



The Villager

February 2025

Special points of interest:

- Emergency Operations Plan Revised
- Economic Growth In Godfrey
- Good Neighbor(s) Ginger Woodman and Koda
- Godfrey Seeks Proposals for Building and Zoning Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan Updates
- Business of the Month – Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home
- 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

Emergency Operations Plan Revised

By Chris Sichra



The Village of Godfrey reviews, rewrites and re-republishes its Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan every 5 years .

This recent release is the THIRD version/rewrite since its initial publication in 2015 where the village received the state “Ready to Respond Community” award from IEMA. Godfrey is one of only two communities in Illinois to receive this accreditation from this pilot program to date.

An Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is a “living” document (similar to a “playbook”) that outlines details of how a municipality or agency will respond to an emergency or major incident. It's designed to protect

people and property, and to restore normal operations to a community and can potentially assist in restoring local business operations as quickly as possible following an emergency or disaster.

What does an EOP include? It follows NIMS and ICS compliance guidelines: As a prerequisite utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage all incidents.

Roles and responsibilities: Defines the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of each municipality, organization (or agency) involved in a complex incident response. Updated EOP's are shared with all the key department heads within a municipality, as well as local fire, police, and other first response agencies that support Godfrey.

Communication: Provides a framework for how municipalities and organizations should communicate with each other especially during multi-agency incident operations.

Resources: Identifies the resources that are available, how they will be used, and who will be responsible for using/providing them.

Contingency plans: Provides detailed plans for all disasters and major emergencies in a multi-section format which includes a basic plan and 23 separate specialty and functional annexes.

Lines of authority: Establishes who (which agency) has authority to make decisions during a complex incident emergency

Economic Growth In Godfrey

By Tony Cain



In 2024 there were over thirty new residential homes built. Additionally, there were twenty new businesses that required eight new builds. Some of the new business that were opened in 2024 include: Godfrey Fire House, Godfrey Dispensary, Delmar Public House, Arandas MX Cocina, LuciAnna's Bistrot & Patisserie, Tropical Smoothie Café, Metro Supply, and Southern Illinois Pediatric Dentistry.

In 2023, there were twenty new residential builds and eight new commercial occupancies.

**SHOP LOCAL.
EAT LOCAL.
SPEND LOCAL.**



Godfrey Good Neighbor(s) – Koda and Ginger Woodman



Ginger Woodman, Koda and Trustee Sarah Woodman

Well it finally happened.....the Godfrey Good Neighbor award has gone to the dogs — and we're happy to make the announcement.

Koda is a Goldendoodle dog, which is a mix of golden retriever and poodle. His personality and appearance puts a smile on human's faces wherever he may go.

Koda was born in December 2020 and graduated in April 2023 from therapy class at Got Your Six Support Dogs in Maryville. The organization's mission is to train service dogs for veterans and to train therapy dogs. After logging over 400 visits he is an AKC

Distinguished Therapy Dog.

Got Your Six offers therapy dog training to individuals who are interested in giving back to their community with their four-legged friends. The dogs undergo extensive training to provide comfort to individuals in a variety of settings.

The following requirements are needed for a dog to be trained as Certified Therapy Dog:

- Must be at least one year old
- Must pass an obedience class
- Must pass a 10-week course with one hour sessions
- Must experience a series of supervised visits with a senior therapy team member
- Pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test

Koda's secretary and chauffer is Ginger Woodman. "He does all the work," says Ginger.

Ginger got Koda during the covid period. She and her husband, Jess, had trained dogs (BK) before kids. She was already retired from teaching in the Alton School District and was getting bored. Looking for something to do, she acquired Koda. Working with him on her own, she decided to expand the training and got involved with the Got Your Six organization. The organization, has instructors who educate the owners on how to train their therapy dog.

Places visited in Godfrey:

- Asbury Village
- Charter of Godfrey
- Beverly Farm Training Center and Homes
- San Gabriel
- Bria of Godfrey
- North Elementary
- Cedar Creek of Godfrey

Also visits OSF St. Anthony's, William BeDell, other schools, and Senior Homes in the Alton area, he's gone to activities at Calvary Baptist, and made appearances at the Moeller Cancer Center.

Koda and his assistant live in Godfrey. He weighs about 57 pounds. He enjoys eating carrots, bacon, broccoli, eggs and sweet potatoes. He smartly can do many tricks, math and even prays.

Koda's assistant, Ginger, and her husband, Jess, have lived in Godfrey over 50 years. Upon retiring 5 years ago their sons took over Woodman Collision Center.

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:

Jim Mager, Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org

What is going on in Godfrey? Go to www.visitgodfrey.com to get up-to-date information about all the things the Village of Godfrey has to offer.

www.visitgodfrey.com

A note of thanks to the following in preparing these newsletters (alphabetical order):
Mayor McCormick, Judy Peipert, Sharon O'Neal and Karen Sinks

Nominations For Godfrey Business Of The Month

For those that have been reading the issues of "The Villager," you know that each month one of Godfrey's great businesses are featured. The Mayor, Trustees, and staff appreciate the contributions that Godfrey's businesses provide and feel it is important to individually recognize them. Perhaps you know of business that is deserving of recognition? If so, feel free to nominate them and explain why they should be recognized. The criteria for consideration are as follows:

- Within Godfrey's city limits
- Good standing and reputation
- In business for at least five years
- Locally owned or managed
- Have not previously been a Business Of The Month

Below are past recipients:

- Tri-County Diesel
 - Halloran Auto Sales
 - Rose Optical
 - Theodora Farms
 - Mr. Donut
 - Jeff Lauritzen Country Financial
 - Bob's Lawn and Garden
 - Shivers Frozen Custard
 - Lake Drive Logistics
 - Tucker's Automotive
 - Landmark Realty
 - Ranch House
 - Ropers
 - Joe's Market Basket
 - Josephine's Tea Room
 - Godfrey BP
 - Sportsmen's Club
 - Ted's Motorcycle World
 - Bower's Towing
 - Godfrey Meat Market
 - Round Table Restaurant
 - Patty's Petals
 - Karen Wilson State Farm
 - Gorilla Car Wash
 - Clea's Nutrition
 - McNicholas Club (KC Hall)
 - King Heating and Air Conditioning
 - Baker's and Hale
 - 2nd Hand Barrels
 - The Plant Stand
 - Heritage Farms
 - Asbury Village
 - Emmons
 - Countryside Builders
 - Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home
- Contact: jmager@godfreyil.org

Village To Seek Proposal For Planning Updates



Mayor McCormick has received approval from the Board of Trustees to seek proposals from PVAG and Moran Economic Development to review and update the building and zoning ordinances for the Village. These companies have also been requested to resubmit proposals to update the comprehensive plan.

These companies are tentatively scheduled to make presentations to the Board of Trustees no later than mid-April. The current comprehensive plan was approved in June 2021. The process to update the comprehensive plan would likely take approximately eighteen months.

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 5 months?



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

Featured Business of the Month:



When experiencing the loss of a loved one, Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes can be trusted to offer guidance through the process of honoring their life. They pride themselves on serving families in the Riverbend and surrounding areas with dignity, respect, and compassion. Staff is experienced in a variety of funeral services to help celebrate your loved one's life.

With a long-standing service to the community, Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Homes, Crematory and Cemeteries are family-owned and operated. Owners Tim Kallal and Craig Schaaf, along with several other family and staff member operate locations in Bethalto, Godfrey, Hardin and Brussels.

Around 1948, Daryl Smith opened a location in Bethalto and operated them until 1981. In 1981, Rod Elias purchased the Alton and Bethalto funeral homes and operated Smith Funeral Homes, eventually expanding his operation to Godfrey in 1987. In 1987, he opened a new funeral home with a crematory on site, which was the first Metro East Crematory. At this time, Mr. Elias renamed the business: Elias-Smith Funeral Homes and Crematory. In the mid - 90's, Tim Kallal and Craig Schaaf began working for Elias - Smith Funeral Homes and later became partners with Mr. Elias. In 2007, they formed what is now know known as Elias, Kallal, and Schaaf Funeral Homes, Crematory and

Cemeteries and operated together until Mr. Elias retired in 2013.

Similar to many other funeral homes throughout the industry, the funeral home ownership has changed due to retirement. The funeral homes all have continued serving the Riverbend Communities because of their succession plans that where implemented.

In addition to the funeral homes, Tim and Craig also own and operate two cemeteries, as well as a pet crematory. The cemetery operations are Rose Lawn Memory Garden in Bethalto and Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey.

Both Tim and Craig grew up in Jerseyville and began their careers with Rod Elias in the mid-nineties. Their long tenure with the company has created a culture of being community oriented. In an era of industry consolidation, Tim and Craig remain committed to treating people with personal dignity and respect in their most difficult times.

Working as a funeral director can be rewarding and, at the same time, very demanding—both physically and mentally. Providing services is a 24/7 responsibility. While the actual bereavement services happen during typical business times, the requirement to go pick up the deceased is 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Of course there is also the physical requirements of transporting the deceased. In larger markets there are actually services that handle this function, but in smaller communities the responsibility rest with the with local funeral home operator. In Illinois, a licensed funeral director or licensed funeral director apprentice is required to make the removal of a deceased person.

As pets have become more important in a family's structure the company also operates Homeward Bound to help celebrate the end of a pet's life. Staff has experience planning a variety of services and can assist with honoring a loved pet no matter personal preference and budget. The company began the offering of pet cremation in 2014. The company purchased its first pet crematory in 2014 which is called Aquamation opposed to fire cremation and purchased a second unit in 2021 due to the demand of pet cremation services in our area. Aquamation uses chemicals and water and is a much softer and eco friendly cremation process.

Elias, Kallal, & Schaaf Funeral Homes Crematory and Cemeteries along with Homeward Bound Pet Crematory strive to make your loved ones service as unique and special as they were in life.

Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home
Phone: [\(618\) 466-3573](tel:(618)466-3573) / [\(618\) 465-8641](tel:(618)465-8641)
1313 W. Delmar, Godfrey, IL 62035
<https://www.eliaskallalandschaaf.com>



Homeward Bound at Valhalla Memorial Park
Phone: [\(618\) 717-0544](tel:(618)717-0544)
2308 W. Delmar Ave., Godfrey, IL 62035
<https://www.homewardboundpet.biz/>

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

Oh, and one more thing.....

One of the favorite parts of my job is working on the Business of the Month and the Good Neighbor awards. I enjoy working with and recognizing our many fine businesses and residents. It was a special treat, however, to meet Koda the "Therapy Dog" this month. There's nothing like a funny dog to bring a smile to one's face.

A shout out to the Elias, Kallal and Schaaf for being our featured business of month. What prompted the recognition of them was a special inquiry coming into the Village Clerk's office regarding a missing person situation. The inquiry was from an out-of-state individual. It turned out the missing person was deceased. It was through the efforts of Elias, Kallal and Schaaf that the issue got resolved. They went beyond the call of service to help with a matter that was not even their concern.

If you have some ideas for Business of the Month or Good Neighbor award, I like to hear from you. Also, be sure and check out www.visitgodfrey.com for what our great community has to offer.

Come on Spring.....



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