camping is permitted year-round. You must be a Waterfowl or Regular Member to have a permanent camper site.



With members coming from all walks of life, the Sportsmen's Club strives to provide a family-oriented environment. The Sportsmen's Club has 800

members.

While the club's restaurant serves dinner to members and guests only, lunch is open to the public. Also open to the public are:

- Queen of Hearts on Mondays,
- Trap Shoots on Wednesdays; and,
- Bingo on Thursdays

In 2005, the Junior Scholastic Trap Program was started for junior members aged 8 to 18. This program teaches firearm safety, responsibility, discipline, and sportsmanship.

For those who enjoy a night of bingo, mark Thursdays on the calendar. Doors open at 4:00 PM with the games starting at 6:30 PM. The night includes:

- 5 Special Games
- 17 Regular Games
- Speedball
- 2 Coverall (Possible \$500 payoff)
- 5 Pot of Gold Raffles \$140 each
- Early Bird 50/50
- Fried Chicken Dinners and other Specials



Trap leagues are on Wednesday nights. If interested in participating in a league, please contact the Club for more information. If the interest is in practicing and sharpening ones

skills, the practice field is open as well.

The Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club is located at 3109 Godfrey Road.

Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., except on Wednesday and Thursday when they close at 8:00 p.m. Sundays are noon to 8:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-466-3042

Oh, and one more thing.....

If you've been following the Villager newsletter since its inception, you would know that I am very proud of our community and believe it has a lot to offer. Can it be improved, can it be better, is there still work to be done? Sure, but in general, Godfrey is just a nice place to be. That being the case, there is that old saying, "If you don't blow your own horn, no one else will." With that in mind, the Village has committed to efforts of promoting our community and the quality of life it has to present. If we don't promote those benefits, I'm not sure there might be proper awareness of their existence. I want to thank the Mayor and Trustees for their support of a rigorous campaign to market our great community.

Setting on my desk is an old file a resident brought into the Clerk's office. It is full of old newspaper articles, notices and handwritten notes about the old Godfrey Civic Center Association. I really enjoy looking at historical documents. You will find an excerpt on page two of this newsletter. For the next few issues, I'm thinking about including other items from that old file. I hope you might enjoy them as much as I have.

I want to welcome Andrew Ambrose to the Community Planning & Economic Development Committee. I'm looking forward to having his perspective on how we work to develop the Village of Godfrey.

Congratulations to the Sportsmen's Club on being Godfrey's Featured Business of the Month. What a mainstay in the Village. I was particularly pleased to learn of their Junior Scholastic Trap Program. As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, I greatly appreciate that effort to safely introduce youth to firearms. My grandkids are often taken to the farm where they learn firearm safety and enjoy the sport of shooting. They will know that there are no evil guns, only evil people. *"...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*



Jim Mager

Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org