



# The Villager

November 2025



## Special points of interest:

- Economic Development vs. Community Development
- Just a Reminder
- New Ladder Truck
- Breakfast With Santa
- Godfrey Good Neighbor — YouthBuild Program
- Snowflake Festival
- Business of the Month — Scooters Coffee
- Oh, and one more thing.....

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)

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**You can see your future from  
here.**



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor



### What Is Economic Development?

Economic development typically is centered around creating business and commerce, such as:

- Job creation and retention
- Business attraction and retention
- Increased tax revenue
- Infrastructure investment
- Private sector development

### What Is Community Development?

Community development is improving the community in a geographical area. It may include things like:

- Park and recreation initiatives
- Beautification efforts
- Resident support
- Small business support for local entrepreneurs

Another way of thinking is that economic development is about creating wealth and commerce. Community development is more making the community a better place to live and work (quality of life). Economic development tends to occur in the private sector while community development is often initiated through the public sector.

While economic development and community development differ, they should work in concert with each other. Economic development should also take into consideration how it effects the community. Does a commercial development enhance or diminish the community's quality of life?

Community development without economic development can create stronger neighborhoods, but may struggle with sustainability if local residents lack access to stable employment or if investment bypasses the area. The most resilient, inclusive cities pursue strategies that **integrate both**. True revitalization happens when economic growth aligns with community priorities—so that residents not only see new buildings but also experience new opportunities.

(source: Christina L. D. — LinkedIn)

### Just A Reminder.....



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 prohib-

iting 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.....



## Godfrey Fire Protection Districts Dedicates New Ladder Truck

Members of the Godfrey Fire Protection District and the Village of Godfrey gathered on October 27 to dedicate the new ladder truck and to place it into its new home at the Godfrey Fire House. After posing with the new truck, the officials and firefighters honored a tradition of pushing the truck into the firehouse. The tradition goes back to the 1800's when firefighter would push a new horse drawn firefighting wagon into the firehouse. While the crew exhibited spectacular strength, Fire Chief Cranmer did provide some assistance by "pushing" down the accelerator and steering the truck into its stall.



The vehicle was procured from Banner Fire Equipment in Roxana. While the truck was designed for Godfrey's specifications, it was a company demo, which allowed for a quicker delivery. Prior to acquiring this truck, the Godfrey Fire Department had to rely on mutual aid from other departments when a ladder apparatus was needed.

The truck also can serve as a pumper. As the department has two additional pumpers, it is well equipped to handle even greater emergency situations.

The Village of Godfrey and the Godfrey Fire District are two separate entities. "The Village of Godfrey supports the fire district so well that a few years back, we actually paid for a fire truck," McCormick explained. "I think we all need to work together to make a better Godfrey, to make a more safe community for people to live in."

**Mark Your Calendar..... December 6th!**



The North Alton Godfrey Business Council in partnership with the Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department extends an invitation to all parents and children to attend and enjoy the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Breakfast with Santa. This festive event is being held on Saturday, December 6th 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. Attendees will be entertained by holiday music selections, an internationally known magician, a face painter and a balloon artist.

Admission is by ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY utilizing the Registration Form which follows and mailing or dropping off the completed form and remittance (payable to NAGBC and mailing to the Village of Godfrey, PO Box 5067, Godfrey, IL 62035 or the Parks and Recreation Department at the Village of Godfrey Town Hall, 6810 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, IL 62035.

REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>.

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# OF ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15. = \_\_\_\_\_

#OF CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

#OF CHILDREN AGE 5 OR UNDER \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \_\_\_\_\_

PAYABLE TO "NAGBC"

MAIL TO: GODFREY PARK AND REC DEPT, PO BOX 5067, GODFREY, IL 62035 OR PERSONALLY REGISTERING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

## Godfrey's Good Neighbor — LCCC's YouthBuild Program



This summer, Glazebrook Park was further enhanced to meet the needs of the community with the creation of Max E. Heinz Memorial Dog Park. The establishment of this long desired, facility would not have been possible without the generous contribution of Beth Heinz and the Heinz Family.

With the opening of the park, it did not take long to realize that in order to provide the most enjoyable experience, dog park play equipment was greatly needed. Outfitting the facility with just basic equipment would cost thousands of dollars.

Because purchasing such commercial equipment was not a fiscal possibility, Park and Rec Director Chris Logan began to look at other options as maybe building some equipment in-house.

In a turn of events, Beth Heinz and Liz Campbell were having a conversation and it was brought up about the possibility of Lewis and Clark Community College being able to help in some way. Liz mentioned the idea to her dad, Dwight, who is an LCCC board member. Dwight, knowing the capabilities of the Workforce Training program and the Scott Bibb Center, reached out to Dr. Trzaska, LCCC's president who then contacted Val Harris who is the Associate Dean of Adult Education.

The Scott Bibb Center is LCCC's community adult education center. The Center offers services such as IL High School Diploma classes, family literacy, Project Read tutoring, and YouthBuild: all programs that can help adults who may not have finished high school get on the right path to make a better life for themselves and their family. Recently the Center has become one of 14 Clean Energy Workforce Hubs in the state.

In their conversation, Dwight asked Val if she could use a project for the students to build some dog park play equipment. Val responded she already had a project, but her team could fit in another one. As fate would have it the other project called for the same composite material that would be needed for the dog park play equipment.

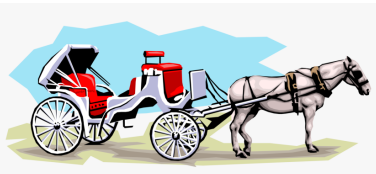
The project was undertaken by a group of eleven students who are members of Lewis and Clark Community College's "Building Futures YouthBuild" Program.

The program serves out of school youth, 16-24 years of age. YouthBuild is a unique contextualized career pathway program designed to prepare young adults to take the GED® exam to complete their Illinois high school diploma while gaining skills in Construction, leadership and applying their skills in real world contexts and service to the community. Construction Trainer Jeremy Elledge served as the manager for the overall project; however, each student took responsibility for an individual playground obstacle. In that effort they had to work on obstacle design, establishing material requirements and costs, construction and installation.

The first conversation happened on September 10. Today, the obstacles for the large breed park are completed. The small breed park is schedule to be completed by Thanksgiving. Dr. Harris gave an update on the progress.

Because of this fine effort, Glazebrook Park has a very well equipped facility for our four-legged residents, while at the same time, saving the taxpaying pet parents, thousands upon thousands of dollars in costs!

*Mark your calendar*



## 20th Annual Snow Flake Festival

December 5, 2025  
Glazebrook Park  
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Carriage Rides
- Free hot cocoa and cookies
- Marshmallows for toasting on an open fire
- Pictures with Santa
- Crafts: Reindeer food making and reindeer ornaments



Toy items will be collected for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" campaign.



## Godfrey Business of the Month — Scooter's Coffee



In 1998, Scooter's Coffee was born. Co-founders Don and Linda Eckles began an amazing journey when they opened their first drive-thru coffee-

house in Bellevue, Nebraska. Their keys to success: find a great location and stay committed to high-quality drinks, speed of service, and a BIG smile. Scooter's Coffee is fortunate to have over two decades of success due to its commitment to the original business principles and company core values. Where Great Coffee Meets Even Greater People

The very first Scooter's Coffee location was known as "Scooter's Java Express." It was later changed to "Scooter's" after reviewing a list of options including "Scooter." The name fit well with our mission to keep customers happy by helping them "scoot in and scoot out" quickly.

Linda Eckles would buy happy face stickers and place them on every drink she sold. It was her way to say, "Have an amazing day!" Customers loved the added touch so much they often commented on how it made their day a little more special.

Scooter's Menu Overview:

- **Beverages:** Scooter's beverages include hot drinks, iced and blend-

ed drinks, teas, and fusions, which can be selected from the app menu and their prices and nutritional guides are provided.

- **Food Items:** Include breakfast, bakery, and snack items, where you can enjoy your favorite food items by visiting the breakfast time drive-thru, and you will find all of this in the Scooters menu, and all its nutrition guides are also provided.
- **Kids Items:** are included in the Scooters menu, where you will find a variety of fruit-based drinks, including hot chocolate vanilla steamers and smoothies, which are also children's favorite drinks. You can enjoy them with your family at the drive-thru.
- **Customization Option:** Has also been added to the Scooters menu, where you can order any drink by adding ingredients of your choice, in which you can use many options from the Milk items, flavored syrups, and in addition you can use many options of sweeteners to prepare a unique drink for yourself.

At **Scooter's Coffee – Godfrey**, community and kindness are brewed into every cup. Since opening, this locally owned drive-thru has become a bright spot in the Riverbend area — known not just for its coffee, but for its people.

The Godfrey team, led by an outstanding manager and an incredible group of baris-

tas, lives out Scooter's brand promise every day: *Amazing People, Amazing Drinks... Amazingly Fast!* Their smiles, energy, and attention to detail have turned regular customers into friends. They remember names, favorite drinks, and morning routines — proving that great service isn't just fast, it's personal.

But what truly makes this store shine is its **commitment to community**. The Godfrey Scooter's has hosted multiple **"Dine to Donate" events**, giving a **percentage of all sales** to local families and nonprofits. From supporting the **Beverly Farm Foundation** to helping area schools, youth programs, and community causes, the team continually finds ways to give back. Each event brings neighbors together and reflects the store's belief that small businesses can make a big difference.

Inside the store, that same spirit of care extends to the team itself. Many of the baristas are local students gaining their first job experience, guided by store manager, Destiny Sagez, who leads with positivity, mentorship, and genuine pride. Together, they've created a workplace that values teamwork, accountability, and fun — and customers can feel that warmth from the moment they pull up to the window.

With spotless operations, exceptional service, and a reputation for generosity, **Scooter's Coffee – Godfrey** has become a true community cornerstone. It's where hard work meets heart, and where every cup serves something greater than caffeine — it serves connection.

"We're proud to serve more than coffee — we serve kindness, encouragement, and community, one drink at a time."

— Scooter's Coffee – Godfrey Team

### Oh, and one more thing.....



There is a saying in economic development, "Retail follows roof tops." Often times, when trying to recruit national brand businesses, the Village has been told, "You don't have enough roof tops."

It is not uncommon for residents to suggest that we need more shopping and dining options — you know, like Edwardsville. Keep in mind that many of the national brands require very dense population to satisfy their markets. It is not uncommon for a national brand to be looking at 10,000 people in a half mile radius. Godfrey has a population of a bit over 17,000 and the radius of the whole town is around 2.5 miles. Do the math.....

Another common theme that will be expressed by Godfreyites (*is that a word?*) is, "Godfrey needs to maintain its quiet country charm." I agree, I might go to Edwardsville to shop, but I sure don't want to live there. You might notice that Edwardsville is embracing multi-story, multi-family housing. Racking and stacking is how to achieve population density. Most of what I hear is residents want single-family structures that are owned by the occupants. Also when it comes to development, there is often a NIMBY attitude. So, desiring a broad variety of retail options and maintaining a country atmosphere are probably conflicting aspirations.

It is a dilemma.....

So for now, have a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the Holiday Season. As Scarlet O'Hara once said, "I can't think about I'll go crazy if I do. I'll think about it tomorrow."

*Jan* this now.

A note of thanks to the following in preparing these newsletters:

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