

TOWN MEETING 2011

WELCOME TO TOWN MEETING. WE'RE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE A PART OF THIS EVENING. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PAST, YOU KNOW THAT TOWN MEETING LOOKS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR. I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE OPEN HOUSE. IF NOT, YOU ARE CERTAINLY INVITED TO STOP BY THE TABLES ONCE THIS SESSION HAS CONCLUDED.

TONIGHT HAS BEEN AN EVENING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. IT'S A CHANCE TO TALK TO PEOPLE FACE TO FACE ABOUT QUESTIONS YOU'VE HAD, IDEAS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, OR JUST TO PUT A FACE WITH A SERVICE. I'D LIKE TO SHARE SOME DETAILS ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE THIS PAST YEAR AND THEN I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. YOU HAVE CARDS AND PENCILS AT YOUR SEATS TO WRITE DOWN ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOU TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS.

BEFORE WE GET TOO FAR ALONG THOUGH, LET'S TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO RECOGNIZE SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOODRIDGE THIS PAST YEAR. I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE TO YOU THE WINNERS OF THE 2011 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM. AT EACH OF YOUR SEATS IS A BOOKLET THAT INTRODUCES EACH AWARD RECIPIENT AND THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

- CITIZEN OF THE YEAR (ANN SCHWEIZER)
- YOUTH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR (GRACE MALETICH)
- ADVISORY COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR (VERNELL BRADSHAW)
- BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (BUFFALO WILD WINGS)

- ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR (WOODRIDGE JAYCEES)
- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR (SANDRA DURAN, DAN MCINTYRE, & JOHN KARESH)

PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING THESE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOODRIDGE!

WOODRIDGE HAS A LONG TRACK RECORD OF FINDING NEW WAYS TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERING WITH CITIZENS AS WE PLAN FOR WOODRIDGE'S FUTURE. IT IS ONE OF OUR STRENGTHS THAT MAKE US A GREAT COMMUNITY. WHETHER IT WAS THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD DIALOGUE, MAILED SURVEYS, OR TONIGHT'S TOWN MEETING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE TO HELPING US PLAN FOR THE FUTURE AND BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO YOU, THE CITIZENS OF WOODRIDGE. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT YOUR FREE TIME IS LIMITED AND TECHNOLOGY HAS DEVELOPED NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER, WE HAVE MADE CHANGES TOO.

LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT WE'VE DONE. OUR FIRST STEP WAS TO UPGRADE THE WEBSITE. WE MADE IT MORE USER-FRIENDLY AND HAVE ADDED A TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS THAT WE THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO SEE, LIKE FINANCIAL REPORTS, CONTRACTS, BOARD AGENDAS, AND OTHERS. WE'VE ALSO ASKED VISITORS TO TELL US WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE US TO ADD TO THE SITE.

FOLLOWING THE WEBSITE UPGRADES, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED A FACEBOOK PAGE IN MARCH AND THE VILLAGE-WIDE PAGE FOLLOWED IN JUNE. WE HAVE USED ELECTRONIC AND MAILED SURVEYS TO SOLICIT YOUR INPUT ON COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES, COMMUNITY PRIORITIES, SERVICE SATISFACTION RATINGS, AND OTHERS.

WE'VE ALSO BEGUN CABLECASTING THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS. YOU CAN WATCH THE REBROADCAST ON CHANNEL 6 OR ON

THE VILLAGE WEBSITE. COME JANUARY, THE VIDEO OF THE MEETINGS WILL BE INTEGRATED AND INDEXED INTO THE AGENDA DOCUMENTS SO THAT YOU CAN REFERENCE THE SOURCE DOCUMENTS AS YOU WATCH THE VIDEO. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO EASILY SEARCH FOR AGENDA ITEMS THAT INTEREST YOU.

WE HAVE PHASED OUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD DIALOGUE PROGRAM AND REPLACED IT WITH A NEW PROGRAM CALLED TOPIC FORUMS. THE IDEA BEHIND THE FORUMS IS TO BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR ABOUT AN HOUR ON A TOPIC OF INTEREST, GIVE SOME BACKGROUND, AND THEN RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES. THE AUDIO FROM THE FORUMS ARE AVAILABLE IN A MATTER OF DAYS VIA PODCAST AND THE DISCUSSION CAN CONTINUE ON FACEBOOK. IN THIS WAY, PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVERSATION EVEN IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING ITSELF.

WE HAVE NOW HELD THREE FORUMS WHICH HAVE FEATURED PUBLIC SAFETY, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND OUR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN. THE TOPICS WERE SELECTED BASED ON A RESIDENT SURVEY OF TOP DISCUSSION PRIORITIES.

ATTENDEES AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY SESSION IN JULY LEARNED THAT THE POLICE WANT YOU TO CALL 9-1-1 WHENEVER YOU NEED THE POLICE, NOT JUST IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. RESIDENTS SAID THAT THEY FELT VERY SAFE IN WOODRIDGE, BUT WANTED REASSURANCE THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS HANDLING GANG AND DRUG ISSUES. THE PROGRAM WAS FOCUSED ON DRUG AND GANG SUPPRESSION. QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED ABOUT HOW GANGS ARE RELATED TO DRUGS, WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT DRUG ACTIVITY, AND THE TOOLS THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT USES TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY SECURE. IT WAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO INTERACT WITH POLICE OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS

AND HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THEM ABOUT THE MEASURES USED TO KEEP WOODRIDGE SAFE.

THE HEALTHY BUSINESS COMMUNITY FORUM IN AUGUST INSPIRED LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHAT A HEALTHY BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEANS AND IDEAS FOR RETAINING AND ATTRACTING BUSINESSES. PARTICIPANTS LEARNED THAT WOODRIDGE'S RETAIL VACANCY RATES ARE HALF THAT OF DUPAGE COUNTY. THEY ALSO LEARNED OF THE RECENT EFFORTS BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR BUSINESSES AND DEVELOPERS TO FIND AVAILABLE SITES IN WOODRIDGE. PARTICIPANTS SHARED THAT A HEALTHY BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS A DIVERSITY OF RETAIL, HAS AN ATTRACTIVE APPEARANCE, IS FRIENDLY, AND IS PROMOTED BY THE COMMUNITY. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE VILLAGE'S ROLE IS TO ATTRACT BUSINESSES TO WOODRIDGE, MAKE IT EASY TO DO BUSINESS, AND CONSIDER THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM TOOK ON MORE OF AN EDUCATIONAL FORMAT IN WHICH PARTICIPANTS LEARNED ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO SUPPORT WATER, SEWER, AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS, ROADWAYS, AND TREES. PARTICIPANTS HAD A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TIMING OF ROAD REPAIRS, SEEK ADVICE ON PRIVATE SEWER LINE WORK, AND LEARN ABOUT PUBLIC CONTRACTOR PRICING FOR PRIVATE WORK, LIKE TREE TRIMMING.

AT TONIGHT'S NEWLY RECONFIGURED TOWN MEETING, WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGAIN FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS AND LEARN ABOUT LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES. THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT HOW YOUR COMMUNITY WORKS, THE MORE YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ITS IMPROVEMENT. TO THE VILLAGE BOARD AND THE REST OF THE TAXING BODIES THAT ARE HERE TONIGHT, THAT'S THE REAL GOAL OF GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

BEFORE I FINISH UP LET ME QUICKLY RUN THROUGH SOME OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST YEAR AND THEN I'LL OPEN THE FLOOR UP FOR QUESTIONS.

IN THE PAST YEAR, WE SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT OFF A STATE RAID ON MUNICIPAL REVENUES; SUPPORTED PENSION REFORM; BEGAN TELEVISION BOARD MEETINGS; SAID GOODBYE TO TRUSTEE MCMANUS AND HELLO TO TRUSTEE ABBOTT; WELCOMED THE PRESIDENT OF CHINA; OUTSOURCED OUR POLICE DISPATCH FUNCTION TO DUCOMM; BOUGHT TWO APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN THE PINE RIDGE COMPLEX AND TORE THEM DOWN; STARTED THE PROCESS THAT WILL BRING SENIOR HOUSING TO WOODRIDGE; SHORTENED THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS; ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS TO SHOP LOCALLY; LAUNCHED AN INTERACTIVE GIS MAPPING APPLICATION CALLED *MY WOODRIDGE*; NEGOTIATED A NEW 50 YEAR FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH COMED; RECEIVED TRIPLE A AND DOUBLE A1 BOND RATINGS BY FITCH'S AND MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICES; RECEIVED THE CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD; MADE ACCIDENT REPORTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE; JOINED A CRIME REPORTS MAPPING SERVICE TO DISPLAY CRIMES ON-LINE; HELD CYBER-BULLYING PRESENTATIONS IN DISTRICT 68; REPLACED THE MITCHELL DRIVE WATERMAIN; FOUGHT A BLIZZARD; CLEANED UP AFTER CONTINUOUS SUMMER STORMS; CONFIRMED THE RESIDENCY OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER; FOUGHT OFF THE GYPSY MOTH; WELCOMED MICROSUN, NAVISTAR, BAKER'S SQUARE, FIVE BELOW, AND MAURICE'S; LEARNED THE RESULTS OF THE 2010 CENSUS; WELCOMED BACK OFFICER GUERRA FROM HIS TOUR IN AFGHANISTAN; LAUNCHED AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEB PAGE; HOSTED A 10TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE HEROES OF 9/11; RECONSTRUCTED AND WIDENED 71ST; RESURFACED WOODRIDGE DRIVE; COLLABORATED WITH THE COUNTY ON THE 75TH STREET IMPROVEMENT; AND BEAT BUDGET

PROJECTIONS BY SPENDING LESS AND EARNING MORE THAN ANTICIPATED.

WOODRIDGE IS ON A GOOD TRACK THANKS TO YOUR INPUT. TO STAY THE COURSE, WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM YOU. NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO POSE THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE FOREMOST ON YOUR MIND.