

MINUTES

Woodridge Community Wellness Council

April 15, 2009

ATTENDEES

Melissa Bohse, Village of Woodridge Administration

Julie Burke, WCWC Chair

Jay Caron, Lisle-Woodridge Fire District

Maria Castellanos, Woodridge Community Resource Center

Mary Ann Frank, Woodridge Junior Woman's Club & Woodridge 50th/40th Anniversary Committee

Michelle Gonzalez, DuPage County Health Department

Reverend John Hoekema, Horizon Community Church

Lisa Horne, Family Shelter Service

Michelle Lanzi, DuPage County Health Department

Pat Nugent, Metropolitan Family Services

Julie Rhodes, Woodridge Park District & Woodridge Jaycees

Becky Surber, Woodridge School Dist. 68

Beth Van Opdorp, Woodridge Public Library

Teri Vasile, Woodridge Community Resource Center

INTRODUCTIONS

Julie Burke, Woodridge Community Wellness Council (WCWC) Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed the council members to the meeting. Maria Castellanos volunteered to take the notes for the meeting. Members introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Metropolitan Family Services - Pat Nugent

The Parents as Teachers (PTS) program has been serving families within Woodridge School District 68 for 11-1/2 years. PTS is funded by District 68, the Woodridge Community Pantry and United Way. It is a home visiting program for children from birth to age 5. Counselors work with the parents on the developmental needs of the children. Monthly Family Nights are included in the program. The Woodridge Community Pantry provides food for those events. There are usually 2-3 playgroups at the Woodridge Community Resource Center (CRC) each year. The new playgroup with fathers may begin on Saturday mornings.

The MetroMentors Program meets at the CRC one evening per week. The agency also provides adoptive children counseling, general counseling for students and senior counseling. For more information call 630 784-4978.

Metropolitan Family Services MetroMentors Program - Julie Burke

- The program raised 20,000 at its Winter Carnival at Seven Bridges Ice Arena in January. The program does not receive any outside funding so it is reliant on fundraising activities and private donations.
- The program hopes to partner with Starbuck's to gain mentors more mentors. Starbuck's employees are being encouraged to volunteer in the community.
- The program currently has a waiting list of six boys awaiting male mentors.

Woodridge Community Resource Center - Teri Vasile

- The CRC is hosting an event on May 14 to showcase art work done by students in the afterschool program. Ceramics, stained glass, painting, paper mache, crochet and tae kwon do are among the media included in the showcase. Chris Brashaw, art teacher at St. Scholastica School, recently began working with the CRC kids. The children learned some of the pillars of the Character Count! Program, such as discipline, respect, and responsibility, during the creation of their art work. The CRC introduced days where the kids play with the Wii™ during the second portion of the afterschool program and that has been very popular with the kids.
- Plans are underway for the summer camp with field trips and in-house programs. Both age groups will come every day for a half day. Registration dates will be announced next month. The capacity for the program is 50 kids.
- The CRC is always looking for volunteers for its afterschool and summer programs. The minimum age for volunteers for the afterschool program is eighth grade and up. For the summer camp it is sophomore in high school.
- Other programs at the CRC include eight-week free computer classes taught by People's Resource Center and English as a Second Language by the College of DuPage and the Sisters of St. Joseph in LaGrange. To enroll in the computer classes, call People's Resource Center at 630-682-5402.

Village of Woodridge Administration – Melissa Bohse

- The main focus of the village's work lately has been developing a budget during these difficult economic times. The budget process has been completed and the draft budget will be presented to the Village Board at tomorrow night's meeting. The Village hopes to be able to reduce its share of the property taxes for the 23rd consecutive year.
- The Village is giving assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure and mortgage problems by providing workshops and information on financial assistance on its website.
- The Village has held a forum for input into the new pedestrian bridge to be built across Route 53 in the Seven Bridges area.
- Woodridge currently has no senior housing facility and residents have expressed a desire to remain in the Village during their most senior years. A public meeting will be held on April 30 to gain input from residents about the needs they foresee in such housing. The Pine Ridge apartment complex is being considered as a possible site for the housing.
- The mayor and village trustees whose term would end next month all ran for reelection without opposition.
- Village Administrator John Perry retired on April 10. A consulting firm has been conducting a search for a new administrator and a list of finalists has been completed. A new administrator is expected to be chosen by the Village Board in May and begin work sometime in July.

Lisle-Woodridge Fire District - Jay Caron

- Due to cutbacks at the Fire District, Jay has been reassigned from his public education position to a truck company. He now spends one day a week in the education position and the rest with the truck company. He continues to do public education, schools tours of the fire stations, fire extinguisher training, evacuation planning and drills and fire inspections. His former position has not been filled. The cutbacks resulted from the poor economy and late payments of property taxes by banks that have foreclosed on individuals and businesses. The Fire District funding comes almost exclusively from property taxes. He reassured everyone that. To contact Jay, call 630-353-3059 or e-mail him at jcaron@lwfd.org.
- In order to reduce the number of items that go to a junkyard, Jay has contacted businesses to ask that they donate file cabinets and office furniture that is being replaced. Contact Jay if you are in need of any such items.
- New businesses are moving into Woodridge and Lisle so the number of inspections has increased.
- May is fire prevention month.
- Some homeowners and businesses are engaging in arson for profit by which they are setting fire to their properties in order to collect the insurance money.

Horizon Community Church - Jon Hoekema

- The church is a host site for Angel Food Ministry. Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and contributing to benevolent outreaches to communities throughout the United States. The Ministry has already received hundreds of orders for food.
- New Leaf Resources, a Christian mental health agency, now has an office at the church.
- The church's website is www.horizoncc.org

DuPage County Health Department - Michelle Lanzi

- Back to school flyers are available. There are more combination vaccines available. Immunizations are given by appointment. Call 630-682-7400.
- The next meeting of the Community Resource Network will be on June 3 at 9:00 at People's Resource Center in Westmont.

School District 68 – Becky Surber

- The new Wellness Center at Jefferson Junior High School is nearly complete. The climbing wall is due this month. There are also treadmills and bikes and even equipment for kids with broken legs. The District is focusing on the total child including their physical health and fitness. They are responding to the national epidemic of child obesity as well as the large number of underweight children. The Center was made possible through a Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant from the United States Department of Education. The Wellness Center will move the current curriculum toward best practice in physical education.
- The school board, administrative personnel and school children will participate in the Memorial Day parade.
- The District has received a Walk to School grant.

Woodridge Park District – Julie Rhodes

- The Cypress Cove construction is on schedule in time for its opening on May 23.
- The summer activity guides will be delivered this weekend.

- The re-dedication of Forest Glen Park will be on May 9. This park has access to recreation for all children including those with special needs. Contact woodridgeparks.org to purchase a memorial paver.
- Woodridge Jubilee will be held June 17-21. The carnival opens on June 17 and June 20 will be Family Day with three bands and fireworks.

Woodridge Jaycees - Julie Rhodes

- The Jaycees meet on the third Thursday of the month.
- The Jaycees held a fundraiser for Wendy Doherty, a local woman with cancer.
- It will hold a tailgating party at Shanahan's on June 27 during the Cross Town Cubs/White Sox Classic to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Woodridge Junior Woman's Club – Mary Ann Frank

- The Woman's Club held a fundraiser for a former club member suffering from cancer of the spine in March. The event was sold out well before the day it was held. They raised \$5000.
- The Club was awarded a grant from the Celebrate Woodridge Anniversary Committee to produce pins commemorating the 50th and 40th anniversaries of the village and park district respectively. Mary Ann showed the pins to the Council members and invited members to take one. She suggested a \$5 donation for each. The pin depicts the 50th/40th logo; 1000 were produced. All proceeds will go to the Woodridge Community Pantry.
- Orders are being taken for the annual flower sale. The order form is available at the library and on the club website with delivery by Mother's Day. Proceeds go toward college scholarships.

Celebrate Woodridge 50th/40th Anniversary Committee - Mary Ann Frank

- There will be 90-100 entries in the Memorial Day parade. Staging for the parade will be at Cinemark Theatres with the parade proceeding down Woodridge Drive to Veterans Memorial Park where the traditional Memorial Day ceremony will take place.
- In conjunction with the parade, a house decorating contest will be held along the parade route with the winner announced on Memorial Day. A similar contest will be held for businesses.
- The 4th of July picnic will be held at Castaldo Park. The park will be rededicated with Castaldo family members attending. Clemente Castaldo died during the Vietnam War. Founding families of Woodridge will also be honored.
- Videos of the history of Woodridge are available on Channel 6.

Woodridge Public Library - Beth Van Opdorp

- Free bone density screenings are being given at the library today.
- Art work by District 99 art students is on display at the library.
- The library is undertaking a new project to compile all birth and death dates.
- The summer reading program begins in June. The new book is Twilight.

Family Shelter Service - Lisa Horne

- This is the first visit to the Wellness Council by Family Shelter Service (FSS)
- FSS serves victims of domestic abuse, both male and female, in DuPage County. Clients are primarily female.
- It has residential facilities in Glen Ellyn (capacity: 4 bedrooms; maximum of 13 occupants) and Downers Grove (capacity: eight bedrooms; maximum of 24 occupants).

- There is a third facility that provides intermediate housing for women transitioning to independent living. They live there rent-free and provide their own food and other items for their personal needs. The only staff are those doing case management.
- Housing is available only to women and children although males are eligible for support and counseling services.
- Services include mom and kids groups, parenting groups and assistance with orders of protection (www.getaprotectionorder.org).
- The mission of FSS is to find ways for the partners of victims to make constructive changes in their lives so that the victims can go back and live safely.
- FSS receives all reports of domestic violence from DuPage County police. They then contact the victim and let them know of their services.
- FSS is funded by United Way, Illinois Department of Human Services, grants, private donations, and fundraisers such as a 5K walk and the annual dinner and silent auction.
- FSS has a new resale shop at 63rd Street and Fairview Avenue in Downers Grove.

Rotary Club of Woodridge - Julie Burke

- The Club has received 25-30 applications from graduating seniors for the two \$2000 college scholarships it offers. The winning students will be selected soon. The primary criterion is service to the community with a special emphasis on a consistent pattern of service over several years.
- The next fundraiser is the Mini-Triathlon on August 16. A special kids mini-triathlon has been added this year. The event is one of the club's two fundraisers during the year.

Woodridge 50th Anniversary Quilt – Julie Burke

- The raffle for naming rights to the quilt is ongoing with all proceeds going to the Woodridge Community Pantry. So far funds sufficient to buy 9.5 tons of food have been raised. The goal is 50 tons. Julie bought a ton on behalf of the Wellness Council.
- The winner's name will be drawn at the Tree Lighting ceremony in December. Any individual or business purchasing at least a half ton of food will be acknowledged on the village website and on Channel 6 for the rest of the year.

Resource Directories

Teri Vasile showed off the new Yellow Brick Road directories published by Lisle Township. Julie Burke asked if anyone knew the web address to find the online directory compiled by DuPage County. No one knew. Mary Ann Frank said that Giving DuPage also compiles a directory and offered to invite someone from that agency to speak at a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING

July 15, 2009 at Jefferson Junior High School

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.