



# The Villager

November 2024

## Special points of interest:

- Keep It In The Neighborhood
- Godfrey's Good Neighbor – Shirley Wiedman
- Illinois American Water Holds Disaster Exercise
- Breakfast With Santa
- Snowflake Festival
- Godfrey's Featured Business of the Month – Homes by Emmons and Cress
- 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



### Keep It In The Neighborhood

As the holiday season approaches, the excitement of gift-giving and festive gatherings fills the air. While many of us indulge in the convenience of online shopping and big-box retailers, it's crucial not to overlook the significant impact that shopping local can have on your community. Choosing to support local businesses during the holidays can make a world of difference.

When you shop at local businesses, you're not just buying a product; you're investing in your community. Local stores, restaurants and artisans are often the heart and soul of your neighborhood. Your purchases contribute to their growth and success, which, in turn, bolsters the local economy. It leads to more job opportunities, improved infrastructure, and a vibrant community that everyone can enjoy.

Local businesses offer a diverse range of unique and handcrafted products that you won't find in larger commercial stores. Choosing gifts from these businesses adds a personal touch to your presents. Whether it's a piece of handmade jewelry, a custom artwork or locally sourced delicacies, you're bound to find items that are both thoughtful and meaningful, making your holiday gifting even more special.

Shopping local can also be a more environmentally responsible choice. With smaller distances to travel, local products often have a smaller carbon footprint compared to items transported over long distances. Supporting local businesses can help reduce emissions and promote sustainability, which is increasingly important in a world facing climate challenges.

Many local businesses are the embodiment of the American dream. They are often run by passionate entrepreneurs who take great pride in their work. By shopping local, you're not only supporting their endeavors, but you're also encouraging others to follow their dreams and start their own businesses. This perpetuates a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in your community.

Local businesses tend to prioritize customer service because they value the relationships



they build with their neighbors. You're more likely to receive a personal and friendly experience when you shop locally. The staff often knows their products well and can provide expert advice, ensuring you make the right choices for your holiday purchases.

Shopping local can create a sense of belonging within your community. As you frequent local stores and become a familiar face, you establish a connection with the business owners and fellow shoppers. It builds a sense of camaraderie and unity that makes your neighborhood feel like a true home.

This year, consider making a commitment to shop local, and let the spirit of the season shine brightly in your own neighborhood.

*Reprinted by permission from  
Sandpoint Living Local  
Sandpoint, Idaho*

*Mailing Address: 217 Cedar Street #225,  
Sandpoint, ID 83864*

*<https://www.sandpointlivinglocal.com>*

### Godfrey Community Answers the Call To Help Victims of Helene



Mayor McCormick put out the call to support 'Churches on the Streets,' a non-profit organization that helps people in need. He asked that the community provide donations for those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

The compassion of Godfrey residents resulted in a response to assist the folks in North Carolina with many donations ranging from coats to propane tanks, to brand new boots, blankets, towels, sleeping bags and more.

Donations were accepted in the Mayor's office. On October 24th, the items were picked up by Churches on the Streets. They are now making their fifth trip to North Carolina with supplies loaded onto a truck and U-Haul trailer.

"I was happy to learn about the efforts of Angela Valdez and Churches on the Street," said Mayor McCormick. "I was confident that Godfrey residents would rise to the occasion, and I know the donations will be appreciated."

## Godfrey's Good Neighbor — Shirley Wiedman



From time to time a person comes along that exemplifies service to others. One of those people is Godfrey's own Mrs. Shirley Wiedman. Whether it be providing care and help to others or service to the community, Shirley has spent a life

time doing so.

One of her greatest contributions to the community was her spending over 47 years working and serving on the board of the William BeDell Achievement and Resource Center. Located in Wood River, the William M. BeDell Achievement and Resource Center (ARC) provides the highest quality of service to children and adults who have a developmental disability, who reside in Madison County Illinois.

Mrs. Wiedman's life involvement of working with the BeDell organization came about as she cared for the needs of her daughter, Jeanne. Mom was trying to find programs to benefit her daughter and discovered the, now, William M Debell group. That was over 47 years ago and Shirley continued to be a driving force since. She founded the organization's annual fund raising dance.

Mrs. Wiedman's efforts were not limited to the William M DeBell organization. She considers herself to be a homemaker, but her life represents much more. Her husband, Louis, passed away in 2005, but she continued to keep Jeanne at home until she passed in 2008 at age 49. In addition she was a caregiver for many other family members.

Shirley's efforts were not limited to service as it related to family members. As a long time Godfrey resident, she worked part-time for the Godfrey Township Supervisor. She would fill in for staff that was on vacation. She would also go out and do assessments from time to time. In addition to service to Godfrey's Supervisor, she was an early member of the Building and Zoning committee. "When making a decision on building and zoning, I would always go out and get input from both side of the issue," said Shirley.

Mrs. Wiedman was also on the Transitional Committee for the incorporation of Godfrey and also helped to write the new zoning laws with Dr. Janet Collins when Godfrey was incorporated. She is a member of the Funeral Luncheon Ministry for St Ambrose Church and was a member of the Godfrey Women's Club for over 20 years. She has been a resident of Godfrey for over 70 years

With a life time of service to others, Shirley says, "I think it is a sin not to give back to others who need help."

## Illinois American Water Co – Hold Disaster Table Top Exercise



In a continuing effort to ensure that our community is fully prepared (following a local/regional disaster) on Tuesday, 10/29/24, Fire Chief Cranmer, Madison County EMA Director Fred Patterson and Godfrey Public Safety Administrator Chris Sichra joined more than a dozen operations staff and senior manage-

ment personnel with the Illinois American Water Co. at their new operations facility on Airport Rd (in Godfrey) to conduct a 5-hour tabletop/disaster exercise that examined the most effective strategies on how to prepare and provide continuity of service for residents and businesses (regarding local water supply and wastewater infrastructure interruptions) following a "simulated" regional severe weather event that took out the regional power grid for more than a week.

Multiple solutions were involved to manage the incident, which included: detailed planning and deployment of IAWC emergency response plans/procedures and personnel, coordination with local municipalities and first response agencies to disseminate information providing situational updates to the public, rapid damage assessment, acquisition of local, state and federal resources, hardening of current infrastructure and use of specialty equipment like bypass pumps and temporary mobile generators to be used at lift stations and other plants with IAWC.



While local emergency officials are dutifully preparing for the unexpected, it is also important that individual households do the same. The disasters in Florida, the South East and, most recently Spain, remind us that catastrophic events do happen.

Individual household should have a reserve of food, water, a means to provide heat, light and cooking. Don't forget first aid and medications. As our emergency professionals develop their readiness for a response to an adverse event, please make their job easier by also preparing your household.

### Mark Your Calendars!



Freezing for Funds returns in 2025!

Held on a nice snowy day at Glazebrook Park last year, the event was a great success.

With such success, the group is returning for a refreshing dip in Glazebrook Lake. The date is set for January 4, 2025. Mark your calendars and feel free to join in on the fun.

More information is to follow!

## A New Business Is Coming To Godfrey

Mayor McCormick announced on November 4 that Metro Supply of Alton will be relocating to Monticello Plaza. Metro Supply is a long established business that handles restaurant, industrial and janitorial supplies. The transition is estimated to take a few weeks to complete. "Godfrey is a business friendly community and we welcome and are very pleased to have Metro Supply be a part of our business community," said Mayor McCormick.



The North Alton Godfrey Business Council in partnership with the Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department extends an invitation of all parents and children to attend and enjoy the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast with Santa. This festive event is being held on Saturday, December 14th from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at the Godfrey Knights of Columbus Hall, 1713 Stamper Lane in Godfrey.

Activities commence with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus concurrent with the serving of a deliciously prepared buffet breakfast by Nicky G's Catering. Attendees will be entertained by holiday music selections, an internationally know magician, a face painter and a balloon artist.

Admission is by ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY utilizing the Registration Form which follows and mailing or dropping off the completed form and remittance (payable to NAGBC and mailing to the Village of Godfrey, PO Box 5067, Godfrey, IL 62035 or the Parks and Recreation Department at the Village of Godfrey Town Hall, 6810 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, IL 62035.

REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# OF ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15. = \_\_\_\_\_  
 #OF CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 #OF CHILDREN AGE 5 OR UNDER \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

PAYABLE TO "NAGBC"

MAIL TO: GODFREY PARK AND REC DEPT, PO BOX 5067, GODFREY, IL 62035 OR PERSONALLY REGISTERING AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Mark your calendar

**19th Annual Snow Flake Festival**

December 6, 2024

Glazebrook Park

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**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 nomination form can be found at [www.godfreyil.org](http://www.godfreyil.org). The form should be completed, saved as a PDF file and emailed to [jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto: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](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)

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)

## Featured Business of the Month: Homes by Emmons and Cress



Homes by Emmons and Cress is one of Godfrey's top homebuilders and are known for meeting and exceeding the expectations of their buyers. For over 30 years they planned and provided communities with quality built homes and condominiums in Godfrey and Jerseyville, Illinois.

The company is a family business started by Bob Emmons in 1987. Bob started working for Sheppard, Morgan and Schwaab Engineers (SMS) in Alton in 1969. During his 10 years there he worked on many of the existing subdivisions in the Alton/Godfrey area. After leaving SMS, Bob started buying and developing property of his own in the area. He started in residential construction in 1987 and was owner of Country Home Builders, which built many fine homes in the Godfrey area. Subdivisions developed are Arrow Wood Country Estates, Country Cove Estates, Heritage Gardens, The Estates at Eagle Ridge, Estates at Summerfield and Villages at Summerfield.

Daughter, Amy Cress joined the business in 2000. Amy, earned a degree in finance from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and worked in St. Louis for over 10 years for Bank of America.

She joined the construction company in 2000 to manage the daily operations of the Sales Office which includes Payroll and Accounting, Design and Drafting, Sales and Marketing, Customer Service and Home-

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

Another Holiday Season is just around the corner. I see ads for Black Friday when it is not even Black Friday! As you develop your Christmas shopping list, please remember to shop local when you can. "When you buy from a small business, an actual person does a little happy dance."

Don't forget that Small Business Saturday is November 30, the day after Black Friday. Save some of those shopping dollars to support a Godfrey Small Business! Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. When your dollars stay in your community, you help small businesses thrive and your neighborhood prosper.

Thank you to all who brought in items for the victims of Helene. Not only did Godfrey folks step up, but people from surrounding communities came through as well.

When Mayor McCormick and I are working to recruit business to Godfrey, we often hear, "There are not enough roof tops." Thank you to Emmons and Cress for helping to eliminate that situation!

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone.

owner Relations.

Amy works closely with the homeowners to design their new home or condominium. She assists homeowners with their Homeowner Selection Process which helps ensure it is enjoyable and memorable. She is available in the office daily to answer questions during the construction and receives any customer service calls after construction is complete.

Todd Cress, Amy's husband, came on board in 2008. While Amy acts as the business manager, Todd keeps things humming along out on the construction sites.

Aside from Bob, Amy and Todd, the company employs four full-time and one part-time craftsman. These seasoned and professional individuals are responsible for all finish work and painting. Other construction functions are subcontracted.

Homes by Emmons and Cress distinguishes themselves by being a small-town builder of quality custom homes and above market multi-family housing for the community. "Our clients and the community of Godfrey expect to see nicer quality. Builder-grade construction is not a product that is desired," said Amy.

Amy feels that the state of the homebuilding industry is in a unique situation. Because prices for building materials is up along with interest rates, the cost of homes is currently expensive. On the other side of the equation is the elevated demand for housing.

"Even if existing housing can be found, the costs of the updates can be comparable to go ahead and build new," said Amy. As such, their company is quite busy with new construction of single family homes.

The same holds true for multi-family housing. The company currently has 88 units under ownership and management. They get calls daily for people looking for an apartment. At present they have no vacancies.

With the demand for rental, they are developing fourplex units at Lars Hoffman Crossing. Two units are being constructed. As they become occupied additional units will be build for a total of ten. In terms of amenities, these unites will be the nicest of anything they have created.

Other future endeavors of Emmons and Cress include the completion their Summerfield development. Bob developed Phase 3 of Summerfield, which is the Estates at Summerfield off of Pierce Lane. He also developed Phase 4 of Summerfield which is the Villages at Summerfield. Phase 4 is the newest phase with only 9 houses constructed on the new 39 new lots.

Emmons and Cress pride themselves in working with home buyers to create a custom home from start to finish.

Homes by Emmons and Cress  
1824 W Delmar Ave | Godfrey IL  
618-466-1561  
<http://emmonsandcress.com>

**SMALL  
BUSINESS  
SATURDAY**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2024**



*Jim Mager*

*Economic Development*

618-466-3325

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