



The Villager

June 2025

Godfrey Expanding its Emergency Services & Disaster Agency's Severe Weather Intelligence Sharing Network

Special points of interest:

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- Godfrey's Good Neighbor — Jacki Brey
- Mark Your Calendar..... Christmas In July at Freer Auto Body
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Safety Administrator and Emergency Manager, Chris Sichra

In light of the recent surge of severe weather and intense tornadic events hitting locally the past couple of months (*with numerous documented "long track" tornadoes in St Charles County, Alton, Edwardsville, Granite City, St Louis City, etc.*) in the spirit of the NWS's "StormReady Community" program and as an ambassador in the "Weather Ready Nation" program, Public Safety Administrator and Emergency Manager Chris Sichra is expanding the village's role in keeping more of our local stakeholders informed of the potential of any upcoming severe weather events to help them be better prepared to respond to the effects of any impact.

Once Godfrey achieved the NWS's "StormReady Community" status several years ago, Sichra began providing early NWS situational awareness updates via email to local fire agencies, all village department heads, elected officials, parks & recreation staff, public works dept., etc. typically 2-3 days in advance of the actual severe weather outbreak. By disseminating and sharing National Weather Service convective outlook reports and weather analysis data he is able to provide regular updates and a "size up" of what local government should expect and prepare for. In addition to the above efforts, Sichra has also kept our residents "in the loop" to prepare them for severe weather by holding frequent CodeRED drives/weather safety talks and sharing "real time" critical updates and timing of upcoming storm events provided by the NWS on Godfrey's official Facebook page.

In May 2025 following the devastating St Louis City tornado, Sichra initiated a new phase of the program in an effort to further expand it in order to be more proactive towards keeping the whole community better informed. He personally went out to all of the assisted living facilities and several businesses within the municipality, meeting with various facility administrators, managers and staff to conduct weather safety outreach efforts.

The discussions with those administrators typically included inquiry on how facilities were receiving severe weather warnings and communicating it with staff, conversations promoting the CodeRED callback programs, and reviews of tornado sheltering actions, other inquiries included facility response actions and concluded by signing up each facility so that they will be added to the Village's "ESDA Severe Weather Intelligence Sharing Network" so that they can also receive situational awareness updates via email at the same time village officials do, well in advance of any anticipated severe weather.

Community participants currently on the active email list receiving these early notifications, updates and briefings from Godfrey ESDA are: Beverly Farm, Bria of Godfrey, BJC Outpatient/Urgent Care of Godfrey, Cedarhurst Senior living, Charter Living, Lewis & Clark Community College, Illinois Central School Bus, Godfrey Fire protection District, Fosterburg Fire Protection District, Madison County Sheriff's Office - Godfrey Supervising Deputy, Madison County Transit, OSF Healthcare/Urgent Care of Godfrey, The Riverbend Growth Association, Rolling Hills Golf Club, and San Gabriel Memory Care.

Godfrey's ESDA will continue the mission growing the network, reaching out to more businesses in town and encouraging them to signing up for these "early" situational awareness updates which will translate into our community being better prepared.

Any business or institution Godfrey that would like to be added to the village "Severe Weather Outlook & Intelligence Sharing Network" email list can contact Chris Sichra at publicsafety@godfreyil.org and request to be placed on that list.

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

Village of Godfrey Office of Economic Development

6810 Godfrey Road

Phone: 618-466-3325

E-mail: jmager@godfreyil.org

You can see your future from here.



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor

Godfrey 311 Electronic 311 Smartphone App

Easily report potholes, broken street lights and other problems. Call or email local officials, the police department, city offices and others. Access activity calendars, receive village alerts and more.

Godfrey's Good Neighbor — Jacki Brey



".....I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home.Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and

give you something to wear?The king will answer them,Whatever you did for one of least my brothers or sisters, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:34-40

Introducing Good Neighbor, Jacki Brey, who really takes this passage to heart. She is the founder of an organization called "Feed My Peeps."

Feed My Peeps is a faith-based 501(c)3 organization which serves in the Metropolitan St. Louis area. The group picks up fresh donated food from private schools, restaurants, caterers and market places. Those collections are then distributed to foster families, at-risk teens, veterans, group homes, soup kitchens, seniors, first responders, homeless and families with limited resources.

Feed My Peeps is passionate in providing an opportunity to eat fresh and nutritious food. The culinary community embraces organization's efforts in making this little ministry a mighty movement. Food that is intended for a landfill is repurposed for a table full. The organization also hosts outreach events distributing jeans, shirts, coats, hoodies, socks, blankets and toiletries. The work is accomplished solely by ten volunteers.

Feed My Peeps was inspired by a young boy from Africa. James Koech Lokwakapel was known by his family as Koech. He came to the United States for treatment for a rare form of cancer. St. John's Hospital took his case pro bono for one year. Jacki and her late husband, Tracey Leach, were introduced to Koech at church by a photograph. In the picture, Koech looked very ill as he was traveling from Kenya to St. Louis for treatment. This picture resonated with Jacki's heart.

Jacki and Tracey immediately went to the hospital to visit Koech who was under an intense treatment plan. His very sick body slowly began to respond to the care. Upon the end of his treatment, Koech came to live with Jacki and Tracey until the completion of his treatments. They fell in love with his sweet smile and funny sense of humor.

Jacki and Tracey joined a team with Get the Word Out Ministry to return Koech to his village. Koech's family had an orphanage where they loved and provided for the children who had lost their parents. Jacki realized that a bag of beans and rice were gold to the orphanage. God laid on her heart on a remote mountain top in Kenya to "feed my peeps."

James Koech Lowakapel passed away in Kenya at the age of 18 years a few weeks after the team returned to St. Louis. Koech didn't have access to clean water, proper nutrition, good resources and his medicine ran out. Everyone was heart-broken over the passing of Koech; however, Jesus has big arms. Koech made a difference with everyone he encountered.

God began to work in Jacki's heart. With 40 years of experience in the culinary industry, she knew that every chef has a pan or two of surplus at the end of the day. Jacki felt the stirring of her spirit and decided to retire from her culinary career and serve those in need. Fourteen years ago she founded this ministry called Feed My Peeps with a mission of loving God, moving food and feeding people.

The organization has no brick and mortar operations. It is built upon relationships with the culinary community and volunteers. Volunteers even use their own vehicles, with the exception of a van that was purchased with a grant during the covid period. Mrs. Brey lives in Godfrey with her husband Mike. Her humanitarian efforts have been recognized in previous awards as shown:

- 2013 Local Food Hero Award from Gardens to Tables St. Louis University
- 2015 St. Louis Rams Football Quarterback Philanthropy Award
- Xulon Press published her book in 2012 called "One Peep at a Time." This is a sweet inspirational story of FEED MY PEEPS and how one person can make a difference to another, creating a ripple effect to building a better world.

For more information or to support Feed My Peeps go to:

<https://www.feedmypeeps.org/>



Mark Your Calendar..... Christmas In July

*It the most wonderful time of the year.
With gardens a growing and flowers a glowing,
And donations taken by Freer,
It's the most wonderful time of the year.*



Yes, it is that time of the year..... Christmas In July!

The 17th annual Christmas in July event, hosted by Taylor and Lily Freer at Freer Auto Body, is set from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for July 18, 2025, in Godfrey. The fundraiser supports Community Christmas, a program sponsored by United Way that provides assistance to local families in need during the holiday season.

Lily and Taylor Freer started the Christmas in July tradition in July of 2009 when Taylor was 5 and Lily 2. Taylor wanted to have a Kool-Aid stand and raise money for Community Christmas. It was further decided to add the sale of sloppy joes. The first year they ran out of food and raised \$2,500. Last year (2024), they raised almost \$75,000!

Lily is Freshman at Stanford University where she will play soccer and pursue studies in engineering.

Taylor is a junior pre-med student at Baylor University and is a

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

member of Zeta Phi Beta. She has not determined her area of specialty at this time. Both were Godfrey's Good Neighbor in September 2024 for their contributions to the community.

They realize they are very blessed and have made it their mission to make sure every child in our area has something under the tree at Christmas. Taylor and Lily will tell you while this may have been their idea, it is the community that makes Christmas in July a success. The community has embraced this project and is the reason it is successful. Everything from raffle items to food is donated and 100% of proceeds stays in our area helping our families.

Raffle tickets are available for pickup at Freer Auto Body, located at 4512 N. Alby, Godfrey. Those who require ticket delivery can call 618-466-6151. Local restaurant Bakers and Hale will participate by hosting a "dine to donate" event on July 13, 2025, with raffle tickets also available for purchase from their staff.

Donations to Community Christmas are tax-deductible and can be mailed to Community Christmas, c/o Freer Auto Body. Organizers emphasized the importance of community involvement in selling tickets and donating prizes to ensure the event's continued success in supporting families during the holiday season.

Christmas in July
Raffle
\$10.00 Each

- \$3500 Cash
 donated by Axalta Coatings*
- 7 nights 2BR, 2 bath condo, sleeps 5, Ft. Morgan, AL
 donor anonymous**
- 5 Nights in the heart of Pigeon Forge TN 3 BR Cabin
 donated by Monica, Melvin & Nick Bristow**
- 7 nights Balltown, CO cabin sleeps 6-8
 donated by Annette Griebel**
- 4 Cardinal Green Seats 8/11/25, Cards vs Rockies
 donated by Jayne and John Simmons*
- One side of beef
 donated by Shane and Tiffany Seiler*
- \$1000 Cash
 donated by Freer Auto Body*
- * Mutually agreed date*

Name: _____
 Phone # _____

*Winners to be Announced at July 18th event
 Make checks payable to: Community Christmas*

**Reference: Riverbender.com*

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

Godfrey Business of the Month



Have you had an accident with your vehicle? Hendrickson Collision Repair, Inc. provides quality workmanship and on-time delivery. Their technicians follow strict guidelines and receive regular training with the industry leaders in collision repair, and are I-CAR Gold and ASE certified with those organizations to protect your investment as well as the safety of your family by restoring your vehicle to its pre-accident condition.

The company is owned by Jim and Jennifer Hendrickson. Through the years of satisfied customers, Hendrickson Collision Repair can handle vehicle required repairs in a timely & professional manner. Whether it is structural integrity or finish work, you will have their lifetime warranty for complete satisfaction. Hendrickson Collision Repair understands that customer satisfaction is the end

result of providing quality service and superior workmanship.

One aspect that is very unique at Hendrickson Collision is the fact that Jim, the owner, is in the repair shop repairing and, personally painting each vehicle as well as writing all estimates. This ensures quality workmanship and customer service excellence. It is very unusual for a shop owner to actually be 'hands-on' in the repair shop, but it is vital to quality control to actually have the person assessing the damage be the same person repairing the vehicle.

Jim and Jennifer grew up in the Alton-Godfrey area. Jim began in the auto body industry in high school where he went through the programs at the JB Johnson Center. There he began working for his collision repair instructor who recognized Jim's talent for auto body repair. Jim continued to work in a local area shop giving him over 37 years of experience in total, which earned him a reputation in the community for his hard work ethic, honesty, integrity and quality in repairs. Jennifer handles the office operations, and comes from a small business background. Her parents owned and operated Sichra Distributing, which handled Dr. Pepper brands in the local area.

Jim and Jennifer decided together to start their own collision repair business. The company was established in 2006 at its current location. They added two additional work bays at the time the property was purchased.

Jim and Jennifer continually give their

support to the community by sponsoring local sports teams, sponsoring charity events, supporting their local church, and are members of The Growth Association.

Jennifer handles all aspects of customer service: estimating, insurance claims, transportation assistance, as well as all office tasks and bookkeeping. This allows Jim to be in the shop repairing and painting vehicles, working as a team with his technicians, overseeing each and every repair.

Hendrickson Collision Repair prides themselves in treating each vehicle as if it were our own, whether it's restoring an antique vehicle or returning a vehicle to its pre-accident condition. Most of the company's business is through word of mouth by many satisfied customers.

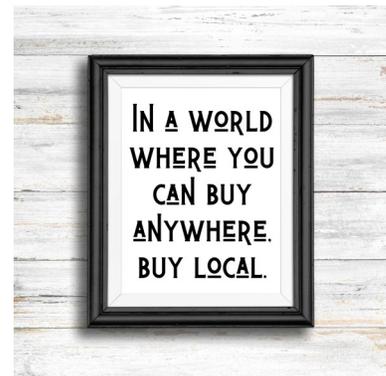
Jim and Jennifer will be celebrating their thirty year wedding anniversary. They have three children, Jake, Isaac, and Charlotte.

Hours

Mon - Fri 8AM-4:30PM

After Hours available with appointment

6307 Godfrey Rd. Godfrey IL 62035 Phone: 618-467-8810 Fax: 618-467-8818



Village of Godfrey Adopts A Transient Merchant DO NOT KNOCK REGISTRY



"All persons, businesses and organizations wishing to solicit in the Village of Godfrey sale of goods/services immediately or in the future; delivery of handbill/activity/goods or services; canvassing and pamphleteering are required obtain a license. Religious organizations, youth fundraising, and political advertisement are exempt from obtaining a license with the Village of Godfrey and this registry does not apply."

Upon license approval, commercial solicitors will be issued permanent photo ID cards and will be required to keep them displayed at all times. Noncommercial and charitable organizations are not required to obtain a license.

All solicitors are prohibited from soliciting at any location listed on the Do Not Knock Registry or at any location with a sign posted prohibiting solicitation. Village of Godfrey Ordinance 14-2025 requires all solicitors to obtain a current Do Not Knock Registry list upon approval of a Transient Merchant License. The Do Not Knock Registry works similarly to a "Do Not Call" list; it prohibits solicitation at registered addresses. For your protection, only addresses will appear on the Do Not Knock Registry. If you would like to be added to the list, please complete the Application Form (available at www.godfreyil.org) and bring or mail to the Godfrey Village Clerks Office. Village of Godfrey Attn: Jacki Clayton, Village Clerk 6810 Godfrey Rd. Godfrey, IL 62035. Your Registration will become effective on the first day of the following month. All transient merchants will be given an updated list at the start of the month.

To report a violation, please call Madison County Sheriff's Department 618-692-4433. Violations of this section shall subject the licensee, solicitor, peddler or canvasser and/or their corporate entity to revocation of the license issued by the Village, denial of future license applications, a fine of not less than \$125.00 nor more than \$750.00, per occurrence, and potential additional civil or criminal penalties. If you have any questions on the Do Not Knock Registry, please call the Godfrey Village Clerks office 618-466-3381.