

FOCUS

Winter 2005

ON WOODRIDGE

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

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 6th was no exception. For the first time ever, residents had an opportunity to participate in an on-line survey to select the most important Town Meeting discussion topics. Nearly 700 people responded to the on-line survey and selected the following topics for discussion:

Open Space
Balanced Growth/Economic Development
Public Safety
Utility Reliability

At Town Meeting, 135 people came together to discuss those topics. (The results of that meeting are available on the Village website www.vil.woodridge.il.us.) 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.

The involvement of Woodridge residents in setting priorities is the cornerstone of our community success. We will continue to expand opportunities for involvement, including through on-line surveys. 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 to subscribe to E-News.**

Happy Holidays
from the
Village of Woodridge!



Holiday Events

Tree Decorating

Organizations and families are invited to decorate a tree in the Town Centre from November 25 through November 30, 2005. Trees must be decorated prior to the official Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. If you wish to decorate a tree, please call **Woodridge Special Events Committee Chairperson, Ceil Jarka at (630) 852-3174.**

The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on December 1, 2005 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 **Ceil Jarka at (630) 852-3174.**

“Here comes Santa Claus”

Please help us welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to Woodridge on Saturday, December 3, 2005. 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 Crime Prevention Tips

As the busy holiday season approaches, the **Woodridge Police Department** would like to remind everyone about some precautions to stay safe:

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. Use a sober driver or call a taxi if you have been drinking.

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

Extra Patrols for DUI Enforcement this Holiday Season

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and the Woodridge Police Department will be increasing patrols to find those who are driving after having too much to drink. Woodridge is participating in the national program “You Drink and Drive, You Lose.” This enforcement campaign coincides with the potentially dangerous holiday driving season and runs from December 19, 2005 through January 1, 2006. Law enforcement around the state will be taking a zero tolerance approach to impaired driving.

The extra enforcement measures are sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation. This holiday season, drive smart and don't take chances. The choice is simple — drive sober or designate a driver.

Building & 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. Furnace flues should be checked for blockages and for proper pitch. 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.
- **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

- **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 arrestors** be installed on wood burning fireplaces. If you already have spark arrestors, 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 quickly become dangerous.
- **All manufactured fireplaces shall be U.L.** (Underwriters Laboratory) listed.

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.

Here Come The Plows

The Village’s snow plan is designed with residents in mind, with specific focus on making roads passable and open for safe travel during and after a snow fall. This may not seem the case when you find yourself shoveling out the end of your driveway for the second or third time.

A common and understandable request homeowners have is for the Village to plow snow so that snow from the street does not end up in their driveways, or at the very least, that it only happens one time (and preferably before the homeowner has shoveled the driveway). While the Village can’t accommodate that request, we can offer an explanation of the process along with a couple of tips about how to minimize (not eliminate) the amount of snow that comes off the plows and onto your driveway.

Snow is plowed from the center of the roadway to the edge – towards the parkway and (unfortunately) the end of the homeowners driveway. Trying to direct the plow away from each driveway as it is passed is not manageable (there are well over 10,000 driveways) and would result in snow being left in the street. It takes multiple passes of the snow plow on each street and in each direction just to get from the center to near the edge. On each of these passes, snow flies or spills off the edge of the plow and into driveways.

The length of the snow storm will also influence how many times the plows have to make a pass down each street. During heavy long-lasting storms, it’s not unusual for the snow plows to be out for 3 or 4 days continuously.

Shoveling Tips

When shoveling the end of the driveway near the street, place the snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street). If it is piled on the other side, it is a likely target for a snow plow that is getting close to the curb, and will definitely end up in the driveway again.

Clear a few feet of the edge of the street and curb line to the left of the driveway (again, as you face the street). This will help reduce the amount of snow that gets dumped in the driveway as the plow goes by.

Village of Woodridgs
5 Plaza Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
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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

Village Hall Hours

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

**Postal Customer Local
Woodridge, IL 60517**

Village Holiday Hours:

Closed December 23rd, 26th, and January 2nd.

Winter Reminders from the Public Works Department

Christmas Tree Recycling Program

The annual **Christmas Tree Recycling Program** will take place during the weeks of January 2 and January 9. 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.

Holiday Garbage Pick Up

This year both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday, which means there is **no change in the normal pick-up schedule for any residents.**

FYI . . .

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.

Facelift for Underpass at Lake Harriet & Lake Carleton

Significant improvements are planned for the underpass that connects Lake Harriet and Lake Carleton near Woodridge and Center Drives. The project will include sandblasting and repairing the concrete underpass walls between the two lakes. Special care must be taken to protect the lake water from contamination during the paint removal process. An anti-graffiti material will then be placed on the entire surface. A new metal railing will also be installed to replace the wooden posts which have deteriorated. The Village is working on the plans and specifications for this project now and expect to solicit bids by the end of the year. The work is expected to be completed this Spring when temperatures will support the application of the anti-graffiti material.