

FOCUS

Winter 2000

O N W O O D R I D G E

Our mission: To achieve a high quality of life by providing superior services in a fiscally-responsible manner.

VILLAGE KEEPS COMMUNICATION PROCESS OPEN WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Have you ever wondered how and why things get accomplished throughout the Village? The reason is simple. The mayor, elected officials and Village Staff really do listen to what you want and then work diligently to make sure your voice is heard.

Mayor Murphy explained to over 165 residents at this year's Town Meeting, held at the Signature Room at Seven Bridges, how the Village gleans information from residents' comments provided through the Meeting, the Community Needs Survey, and Neighborhood Dialogues. Village officials then prioritize concepts and data to develop programs and shape the annual budget.

The Mayor then posed two questions to the group. "How can we improve youth participation in our community?" and "What does Woodridge need to improve resident participation opportunities in our community?"

Breaking into small discussion groups, attendants generated several ideas, including:

- a youth council
- more youth involvement on WCTV
- a community-based service club
- an intergenerational community service
- community center
- more communication through schools
- an event hotline
- youth activities on the web
- community service requirements

- opportunities in school
- key peers in planning events and recruitment of fellow peers
- a partnership with civic and government organizations.

When it came to citizen involvement, ideas included:

- relying on others to get people involved
- a monthly newsletter
- use WCTV more
- diverse cultural activities
- expanded activities
- fully used Village facilities
- better communication
- advance notice of community events
- increased community events
- market involvement opportunities survey
- focus groups
- Internet message signs
- marquee sign on Hobson Road
- improve information in the Progress
- create a "Who's who in Woodridge"
- improve electronic communication
- expand neighborhood dialogues.

When all this data was analyzed, the Mayor, Board and Village Staff met at a goal setting session to discuss what was feasible and what would take priority. The Board recommended that the two issues of youth participation and resident participation be coordinated and facilitated by the Village. The Village has already met



with Faith Community Leaders and plans to involve other organizations.

As for reaching the community, now that the *Progress* is a paid subscription, the Village lost a viable communication tool. The Chamber of Commerce will develop a survey to see how this development has impacted businesses. *Progress* circulation has gone from approximately 9,000 Woodridge homes to 2,500 homes. The Village is working on other Woodridge communication avenues.

At the meeting, Village staff had an opportunity to give an update of last year's key goals, which included: reduce the residential tax burden, attract businesses, improve youth involvement, increase recreational space, and boost diversity at Town Meetings.

The Village reported an annual four percent decrease in property taxes in the 1990s.

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Christmas Tree Recycling Program



The Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program will take place during the weeks of January 1 and January 8. During this designated time, 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.

Holiday Refuse Service

This year the Christmas and New Year holidays fall on Monday. Consequently only Monday and Tuesday customers will be picked-up one day late.

What Can Residents Do During A Snow Fall?

Do not shovel snow back into the streets. This will cause ice patches 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 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.



The bottom of your mailbox should be at least 40 inches above the ground. The front of mailbox should be no closer than 8 inches from behind the back of the curb.

Freezing Water in Your House

When the temperature drops below freezing, it is recommended that you leave a faucet in your house trickle water. This effort is a means to prevent standing water in your pipes from freezing.

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 turned back on.



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.

Snow and Ice Control

The Village's plowing operations begin when two inches of snow have accumulated and snow continues to fall. The goal of the Village is to have all the Village owned streets clear within twelve hours after the snow has stopped. It is impossible to give an exact time when your street will be plowed since conditions vary with each and every storm. First priority is given to main roads which are high volume traffic areas. These streets are plowed first. After conditions on all main roads are considered safe for travel, the secondary and cul-de-sacs are plowed. ❄️



Video Production Training Class Begins

Learn how you can create programs to be broadcast on Woodridge Community Television (WCTV) – Channel 6! FREE video production training classes will be held on Wednesdays, February 7 through March 28, 2000, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, at the Woodridge Village Hall. Participants will use

WCTV equipment and facilities to learn how to produce, direct, and operate cameras as well as lighting and editing techniques.

To make a reservation call 630-719-4709. Space is limited and reservations are required.

WCTV is a Government Access Channel owned and operated by the Village of Woodridge.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that there is one traffic related fatality every 13 minutes, one traffic related injury every 9 seconds and one traffic crash ever 5 seconds. In addition, 7 children in the United States are killed and 866 injured each day in a motor vehicle crash. Despite these statistics, 29.8% of Illinois residents do not wear a seatbelt when sitting in the front seat of a car, and at least 80% of all child restraint seats are not installed correctly.

The Holiday Season is a major travel time, and the Woodridge Police Department is encouraging all motorists to slow down and “buckle up.” Chief Geoff Korous reports, “studies have shown that when seatbelts and child safety seats are used correctly, the number of traffic related fatalities and injuries decrease.” The Police Department will have extra enforcement of seatbelt and child restraint laws over the busy holiday season.

If you are interested in receiving a free inspection of a child safety seat before traveling this holiday season, please contact Officer Cindy Mammoser, a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, at (630) 719-4745. 🚗



Be sure to check out the Official Village of Woodridge Website at www.vil.woodridge.il.us for up-to-date community information.

BUILDING AND ZONING WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Furnaces

During the winter, your furnace will turn on and off nearly 9,000 times. To keep your heating system running safely and efficiently, call a qualified contractor and schedule a "check up" for your furnace.

You can also take these steps:

- Check your flame. Flames should be mostly blue and steady. A pale yellow or wavy flame could be a sign your furnace is not working properly.
- Check your venting system. Soft, rusted or broken vent piping can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Be sure your furnace or boiler is free of dust, rust and any other signs of corrosion.
- Check air filters regularly. Clean or replace them as needed.
- Be sure not to store any combustible materials near your furnace.

Make sure that furnace panels and grills are in place and that the fan compartment door is closed when the furnace is on. Leaving those doors open could cause carbon monoxide to build up in living areas.



Fireplaces

- Fireplace safety guidelines include:
- Clean your chimney once a year.
- Clear away any debris, such as bird nests at the top of the chimney.
- Check the chimney flue for blockages.

It is recommended that spark arresters be installed on wood burning fireplaces. If you already have spark arresters, be sure they have been installed correctly.

- Be sure all dampers are operational and open and close properly.
- Keep the screen closed at all times when using the fireplace.
- Keep the area in front of the fireplace clear of all flammable materials, including paper, wood, or furniture.

Never use charcoal lighter fluid or similar liquids to start a fire in the fireplace. These are extremely flammable and can quickly become dangerous.

Should be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved.

Be sure to contact the Building & Zoning Department at (630) 719-4750 for building permit and inspection requirements for the installation of a new fireplace. 🌲

"WOLVERINE PACK" SCHOOL BASED RESOURCE CENTER OPENS AT JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

An after school based resource center has opened as the Wolverine Pack at Jefferson Junior High School. The idea of a student participation center based inside the school was a collaborative effort between the Village of Woodridge, School District #68, Woodridge Park District, Jefferson Junior High School and DuPage Prevention Partnership.

Jenny Hersheiner, a staff member from DuPage Prevention Partnership, will coordinate the center activities. Employees of the Woodridge Police Department will assist with staffing the center.

The goal of the school based resource center is to provide students with a safe, supervised place to go and constructive activities in which to participate. The focus is to engage students who are not already involved in sports or other school activities. Students will have input into the types of activities that the center provides. In addition, the students who participate in activities have chosen an official name for the center-the Wolverine Pack. Jefferson Junior High School has a daily activity bus that students can take home after Wolverine Pack activities are done.

If you have any questions about the center, are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact Jenny Hirsheimer of DuPage Prevention Partnership at (630) 682-6895. 🌲



UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS

December 25, 2000

Village Hall Closed
Winter Holiday

December 26, 2000

Village Hall Closed
Winter Holiday

January 1, 2001

Village Hall Closed
Winter Holiday



WELCOME TO WOODRIDGE

Woodridge would like to welcome these new businesses:

Ambica Groceries
new owners
2013 75th Street

Convenient Food Mart
new owners
8290 Janes

Rave Girl
1001 W. 75th, Suite 129

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The Village has maintained a “Hold the Line” tax policy since 1993, and it has produced significant results. The Village is also working with area taxing bodies to help lower taxes.

New businesses are still seeking Woodridge for their new location. In addition to being a desirable location, Woodridge offers a high quality of life and affordable housing. New businesses have brought a number of jobs to the community, including Allstate, V3 and more.

Youth opportunities were also on the rise in 2000 with the first ever Back to School Bash attended by over 600 junior high school students. Work continues with other youth programs, including the youth services unit of the police department.

The Village continues to develop recreational space. The new bicycle path maps are available at Village Hall. The Village and the Park District have

partnered in the development of a 21 mile bicycle path. There are 4,400 acres of open space in Woodridge and six forest preserves, said Phil Modaff, Public Works Director.

This summer, the Village sent 1,200 Community Needs Surveys to residents. Forty percent returned the questionnaire to the Village for tabulation. Over 94 percent felt safe in their neighborhoods—the highest score achieved in neighborhood safety.

While 94 percent felt the quality of life was exceptionally high, over 85 percent of the respondents said that they are satisfied with community programs. Village services rate higher than four years ago. Residents rank advantages of living in Woodridge over disadvantages at a rate of over two to one. Over 90 percent of respondents indicated that response time for emergency and non-emergency calls were excellent.

The top five assets of living in Woodridge, according to the respondents, are: location, residential neighborhoods, housing affordability, friendliness of residents, and school quality.

The Mayor and Board developed new goals for the upcoming year. Maintaining a safe community is the number one goal. Reducing the tax burden has been a constant every year. Other goals include: enhance community appeal (physical aspects), enhance community image (perception), foster intergovernmental cooperation, attract and retain competent employees, provide safe and orderly traffic management, and stimulate the business community.

Town Meetings, Community Needs Surveys and Neighborhood Dialogues offer valuable communication between the community and the Village. Each resident’s voice directs the process that makes Woodridge a better place to live, work and play. 🍁



Village of Woodridge

5 Plaza Drive • Woodridge, Illinois 60517



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www.vil.woodridge.il.us

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