



The Villager

March 2025

Project Updates In Godfrey

Special points of interest:

- Project Updates In Godfrey
- Godfrey Seeks To Recognize Good Neighbors In The Community
- Alton/Godfrey Optimist Club Steps Up To the Plate To Assist Rookie League
- Yard Waste Disposal Site Reopening
- Lenten Fish Fries
- Village To Seek Proposals For Planning
- Business Of The Month: Riverbend Records
- How to Save \$102 When Shopping for Toiletries

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

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Office of Economic
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You can see your future from here.



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor



Bakers and Hale Expanding Patio

The Patio at Bakers & Hale will be expanded with construction beginning in March. The enlarged patio will accommodate additional guests under roof when the weather is not pleasant. The improvement also installing solid garage-type doors across the front of the structure. A portion of the cost is being supported by Godfrey's Commercial Property Enhancement grant. The purpose of the grant is to support the economic vitality and community appearance of commercial property within the Godfrey Business

District; foster investment in commercial corridors; and encourage investment in existing commercial structures.

Bakers & Hale is a family owned business focusing solely on their location which is in Godfrey offering great dining and a great safe entertainment experience.



Stamper Lane Expansion

Construction of the Stamper Lane extension into the former Halloran property should begin in April. The work will extend Stamper Lane about 200 feet on the east side of Godfrey Road.

The intersection will be converted from a three way to four way interchange. The equipment to make that conversion is currently being manufactured. During construction, there may be some limited number of traffic disruptions, but nothing significant is anticipated.



Sidewalk Rail Crossing at Pearl Street

With the support of grant funding, a pedestrian rail crossing similar to the one on Tolle Lane will be constructed on Pearl Street. Construction will commence this summer. The Village will construct the sidewalks while the railroad provides all the safety mechanisms.



Ground Breaking Ceremony for Godfrey Dog Park

A long awaited dog park is soon to be a reality at Glazebrook Park thanks to the generosity of Beth Heinz. Her support of construction materials is in honor of her late father-in-law, Max Heinz. Godfrey Park and Rec, along with Public Works will do the construction.

The opening of the facility will be sometime this summer. There will be separate sections for small and large dogs. Use of the facilities will be through memberships.



March 7 was a large turnout for a ground breaking ceremony. Shown in photos are the Heinz Family and Mayor McCormick along with Trustees Karen McAtee and Sarah Woodman.

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. For more information, contact:

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Alton/Godfrey Optimist Club Steps Up To the Plate To Assist Rookie League

The mission of the Optimists club is as follows:

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. With a Vision, they will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

In keeping with their mission and vision, the Alton/Godfrey Optimist Club is committing to providing the T-shirts to the complete Godfrey Park and Recreation's Rookie League program this year. Their contribution will benefit nearly 600 participants.

Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department's rookie sports development programs are designed to assist young children 3-5 years old in learning the basic skills necessary for a successful first-time experience in organized sports activities. Rookie programs focus on parent participation as an integral part of their child's learning process. Parents participate one-on-one with their child under the guidance of an instructor. Participants will develop their motor skills through different skilled sports activities in a non-competitive atmosphere. The fundamentals of each sport will be covered, including an emphasis on teamwork. Positive reinforcement will be used to build self-esteem and encourage good sportsmanship. The four specific areas are: baseball, basketball, soccer and cheerleading.

The History of the Optimists

As industrialization and urbanization brought many new problems to society, citizens began forming voluntary organizations to address the needs of their communities. In some areas, groups took the name "optimist club" to express their desire for a positive outlook in the face of all these problems. The first official Optimist Club was formed in Buffalo, New York, in 1911.

Impetus for a nationwide Optimist movement began when the Optimist Club of Indianapolis, Indiana, was formed in May 1916. Envisioning a nationwide organization, founders of the Indianapolis club moved ahead in the summer of 1916 to start Optimist Clubs in many other major cities. These clubs quickly grew to more than 100 members each. As a result, a national conference of the American clubs took place in 1917 in Indianapolis.

Established in 1946, the Alton/Godfrey Optimists Club currently has around thirty members. The group is composed of people from education, business, industry and labor.

The "bringing out the best in kids" requires vigorous fund raising efforts. "Our members pay dues to cover the administrative costs of the club," says Craig Rathgeb, Club President. "100% of the money raised by our Club is returned to the kids and first responders in our community."

Some of the efforts of the Optimists include the following:

- The annual fund raising event of the Mouse Race that was just held at the Godfrey KC Hall on February 1, 2025.
- They partner each year with the East End Business Association to hold the Memorial Day Parade in Upper Alton.
- They provide support and assistance to Godfrey Park and Recreation to put on the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Snowflake Festival.
- On the second Tuesday in November they host the annual "First Responders" award dinner at the Godfrey KC Hall.

- The Avenue of Flags at Glazebrook Park occurs on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day. The program was established in 2020 and dedications are \$50/flag.



bike trail information.

This summer the group will be supplying a bicycle repair station along the bike trail in Godfrey. The location is to be determined. Additionally, the Optimists will be partnering with the Rotary Club to place a kiosk by the Rocky Fork Church that gives information about the church and other



The Alton/Godfrey Optimists Club is always welcoming to new members. They meet at Johnson's Corner each second Tuesday of the Month. Information about the organization can be found at :

<https://altonoptimist.com/>



The Optimists Creed

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Yard Waste Disposal Site Reopening

In consideration of the onset of nicer weather, the Village of Godfrey's yard waste drop-off location, located at 1433 Stamper Lane, will reopen to Godfrey residents on Saturday, March 1st. The site will be open and accepting yard waste on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 am – noon. Located to the west of Glazebrook Park, residents can enter the fenced area where an employee will then verify residency and assist in unloading the bagged yard waste from the vehicle before proceeding around the circular drive and exiting back onto Stamper Lane.

All yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, foliage, small branches, etc.) must be bagged in brown recyclable yard waste bags found at area hardware stores. Village of Godfrey yard waste stickers must be applied to each bag. These stickers are available for purchase for \$1.75 at St. Peter's Hardware in Alton and at Godfrey Village Hall in the Clerk's office. There is no limit to the number of bags that can be dropped off. No unbagged items will be accepted, and limbs cannot exceed 4 inches in diameter and must be broken into smaller pieces in order to fit inside the bags.

At the time of drop-off, individuals will be asked to provide a valid IL driver's license or state ID showing Godfrey residency. If the person dropping off is doing so on behalf of a Godfrey resident, they must have a photo of the resident's driver's license/state ID AND a utility bill with matching address.

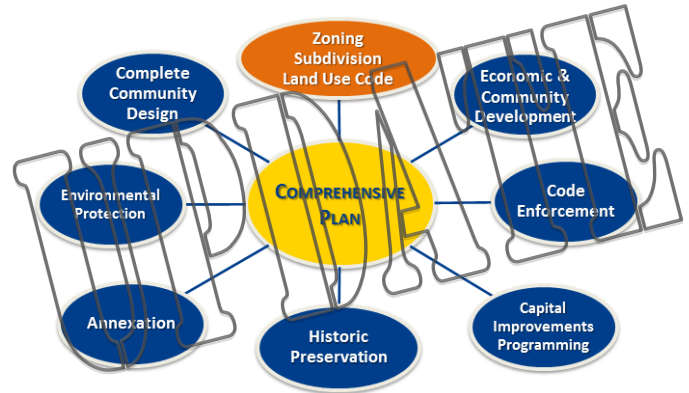
The drop-off site will be monitored via surveillance cameras and an attendant MUST be on duty at the site for drop-off. If misuse or dumping should occur, this service can be discontinued at any time and no refunds for purchased stickers will be given. For questions, call Village Hall at 618-466-3324.



Lenten Fish Fries at both Godfrey KC Hall (Stamper Lane) and Evangelical Church (West Delmar). They are on Fridays running from March 7 through April 11. Serving is from 4:00 to 7:00.

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

Village To Seek Proposals For Planning



PVAG and Moran Economic Development have been requested to resubmit proposals to update the comprehensive plan and to review and update the building and zoning ordinances for the Village.

Moran Economic Development is schedule to make their proposal at the April 2 Trustees meeting and PVAG will present at the April 15 meeting.



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?



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Featured Business of the Month:



Whether you are looking to start a vinyl album collection, looking for that rare album not found on subscription services, or you just want to talk music with true fans, RiverBend Records is your record shop. Unlike subscription music services like Pandora and Spotify, you can get advice from true music professionals. RiverBend Records can help you start or upgrade your music collection. In addition, they help you find the best equipment to play your favorite music.

The store opened in October of 2020. Owner, Billy Hurst, had a career in doing photo shoots for area schools and local sports teams. When the covid scare brought about a cease of school activities, the need for taking pictures became mostly unnecessary. At that point, Mr. Hurst decided it was a good time to pursue his dream of owning a record shop. It was also about the same period that the current location became available.

With the acquisition of the property, Tara Hurst, wife, desired the store to be something special. When entering the store, one will experience a clean, bright, wel-

coming ambiance. To achieve that appearance, the interior was stripped down to the studs and completely remodeled. The store even has a lounge area where one can relax and enjoy an adult beverage while browsing the extensive collection of music, equipment and store merchandise. Occasionally, live music is performed for listening enjoyment.

Every weekend the store has a "vinyl drop." A selection of recordings with special offers are featured. Local purchases from this process are always given the priority. On Monday nights they have live shows on Facebook that, again, offer featured selections of recordings.

In terms of market, the store has a national reach. Still, Billy and Tara, strive to encourage in-store shopping and selling products locally. Since much of the product is vintage recordings, if shipped out of the area it is likely gone forever. If sold locally, is possible that recording can come back to the store in the future to be enjoyed by someone else.

The company also buys used records, CD's, and cassettes. How much is a vinyl recording worth? Price is determined by three factors:

- Artist
- Title
- Condition

The above factors can greatly vary. With over 30 years of collecting and grading albums, RiverBend Records will explain how the appraisal was determined.

The independent record shop is not common. There are approximately ten in the St. Louis area. In that mix, RiverBend Records is noted for having one of the largest country music selections in the area.



The company has continued to grow in its five year history. With digital and online formats of music consumption,

there is a market for those who want to physically possess their music as it brings them a sense of pride in that ownership. This market segment is composed of older consumers who might be looking for a title to complete their collection. It also includes a younger segment (17 to 30 years) that are building their collection.

Mr. Hurst sees Godfrey as a good place to continue growing his business. "I feel Mayor McCormick has been very supportive of small business and is looking out for us," said Billy.

Whether in search of a rare recordings, or just looking to scour the discount bins, RiverBend Records has something for the casual music listener or enthusiast.

April 12 is National Record Store Day. Watch for special activities at RiverBend Records

Check them out at:
2720 Grovelin St, Godfrey
<https://riverbendrecords.com>
618-433-1673

How to Save \$102 When Shopping for Toiletries

Did you know that body wash is only a diluted bar of soap? And that you are actually paying almost four times as much for it as you would a bar of soap? Let's see how that works.

A quick scan of prices online, shows that a rough average spend for a single bottle of body wash is about \$6.00. Dove and Old Spice are about \$8.00, and Dial Body Wash is almost \$4.00, (\$3.97 to be exact). Adding them together, and dividing by two, gives us \$6.00 for an average price.

Let's say that you have a family of 4 and you buy 2 bottles per month for \$12.00. That comes to \$144.00 per year for body wash.

BUT, a single box of Dove with 4 bars is only \$7.00, and each bar reasonably lasts almost twice as long. If you bought only one box every other month, you'd only spend \$42.00. That's a savings of \$102 a year!

"Yeah, but I don't want to give up my soft, soapy scrubby. It feels so nice!" you say. Well, you can get the same soft, soapiness from a bar. Just hold it under the shower stream to get it wet, and then rub it on your body scrubber. Do it two or three times and you'll get it as soapy as you like.

You'll get the same shower experience and save \$102! **BONUS:** You won't be throwing away those plastic bottles.

Brought to you by the Godfrey Sustainability Commission.

Author: Mary Carol Ghislin