



# Woodridge E-News

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**August 7, 2020**



Dear Woodridge Neighbors,

Last night at our Village Board meeting, I needed to address a matter that has saddened and honestly appalled me. There have been public statements that I have read, heard, and received that are honestly disrespectful and hurtful and baseless accusations, which question the integrity of Village officials. The most recent relates to our Plan Commission and a potential development on Lemont Road. We, as a Village, welcome and respect our high-level resident involvement in community matters, and the Village and Village Board know this is one of the greatest assets in Woodridge. We believe in reaching out and connecting with our neighbors and community. We truly appreciate your feedback, ideas, care, and questions. We know that our connections are critical in all we do and how best we serve - always aiming high for what is best for Woodridge. And we know that the best takes all of us working together.



It also takes very dedicated neighbors who give their time to serve on our Boards and Commissions because they want to help make a difference and to help build the best

## Updates

### Woodridge Library Updates

### In & Around Woodridge



### Village Meetings

#### **Village Board Meeting**

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

#### **Village Board Meeting**

Sept. 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Werch Board Room  
5 Plaza Drive

### Water Bill Brief

Click on the image below for the current edition of the monthly ***Water Bill Brief***

community for all of us. I strongly denounce any and all implied negative statements serving our Village - this is just not who we are. And regarding specifically our Plan Commission and questioning integrity, I can personally attest to their dedication, leadership, to their ethical compass, and for their service in our community. Also, the Plan Commission received a public comment at a recent meeting that people connected to Village government stand to gain financially if the proposed development is approved. I need to be clear that this statement is false. It does not in any way characterize the good people that serve our community - and implied statements like this undermine the trust and collaboration we all need to move Woodridge forward.

Please remember these are our neighbors, and I thoroughly stand by and support the integrity of our Plan Commissioners and our elected officials. I thank each of them for the critical role that they play in our Village government. And as neighbors, and as reasonable people, we may disagree on a particular plan or project, and I can personally share that we sometimes face difficult decisions, which are never easy. It is objectionable to attack a commissioner's integrity and ethics because of how he or she voted on a particular matter.

All elected and appointed officials take an Oath of Office in which they promise to "faithfully discharge the duties of [their office] according to the best of [their] ability." Also, every elected, appointed, and Village staff member follows the Village ethics ordinance that prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of gifts. The Village Attorney, as the Village's Ethics Officer, furthermore, guides the interpretation and compliance with the village ethics ordinance and applicable state law. The combination of personal integrity and the Village ethics ordinance ensures the trustworthiness of our Commissioners and all Village officials.

The divisiveness from false accusations can hinder the honest and open dialogue that we need to get to the best for Woodridge. We are living in an especially trying time for our community and our nation, and it is crucial - now more than ever - to have constructive discourse. I am hopeful and expect our community to avoid personal attacks on those that serve Woodridge. I am asking that everyone please be respectful. We must continue our tradition of productive dialogue and collaboration. Working together as neighbors - works! While we, as neighbors, may not always have the same vision for the future of Woodridge, it is vital and to the core of who we are that we agree to disagree respectfully, civilly, and with the greatest care for all.

**Water Bill Brief**  
 Village of Woodridge  
 Village Board Meeting - December 15, 2020

**Village Election Update**  
 The Village of Woodridge is excited to have an election on the agenda for the November 3, 2020 election. The Village Board will be holding a public hearing on the November 3, 2020 election agenda. The Village Board will be holding a public hearing on the November 3, 2020 election agenda. The Village Board will be holding a public hearing on the November 3, 2020 election agenda.

**Adults Are Encouraged to Participate in Consideration During December's Regular Village Board Meeting**  
 The Village Board has had a number of meetings in December and will have the next meeting on December 15, 2020. As part of that meeting, the Village Board has an agenda item regarding a resolution to consider regarding whether the Village should "Go on" or "Go off" of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the intention of the Village Board to have a public hearing on this resolution during the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to be held on December 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Please call the Village Office for more information at 815.386.2222.

**Village Offices Closed for Christmas and New Years**  
 Happy Holidays! Village Offices will be closed on Monday, December 14, Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17, 2020. The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, December 14, Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17, 2020. The Village Offices will be closed on Monday, December 14, Wednesday, December 16, and Thursday, December 17, 2020.

**Holiday Garbage Pick-Up Schedule**  
 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Village will be adjusting its holiday garbage pick-up schedule. The Village will be adjusting its holiday garbage pick-up schedule. The Village will be adjusting its holiday garbage pick-up schedule.

**Christmas Tree Recycling Program**  
 The annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program allows Woodridge residents to recycle their Christmas trees. The Village will be adjusting its holiday garbage pick-up schedule. The Village will be adjusting its holiday garbage pick-up schedule.

**Quick Links**

[Village of Woodridge Website](#)

[Village Board Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Video](#)

[Village Meetings & Events](#)

[Current News](#)

[Sign Up for Electronic Water Bills](#)

Signing up for electronic water bills is as easy as sending an email by [clicking here](#) indicating that you would like to sign up. Electronic notifications will include an account summary and a link to the online system where you can view your account history. Sign up now!

[Village Staff Directory](#)

[Village Board Meeting Video On](#)

Thank you so much, and please take good care. And please - let's all remember to do our part to help protect each other and our community's public health by following the 3 W's (Wear a mask; Wash your hands; Watch your distance).

My kindest regards,



Mayor Gina Cunningham

**Village Board Discusses Body Cameras During August 6 Study Session**

Woodridge Police Chief Brian Cunningham and Deputy Chief Ken Ostarello provided the Village Board with information on Body Cameras during the August 6, 2020 Study Session. A video of the presentation, along with questions and input from the Village Board is [available online](#). The majority of the Board expressed support for the implementation of body worn cameras for the Village's Police Department. Police staff will now proceed with finalizing the equipment and software specifications, and bring forward a proposed contract award for the body worn cameras, software licensing, and cloud data storage services at a future Board meeting. The Village anticipates full implementation of the cameras in Q-1 2021.

**Village Board Extends Outdoor Dining And Other Emergency Actions During August 6 Village Board Meeting**

The Village Board voted to extend deadlines for certain Emergency Powers that were put in place to assist in business relief throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The items that are now extended through October 31, 2020 include:


- Class A-1 and A-3 liquor license holders to sell pre-packaged beer and wine for off-premise consumption with carry-out/curbside pick-up food orders in accordance with State law;
- Class A-1 and A-3 liquor license holders to sell mixed drinks for delivery and carry out in accordance with State law;

## **WCTV Ch. 6 and On-Line**

The Village airs videos of Village Board meetings at 8:00 a.m., noon and 8:00 p.m. every day on WCTV Channel 6. Video can also be accessed by visiting the Village's

### **transparency webpage**

or by **clicking here** to visit the web portal.

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- Class A-1 and A-3 liquor license holders the ability to fill and sell growlers and crowlers in accordance with State law;
- The allowance for outdoor dining areas to be established and temporarily allowed by permit; and
- Temporary relief of Village temporary signs and banner restrictions.

## **Woodridge Rotary Dinner Fundraiser: The CoverGirls on August 9**

The Woodridge Rotary proudly presents a [dinner show fundraiser](#) on Sunday, August 9, starting at 4:00 p.m. This fundraiser features cocktails and dinner, with live entertainment featuring the CoverGirls Violin Show starting at 5:00 p.m. All proceeds will directly fund local charities supported by Woodridge Rotary Club. [More information online.](#)

## **ComEd Offering Financial Assistance Support For Residential Customers**

During these challenging times ComEd wants to make sure that Woodridge residents can continue to enjoy reliable, safe, and affordable electricity. ComEd has [developed a website](#) that highlights programs for eligible residential customers that are experiencing financial hardship. These programs include CARE customer hardship grants, [bill payment assistance programs](#), flexible / extended payment arrangements and more. Click the links above to learn more about eligibility and the available programs.

## **Census Takers Out and About**

You may have seen or will begin to see people moving through our community, knocking on doors, and asking questions, and you may be wondering why? Who are these people?

Census takers are our neighbors, hired from our community. Their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census. If the census taker who visits your home does not speak your language, you may request a return visit from a census taker who does speak your language

Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines when they visit your home. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.

If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone, or by mail. Census takers may also approach your home with questions about your neighbors if they can't get a response.

If you respond online or by phone today, a census taker is less likely to have to visit your home to collect your response. Visit [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) to respond today.

## Employee of the Quarter - Sam Banda

Sam, IT Manager, was nominated by a fellow employee for his role in assisting the Village in continuing operations throughout the early months of the pandemic. The nominating employee stated,



"During the Shelter-In-Place order, Sam helped to quickly transition many Village staff to remote working and benefit the Woodridge community." Additionally, Sam was recognized for his demeanor, helpfulness, and ability to work with his colleagues. Congratulations Sam on being the Village's Employee of the Quarter!

## Moving Will County Virtual Public Workshop

Are you concerned about freight movement in Will County? The Moving Will County project is focused on bringing the region together to find consensus around truck routing and land use opportunities and impacts. Join them on Thursday, August 13 at 6:00 p.m. for a Virtual Public Workshop to learn more about the plan and provide input on draft truck routing recommendations. Visit the [project website](#) to register for the workshop, and please share this opportunity with your friends and neighbors!



## August Water Bill Brief Now Online

Access the current water bill brief during months you do not receive a water bill to read timely, relevant information. The [August 2020 Water Bill Brief](#) is now online, or accessible through the image in the left hand column.

## DuPage Health Department Reminders

DuPage County Health Department [wants to remind you](#) that the COVID-19 virus is still here and continues to be a serious threat. As DuPage County crossed the sobering milestone of 10,000 reported COVID-19 cases on July 17, health officials are emphasizing the importance of individual-level measures to reduce COVID-19 spread. The best way to prevent illness and infection is to avoid exposure to this virus. To slow the spread of COVID-19, you should stay home when possible, hold activities outdoors and in small groups, and remember the 3Ws:



- Wear a mask or face covering when you are in public and around people who don't live in your household;
- Watch your distance in order to maintain at least 6 feet from others as much as possible; and
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often.

## Know Someone Deserving of Recognition? Submit Your Nomination for the Community Recognition Program

Every year, the Village of Woodridge recognizes people and organizations in the community that have provided positive contributions within the Woodridge Community. Nominations are now being accepted for the following categories: citizen, business, association, employee, and youth (ages under 21). Nominations are reviewed by the Woodridge Intergovernmental Council who recommends candidates to the Village Board for consideration. Nominations must be received by September 25, 2020. Please contact Leslie Davies at (630) 719-4706 if you have any questions. [Nomination forms can be found on the Village's website.](#)

## Village Board Meetings Modified Start Time to 7:00 p.m.

The Village Board Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., continuing with the Thursday, August 6, 2020 meeting through the end of 2020. Meetings occur on the first and

third Thursday of each month. [A Village calendar](#) is available on the website which is updated with meeting information, events, cancellations, and specially called meetings.

## **Library Building Open for Walk In & Curbside Service**

Following safety measures, the Woodridge Library building is open for visitors to walk through to get books and DVDs and use library resources. Cardholders may also call 630-964-7899 or visit the [library website](#) to put items on hold for pickup through a "contactless" process using Curbside Pickup. [Kid Book Bundles](#) also available for contactless pickup.

## **IN AND AROUND WOODRIDGE**

**Prince of Peace School Supply Event:** Prince of Peace Lutheran, located at 2600 West 75th Street, is currently collecting school supplies and backpack donations. There is a bin outside of the Prince of Peace Lutheran church's front door for donations and on Saturday, August 8, there will be an in-person drop off event in the parking lot from noon to 3:00 p.m. School supplies/backpacks will be distributed to Woodridge students in August. [Please click here for more information and a list of supplies being requested.](#)

**Gardening Q&A Live Chat:** Have your gardening questions answered by local gardener Kausi Chandran: we'll chat about steps needed to wrap up your garden this August, planning for next year, composting and more during a live, virtual program on Thursday August 20 at 7:00 p.m., hosted by the Woodridge Public Library. [Pre-registration required](#); a link to join the program will be sent to registrants.

**Facebook Live: Superhero Event** [Pre-registration is required](#) for an awesome, live Superhero Storytime that's full of hero training, engaging storytelling, and games-plus, the superhero will respond to your child's comments by name! This Facebook Live event from the Woodridge Public Library will take place on Tuesday, August 25 at 1:00 p.m.

**Ray Bradbury Presentation:** Woodridge Public Library hosts historian Ty Rohrer for a look at science-fiction author Ray Bradbury's early life growing up in Waukegan, on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. [Pre-registration required](#); a link to join the virtual program will be sent to registrants.

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