

2012 STATE OF THE VILLAGE THE STRENGTH OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

AS WE BEGIN 2012, I AM PLEASED TO LOOK BACK OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS SERVING AS YOUR MAYOR. I AM PROUD OF ALL THAT **WE** HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER. THE EMPHASIS IS ON **WE**, BECAUSE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, YOUR HARD WORK AND YOUR INVESTMENT IN WOODRIDGE, WE WOULD NOT BE THE SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE TODAY. THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE THE WAYS IN WHICH BOTH SMALL "MAIN STREET" BUSINESSES AND LARGE CORPORATIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WOODRIDGE'S SUCCESS.

TODAY WE ARE KICKING OFF THE VILLAGE'S BUSINESS ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION PROGRAM. AS BUSINESSES REACH THEIR SILVER ANNIVERSARY IN WOODRIDGE, WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE THEM FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY HAVE MADE TO THE COMMUNITY, PROVIDING JOBS AND SERVICES TO OUR RESIDENTS, AND HELPING TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES THAT WOODRIDGE NEEDS TO MAINTAIN A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE.

LATER IN THIS PROGRAM YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT SIX BUSINESSES WHO HAVE ALL BEEN HERE OVER 25 YEARS. WE'LL HEAR HOW EACH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMMUNITY.

AT THIS TIME, LET ME JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK BACK AT 2011 AND REVIEW SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

THE VILLAGE COMPLETED THE WOODRIDGE RESTAURANT GUIDE, WHICH IS ON OUR WEBSITE, AND WAS A PART OF THE WINTER 2011 OPPORTUNITY NEWSLETTER. THE

GUIDE HELPS YOUR EMPLOYEES FIND LOCAL PLACES TO EAT AND PROMOTES SHOPPING LOCALLY.

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAVISTAR RE-LOCATING THEIR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO LISLE, WOODRIDGE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELOCATED EMPLOYEES BY CREATING AN INTERACTIVE GUIDE FOR LIVING IN WOODRIDGE. THE GUIDE WAS PROVIDED TO NAVISTAR EMPLOYEES RELOCATING TO THIS AREA. BASED ON POSITIVE FEEDBACK THE VILLAGE ALSO DISTRIBUTED THE DOCUMENT TO EXISTING BUSINESSES, SO THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES CAN CONSIDER HOUSING OPTIONS CLOSER TO WORK.

WE'VE ALSO MADE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR DEVELOPERS TO FIND AVAILABLE SITES IN WOODRIDGE WITH AN EASY TO USE AVAILABLE SITES MAP ON THE VILLAGE'S WEBSITE.

2011 WAS ALSO A GREAT YEAR TO WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES TO THE COMMUNITY.

BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH BUSINESSES AND USING PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS TO TROUBLE-SHOOT THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS, THE VILLAGE WELCOMED SEVERAL NEW BUSINESSES TO WOODRIDGE IN 2011, INCLUDING NAVISTAR , ELEVANCE RENEWABLE SCIENCES AND MICROSUN TECHNOLOGIES. TOGETHER, THEY ADDED OVER 400 JOBS TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE. THROUGH EACH OF THESE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, FAST GROWING, HIGH TECH COMPANIES, WOODRIDGE HAS GAINED PRESTIGE, AND ADDED TO OUR SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

WHILE SERVING YOU AS MAYOR, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO MANY OF YOU ABOUT YOUR VISION, YOUR GOALS AND THE HARD WORK THAT MAKES YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESSFUL. I AM REMINDED TODAY OF A QUOTE THAT IS FITTING

FOR THE OCCASION. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW MY FAVORITE NFL TEAM, IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE WHEN I TELL YOU WHO THE AUTHOR IS - FIRST THE QUOTE:

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUCCESSFUL PERSON AND OTHERS IS NOT A LACK OF STRENGTH, NOT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT RATHER A LACK OF WILL. – VINCE LOMBARDI

COACH LOMBARDI'S QUOTE RESONATES WITH ME WHEN I SEE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED BY THE WOODRIDGE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN I WITNESS BUSINESSES COLLABORATING TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER. LET ME BRIEFLY HIGHLIGHT TWO EXAMPLES IN WOODRIDGE WHERE BUSINESSES HAVE COME TOGETHER TO HELP IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC FORTUNES.

THE BUSINESSES OF SEVEN BRIDGES FORMED A COMMITTEE SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND RAISE THE PROFILE OF WHAT MANY CONSIDER TO BE WOODRIDGE'S DOWNTOWN. THROUGH THEIR HARD WORK AND THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOODRIDGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT TO WOODRIDGE SEVERAL EVENTS INCLUDING THE OCTOBER SAFE ZONE TRICK OR TREAT AND THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY THAT BRING HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES TO SEVEN BRIDGES AND HELP TO MAKE THE DEVELOPMENT A DESTINATION FOR SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, BUSINESSES IN INTERNATIONALE CENTRE HAVE HELD AN ANNUAL TENT SALE TO SELL OVERSTOCK PRODUCTS. BY JOINING

TOGETHER, THEY HAVE POOLED RESOURCES, CUSTOMER LISTS AND RAISED THE PROFILE OF THE THIRD LARGEST BUSINESS PARK IN THE CHICAGO LAND AREA.

THE VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE STANDS READY TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS AND WILL WORK WITH ANY BUSINESS GROUP LOOKING TO REPLICATE THESE TWO SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES.

IN 2011, WE HELD A TOPIC FORUM WITH THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS WHAT CREATES A HEALTHY BUSINESS COMMUNITY. DURING THAT FORUM THE PUBLIC RESPONDED WITH SEVERAL IDEAS:

- FIRST, HELP CREATE EVENTS THAT PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESSES
- SECOND, STAY CONNECTED TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
- AND THIRD, CONTINUE TO EXPLORE REGULATIONS THAT SUPPORT BUSINESS EFFORTS

THE VILLAGE PLANS TO USE THIS VALUABLE FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. I VALUE OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP, CONTINUING TO SEEK OUT SUCCESS.

BY THE END OF 2012 MY HOPE IS THAT I WILL HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES DURING THE YEAR TO WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES TO WOODRIDGE. THIS MORNING LET ME BRIEFLY HIGHLIGHT TWO CEREMONIES THAT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING.

ENGLEWOOD ELECTRICAL SUPPLY COMPANY, A DIVISION OF WESCO DISTRIBUTION, IS A LEADING PROVIDER OF ELECTRICAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND COMMUNICATIONS MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING EQUIPMENT. THEIR NEW FACILITY IN THE PROLOGIS INTERNATIONALE CENTRE BUSINESS PARK WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY AND WILL

BRING 90 JOBS TO THE COMMUNITY. **“PEOPLE, PASSION, EXPERTISE”** IS THEIR SLOGAN AND THEY WILL BE A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE COMMUNITY.

THIS SUMMER, EDWARD DON AND COMPANY IS RELOCATING THEIR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND MIDWEST REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION FACILITY TO THE UNION POINTE BUSINESS PARK. EDWARD DON IS THE WORLD'S LEADING DISTRIBUTOR OF FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES OFFERING NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS, AND INTEGRATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY SERVING ALL TYPES OF FOODSERVICE BUSINESSES. THEIR SLOGAN IS **“EVERYTHING BUT THE FOOD”**. WITH 400 EMPLOYEES AND AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF 25 MILLION DOLLARS, EDWARD DON WILL BECOME ONE OF THE TOP TEN EMPLOYERS IN WOODRIDGE.

WE HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT THESE TWO BUSINESSES WILL FOLLOW COMPANIES LIKE WILTON, MOREY, HOME RUN INN, GALLAGHER AND HENRY AND PROLOGIS BY ESTABLISHING GREAT PARTNERSHIPS AND DEEP ROOTS IN OUR COMMUNITY – KEEPING WOODRIDGE STRONG AND PROSPEROUS.

PART OF WOODRIDGE'S STRENGTH OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN ITS ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE OPPORTUNITY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. PROJECTS LIKE SEVEN BRIDGES AND PROLOGIS INTERNATIONALE CENTER HELPED ESTABLISH A FOUNDATION FOR A DIVERSE AND HEALTHY TAX BASE FOR WOODRIDGE .

THE VILLAGE APPROVAL OF THE UNION POINTE BUSINESS PARK LOCATED NORTHEAST OF I-55 AND I-355 IS JUST THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF A NEW COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY BENEFITING THE COMMUNITY. THE 100 ACRE BUSINESS PARK, BEING DEVELOPED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GALLAGHER AND HENRY AND MCSHANE DEVELOPMENT, WILL BE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AT THE CROSSROADS OF TWO MAJOR EXPRESSWAYS AND IN THE CENTER OF THE I-55

INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR. THE NEW PARK WILL BRING JOBS, NEW GROWTH AND AN EXPANDED CORPORATE PRESENCE TO WOODRIDGE.

OUR 2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOCUS WILL BE REACHING OUT TO THE EXISTING BUSINESS COMMUNITY, BUILDING ON WHAT WE HEARD AT THE TOPIC FORUM. ONGOING COMMUNICATION WITH YOU WILL BE KEY.

TO TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE FACING ON A DAILY BASIS IN YOUR INDUSTRY REQUIRES FACE TO FACE INTERACTION. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE WILL BE KNOCKING ON DOORS THIS YEAR TO MEET YOU IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT, AT YOUR OFFICE, AND ON YOUR SHOP FLOOR. WOODRIDGE WANTS TO BE YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER AND TO GET TO KNOW YOUR BUSINESS BETTER.

IN 2012, DUPAGE COUNTY WILL BEGIN WIDENING 75TH STREET FROM I-355 TO LYMAN AVENUE IN DARIEN. THE PROJECT INCLUDES THE ADDITION OF A LANE IN EACH DIRECTION, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION. WHEN COMPLETE, IT WILL HELP IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION ALONG ONE OF WOODRIDGE'S MAJOR RETAIL CORRIDORS. WOODRIDGE WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH DUPAGE COUNTY TO MAKE SURE THAT BUSINESSES ALONG THIS CORRIDOR ARE KEPT INFORMED OF UPDATES AND DISRUPTIONS ARE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

ANOTHER ROLE THE VILLAGE CAN PLAY IS TO HELP PROVIDE THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO STAY COMPETITIVE IN TODAY'S MARKETPLACE. THE VILLAGE PLANS TO HOST A SMALL BUSINESS LUNCHEON LATER THIS YEAR THAT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ILLINOIS BUSINESSES.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY CONTINUES TO BE A NUMBER ONE PRIORITY FOR WOODRIDGE. WE'LL PURSUE PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO SHARE RESOURCES, REDUCE DUPLICATION AND OUTSOURCE SERVICES THAT CAN BE MORE EFFICIENTLY PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

WOODRIDGE CONTINUES TO BE LOOKED AT FAVORABLY BY NATIONAL CREDIT RATING AGENCIES. FITCH RATINGS AND MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICES HAVE ASSIGNED TRIPLE A AND DOUBLE A1 RATINGS TO WOODRIDGE RESPECTIVELY. THE HIGH RATINGS FROM BOTH OF THESE FIRMS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE VILLAGE'S LEADERSHIP AND SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT.

CREATIVITY, A STRONG DETERMINATION, SOUND FINANCIAL PLANNING, A SUPPORTIVE MUNICIPAL BUSINESS PARTNER – THESE ARE ALL KEY ELEMENTS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROWING BUSINESS. OVER THE PAST DECADES WE HAVE WALKED THAT PATH TOGETHER AND I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO WOODRIDGE.

IT IS NOW WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I RECOGNIZE SIX BUSINESSES WHO HAVE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES WITHIN WOODRIDGE OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE PLUS YEARS. THEY REPRESENT BOTH SMALL AND LARGE COMPANIES IN WOODRIDGE WHICH SHOWS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND A TESTAMENT TO OUR STRENGTH AS A LOCAL ECONOMY.