



BRADLEYGRAM

VOL. 1: OCTOBER 2019

VILLAGE OF BRADLEY, ILLINOIS



Mayor's Corner

Mayor Protem Mike Watson

It is an honor to be appointed as Mayor Protem for the Village of Bradley. It is my goal to focus on the future by improving programs, introducing and implementing new ideas, revitalizing

major parts of the village, and creating the best experience for the residents, businesses, and visitors of Bradley.

I have a great team in place that have already rolled up their sleeves and begun working.

It has been a busy few months and there has been a lot of progress made. Here are some of the positive steps the Board and I have already implemented which will result in dollars saved for village residents and businesses.

- Removed the previous Board's 3% annual sewer rate increases. This will save residents and businesses \$85k the first year alone.
- Repealed the telecom phone tax; saving the average household about \$61.25 annually.
- Launched a new website to increase communication and transparency
- Reviewed and eliminated excessive merit incentives for administration

IN THE WORKS

I believe that teamwork along with support of the community will equal success for the village. To that end, the Board and I are working on and planning projects in the Village. Here are some of the things we have begun to implement:

- We've taken Initiatives to revitalize Broadway and the mall area.
- We've hired SB Friedman to conduct a feasibility study on the mall area. sbfriedman.com
- Cost cutting to fix the Village's six year deficit budget.
- Complete a fire assessment; the last one was done approximately 15 years ago.

- Complete a road assessment; this will be the first one ever conducted in Village of Bradley.
- Complete a dispatch assessment; long overdue.

Moving forward, the goal is to continue improving the infrastructure within the village to attract new businesses, to bring in more consumers to the area, along with generating more jobs and revenue.

I am always open to new ideas. Don't hesitate to reach out to the team or myself. You can find our contact information on the website and in this newsletter.

The Village of Bradley has an exciting future ahead of it. I look forward to speaking with the residents about this future, revitalizing Bradley, and working as a team to accomplish all our goals.



A New Beginning


The Village of Bradley has waited a long time for a newsletter to reappear, and Mayor Protem Watson and the village administration is proud to present the "Bradleygram".

Accountability and transparency is the stronghold of a successful village government and this newsletter is just one of many new avenues this administration is using to keep the community informed on what's happening in the village.

The "Bradleygram" will be used to inform, educate, and promote positive communication with the residents of Bradley.

VILLAGE OF BRADLEY
147 S. Michigan Ave.
Bradley, IL 60915

VILLAGE OFFICES OPEN
Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm
feedback@bradleyil.org

Phone: (815) 932-2125
Fax: (815) 933-9496
Follow us on 

Village Repeals Telecom Tax

At the August 26th Village Board meeting, the Board of Trustees voted 6-0 in favor of repealing the Village Municipal Telecom Tax.

This Village imposed tax was passed at the September 10, 2018 board meeting and added a 6% tax to every land based and mobile phone in the Village. This added approximately \$24 of additional taxes per year per phone line.

The Village board in April 2019 voted unanimously to remove the tax for the upcoming budget year. However, the Illinois Department of Revenue, who assists in administering the tax, only allows municipalities to file for adjustments to these types of taxes twice a year and falls on March 15th and September 15th of every year.

The State is in the process of reversing these taxes with your phone carrier on behalf of the Village and you should see tax relief on your January 2020 phone bill.



Welcome to the New Community Development Department

The Building Standards Department, located at 111 N. Michigan Avenue, is going through a transformation and becoming a Community Development Department. The Building Standards Department was established in August 1997 to assist the community with building codes, permits, and inspections. Over the years, the Department's function expanded to include code enforcement and property maintenance. Since April of this year with the hiring of the first Community Development Director, the department has been moving toward a more comprehensive approach to serving the needs of Bradley residents, businesses, developers and others. The Department now includes four (4) distinct divisions: Building Services; Planning and Zoning; Code Enforcement and Economic Development, all working together to provide professional guidance on matters related to building permits, inspections, zoning, plan reviews, land use planning, code enforcement, property maintenance, demographics, land availability, business recruitment, retention and expansion and economic incentives. Visit us on-line at bradleyil.org to see all that the Community Development Department has to offer.



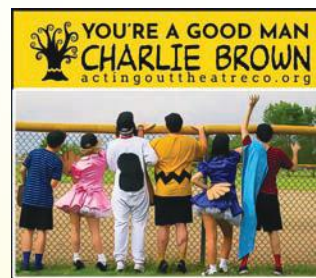
PARK IMPROVEMENTS – New Benches added at Lil's Park

Have you visited Lil's Park lately? If not, stop by and take advantage of the incredible (handicap accessible) playground, walking track, ball fields and picnic pavilion. And thanks to the Public Works crew, you'll also notice new park benches.



Enjoying the new park benches at Lil's Park are Stacy Wright, Terry Memenga, and Ty Adams in the back row with Teresa Richert and Mayor Protem Mike Watson seated. Thank you team for your ideas and good work!

Did you get a chance to see the Acting Out Theater group perform "Charlie Brown" earlier this year at Lil's Park? The cast and crew did an amazing job, and it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase one of the village's most prominent parks.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERY THURSDAY IN OCTOBER – Red Cross Blood Drives Noon to 6 p.m. – Village Hall

OCTOBER 14 – VILLAGE BOARD MEETING 6:30p.m. – Village Hall, 147 S. Michigan

OCTOBER 15 – Free Blood Pressure Screening 9-11a.m. Bradley Public Library

OCTOBER 28 – VILLAGE BOARD MEETING 6:30p.m. – Village Hall, 147 S. Michigan

OCTOBER 29 – "MALLOWEEN" – Northfield Square Mall 5-8p.m.

OCTOBER 31 – HALLOWEEN – TRICK OR TREAT HOURS AT 5 – 7p.m.

SAVE THE DATE – BRADLEY CHRISTMAS PARADE – **DECEMBER 6** AT 6:30p.m.
(Since the census is coming in 2020, our theme for the parade is "Christmas Counts.")



National Night Out 2019 Was a Success!!

We would like to again thank everyone for coming out and enjoying National Night Out with us and all the sponsors and volunteers that made it happen. Special thanks to Meijer for sponsoring the fireworks and the @Bourbonnais Township Park District as the host site.

Computerized Road Assessment

The Village is currently conducting its first road assessment. You may have noticed multiple vans driving across town, geared with a very sophisticated system of lasers and cameras collecting data on Village streets and alleys. Computerized pavement management is designed to allow the Village to track the current condition of the roadways, predict future conditions, assign rehabilitation categories and costs, provide charts/reports, and assist in preparing long-range budgets. This will give Village staff the proper data, in an analytical and systematic way, to determine which streets to repair first. The information from this assessment will allow the Village to get the biggest bang for its buck and repair more roads and alleys. The village newsletter and website will keep residents informed as to when the Village plans on repairing your street or alley.



Leaf Collection Update

Moving into the fall season, we need to update you on the plan to collect leaves again this year. No firm start date exists just yet. We are quite dependent on Mother Nature to tell us when the leaves will come down. But, when they do, we ask that you rake the leaves out to the curb – BUT NOT INTO THE STREET. Do not block up the gutter drains. Do not contaminate the pile with other debris or sticks. Most importantly, do not park a vehicle near the leaf pile on collection day. The truck and trailer are over 30' long and very difficult to maneuver. Please like our Facebook page (Village of Bradley) and follow us for daily updates about collection times and locations.



**Be safe when
trick-or-treating!
Oct. 31st, 5-7pm**

If there is suspicious activity,
contact your local law enforcement.

NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE: www.bradleyil.org

The Village is excited to announce the launch of our new website! The expanded and improved website offers an array of information for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. You will be greeted with a user friendly home page which will allow you to navigate easily throughout and array of topics.

We know how important it is to have information and answers at your fingertips. The website offers that and much more! There will be new information added on a continual basis, so we encourage you to bookmark our website and visit it often.

Your feedback is important. If there is something you'd like to see, can't find, or even comment on, please send us an email to feedback@bradleyil.org.



Where Changes are Happening

Village Board Meetings are on the second and fourth Monday each month at 6:30pm at Village Hall, 147 S. Michigan, Bradley, IL 60915.

Emergency and special meetings and the following committee meetings will be posted on the website.

- Public Works
- Information Technology/Innovation/Performance Improvement
- Public Safety
- Administration
- Community Development
- Parks/Community Events

How to be a part of the "New Success"

YOU are a big part of making the Village of Bradley a success, so we value your participation and input. Share your concerns and ideas. Communicate with the mayor, trustees and village team. Attend village board and committee meetings. Be a part of Bradley's vision and future!

Who's Who...

The Village of Bradley welcomes four new trustees to the team!

These newly elected board members are anxious to get down to business accomplishing their goals and those of the residents. Working as a team, they can achieve a unified vision for Bradley that will bring transparency, fiscal responsibility, improved infrastructure and a revitalized village that everyone can be proud of!



Trustee
Brian Billingsley



Trustee
Ryan LaBran



Trustee
Darren Westphal



Trustee
Brian Tieri



Village Clerk
Julie C. Tambling
jctambling@bradleyil.org



Village Administrator
Catherine Wojnarowski
cwojnarowski@bradleyil.org

Mayor Protem:

Michael Watson mmwatson@bradleyil.org

Trustees:

Robert B. Redmond rbredmond@bradleyil.org
 Ryan C. Lebran rlebran@bradleyil.org
 Darren D. Westphal ddwestphal@bradleyil.org
 Brian L. Billingsley blbillingsley@bradleyil.org
 Brian Tieri btieri@bradleyil.org

General Mail:

feedback@bradleyil.org

Introducing Police Chief, Don Barber

The Village of Bradley proudly welcomes Police Chief Don Barber to our team.

Chief Barber has over 30 years of experience in policing and has resided in Bradley for the last 40 years.

Working with staff and the community in his police chief role, he would like to initiate and create community based and educational programs that will help empower the citizens of Bradley to strengthen awareness and safety in the village.

Chief Barber has already increased patrols with additional manpower without adding additional cost to the taxpayers.

He is eager to work and communicate with the residents by being visible and welcoming feedback.

Stop by for a tour or contact Chief Barber with ideas or concerns via email at dbarber@bradleyil.org



NEXT NEWSLETTER BRADLEYGRAM VOLUME 2:

Community Developments, Public Works, Upcoming Events, Updates, and more...