

News

Sex offender link added to Woodridge Web site

By Megan Waitkoff
Correspondent

The village of Woodridge recently added a link to the Illinois State Police sex offender database to the village Web site.

The link was the idea of Village Trustee Robert Brandt, who had listed the idea of creating easier access to the database in his recent campaign.

"It just seemed like a no-brainer," Brandt said.

Brandt presented the idea to the village administration May 8 in a memo. According to Mayor William Murphy, the administration checked with the village attorney, and after discussing a proviso in the language that was used, found no problem with including the link on the Web site.

"People have always had access to the information," Murphy said. "We've just made it easier for them to access."

The village also made a decision as to whether the link should be added to the database provided by DuPage County police or by state police. In the process, Woodridge police checked each listing and verified names and addresses of the registered offenders. The state Web site was found to be the most accurate.

The database lists 14 sex offenders for the village of Woodridge, with descriptions of height, weight, address and also providing pictures. 13 of the 14 offenders are listed for charges in relation to victims under the age of 18. Brandt is confident that the information listed is correct.

"Sex offenders are often a town's dirty little secret," Brandt said. "It doesn't need to be that way."

Brandt encourages all Woodridge residents to use the link and be aware of offenders in the area.

The link is located on the village Web site at www.vil.woodridge.il.us at the bottom of the police page.

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