



The Villager

June 2024

Special points of interest:

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- Burning Ordinance Extended
- Joanne Adams—Godfrey's Good Neighbor
- Family Fun Day
- Illinois Passes State Budget
- Recreation Center
- Improving Pierce Lane
- Business of the Month: Bakers and Hale
- 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

Project Updates

Stamper Lane Extension



The former Halloran property appears to be at a stand still, but progress is occurring. Because Stamper Lane will be extended into the property and the three-way intersection will

become a four-way, construction design requires IDOT approval. Such approval is not a quick and simple process.

Working with Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, Inc., the Village of Godfrey has submitted construction design for the intersection to IDOT. The agency reviewed those plans and came back with a few concerns and requests for modification. Those semi-final concerns are being addressed and final design approval is expected. Construction of the intersection is planned to be let for bid toward the end of this year.

Lars Hoffman Express Way Extension

An agreement was made between the Village of Godfrey from Madison County to swap Lars Hoffman for Airport Road. Madison County will construct the extension of Lars Hoffman going west to intersect with Airport just north of Pierce Lane. Godfrey will take over maintenance of Airport Road. Madison County is currently in negotiations with property owners to secure right-of-way to construct the road.



Pierce Lane

Pierce Lane will be widened from Stamper Lane to Airport Road. When completed, Pierce will have the same construction and appearance from Delmar to Airport Road.

Preliminary work has begun with the removal of trees along Rolling Hills Golf Course. There has been select land acquisition to accommodate right-of-way for the widening of Pierce.



Emmons and Cress Multifamily Development

The company is developing ten fourplexes on

Lars Hoffman Expressway, just west of San Gabriel Memory Care. Excavation was recently started to install infrastructure for the residential project.

Dr. Adam Snyder Pediatric Dental Clinic

A new pediatric dental clinic is under construction



at the corner of Lars Hoffman Expressway and Riversland Parkway. Dr. Snyder currently has a practice in Edwardsville that many from the Godfrey area take their children to treatment.

ment.



Village Gardens

If you have an interest in gardening, be it either flower or vegetable, take a stroll through the U of I Master Gardener's garden behind Village Hall, 6810 Godfrey Road. It is very well maintained and a pleasure to walk through and admire the fine job the Master Gardeners have done with landscaping and plant growth.

Did you know.....?

There are 211 businesses in Godfrey; and, those are the ones we know about! Not bad..... for a town this size.

Looking for things to do in Godfrey?



www.visitgodfrey.com

Godfrey Seeks To Recognize Good Neighbors In The Community



Do you know an individual who has gone above and beyond as a neighbor in our community? Has the person, through selfless acts of kindness, made Godfrey a better place? If so, you can be the one to help in recognizing them for their deeds.

The Godfrey Trustees and the Mayor are initiating the “Godfrey Good Neighbor” award. Through the program, a person can nominate an individual who exhibits the extraordinary attributes of a good neighbor. A person who has been nominated will be contacted for their approval to be recognized for their community action.

The nomination form can be found at www.godfreyil.org. The form should be completed, saved as a PDF file and emailed to jmager@godfreyil.org. The undertakings of the nominated individual will be considered. If “Good Neighbor” status is determined, the person will be presented with a certificate of appreciation and featured in the Village of Godfrey newsletter and on the Village’s electronic sign.

For more information, contact:

Jim Mager, Economic Development
618-466-3325
jmager@godfreyil.org

Burning Ordinance Is Extended

Due to the regional severe weather experienced last weekend (May 24 through May 26) Village of Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick announced that he is declaring a temporary emergency order to extend the yard waste burn ordinance through Saturday, June 22, to help residents cope with the branches and yard waste following the event that impacted the area.



He said the same rules apply during this extension in that burning is for yard debris only and to be conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Mayor McCormick states that several rounds of severe storms with high winds moved through the village on Friday the 24th and Sunday the 25th which prompted the St Louis National Weather Service to issue several warnings for western portions of Madison County.

For any questions or concerns related to this press release you may contact Godfrey Village Hall at (618) 466-3324

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

jmager@godfreyil.org

Ms. Joanne Adams — Godfrey’s Good Neighbor



Joanne began her career working for the paper mill in her hometown of Bogalusa, LA and later she moved to the Chicago suburbs where she worked in the corporate office for Gaylord Container. Joanne rose in the ranks and was Director of Corporate Accounting and then Director of Treasury Operations before moving to Godfrey. Opting for a slower pace of

life, Joanne’s husband Jim accepted a job in Alton with Jefferson Smurfit. So, in 1997, Joanne gave up the corporate life, moved to Alton and transitioned to volunteer mode.

In 2012, Main Street United Methodist church started a summer sack lunch program to address hunger needs for kids in Alton. Since its inception, Joanne was instrumental in implementing this program which was known as Serving Area Kids (SAK). In 2014, Serving Area Kids was recognized as a 501c3 entity and Joanne served as the President of the Board from 2014 through 2017 and served as Treasurer until she decided to retire last year. She did all grant writing and soliciting of funds as well as speaking to groups to both inform them of the need and to recruit volunteers. The program served thousands of lunches to disadvantaged youth in the area.

Joanne served as Vice President on the board for Oasis Women’s Center and as Treasurer of Alton Community Service League. She is a emeritus member of Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation and Alton Woman’s Home Association. She volunteers to water the Healing Garden at Alton Memorial Hospital and is on the Duck Plucker’s Ball planning committee which raises funds to equip Alton Memorial Hospital ambulances.

Shortly after moving to Godfrey, Joanne was a mentor for a high risk Horace Mann student for several years. She actually worked with one young man four days a week after school during the school year.

In 2014, Joanne was recognized by the YWCA as a Woman of Distinction. In 2015, 100 Black Men honored Joanne with their Community Service award. In 2018, the Eva A. McDonald Women’s History Coalition honored Joanne with the “Women who Make a Difference” Award. She received the Elijah P. Lovejoy Human Rights award in 2019 and was named 2018 Altonian of the Year by the city of Alton.

In addition to Mrs. Adam’s tremendous community generosity, she also works with the Restore Network to support foster families by providing meals to families taking new foster children into their home.

In her spare time, Joanne enjoys cooking, playing golf and pickleball, and reading. She has three step children, five grandchildren and a yellow lab.



4th of July Family Fun Day At Glazebrook Park

Join the fun at Glazebrook Park from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

5 to 9	Vendors, Jumping Pillow, Double Inflatable Slide, BeBe the Clown, Face Painting
5:30	Baseball coaches in the Dunk Tank
5:30	The revealing of the Great Godfrey Maze Design
5:35	Baseball Awards on Stage
6:30	Live music by Jim Mager
5 to 7:30	Registration for Watermelon Eating Contest
8:15	Watermelon Eating Contest
9:15	Fireworks!

Recreation Center? — Not Quite Yet



There seems to be questions or confusion about Godfrey developing a recreation center. Questions involve when it would be built, what it would look like, how much it would cost, where it would be built, or what would be in the facility?

At the May 21 Board of Trustee meeting, it was approved to spend up to \$20,000 with Baysinger Architects, O'Fallon, Illinois. The company

will develop a preliminary schematic floor plan, site plan, exterior or building elevation and preliminary estimate of probable costs. The facility design will include basketball courts, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, offices, restrooms, storage rooms and a conference/meeting room. Locker rooms may also be considered in the plan.

What will be considered is not a full-blown recreation center with all the amenities. What is being assessed is a facility to provide indoor areas for the Village's basketball, volleyball, and rookie sports (3 to 5 year olds) programs. Currently, those programs have to utilize the gymnasiums of the Alton school district. In the near future, those district resources may not be available, or sufficient to handle Godfrey's program growth.

The structure being considered will have four to six basketball courts. To increase the utilization, the courts will also be set up to accommodate volleyball and pickleball. With the indoor courts, other programming can be brought indoors during undesirable weather conditions.

Currently, the Village is considering engaging in an update of its comprehensive plan. Within that effort, the concept of a full-fledge recreation center can be explored. For now, the focus is on addressing immediate needs for indoor athletic courts in the community.

Illinois Passes State Budget for FY 25

The Illinois General Assembly has passed and the Governor has signed a FY 25 budget of \$53.3 billion — the largest spending plan in the State's history. To reach a balanced budget, there will be approximately \$700 billion in new taxes imposed on the backs of Illinois businesses and taxpayers. When taxes are imposed on businesses, it is passed along to consumers in the way of higher prices for goods and services. These price increases will be occurring in an already inflationary period. Interestingly, \$700 billion in new taxes is basically wiped out by \$815 billion going to supporting illegal migrants who have made their way into the sanctuary state of Illinois.

More than \$1.1 billion in added revenue was needed to balance the books, so lawmakers extended an expiring cap on corporate net operating losses to ensure that \$526 million in tax dollars wouldn't disappear in FY25. Another \$25 million will be raised by subjecting "re-renters" of hotel rooms to an existing state hotel tax. How this might effect the chances of Godfrey recruiting a hotel is unknown at this time.

In addition to spending and taxes increasing the costs of doing business in Illinois, two major pieces of legislation create additional challenges for operating a business in the state. On January 1, 2024, the Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA) allows workers to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave from work each year. Workers can use paid leave for any reason and employers may not require workers to provide a basis for their time off request. Workers earn one (1) hour of paid leave for every 40 hours they work. Again when inflation is raging and placing tremendous pressure on working families, the stroke of a pin the Governor, increased labor costs for businesses by two percent. These costs will eventually be passed along to the consumer, or businesses won't be hiring, or businesses will be closing.

On August 4, 2023, the Freelance Worker Protection Act (FWPA) (HB1122) was signed into law. The FWPA defines a "freelance worker" as anyone hired or retained as an independent contractor to provide products or services in Illinois or for any Illinois-based entity in exchange for compensation of at least \$500 (either in a single contract or in the aggregate of all contracts during the last 120 days). Given that, particularly, small businesses often utilize independent contractors to streamline their operations and reduce overhead, this legislation creates challenges for the owner(s).

Second to New York, Illinois experiences the greatest loss of population. Latest available statistics show a population loss of 101,437, which is a .8% decline.



Featured Business of the Month:



Take good food, add an ingredient of fun, add a splash of classy atmosphere and the result is Bakers and Hale. Be it live music on the weekends or Bike Night on Wednesdays, great dining and beverages set the stage of a great time on the northern end of Godfrey, Illinois.

Bakers and Hale opened in August 2018 with an ownership group consisting of many members of the Baker family and their spouses. Kelsi Baker Walden had a dream of opening a restaurant and her family stepped in to support making that dream become a reality.



Kelsi Baker Walden, left and Bart Baker, right

Under the culinary leadership of chef Kelsi, Bakers and Hale is one of the very few farm to table restaurants in the St. Louis Metro East. They purchase the freshest of ingredients from local suppliers, and

grow their own garden with many vegetables and herbs. The only freezer at their restaurant is the size of a standard home refrigerator. By using only fresh ingredi-

ents, plates are full of flavor and will leave a lasting impression. They provide a wide variety of dining options that range from fine dining with quality steaks to a hamburger with cheesy fries.

The dining experience is not only about the food but the amazing staff and leadership. Bakers and Hale is managed by active ownership that is involved in the minute by minute operations. The management and staff work very hard to be able to say "yes" to the customer. "We have incredible customers and we don't want to have to tell them we can't do something," said co-owner Bart Baker.

Chef Kelsi is known for her innovation in developing daily specials. She is very open to trying new recipes and menu items.

With the reputation of consistent quality and service, regular customers come from all over the Riverbend region. They have many regular patrons that come from the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area.

Drawing from over the region, the establishment garners varied types of customers that range from professionals coming in for a business lunch to folks just stopping in on the way home from work.

During the warm weather months, B & H has created very successful events that occur during the week. Every Wednesday is Bike Night, every first Thursday is Jeep Night and every fourth Thursday is a Cruise In. On those nights, riders and drivers enjoy camaradery, good food, drink and live entertainment. Many new customers have been developed through these fun events.

They are very thankful for all of their loyal

customers...not only for their continued support throughout the years, but also for their feedback. By working with the local community, they work to develop menus and dining options everyone will love.

In addition to amazing food, they host many different types of events throughout the year. They are one of Godfrey's premier nightlife destinations with live music featuring the area's top talent on the patio. Bakers & Hale can be booked for private parties (call 618-433-9748 to make reservations).

When asked what makes Godfrey an attractive place to run a business, Bart Baker, co-owner stated, "The citizens of Godfrey, safeness of the community and Village administration."

For good food, drinks and a good time stop by Bakers & Hale!

618.433.9748
7120 Montclair Ave., Godfrey, IL
<https://bakershale.com/>

Kitchen Hours:
Sunday - Monday 11am - 8pm
Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday - Saturday 11am - 9pm

Bar Hours:
Sunday - Monday 11am - 9pm
Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday - Thursday 11am - 10pm
Friday - Saturday 11am - Close



Oh, and one more thing.....

As I am out and about, I tend to get asked about certain development that is going on in the Village. So, every once in a while I like to dedicate a little space in this newsletter for an update on projects that are taking place in Godfrey. I am happy to say that we have some very nice things going on around town.

I just made a quick tour through the Village Gardens this afternoon. As a gardener myself, I really enjoy looking at the plants and how they have been presented. I focus on vegetables and produce, but if one likes flowers and other plants, there is something for everyone. I recommend taking a relaxing walk through the garden. I think you'll enjoy it.

I am very appreciative, and proud, of the support the Mayor and Trustees give to our business community. I realize that some might not agree with everything that is done, but for the most part they work very hard to make the Village business-friendly. I wish the State of Illinois would imitate Godfrey administration's efforts. For those who desire to see business growth in Godfrey, please pay attention to things that happen in Springfield - it matters how Illinois is viewed as a place to do business.

A big thank you to Bakers and Hale for being a Godfrey business - they do a great job! Congratulations to Joanne Adams for the service she has given to the community.

I hope to see everyone at July 4th Family Fun Day and Fireworks!



Jim Mager

Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org

