



VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE

TO: Mayor Cunningham and Board of Trustees
Joe Kagann, Village Clerk
Eric Patt, Village Attorney

FROM: Al Stonitsch, Village Administrator

DATE: July 29, 2020

SUBJECT: Diversity – Historical Initiatives in Woodridge

Purpose and Action Requested:

At the request of Mayor Cunningham, staff is providing additional information relative to past diversity-related initiatives lead by the Village.

Background / Discussion:

Based upon a review of Village records, the following is a list of diversity related initiatives that the Village embarked upon since the mid-1990's.

Mid-1990's

- ✓ Village opens and operates the Community Resource Center at 83rd Street and Janes Avenue.

1998

- ✓ Community Dialogue on Diversity – Kick-Off Celebration at Jefferson Junior High School, October 4, 1998 (***Attachment #1***).
- ✓ Village facilitates an inclusive community-wide public dialogue on diversity, which involved 125 participants in 13 small groups. This effort led to the formation of "Study Circles", which involved the creation of a Task Force charged with implementation of various identified action items.
- ✓ Village applies with the National League of Cities to be recognized by the organization under their "Inclusive Communities Program".

2004

- ✓ Quality Community Task Force – Diversity Sub-Committee Formed (***Attachment #2***).
- ✓ Primary initiatives developed: 1) Village Cultural Fest 2) Diversity Forum 3) Diversity Quilt.
- ✓ At around this time, Agents for Change (later to become J.A.N.O.), a grassroots group, forms to focus on identifying and promoting positive changes in youths ages 13-18 through mentoring, counseling and networking, affording them the opportunity to bridge cultural gaps in a diverse community (***Attachment #3***).

2002 – 2009

- ✓ Annual Village Cultural Fest Implemented.

2005-2007

- ✓ Diversity Forum implemented (***Attachment #4***).

2006

- ✓ Annual Town Meeting – Village facilitates consensus workshop with participants around the topic of diversity.
- ✓ Celebration of the "Many Faces of Woodridge" community event held on November 6, 2006 at the Park District Community Center.
- ✓ Village initiates the Latino Outreach Program, as part of the Community Resource Center's activities, to address safety needs of the Latino community in the Village (***Attachment #5***).

2008 – 2013

- ✓ Diversity Committee establishes "Diversity Food for Thought" program bringing in speakers for community presentations on various topics, including fair housing, holocaust, Special Olympics (***Attachment #6***).

2009/2010

- ✓ 50th Anniversary – Village Diversity Quilt initiative .
- ✓ Village Board Proclamation Issued on May 6, 2010 re: acknowledgement of Woodridge Diversity Committee's purpose, efforts, and initiatives (***Attachment #7***).

2011 – 2017

- ✓ Village actively participates on Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Diversity Task Force.

2014 - 2017

- ✓ Latino Community Engagement Efforts: Village conducts various outreach initiatives with the Bi-Lingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) of District 68 and 99 (***Attachment #8***).

2018

- ✓ Village organizes an Ecumenical/inter-faith gathering at St. Scholastica on October 7, 2018 to celebrate the Village's commitment to inclusion, equity, and diversity (***Attachment #9***).

As always, please let me know if there's any questions or concerns.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 1998 - Kick-Off - Community Dialogue on Diversity
2. 2004 - Diversity Sub-Committee, Quality Community Task Force
3. 2004 – Agents of Change/JANO
4. 2005 – 2007 – Diversity Forum
5. 2009 - 2010 – Diversity Quilt
6. 2008 – 2013 Diversity Committee Food for Thought Program
7. 2010 - Diversity Quilt Proclamation and Background
8. 2014 – 2017 – Latino Community Engagement Initiative
9. 2018 – Ecumenical Gathering to Celebrate Diversity and Inclusion

cc:

Department Head Team

Trevor Bosack, Assistant to the Village Manager

ATTACHMENT

#1

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

October 4, 1998 – 6:30 PM

Jefferson Junior High School Gymnasium

- **Good Evening and Welcome.**
- **It is indeed gratifying that we have come together this evening for our Kick-Off Celebration for Woodridge – Where Cultural Diversity is Our Strength.**
- **It is gratifying and encouraging that we come together to engage in a community-wide dialogue to discuss cultural diversity and to develop our on-going action agenda.**

I want to take a brief moment of time to recognize the sponsors of Study Circles and the members of the Planning Committee. The sponsoring organizations that are responsible for communicating this program to the community include:

- **The Community Wellness Council;**
- **Christ the Servant Parish;**
- **Janes Avenue Resource Center;**
- **School District 68 including Edgewood School, Goodrich School, Jefferson Junior High School, Meadowview School, Siple School, Willow Creek School, and Woodridge;**
- **Community School District 99 including North and South High Schools;**
- **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church;**
- **St. Scholastica Catholic Church;**
- **Village of Woodridge;**
- **Woodridge Park District;**
- **Woodridge United Methodist Church;**
- **Woodridge Community Pantry; and**
- **Woodridge Public Library.**

The Planning Committee consisted of:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - William Bogg, | - Carol Mitchell, |
| - David Buerstetta, | - Pastor Linda Momsen, |
| - Carol Cook, | - William Murphy, |
| - Dr. Robert Clinkert, | - Anna Orozco, |
| - John Eber, | - Dr. Bill Renner, |
| - Keith Frankland, | - Don Ritter, |
| - Christine Gaylord, | - Nancy Rohan, |
| - James Gorecki, | - Roger Schmith, |
| - Karolyn Howard, | - John Perry, |
| - Bob Hubbard, | - Jan Sawitoski, |
| - Pastor Paul Kopka | - Francis Tan, and |
| - Ranata Lacey, | - Vicki Trupiano. |

Kick-Off Event
Page Two

One member of the Planning Committee has not been introduced because he deserves to be singled out due to his leadership as the Chairperson – John Lockerby.

Permit me the opportunity to also introduce our facilitators. You will learn in the coming four weeks how important the facilitators are in this process.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| - Cyndi Bane, | - Karen Mink, |
| - David Buerstetta, | - Lisa Mondale, |
| - Jane Crouse, | - Elisa Muniz, |
| - John Eber, | - John Perry, |
| - Karolyn Howard, | - Jill Samonte, |
| - Carol Johnson, | - Jan Sawitoski, |
| - Linda Lemke, | - Roger Schmith, and |
| - Barbara Martin, | - Vicki Tripiano. |
| - Claire McElroy | |

Let me share with you in part a letter written by an individual, who is unfortunately no longer with us. An individual who was involved in the initial meeting that led us to this evening. An individual who was excited, enthusiastic about this initiative.

Kick-Off Event
Page Three

- **My suspicion is Fr. Ratigan would be pleased with this outcome tonight.**
- **However, my suspicion is that at the conclusion of these four weeks I think Fr. Ratigan would say again:**

“I am curious to learn, what has been the outcome...I guess simply, has anything happened or changed...”

- **We need to keep that sentiment at the forefront during the coming weeks and as we prepare our action agenda.**
- **Let me conclude my welcoming remarks with a challenge.**
- **The challenge today and in the coming weeks is to cross boundaries, to acknowledge differences and to bridge them, to engage and not back off.**
- **Without that fundamental orientation toward each other and in favor of public discussion, real problem-solving is unlikely.**
- **Henry David Thoreau wrote, “It takes two to speak the truth – one to speak and another to listen.”**

Finally, let me suggest:

- **The topics we face in the coming weeks are not about “minorities”,**
- **It is about Whites, as well as Blacks, Anglos, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans and all others that make up our community.**
- **It is about all of us living together.**

ATTACHMENT

#2

Quality Community Task Force Diversity Sub-Committee

Members: Anne Banks, Edie Bernstein, Vernell Bradshaw, Julia Cedillo, Phyllis Mogielski-Watson

The following is submitted as a compilation of information reviewed by the Diversity Sub-Committee of the 2004 Woodridge Quality Community Task Force.

Recognizing that the community is made up of many ethnicities, working toward a common goal of harmony in the community will take a considerable amount of work. We recognize that there is outreach, but for some, it is not perceived as effective. To date, it is believed that the communication efforts have failed and the Village needs to seek new ways to make change so that a comfort zone is created and open dialogue exists.

- **The Quality Community Task Force should be an ongoing group with a specific component being the issue of diversity.**
- **The Diversity sub group should be representative of the population of Woodridge so that all groups are heard.** As Agents for Change suggests, participants would include parents, the Police Department, Park District and schools.
- Many families have moved to the area from the inner city and other neighborhoods, and **we have to find a common mechanism to include everyone and incorporate their ideas and concerns into the system.**
- **Cultural Fest can be the venue to promote efforts suggested by the task force.**
- The committee recommends the **development of a Village Diversity Project to use as a vehicle to promote open dialogue and a sense of community.** It felt that Cultural Fest would be an ideal place to launch such a project. Healthy DuPage has put together a community quilt. The Diversity Committee would like to see a similar project in Woodridge. Once completed the quilt could tour the schools and find a permanent home in Village Hall. It would be a symbol of a unified community working toward a common goal.

The committee appreciated the opportunity to meet and work together. It opened many avenues of communication and we each felt that we came away with a clearer understanding of each other and the needs of the community. Realizing that the things addressed will take time to implement and accomplish, it is our hope that the Village will begin the process and help us realize some of our vision of a community that respects the beauty of the diverse nature of all of its residents.

ATTACHMENT

#3

Agents for Change provides a great example of how a chaotic situation is transformed into a collaborative effort, resulting in programs that benefit the youth in our community.

After the Ocheion Wilson incident, two residents became increasingly concerned about the safety and the future in general of the youth in Woodridge. Ann Banks and Vernell Bradshaw believed that programs for youth were necessary to increase youth connections and communications with parents and the community.

The two women had no idea how to mobilize the community to provide these much needed activities. Vernell remembered her previous experience with one of our police officers- and how impressed she was with how he had handled very difficult issues with some youth.

The two approached the officer and soon community representatives were meeting with the two women- who by then started a group called *Agents for Change*. The Chief and the Officer told the group that they would support the group with their initiative- but really put them to task in the development of the programs.

The Police Department told Vernell and Ann, "You are the missing link between the Village and effective participation from the youth in the community."

Agents for change in return designed several programs such as a Teen BBQ and Activity Survey, a Double Dutch Tournament, and a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. The Village asked one of the women what most surprised her about the process of developing these programs and she said that she was surprised by *two things*:

1st- that the Police Department and the Mayor trusted her to create solutions to fill the need – and then the Department supported the programs by raising funds and providing manpower support- often on the employees own time.

2ndly- she was surprised by the fact that "two old ladies can come to the Village for help - and the result is a series of very successful programs for the youth in the community".

ATTACHMENT

#4



Woodridge Diversity Forum

The Committee

The Diversity Forum Committee is a group of individuals that typically meets on monthly basis. At this time, regular meetings are not being conducted so that the group may focus on the work to be done for the community Diversity Quilt. The committee plans on reconvening regularly scheduled meetings after the first of the year (2009), so that they may continue to develop goals to focus upon furthering the mission of the committee: *"The goal and objective of the Diversity Forum is to educate the Woodridge population of all ages (as necessary) in order that it 1) understands what diversity is in the community, 2) supports acceptance of others of a diverse background, 3) offers educational and economic opportunity for all, and 4) joins in celebration of this positive reality in our community."*

Background

The Diversity Forum was founded in 2005, as part of a recommendation from the Woodridge Quality Community Task Force (QCTF). The Woodridge QCTF is a group of community leaders and residents, along with representatives from Woodridge schools, taxing districts and the Village that have met over the years to discuss goals and issues related to safety, youth, seniors, diversity and housing. Two recommendations that came out of the meetings were to continue to celebrate the diversity of Woodridge through the Annual Woodridge Cultural Fest and to Create a Forum, *"for residents to come together to discuss issues of diversity."*

This has been accomplished, as 2007 saw the second annual Diversity Forum. The theme of the event was "Many Faces...One Community". After presentations from community activist Bernie Kleina and local high school student and activist, Laina Stuebner, the event facilitated discussions to gather input from the community on diversity and where further attention is needed. Input gathered as part of the roundtable discussion will be utilized to help the committee develop its goals in the coming years.

In 2006, the first Diversity Forum event took place where over 150 guests gathered to celebrate diversity through the sharing of community presentations and a keynote address by William Carroll, President of Benedictine University. The Committee wishes to thank all of the residents, presenters, activists and sponsors who have helped the committee in achieving many of its goals in the Woodridge community.

Please Join Us!

For more information about the Committee or the Diversity Quilt Project, please contact Interim Committee Chair, John Kozlowski at kozlow11@comcast.net or call 630.719-2945.



VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 29, 2020
TO: John Perry, Village Administrator
FROM: Julia Cedillo, Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Diversity Forum

On August 2nd, discussions continued for the planning of the Diversity Forum, to be held on November 8th at the Community Center. Meeting notes are attached. The purpose of the event is to motivate, celebrate and educate the community on the importance of valuing diversity and building community. Significant discussion points included: the roles of various stakeholders on the evening of the forum, youth involvement, corporate sponsorship and civic group assistance, keynote speaker possibilities, non-denominational religious involvement, media outreach, and the need to develop a working budget.

Aside from the planning of the Forum, the group focused on two other elements of diversity outreach:

1. Inclusive Communities – Lead by Bridget Johnson, the Village is seeking recognition from the National League of Cities program in being designated an Inclusive Community. The goals of the NLC recognition program are as follows: Motivate the community to commit to initiatives that support building an inclusive community. Provide support to local officials in focused efforts around race and ethnic relations, equal citizen participation in community decision making. Share valuable insights, experience, and lessons learned among residents in the community. Recognize and celebrate those who reach out to others in the community.
2. Standing Diversity Committee – In the process of planning the forum, the group suggested that a standing diversity committee was necessary for those residents interested in diversity based issues as a result of attending the Diversity Forum. The planning group will maintain a loosely structured committee up until the Forum and will seek out membership at the event. The planning group plans to utilize the expertise of a diversity consultant in facilitating the formation of the standing committee.

The next planning committee meeting is scheduled for August 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Diversity Forum Update! August 2006! – This week, discussions continued for the planning of the Diversity Forum, to be held on November 8th at the Community Center. Meeting notes are attached. The purpose of the event is to motivate, celebrate and educate the community on the importance of valuing diversity and building community. Significant discussion points included: the roles of various stakeholders on the evening of the forum, youth involvement, corporate sponsorship and civic group assistance, keynote speaker possibilities, non-denominational religious involvement, media outreach, and the need to develop a working budget.

Aside from the planning of the Forum, the group focused on two other elements of diversity outreach:

1. **Inclusive Communities** – Lead by Bridget Johnson, the Village is seeking recognition from the National League of Cities program in being designated an Inclusive Community. The goals of the NLC recognition program are as follows:
 - Motivate the community to commit to initiatives that support building an inclusive community.
 - Provide support to local officials in focused efforts around race and ethnic relations, equal citizen participation in community decision making.
 - Share valuable insights, experience, and lessons learned among residents in the community.
 - Recognize and celebrate those who reach out to others in the community.
2. **Standing Diversity Committee** – In the process of planning the forum, the group suggested that a standing diversity committee was necessary for those residents interested in diversity based issues as a result of attending the Diversity Forum. The planning group will maintain a loosely structured committee up until the Forum and will seek out membership at the event. The planning group plans to utilize the expertise of a diversity consultant in facilitating the formation of the standing committee.

Diversity Forum Update! July 2006 – This week the Village hosted a meeting to begin the planning process for the Village's first Diversity Forum Event, to take place on **November 8th, 2006**. Interested community leaders attended the meeting on behalf of the following organizations: Special Events, Community Pantry, Agents for Change, Latino Outreach Coalition/Lisle Woodridge Fire District, St. Scholastica's *Encuentro Group*, and the Woodridge Community Resource Center. The group discussed the Forum as a celebration of our diversity and a motivation for further involvement in the community on diversity issues. At the meeting, the group came to an agreement on the following components for a Forum: A keynote speaker, a line up of local community speakers, and an action plan for planning the evening. It was agreed that the "First Annual Diversity Forum" is a start of things to come, of progress to be made, of results to be realized.

All attendees were asked to provide the results of their assigned "homework": *List who you believe was missing; who should have been here? Who might be considered as a keynote speaker at the first Diversity Forum? Who might be community speakers (people with a story to tell)? How might we go about promoting this event?* The next meeting is scheduled for August 2nd and will focus on the "homework" and move to the planning stage by requesting those who are interested to volunteer for event planning.

Diversity Forum News!



The Diversity Forum Committee is currently planning the first ever Woodridge Diversity Quilt! This Fall, the Committee will enlist the participation of local school children to create the designs of each of the squares that will make up the grand design of the community quilt. The Committee is working with Pieceful Heart Fabrics of Lisle in the assembly and overall design of the quilt. Soon, interested residents will have the opportunity to help Pieceful Fabrics stitch together squares, providing an even greater sense of community to the project.



Quilts have long been a historical document, a form of communication, and a work of fine art. Quilts can be used to display, embrace, and preserve the vast cultural diversities that exist and continue to grow in our communities today. The Diversity Forum envisioned a project that would foster interactions between persons who were different from one another and that would introduce the viewer to a visual representation of other cultures that existed in the Woodridge community.

Once complete, the quilt will tour various locations throughout Woodridge, in an effort to facilitate discussions on diversity and the celebration of all the many histories that we as a community represent. For more information on the Diversity Quilt Project, contact Julie Burke at jburke5@comcast.net.

Diversity Forum Meeting

I. Setting the Stage

- QCTF
- Inclusive Communities Initiative
- Accomplishing both initiatives at once...how this can be done

II. Information Sharing (what input is needed?)

- **G-** The goal of the Diversity Forum is to motivate and celebrate
- **G-** Secondary goal is to start a community conversation, build trust, become comfortable in sharing ideas and needs
- **G-** Getting the youth in our community involved. How?
 - Essay and art contests
 - Other ways?
- Feedback for structure of the meeting
- What is missing?

III. What is Next?

- Location
- Event Planners
- Keynote speaker (Ideas)
- Community Speakers
- Community Support

Next Year- Where we can do better as a community.

Diversity Forum Meeting – August 2, 2006

I. Minutes

II. Reaffirm Purpose

- Woodridge has two separate and distinct goals. Neither is dependant upon one another. However, each can be enhanced from one another's efforts.
- The Village will seek Inclusive Communities Recognition
 - This is a recognition to be proud of - to be embraced
 - This is not earned
 - Recognition has advantages
- The goals of the Diversity Forum are to motivate, celebrate, and educate
- There may be interest of establishing a standing Diversity Committee for individuals who attend the Forum to participate in a more permanent and meaningful way. Avoiding the "*What Next?*" Syndrome

III. Goals of This Evening

- Establish an Action Planning Committee to plan the Forum on 11/8
- Establish the interim structure (if any) of a Diversity Standing Committee

IV. What is Next?

- Follow Up from this meeting
- Communicating to the Planning Committee

ATTACHMENT

#5

Woodridge Latino Coalition Overview

Mission

To extend educational resources to address the safety needs of the Latino community in the Village of Woodridge. Our goal is to provide education and culturally specific information to the Latino community in the Village of Woodridge. This will be accomplished through:

- Promotion of available resources,
- Increasing the awareness of their own personal safety, and
- Addressing the cultural differences in our community thereby contributing to changing unsafe behaviors.

Coalition's Overall Tasks

- Review of existing educational programs and making recommendations for those programs that should be translated into Spanish for delivery to the community
- Building internal support from respective member agencies and organizations by conducting in-house awareness classes in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Director of Latino Affairs and the coalition's community leader (s)
- Delivery of program (s) to the community

Milestones:

(To date, the most critical path milestones that have been reached in this program.)

- Coalition members have been solicited and secured from Government, Police, Fire Service, Health Department, School District (68) and the State Fire Marshal's Office
- Coalition Meeting focused on Program Development Meeting
- Orientation and training of the Coalition by the Director of Latino Affairs for the State Fire Marshal's Office, March 2, 2006
- Program was 'rolled-out' to Woodridge 'Latino' residents on March 30, 2006

ATTACHMENT

#6

Food For Thought Speaking Event

Magda Brown

July 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The Woodridge Diversity Committee presents Food for Thought, a series that brings speakers to the community every other month. The events are designed to feed your brain, spirit, heart and stomach too.

Each speaker will present their life story to participants, followed by time for questions and answers and discussion. Hors d oeuvres will be served.

Please save the date for Magda Brown, Holocaust Survivor, who will speak on July 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at the Woodridge Library's 2nd Floor Meeting Room. For additional information or to answer any questions regarding this program, please call (630) 926-0413 and inquire about Food for Thought.

ATTACHMENT

#7

Village of Woodridge

To all to whom these Presents Shall Come: Greeting: Proclamation

- WHEREAS, *the Woodridge Diversity Committee serves to promote and encourage youth and senior involvement in the community;*
- WHEREAS, *the Committee offers events and programs that bring harmony, health, wellbeing and fun to the Woodridge community;*
- WHEREAS, *the group works to foster an inclusive environment that promotes a healthy and safe community;*
- WHEREAS, *the Woodridge Diversity Committee works to dissolve the perceived barriers in order to nurture positive relationships;*
- WHEREAS, *the Committee works to educate the community in order to embrace our diversity within;*
- WHEREAS, *in 2008, the Committee worked on the creation of the Woodridge Diversity Quilt and in 2009 coordinated a community-wide quilt tour and fundraiser that raised over \$10,000 for the Woodridge Community Pantry;*
- WHEREAS, *On March 15, 2010, the Woodridge Diversity Committee was honored with the 2010 1st Place City Cultural Diversity Award sponsored by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials of the National League of Cities for the Woodridge Diversity Quilt project and fundraiser;*
- WHEREAS, *The Woodridge Diversity Quilt and Cultural Diversity Award will become a permanent part of the Woodridge Community with a display at the Woodridge Public Library.*

Now, Be It So Resolved that I, William F. Murphy, Mayor of the Village of Woodridge, DuPage, Will, and Cook Counties, Illinois, by virtue of my office, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2010 as:

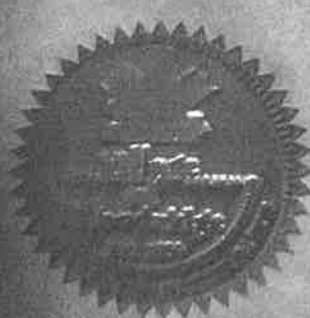
"Woodridge Diversity Committee Day"


and we encourage all citizens to recognize the achievements of the Woodridge Diversity Committee in helping to improve the quality of life and celebrate the diversity of the Woodridge Community.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Village of Woodridge, this 6th day of May, 2010.


William F. Murphy, Mayor

Attest:


Eileene Nystrom, Village Clerk



50th Anniversary Quilt



The Diversity Committee of the Village of Woodridge has overseen the creation of a 50th anniversary quilt to commemorate this special milestone in the history of the Village. The idea for the quilt came from an offer by Pieceful Heart Fabrics in Lisle to construct a quilt for the occasion.

The Committee decided to hold a raffle in conjunction with the quilt project with the proceeds going to the Woodridge Community Pantry.

The theme of the quilt is diversity. Children in Grades 4-8 in School District 68 and St. Scholastica School participated in the project. First they drew their designs on paper. Those designs were entered into a contest where a panel of five judges selected the 71 designs for the quilt. The children were then given fabric and scrap fabric from which to make their finished quilt blocks. The ladies of the quilting bee who gather at Pieceful Heart Fabrics monthly sewed the blocks.

The quilt will be on display at all eight schools in Woodridge, and at the Park District Community Center, Village Hall and Library on a rotating basis during 2009. Tickets for the raffle will be sold throughout the year. The winner will become a part of Woodridge history by getting the privilege of having his name on a plaque next to the quilt showing him as the donor of the quilt to the Village when the quilt goes on permanent display at Town Centre in 2010.

The Diversity Committee exists to foster, celebrate and promote the many ethnic and religious cultures that comprise Woodridge. It seeks to be inclusive of all cultural backgrounds and viewpoints.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

This quilt is donated to the
WOODRIDGE COMMUNITY

by the
**Woodridge Diversity Committee and
Chris Hannigan-Wiehn, winner
of the 2010 quilt raffle**

The Woodridge Diversity Committee oversaw the creation of this 50th Anniversary Quilt in 2009 to commemorate this special milestone in the history of the Village. The Committee held a raffle in conjunction with the quilt project and rose over \$10,000 for the West Suburban Community Pantry. The quilt has been donated to the Woodridge Public Library for display and enjoyment by the community. Thank you Woodridge for making this project possible.

ATTACHMENT

#8



**VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 27, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor & Board of Trustees
Eileene Nystrom, Village Clerk
Kathleen Rush, Village Administrator

FROM: Trevor Bosack, Management Analyst
Peggy Halik, Assistant Village Administrator

SUBJECT: Community Engagement Efforts - Latino Outreach Update

Purpose

The Board has identified improved/expanded community outreach efforts as a priority goal for the Village.

Background

In October 2014, staff developed a workplan to engage the Latino population in our community, establishing relationships and, through those efforts, encouraging leaders to take a participatory role in the larger Woodridge community. Some of the short-term goals included meeting with representatives of community resources to help establish contact with our Latino residents, to improve communications with the Latino population, and to understand the needs and concerns of Woodridge's Latino constituents.

Update

Over the past six months, staff has engaged with community resources to engage and interact with the Latino population, to determine alternate programs that could be offered to increase participation, to improve communications, and to understand needs and concerns. As staff has discovered throughout this process, some of the avenues have been successful, while others have resulted in less than desirable results. To date the following successes have been achieved:

1. The Village of Woodridge has created strong relationships with School District 68 and School District 99. These districts have invited the Village to participate in both their Navigating the American Education System (NAES) and Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings. Staff created a video that highlights the diversity of the current staff within the Village to use as an

icebreaker for these meetings. There has been staff attendance and participation at the following meetings:

- a. District 68 NAES meeting at Jefferson Jr. High on November 29, 2015
- b. District 68 BPAC meeting at Jefferson Jr. High on December 3, 2015
- c. District 99 BPAC meeting at Downers Grove North on January 22, 2015
- d. District 68 NAES meeting at Jefferson Jr. High on February 18, 2015

The staff that has attended these meetings has consisted of Traci Steger, Trevor Bosack, Peggy Halik, and Officer Eric Salinas . Both Eric and Traci are Spanish speaking and through their help, residents have been able to ask questions and receive answers regarding Village code, operations, and services provided at Janes Ave. Facility. As a result of these meetings and questions, documents have been or are in the process of being created, in Spanish, as a resource for use.

2. Creation of documents in Spanish. Attached to the memo are two postcards highlighting the social services offered at the Janes Ave. Facility. The cards are printed in both English and Spanish, to be distributed within the community, to highlight the social services and to provide information on those services targeted to the Latino population, such as English as a Second Language (ESL). Additionally, staff researched the cost of translating the FAQ's from town meeting, which addresses a lot of general questions regarding each specific department, along with the monthly Water Bill Brief. The costs that were quoted ranged from \$.12 to \$.20 per word. Our Water Bill Brief is roughly 1,200 words and the Village isn't prepared to spend \$150 per month if other options exist. As an alternate, Traci Steger is working on internally translating the documents for distribution among our Latino residents.
3. Outreach. Not only have postcards been created but a webpage has been created as well to highlight the social services at the Janes Ave. Facility. Alternate meetings / outreach efforts have included:
 - a. Community Service Officer Eric Salinas attended Metropolitan Family Service's Family Night at the Janes Avenue Facility on March 5th. The purpose of the presentation was for Latino families to get to know a member of the Police Department and to discuss police officers' role to serve and protect the community so that immigrant or non-English speaking families feel comfortable approaching the police for assistance. The presentation was well-received and staff is discussing a follow-up presentation.
 - b. The People's Resource Center is working to secure a volunteer in order to offer computer classes in Spanish, a need that was highlighted at the November 29 NAES meeting.

- c. The DuPage County Health Department approached the Village with the message that they are “committed to educate and provide Health Coverage options to the Latino Community”. Staff is working on coordinating a meeting with the health department and the Woodridge Public Library to discuss future collaboration.
- d. The library held two English Language Learner family nights in partnership with District 68. On Tuesday, March 10 and Thursday, March 12 ELL teachers, ELL Director Juan Corona and ELL families met with the children's staff for a tour and discussion of resources - both Spanish and English language materials and programs were covered. These were their most successful to date.
- e. Staff met with an organization, Family Bridges, to discuss their Latino family programs. The information that they presented would be good for our community, however they suggested using a school and following a school calendar as participation wanes in the summer months. The Family Bridges programs would be an area to revisit in July / August 2015.
- f. A survey has been created, in Spanish, asking respondents to let us know what information they would like to receive and how they would like to receive it. This will be helpful in determining what Village services to highlight and how to disseminate the information.

Summary

To date, the Latino Outreach program has had many successes. The relationships built with community organizations have proven to be very valuable and continued collaboration is expected. The next steps of folding more organizations into the mix to respond to resident requests will help our continued outreach. Preparing and delivering materials in Spanish will also benefit many residents. As these efforts continue, staff is excited for the ability to respond to residents needs and further our engagement.

Attachments

Engage your community - connect to news, events and information you care about [View more information...](#)[Sign In](#)

Search Woodridge...



Government

Residents

Visitors

Business

How Do I?

You are here: [Home](#) > [Government](#) > [Administration](#) > [Janes Ave. Facility - Social Services](#)

Janes Ave. Facility - Social Services

Information on the agencies is listed below. Still have questions? Contact Trevor at (630) 719-4709

Americans with Disabilities Act

Budget

Community Needs Survey

State of the Village 2013

Strategic Management Process

2015 Scholarships

2012 Town Meeting

Village Code

Janes Ave. Facility - Social Services



School and Tutors On Wheels

School and Tutors on Wheels is a neighborhood based adult English literacy program that empowers low-income adults by teaching them English literacy and valuable life skills. We break the language barrier and set people on the road to a better life through *free* one-on-one tutoring in suburban DuPage, Cook, and Will counties.

Interested parties can visit the [website](#) for more information or to get registered. Additionally, School on Wheels operates at the Janes Ave. Facility on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in this program, you can drop in during these hours to get registered (it takes about an hour). Any questions can be directed to Debbie Bradt at (708) 609-0945.

Metropolitan Family Services

[Metropolitan Family Services](#) offers the Parents as Teachers program on the first Tuesday and Thursday of the month. This program is a partnership between Metropolitan Family Services and Woodridge School District 68 and provides parent education services to families with children ages birth to 3 years. Through home visits, family nights, play groups, developmental screenings and other services, parents increase self-confidence and competence as their child's first and most influential teacher, providing a solid foundation for their child's success in school.

Interested in this program? Contact Mariola Kasper at (630) 784-4825.

College of DuPage

The College of DuPage offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in 16-week sessions. These classes run within the calendar year, with classes starting in January.

Students who successfully complete their programs acquire the skills necessary to improve employment opportunities, advance to further education or training, and are more involved in their communities.

Visit the COD [website](#) for more information.

People's Resource Center

The PRC Computer Access and Training Program provides free classes in computer skills and software, including Introduction to Computers, Windows Fundamentals, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. PRC's computer classes are open to DuPage adults. In addition, free refurbished home computers are available for those who take a computer class.

To take a computer class you will first need to [register as a PRC client](#). Additionally, computer classes require advance registration. Call (630) 682-5402, ext. 223 to register.

Find more information, including class schedules, [here](#).

360 Youth Services

360 Youth Services offers counseling for school-age children, teens, young adults, couples, and families. [360 Youth Services](#) believes that children, families and young adults already have most of the tools they need to lead successful and fulfilling lives. Trained counselors offer support and intervention, teach skills, empower individuals, and help families navigate life's challenges.

The counseling services are open to all youth between the ages of 10 to 25 and their families. To make counseling accessible for everyone, they work with youth and their families to determine a manageable fee. Families may also use their health insurance for counseling services.

There are limited community based appointments available in Woodridge at the Janes Avenue Facility. For more information, or to schedule a counseling appointment, please contact Kate Moon, Intake Coordinator & Clinical Therapist. at (630) 717-9408 ext. 1180.

Woodridge, IL 5 Plaza Drive Woodridge, IL 60517 Ph: 630-852-7000



Select Language ▼

[Home](#) [Contact Us](#) [Site Map](#) [Accessibility](#) [Legal Notices](#) [Powered by CivicPlus](#)

ATTACHMENT

#9



Woodridge Ecumenical Gathering Agenda

Welcome, Gina Cunningham, Mayor

Interfaith Religious Leaders

Pastor Danita, Woodridge United Methodist (Speaker)

Deacon Tom, St. Scholastica Woodridge (Speaker)

Dr. Guilford, Ultimate Faith Christian Center Bolingbrook (Speaker pending confirmation)

Imam Ali, Islamic Center of Naperville (Speaker)

Mr. Singh, Illinois Sikh Community Center Wheaton (pending confirmation)

Rabbi Ricky Kamil, Congregation Etz Chaim of DuPage, Lombard (Speaker)

Christian Nkemeh, Christ the Servant Woodridge (Speaker)

Karen Jackson, Christ the Servant Woodridge

Regina Brent, Unity Partnership (pending confirmation)

Pastor Matt Barber, Woodridge Baptist

David Wang, International Buddhist Progress Society

Pastor Tim Seitz, Prince of Peace Woodridge (Speaker)

This gathering is a Community Diversity Celebration!

Connecting neighbors...building friendships, fellowship and stewardship in our Community

Coming together in kindness, understanding for healing and peace!



Village of Woodridge

Administration Department • Five Plaza Drive • Woodridge, IL 60517-5014
(630) 852-7000 • TTY (630) 719-2497 • FAX (630) 719-0021

Sent Via U.S. First Class Mail

September 7, 2018

David Anderson, Religious Leader
Christ Presbyterian Church
3520 Seven Bridges Dr
Woodridge, IL 60517

RE: COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL SERVICE INVITATION

Dear David:

In light of recent events in our nation, our region, and even in our own community – the Village Board and I have been seeking opportunities to demonstrate our Village's commitment to inclusion, equity and diversity not just through words, but through thoughtful and meaningful action. As part of that first step, the Village is coordinating a community ecumenical service and reception on **Sunday, October 7, 2018 beginning at 3:00 pm.**

I would like to cordially invite you to attend this service, and to also encourage members of your congregation to join us. In addition, I'm currently soliciting a diverse group of religious leaders who would be willing to speak at the event. In general, we're looking to share messages of peace, kindness, and compassion towards one another regardless of one's color, race, or religious background.

I look forward to talking with you soon, and hope that you would be able to join us and participate in this event. If you have any questions, or would like to speak with me, you can reach me on my cell at (630) 780-0770.

Very truly yours,

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE

Gina Cunningham
Mayor

cc: Al Stonitsch, Village Administrator
Leslie Davies, Executive Assistant