

# 59<sup>th</sup> Street Extension To Walnut Offerman Estates, Woodridge, IL

March 17, 2006

Twenty three new homes will be built along an extended 59<sup>th</sup> Street in Woodridge, IL. The extension will connect from the current cul-de-sac at the West end of 59<sup>th</sup> Street in Woodridge to Walnut Street in unincorporated DuPage County.

A traffic study completed by Coulter Transportation Consulting, LLC has indicated that the traffic volume on the section of 59<sup>th</sup> Street West of Elinor and the corresponding Walnut St. connection would be “.. 530 to 571 vehicles per day..”. This is a ten fold increase of traffic on two streets which are currently closed streets. The bulk of this new traffic is a diversion from the existing traffic pattern from Jackson Dr. to 59<sup>th</sup> to Elinor to westbound Maple Ave. ( The study was paid for by the Developer of Offerman Estates.)

The bulk of this traffic will be rush hour traffic looking for the quickest and shortest route to Maple avenue in the morning and back in the evening. This presents a major problem of safety for residents – many of them children - who will live along the extended 59<sup>th</sup> Street and the current residents.

A far better solution for all would be to simply extend 59<sup>th</sup> St. to include the development of the 23 new homes, and create a cul-de-sac at the West end of the extended street. This would limit 59<sup>th</sup> Street traffic to current traffic plus the new residents of Offerman estates, and eliminate any new traffic on Walnut street. It would also minimize changes in the current traffic flows which have existed for **more than thirty years**.

This approach would also significantly increase the value of these homes to prospective residents and thus to the developers of the property - Woodgrove, LLC. Most people will pay extra for a house on a cul-de-sac. When I discussed this with Sven Dahlquist of Woodgrove LLC, he concurred that a cul-de-sac would be better for them.

If Public works, Police, and Fire departments have a need for emergency vehicles to get in and out of an area, a gravel path could be built connecting the 59<sup>th</sup> St. cul-de-sac with Walnut thus allowing emergency vehicle access but eliminating non-emergency vehicles and through traffic.

Village planning has pointed out that the street grid in this neighborhood predates Woodridge's 1959 incorporation. Based on plats of subdivision for the area the grid was established prior to 1922. In the 1950s, it was determined that 59<sup>th</sup> St. would serve the neighborhood by providing an east-west connection that the local streets would feed into. Right-of-way additions were made in 1956, 1964, and 1968 to reaffirm local governments' intent to complete this 1922 area grid.

I propose that we take a new look; it is now 2006. Eighty four years since the original street grid was designed, almost a century ago. Thirty seven years since the last of the homes were built on 59<sup>th</sup> St. in Winston Hills Subdivision number 4. In recent years much as changed in the area. I355 has been constructed to halt further extension of 59<sup>th</sup> St. Maple ave. has developed into a major 4 lane east-west artery just two blocks north of 59<sup>th</sup> St.

In the 37 years since completion of Winston Hills Unit 4, a traffic flow pattern has been established. Well established. **Thirty Seven years**. Connecting 59<sup>th</sup> St. to Walnut will unnecessarily change this well established traffic pattern at the expense of the current residents of 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Walnut and at the expense of the 23 new families with children who will live along the extended 59<sup>th</sup> St. All this to maintain a street grid which was established in 1922.

In summary, lets look to now, not to a 1922 area grid. There is no need to disrupt a well established traffic pattern. An extended 59<sup>th</sup> St with cul-de-sac adds more value to the developer Woodgrove, LLC, value and safety to the new families who will live there, and it will for the most part maintain the safety and quietness for the current families on 59<sup>th</sup> St. and Walnut street. Emergency access can be accommodated by providing an emergency only connecting path between the 59<sup>th</sup> St. cul-de-sac and Walnut.

Richard A. Weber  
2521 59<sup>th</sup> St.  
Woodridge, IL  
630 960 0934

For further information contact Dick Weber at 630-960-0934 or [dick@carolesbridal.com](mailto:dick@carolesbridal.com)  
Find the full report at: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/59th\\_Street](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/59th_Street)