



The Villager

July 2026

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- Business of the Month: Professional Hearing Associates
- Rec Center Committee Update
- Marli Nixon Assumes the Role of Godfrey's HR Director
- Oh, and one more thing....

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

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



Michael J. McCormick

Mayor



Why Are Small Businesses Important?

Small businesses are vital to the economy, creating jobs and fostering innovation. According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), they represent 99.9% of all United States businesses, employing nearly half of the private workforce as of 2023. This significant employment contribution underscores their role in economic stability.

These enterprises drive innovation by introducing new products and services. Companies like Apple and Microsoft began as small businesses before scaling globally. This innovation comes from the agility and flexibility inherent in smaller businesses, allowing them to adapt to market changes quickly.

Communities benefit greatly from small businesses. Supporting local businesses helps retain unique community character while promoting economic growth within the local area. Unlike large corporations, small businesses often reinvest their earnings locally, enhancing community development and providing more personalized customer service.

Competition is another critical area where small businesses excel. They challenge larger enterprises by offering unique products and specialized services, fostering a dynamic and competitive marketplace. This competition can lead to better prices, improved quality, and more options for consumers.

Small businesses also contribute to sustainability efforts. With closer ties to their communities, they often adopt more eco-friendly practices and focus on long-term sustainability. This contributes to both environmental protection and community health.

Individuals can impact economic sustainability by supporting small businesses. When choosing to shop locally, you invest directly in your community's financial health. This support helps small businesses thrive, leading to more job opportunities and a robust local economy.

Considerations for small businesses extend beyond economics. They enhance community engagement by participating in local events, supporting charities, and fostering a sense of community. These efforts build stronger, more connected neighborhoods.

Understanding why small businesses are essential highlights their multifaceted role in society. They not only create jobs and drive innovation but also enrich the community and promote a sustainable future. By supporting small businesses, individuals play a direct role in nurturing a vibrant, diverse, and resilient economy.

Please shop local when you can!

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

Godfrey 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.

Business Of The Month — Professional Hearing Associates



Health care is crucial in a community as it addresses the overall well-being of individuals, promotes disease prevention, and ensures equitable access to medical services. By focusing on community health, it helps reduce health disparities and enhances the quality of life for all residents. A very important attribute of Godfrey is the access to an array of health care alternatives. One of those quality alternatives is Professional Hearing Associates.

Professional Hearing Associates continually raises the bar in providing exceptional hearing health care. They use advanced diagnostic and fitting technology to ensure the perfect devices for individual hearing needs, and with outstanding personalized attention to the patient's care.

Dr. Joe Hopper has served the Riverbend area as an audiologist for more than 30 years. He was with another local practice until 2018. When that practice was sold to investors, he and his wife, Kim, established Professional Hearing Associates. "We have always felt that personalized care to the patient is critical, and worried that working for an investor-owned practice would put profit over patient satisfaction," said Dr. Hopper. Along with Dr. Michelle Cramer, the practice has a combined record of service to the Riverbend area for nearly 30 years. Kim Hopper, a former teacher, is the office manager, and takes care of patient coordination.

Professional Hearing Associates is the only practice with **Doctors of Audiology** in the immediate area. Becoming an audiologist requires eight years of schooling and clinical training. With hearing loss, trust in audiologist helps to make the right decisions for hearing health. While it's becoming more common to order hearing aids online, or even purchase assistive listening devices over the counter, a consultation with a trained Doctor of Audiology is the key to finding the perfect hearing devices to match lifestyle and hearing needs. Hearing devices are NOT a one size fits all medical device. There are special algorithms, programming challenges that occur, cerumen (wax) issues occasionally, and consultations that are needed to help each individual patient.

Audiologists are not the same as hearing instrument specialists. Audiologists have a master's or doctorate degree in audiology, and have in-depth knowledge of the auditory and vestibular systems. They also have extensive training in hearing devices, know what programs will treat your unique hearing loss, and are experts when it comes to fitting and adjusting hearing aids.

Hearing instrument specialists and licensed hearing aid dispensers, on the other hand, have special training in hearing aid technology, but not in the human ear and brain. They specialize in fitting hearing devices, assistive listening devices, and other hearing technology. They have experience in performing basic hearing evaluations, and are qualified to dispense hearing aids. That does not mean that they have 8 years of training from an accredited University setting. Taking time to educate the patient on matters related to their hearing is very important to the doctors of the practice. Upon comprehensive examination and assessment, the doctors will fully explain what issues might be occurring. Using diagrams and illustrations appearing throughout the office, the cause of the hearing concerns are framed to be understandable by the patient.

Professional Hearing Associates is also committed to the local community. They have been voted the Telegraph's "Best of the Best" for seven consecutive years. They are continuous supporters of Senior Service Plus. They support many local fund raising events through participation and sponsorships. They have many reciprocal relationships with other local businesses, which strengthens the overall economic strength of the community. Their network of ENT's (Ear, Nose and Throat) and Otolologist's in the local and St. Louis areas is what sets them apart from others. They become the area's leading clinic for referrals from area physicians.

For the convenience of patients Professional Hearing Associates have offices in Godfrey, Jerseyville and Chester.



Professional Hearing Associates

Dr. Joe Hopper, FAAA
Dr. Michelle Cramer, FAAA
Doctors of Audiology
much more than just a hearing aid store



THREE LOCATIONS!

- **Godfrey, IL**
1344 D'Adrian Professional Park
618-466-4444
- **Chester, IL**
Memorial Hospital
1900 State Street
618-826-4581
- **Jerseyville, IL**
Jersey Community Hospital
400 Maple Summit Rd
618-466-4444

ProfessionalHearingAssociates.com

Rec/Community Center Update:

The feasibility study for the Godfrey Rec/Community Center is underway. The research is in the very early stages. The consulting firm, AAIC, has been commissioned to assist in conducting the study. Community engagement in the research process is very important in determining community needs, center design, costs and, ultimately, the funding.

The first stage of community engagement will be through focus groups to be held on July 15 and 16. These groups will consist of leaders and heads of community organizations, such as youth groups, civic groups, business groups and HOA of Godfrey neighborhoods. The results of this research will assist in concept planning and will set the stage for a broader effort in community engagement through activities that include community wide surveys and open houses.

The next meeting of the Rec Center Committee is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on August 6 at Village Hall. The meetings are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to attend.

Marli Nixon Assumes the Role of Godfrey's HR Director



Marli Nixon has been appointed as the Village Of Godfrey's human resource director, replacing the retiring director, Mark Cappel. The Human Resource Director provides direction for all human resource activities to include recruitment, retention, compensation, benefits, employee records, human relations, training, compliance and policy implementation and enforcement.

Ms. Nixon comes to the role with a vast amount of experience in the health care sector. Her experience includes: workforce planning and forecasting, advising leaders on interviewing, hiring, employment law, negotiations, compensation strategy, employee coaching, HR policy management, data analysis

and reporting.

As a graduate of SIUE, her career began at St. Clare's Acute Rehab where she worked in marketing and admissions. With the consolidation of St. Clare's and St. Anthony's OSF in 2016, she moved into the human resources function. Early on, Marli worked in the area of talent acquisition of nurses. She has also worked for the BJC system across multiple facilities in the St. Louis region. Before joining the Village of Godfrey, she worked at Lumeris. Lumeris is a physician-first healthcare transformation company based in St. Louis, Missouri.

"HR is a people centered profession. I gain energy by interacting with others, building relationships and helping people solve problems. I enjoy creating a workspace where people feel supported and respected. Each day is different, whether I am working on recruiting, handling employee relations, developing policies or working on initiatives, it allows me to collaborate with others. I look forward to supporting the Village's employees and being a public servant to the residents of Godfrey," says Marli.

Ms. Nixon is truly a home-town product of Godfrey and is committed to the community. She attended St. Ambrose Grade School, LCCC and received her bachelors degree from SIUE. Outside of work, she is mom to two very busy boys. She and her husband, Scott, own and operate their business, Nixon Service Repair/NSR, specializing in agriculture equipment service and repair. She is an officer in the St. Ambrose Grade School's Parent Association.

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.

For more information, contact: Jim Mager,

Economic Development

618-466-3325

jmager@godfreyil.org

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 through published reports and/or testimonials	<u>5</u>
	100

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

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

Oh, and one more thing.....

On the 250th Birthday of the United States of America, I thought it would be interesting to go back and take a look at what our Founding Fathers were thinking when they set up the nation. Below are a few of their thoughts:

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.
Thomas Paine

There is no justification for taking away individuals' freedom in the guise of public safety. *Thomas Jefferson*

The government you elect is the government you deserve. *Thomas Jefferson*

He who would trade liberty for some temporary security, deserves neither liberty nor security. *Benjamin Franklin*

This [the U.S. Constitution] is likely to be administered for a course of years and then end in despotism... when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other. *Benjamin Franklin*

Crisis is the rallying cry of the tyrant. *James Madison*

Disarm the people- that is the best and most effective way to enslave them. *James Madison*

If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace. *Thomas Paine*

The militia is our ultimate safety. We can have no security without it. The great object is that every man be armed. *Patrick Henry*

If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animated contest of freedom - go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen!
Samuel Adams

How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!
Samuel Adams

The Laws of Nature are the Laws of God, Whose authority can be superseded by no power on earth. A legislature must not obstruct our obedience to Him from whose punishment they cannot protect us. All human constitutions which contradict His laws, we are in conscience bound to disobey.
George Mason

We are now forming a republican government. Real liberty is never found in despotism or the extremes of democracy, but in moderate governments.
Alexander Hamilton

If it were to be asked, What is the most sacred duty and the greatest source of our security in a Republic? The answer would be, An inviolable respect for the Constitution and Laws - the first growing out of the last . . . A sacred respect for the constitutional law is the vital principle, the sustaining energy of a free government.
Alexander Hamilton

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. *John Adams*

There are two ways to conquer and enslave a country. One is by the sword. The other is by debt. *John Adams*

But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever. *John Adams*

Well, fellow Godfreyites, how do you think we're doin'?



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