

# FOCUS



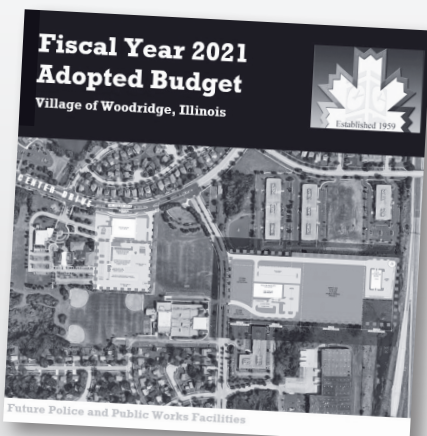
on Woodridge

## FY2021 Budget

The FY2021 Budget is the result of months of preparation amidst frequently changing circumstances. We are proud to bring forth a budget that continues the tradition of providing outstanding services to our community and preparing for a post-pandemic future while being mindful of ongoing local, regional, and national circumstances determining the pace and impact on recovery.

Throughout the budget process, the Village Board and staff remained mindful of the pandemic's impacts on our residents and businesses. The FY2021 Budget focuses on the continuous delivery of core services. It also addresses previously planned initiatives postponed due to the pandemic's onset, in addition to advancing the capital investment that will allow for continuous improvement of service delivery – now and into the future.

The full FY2021 Budget document and an easy-to-read Budget-in-Brief document are available on the Village website. We hope you find these documents a valuable guide to understanding the Village's annual budget. 🍁



*The Woodridge FY2021 Budget is reflective of the current uncertain economic environment, while still maintaining core services to our residents and businesses.*

## May 1 Inauguration Welcomes Village Board to New Term

On Saturday, May 1, the Village of Woodridge welcomed the Mayor, Village Trustees, and Village Clerk during an inauguration ceremony. During this time, the following elected officials were officially sworn into office. Mayor Gina Cunningham is returning for another four-year term as Mayor. Current Village

Clerk Joseph Kagann will join incumbent Trustees Kaleshia 'Kay' Page and Mike Krucek to serve four-year terms as Village Trustees. Voters also elected write-in candidate, Joseph Heneghan, to serve as the newly elected Village Clerk. Congratulations to those who continue to represent and serve the Village of Woodridge. 🍁

## Seven Bridges Golf Club Celebrating 30 Years!

The Village of Woodridge and Seven Bridges Golf Club are proud to announce that this year marks the 30th anniversary of operations for the award-winning golf club. This unique partnership of a municipally-owned and privately-managed golf club has proven successful, resulting in a top-five public course ranking in the Chicagoland area. Seven Bridges Golf Club will celebrate its anniversary year in style with numerous special events, throwback menu items on The Dock, and the formal grand opening of The Rotunda, its fabulous new addition. Stay tuned for 30th anniversary promotions, events,

and grand opening details or visit [www.sevenbridgesgolfclub.com](http://www.sevenbridgesgolfclub.com) or follow the Seven Bridges Golf Club social media channels to learn more. 🍁

*Seven Bridges Golf Club features 100-year old oaks, picturesque views, and as the name says, at least seven bridges. Now in its 30th year, Seven Bridges Golf Club is a Golf Digest 4-star rated course that provides a golf experience unlike any other. On March 12, 2021, the first group of golfers launched the official start to the 2021 golf season.*



## Fourth of July Fireworks

The Village is looking forward to celebrating the 4th of July in 2021 with a fireworks show that will start approximately at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 4. The show will begin near 75th Street & Lemont Road, and the best views of the fireworks will be from the parking lots along 75th Street. This year's show is co-sponsored by the Village of Downers Grove and the Village of Woodridge. 🍁



# From the Desk of Mayor Gina Cunningham



Dear Neighbor,

As we reflect on our experiences during the early stages of the pandemic, the uncertainty and anxiety of those times undoubtedly affected so many of us in our community.

Fortunately for many of us, 2021 seems to be off to a better start. Despite the myriad of challenges last year, it is insightful to look back on a few of the positive accomplishments in a year filled with so much challenge.

## **Issuing a proclamation of emergency.**

The Village Board and I value the safety and well-being of Woodridge residents as our top priority. We acted quickly and decisively to create the legal authority for prompt resource mobilization and to qualify for federal disaster (CARES Act) relief funds.

## **Supporting Woodridge Restaurants.**

Our community supported each other and the restaurants that are an integral part of Woodridge. When restaurants closed in response to COVID-19, more than 7,500 of our neighbors visited Dinewoodridge.com to support our local restaurants and purchase takeout and delivery. When public health guidelines allowed outdoor dining, we responded by allowing for expanding dining areas. In November 2020, The Village Board and I passed a resolution to create the Restaurant Relief Program. This program provided a \$7,500 grant to Woodridge restaurants for operating expenses and \$15,000 for capital expenses (i.e., table and tents for outdoor dining) from the CARES Act. Woodridge restaurants helped each other by sharing dining areas and supporting each other.

## **Protecting the public.**

The Woodridge Police Department launched a series of (Virtual) Community Roll Calls to facilitate meaningful and open community conversations about law enforcement topics. This series provided an opportunity for neighbors to ask officers questions and provide feedback. People engaged in genuine dialogue about local policing and social justice reform topics at these events. The roll call series demonstrates the active partnership

between residents and the police officers that help keep our community safe.

## **Keeping the community informed.**

The Village launched a new, user-friendly website. Since the website launched in July 2020, the Village website received more than 65,000 users with 230,000 page views – 42 percent from a mobile device. The Village Board successfully modified Village Board meetings to a virtual format to maintain social distancing. In 2020, viewers watched more than 779 hours of video content from the Woodridge YouTube channel. The number of Village Facebook page followers increased by more than 30 percent. The Village utilized Twitter, Nextdoor, WCTV Channel 6, and the CodeRED emergency alert system (sign up by texting “WOODRIDGE” to 99411).

## **Hosting Drive-Up Food Pantries.**

The Village partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to help people in need of food. The drive-up food pantry on May 11, 2020, helped 130 families. The Village donated 2,217 pounds of leftover food to the West Suburban Community Food Pantry in Woodridge that same day. The Village followed this success by hosting three additional mobile food pantries to help our neighbors in need.

## **Waiving water bill late fees.**

The Village suspended water disconnections and water late fee penalties for our neighbors facing financial hardship.

## **Amending the Village Liquor Code temporarily.**

Permitted restaurants (with A-1 and A-3 licenses) to sell packaged beer and wine for off-premise consumption with to-go food orders. Also, Woodridge extended all business, liquor, and video gaming licenses for 90 days. The Village also leveraged its federal CARES Act dollars by using a portion of those funds to rebate 100% liquor license fees for our restaurants and breweries.

## **Engaging the community.**

While we all miss our community traditions, such as the Woodridge Jubilee, we made the best of the situation by adapting to the challenges. The Village sponsored a Village marquee content for positive community messages and a graduation contest to

recognize the Class of 2020. Throughout 2020, residents responded at record numbers for the 2020 census – the Woodridge response rate was 10% higher than the 2010 census. And in March, the Village collaborated with District 99 to help over 225 residents receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

When I reflect on 2020, I am moved and appreciate the strong support, care, and kindness our community showed when presented with many unknown challenges. Thank you for helping one another, and thank you to our businesses for demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity. The Village Board and I continue to monitor COVID-19's effects on the economy and the pandemic's impact on our residents and business community. As we start to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, let's remember last year demonstrated that Woodridge is always stronger **together**.

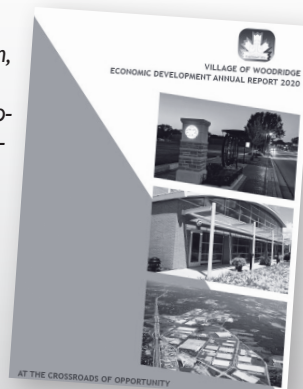
Thank you kindly and my best regards,  
Gina Cunningham, Mayor

## The 2020 Economic Development report is available now!

The 2020 Economic Development Report is now available on our website! Despite the difficulties and hardships faced by all of us in 2020, the report finds much to celebrate, including the opening of new businesses such as 7-ELEVEN, and the expansion of Woodridge favorites like Skeleton Key Brewery and Starbucks.

The full report is available at [www.woodridgeil.gov/EDReport](http://www.woodridgeil.gov/EDReport). 🍁

Now in its eighth year of publication, the Woodridge Economic Development Report highlights Woodridge accomplishments, changes to the development environment, and challenges from the previous year.





## Reminder

### UPDATES TO GROOT INDUSTRY WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

The Village wishes to remind residents of a few items of note related to Groot refuse collection services, including:

- Yard waste collection began on April 1 and will continue through December 15.
- Refuse and yard waste stickers will incur a ten-cent (\$0.10) increase on the anniversary of the fourth year of the current contract, June 1, 2021. The new cost of a sticker will be \$3.80.
- Clean-up week is scheduled for the fall, during the week of October 4, 2021. 🍁

### 2021 Road Resurfacing

Infrastructure reinvestment is vital in maintaining the integrity and safety of Woodridge's roadways. Crews will resurface many sections of road under the 2021 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Road Improvement.

Project with the work typically including spot curb/gutter repairs, spot sidewalk repairs, and the removal and replacement of the asphalt roadway. The MFT work for 2021 includes resurfacing planned for roadways in the Summerhill subdivision, the area of Meadowwood Avenue, as well as sections of Roberts Drive, Kincaid Drive, Martin Drive and Langley, Carpenter, Koloff, and Martin Courts. The specific roadway sections under construction are available on the Village website at [www.woodridgeil.gov](http://www.woodridgeil.gov).

Furthermore, miscellaneous pavement patching, crack-filling, bike path seal coating, and refreshing of pavement markings will occur in various locations throughout the 2021 construction season. The construction projects will result in better driving conditions, enhanced safety, and improved road appearance. 🍁

### BUILDING PERMIT SEASON IS HERE!

Thinking about making improvements to your deck or yard to enjoy the summer sun? This is a reminder that permits are needed for many home improvement projects, as well as some exterior improvements. Below is a brief list of projects that will require a permit. Several of these the permits can be issued within days. The village's website has a lot of information for reference that outlines all of the information that may be required.

- Decks, Porches, Gazebos
- Driveways
- Fences - Residential

- Patios/Walkways/Miscellaneous Flatwork
- Pools - Above ground
- Pools - In ground
- Roofs - Residential
- RPZ - Lawn Sprinkler Backflow Prevention
- Sheds
- Interior Renovations
- Basement Finishes

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the building department or visit [www.woodridgeil.gov/Permits](http://www.woodridgeil.gov/Permits). 🍁

### Electrical Aggregation Update

The Village of Woodridge is currently in an electrical aggregation contract that will expire in October 2021. As the deadline approaches, the Village Board will be carefully reviewing alternative energy suppliers

for Woodridge residents. Further information about the outcome of the Village Board's analysis, and the likely transition to a new electric aggregation supplier, will be available in the coming weeks. 🍁

### Woodridge Police Department Deploys Body Worn Cameras

All Woodridge police officers now wear a body camera as a successful result of a program three years in the making. The body worn cameras provide many benefits to maintain a safe community in Woodridge. Some of the benefits of body worn cameras include:

#### 1. Increase transparency

Body worn cameras provide documentation to help confirm the events that transpired by both police officers and the public.

#### 2. Evidence collection

Prosecutors can use the footage as evidence in court, which may lead to more successful prosecutions.

#### 3. Better civility

People often change their behavior to be more civil when there is a camera recording. The "civilizing effect" helps to de-escalate certain situations. The Woodridge Police Department is committed to protecting privacy rights relating to body worn cameras and the law.

#### 4. Training opportunities

The Woodridge Police Department invests in officer training because having highly trained officers allows the department to succeed through various adverse situations. Footage can provide officers with the chance to review an encounter and implement new strategies. Investing in body worn camera training ensures that officers utilize the cameras fairly and consistently in the way that the community expects.

The Woodridge Police Department appreciates the Village Board's support to continue to improve the technology and equipment available to provide the professionalism of a top law enforcement agency. 🍁



## Village of Woodridge

5 Plaza Drive  
Woodridge, IL 60517

[www.woodridgeil.gov](http://www.woodridgeil.gov)

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**MAYOR:** Gina Cunningham

**VILLAGE CLERK:** Joe Heneghan

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Greg Abbott  
Mary Anne Blair  
Joseph Kagann  
Mike Krucek  
Mike Martinez  
Kaleshia "Kay" Page

### VILLAGE HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FOLLOW US ON

FACEBOOK,

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NEXTDOOR & INSTAGRAM



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## New Woodridge Police Department & Public Works Facility Update

On March 25, the Village Board approved the master plan site option to improve the Village's Police and Public Works facilities. The Police Department will be on the western portion of the property near Janes Avenue. Public Works will have salt and cold storage buildings near I-355. Phase 1's project budget is revised to total \$30.6 million, which includes the rehabilitation and renovation of the existing 1 Plaza Drive building for Public Works. The next steps are to proceed with the complete building design and the bond financing issuance and approval.

A video recap of the Board meeting is available on the Village's YouTube channel. The Village also created a project website where people can learn more about the project's status and the history of the Village's long-term facility needs. The website is available at [www.woodridgeil.gov](http://www.woodridgeil.gov) by

searching for the term "facility needs."

The current Police and Public Works facility was built in 1986. Since the early 2000s, the Village Board has identified the need for new and improved facilities for Police and Public Works as a strategic priority for Woodridge. The Village expects to break ground at the new site in Spring 2022. 🌱

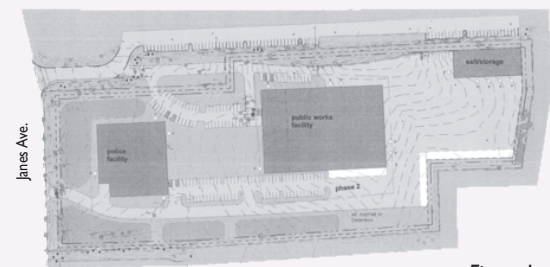


Figure 1

Figure 1: The Woodridge Village Board approved the master site plan at the March 25, 2021, Village Board meeting.

