



Woodridge E-News

December 23, 2021

Greetings!



2021 Village Employee of the Year – Officer Hogan

As selected by his colleagues, the 2021 Village of Woodridge Employee of the year is Officer Hogan! Chief Brian Cunningham of the Police Department nominated Officer Hogan for his outstanding service to the community, notably for his excellence relating to crisis intervention, and helping those struggling with mental health. Officer Hogan is a subject matter expert in mental health law and procedures for the Woodridge Police Department and surrounding fire departments. The Village is proud of our dedicated staff and commitment to the Woodridge community.

☐: (left to right) Al Stonitsch, village administrator, Officer Hogan, Chief Cunningham

☐ In this E-News Issue ☐:

Holiday Garbage Pick-Up Schedule and Christmas Tree Recycling | How to File Insurance Company Complaints from the June 2021 Tornado | Woodridge Welcomes Officer Almazan to the Police Department | Overnight Street Parking This Holiday Season | Upcoming Village Holiday Schedule | Woodridge Toys for Tots Thanks You! | COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Rising in DuPage County | A Special Holiday Message From the West Suburban Community Pantry | In and Around Woodridge

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Plan Commission

January 17, 2022, 7 p.m.
Training Room, 2nd Fl.
5 Plaza Drive

Specially Called Village Board Meeting

January 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Werch Board Room
5 Plaza Drive

Village Board Meeting

January 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Werch Board Room
5 Plaza Drive

Board of Police Commissioners

January 24, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
Training Room, 2nd Fl.
5 Plaza Drive

Water Bill Brief

Quick Links

Village of Woodridge
Website

Village Board
Meeting Agendas,
Minutes, and Video

Village Meetings & Events

Current News

Village Staff Directory

Transparency Webpage

Holiday Garbage Pick-Up Schedule and Christmas Tree Recycling

Garbage Pick-Up

Groot waste collection: There is no change in the garbage pickup schedule this year for the holidays because Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Saturdays.

Christmas Tree Recycling in January

The popular Christmas Tree Recycling Program returns during your first two January's scheduled garbage pickup days.

Groot Inc. will take live Christmas trees up to 6 feet tall at the curb for free – no garbage sticker is required. The trees must be free of ornaments, lights, and other decorations. Please note that wreaths and evergreen garland are excluded from the Christmas Tree Recycling Program. After the Christmas Tree Recycling Program ends, residents may dispose of Christmas trees using a garbage sticker.

Pickup Dates:

First scheduled pickup week: January 3, 4, 6, 7

Second scheduled pickup week: January 10, 11, 13, 14

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE



How to File Insurance Company Complaints from the June 2021 Tornado

A common concern that the Village continues to hear from residents who suffered property damage from the June 2021 tornado is their disappointment and frustration with their insurance company's claim handling. For example, some people continue to experience stalled insurance claim adjudication, only partial payments made, adjusters refusing to personally view damage, claim denials, etc. Fortunately, residents can take action by working with the offices of [Senator John Curran](#) (41st District) or [Representative Avelar](#) (85th District) and the IL Department of Insurance to file a complaint.

To File an Insurance Complaint with Sen. Curran and Rep. Avelar

Anyone with damage from the June 2021 tornado and experiencing claims issues from their insurance company can contact either Senator Curran or Representative Avelar's office. Both Senator Curran and Representative Avelar can help facilitate the processing of your insurance complaint. The contact information is:

Senator Curran: Phone: (630) 914-5733 | [Online email Form](#)

Representative Avelar: Phone: (815) 372-0085 | email: info@repdagmara.org

To File an Insurance Complaint Directly with the IL Dept. of Insurance

Contact the [Illinois Department of Insurance](#) toll-free 866.445.5364, local 312.814.2420, or email at DOI.InfoDesk@illinois.gov to lodge a formal complaint against the respective insurance companies. Information about [how to file a complaint with the IL Department of Insurance](#) is available, as is the website to [file a complaint electronically](#).

Additional Information at the Woodridge Public Library

On December 8, 2021, The Village of Woodridge and Woodridge Public Library partnered to host the event Lessons Learned from the Tornado: Insurance Coverage Tips & Information. A portfolio with handouts from this program is available at the Woodridge Library (3 Plaza Drive) circulation desk while supplies last. There are also resources available online, including:

- Homeowners & Renters information: [Homeowners/Renters Insurance - Homeowners/Renters Insurance \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- Disaster related consumer information: [Disasters - Consumers \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- The Consumer Buyer Guide: [09 \(illinois.gov\)](#)

In addition, public adjusters may have a role in the process. Please visit this website for an overview of how public adjusters help in the process: [Homeowners & Renters Public Adjusters - Homeowners/Renters Insurance \(illinois.gov\)](#).

The mission of the Illinois Department of Insurance is to protect consumers by ensuring that all entities regulated by IDOI comply with state and federal laws and to educate Illinois consumers about their rights under those laws. Navigating the insurance claim process is complex, and Senator Curran, Representative Avelar, and the Illinois Department of Insurance can help.

Woodridge Welcomes Officer Almazan to the Police Department

The Woodridge Police Department welcomed Officer Almazan to the Police Department on Wednesday, December 22. Joseph Heneghan, Village Clerk, swore him in yesterday.

Officer Almazan is a graduate of Western Illinois University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and justice administration. After WIU, Officer Almazan earned a master's degree in justice and ethical law at DePaul University. He worked in several public service positions, including at the Blue Island Police Department.



Overnight Street Parking This Holiday Season

The overnight street parking ordinance will be suspended from Dec. 24, 2021 – Jan. 3, 2022. Details for overnight parking:

- Parking restrictions lifted: Friday, Dec. 24 at 2 a.m.
- Parking restriction resumes: Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at 6 a.m.

There is no need to obtain overnight parking permission on occasions when the restrictions are

lifted. For example, when the parking restriction is lifted from Dec. 24, 2021, at 2 a.m. - Jan. 3, 2022, at 6 a.m. it is unnecessary to complete the online overnight parking request form. Wishing you a happy holiday season!



Upcoming Village Holiday Schedule

Village of Woodridge offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Dec. 27 for the Christmas holiday, as well as Friday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Day.

Regular office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Please note that Village Hall is open to the public Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 630-852-7000.



Woodridge Toys for Tots Thanks You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Village of Woodridge Toys for Tots! This year was one of the most successful with more than 20 Santa-sized bags filled with toys. Your generosity will help make children's Christmas wishes come true. Since 1947, Toys for Tots has distributed 604 million toys to 272 million children.



COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Rising in DuPage County

The DuPage County Health Department is raising awareness of rising cases and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in DuPage County and recommending that residents take action to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the holidays to protect their friends and family and to protect our limited healthcare resources.

COVID-19 activity remains at very high levels in DuPage County and continues to rise with over 642 new cases being reported on average each day and 233 individuals hospitalized in the six hospitals in the county today. The 7-



day rolling average of new cases reported each day and the number of hospitalizations has approximately doubled since Thanksgiving. Vaccination is crucial to protect yourself from serious illness or death, to reduce transmission of COVID-19, and to prevent the emergence of new variants. For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19.

A Special Holiday Message From the [West Suburban Community Pantry](#)

The West Suburban Community Pantry (WSCP) offers food for the hungry and resources to empower people to improve their quality of life. Serving over 5,600 individuals each month, WSCP is integral to helping our neighbors in DuPage and Will Counties receive the nutrition they need to lead full lives.



IN AND AROUND WOODRIDGE

Countdown to “Noon” Year at the Woodridge Library

Families with young children are invited to an afternoon of music, bubbles and crafts as the Woodridge Public Library counts down to the [“Noon” Year](#) on Friday, December 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 1 :00 p.m. Drop in, there is no registration.

Virtual Program: Funky Foods of the 1970s

Cookbook connoisseur Amy Alessio takes us back to the 1970s with the funky foods we tried and loved during a virtual program on Wednesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. [Pre-register](#) to receive a Zoom link to attend and for copies of the recipes.

Library Holiday Hours

Woodridge Public Library will be [closed](#) December 24, December 25 and January 1, and close at 5 p.m. on December 31. Outdoor book drops will remain open 24 hours a day throughout the holidays. Free streaming and downloading of eBooks, audiobooks, movies and music from your home or smartphone is also available to cardholders.


