



Winter 2013

Opportunity Woodridge

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2013 Commercial Development in Review

2013 has been a tremendous year for Woodridge development. As the nation still slowly recovers from the Great Recession, the Village has seen growth in all three major development sectors, including retail, industrial/office and residential. Several ground breakings and store openings occurred this year for retail and restaurant uses.

Gordon Food Services recently opened a new 17,000 square foot store at the southwest corner of Boughton and Woodward. Gordon Food Services will be joined by Art Van Furniture which broke ground in September on its 68,000-square-foot store located at the northwest corner of Boughton Road and Woodward Avenue. The Warren, Michigan based furniture retailer purchased the six-acre site with construction expected to be completed early next year. In 2013, the Village became home to several new retail and restaurant establishments including Panera Bread and Carter's, which both opened in Woodgrove Festival located at 75th Street and Lemont Road. Woodridge also saw Clara's Restaurant move from its former 26 year location on Route 53 to Seven Bridges. The new larger restaurant, at 6550 Route 53 features an outdoor patio and four season room.

"This has certainly been an exciting year for the Village, which remains committed to supporting new development activity and reinvestment in the community"

The industrial sector has witnessed renewed strength this year, proven by the groundbreaking for a new 350,000 square foot corporate headquarters for Orbus Exhibit and Display Group. This will be located in the Union Pointe Business Park at Woodward Avenue and Interstate 55 and completion of the building is expected in early summer 2014. Earlier this year the second phase of Park 355 also broke ground, which will consist of an 180,480 square foot speculative warehouse at Internationale Parkway and Interstate 355. Construction is expected to be completed in 2014.

"This has certainly been an exciting year for the Village, which remains committed to supporting new development activity and reinvestment in the community", said Mayor Gina Cunningham. "Despite challenging economic times, we have been fortunate to see new development in the Village due to our efficient and timely permitting process and strong pro-business environment. We are looking forward to seeing this positive trend continue in 2014"

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 16TH!

The Village of Woodridge in partnership with the Woodridge Area Chamber of Commerce will host a "Breakfast Before Hours" meeting that will provide companies an opportunity to hear and speak to local legislators about issues impacting businesses.

Look for more information on this in early 2014!

Click the Logo



Advantage Illinois

Enhancing business access to capital is a top priority for the State of Illinois administration and the Illinois Innovation Council. The Brookings Institution recently noted more than 95% of new jobs are derived from business expansion or start up activity.



Advantage Illinois is a program that will accelerate investments and ease the credit crunch for small businesses, thanks to more than \$78 million from the federal State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. Advantage Illinois consists of three programs to spur institutional lending to small businesses and one program to leverage private venture capital in start-ups and high-growth businesses. There has never been a better time to grow Illinois ideas or business!

The IL-DCEO website offers additional information that you may want to consider as you think about expanding your business. To view additional information visit:

<http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/> and select "**Advantage Illinois**".

According to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website "small businesses are the backbone of the Illinois economy, and the Great Recession was tough on them. Advantage Illinois will be a shot in the arm to our small businesses. By working with the state's banking community and venture capitalists, we'll get entrepreneurs and small businesses starting up or expanding and creating new jobs at a faster rate".

Sign Ordinance Update

In 2013 the Village Board approved an amendment to the Village zoning ordinance which included an update to the sign code. The sign code amendments were in response to concerns raised by local businesses.

Working with the Woodridge Area Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, the sign code was amended to permit additional flexibility without compromising the integrity and community aesthetics. A copy of the revised ordinance can be found on the Village's website by clicking [here](#) or selecting "Village Code from the homepage."

Please contact Jason Zawila, Planner at 630-719-2906 for more information.

Sign Ordinance Update Highlights

- ✓ Allows electronic message board signs as part of a ground sign for properties zoned B-1, B-2, and B-3
- ✓ Increases the maximum allowable area for wall signage
- ✓ Allows wall signage on the back of buildings that face commercially zoned properties and shopping center parking lots.
- ✓ Increases the time frame and area that temporary signage can be displayed to 16 weeks and 100 square feet respectively.

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