

The Brookfield Monitor

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Streets & Alleys & Parks

By focusing on the things that matter, PEP keeps Brookfield moving forward

Since Mike Garvey and the PEP Party took control of the Village Board in 2005, Brookfield has seen over \$17 million in improvements to its aging infrastructure. Tackling the worst streets first, over seven miles of Brookfield's streets have been repaved, and 2.8 miles of water mains have been replaced. Our village now has a state-of-the-art water metering system that no longer requires door to door meter readers, freeing up public works employees for other tasks. At any given time, staff knows how much water is being used where, making it easier to find problems. Billing is now accurate, and the Village is no longer seeing lost revenue go down the drain.

Through joint cooperation with residents and the Village, 17 alleys have been paved, with 8 more in the works for this year. The previous administration had paved only 4 alleys in 4 years.

Garvey and his Board have also overseen more than \$1 million in improvements and repairs to Brookfield's parks. Check out the major renovation project at Ehlert Park, funded mainly thru an Open Space and Land Acquisition and Development grant. New walking paths and sports fields, combined with improved drainage, make this a great asset to our Village. Other parks have seen improvements too, such as new bleachers and fencing, asphalt repaving, parking lot repair, and even removing the old ugly, berm at Kiwanis Park.

By focusing on these types of projects, Garvey and the PEP Party have been able to make tremendous improvements in the aging infrastructure of our Village.

PEP Initiates Ogden Avenue Makeover

Improving the appearance and economic viability of Ogden Avenue has been a campaign promise of nearly every Brookfield political party for decades. Mike Garvey and the PEP Party were the first to keep that promise. After nearly 2 years of planning, research, and legal work, the Village Board passed the required ordinances in September of 2008 to create the first ever Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) in Brookfield. The TIF District is an economic tool that will allow the Village to provide financing and other incentives to attract new, desirable businesses and to assist existing businesses in improving their development. Most importantly, it does not involve any property tax increases for residents or business owners.

Successful TIF's have been used to create the exciting downtown improvements in LaGrange, the Quarry Mall in Hodgkins, and most of the improvements on Ogden in Lyons. The implementation and administration of the TIF District is a long-term process and not a quick fix. TIF's have been talked about for years in Brookfield and were even recommended in the Village's 2020 Master Plan, but no steps were ever taken to follow through on this strategy until Mike Garvey and the PEP Party took office in 2005. Hiring Village Manager Rick Ginex, who had extensive experience with TIF districts as the former manager of Downers Grove, was critical. Ginex assembled the necessary economic development team, including hiring Assistant Village Manager Keith Sbrial, who also had extensive TIF experience, and bringing in the leading TIF consultants in the region to make the creation of the TIF possible.

While the creation of the TIF District was one of the most important pieces of legislation ever passed by a Brookfield Village Board, President Garvey and the PEP Board know that for the TIF to bring real economic development and improvements to Ogden, professional management and oversight must continue. However, VIP Party presidential candidate and former Village Trustee, Wil Brennan has promised to fire the Village Manager and Assistant Village Manager if had the chance. During the Brennan/Russ administration, Brookfield had 3 Village Managers in 4 years, with no economic development initiatives at all.

Mike Garvey and the PEP Party candidates believe it is important to keep professional management and oversight of the TIF in place in order to keep Brookfield moving forward.

VIP CAMPAIGN STRATEGY: VOTER AMNESIA

VIP Party President John Gallagher said he could not conceal his pride about the great slate the VIP Party is running for the April 2009 Election. He claims the slate, led by Bill Russ and Wil Brennan, “judging by their past records,” are the people to get things done for the Village. He says they will bring “full discussion on all Village issues, no complaining, grandstanding, just work, action and tangible progress.” What was he thinking? Did he forget about the 4 years that Russ and Brennan controlled the Village with their VIP majority from 2001 to 2005?

Well, Bill Russ and Wil Brennan do have a past record, and it would appear that it is one they want the residents to forget. Their record is devoid of full discussion of the issues. Meaningful public comment was removed from Board meetings and critical decisions were discussed for the first time by the Board and voted on the same night with no chance for public input. “Work, action and tangible progress”? The VIP controlled Village Board routinely took the entire month of August off and went the entire month of December without meeting. They paved 4 alleys in 4 years. They ignored a scathing report on the condition of the Building Department and refused to address the problems. They cut all funding for economic development. Health inspections were stopped at Brookfield’s food establishments. Their record on fiscal responsibility? It is atrocious! Three out four years of deficit spending drew reserves down 2.7 million dollars. The state required Village audit was filed late 3 out of 4 years.

The VIP Party wants you to think that because Bill Russ has given up on the idea of getting elected Village President again, that things will be different with Wil Brennan running for President and Bill running for Village Clerk. They must be hoping that Brookfield residents have the same case of amnesia that John Gallagher apparently has. They want people to forget that Brennan was the Finance Chairman in the Russ administration, including the time period when Bill secretly used Village funds to pay his friend’s property taxes. What did Brennan know about this? What does he think about it now? Brennan voted for each of the deficit budgets under Russ, never questioning the late audits, never questioning abuse of Village credit cards by Russ, never questioning Russ plastering his name all over village property. Brennan turned his back when water bills were improperly written off for friends and party members, including Russ’ own water bill. And what about that report that was so critical of the code department? Brennan responded that he wanted to do something about it too, but his “hands were tied”. By who? Russ? How can you trust someone who has repeatedly ignored his oath of office to protect the residents’ tax dollars?

The residents will remember that Bill Russ and Wil Brennan had their chance when they ran the Village for 4 years. They will remember the 4 years and 14 VIP campaign workers hired as Village employees, 3 Village Managers in 4 years, 3 Village Attorney’s in 4 years, numerous Village Board and Committee resignations, and late audits and deficit spending. Brookfield cannot afford to repeat the Brennan/Russ mistakes.

That’s the thing about the past...it can’t be changed. But, the residents can avoid repeating it.

In their own words...

“While I was in office for four years, it was actively a bone of contention with me. No one wanted to touch it.” Landmark, 6/27/06

VIP candidate Wil Brennan explaining his failure to make the much needed changes in the Building and Code Department. Who wouldn’t let him touch it, Bill Russ?

“Support and advocate open and honest village government.” VIP current website

Yet, when Brennan and Russ were in office before, they got caught secretly using village funds to pay off one of Russ’ friend’s back property taxes.

“I don’t want to be a trustee, but I want to be at those meetings.” Landmark 10/07/08

VIP Clerk candidate Bill Russ explaining his run for Village Clerk after failing in his re-election bid for Village President in 2005 and Village Trustee in 2007. None of the VIP candidates regularly attend the open Village Board meetings.

FOCUS ON GRANTS BRINGS IN BIG DOLLARS

Nearly \$7 million in grants brought in under PEP

When Village President Mike Garvey and his board were looking over resumes for a new village manager, one of the most important criteria was to find someone who had the knowledge and expertise to aggressively pursue available grant money. Garvey and the PEP Board found their man in Rick Ginex. Since coming on board in 2005, Ginex and his staff have been able to procure and administer nearly \$7 million in grant money. Some have been small but important grants, like the one for bullet-proof vests for the police department or the one for breathing apparatus for the fire department. Others have been large like the \$5,143,000 in federal money for street improvements. Other grants have been obtained for improvements to the Prairie Avenue and Congress Park train stations, the Village Hall commuter parking lot, improvements to Ehlert Park, the pedestrian bridge, and streetscaping improvements along Broadway. Every dollar received in grant money is a dollar less that the Village Board needs to go to the residents for.

Ginex and his staff have been able to obtain these grants in-house at no additional cost. Prior to Ginex taking over, the previous administration had used an outside grant writer due to the then-village manager's lack of experience with the grant process. The outside grant writer was paid \$400 per month, plus 5% commission on any grant received. If that contract had been in place now, over \$350,000 of the grant money would have been paid out in commissions! Hats off to Ginex and his staff for not only bringing in nearly \$7 million in grant dollars, but also for saving us \$350,000 in the process!

A Bigger Bang For Your Buck

Since taking office in 2005, Mike Garvey and the PEP Village Board have continually sought to bring fiscal responsibility back to Brookfield. One of their first goals was to insist that staff submit a balanced budget each year, with realistic revenue projections and responsible expense requests. This was extremely important due to the out of control spending that Garvey and his Board inherited from the previous administration, where their years of deficit spending drew down reserves \$2.7 million!

Simple but logical improvements have continued in the financial area. For instance, the fiscal year was changed to mirror the calendar year. Previously, the fiscal year ran from May 1 to April 30. By changing the fiscal year, construction projects are able to be bid earlier, prices are more competitive, and projects are completed sooner. Imagine under the prior system trying to go out for bids in early summer for work to be done that year!!

The budgeting process has also improved. In the past, Department Heads would submit their budgets simply based on the past year, with across the board increases. This left the Village Board with little input in the process, and led to increased spending. Now, the Board sets goals for the departments, and they are held accountable in reaching these goals. This has led to better accountability, more controlled spending, and overall better planning.

In these challenging economic times, Brookfield residents rely on their Village Board to look out for the taxpayer money. By taking a fiscally responsible approach, Mike Garvey and the PEP Board have been able to operate under balanced budgets, submit financial audits on time, and reign in out of control spending. This is the kind of approach that will keep Brookfield moving forward.

Village Wins Financial Award

Village staff announced that Brookfield has once again received A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, presented by the Government Finance Officers. This award is given out to government units whose comprehensive annual financial reports achieve the highest standards in government accounting and reporting. This is the third straight year that Brookfield has received this award while under the leadership of Mike Garvey and the PEP Party. The Village did not receive the award from 2003-2005 under the prior Brennan/Russ administration.

Volunteers Wanted!!!

How about stuffing envelopes, posting a lawn sign, or walking with literature? To help the PEP Party in our campaign to Keep Brookfield Moving Forward, visit our website at www.pepparty.com, call 708-387-3370, or stop by our office at 8848 Ogden Ave. Together, we can make a difference.



Keep Brookfield Moving Forward

**P.O. Box 93
Brookfield, IL 60513
(708) 387-3370**

For more information and news,

PEP Party Announces 2009 Candidates

Garvey & Slate Vow to Keep Brookfield Moving Forward

Mike Garvey heads the PEP Party's slate of candidates for the April 7, 2009 Village of Brookfield election. Up for election to the Village Board are Village President, Village Clerk, and three Village Trustee positions. Garvey will seek re-election as Village President, while current Village Clerk Brigid Weber, and Village Trustees Michael Towner and Catherine Colgrass Edwards will each seek re-election to their same positions. New to the slate is Brian Steven Oberhauser, who will seek election to the third Trustee seat.

Garvey was elected as Village President in 2005. Previously, he had served two terms as Village Trustee. He serves as the Village Board liaison to the Brookfield Zoo, the West Central Municipal Conference and the Brookfield Library. Mike was chosen by his fellow local elected officials to be President of the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency. He currently presides over the Infrastructure Committee and the Board of Local Improvements, overseeing much of the street and alley improvements in the Village. Before serving on the Village Board, Mike was Chairman of the Brookfield Plan Commission. Mike has practiced law for the past 17 years in the private sector and is a partner in the firm of *Stringini & Garvey, P.C.* He received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from DePaul University, then went on to achieve his law degree from the University of Illinois.

Weber was elected to the Village Board in 2007 as Village Clerk, after previously being appointed to the Board in 2006. She is a member of the South and West Clerks Association for Municipal Clerks, and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Brigid is employed as an office manager for a multi-million dollar real estate firm in Elmhurst.

Edwards was elected to the Village board in 2005, and currently serves as liaison to the Plan Commission, Beautification Commission, and Conservation Commission. Cathy is a member of the Board of Local Improvements. She is also the village's Senior Citizen Liaison, and is co-leader of the Brookfield Aging Well Team. She was the Recreation Director for the Village from 1994 thru 2003.

Towner was elected to the Village Board in 2005. He currently serves as liaison for the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Department of Public Works and is a member of the Board of Local Improvements. In the past, Mike has served as liaison to the Playground and Recreation Board, Special Events Committee, and Plan Commission. Mike works for a chemical engineering company. A 27-year employee in the Research and Development department, Mike develops, coordinates, and implements research projects for the oil refinery industry.

Oberhauser has been a member of the Beautification Committee since 2006, and was a member of the Conservation commission from 2004-2006. Brian teaches history at a suburban junior high school. He graduated from Northwestern University with his Bachelors degree in political science, as well as majoring in Sociology and minoring in the Business Institutions program. Brian has worked for McKinsey & Company, a major international management consulting firm, as well as having served as an intern for a past Illinois Senator.

President Garvey is excited to be part of this group, citing their long-term participation and commitment to the Village, and their desire to continue to bring ethical, professional management to Brookfield. Garvey stated, "The PEP candidates are committed to continuing to improve the economic development of Brookfield, maintaining fiscal responsibility in the village, and planning for long-term infrastructure needs."

The PEP Party has also announced that current two-term Village Trustee Kit Ketchmark has been elected as the new PEP Party President, taking over for the outgoing Party President Mark Weber. Ketchmark, whose Village Trustee term is up in April 2009, cannot seek re-election to that office this election due to term limits.

Vote to Keep Brookfield Moving Forward on April 7.

VOTE PEP.

Garvey Weber

Colgrass-Edwards Oberhauser Towner

*A copy of our report filed with the County Clerk is available for purchase from:
Cook County Clerk, 69 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60601*