



The Villager

October 2026

Special points of interest:

- Longer-term Residents Share Their Thoughts About Godfrey
- Godfrey Seeks To Recognize Good Neighbors In The Community
- Business of the Month – Trust Family Auto Sales
- First Trunk or Treat
- Widman Bike Trail Development Update
- 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

Longer-term Residents Share Their Thoughts About Godfrey



On September 23, 2026, a forum was held at the Sportsmen's Club, Godfrey, Illinois. There were twenty-eight attendees. The event was moderated by Andrew Ambrose and Jim Mager. The meeting was observed by the Board of Trustees, the Mayor and Village Clerk.

The attendance was by invitation with suggestions for participating individuals coming from members of the Board. The

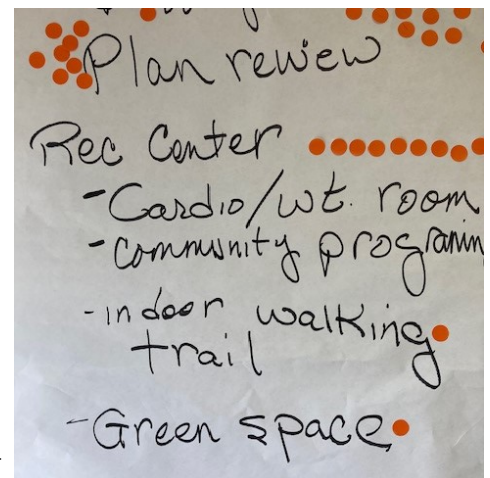
group members comprised of individuals who were longer-term Godfrey residents. Generally, participants were in the later stage of the family life cycle.

The following is a sample of questions used to guide the discussion:

- What is it about Godfrey that persuaded you to reside here?
- How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Godfrey? What specific factors influence your satisfaction?
- Did you find Godfrey to be a good place to raise a family (grandkids)? What factors make it favorable? What factors make it unfavorable?
- How would you rate the affordability of living in Godfrey for housing, food and cost of living?
- How would you rate the amenities for shopping, dining and recreation on Godfrey?
- What is your vision for the local arts, culture and recreational amenities in the future? What are your thoughts about Godfrey building a sport facility?
- How would you envision public amenities being paid for? (Beyond using grants)
- How can we create a more welcoming community for longer-term residents?
- What is your vision for Godfrey's economy in the next 5 to 10 years?
- What are the most significant barriers preventing longer-term residents from participating in community events and civic activities?
- What channels of communication do you use most for receiving information about the community?
- What is the single most important change you would like to see in Godfrey in the next year?
- What role are you personally willing to play in shaping the future of Godfrey?

Many within the group had been life-long residents of Godfrey. Some had grown up in the Alton area, but had moved to Godfrey years ago. All the participants felt that Godfrey was a very safe place to live with a quiet and quaint atmosphere. They valued the small-town comforts while still having access to the amenities of the greater St. Louis region. The group was of the opinion there was a good transportation system to facilitate potential growth. They felt there was a broad array of faith based opportunities, educational choices and health care alternatives.

The group expressed thoughts and opinions concerning a broad range of topics. Subjects included business attraction, job creations, housing alternatives and infrastructure. Receiving the most attention was the areas of recreational facilities development, comprehensive planning/review, bike trails and walkable communities.



The group expressed strong support for additional soccer fields. Many said they drive to other communities for grandchildren to play soccer. They felt additional recreational facilities would facilitate business development through athletic tourism. There was also strong support for the development of a rec/community center. When asked about how the costs of such facilities would be covered, a majority indicated they would support an increase in taxes. Coupled with recreational alternatives, there was strong backing for bike trails and walkable communities.

Another area of importance was comprehensive planning and plan review. There were several questions regarding the current comprehensive plan and the process of its review and evaluation. As the current plan was adopted in 2021, the group expressed an interest in a five-year review. They did not necessarily feel the comprehensive plan needed a complete rewrite, but that there should be periodic assessment of goals and milestones.

An unsolicited suggestion was that Godfrey should look into securing a grant writer. It was explained that the department heads currently look for grant opportunities and respond as appropriate. The group felt that the Village should take a more proactive approach. The grant writer might be a full or part-time position. An alternative to a position within the administration might be to partner with another institution.

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- ✓ **Develop, complete** and sign the training agreement
prior to the start date of the OJT employee.

To schedule a phone call or in-person meeting, contact Brooke at:

(618) 296-4325 or

baandrews@madisoncountyil.gov

or Paige Campbell at: **(618) 296-4532 or**

pncampbell@madisoncountyil.gov



This program aims to provide long term gainful employment for individuals.
Interview and chose your candidate, we will screen for WIOA eligibility.
Part-time (<32 hours a week) dependent on certain criteria.

 madisoncountyil.gov/departments/employment_and_training/index.php

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GODFREY
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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	5
	100

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

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

Business of the Month — Trust Family Auto Sales



When thinking about a locally-owned family business the name means what it says in Trust Family Auto Sales. Brian and Lisa Trust own and operate the auto sales establishment on Godfrey Road at the site of the former Riverboat Lanes. In fact, much of the old bowling equipment still exists in the back of the building (but I digress). The company focuses on providing the highest-quality used vehicles in the Alton, Godfrey, Bethalto, and Jerseyville, IL area. Before putting any vehicle on the lot, it is professionally detailed and thoroughly inspected and serviced in their own repair shop. They carry a large selection of vehicles in price ranges to meet any varying budgets.

Brian and Lisa opened Trust Family Auto Sales used car dealership in February of 2005. The original location was 3104 Godfrey Rd (the current location of Patty's Petals). As the business rapidly grew, so did the need for space. The Trust family purchased the closed Riverboat Lanes bowling alley just down the road in October of 2013.

Brian got started in the car sales business when he was nineteen years old. He tells the story of how he was shopping for a different truck. In the process of purchasing the truck from a dealership in East Alton, they commented how he would be good at automotive sales. They gave him a job. He worked there for about a year, when he went to work at Roberts Ford. He and his wife actually got married on their showroom floor. Brian credits the folks at Roberts for being so helpful in developing his knowledge and understanding of the industry. He still has a business relationship with them. After a couple of other stints with other local dealerships (no longer in business), he and Lisa took \$20,000 of their money and started Trust Family Auto Sales. Since its establishment 13,438 vehicles have been sold!

All Trust Family Auto Sales vehicles are protected with a 3 month, or 3,000 miles certified limited warranty that provides our customers peace of mind from unforeseen and expensive repairs. This is one of many advantages of purchasing your next vehicle from our dealership. They offer extended warranty options to fit your needs. Our vehicles can be protected from 3 months up to 10 years, with mileage from 3,000 miles to unlimited miles.



Already have established credit or a local Credit Union you prefer working with? They deal with local lenders and banks to provide a quick and easy loan process, and will work for you so you do not have to run back and forth. For customers facing credit challenges, Brian wants them to feel comfortable asking for help. "Your credit score does not define your character," he says. "Life happens, and needing transportation shouldn't make someone feel embarrassed or afraid to have a conversation." Trust Family Auto Sales offers an Affordable Program with approvals based on income rather than credit score, with a down payment required. Brian takes pride in explaining the available options honestly, including the costs and requirements upfront. "I tell people, if you're comfortable with the toughest scenario we discuss, any better options we find are welcome news. It starts with a conversation, without judgment."

Expanded services have been added with Trust Family Auto Services established in July of 2016, as a Complete Automotive Repair Facility, operated by Brian's oldest son Josh Trust. The department services vehicles to be sold on the lot as well as being open to the public. Business at Trust Family Auto Services has really taken off since word got out that services were not only available for Trust Family Auto Sales vehicles. Between both companies, there are seven employees.

Aside from auto sales, Brian is very active in the community. He is a podcaster hosting "You're Beautiful Show" and "Conspiracies and Mysteries." Both are found at Riverbender.com™. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays he hosts the Daily Show. Trust Family Auto is also a big supporter of athletic teams for the Godfrey Park and Recreation Department.

Brian says that developing and maintaining relationships is key to how he does business. "Character is what you are going to do when something happens", says Brian.

Trust Family Auto Sales can be found at:

3044 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey, IL 62035
Phone: 618-467-2879
Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am – 7pm
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Trust Family Auto Services
223 N. Bellwood Drive, East Alton, Illinois 62024
Phone: 618-255-9200
And The Repair Shop Hours Are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Park and Recreation Host First Trunk or Treat



Godfrey Park and Recreation hosted its first Trunk or Treat on October 11 at Glazebrook Park. With perfect weather the festivities were a success. The event had 29 trunks/businesses that participated. There were over 500 kids and over 1,000 people total in attendance!

Thanks to all how participated!



F.E. Widman Bike Trail Development Update

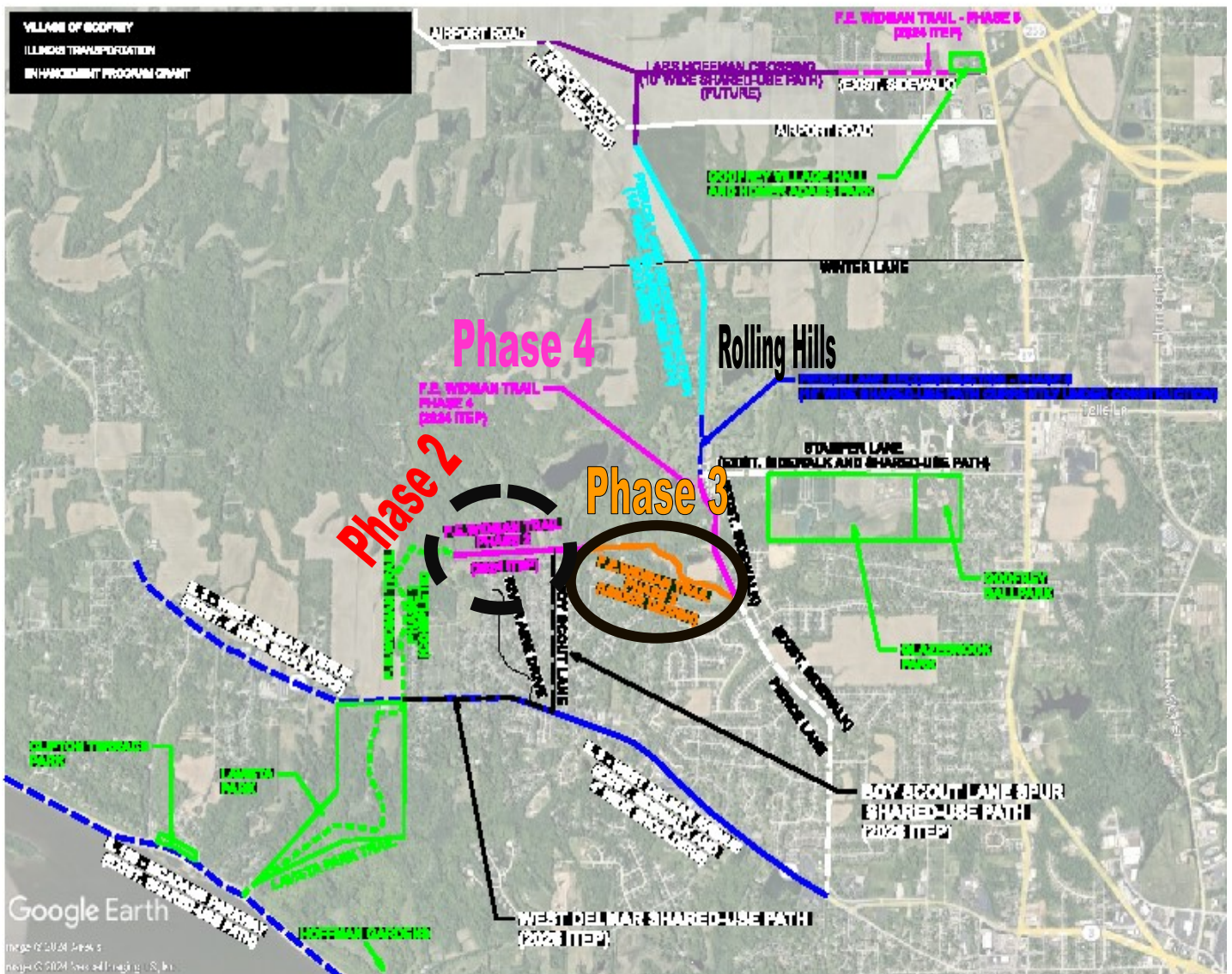
The F.E. Widman Bike Trail continues to be developed in phases. It should be noted the development is not necessarily in order of the phase number. For example, phase three will be completed before phase 2.

Referring to the map below (apologies for the clarity), the **area in green** is the trail going from the River Road, through La Vista Park, across West Delmar Avenue, past Riverwood Subdivision and over to Rocky Fork Church. The trail is complete and in use.

The phase 4 of the trail (**shown in purple**) is currently a four-foot wide sidewalk along a section of Pierce Lane. That section will eventually be widened to be more accommodating for bike traffic. **The trail in blue** going from Stamper Lane to Rolling Hills Golf Course is complete.

The next scheduled construction is that of phase 3 (**shown in orange**) and circled. That section will run just east of Boy Scout Lane over to Pierce Lane. Construction will start next year and take approximately five months to complete. Once phase 3 is complete, the next scheduled is phase 2 (**shown in red**) and with the dashed circle. Phase 3 is currently in the engineering stage.

There is currently a sidewalk that connects the bike trail from Pierce Lane to Glazebrook Park. Eventually, Pierce Lane to Glazebrook Park will be connected by a trail going through the Seasons Subdivision. The trail development north of Rolling Hills Golf Course still has many unknown variables and dates for development to be determined.



Rec Center Update:

The responses to the surveys are being tabulated with results being presented very soon. For the most part, site evaluation is complete. The next step is to initiate concept design.

Oh, and on more thing.....

I met Brian Trust for the first time a couple of weeks ago. I was on his Daily Show at Riverbender. He struck me as a very interesting guy. The folks over at Park and Rec tell me he is very supportive of their programs. Thank you for having Trust Family Auto Sales in Godfrey.

I also need to thank the people who attended the September 23 forum. A lot of good ideas and thoughts were expressed about Godfrey and how to enhance its future. The people at AAIC (the consulting firm helping us with the rec center feasibility study) are always commenting on the level of engagement from our residents. They are absolutely correct in that assessment!

It is a continuing effort to develop our bike trails. A lot of people are involved in making them a reality. If I tried to list them, I'd forget somebody, so thanks to all involved. In all of our public engagement forums, bike trails and walkable communities are listed as a priority.

I came across the following the other day. It is attributed to Dave Ramsey, but that may be questionable. Anyway, it is something to think about.

HERE'S WHAT NO CASH ACTUALLY MEANS:

A cashless society means no cash. Zero. It doesn't mean mostly cashless and you can still use a 'wee bit of cash here & there'. Cashless means fully digital, fully traceable, fully controlled. I think those who support a cashless society aren't fully aware of what they are asking for.

A cashless society means:

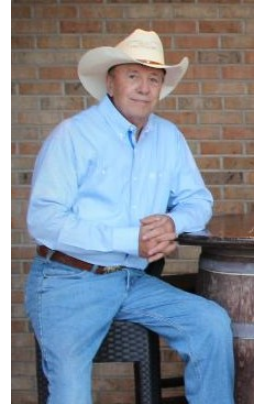
- If you are struggling with your mortgage on a particular month, you can't do an odd job to get you through.
- Your child can help to earn a bit of summer cash.
- No more cash slipped into the hands of a child as a good luck charm or from their grandparent when going on holidays (*I want to be able to slip my grandkids a few bucks once in awhile — it makes both of us happy!*).
- No more money in birthday cards.
- No more piggy banks for your child to collect pocket money & to learn about the value of earning.
- No more cash for a rainy day fund or for that something special you have been putting \$20 a week away for.
- No more little jobs on the side because your wages barely cover the bills or put food on the table.
- No more charity collections.
- No more selling bits & pieces from your home that you no longer want/need for a bit of cash in return.
- No more cash gifts from relatives or loved ones.

What a cashless society does guarantee:

- Banks have full control of every single penny you own.
- Every transaction you make is recorded.
- All your movements & actions are traceable.
- Access to your money can be blocked at the click of a button when/if banks need 'clarification' from you which will take about 3 weeks, a thousand questions answered & five thousand passwords.
- You will have no choice but to declare & be taxed on every dollar in your possession.
- The government WILL decide what you can & cannot purchase.
- If your transactions are deemed in any way questionable, by those who create the questions, your money will be frozen, 'for your own good' (*think Canadian truckers!*).

Forget about cash being dirty. Stop being so easily led. Cash has been around for a very, very, very long time & it gives you control over how you trade with the world. It gives you independence. If you are a customer, pay with cash. If you are a shop owner, remove those signs that ask people to pay by card. Cash is a legal tender, it is our right to pay with cash. Banks are making it increasingly difficult to deposit cash.

Please open your eyes. Please stop believing everything you are being told. Almost every single topic in today's world is tainted with corruption & hidden agendas. Pay with cash & please say no to a cashless society while you still have the choice.



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