



December 2023

Special points of interest:

- Are You Prepared?
- Freezing for Funds
- Safe Travels This Winter
- Featured Business of the Month: Patty's Petals
- Oh, And One More Thing



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You can see your future from here.



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor



Winter is on the way. The FBI director has told a Senate Committee hearing that the possibility for a terrorist attack is at an all time high. Is another "pandemic" in the making?

The Villager is a newsletter to highlight the many great things that we have in Godfrey, feature good news and talk about matters of economic development in our community. Still, a well-developed community is also one that is prepared for a "bump in the road."

Mayor McCormick, Chris Sichra (Emergency Coordinator), Jim Lewis (Public Service Director), Lieutenant Keshner (and his Madison County Deputies) will swing into action should an unforeseen emergency happen. Still, there are almost 7,500 households in Godfrey. Odds are they won't be focused specifically on yours — just sayin'. What plans do you have to take care of your family in a significant disruption?

Each family should be thinking about what their needs would be during a disruption. Let's take a look at some basic things to have ready if something bad happens. The following information offers some guidance.

The government recommends being able to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days. If you could not leave your house for three days, does your home become a fortress or a prison? Much of that depends upon decisions that you make in advance.

Now, if the electricity stays on, things will likely be tolerable. If the electricity goes off, then it gets serious. Let's plan for a "worse case" and hope we never need to worry about it.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water
- Food (food that you are used to eating and enjoy)

- *Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables
- *Protein or fruit bars
- *Dry cereal or granola
- *Peanut butter
- *Dried fruit
- *Canned juices
- *Non-perishable pasteurized milk
- *High-energy foods
- *Food for infants
- *Comfort/stress foods

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications.
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities



Cooking your food

Alternative cooking sources can be used in times of emergency including candle warmers, chafing dishes, fondue pots or a fireplace. **Charcoal grills and camp stoves are for outdoor use only.** Commercially canned food may be eaten out of the can without warming. Do not heat food in its can — heat it in a pan.

Managing Food without Power

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours if it is unopened.
- Refrigerated or frozen foods should be kept at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below for proper food storage.
- Use a refrigerator thermometer to check temperature.
- Refrigerated food should be safe as long as the power was out for no more than four hours.
- Discard any perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs or leftovers that have been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more.

Keeping warm during a power outage

If the power goes out in a winter storm and there is no wood stove or fireplace, the house will get cold in a hurry. If you happen to have a generator that would be helpful, but most people won't have that equipment. There are other ways to stay warm.

- Keep your home closed up as much as possible to retain what heat is in the structure.
- Dress in layers of warm clothing
- Wear a hat (45% of body heat is out the head—get a stocking hat and keep it on, even when sleeping)
- Snuggle in sleeping bags and warm blankets
- Stay warm by moving (that will require burning calories, which means eating more food, you will have to find that balance)
- Move to a southern exposure room and close the door and seal the windows.
- Camp out indoors by pitching a tent and get in a sleeping bag. Don't have a tent? Act like a kid and build a "fort" with couch cushions, pillows and bedspreads!
- **Do not heat with charcoal, gas grills or anything that will give off carbon monoxide!!!**

Repeat.....

- **Do not heat with charcoal, gas grills or anything that will give off carbon monoxide!!!**

Light sources

If the power goes out, the house will be cold and dark. You will need light to see and for your family's psychological well being. Do not wait for a power outage to secure the following alternatives for lighting:

- Flashlights
 - LED lanterns
 - Glow sticks
 - Solar lighting
 - Candles
 - Oil lamps
- } Fire risks?

Water

Water disruption is not as likely as a power outage, but it is possible. The body can go for a while without food, but it needs water. Water is also needed for cooking and sanitation. Consider having one gallon per person per day of emergency water. Emergency water is considered to be clean, drinkable water (bottled water).

Sanitation

If the water is flowing, sanitation is not much of a problem. If there is a water disruption, then it becomes a real issue. At a minimum, you will need to wash your hands and dispose of garbage and human waste.

Keep a supply of hygiene products on hand. Disinfectant wipes would very helpful. Have some plastic trash bags available to dispose of garbage and human waste. You don't want family members getting sick because of unsanitary conditions.

Mental preparedness

Who doesn't like a snow day? However, if the power goes off and nothing is moving, what was somewhat exciting will become quite stressful. The kids may become restless and you become anxious. You will be confined in a darkened and cold house. The first day, won't be too big of deal. Day two, will start to get difficult. Oh, and day three.....

Having planned ahead is important in helping your family get through the disruption. Having mentally prepared is as important as the physical preparation. You'll have thought through the process and you know what needs to be done.

An example is the power outage in Texas last year. Thousands of pounds of food spoiled in refrigerators when the food could have just been set outside in the cold. They

just were in such disarray, they did not think move the food.

Odds are nothing will happen of significant magnitude, but a three-day preparation plan is just not that high of a hurdle. Remember: three days is a minimum. Review your family's emergency requirements and develop a plan — be ready!

*By Jim Mager and Chris Sichra
Excerpts from www.ready.gov*

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.

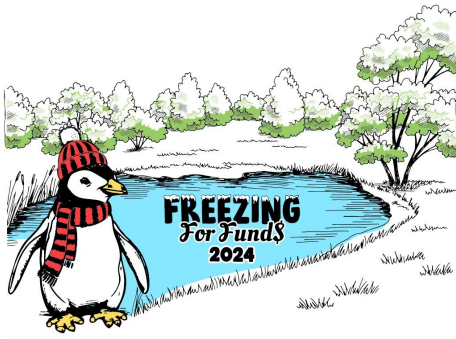
Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Generator Safety

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how 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.

A Real Chance to Chill Out!



Two years ago a small group came up with an idea to raise money for a local charity. It is called Freezing For Funds. Four classmates from the Alton High graduating class of '86 wanted to do something fun, raise some money, and do something good for the community. They went to Mayor McCormick, who liked the idea and was kind enough to approve the use of Glazebrook lake for the event.

The concept is people make a donation. With that contribution the donor will nominate a charity to win the money. The more people that nominate (vote) for a particular charity, the better the chances are that when the winner is drawn it will be that This is a novel concept in that the charity you believe in has a chance to be chosen as the benefactor of ALL the funds raised. Last year's event was a huge success so it has been decided to do it again. Sponsorship from businesses are encour-

aged. A donation of \$250 entitles having the logo/company name to be placed on the back of the commemorative t-shirts. Two long sleeved t-shirts per sponsor are included. All sponsors will also be recognized on the Freezing For Funds website and Facebook page.

People DO NOT NEED TO GO INTO the water — they can just donate. Everyone from the surrounding area is encouraged to participate. Individual participation is \$30. Individual donors will receive an event (long sleeved) t-shirt and the "opportunity" to participate in the plunge.

The event is January 6, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. Chris Sichra who is Godfrey Public Safety Officer has organized firefighters and safety protocols so everyone will be safe.

The registration deadline is December 12, 2023 and can be accomplished at:

www.freezingforfunds.com



From all of us here at the Village



Merry Christmas

Safe Travels This Winter!



The Public Works Department has approximately 150 miles of road and street to clear in a hazardous weather event. Depending on the timing of the event, it may be necessary to have snow removal as quickly as possible. As such, the residents can help the snow removal process by making sure vehicles and other obstructions are off the thoroughfares in a weather event. In the past, crews have not been able to clear a street because vehicles were prohibiting access into the area.

Crews will work to clear the passageways as quickly as possible. Please understand that removing piles of snow from mailboxes and driveways are usually not possible. Patience is appreciated.....

You can go to 'www.gotogodfrey.com' 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 December is Bakers and Hale. Register now!

Featured Business of the Month:

Patty's Petals



Patty's Petals is a family owned and operated business located in Godfrey, IL since 2010. They are a full-service florist specializing in fresh and silk arrangements for any occasion. As of November 3, 2023 you can find them at their new location on 3104 Godfrey Road.

Patty Seymour was raised in Godfrey. Out of high school, Patty started working with flowers in 1971 under the guidance of designers John Lock and Toi Warner at Lock's Floral in Alton. Upon marriage to Terry, she lived in other parts of the country as he served in the military. After raising three children, Patty worked for Landmark Realty. After leaving Landmark she wanted something to do, so she returned to her passion of floral design and started Patty's Petals as a home based business.

Starting with a focus on silk arrangements for weddings, the business continued to grow through word of mouth referrals. Continued growth for eight years led to customers calling for fresh floral arrangements for a variety of other events.

As demand continued to grow, Patty's daughter-in-law, Missy Seymour began to

help out, especially with fresh floral design. A real family business has developed as daughters, Tara and Amanda have come on board. Even granddaughters Alia, Hannah and Alexis have joined the company.



All fresh flowers include free local delivery to ensure the florals are hydrated and fresh. To ensure the quality of the design, staff personally select product from the floral distributors. Patty's Petals prides themselves on creating floral designs that will complement the needs of customers.

When driving by the new location at Godfrey Road, one will notice how festive the front of the building has been decorated. "Since the building does set a bit off the road, we have decorated the front to draw attention. Though word of mouth has been very good for us, we still need to work on getting people in the door," said Patty. Once inside, customers will then be greeted with the store's interior creative and artistic ambiance.

As Godfrey's only independent, full-service floral shop, customers can expect very personalized attention. If a wedding is being planned, Patty's Petals does not charge for the glass wear that will be lent for the occasion. In the sad event of a funeral, staff work diligently to make the

arrangement process as comfortable as possible. If there is a necessity to send flowers outside the area, Patty's Petals works through the "Flower Shop Network" to deliver an arrangement anywhere in the country.

Patty says, "To have good service and satisfaction, I advise everyone work through a locally owned flower shop. Work with someone you know and trust."

Patty's Petals can be found at:

3104 Godfrey Road

Facebook and Google
(618) 304-4100

<https://www.pattyspetalsgodfrey.com/>
pattyspetals99@gmail.com



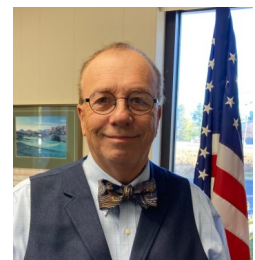
Oh, and one more thing.....

In the December issue of the Villager, I try to give some space to being ready for bad weather. Last year was fairly mild with no real major storms. Still, you never know what might happen. It is better to be prepared and not need the preps and the other way around. If a terrible storm occurs and you have made yourself ready you become part of the solution of getting through it rather than a victim.

I am not one of those people who likes snow but, when it happens I'm confident Jim Lewis and his crew will do what is necessary to keep us traveling safely. I appreciate what they do!

And, a shout out to Patty's Petals. Godfrey now has it's own independently owned, full-service floral shop. Thank you for making your investment Godfrey.

Christmas shop locally as much as you can and HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!



Jim Mager

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