



The Villager

January 2026

Special points of interest:

- Resolution for Data Center
- Good Neighbor—
Tamara Jones
- Is Godfrey Going to Track and Surveil Its Residents and Others?
- Business of the Month —
Alton Academy of Dance
- America 250

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

Data Centers



There is a lot of controversy surrounding the building of data centers. Everybody wants what data centers have, but few want them in their community. Below is a resolution as to how Godfrey will deal with the issue for the time being.

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF DATA CENTER APPLICATIONS PENDING FURTHER STUDY

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-30-4 authorizes a Non-Home Rule Municipality to prescribe and

regulate the construction of all buildings within its corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Godfrey ("Village") is committed to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents while promoting orderly and sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, data centers are a rapidly evolving land use with potential impacts related to infrastructure capacity, utilities, energy consumption, water usage, environmental considerations, land use compatibility, and long-term community planning; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to ensure that its zoning regulations, development standards, and review procedures are adequate to address the unique characteristics and potential impacts associated with data center uses; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board finds that additional time is necessary for staff, consultants, and advisory bodies to gather information, evaluate best practices, review experiences of other municipalities, and determine whether amendments to the Village Code or zoning regulations are warranted; and

WHEREAS, a temporary suspension through this moratorium on the acceptance of data center applications will allow the Village to conduct this review in an orderly and deliberate manner and that this review and suspension is in the best interest of the Village of Godfrey and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Godfrey, Illinois, as follows:

Moratorium. The Building and Zoning Department is hereby directed not to accept, process, or review any applications, petitions, permits, approvals, or requests related to the establishment, construction, or expansion of data centers within the Village of Godfrey as limited by the below provisions.

Purpose. This moratorium is intended solely to allow the Village sufficient time to gather additional information, evaluate potential impacts, and consider whether changes to the Village Code, zoning regulations, or development standards are necessary.

Duration. This moratorium shall remain in effect for a maximum of 180 days from the effective date of this resolution or until such time as the Village Board determines that sufficient information has been gathered and takes further action by resolution or ordinance, whichever time period is shorter in duration.

Applicability. This moratorium shall apply to all zoning districts within the Village of Godfrey corporate limits.

No Vested Rights. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to create any vested rights or entitlement to approval of any data center use or application.

Next page

Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF GODFREY on the 20th day of January 2026 by the following votes, to wit:

AYES: 6

NAYES: 0

Godfrey's Good Neighbor: Tamara Jones



It was a nice October day around 4:00 p.m.. Tamara Jones was leaving her home in the Seasons subdivision on her way to run some errands. As she was coming down the hill toward Pierce Lane, she noticed smoke rising from what looked like the back of a home in the neighborhood. In the back of her mind, she remembered what a first-responder

cousin had once told her, "If the smoke is black, that is bad."

Tamara could have driven on by but, sensing something was not right, she stopped to investigate. That is when she discovered the smoke was coming from the back porch of the 1221 Seasons address. She calmly dialed 911 and then went to knock on the front door to alert any inhabitants. She still had the 911 dispatcher on the phone when she saw, through the front door: a young boy and a dog pass through the house. Tamara said, "The calmness left and I began screaming at the dispatcher, 'there are people in the house.'" As flames broke through the roof, and smoke intensified, the situation quickly escalated. She began to bang on the front door to alert the family and get them out. Fire and smoke rapidly engulfed the home.

Neighbors started showing up with hoses to try and protect the neighboring house, as its siding began to melt from the heat. As departments from Godfrey, Brighton, Jerseyville and QEM battled the fire, neighbors provided drinks to firefighters and first responders. The firefighting lasted for an extended period of time. The Godfrey fire department was called back into service later in the evening for a re-ignite in the garage area.

The family members escaped without physical harm. The family dog was taken to an area animal hospital and has recovered from its injuries.

Ms. Jones and her family moved to Godfrey from Wood River in 2019. In 2021, they moved to their home in the Seasons Subdivision. She has been employed by T-Mobile for twenty-five years; she serves as the HOA president and is a member of the Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Committee.

Had it not been for the actions of Tamara Jones that day the situation may have been much worse. "God put me in a place where I needed to be," said Ms. Jones.

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

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

Is Godfrey Going to Track and Surveil Its Residents and Others?



For those that have been reading these newsletters since I started about three years ago, you may have noted that I keep the article fairly neutral and factual (as much as I can anyway). Often times when writing about something, I may have some strong opinions on the subject matter, but I try to play it down the middle and not let my bias show. The exception is the "Oh, and one more thing....." segment. That's my little Ed Op section.

However, I'm going to make an exception this month.

At the January 6 Trustees meeting, I asked the Board to (not buy!) get ready to commence to begin thinking about the potential of possible acquisition of some geo-fencing software. The same type of technology that is used by thousands of corporations and proactive municipalities all across America. I suggested that having this technology would enhance Park and Recreation's ability to make better decisions on programming to better serve the residents and users of our parks. It would also give us better decision making capabilities on how to improve our economic development and quality of life efforts.

Little did I expect that my "suggestion" would release a firestorm. Over the next few days the pitchforks were brandished and the torches lit. Facebook blew up and comments in the media abound. I, the Mayor and the Trustees were all conservative hypocrites that were going to be tracking and surveilling the movements of everyone in town.

Below is a sample of some of the highly informative comments on social media.

- "If a property wants to know who visits, they can have a sign in sheet. City officials tracking cell phones to monitor tourists is NOT LEGAL. It violates privacy rights. Tracking individuals without their consent violates privacy laws."
- "Visitors? What is there to visit? Track the data of people from out of town visiting their friends and family? Godfrey doesn't have anything to offer to visit."
- "So what I'm hearing is to avoid Godfrey."
- "Crazy! Notice how they do not have the tech to give a presentation without pulling out the projector and screen out of the closet." (this comment was in regard to my making a presentation to the Trustees)
- "Freedom! *some restriction apply"
- "If Godfrey is going to track people, I will never shop there again."

I had a few people who actually called me on the phone and expressed their concerns and fears. I actually spoke with a very nice lady who had immigrated from Germany in 1967. She understood what a really totalitarian government represents and she was concerned. We had a very pleasant conversation and it was a pleasure to get her views. To those who made courteous calls, thank you!

So let me try to clear up some of the misunderstanding. Hopefully, I won't make matters worse.

Somebody asked how the demographic and lifestyle data is compiled. Without giving a lot of thought I responded with, They are tracking cell phones." That was probably my mistake. Yes, they are tracking cell phones, but they are cell phones that mobile apps

that have been downloaded. The company that we are considering for the service (MapZot) gains its data from over 900 mobile apps. Further more, the data is in aggregate. No body is specifically tracking Ms. Jane's personal phone. So, if you have a bunch of mobile apps on you phone, why do you have your hair on end, because Godfrey is thinking about purchasing the commercially available marketing data that you agreed to provide?

Change your paradigm of thinking. What is the product of YouTube, Facebook, Google, Instagram, or you name the app? Oh, we might think that the product is free videos, free information, free entertainment. No, the product is you. You have surrendered tremendous amounts of information about yourself in using those platforms. These companies have very sophisticated systems and algorithms to organize the information you freely handed over and sell the information to generate advertising and marketing revenues. There's a reason Mark Zuckerberg is one of the richest people on the planet.

Keep in mind, the data has already been compiled. Godfrey is not tracking anyone to collect data. The proposed technology provides the capability to retrieve the data and package it in a way the enhances decision making. For example, a certain date, or period of time, can be selected. A "geo-fence" drawn around Glazebrook Park. With those parameters, information can be gained about the visitors. Did they stay in town for food before or after the park's event? Did they travel to another community for goods or services? If so, could those goods or serves be obtained in Godfrey? If not, could we use the information to recruit a business to Godfrey by demonstrating demand?

In reality, some investor in Cleveland could be running the same report on a piece of property here in Godfrey. The data already exists for anyone to access. It does not have to be the Village of Godfrey.

Managing an organization, or running a business, successfully requires the best understanding of stakeholders or customers. To gain that understanding involves having good data that can be translated into information. The more that is known about stakeholders and customers, the better the decision can be made about what products and services could be provided to meet their needs. Acquiring demographic and life-style information enhances the decision making capability.

There have been a lot of concerns expressed about Godfrey tracking residents and visitors. Actually, Godfrey is not tracking anyone at all. What the Village is considering is purchasing the ability to package information that has already been compiled. This information does come from cell phones that are owned by people who have previously given permission to collect the data.

If you don't want your phone tracked then do not have all the apps on it. Or, disable the ability for them to be tracked. My strategy is to not have a bunch of apps on my phone, but that is me.

When making decisions as the economic developer for the Village, I do try to consider all sides. At this point, I do not know whether or not we will be using geo-fencing technology. If you fear the advancement of the surveillance state (I appreciate your concerns); but, your problem is a lot bigger than with the little ol' Village of Godfrey.

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.

How "Good Neighbors" are selected:

Weight

Contributes to the welfare of others	40
Individual's efforts are on a pro bono basis	30
Is an educator, civic leader, non-profit leader, long-time community volunteer	10
Brings community together	5
Exhibits leadership qualities	5
Extended exhibition of active citizenship	5
Nominees should be able to document the results of their individual involvement though published reports and/or testimonials	<u>5</u>
	100

For more information, contact: Jim Mager,

Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org

Featured Business of the Month



Let me tell you 'bout a place
up on Godfrey Road a way
Where the kids love it they say
Dancin' the time away
Here they have a lot of fun
Puttin' trouble on the run
Ah, you find they're learnin' young
Dancin' the time away
Sam Cook

And where will you find them dancing the time away? Right there at Alton Academy of Dance (AAD). While it might have Alton in its name, it has been in Godfrey during its twelve years in business. It started out renting space at Mid-Illinois Gymnastics and in 2019 moved to its present location of Monticello Plaza. This year the academy broke a new record of 110 dance students. Students tend to come from Alton, Godfrey, Bethalto and Jerseyville.

It is a family-owned business that offers dance instruction to beginners through advanced dancers in a friendly, positive,

and motivating environment. They strive to share the joy of dance, as well as building confidence and self esteem while training in the areas of ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, hip hop and competitive dance. The school looks forward to meeting each and every new student. Visitors are welcome to come in and take a trial class or just observe a class!

AAD offers both a recreational program and a competition team! An AAD Competition team is a highly competitive and dedicated group. Students may start as early as four years old and up! Contests are comprised of varying age groups, dance styles, and classes of dancers. Based upon age levels and teacher recommendations, teams are split into a Mini team, Petite team, Junior team and Teen team based upon age levels and teacher recommendations.

Why Join Competitive Dance?

- The close family bond, long lasting friendships, and the promotion of teamwork and collaboration with your teammates
- The opportunity to work with experienced teachers and choreographers to help you refine your techniques and improve your skills
- To gain discipline and dedication as you learn time management skills, setting priorities and dedication to your craft

- The opportunity to perform in front of various audiences to help you to gain confidence and experience
- Exposure to different dance styles
- The opportunity for scholarships, recognition and professional opportunities in the dance industry
- To get to share your passion with others through performance

The dancers compete in regional competitions throughout the year and usually one national event. Most of the competitions are in St. Louis and next year a group is going to Arkansas.

Student's ages range up to eighteen years of age. In fact, the school has a Tiny Tots Program specifically for ballet and tap.

Alton Academy of Dance strives to provide an encouraging environment that fosters creativity, imagination and play. Every dancer gets spotlighted and made to "feel like a star."

Address:
5725 Godfrey Road
Monticello Plaza

Phone: 618-973-6812

altonacademyofdance@yahoo.com

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.

Jim Mager



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Join people around the state in celebrating and commemorating this historic anniversary. Together let's envision the next 250 years of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Illinois America 250 is an inclusive, statewide effort to bring together Illinoisans' diverse perspectives about our history—and our future—as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.

The Illinois America250 Commission has identified three themes for the 250th Commemoration: **Power of Place, We the People and Doing History.**