



News Release

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Mayor Cunningham Delivers State of the Village Address, Encourages Residents to “Celebrate Woodridge!”

- Annual address highlights the past year and future economic trends
- The Live, Work, Play, video features interviews with residents and Woodridge businesses
- The Village utilizes a creative problem-solving approach for economic development

WOODRIDGE, Ill., February 6, 2019: Woodridge Mayor Gina Cunningham delivered the State of the Village Address on Wed., Feb. 6, at the Woodridge Village Hall Werch Board Room. The annual State of the Village Address highlights the past year and future economic trends and development. Cunningham said the 2019 theme is to “[Celebrate Woodridge](#),” and the Village is in a strong position with a well-balanced commercial portfolio and significant residential development.

In her remarks, Cunningham highlighted transformative events in Woodridge history. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Village of Woodridge and the 50th anniversary of the Woodridge Park District. The anniversary is a time to reflect on the community’s proud history of progress, opportunity and diversity.



Woodridge Mayor Gina Cunningham delivered the State of the Village Address and stated, “Woodridge is in a strong position with a well-balanced and diverse commercial portfolio in addition to significant residential development.”

“This anniversary year theme is Celebrate Woodridge, and it represents that the community’s vision for the future is rooted in our history,” said Mayor Cunningham. “It takes collaboration – people from the business community, government, and non-profit organizations – to continue

and advance Woodridge's success. I'm hopeful that all citizens will celebrate Woodridge every day by seeking opportunities to help others, be it helping your neighbor or supporting our thriving Woodridge business community."

Video: Live, Work, Play

During the speech, Cunningham played a [video](#) that highlighted current economic conditions, showcased future development, and explained how Woodridge is a wonderful community to live, work, and play. The video further emphasized that the Village utilizes a creative problem-solving approach to each project rather than a one-size-fits-all economic development program. This approach includes a professional Village staff that provides a variety of resources and expertise to businesses including assistance in site selection, guidance through an expedited development review process, business promotion, and referrals to local, state and federal resources. In 2018, Woodridge experienced more than \$69 million in new commercial and residential investment, while also welcoming 35 new businesses to the community.

The video featured interviews with members of the Woodridge business community. "The Village has been great – from the Mayor all the way to the planners and inspectors. They've just been fantastic communicators and have helped me along the way," said Ed Ranquist, Owner, Ike & Oak Brewing Co. "I would highly recommend Woodridge as a place to do business."

Business success in Woodridge brings a steady level of local sales tax revenue, which allows the Village to have reduced residential property tax rates for more than 26 consecutive years. Furthermore, business parks continue to grow in part to Woodridge's desirable location at the crossroads of interstates I-55 and I-355. Currently, Woodridge also features 12 business parks — including the 920-acre Internationale Centre that has grown to more 13 million square feet with several more opportunities on the horizon.

The residential market growth in Woodridge indicates that the Village is a desirable location to build a new home and raise a family. Also, residents and visitors can enjoy amenities including golf, biking, or walking through plentiful parkland and open spaces. Woodridge also features more than [60 restaurants](#). "This is a great neighborhood, the community is awesome, and the school districts are strong," said Charles Kim, Woodridge resident. "I would definitely recommend [Woodridge] to new parents, family, and friends..."

Recognizing Community Difference Makers

Cunningham recognized several businesses and community members that are making a difference in Woodridge through charitable giving and volunteerism. Two Woodridge businesses – Beauty Company of Chicago and Friedman & Sons – will celebrate their 25th anniversary in Woodridge.

“I am so inspired by all that we have accomplished together in the last 60 years,” said Cunningham. “Woodridge grew into a strong, diverse, and robust community whose strength is solidified by the success of our business community. We celebrate how far we have come together as well as the opportunities still ahead of us.”

The Village and Chamber 630, a regional business organization with a focus in the Villages of Downers Grove and Woodridge, co-hosted the event.

About Woodridge

With a population of 33,000 and rich in natural beauty, Woodridge is situated on the high ground overlooking the DuPage River and populated by heavy stands of oaks and maples. The village derives its name from the heavy stand of timber, which overlooks the East Branch of the DuPage River. Woodridge is home to several corporate headquarters, which began in 1977 when Wilton Industries became the first corporation to locate here. This trend continues with the more recent addition of the Cooper's Hawk Winery locating their headquarters on Murphy Road. Woodgrove Festival located at 75th Street and Lemont Road was the Village's first real shopping center. The annexation of a 725-acre tract of real estate generally located south of I-55, west of Lemont Road, east of Joliet Road, and north of Bluff Road now showcase Internationale Centre, a thriving regional business center.

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