

# FOCUS

Winter 2006

## ON WOODRIDGE

*Our Mission: "To achieve a high quality of life by providing superior services in a fiscally responsible manner!"*

### *Holiday Events*

#### **Tree Decorating**

Organizations and families are invited to decorate a tree in the Town Centre from **November 25 through November 30, 2006**. Trees must be decorated prior to the official Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. If you wish to decorate a tree, **please call Woodridge Special Events Committee Chairperson, Joel Kagann at (630) 964-1313.**

#### **The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**

The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on **December 1, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Woodridge Town Centre in front of the Village Hall. The ceremony is an enjoyable activity for the whole family. Get into the holiday spirit with caroling and music from local schools, a holiday message, refreshments, and decorated trees from local families and organizations. **If you have any questions, please call the Village Hall at 719-4705.**



#### **"Here comes Santa Claus"**

Please help us welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Woodridge on **Saturday, December 2, 2006**. They will be arriving at St. Scholastica Church via fire engine, courtesy of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District at 11:00 a.m. and leaving for their return to the North Pole at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Claus' kitchen will be open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., offering a lunch menu of hot dogs, nachos, chips, cookies, hot cider, coffee, and hot chocolate for a small fee. The Woodridge Special Events Committee has provided Santa with a special gift for each child.

#### **Holiday Helping Hands**

**You can make a big difference in the lives of those who need your help the most this holiday season.**

From donating a Holiday Dinner and Gift basket, to participating in the December Jewel Shop & Share Days, to restocking shelves at the Pantry, your contributions will make a world of difference. Visit the Woodridge Community Pantry website at [www.woodridgecommunitypantry.org](http://www.woodridgecommunitypantry.org) to see how you can contribute to the Woodridge Community Pantry.



*Happy Holidays  
from the  
Village of Woodridge!*



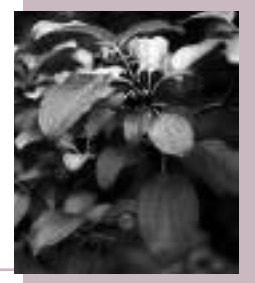
# Native Plants in Illinois

Citizens are increasingly concerned with the long term environmental health of their community and local government is responding to those concerns. In fact, many communities are encouraging residents and the development community to follow specific principles and practices to minimize negative impacts on the environment. This includes making smart choices when planting natural vegetation. Remember to follow these suggestions when planning your spring planting:

- Avoid planting invasive species of plants and flowers. Invasive species most commonly found in DuPage County include: Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Reed Canary Grass, Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife and Giant Reed.
- Evaluate the existing plant and flower species in your lawn, and replace existing invasive species with native plants.

- Avoid using excessive fertilizers. The chemicals in fertilizers contain high levels of nutrients that negatively affect the oxygen composition in stormwater ponds. Thick and unattractive algal blooms form due to excess fertilizer runoff.

For additional information on native plants in Illinois visit the Illinois Native Plant Society's website at [www.inhs.uiuc.edu/inps/](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/inps/). With the support of Woodridge residents, the Village can promote environmentally friendly development for a higher quality of life for the community.



Common  
Buckthorn

## Police Department Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

### Holiday Safety

Crimes against people and property tend to increase as the holiday season approaches. **The Woodridge Police Department offers the following suggestions on how to lower your chance of becoming a victim:**



### Shopping Safety

- Avoid carrying large sums of cash at one time. Shred or keep all receipts that have your credit card number printed on it.
- Use ATM machines that are well-lit and in safe areas and count your money away from the ATM machine.
- Carry purses in front of you and keep them close to your body.
- Keep your purse with you at all times

instead of in a shopping cart or on the back of a chair. Keep keys separate from your purse. If your purse is snatched, the thief will have your address and house keys.

- Wallets should be carried in the front pocket instead of the back pocket.

### Vehicle Safety

- Keep your car doors locked at all times.
- Put packages and items in a trunk where they are not visible to thieves looking for valuables in cars.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit, safe environment. If you observe something suspicious, don't leave your vehicle — park elsewhere and contact the police immediately.
- Immediately remove all purchases from your car when you return home.

### Holiday Travel

Plan ahead if you are traveling over the holidays. Have a neighbor pick up your mail and shovel your driveway — make sure your home appears "lived in." Homeowners can stop by the Police Department and fill out a vacation watch card. Winter driving can be dangerous due to weather conditions. Always wear a seatbelt and keep children in a child safety seat at all times.

**The holidays are a joyous time of celebration. Following these simple safety tips can help ensure that you stay safe during the holiday season.**

### Holiday Seatbelt and DUI Enforcement

Sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Woodridge Police Department will be conducting both seatbelt and DUI enforcement during the busy holiday season. The holiday season is a time for celebrating and traveling. Be sure to celebrate and travel safely by wearing your seatbelt, driving the speed limit and designating a driver if you are drinking. Be safe and have a happy holiday.

# FYI . . . From Public Works

## Commonwealth Edison Outages

Whenever you experience a power outage in your home, please call **ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661)** to notify them of the occurrence. You should call even if your neighbor has already called to notify ComEd of the outage. Calling in the power outage will not only notify ComEd to dispatch a repair truck, but also helps them to track ongoing problems in your area.

## Christmas Tree Recycling Program

The annual **Christmas Tree Recycling Program** will take place during the **weeks of January 1, 2007 to January 12, 2007**. During these two weeks, residents may leave their trees at the curb with no sticker. Trees must be free of decorations, wire, and lights and not placed in plastic bags. Wreaths and evergreen garland will not be accepted.

## Yardwaste Collection Coming To a Close

The **last day for curbside collection of yardwaste is December 15th**. Residents are given a variety of methods to dispose of their yardwaste. Mulching grass clippings and leaves back into your lawn will provide nutrients to your lawn. Another possibility is to compost your yardwaste on your property. Thirdly, residents may choose to have the yardwaste removed at the curb through the bag-n-tag program. Information regarding all of these methods is available at both the Village Hall and the Public Works Department.

## What Residents Can Do During a Snow Fall

**Remember that on street parking is prohibited after 2" of snowfall and between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.**

- Do not shovel snow back into the streets. This will cause ice patches on the streets, which are hazardous to drivers and can damage snowplows.
- Keep fire hydrants on your property free of snow and ready for use in case of an emergency.
- Remove empty refuse containers from the curb as soon as possible in order to avoid contact with the snowplows.

- Keep sidewalks around your residence free of snow and ice. State law protects property owners from any added liability if the sidewalks are shoveled.
- Your mailbox should be 42 inches from the street to the bottom of the box. There should be 6 inches between the front of the mailbox and the back of the curb. If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Post Office for the standards.

## Frozen Water Pipes in Your Home

**To prevent freezing water, insulate pipes** and seal all leaks around openings to the outside. When temperatures drop below freezing, it is recommended that you leave an inside faucet dripping to keep water moving. Leave cupboard doors open to warm pipes and keep your thermostat set no lower than 55 degrees. Should a pipe freeze, thaw it gradually. Never use an open flame! Should a pipe burst, shut off your water supply and call a plumber.

## Water Main Repairs

**Each year the freezing and the thawing of water pipes in the system can cause water main breaks.** At times it may become necessary to shut off water service to residents in order to repair a break. When possible, residents are notified prior to the water being turned off. The Public Works' crews will work around the clock to repair the break and get your water service restored. Often excavation is required to repair the break. If you have an excavated area near your home, do not attempt to fill in the site. The Village will return to repair the area in the spring when the ground has thawed.

## Holiday Garbage Pick Up

This year both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Monday. This means only Monday and Tuesday pick-ups will be one day late.



Village of Woodridge  
5 Plaza Drive  
Woodridge, IL 60517

PRESORTED  
STANDARD MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DOWNERS GROVE, IL  
PERMIT NO. 66

Mayor: William F. Murphy

Village Clerk: Eileene Nystrom

Board of Trustees:

Pamela Beavers	Mary Ann Frank
Robert Brandt	Joseph Kagann
John Curran	Richard Wood

Village Administrator:

John Perry

Village Hall (630) 852-7000

E-mail- [jperry@vil.woodridge.il.us](mailto:jperry@vil.woodridge.il.us)

Village Hall Hours

Monday-Friday- 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Postal Residential Customer Local  
Woodridge, IL 60517

*Village Holiday Hours:*

*Closed December 25th & 26th, and January 1st.*

## Town Meeting: Residents Set Community Priorities

Woodridge residents have long been known for active and constructive involvement in setting community priorities. Our Town Meeting on October 3rd was no exception. Residents gathered to discuss topics identified as priorities at previous Town Meetings including:

**Open Space**  
**Balanced Growth**  
**Public Safety**  
**Diversity**

Our Village Board will use the results to help shape the priority goals for the coming year. These priority goals will then drive the budget for the Village organization.

Town Meeting is just one part of our goal setting process known as Strategic Management. Residents contribute to our community vision through their participation in Neighborhood Dialogues, our annual Community Needs Survey, and periodic on-line surveys.

Neighborhood Dialogue is an opportunity for residents to learn about some of the services provided by the Village and Park District. The real purpose of the event, though, is

to invite residents to ask their elected officials and staff questions about public services or their neighborhood and to share their suggestions and ideas to improve the community. Meetings come to each neighborhood, defined around grade school attendance boundaries, once every 2-3 years.

The Community Needs survey is mailed to 1,200 randomly selected addresses every July. Participants evaluate all aspects of Village service and provide comments about issues of personal concern. On average, 30-45% of residents who receive the surveys respond. The survey results are shared at Town Meeting so that participants can consider them as they discuss priorities. The Village Board and staff also review them in detail and consider them in the goal setting and budget process.

Due to the success of the on-line survey approach, residents will continue to have opportunities to participate. Watch Woodridge's weekly electronic newsletter and Woodridge Weekly page in the Reporter newspaper for announcements of new on-line surveys. Visit the Village website at [www.vil.woodridge.il.us](http://www.vil.woodridge.il.us) to subscribe to E-News.