

## MAYOR REPORT – Mike McCormick, Village of Godfrey

Several local businesses added amenities this past year. Roper's Regal Beagle built the golf simulator building; Beautiful Nails remodeled their space and doubled its size, and Gerard Fisher's office was completed on Godfrey Road. The second building in the Trailblazer Commons was completed and additional storage units were completed on West Delmar. A total of 17 new residential units were built this past year with values ranging from \$160,000 to \$445,000. 2016 also completed the third year of the Occupancy Permit program which has had a positive effect on controlling the quality of rental properties.

On the parks and recreation front, 2016 was another busy year. In addition to the established community events that Godfrey has grown to love - BIG Truck Day, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Family Fun Fest, Summer Movies, the Fall Corn Festival and Snowflake Festival - two new events were hosted to great success: the Daddy Daughter Dance and the KIDCation Olympics. It was also the second year for the Great Godfrey Triathlon and the first time it was hosted in Glazebrook Park. The youth sports programs have continued to see growth in numbers with the greatest growth realized in the Rookie Sports programs for children ages 3-5. Homer Adams Park started seeing major changes with the addition of a new playground and an Expression Swing. The Memorial Tree Program expanded into LaVista Park and the process for completing a Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan was begun.

In the Street Department, the Northport Drive intersection was completely redone. Several streets were overlaid including: E. Jerome, Cedar, Alpine, Mont Vista, Logan, Fairmount, Normandy Drive, Fields, Callahan Drive and Pin Oak. The Street Department also repaired 20 seams on North Alby Street.

The E.S.D.A. (Emergency Services & Disaster Agency) committee has had a productive year as well. Chris Sichra who serves as the Village Public Safety Administrator reports several new programs have been launched, including the "Godfrey's volunteer outreach program" and "Be Found -Stay Safe & Sound!"

The crowning achievement of the year came when Godfrey's emergency preparedness efforts were recognized by the Illinois Governor and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and Godfrey was presented with the IEMA "Ready to Respond Award" making Godfrey the SECOND community in the entire state and the first in Madison County to hold the accreditation.

Over the last year, the Village launched the Facade Improvement Program to support Godfrey businesses and commercial property owners in updating and expanding their locations. To date, the Village has awarded more than \$11,000. In concert with this program and the Village's "Solarize Godfrey" initiative, the Village offered additional encouragement for the installation of solar panels for local businesses. The program will provide approximately \$4,600 to our businesses that installed more than \$90,000 in energy and environment saving equipment.

One of the major efforts of the Village of Godfrey was participating in a joint application with other local communities to receive the Enterprise Zone designation by the State of Illinois. The Enterprise Zone will become another powerful economic development tool to attract new business and grow those that already make Godfrey their home. Determination on receiving this designation will be announced late in 2017.

Perhaps the biggest impact to Godfrey's development future was recently made with the expansion of Godfrey's Business District Area I and the creation of Business District Area II. With the expansion of Business District Area I, the Village will be better suited to assist the growth and improvement along Godfrey Road and Delmar Avenue. With the creation of Business District Area II, the Village is strongly positioned to deliver the infrastructure necessary to encourage the desired growth and development north and west of Walmart, including the possible expansion of Lars Hoffman Crossing.

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