

I wanted to respond to Bill's memo opposing the idea of the Village maintaining an open job bank. Contrary to what Bill said, there was some interest this time around - Joe Kagann wanted to look into the feasibility of the job bank.

I do not believe it would be labor intensive or costly. It would correspond with the effort put forth on the Business Directory, which if you use Bill's reasoning that "government should not provide services for their residents (or businesses) that they can achieve on their own," the Business Directory is an appropriate village service either. Businesses can certainly take out yellow page ads to market their services. But I support the Business Directory because it is an additional service to Woodridge businesses in an effort to retain them in Woodridge and have a central listing of Woodridge businesses to make it easier for residents to patronize Woodridge businesses (for which they can also look in the yellow pages).

If the Chamber tried this in the past, I assume that it was a fee-based service (which would dampen interest) and certainly the web was not as prevalent back then as it wouldn't be as effective as it would be now. The Chamber could run the open job bank, but they should include all businesses, not just Chamber businesses, in order to be fully effective.

I believe that retaining businesses and employing Woodridge residents is part of our municipal core services. We exist to serve our residents and businesses. We are not providing actual jobs, just making it easier for our residents to find job-makers.

I suggest that we test the waters and have staff contact a random sample of 10% to 15% of Woodridge businesses, of varying sizes, to see if an open job bank on the Village website would be of interest to them when / if they ever had a job opening. Both for part- and full-time work and summer jobs for teens. Then compile the results and we can decide how to proceed.

It's ironic that Bill feels that this is not an appropriate service but the Village marquis has advertised open job listings - both for the Village and the Chamber of Commerce - for the past several weeks.

/s/ Robert "Bob" Brandt
Trustee - Village of Woodridge

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