



# The Villager

June 2026

## Special points of interest:

- Please Slow Down
- Recreation Center Feasibility Study
- Sustainability Tip
- Declaration of Independence
- People of Note
- Oh, and one more thing....

If you would like to receive the monthly issue of "The Villager" by email, please contact [jmager@godfreyil.org](mailto:jmager@godfreyil.org)

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



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor

### Please Slow Down

Speeding endangers everyone on the road: In 2024, 11,288 people died in speeding-related traffic deaths. We all know the frustrations of modern life and juggling a busy schedule, but speed limits are put in place to protect all road users. Learn about the dangers of speeding and why faster doesn't mean safer.

#### Dangers of Speeding

For more than two decades, speeding has been involved in approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities. In 2024, speeding was a contributing factor in 29% of all traffic fatalities.

Speed also affects your safety even when you are driving at the speed limit but too fast for road conditions, such as during bad weather, when a road is under repair, or in an area at night that isn't well lit.

Speeding endangers not only the life of the speeder, but all of the people on the road around them, including law enforcement officers. It is a problem we all need to help solve.

Speeding is more than just breaking the law. The consequences are far-ranging:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control;
  - Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment;
  - Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger;
  - Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries;
  - Economic implications of a speed-related crash; and
- Increased fuel consumption/cost.

Speeding is a type of aggressive driving behavior. Several factors have contributed to an overall rise in aggressive driving:

#### Traffic

Traffic congestion is one of the most frequently mentioned contributing factors to aggressive driving, such as speeding. Drivers may respond by using aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding, changing lanes frequently, or becoming angry at anyone who they believe impedes their progress.

#### Running Late

Some people drive aggressively because they have too much to do and are "running late" for work, school, their next meeting, lesson, soccer game, or other appointment.

#### Anonymity

A motor vehicle insulates the driver from the world. Shielded from the outside environment, a driver can develop a sense of detachment, as if an observer of their surroundings, rather than a participant. This can lead to some people feeling less constrained in their behavior when they cannot be seen by others and/or when it is unlikely that they will ever again see those who witness their behavior.

#### Disregard for Others and For the Law

Most motorists rarely drive aggressively, and some never do. For others, episodes of aggressive driving are frequent, and for a small proportion of motorists it is their usual driving behavior. Occasional episodes of aggressive driving—such as speeding and changing lanes abruptly—might occur in response to specific situations, like when the driver is late for an important appointment, but is not the driver's normal behavior.

If it seems that there are more cases of rude and outrageous behavior on the road now than in the

past, the observation is correct—if for no other reason than there are more drivers driving more miles on the same roads than ever before.

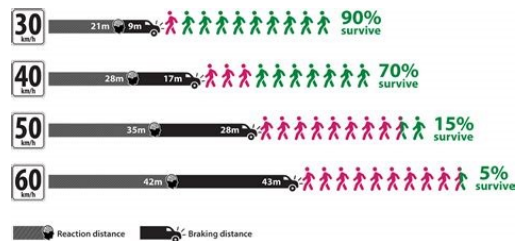
#### Defensive Driving Techniques to Avoid Speeding:

- Plan Ahead: Leave early to ensure you have enough time to reach your destination without rushing.
- Set Cruise Control: On highways, use cruise control to maintain a steady, safe speed.
- Stay Aware of Speed Limits: Pay attention to posted speed limits, especially in school zones, construction areas, and residential neighborhoods.
- Avoid Peer Pressure: Don't let other drivers' behavior influence your own. If others are speeding, stick to the limit and prioritize safety.

#### Tips for Breaking the Speeding Habit:

- Monitor Your Speed: Regularly check your speedometer to ensure you're staying within the limit.
- Use a GPS App: Many navigation apps show the speed limit of the road you're on and can alert you if you exceed it.
- Remind Yourself of the Risks: Keep the dangers of speeding in mind every time you get behind the wheel.
- Reward Safe Driving: Set goals for yourself, such as a week without speeding, and reward yourself for reaching them.

Perhaps the most common justification involves perceived time savings. Yet, simple mathematics reveals the minimal time gained through speeding. On a 10-mile commute, the difference between traveling at 65 mph versus 75 mph amounts to only about 1 minute and 23 seconds. When factoring in traffic signals, congestion, and other real-world conditions, these theoretical time savings rarely materialize in practice.



Perhaps the most disturbing impact of speeding is its effect on vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. The relationship between vehicle speed and pedestrian survival is stark: at 31 mph, a pedestrian has approximately a 92% chance of survival. Increase speed by just 1 mph to 32 mph, and survival probability drops to about 75%. At 42 mph, the odds of survival are roughly 50/50.

Recent NHTSA data reveals an alarming trend: most pedestrian fatalities occur at legal speed limits, suggesting that even posted limits may be too high in areas with significant pedestrian traffic. For cyclists, the risk is similarly elevated, with fatal outcomes becoming increasingly probable at speeds above 30 mph. This vulnerability of non-motorized road users makes speed management critically important in urban and residential areas.

### Recreation Center Feasibility

The demographic and psychographic make up of Godfrey is one of a more mature population. Looking to the future, it is necessary to create an environment attractive to the existing population; as well as, one that would be appealing to younger residents. Initial feedback from residents across all age groups indicates there is an interest in the addition of a recreation/community center within the Village's Park and Recreation assets.

While there has been antidotal curiosity expressed for a recreation/community center, there is no data that indicates, in any detail, an interest of actual utilization or, the type of center that might be developed. As part of this comprehensive plan, the Village is commissioning an inclusive feasibility study to provide quantitative data to address unknown variables.

The feasibility study is being directed by the "Recreation Center" committee that was established by the Mayor and the Board of Trustees. Trustee Gerard Fischer chairs the group and it has been meeting regularly since February 2026. In the second quarter of this year, the committee reviewed proposals from various architectural firms for the purpose of conducting feasibility and preliminary design of a recreation/community center. In May, the committee recommended AAIC Design and Construction, and the Board of Trustees approved the company to head up the project. AAIC has a strong history of doing projects in Godfrey. They have worked on LCCC's Templin Nursing Building, Hatheway Hall, and the Riverbend Arena.

The feasibility study is scheduled to go through summer and fall and will occur in the following phases:

#### Phase 1 — Concept Planning and Programming

- Site consideration
- Preliminary mechanical plan
- Preliminary site evaluation
- Landscaping design

#### Phase 2 — Master Planning

- Develop facility master plan

- Develop mechanical plan
- Evaluate and design of selected site
- Develop master landscaping design

Phase 3 — Schematic design of facility  
Public outreach and financing options

Phase 4 — Design development

Phase 5 — Construction documentation

Phase 6 — Construction administration (if appropriate)

A group of fourteen younger adult Godfrey residents gathered at Bakers and Hale on March 30 to share their ideas, thoughts and opinions about Godfrey. The purpose of the “Young Godfrey Residents” focus group was to gain and understanding of how Godfrey can become a more inviting and attractive community for families that are in the family-rearing stages.

The idea of a recreation center fostered a great deal of interest and conversation. Many in the group travel to other communities to take advantage of their centers. While a facility that provided accommodations for league play is important, the group felt that a multi-purpose center would be most valuable. High ratings were given to a center that could provide indoor winter options, such as rock climbing, yoga, event space, and accommodations for children’s birthday parties. While cost recovery for a facility was not discussed in detail, the group seemed open to reasonable increase in taxes or fees.

Recreation Center Committee meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 8:00 a.m. at Village Hall.

### Sustainability Tip

#### **Progress Over Perfection by Mary Carol Chislin**

Yesterday, I heard a sustainability influencer admit that although she’d been using metal straws for over three years, the plastic garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean is still twice the size of Texas! She mused aloud, “Are all our efforts worth anything?” Her mission is all about upbeat encouragement, so she reiterated for all of us to keep in mind that we are aiming for **Progress NOT Perfection**. We’ll never achieve perfection.

Nevertheless, our choices do matter, in the long run. The point is to choose the changes that are the most comfortable for you, and don’t beat yourself up if you forget occasionally.

One change that I keep trying to be consistent about is carrying a set of bamboo utensils with me so that I don’t have to use the plastic forks in fast-food restaurants. I bought my bamboo set at REI and keep forgetting to transfer them if I change purses. Well, my older brother can make fun of me all he wants...I’ll just keep trying.

One change that I have mastered is using fabric grocery bags. I’ve learned to keep them in the trunk of my car, so I always have them. Hmm...maybe I could keep the bamboo utensils in the glove box...that might work.

My daughter committed to using laundry detergent sheets. She’s got that fully absorbed into her routine and is now trying to incorporate bars of soap into her family bedtime rituals—to avoid buying plastic body wash bottles. That change was the first one I ever made, and it has stuck with us.

I’ve tried to get rid of plastic shower scrunchies too but found that natural sponges tended to fall apart easily. For now, I’ll let go of that effort.

So, the influencer above made me feel better about my failures. And for all of you—and myself—let’s take a pat on the back for our successes. There are many! Let’s look forward to more.

In case you’re interested, here’s a link that explains that unfortunate garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean. After you watch it, tell yourself: **Progress NOT Perfection** is the goal!

<https://theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/#how-much-plastic-floats-in-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch>

Brought to You by the Godfrey Sustainability Commission

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

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

# People Of Note



Rayna Raglin, Alton student star athlete accepts "Rayna Raglin Day" Proclamation read by Mayor McCormick and presented by Trustee Sarah Woodman. June 2, 2026



Mary Carol Chislin accepts the proclamation recognizing June 2, 2026 as Mississippi River Day as read by Mayor McCormick and presented by Trustee Sarah Woodman and Park and Rec Director, Chris Logan. Mary is also a contributor to "The Villager" with her monthly submission of "Sustainability Tips."



## Godfrey's Master Gardeners Busy At Work

Summer is here and the Master Gardeners are hard at work in the garden behind Village Hall. The group is pictured with a wonderful new bridge that leads into the garden. The bridge was constructed by Tom Bechtold with support from Hamilton Fabrication and the Alton Community Service League. Much of the food grown in the garden is donated to local pantries.

*Metal work donated by*  
**Hamilton Fabrication & Steel**  
*Godfrey 2025*

*This bridge was made possible by the generosity of the*  
**Alton Community Service League**  
 2025

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

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We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.....

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.





**4th of July Family Fun Day At  
Glazebrook Park**

Join the fun at Glazebrook Park  
from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

- 5 to 9 Vendors, Jumping Pillow, Double Inflatable Slide, BeBe the Clown, Face Painting and Balloons, etc.
- 5:00 The revealing of the Great Godfrey Maze Design
- 5:15 Baseball Awards on Stage
- 5 to 7:30 Registration for Watermelon Eating Contest
- 5:30–7:30 Live Music by Bruce Boyer
- 8:00 Watermelon Eating Contest
- 9:15 **Expanded fireworks show (250 years!)**



In celebration of America's 250th birthday, a limited number commemorative Family Fun Fest T-shirts will be available for purchase on the day of the event. The cost of the shirt will be \$25 each and available while supplies last.

***Oh, and one more thing.....***

In a couple of weeks, America will celebrate it's 250 year birthday. Quite a milestone. I thought I would include the Declaration of Independence in this issue to remind us why and how we got here as a nation. I did not have space to include all the grievances of the Declaration, but hopefully the message is there.

I have often thought about the courage it took to sign that document. They were individuals of good wealth and privilege. When they put their hand to that paper, they were risking everything, even their life. The phrase "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately" is attributed to Benjamin Franklin. It reflects the necessity of unity, particularly during difficult times.

I don't think I have that kind of courage. Do you? How many of us now remain quiet because if we spoke up we'd have to face even the possible consequences of other powers? Most of us live quite comfortable lives and we want to protect that. They laid it on the line.

Here we are 250 years later and, oh, what our nation has accomplished. The average life of empires is 250 years. So right now, we are at the point of being average. Key factors that contribute to the lifespan of historical empires include strategic location and geography, strong leadership, economic prosperity, and cultural unity. These elements help empires expand and maintain control over their territories, while internal and external pressures can lead to their decline. In some of these areas, I think we are in a strong position, in others — not so much, right now.

"Give me liberty or give me death," might be a price most of us aren't willing, and won't need, to pay. Heck, most of us don't even want to sacrifice convenience. Future generations, however, are counting on you and me to pass along the continuance of the American experiment.

As Ronald Reagan warned, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the blood-stream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Happy Birthday, America. May we rekindle the Spirit of 1776.....



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