



The Villager

December 2024

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- Pride Incorporated Partners with the Village Of Godfrey for Light Up Christmas
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- Godfrey Good Neighbor
- Mayor's Christmas Message
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- Oh, and one more thing...

Village of Godfrey Office of Economic Development

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You can see your future from here.



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor



GODFREY ACHIEVES NATIONAL NWS "STORMREADY" COMMUNITY RECERTIFICATION



National Weather Service Severe Weather Coordinator, Kevin Deitsch, presents Mayor Mike McCormick with the NWS "Storm Ready" community program recertification

Godfrey's Public Safety Administrator Chris Sichra explains the program: *"The NWS "StormReady" program essentially helps arm America's communities with the knowledge, communication and safety skills needed to save lives and protect property - StormReady helps coordinate with local government officials and emergency managers (ESDA) to strengthen municipal safety and response plans. These NWS accredited communities are far better prepared for the onslaught of severe weather because they; consider local threat assessment issues, provide advanced planning and mitigation of potential hazards, continue ongoing public education programs and provide situational awareness to the community before, during and after a severe weather event."*

This program encourages village officials, residents and businesses to take a new, proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing everyone with clear-cut guidelines on how to better coordinate, communicate and improve hazardous weather plan-

ning and response operations.

To officially be vetted and included as part of the NWS StormReady program, a community must:

- Establish and maintain a 24-hour warning point and local emergency operations center.
- Have multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts to alert the public.
- Create a system that allows municipal emergency managers (ESDA) to monitor weather conditions locally, properly analyze the data and disseminate the critical information to the public in real time.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through continuous community seminars, public education campaigns, CodeRed sign-up drives and provide social media weather safety tips and updates on possible future severe weather potential to the local community (sometimes up to two days in advance).
- Develop and maintain a formal hazardous weather plan and certified Emergency Operations Plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding local emergency exercises.
- Local government must regularly participate in community facility inspections by the NWS Severe Weather Coordinator (from the St. Louis NWS office) to verify that all of the above criterion has been met.

Chris Sichra



A Word on the Comprehensive Plan



Comprehensive planning is community planning, according to the American Planning Association, is “a process that seeks to engage all members of the community to create a more prosperous, convenient, equitable, healthy, and attractive place for present and future generations.” One of the fundamental responsibilities of local government is to plan for future growth and development of the community. The guidance document that results from this planning process is the comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan is an essential feature of long-term planning for cities and counties all over the United States, as both the process and the documentation for creating a broad, long-term vision for future **land uses** and the built environment of communities.

Sometimes, timing is everything. The Village has a current comprehensive plan that was developed in June 2021. Early in 2024, the Board of Trustees give consideration to updating the plan. To facilitate the update process, a professional community planning consultant would be commissioned to assist in the planning process. Proposals were sought from two companies. They were Moran Economic Development from Edwardsville and PGAV from St. Louis. Both organizations presented a variety of strengths and capabilities that would assist Godfrey in comprehensive planning. The cost of updating the comprehensive plan would have been in excess of \$100,000.

During the process of evaluating the service providers, it became apparent that there may be concerns of land acquisition in various areas of the Village. As Godfrey does not have a process of eminent domain, any land acquisition must be accomplished by free-market agreements between willing buyers and sellers. Due to the economic environment, land acquisition is creating challenges for both buyers and sellers.

The uncertainty of land availability throughout the Village creates difficulty in decision-making about future development and land use. As such, the Board of Trustees has, wisely, tabled moving forward with commissioning an outside community planner until the economic environment stabilizes and the ability to secure land acquisitions becomes more evident. Until such time, the 2021 plan remains in force.



I ain't much good at prayin', and You may not know me, Lord —
For I ain't much seen in churches, where they preach Thy Holy Word.
But you may have observed me out here on the lonely plains,
A-lookin' after cattle, feelin' thankful when it rains.

Admirin' Thy great handiwork.

The miracle of the grass,
Aware of Thy kind Spirit, in the way it comes to pass
That hired men on horseback and the livestock that we tend
Can look up at the stars at night, and know we've got a Friend.

So here's ol' Christmas comin' on, remindin' us again
Of Him whose coming brought good will into the hearts of men.
A cowboy ain't a preacher, Lord, but if You'll hear my prayer,
I'll ask as good as we have got for all men everywhere.

Don't let no hearts be bitter, Lord.
Don't let no child be cold.
Make easy the beds for them that's sick and them that's weak and old.
Let kindness bless the trail we ride, no matter what we're after,
And sorter keep us on Your side, in tears as well as laughter.

I've seen ol' cows a-starvin' — and it ain't no happy sight;
Please don't leave no one hungry, Lord, on Thy Good Christmas Night —
No man, no child, no woman, and no critter on four feet
I'll do my doggone best to help you find 'em chuck to eat.

I'm just a sinful cowpoke, Lord — ain't got no business prayin'
But still I hope you'll ketch a word or two, of what I'm sayin':
We speak of Merry Christmas, Lord—

I reckon You'll agree—

There ain't no Merry Christmas for nobody that ain't free!
So one thing more I ask You, Lord: just help us what You can
To save some seeds of freedom for the future Sons of Man!

– S. Omar Barker



Pride Incorporated Partners with the Village Of Godfrey for Light Up Christmas



On November 20, members of Pride Incorporated and Godfrey Mayor McCormick unveiled the lighting display for the “Welcome to the Village of Godfrey” monument sign and the front of the Godfrey Mansion. The display was a collaboration of Pride Incorporated providing the design and organization of the exhibit. Godfrey provided the financial resources to purchase the equipment and supplies. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 649 volunteered to provide the installation.

In 2020, Pride and the Village collaborated to develop and build the welcome signs at both the northern and southern entrances to Godfrey.



Christmas Cheer.....

- Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!
- What’s every elf’s favorite type of music? Wrap!
- What do you call a reindeer ghost? Cari-boo!
- What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes.
- What kind of ball doesn’t bounce? A snowball.
- What kind of photos do elves take? Elfies!
- What do snowmen eat for lunch? Iceberg-ers.
- What do you call a greedy elf? Elfish.
- Why did Frosty’s girlfriend break up with him? He was a total flake!
- What’s every parent’s favorite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.
- Which one of Santa’s reindeer has the best moves? Dancer!
- What’s worse than a reindeer with a runny nose? A snowman with a fever!
- What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas? ‘Tis the season to be jelly!



Mark Your Calendars!



To raise funds for local charity, 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.

Info at: freezingforfunds.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 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:

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



Holiday Greetings from Mayor Mike McCormick



I'd like to take a moment to extend holiday greetings to my fellow Godfrey residents and business owners. In the past twelve months, the streets were plowed, swept, and paved. Thousands of area children and their families participated in our quality recreation programs and visited our picturesque parks. As a business-friendly community, we welcomed new businesses and saw several others expanding. We accepted over several thousand bags of yard waste that residents would otherwise be unable to dispose of. We began the "Godfrey Good Neighbor Program" in order to recognize fellow residents who go above and beyond in serving the community. We honored a local Olympian. We lit up the pickleball courts. All in all, it's been a good year for Godfrey.

I'm also thrilled to share that the years spent planning and building the F.E. Widman Trail have finally paid off. The largest segment of the trail was completed and opened to the public this month, connecting Glazebrook Park with LaVista Park. Pedestrians and cyclists can travel from one end of town to the other, and ultimately access the Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail on the River Road.

While many municipalities are struggling in this challenging economy, Godfrey remains fiscally strong and continues to be a very safe community to live, work, and play. Thank you for all you do to keep Godfrey beautiful and thriving!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mike



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 20th 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.

Advance registration is required.

Oh, and one more thing.....

Godfrey is "Storm Ready" and given the storms we have witnessed in other parts of the country, it is good to be prepared. That applies to both the community as a whole, and individual house holds. Thanks to Mayor McCormick and Chris Sichra, Godfrey's Public Safety Administrator, for their fine efforts in this preparation.

I wanted to give an update on the process of the comprehensive plan. I know there have been a lot of discussions regarding the subject. The Mayor and the Trustees have worked diligently on this matter over the year. As is often the case, there are unforeseen things that can come up that call for a course change. What is that phrase, "So go the plans of mice and men?" Holding off on the comprehensive plan update is probably prudent for now.

My last horse passed on last April. I don't plan on getting another, but I'm still a cowboy at heart. I always enjoy a little cowboy poetry at Christmas time. Don't forget "Breakfast with Santa" and I hope to see some of you there.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



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