



# The Villager

January 2025

## Special points of interest:

- Beverly Farm Ribbon Cutting
- Thank you!
- Good Neighbor—Mark Lorch
- Godfrey Recognized by Kreative Kids
- Godfrey Suspends Yard Waste Drop-Off for Winter Season
- Freezing for Funds
- Godfrey Welcomes Metro Supply to Monticello Plaza
- Business of the Month — Countryside Builders
- Oh, and one more thing...



On Wednesday, December 18th Mayor McCormick joined the Riverbend Growth Association and the Beverly Farm Foundation at 6301 Humbert Rd. for a ribbon cutting as they celebrated the Grand Reopening of Hillier Cottage following a complete restoration and renovation of that facility. Beverly Farm is a planned community that was founded in 1897 by Dr. William H.C. Smith and his wife, Elizabeth. Nearly 400 individuals with Developmental and Intellectual disabilities call Beverly Farm home. There are residences, cottages, apartments and jobs, a recreation center with a pool, full dining facility; there is also an equestrian center, several shops, a pavilion, all kinds of activities, medical services, therapies, and much more!



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.....

stand that removing piles of snow from mailboxes and driveways are usually not possible. Patience is appreciated.....

**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



...and all the local snow removal contractors,

# Thank you!

## Mark Lorch — Godfrey's Good Neighbor



Some people just go out of their way to give back to the community. Mark Lorch is one of those people, particularly when it comes to assisting in enhancing Godfrey's quality of life for the residents.

When matters of Godfrey's parks and recreation are at hand, it is common to see Mark involved. Since 2012, he remains an engaged member of Godfrey's Park and Recreation Board. The Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department strives to take a leadership role in southwestern Illinois in promoting and developing parks and recreation by addressing local needs and supporting a greater role providing open space, parkland and recreation opportunities to effectively meet and serve the needs of its constituents, the citizens of Godfrey, and those who interact with the parks system. As a member, he takes a proactive roll in assisting and providing input for toward the development of future park development and programming.

His efforts to improve the recreational opportunities for Godfrey are not limited to serving on the P & R Board. He makes himself available for other initiatives as well. The Village of Godfrey Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan ("the Plan") was pursued by the Village of Godfrey to investigate and determine the most suitable and appropriate pedestrian and bicycle routes for residents and visitors of Godfrey. The Plan provides the Village of Godfrey with projects and policies necessary to create a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community, reduce air pollution, encourage economic development and recreation, and plan for a well-designed, connected, and efficient multi-modal transportation system. The plan was funded, in part, by a Sustainability Grant from Madison County Planning & Development. The planning process began in 2016 and included surveys, two public informational open houses, and meetings with an involved Community Advisory Committee. The Godfrey Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is a long-range, 20-year, vision for enhancing biking and walking in Godfrey. In 2021, Mr. Lorch again gave of his time to be a member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. The purpose of this plan is to act as a guide in future direction of the Village.

After graduating from Alton High School, Mark started his career at Olin working as a technician in the Chemical Workers and High Explosives Research and Development department. He moved to Shell Oil in 1980. At Shell, he assumed many roles throughout his tenure and retired in 2013.

In 2005, Mark needed neck surgery. He found that walking was very beneficial in helping him cope with his condition. As such, Mark walks three or four time per week. Most of those walking sessions are at Glazebrook park. While engaging in that activity he was asked to serve on Godfrey's Park and Recreation Advisory Board. "One of the most rewarding experiences I have had is serving on that board," says Mark.

Mark is a person of many interests. In past years, he enjoyed horses. He also likes motorcycles and bicycles. He is currently in the process of building a hotrod truck. "I have an addiction to G-forces," he says. He also has not one but two, 1971 vintage stereo systems that he uses to listen to his vinyl record collection.

Mark resides in Godfrey, with his wife, Rhonda. They have two sons and a daughter-in-law who live in the area and one grandson.

## Village of Godfrey Recognized by Kreative Kids



*Kreative Kids CEO Keith Neuber presenting Mayor McCormick with award.*

On December 17, local community members were invited to an appreciation breakfast and awards ceremony at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Alton. The event recognized several individuals who have contributed to the Kreative Kids Learning Center over the past year focusing on their core mission to support children. Mr. Neuber and Board President Terra Stewart recognized several community members who have contributed to Kreative Kids over the past year. They gave special thanks to Governor J.B. Pritzker, the Alton Community Unit School District #11, the Village of Godfrey and Mayor Mike McCormick, JUN Construction and Brad Jun, Matt and Laurie Horn, and Don and Marilyn Norton.

"This is my favorite day of the year," said Keith Neuber, Kreative Kids CEO. "It is a day when you get to give back to so many who do so much for the community."

The Village of Godfrey had provided support to Kreative Kids Learning Center in their 2022 move to the former Alvareita's facility at 3048 Godfrey Road from the McKinley School location in Alton.

Located at 3048 Godfrey Road in Godfrey, Kreative Kids provides childcare for young kids. The center is a division of Alton Day Care and Learning Center, and it was previously housed in the McKinley school building before moving to Godfrey in 2022.

You can read the full article about the event at: <https://www.riverbender.com/news/details/kreative-kids-learning-center-honors-community-leaders-78156.cfm>? By Sydney Sinks, News Reporter



What is going on in Godfrey? Go to [www.visitgodfrey.com](http://www.visitgodfrey.com) to get up-to-date information about all the things the Village of Godfrey has to offer.



[www.visitgodfrey.com](http://www.visitgodfrey.com)



## Godfrey Suspends Yard Waste Drop-Off for Winter Season



The Village of Godfrey has announced the suspension of its yard waste drop-off site on Stamper Lane, effective today. The site will remain closed for the winter season.

Residents of Godfrey who have full bags of yard waste ready for disposal are encouraged to contact the Mayor's office at (618) 466-3324, extension 1, to arrange for drop-off over the next week.

The village has stated that any stickers purchased for yard waste bags will be honored when the site reopens in the spring. This seasonal closure is part of the village's ongoing efforts to manage waste disposal efficiently during the colder months.

## Taking the Plunge for Cold Cash



A group of brave souls took a refreshing dip to raise money for the 2025 Freezing for Funds event. The occurrence took place on the morning of January 4 at Glazebrook Park's lake. As the group took to the water, the temperature was a balmy 24 degrees and the water temperature was a bathing 33 degrees — it was a short aquatic frolic.

Still, amongst the shivering there were lots of smiles and laughter. Shivers Frozen Custard was on hand to provide a fare of delicious espresso, coffee and hot chocolate. Duke's Bakery made available their wonderful donuts. Jim On Keys broke the silence with live music and emceed the event. Finally, members of the Godfrey Fire Protection District and Chris Sichra were on site to ensure everyone's safety.

Trustee Lombardi welcomed and thanked the crowd, while Mayor McCormick drew YWCA for the winning charity of \$5,000.00 raised.

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)

A note of thanks to the following in preparing these newsletters (alphabetical order):

Mayor McCormick, Judy Peipert, Sharon O'Neal and Karen Sinks

## Godfrey Welcomes Metro Supply to Monticello Plaza



After decades of serving the community from a location just off of Broadway in Alton, Metro Supply has moved to Godfrey. While still unpacking the move, the store is now open in a location not far off of the Godfrey Road south entrance of Monticello Plaza. Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick said, "This is another good addition to the village's business community."

In business for over 50 years! Metro Supply offers a full line of supplies and equipment for restaurants, hotels, schools, churches, institutions, municipalities and other government organizations, offices and retail operations.

For those folks that take home cooking to the next level, stop in and browse the fine selection of cookware and equipment.

Monday - Friday; 9 am - 5 pm  
(618) 465-0147

<https://www.facebook.com/MetroSupplyCo>



## Dear Business Owner,

Godfrey and its businesses have many things to offer. The Mayor and the Trustees value local business and want to support them in whatever ways may be possible. As such, the Village of Godfrey partners with Big Z Media and Riverbender to promote the many attributes of Godfrey to residents and visitors. Part of the campaign is to promote events being held by the Village and its local businesses/organizations. The promotional messages are accomplished through radio advertising, social media platforms and our exclusive "VisitGodfrey.com" website. If your Godfrey business or organization is having a special event, perhaps it could be promoted as part of this campaign at no cost to you. Please let me know by providing the following information:

1. What contribution have you made to the community that you are most proud of?
2. What message would you like to share with the community to encourage them to shop locally?
3. What is one thing you wish more people knew about your business?
4. Do you have any special offers of events planned for the next 6 months?



Jim Mager, Economic Development  
618-466-3325  
[jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)

**Featured Business of the Month:  
Countryside Builders**



Whether a new structure is needed to handle equipment, operate a business, store your lawn care tools or a place to live, think Countryside Builders. They are committed to serving customers with time-tested designs, construction methods and proven high quality material while maintaining an open mind to new ideas and construction techniques as the industry continues to evolve.

Countryside builders has eight full-time employees consisting of experienced sales staff, designers, and skilled construction people. They also work with a select number of contractors to assist with site preparation.

The locally owned business was started by Ron Conrad and Barry Seiler in 1979. Both are retired, but they hold a presence at Countryside and have helped manage the completion of thousands of projects over the years. In 2009 Wade Seiler joined the business. He, along with Patty Hoyt, manage the day-to-day operations of the business. Wade is fully involved with both inside sales, everyday business and oversees the companies crew members on every building.

Countryside Builders has the expertise to design and build the project of your dreams. They represent RC Buildings out of Altamont, Illinois. They also draw from

other manufactures, using the finest materials in the industry to ensure that the finished project will be both functional and long-lasting. They are custom builders who can design a building based on your specifications. As stated on the company website, "If you can draw it, we can build it!" Features on their buildings run from the ordinary to the extraordinary, Walk doors, overhead garage doors, sliding doors, insulation, overhangs, steel liners, partition walls, lofts, cupolas are just a few of the quality features offered. One of the changes the company is experiencing in the industry is that customers are desiring more sophisticated and intricate designs. Fading are the days of building simple "boxes" with a couple of windows.

The general process for having Countryside build a structure is as follows:

- Sales staff will work with the customer to finalize a design and proposal agreement.
- Work with local zoning to secure all necessary permits.
- Place order with RC Buildings for manufacture and packaging of the desired structure.
- About a month before building delivery commence with site preparation.
- Building delivery and construction.

*\*The current lead time on a structure is about six months.*



Of course if the need is for a portable building for smaller storage needs, the company works with A-1 Buildings to serve that market. Custom built portable buildings can range from a small storage shed, pool house or a small cabin. The

sales staff works with the customer to design a building to specifications, have it constructed and delivered fully completed on site.

With over forty-six years in business, the company enjoys a significant number of repeat customers and word of mouth referrals. "We now have repeat customers spanning across three generations. We have also had many customers neighbors, friends and family reach out to us after seeing one of your buildings built." "They love the detail of our buildings and how much our customers love their new buildings," says Patty Hoyt

Future plans for Countryside are to continue being the quality builder of custom designed buildings. They also plan to expand their offering of quality materials and building components to other construction companies.



They look forward to working with you on your project and hope you will give them the opportunity to earn your business.

7107 Montclair Ave Hwy 111, Godfrey, IL 62035  
https://



withcountryside.com  
(618) 466-6337

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

First of all, "thank you" to all who got us through the rounds of snow. I hate snow, but I am grateful that we have dedicated people who work tirelessly so that we can get around.

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season. I must admit, I am glad to get back to a bit of a normal routine. Of course, the stretch between New Years and Easter can get a bit long. But soon, I will be thinking about setting my garden seeds.....

Congratulations to Countryside Builders on being Godfrey's featured business for January. They have been a mainstay in town for years. We appreciate the fact they make Godfrey their home. Another note of thanks and congratulations go out to Mark Lorch as Good Neighbor of the Month. When we were putting together the comprehensive plan back in 2020, he was a big help to me.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Freezing for Funds, particularly those who took the plunge. I was there playing a few tunes, but no way was I getting in the water! I had about three layers of clothing.....

Stay safe and warm, let's hold out for spring!



Jim Mager

Economic Development

618-466-3325

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

# Daddy Daughter Dance



*Saturday, February 15th 6:00 - 8:30 PM at North Elementary  
School*

*5600 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey, IL 62035*

Dads and daughters are invited step out together and flaunt their best attire and dancing shoes for our 8th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance.



This event is open to **girls ages 3-12 years** of age along with an adult male-figure (fathers, brothers, grandpas, uncles) **\$45/couple; \$15/additional daughter\***



*The evening will  
include:*

- ◆ DJ & Dancing
- ◆ Appetizers
- ◆ Photo Booth Fun
- ◆ Arts & Crafts
- ◆ Daddy Dance-Off



**Office registration ends Friday, February 7, 2025** or you can sign up online\* until Sunday, February 9, 2025 by visiting one of the websites listed below. Please remit payment to either Godfrey Parks and Recreation at 6810 Godfrey Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035 or Alton Parks and Recreation at 2 Emma Kaus Ln., Alton, IL 62002.

Checks should be made payable to whichever department you are submitting payment.

For further information, please call 618-466-1483 or 618-463-3580, visit [www.teamsideline.com/godfrey](http://www.teamsideline.com/godfrey) or [www.cityofaltonil.com](http://www.cityofaltonil.com),

and like us on Facebook. Inclement weather hotline for Alton Parks and Recreation: 325-0035