The Villager



November 2026

Special points of interest:

- Recreation Center Feasibility Executive Study
- New Resident Check List
- Commercial Property Enhancement Grant
- Godfrey's No Knock Registry
- Are You Prepared?



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

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You can see your future from here.

GODFREY
ILLINOIS
You can see your future from here

Michael J. McCormick
Mayor

From the Executive Summary ofthe Recreation Center Survey

Purpose
In September of 2026, ETC Institute conducted a recreation center survey on behalf of the Village of Godfrey to understand community sentiment for additional indoor recreation space and amenities. The information from this survey will help the Village ensure your tax investment is allocated in a manner that reflects the recreational values and needs of the community.

Methodology
A four-page survey, accompanied by a cover letter and a postage-paid return envelope, was mailed to a randomly selected sample of households in Godfrey. The cover letter outlined the survey's purpose and encouraged recipients to complete and return it by mail or participate online.

To ensure the integrity of the random sample, respondents who completed the survey online were asked to provide their home address, which was matched against the original sample file. Responses from individuals not included in the random sample were excluded from the final dataset. To further boost participation, ETC Institute conducted follow-up outreach to sampled households and promoted the survey through targeted social media advertisements on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The goal of the survey was to obtain at least 400 completed responses. This target was exceeded, with a total of 616 residents completing the survey. The results for the random sample of 616 residents have a margin of error of ±3.88% at the 95% level of confidence.

The results presented in this report are based on statistically valid data and are representative of Godfrey households. Unless otherwise noted, favorable ratings combine 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses. Results exclude 'don't know' or 'not sure' responses where indicated.

Support for a New Indoor Recreation Center
Most residents (82%) were very or somewhat supportive of the Village developing a new indoor recreation center if it included the amenities and programs their household would use most, including two-thirds (67%) who were very supportive. Eight percent were neutral, and 10% were not supportive.

Most residents agreed that a recreation center boosts property values in the Village (80%) and that it is valuable to them to have a recreation center (72%). Seventy percent agreed that the community needs more fitness, recreation, and social opportunities for active adults ages 50 and older. Only 13% agreed that the community currently has enough fitness, recreation, and social opportunities, while 72% disagreed.

If a recreation center with the activities important to their household were built in Godfrey, two-thirds of households (66%) expected to use it at least two times per week, and 77% expected to use it at least once per week. Only five percent said they would never use it.

When asked what the Village should do, 74% of residents favored moving forward in some form: 44% supported moving forward with planning and development of a recreation center, 27% supported moving forward in phases as funding becomes available, and 3% supported moving forward with a smaller, more affordable facility. Thirteen percent preferred to continue studying the project before making a decision, and 9% did not want the Village to move forward.

Overall, residents showed strong support for a new indoor recreation center and expected to use it often.

Current Indoor Recreation Use
Households most often reported using Godfrey Parks & Recreation for indoor recreation and sports activities during the last 12 months (59%), followed by Alton Square Mall (40%), neighboring cities (36%), and private clubs (34%). Nearly half of residents (48%) said they travel outside Godfrey for indoor recreation or fitness because the facility or program is not available in Godfrey. Other reasons included fitness equipment or classes (26%), indoor sports facilities (25%), and indoor aquatics and swim programs (19%). Among those who answered, 45% typically travel 16 minutes or more

to use indoor recreation facilities, and 71% travel more than 10 minutes. Nearly half of residents currently travel outside the Village for indoor recreation because the facilities and programs they want are not available in Godfrey.

Paying for and Planning the Facility

Among residents with an opinion, a monthly family pass was the most preferred way to pay for use of a recreation center (43%), followed by a monthly adult pass (19%) and monthly senior access to the facility only (16%). Ten percent said they are not willing to pay to use the facility.

Seventy-one percent of residents agreed that a recreation center should generate revenue from user fees to help cover the cost of operations. Residents were more divided on how operating costs should be split between fees and taxes. Forty-four percent preferred that user fees pay all or most operating costs, including 28% who favored fees paying the majority with taxes covering the rest. Thirty-seven percent preferred that taxes pay all or most operating costs, including 34% who favored taxes paying the majority with fees covering the rest. Another 12% did not know.

If the Village must make choices to keep the project affordable, nearly half of residents (48%) preferred building the highest-priority spaces now and designing the facility for future expansion. One-quarter (25%) preferred not to proceed if the desired facility cannot be built within the available budget, and 12% preferred building a larger facility now even if it requires greater public investment.

Additional Findings

- When selecting a location for a recreation center, residents most often ranked a central location within Godfrey as one of their top three characteristics (47%), followed by adequate parking (42%), short travel time from home (31%), and room for future expansion (28%).
- Sixty percent of residents agreed that the Village should explore the efficiencies and cost savings of incorporating Village offices into the recreation center.
- Forty-two percent of residents agreed they would be more likely to use a new indoor recreation center if it included child watch for people using the facility.

Priority Investment Rating: Recreation Center Amenities

An indoor running and walking track ranked as the highest priority for investment. It had the broadest reported need (82% of residents) and the largest estimated unmet need, with approximately 4,978 Godfrey households reporting that their needs were partly met or not met. It was also the amenity households most often selected as one they would use most (51%).

An indoor program pool with lap lanes ranked second in the Priority Investment Rating, followed by a cardiovascular and weight equipment room, multipurpose courts for basketball, pickleball, and volleyball, and a leisure pool with zero-depth entry. A cardiovascular and weight equipment room had the second most reported need (78%). Together, the findings show the strongest demand for walking and running space, aquatics, fitness space, and courts.

Priority Investment Rating: Recreation Center Programs

Exercise and fitness programs ranked as the highest priority for investment, followed by aquatics and drop-in activities. Lifelong learning classes and team sports rounded out the top five. Exercise and fitness programs had the broadest reported need (78%) and were most often selected as one of the three programs households would participate in most (51%). Drop-in activities, exercise and fitness programs, lifelong learning classes, and aquatics followed closely.

Conclusion

Godfrey residents expressed strong support for a new indoor recreation center. More than four in five residents were supportive, nearly three-quarters favored moving forward in some form, and two-thirds of households expected to use the facility at least two times per week. Nearly half of residents currently travel outside Godfrey because the facilities or programs they want are not available locally. At the same time, one-quarter preferred not to proceed if the desired facility cannot be built within the available budget, and residents were divided on whether taxes or user fees should cover most operating costs.

The Priority Investment Rating identified an indoor running and walking track as the highest priority among amenities, followed by an indoor program pool with lap lanes, a cardiovascular and weight equipment room, multipurpose courts, and a leisure pool. Exercise and fitness programs, aquatics, and drop-in activities led recreation programs. Nearly half of residents preferred building the highest-priority spaces first and designing the facility for future expansion. These findings provide a basis for decisions about the recreation center's scope, design, and programming.

**The full report can be found at www.godfreyil.org. Go to "Boards and Committees," then click on "Recreation Center Committee."*

A note of thanks to the following in preparing these newsletters:
Mayor McCormick, Judy Peipert, Sharon O'Neal and
Karen Sinks

NEW RESIDENT CHECKLIST

First of all, welcome to the Village of Godfrey and thank you for joining our community! Below you will find a list of informational items intended to help new Godfrey residents.

The Village of Godfrey DOES NOT have a vehicle window sticker program. You don't need to buy a vehicle sticker but you do need to contact the Secretary of State's office and make sure that your vehicle's state registration contains your new address. *www.cyberdrive**illinois**.com*

The Village of Godfrey offers the SECRETARY OF STATE'S DRIVER'S LICENSE MOBILE SERVICES in the months of March and September. (Please contact Village Clerk's office for exact dates. 618-466-3381)

If you have a pet, the Village of Godfrey does not require you to purchase an animal license, but you must obtain rabies tags from Madison County Animal Care and Control Department. 618-692-1700

Voter Registration - Residents may register to vote at Godfrey Village Clerk's Office.

Post Office - The Godfrey Village Post Office is located at 400 Tolle Lane. 618-466-3121.

WASTE HAULERS	
JONES-EISLER	618-466-3181
REPUBLIC SERVICES	618-659-5277
SPARKS	618-433-1128
ASPEN WASTE	314-890-9100
DC WASTE & RECYCLING	271-851-3700
ELECTRICITY	
AMEREN	800-755-5000
WATER	
BRIGHTON WATER	618-372-8484
ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER	800-422-2782
JERSEY RURAL WATER	618-498-9534
FOSTERBURG WATER	618-259-0935
GODFREY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	618-466-0131
GODFREY – SHERIFF SUB-STATION	618-296-4947
MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT	618-692-4433 (non-emergency)

ANIMAL CONTROL	618-466-5211
CLERK	618-466-3381
MADISON COUNTY CLERK	618-692-6290
ENGINEER	618-466-4319
MAYOR	618-466-3324
PARK & RECREATION	618-466-1483
PLANNING & ZONING	618-466-1206
STREET DEPARTMENT	618-466-3133

Everbridge (for storm alerts) To register: 618-692-0537 OR email ema@madisoncountyil.gov or use the website to sign up https://member.everbridge.net/index/107891189088300

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







Don't forget.....

Commercial Property Enhancement Grant

Businesses located in the Godfrey Business District are eligible to take advantage of the "Commercial Property Enhancement Grant" program.

Funding: First $30,000 maximum grant is 50% match; and $30,001 to $100,000 is 25% grant for eligible expenses; and above $100,001 is 5% grant up to a total grant amount of $40,000.

Eligible Expenses: Significant facade renovations, signage, awnings, doors, windows. Landscaping if it follows Godfrey Ordinance No. 15-2007. Parking lots if brought up to ADA compliance and Village codes. All appropriate permits must be secured.

Ineligible Expenses: Regular repairs and maintenance, demolition, design, permit fees; and expenses incurred or contracted prior to grant approval.

Eligibility Criteria and Conditions: Owners and tenants of properties within Godfrey's Business District (at time of application). The property's primary use must be for commercial use. Tenants must provide written authorization from the property owner for the contemplated improvements and participation in the program. If the tenant or owner who receives grant funding should close, move, or remove work financed with a grant within five years of grant date, repayment of the grant may be required, pro rata for a period of the remaining three-year term. No additional grant funds are available for similar work at same space for a period of at least five years. Application for the grant does require three bids. *The grant must be approved prior to commencement of work.*

When contemplating purchasing of property in Godfrey with the intent of commercial or business use, be sure to check the zoning of the property. It is also advisable to determine if the property is in one of the business incentive districts:

- Business District
- TIF District
- Enterprise Zone

Having property that is properly zoned or in a business incentive district may have an impact on the intended use of the property. The time to make those determinations is prior to purchase.

Village of Godfrey Adopts A Transient Merchant DO NOT KNOCK REGISTRY



All solicitors are prohibited from soliciting at any location listed on the Do Not Knock Registry or at any location with a sign posted prohibiting solicitation. Village of Godfrey Ordinance 14-2025 requires all solicitors to obtain a current Do Not Knock Registry list upon approval of a Transient Merchant License. The Do Not Knock Registry works similarly to a "Do Not Call" list; it prohibits solicitation at registered addresses. For your protection, only addresses will appear on the Do Not Knock Registry. If you would like to be added to the list, please complete the Application Form (available at www.godfreyil.org) and bring or mail to the Godfrey Village Clerks Office. Village of Godfrey Attn: Jacki Clayton, Village Clerk 6810 Godfrey Rd. Godfrey, IL 62035. Your Registration will become effective on the first day of the following month. All transient merchants will be given an updated list at the start of the month.

To report a violation, please call Madison County Sheriff's Department 618-692-4433. Violations of this section shall subject the licensee, solicitor, peddler or canvasser and/or their corporate entity to revocation of the license issued by the Village, denial of future license applications, a fine of not less than $125.00 nor more than $750.00, per occurrence, and potential additional civil or criminal penalties. If you have any questions on the Do Not Knock Registry, please call the Godfrey Village Clerks office 618-466-3381.

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.

Www.visitgodfrey.com

Visit GODFREY ILLINOIS

Winter is on the way.....



Mayor McCormick, Chris Sichra (Emergency Coordinator), Jim Lewis (Public Service Director), Lieutenant Weller (and his Madison County Deputies) will swing into action should an unforeseen emergency happen. Still, there are almost 7,500 households in Godfrey. Odds are they won't be focused specifically on yours — just sayin'. What plans do you have to take care of your family in a significant disruption?

Each family should be thinking about what their needs would be during a disruption. Let's take a look at some basic things to have ready if something bad happens. The following information offers some guidance.

The government recommends being able to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days. If you could not leave your house for three days, does your home become a fortress or a prison? Much of that depends upon decisions that you make in advance.

Now, if the electricity stays on, things will likely be tolerable. If the electricity goes off, then it gets serious. Let's plan for a "worse case" and hope we never need to worry about it.

Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water
- Food (food that you are used to eating and enjoy)
  - **Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables*
  - **Protein or fruit bars*
  - **Dry cereal or granola*
  - **Peanut butter*
  - **Dried fruit*
  - **Canned juices*
  - **Non-perishable pasteurized milk*
  - **High-energy foods*
  - **Food for infants*
  - **Comfort/stress foods*
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)

Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications.
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities

Cooking your food

Alternative cooking sources can be used in times of emergency including candle warmers, chafing dishes, fondue pots or a fireplace**. Charcoal grills and camp stoves are for outdoor use only.** Commercially canned food may be eaten out of the can without warming. Do not heat food in its can — heat it in a pan.

Managing Food without Power

- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours if it is unopened.
- Refrigerated or frozen foods should be kept at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below for proper food storage.
- Use a refrigerator thermometer to check temperature.
- Refrigerated food should be safe as long as the power was out for no more than four hours.
- Discard any perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs or leftovers that have been above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more.

Keeping warm during a power outage

If the power goes out in a winter storm and there is no wood stove or fireplace, the house will get cold in a hurry. If you happen to have a generator that would be helpful, but most people won't have that equipment. There are other ways to stay warm.

- Keep your home closed up as much as possible to retain what heat is in the structure.
- Dress in layers of warm clothing
- Wear a hat (45% of body heat is out the head—get a stocking hat and keep it on, even when sleeping)
- Snuggle in sleeping bags and warm blankets

- Solar lighting
- Candles (USE CAUTOUSLY)
- Oil lamps

Water

Water disruption is not as likely as a power outage, but it is possible. The body can go for a while without food, but it needs water. Water is also needed for cooking and sanitation. Consider having one gallon per person per day of emergency water. Emergency water is considered to be clean, drinkable water (bottled water).

Sanitation

If the water is flowing, sanitation is not much of a problem. If there is a water disruption, then it becomes a real issue.

At a minimum, you will need to wash your hands and dispose of garbage and human waste.

Keep a supply of hygiene products on hand. Disinfectant wipes would very helpful. Have some plastic trash bags available to dispose of garbage and human waste. You don't want family members getting sick because of unsanitary conditions.

Mental preparedness

Who doesn't like a snow day? However, if the power goes off and nothing is moving, what was somewhat exciting will become quite stressful. The kids may become restless and you become anxious. You will be confined in a darkened and cold house. The first day won't be too big of a deal. Day two will start to get difficult. Oh, and day three.....

Having planned ahead is important in helping your family get through the disruption. Having mentally prepared is as important as the physical preparation. You'll have thought through the process and you know what needs to be done.

An example is the power outage in Texas last year. Thousands of pounds of food spoiled in refrigerators when the food could have just been set outside in the cold. They just were in such disarray, they did not think to move the food.

Odds are nothing will happen of significant magnitude, but a three-day preparation plan is just not that high of a hurdle. Remember: three days is a minimum. Review your family's emergency requirements and develop a plan — be ready!

By Jim Mager and Chris Sichra

Excerpts from www.ready.gov



The Public Works Department has approximately 150 miles of roads and streets 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 prohibiting 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.....

Being prepared lets you be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia:

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

Signs: Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Generator Safety

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.



The North Alton Godfrey Business Council in partnership with the Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department extends an invitation of all parents and children to attend and enjoy the 21st annual Breakfast with Santa. This festive event is being held on Saturday, December 5th 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 know magician, a face painter and a balloon artist.

Admission is by ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY.

For more information call 618-779-9735 or Godfrey Parks and Recreation at 618-466-1483.

This event is sponsored by the North Alton Godfrey Business Council in partnership with the Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department. Breakfast is served by the Knights of Columbus Men's Club.

The cost is:
$15 for Adults & Children: 13 and older
$7 for ages: 6 - 12
Cash or Check Only
Free for ages: 5 and under

Mark your calendar

Annual Snow Flake Festival

December 4, 2026

Glazebrook Park

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

In honor of the giving season, we will be accepting new toy items for donation to the United States

Marine Corps of Alton Toys for Tots Campaign on the day of the festival and throughout the season at the Godfrey Parks and Recreation office.

- · CARRIAGE RIDES
- · FREE HOT COCOA AND COOKIES
- · MARSHMALLOWS FOR TOASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE
- · PICTURES WITH SANTA
- · CRAFTS: REINDEER FOOD MAKING & REINDEER ORNAMENTS







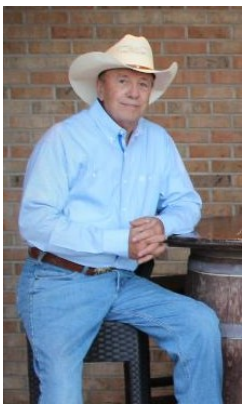
Oh, and one more thing.....

Well, fall is finally here. It is my favorite season and I'm enjoying the cooler weather. However, I don't like what comes after it. I also can't believe that Thanksgiving is now a little over a week away.

The Christmas season is just around the corner and we'll all be putting our shopping and gifting list together. Many will be setting down at the computer and ordering online. Ah, the convenience of it all! Then there are those that will be doing some "brick and mortar" shopping. Of course the big box stores are nice with lots of selection and good pricing. Still, might I encourage you to support those local independent shops. Small Business Saturday will be November 28 — make it count!

When you shop at local businesses, you're not just buying a product; you're investing in your community. Local stores, restaurants and artisans are often the heart and soul of your neighborhood. Your purchases contribute to their growth and success, which, in turn, bolsters the local economy. It leads to more job opportunities, improved infrastructure, and a vibrant community that everyone can enjoy. [Patrice Allen].

Have a wonderful Happy Thanksgiving!



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