



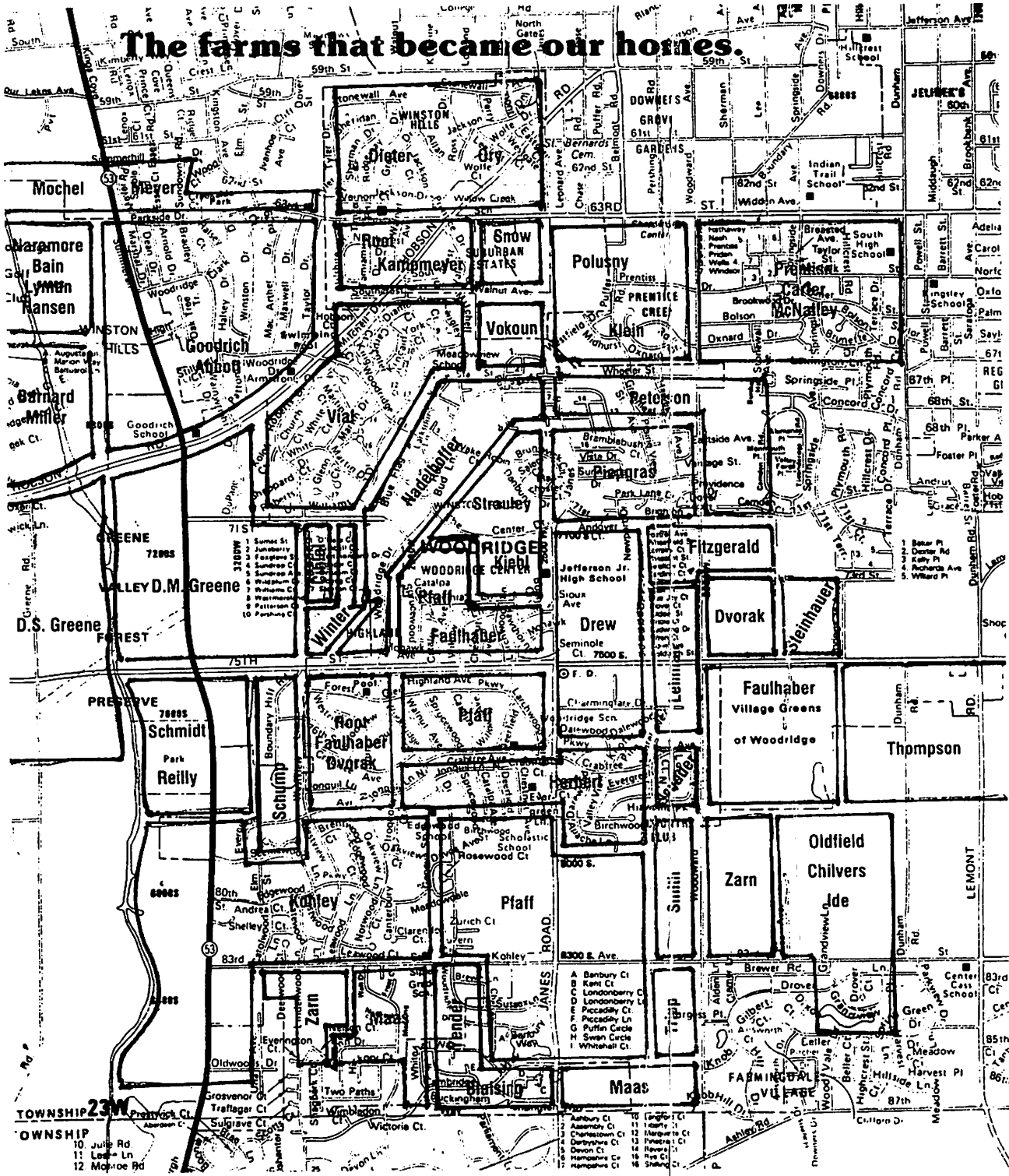
VERTICAL FILE

# Our Heritage

WOODRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

# Calendar of Events

# 959 - 1984



The farms that became our homes.

## INDIANS

The Woodridge Area at one time was the land of the Pottowattomie. Pottowattomie means "maker of the fire". The Ottawa, Chippewa and the Pottowattomie Indian tribes called themselves "the three fires". Indian legend says they were once all members of one tribe whose territory encompassed Green Bay, Wisconsin; Northern Illinois and Indiana to much of lower Michigan. But their numbers never exceeded more than about 3,000.



Chief Shabbona

"Built like a bear", Shabbona, an Ottawa, became a chief of the Pottowattomie about 1813. His village was located at Paw Paw Grove, near Aurora. He was a grand nephew of the famous chief Pontiac from Michigan after whom a line of GM cars is named. Another chief, Aptikisic, hunted and fished the East Branch of the DuPage River, which in some places runs parallel to our current Route 53. In the spring, he camped at Maple Grove, now located along Maple Avenue in Downers Grove, to collect maple sugar. Chief Waubensee came from Aurora to Maple Grove in 1832. He was good friends with Pierce Downer and showed him how to make maple syrup. The cities of Aurora and Waubensee Creek are named for him.

The Pottowattomie were a proud and industrious tribe who were hunters and trappers, farmers and fishermen. They raised large fields of sweet corn, beans, peas, squash and tobacco. The women made houses of bark, wove baskets and fashioned clothing from hides and furs.

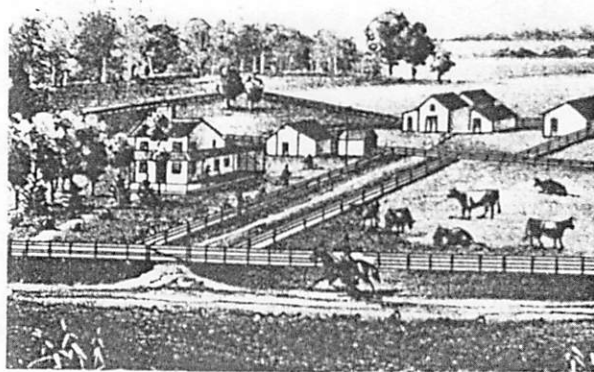
The Pottowattomie were fond of inter-tribal gatherings and pow-wows. A favorite site for their ceremonies was the land at 71st Street and Woodridge Drive. This land lies next to the Indian Boundary Line which was a 10 mile corridor set up for safe transport by both white settlers and Indians. It ran all the way from Lake Michigan to Ottawa, Ill.

The Sauk Indians were also close neighbors to our area. But by the early 1800's, the large influx of white settlers put pressure on the Indians to move. Chief Black Hawk of the Sauk resisted the settlers' demands to move westward and tried to enlist the help of the Pottowattomie. Chiefs Shabbona and Waubensee joined in opposing Black Hawk. In 1831, Black Hawk signed away his land east of the Mississippi and moved west from his main village "Saukenuk". He was promised corn from the fields that he left behind, but his nation soon faced starvation. Taking mostly women and children, about 1,000 Indians, he tried to return to get some of the corn he had left behind. They were all slaughtered.

Foreseeing the futility of resistance, the Pottowattomie signed treaties to move west of the Missouri River in 1833. Before leaving, 5000 Indians assembled in Chicago to receive annuities. Some 800 tribesmen staged a great wardance, knowing this would be the last dance on their native soil.

## EARLY SETTLERS and FARMERS

Among the first to arrive in what is now the Woodridge area was Pomeroy Goodrich, born in 1776, in Vermont. At 21, he farmed and ran a saw-mill; he married Lucy Parmelee in 1819, and shortly thereafter headed West with his brother Henry and several other men and their families. After about a year in Ohio, they came to Illinois and DuPage County, where Goodrich took claim to 320 acres in Lisle Township. While his family stayed in Will County, Pomeroy Goodrich built a log cabin, "with dirt and stick chimney," according to an account by Rufus Blanchard in his 1882 chronicles of early area families.



Goodrich Farm

"It was in this cabin home," continues Blanchard, "that Indians, then friendly, found a welcome resting place. Occasionally, the 'redskins' would get on a spree from too much whiskey and would make the night hideous with their yells around this, the first house in this part of the county. At such times the squaws would take care of the war and game implements, that no harm might come to Mr. Goodrich, who was always courteous to them."

The Goodriches eventually had five children; Pomeroy Goodrich was instrumental in establishing the first school — Goodrich School — in the area.

William B. Greene, founder of the Greene farm on the corner of Greene and Hobson Roads, was born in New York in 1818. After teaching for awhile in Vermont, he came to Illinois in 1841, continuing to teach school in Will County while working the farm of his uncle Daniel Moon Greene. In 1843 he bought 200 acres for \$1,000 along the east branch of the DuPage River. He returned to the East to marry Harriet (Hattie) E. Meeker. They were to have six children, three of whom lived to maturity.

At the time of their marriage, a log cabin stood on their property; there they lived until the central part of what would be "Oak Cottage" was built in 1850. He raised sheep, pigs, chickens, horses and a few dairy cows. He cut hay by hand with a scythe and plowed with a team of oxen. His son, William Spencer Greene, specialized in dairy farming, building

## EARLY SETTLERS and FARMERS

the herd to as many as 90 cows. They delivered the milk to the train in Lisle for the "Milk Run" each day, as did many of their neighbors. His grandson, William Bertram Greene, continued to farm the land until 1980 when he died at the ripe old age of 98. After being passed lovingly down through several generations of Greenes the farm and house are vacant, awaiting, perhaps, a new life as a museum or some similar use.



*Greene Farm*

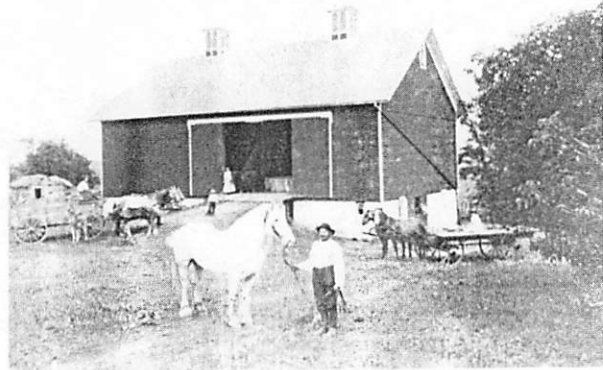
Adam Kohley, whose descendants were to farm the area near 83rd Street and Rt. 53, arrived from Prussia between 1838 and 1845 — there are conflicting dates — staying a short while in the East before coming to Illinois.

About 1850, he left for California with a group of local men, where he had previously settled. While in Naperville, he met a young woman who worked at the Pre-Emption House, a hotel/tavern. Her name was Anna Maria Damm, and she was from Bavaria. Adam and Anna were married in 1852; they bought land and established a farm along Rt. 53, north of 75th Street and went on to have seven children. The name "Adbeth Farm" comes from a combination of letters from the names of Adam's son Adam, Jr., and his wife Elizabeth.

Ignatz Pfaff came to America from Alsace about the year 1846 or 1848, with his uncle and aunt, Martin and Mary Schmitt and their young daughters Elizabeth, Mary, and Agatha. They settled on the East Branch of the DuPage River, Rt. 53 near 75th Street, Lisle Township.

Shortly after this, he went to California looking for gold, possibly with a group of other men from the area. Apparently, he had some success, as he seemed to have enough gold to buy a farm, which was purchased in 1862 for \$1850.00 and consisted of 160 acres. In 1863, Ignatz married his cousin Agatha; the couple had five children.

While returning from a trip to Downers Grove in February, 1885, the sled he was driving was overturned by runaway horses and he died of a broken neck. His sons and wife continued to farm the land, however, and as they married, bought farms adjoining the original Pfaff farm; the road there became known as Pfaff Road (now Janes), and a small one-room school was located on the northeast corner of 75th Street and was Pfaff School. Ignatz' daughter, Emma, and her



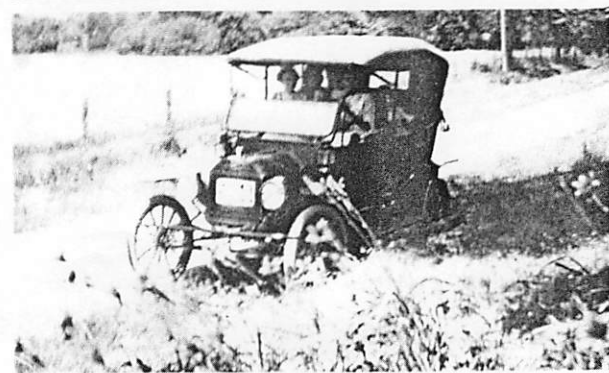
*Nadelhoffer Farm*

husband Henry Faulhaber, continued to till the original farm for many years.

John Nadelhoffer was also born in Alsace-Lorraine, coming to the United States in 1855, and settling in DuPage County. He was married in 1856 to Katerine Krautwasser, who came over from Alsace to marry him. They were to have seven children. John farmed in Naperville, grazing his livestock on what is now the campus of North Central College, with the farmhouse at what is now the location of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

In 1873 he bought what is the present Nadelhoffer farmstead on 71st Street in Woodridge, just east of Rt. 53. He was one of the founders of the German Lutheran Church; the original building has been moved to Naper Settlement and is known as the "Meeting House".

Like his neighbor, Ignatz Pfaff, John Nadelhoffer was also to die under untimely circumstances. In 1889 he succumbed to injuries received from one of his horses at a horse fair in Naperville. His son John Nadelhoffer II, and his descendants continued to farm the land until 1972.



*Adam Kohley's First Auto*

## WOODRIDGE BEGINS



The early settlers had no idea that the land they farmed in the late 1800's would some day become the community known as Woodridge.

In the late 1950's, Albert Kaufman, President of Surety Builders, started a subdivision south of 75th Street and east of Illinois Route 53. He called this Woodridge after the Woodridge Golf Course located on Route 53. The name, Woodridge, was chosen from a description of the land itself, a wooded ridge overlooking the East Branch of the DuPage. In only a few weeks almost one hundred families had settled in. Many shared the experience of being property owners for the first time. For a number, this was the first nervously taken venture out of the city. There were those who, too, had been transferred and assumed they were coming to a suburban community not unlike the one they had just left.

But this was not a traditional suburban community. It was not a subdivision in or adjacent to an established municipality. There were no extending community services and amenities to be extended.

The nearest fire station was four miles away, manned by volunteers who were called by the ringing of a bell to use the minimal and sometimes antiquated equipment. No sheriff's patrol had yet been observed and help, if needed, was to come from the county seat, an hour away. Come September, there appeared there would be no room for the children in the little schoolhouse on the other side of the woods. Telephone service was by party line; with each household assigned its number of rings. Mail service was decidedly rural. It was apparent that the strength of an organized group was needed.

With a population of 459, the residents petitioned the County Court for permission to incorporate and the Village of Woodridge was incorporated on August 24, 1959.

By early 1963, many of the farms east of Route 53 were purchased by the Winston-Muss Corporation to build a community of over 2,000 homes. This area became known as Winston Hills, opening in early 1964. It wasn't until 1974, however, that a roadway, Woodridge Drive, connecting both sections of the village, was dedicated and opened to the public.

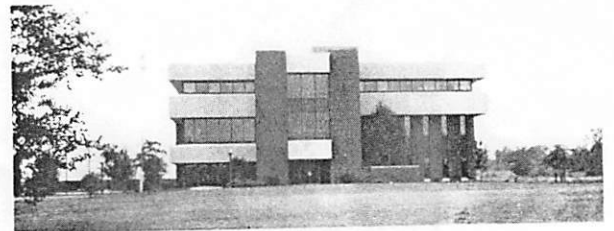
Another expansion in the land area of Woodridge occurred in 1972 when several large farms centered around the Nadelhoffer property along 71st Street were annexed to Woodridge and developed as "Woodridge Center." A provision for a commercial center for the community was to be provided — this latter aspect of the development never materialized. A site was also provided for the establishment of a community government center which today is the site of the planned Police and Public Works facility.

## COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

When the first residents of the subdivision called Woodridge arrived in 1959 they found themselves in a small community yet to be developed with business and industry. Milk and bread were delivered by truck and shopping was done in the nearby communities of Lisle and Downers Grove. In the rural setting, the surrounding dairy farmers were still taking their milk production to the station in Lisle for the "Milk Run." In 1963 at the corner of Janes and 75th Street, which were dirt roads with a stop sign, a Marathon Station was erected. Joel Kagann described it: "It was the first business in the area and probably sold more milk and bread than gasoline. These, along with the Jewel Home Shopper were the extent of our commerce and industry. Woodridge finally hit the big time when our 'own shopping center' at 75th and Janes opened in 1965. For the first time we could get our groceries, get our hair cut, have a prescription filled, and never leave Woodridge."

Heritage Bank of Woodridge, locally owned and a long time supporter of community organizations, opened in 1971 in the building which is currently the Village Hall. The bank moved to its present location in 1979.

The middle 70's saw many firsts for Woodridge: New shopping along Hobson Road; medical and professional buildings; groundbreaking for the long awaited Jewel store; new and improved roads and of course traffic lights everywhere; new banks and the opening of McDonalds Restaurant.



*Wilton Industries*

Woodridge has one industry, Wilton Enterprises, located on 75th Street. They relocated in our area in 1977 from Chicago, and employ 350 people. Not a manufacturing firm, Wilton markets cake decorating and candy making products worldwide.

The Woodridge Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1978 by the Economic Development Commission of the Village who felt strongly about bringing the growing business community together.

Woodridge currently has plans for eventual expansion of the Village into areas south of 83rd Street all the way to I-55. Termed the "South-East Corridor" it is hoped that this area may one day be developed for commercial and light industrial uses.

Woodridge's 25th anniversary present to itself is its newest shopping center — Woodgrove Festival — located at 75th Street and Lemont Road. Featuring a major clothing store, movie theaters, and several restaurants, the revenue from the center will significantly help the village with capital improvement projects such as the new Police/Public Works facility.

## SCHOOLS



*Goodrich School in 1915*

Goodrich School stands today, on the northeast corner of Route 53 and Hobson Road, on the site of the very first school in our area. Deacon Pomeroy Goodrich, one of the first settlers in Lisle Township, DuPage County, about 1821, built a log cabin school near his own home shortly after settling on his 320 acre farm. On April 6, 1858 the Goodrich family signed a Warrantee Deed turning the land over to the School Board of Trustees.

As told in the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of DuPage County, Vol. II, "In the early days the pioneers, as soon as they had put up their little log cabins and cleared a space sufficient to put in a scanty crop, began to think about providing educational advantages for their children."

In those days, many farm family members taught or administered their local schools. Charles Henry Goodrich, from a different Goodrich family, attended this first log cabin school before going east in 1840 to study and teach in Vermont. He returned to teach in Illinois in 1847. William Briggs Greene, whose farm stands today on Hobson Road, arrived from Vermont in 1841. He taught at Goodrich school until he was able to purchase the adjacent land from Deacon Goodrich's widow and then married his sweetheart from back east.

It was in 1839 that the Government of DuPage County was approved and a school commission was appointed. By 1855 there were 68 school districts, ours being District 4. In 1872, Adam Kohley II, whose farm stood along Route 53, became director of the school district. Other elected school district directors in the late 1800's included John Nadelhoffer and P.H. Goodrich.

Records show that teachers' wages ranged from \$8 to \$16 per month including board for female teachers and \$16 to \$30 for male teachers in 1855.



*Jefferson Jr. High School*

The 1904 township map shows several Pfaff farms, including the one on which Edgewood school was built. Another Pfaff School stood on the N.E. corner of 75th Street and Janes until 1962.

The present Goodrich School was built in the 1920's and an addition was added in the 1950's. Even with the expansion of the school in the late 1950's, it was not enough to accommodate the increased enrollment that was being generated from the area known as Woodridge. Only the handful of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders from the Village were accommodated there. Undaunted, the Village responded with the pattern of deep involvement of parents and unstinting volunteer time. To help solve the problem of space, Surety Builders made four homes available for classrooms.

Before a single home had been built by Surety, the original developers, the sites for schools and parks had been identified. The subsequent annexation agreements under which the Winston Hills and Woodridge Center developments were begun, in turn, designated school and park sites: Edgewood, begun in 1966, Meadowview, 1967, Willow Creek, 1971, and Siple, 1973.

Woodridge School's groundbreaking was on May 26, 1960, but it could not be ready for use at the beginning of the 1960-61 school year. Classes at Goodrich, more than a mile from the nearest Village home, would be necessary. Transportation, however, was unavailable. Village citizens again took over by contracting, operating and paying for their own bus service.

During the sixties, funds were voluntarily raised for kindergarten classes, and with the cooperation of Reverend Siple and the Methodist Church, six classrooms were added to the Church's facilities.

Equally dramatic was the successful campaign to construct Jefferson Junior High. The school, which opened in 1972, made possible the fulfillment of the "departmentalized" program for the seventh and eighth grades.

Siple School, on 83rd Street, was named for the Reverend Siple. A contest for the children in Unit IV provided the name for Willow Creek. Meadowview School houses the Administrative Offices for School District 68.

By January 1960, the population of the School District had risen to the number at which the State School Code provided for the selection of a seven member Board of Education. In April 1961, residents of the Village were elected to the Board. All of the schools in the District are now accredited by the North Central Association. The excellence of the academic program has been widely acclaimed.

The first graduating class of eighth graders, then at Woodridge School, numbered 22. Recently, the classes have numbered more than 400. In 1959, Community High School District 99 operated one high school located in the northern portion of Downers Grove. In 1964, a second high school was erected: Downers Grove South. These two schools were among the nine the state recommended in 1984 for consideration in the Federal Department of Education's program to recognize excellence in education.

## CHURCHES



As the Community grew its spiritual needs were met by the establishment of the first church in 1960, when the Village Baptist Church was formed. Services were held in a house presided over by Donald Ropp. Later, as the need arose, they moved to 75th Street, and in 1970 into a permanent building on Taylor Drive known as the First Baptist Church. The current pastor is Jerry Cummins.

In 1961, the Augustana Lutheran Church organized a congregation in Woodridge. In 1962, a committee under the guidance of Reverend Jack Swanson formally organized Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. A church site was dedicated in November of 1963. Ground breaking took place in April 1965 and a building was erected. As the need arose, wings and rooms were added.

Woodridge had a need for a Catholic Church, also, since the Catholics had to travel to St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove or St. Joan of Arc Parish in Lisle. On June 1, 1962, St. Scholastica Catholic Parish was founded by Bishop McNamara. In 1968, a permanent church and school were built on Janes Avenue, completed for Midnight Mass on Christmas. In June 1966, the parish consisted of 470 families with 265 children attending the school.

In the spring of 1962, there was a strong demand for a Methodist Church in Woodridge. Acreage was purchased at the corner of 75th Street and Catalpa Road, and a permanent church was erected in 1966. Since then, an educational building was added for church school and Kindergarten along with a Wholistic Health Center for community use. Membership now consists of 800 members.

By 1980, an Interdenominational Church was formed called Good Shepherd Community Church. It currently has 25 members worshipping at Jefferson Junior High School. The Pastor is David Armstrong.

The newest church in Woodridge is the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints established in June of 1980. The Pastor of this Mormon Church, located on Woodridge Drive, is Bishop Max Anderson. Before this church was built, the members had to travel to Naperville to worship. The congregation consists of 360 members, some of which are Bolingbrook residents. Because of the size of the membership, the Woodridge Ward worships on Sunday mornings, and the Bolingbrook Ward worships on Sunday afternoons. At the end of each year, the worship hours switch.

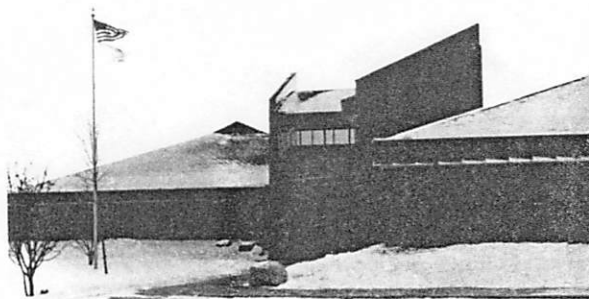
Our newest congregation, currently called the Lisle-Woodridge Baptist Fellowship, will begin meeting at Edgewood School in October. They are a Southern Baptist congregation of 14 members who hope to expand in Woodridge, Lisle or both. Pastoral leadership is provided by Jon Gilbert.

## LIBRARY

It was through the efforts of the Woodridge Women's Club that the foundation for the library service in Woodridge was laid. In September, 1965, the Woodridge Women's Club began to collect and organize material for a library. In December of that same year the Village Board agreed to permit the volunteer library to house and maintain this collection of books in a portion of the Village Hall, then located at 2909 Forest Glen Parkway. Early in 1966, the Village Board established a "library commission" of three (3) members to assist in setting up the library. The commission was eventually replaced by a six (6) — later seven (7) — member elected Library Board when on April 18, 1967 Woodridge voters agreed to establish a tax-supported library by a vote of 173 — yes, to 73 — no.

The newly elected Board continued to operate the library from the basement of the Village Hall with volunteers until April of 1969 when the first librarian was hired. At the same time the Board arranged to purchase a small home at 2916 Forest Glen Parkway and remodel it for library purposes. The Woodridge Public Library operated out of this facility from July, 1969 until May, 1972 when the Board purchased the former Surety Builders office at 2815 West 75th Street. This two (2) level building was remodeled to suit library needs and was in use until July, 1979.

By the mid-70's it became evident that the Woodridge Library needed to be housed in a structure specifically designed as a library building. After meeting with various architects the Library Board hired William Baldwin & Associates to design a library building. Through careful planning and public relations a referendum for \$950,000.00 was passed in April, 1977 by a close vote of 1,590 — yes to 1,545 — no. In September 1979 the new 23,000 square foot building at 2525 Center Drive was opened to the public.



Woodridge Public Library

Presently the Woodridge Public Library is open six (6) days a week — including four (4) days until 9:00 P.M. A staff of twenty four (24) full and part time personnel assist patrons in finding information from the over 43,000 books, periodicals, pamphlets, and audio-visual material available for loan. Programs — for toddlers through adults — are also presented throughout the year. Over 8,000 village residents have library cards and 145,885 items were borrowed by patrons from May 1, 1983 through April 30, 1984.

## VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



*Woodridge Village Hall*

The first step in the incorporation of a municipality is a petition requesting the court to supervise the organization. This step was taken by the 459 residents of the subdivision known as Woodridge in August of 1959. The county judge set Saturday, August 22, as the day for the referendum. It was passed without a single dissenting vote. The village celebrated with a hoe-down on Saturday, August 29, complete with square dance caller, pot-luck picnic, and games. A Village President (Mayor), Village Clerk, Police Magistrate and six Village Trustees were elected on Sept. 12th.

Leon Werch, the first Mayor, describes the beginning, "The Village was on its way. That first Board was never lonely. Every meeting was well attended and opinions flowed freely from the floor. It was a very busy first two years as a police department, fire patrol, public works and a planning commission were created; and scores of ordinances were passed covering traffic control, building permits, activities of solicitors..."

The all volunteer force in 1959 has grown to almost 100 employees today. We have a part-time Mayor and Board of Trustees who make policy decisions and set direction for the full-time Village Administrator who handles the day to day operations of the Village. The Police, Public Works, Finance, Golf Course, Community Development Departments, the Village Clerk and her deputy report to the Administrator.

A large community volunteer force has served on Commissions over the past 25 years. Two Commissions are governed by statute and were instituted in 1959: the Plan Commission which approves plans for construction, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. In 1966, when the Village reached a population of 5000, the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners was instituted to hire, fire and promote personnel. The Police Pension Board was formed in 1968. In 1972 the Economic Development Commission was instituted to attract new businesses to our area. To make the Village attractive through uniform landscaping, the Beautification Commission was begun in 1978. That same year the Energy and Environment Commission was established to promote conservation programs. The newest commission, Community Events, has planned the events for the celebration of our 25th Anniversary.

From the very beginning, Woodridge can be proud of the volunteer efforts of its citizens in establishing the village and in helping today to advise it. A well-trained professional staff now administers our village of 23,000 people.

## POLICE & FIRE

In 1960, a volunteer police department was organized. This consisted of 6 men, who were part-time reserve officers; a squad car was purchased that year for \$650, collected by Village residents. The telephone was answered at the home of one of the officers, Jerry Szczepaniak; if the call was an emergency, the fire alarm would be set off.



*Police Department*



*Fire Department*

In 1962, Joel A. Kagann became Chief of Police as well as the Department's first full time officer. By March 1965, the Village Police Department consisted of 3 regular policemen and nine part time reserve officers. A ruling affecting all municipalities with a fire and police board made all special policemen, on a permanent basis, illegal at that time. When the population had reached 5,263 persons, the village was required by State Law, to go to a Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, thereby being affected by the ruling.

At present, the force consists of 32 sworn personnel, Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 6 Sergeants (including 1 Detective Sergeant), 3 Detectives, 19 uniformed patrol officers, 1 Technical Services Officer, and 1 Crime Prevention Officer. Non-Sworn personnel include: 6 radio Operators, 2 Community Service Officers, and 1 Ordinance Enforcement Officer. There are 8 squad cars, 1 van and various administrative cars.

Chiefs of Police since 1960 are: Elmer Messer, 1960-61; Joel A. Kagann, 1962-71; Donald Mattice, 1972-76; Michael F. Haeger, 1976-77; Ronald Pavlock, 1977-81; and James Keyes, 1982-Present.

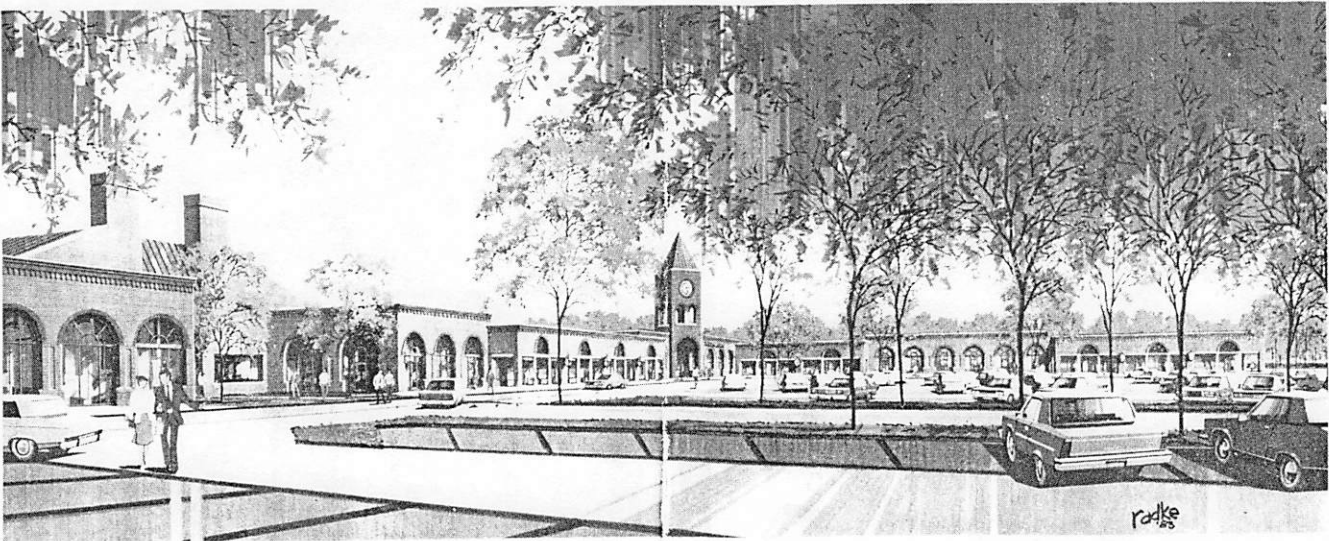
1960 was the year that a volunteer fire company was organized. Equipment consisted of 2 trucks, kept in an old barn on Crabtree Ave. Later, in the early 1960's, it was merged into the Lisle Fire District. The late Julian "Slip" Long, who became Fire Chief in 1928, held that position until 1971, when the current Chief, Paul Boecker, succeeded him. In 1960, the Lisle Fire District consisted of 2 stations and about 6-8 pieces of equipment. Now there are 5 stations, 2 in Woodridge which serve 95% of the Village, the remainder being served by the Downers Grove Estates and Belmont Fire Protection Districts. A recent name change — Lisle-Woodridge — reflects the identities of the areas served.

Presently, the Department has 33 paid-on-call personnel, 30 paid full time personnel, a full time Chief and Deputy Chief, a full time administrative assistant and secretary, and 4 full time radio dispatchers. There are 7 engine companies (pumpers), 2 aerial trucks, 3 Mobile Intensive Care Units, 1 tanker truck, 1 light unit, 1 underwater rescue and recovery vehicle, 2 boats (divers), 1 hazardous materials vehicle, 2 forestry (grass) units and 5 administrative vehicles.

## 1959 Aerial of Woodridge



## Woodgrove Festival Mall





## PARK DISTRICT

The citizens of Woodridge approved the formation of a Park District on October 18th, 1969, encompassing 3,000 acres with 1,200 acres within the Village Boundaries of Woodridge. Five commissioners were elected and met at Goodrich School until offices were obtained at 2909 Forest Glen Parkway.



*Woodridge Park District Offices*

Programs began with a Day Camp in July, 1970. The Woodridge Athletic Association (W.A.A.) continued to provide baseball using the ballfield at 75th Street and Woodridge Drive, the current site of the 75th Street Pool, and the Park District sponsored a girl's softball league.

Very little of the present land was purchased, much of the acreage being donated by developers. The Village transferred the deeds in 1971 for 63rd Street, Triangle Park, Crabtree Park and the Larchwood Lot, in 1972 for the Janes Avenue Park and the 75th Street Pool site, and in 1973 for Boundary Hill and Castaldo Park. The Park District purchased the Winston-Muss Pool and Tennis Courts in 1970, turning them into the Hobson Pool. Surety Builders donated \$78,000 for the construction of the 75th Street Pool and it was opened on July 18th, 1973.

The Winter recreation program in 1970 included activities for children and adults: boys' basketball, boxing and wrestling; a men's basketball league; a girls' recreation program; and a women's physical fitness and recreation program. Summer activities in 1971 included Day Camp, swimming lessons, tennis and cheerleading. Expanded programs began in 1971.

The Park District, Woodridge Special Events Committee and Lisle Fire Protection District together provided the 1st Halloween and Christmas parties in 1972. The Village and the Park District co-sponsored ice skating in 1973 and cross-country skiing in 1978 at Village Greens. The Park District began the Little Miss Woodridge Contest and a Fishing Derby in 1973. Winterfest began in 1979.

Programs for the handicapped began in 1976 when the Woodridge Park District joined with Darien, Downers Grove, Lisle and Westmont to form Seaspar, the South East Association for Special Parks And Recreation.

To date, the assessed valuation of the Park District is \$159,000,000. The total number of park acres is 116½ owned and 140 leased. The most current referendum in 1984 gave voter approval for the Park District to purchase the 59 acre tract at 71st Street as a Nature Center.

## PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1966, road maintenance and winter snow removal in the Village was handled by an agreement with the developers. There were only 5 miles of road to be maintained. Woodridge's water needs were handled by the Woodridge Water Company, then privately owned.

In August of 1966, the Public Works Department was formed. Bill Bocek became the Commissioner of Public Works and the Building Inspector. The Work force consisted of several part time workers who did not work on Saturday or Sunday, aided by off-duty policemen. The vehicle fleet consisted of two trucks and one tractor; smaller equipment such as shovels were items that belonged to Bocek and other workers. Outside help was still necessary for snow removal, especially during the Great Snowfall of '67.

In 1971, the Village purchased the Woodridge Water Company, on the same day, selling the water treatment plant to DuPage County, while retaining ownership on the pipes. In January of 1971, Art Johnson was hired as the first full time employee.

At present, the Department consists of 30 permanent employees and 45 vehicles ranging from passenger cars to heavy equipment, it also maintains about 85 miles of roads and, as fitting to their recently changed name, encompasses a much broader range of activities, the newest being Forestry.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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