

# BRADLEYGRAM

VOL. 9 NO. 3: MARCH 2022

VILLAGE OF BRADLEY, ILLINOIS



## MAYOR'S Message

Mayor Mike Watson  
mmwatson@bradleyil.org



As we March into the third month of this year I like to update you on the many happenings, achievements, and notable projects of late:

**Grateful for GRANTS!** As you may be aware, the Village has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation in the amount of \$550,000. This monumental grant is the first ever applied for of its kind in the Village of Bradley. I am very proud of our team in achieving the grant and administering it during the open application process (\*details later in this newsletter).

As much as I have enjoyed meeting with some of the applicants during our Grant Information Sessions, it also became apparent how much need there is for deferred maintenance in our community. This is why I am so proud and excited to announce that the Village Board and I will be earmarking \$300,000 into the 2022/2023 fiscal budget to create a series of "Bradley Grants" to further assist our residents. The data derived from the Housing Rehabilitation Grant will help us design the Bradley grants; be on the lookout for more

information about these programs in June/July 2022!

**Splash Pad!** Yes, it is true, the Village is working on obtaining a splash pad as part of our upgrades to Lil's Park! The overall project cost is approximately \$1.2 million and we have applied for an OSLAD grant for \$400,000 to help with the construction costs. The splash pad will be 6000 square feet, and we will add significant ADA upgrades, parking lot expansion, second picnic pavilion, native and pollinator plantings & landscaping, adult fitness stations along the walking track, and additional/enhanced restroom facilities; keep your fingers crossed that we get the grant!

**Police Promotion!** Bradley Resident and Police Officer Anthony (Tony) Felesena has been promoted to Sergeant

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Left to Right: Deputy Clerk Kym Nelson, Mayor Mike Watson, Finance Director Rob Romo, Grant Administrator Catherine Romanowski

## ATTENTION VILLAGE RESIDENTS!

### EASTER HOLIDAY MEAL BASKET GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY APRIL 16TH • 9AM-2PM

OLD MEN'S CARSON STORE

BRADLEY RESIDENTS IN NEED OF HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Proof of residency required - valid I.D. or Sewer Bill • Registration is required

**PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 1ST AT MEALS@BRADLEYIL.ORG OR CALL 815.936.5115**

Meals are limited and are on a first come, first served basis

DRIVE THROUGH PICK-UP

To register for the meal basket you must either email [meals@bradleyil.org](mailto:meals@bradleyil.org) or phone 815-936-5115



Please note: Due to the limited number of meal baskets available registrants will not be added to the recipient list until your registration is Confirmed. Once your registration is confirmed for either a pickup or delivery, it will not be changed nor will you receive a call if you forget to pick up the meal, and the meal will be forfeited to another resident. The email and or phone number is only operational from 9am-3pm Monday through Friday and are not monitored around the clock or after the reservation date deadline. Meals are limited to a first come first served basis.

## VILLAGE OFFICE HOURS

Mon- Fri 8am - 4:30pm • (815) 936-5100 • [feedback@bradleyil.org](mailto:feedback@bradleyil.org)

## VILLAGE OF BRADLEY

147 S. Michigan Ave. • Bradley, IL 60915

# Public Works



**Terrence J. Memenga**  
Director of Public Works  
Village of Bradley, IL  
815.933.3715  
tjmemenga@bradleyil.org

While this Midwest winter has been cold overall (as usual), it was not an out-of-the-ordinary bad one for snow, the one significant storm could have been much worse, and our annual snow plan was executed wonderfully! Our Public Works crew did an outstanding job, and so did our residents!

Our team exhausted over 430 hours dedicated to snow removal over three days, we used over 600 gallons of fuel, spread 140 tons of salt on the roads, and the total cost of snow cleanup and keeping the streets safe is greater than \$25,000.

To our residents, thank you for clearing your fire hydrants, moving your cars, and not blowing or shoveling your snow into the streets. This collaboration helps with a smooth, safe, and efficient snow removal process.

As we begin to wind down the Winter activities and start planning and preparing for the Spring, I know some of you have been holding onto or creating new brush and leaf piles. We will begin collecting next month, in April. This will help you start your 'Spring Cleaning' and yard preparations for Summer (what a nice warm thought looking ahead!).

We have many road and sidewalk projects planned for areas around the Village this Spring and Summer. Please refer to our Village website for more details and maps to see where work will occur. Also, follow our Facebook page for more information to come.

Sidewalk Replacement 50/50 Program: Interested in our cost-sharing sidewalk replacement



program? The 50/50 sidewalk replacement program helps residents add or replace declining sidewalks and helps integrate our community's sidewalks. Interested residents should refer to the Village website for details and obtain an application for the program specifics. The 50/50 sidewalk replacement program process is five simple steps:

1. Fill out the application specifying where you would like the sidewalk replaced,
2. The Village Engineer will conduct a site visit and measure the area,
3. The total project is advertised, bids are solicited, and a contractor will be selected,
4. The resident will be given a cost to be shared with the Village,
5. The resident provides share payment before work can be completed.

Planning is moving forward for several exciting projects to enhance our Village! Stay tuned in future newsletters, information on the Village website, and also follow our Facebook page for more information to come:

- Dog Park for area residents and your beloved pups!
- *Significant* updates to Lil's Park
- Drainage improvements in several trouble spots
- *Thousands* of square feet of updated roads, sidewalks, walking paths

## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE...** *continued from page 1*

in early February. Tony has served on our Police Department for 12 years and we are proud of his service and dedication that he provides our community. We wish Tony success in this new role. Congratulations Tony!

**Back the Blue!** Have you viewed the 'Back the Blue Video'? This heartfelt video was created by Kankakee County musical artists and residents Tim Boshaw and Lance Marczak. Tim wrote this song and Lance Marczak created this video montage in dedication to the service of Fallen Bradley Police Sgt. Marlene Rittmanic and wounded Officer Tyler Bailey. Tim is donating any pro-

ceeds derived from this creation to the Rittmanic and Bailey funds. I invite you to watch and share the tribute: <https://youtu.be/UIC7NDefUhw>

**Rebate Update!** I am proud of the administration team in getting the details and processes complete for our Property Tax Rebate and Sales Tax Rebate programs. The Village of Bradley portion of your 2021 Property Taxes will be rebated this fall in a simple and easy program. We anticipate having applications and program specifics out this summer, keep reading the newsletter for more updates.

**- Mayor Mike Watson**

# Housing Rehabilitation Grants \$50,000 Per Home

The Village of Bradley is accepting applications for Housing Rehabilitation Projects to fulfill a \$550,000 Community Development Block Grant. The grant award provides rehabilitation for 10 or more owner-occupied homes of low-to-moderate household income; not to exceed \$50,000 per home. Applicant's residence must be owner occupied status and reside within the program target area (rental tenants/landlords or commercial/industrial properties are NOT permitted to apply).

**Applications will be accepted February 1, 2022 - April 1, 2022.**

**Applications can be obtained the following ways:**

Village Hall: 147 S. Michigan Ave Bradley, IL 60915  
Village Website: [bradleyil.org](http://bradleyil.org)  
Email Request to: [cromanowski@bradleyil.org](mailto:cromanowski@bradleyil.org)

**Submit questions, applications and application materials to:**

Grant Administrator:  
Catherine Romanowski

Email:  
[cromanowski@bradleyil.org](mailto:cromanowski@bradleyil.org)

Phone:  
815.936.5100 ex 1106



**Successful applicants will be notified of award status by May 1, 2022**

**Submission of Applications:**

Applications and data requirements must be filled out legibly, provided completely, and received by the deadline to be considered.

All applications will be reviewed to determine eligibility of location, demographic information, as well as the urgency and/or safety needs associated with housing rehabilitation requests.

**Successful applicants will be selected and prioritized based on the following criteria:**

- Residence must be owner occupied and reside within the program target area (no rental tenants/landlords or commercial/industrial properties);
- Priority given to households with very low and low-to-moderate HUD annual gross incomes levels;
- Priority given to households of individuals with disabilities;
- Priority given to households of individuals over age 62/elderly;
- Priority given to households with minority racial and ethnic populations;
- Priority given to households with female heads of households

**Requested housing rehabilitation must qualify with the following priorities:**

- The rehabilitation project directly addresses unhealthy or hazardous housing conditions for low-and moderate-income households and corrects conditions that pose a serious threat to the health, safety and welfare of the residents;
- The rehabilitation project removes physical barriers impeding maximum use of residential property by

persons with disabilities;

- The rehabilitation project addresses deferred maintenance issues, home repair and rehabilitation, including energy efficiency standards;
- The rehabilitation project addresses building code enforcement and assistance;
- The rehabilitation project preserves and revitalizes existing housing stock;
- The rehabilitation project reduces utility costs and improves comfort for low- and moderate-income households by including energy efficiency and weatherization into housing rehabilitation assistance;
- The rehabilitation project preserves and creates a range of housing styles and opportunities in safe, habitable conditions in the Village of Bradley;
- The rehabilitation project emphasizes the Village's strong desire to increase owner-occupied residences;
- The rehabilitation project maintains and upgrades the quality of the Village's existing residential neighborhoods;
- The rehabilitation project encourages the maintenance and improvements of residential structures for compliance with life, health and safety codes

**Eligible costs and activities:**

- Labor and Materials;
- Replacement of principal fixtures and components of existing fixtures;
- Water and sewer connections if needed for code compliance;
- Initial homeowner warranty premium;
- Hazard insurance premium;
- Flood insurance premium;
- Conservation costs for water and energy efficiency;
- Garages where health and safety issues have been identified;
- Evaluating and treating lead-based paint;
- Removal of architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or severely disabled persons;
- Structural deficiency repairs to areas including roofing, framing, foundation, furnace, plumbing, electrical, doors, porches, entrances, flooring, windows, and siding

Applications should include rehabilitation costs that are minor, moderate, and major; and will address structural issues ranging from roofing, framing, foundation, furnace, plumbing, and electrical to doors, porches, flooring, windows, siding, and painting. The VOB will ensure residential rehabilitation that adheres to the Village of Bradley Building Codes, Illinois State Plumbing Code, National Electrical Code, Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act & Code, and Illinois Energy Code.

**Program Target Area:**

All owner occupied residential homes in qualifying low to moderate income block groups. This area is South of North Street to Village of Bradley Southern Corporate Border.





## Caesar and Rome

by Cindy Bartolotta

One of Shakespeare's most famous lines is Beware the Ides of March — the day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to March 15. It was marked by several religious observances and was notable for the Romans as a deadline for settling debts. Shakespeare borrowed the line for his play, "Julius Caesar," along with other details of Caesar's impending death, from the Greek biographer Plutarch's "Life of Julius Caesar." Find the words associated with Caesar and Rome

C	O	U	N	T	R	Y	M	E	N	T	O	Y	R	A	T	I	L	I	M
A	C	A	S	S	A	S	S	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	B	S	F	H	O
S	T	A	T	E	O	Y	N	O	T	N	A	C	R	A	M	N	I	I	N
S	A	R	S	T	A	B	B	I	N	G	N	B	O	M	O	A	F	S	O
I	V	Y	O	C	E	T	A	N	E	S	U	T	U	R	B	M	T	T	L
U	I	D	H	T	A	M	B	I	T	I	O	N	T	O	B	O	E	O	O
S	U	E	G	O	H	C	R	A	M	B	E	T	A	F	E	R	E	R	G
D	S	G	S	E	V	E	N	H	I	L	L	S	R	T	O	E	N	I	U
R	B	A	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	S	E	Y	R	U	B	M	T	C	E
O	O	R	O	M	U	L	U	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	R	U	H	A	N
W	O	T	T	R	A	S	E	A	C	S	U	I	L	U	J	S	T	L	O
S	B	E	T	A	R	O	H	P	M	U	I	R	T	E	E	A	G	O	T

- |              |            |               |               |
|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| AMIBITION    | HISTORICAL | ROMANS        | BRUTUS        |
| MARC ANTHONY | SENATE     | ASSASSINATION | JULIUS CAESAR |
| ROMULUS      | BURY       | MARCH         | SEVEN HILLS   |
| CASCA        | MILITARY   | STABBING      | CASSIUS       |
| MOB          | SWORD      | COUNTRYMEN    | MONOLOGUE     |
| TOGA         | FATE       | OCTAVIUS      | TRADGEDY      |
| FIFTEENTH    | POLITICS   | TRIUMPHORATE  | FRIENDS       |
| REMUS        | GHOST      |               |               |

### Trivia

1. What was the first animal on the moon?
2. Which is considered the first wonder of the world?
3. Which country has the world's only non-quadrilateral flag?
4. What is the world's tallest building?
5. How do you say "pardon" in Spanish?
6. What is the longest river in the world?
7. Dogs only see in black and white?
8. Marie Antoinette said "let them eat cake" to spite the poor?
9. Who is the founder of Samsung?

#### ANSWERS:

- |                   |                          |          |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1. Dog            | 2. Great Pyramid of Giza | 3. Nepal | 4. BurjKhalifa |
| 5. Pardon         | 6. Nile River            | 7. False | 8. False       |
| 9. Lee Byung-Chul |                          |          |                |

## Senior Wellness

### Take Yourself in for a Spring Tune Up!

To keep your body running at peak performance, it needs regular maintenance: a spring tune-up, so to speak. Get your weight, blood pressure, and glucose and cholesterol levels checked out by your primary-care physician, who can also book you for other relevant tests.

In addition, schedule an appointment with your optometrist, and see your dentist if you haven't been examined for at least six to nine months.

Finally, if you are finding it difficult to catch what people are saying, especially in a crowd of people, it's probably time to get your hearing tested.

### Put on Your Walking Shoes

If you're no fan of ice and snow, your whole world may expand once the spring sun settles in and thaws out the land. And there's no better way to explore the season than by walking. Health-wise, it's one of the best physical activities for seniors

### Take an Exercise Class

In addition to walking, get your endorphins flowing by signing up for a low-impact aerobics or other type of exercise class. Consider Yoga, Pilates or Tai Chi, all of which can improve balance and flexibility and decrease your chances of falling.

### Get Outside and Garden

In springtime, a highlight of many seniors' lives is gardening, which brings a multitude of health benefits. For starters, tending to a garden can boost your level of Vitamin D, which can, in turn, help reduce the risk of bone problems and fractures. On an emotional level, getting outside and breathing fresh air, listening to birds chirp, can be as calming and relaxing as an hour of meditation.

### Lighten Up Your Diet

Many healthy fruits and veggies, like asparagus, peas, lettuce, and strawberries come into season in the spring, making it the perfect time to replace heavier winter meals with salads, light soups or other lightly cooked fare. In fact, cut down your chances of developing conditions, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and arthritis, by making a complete dietary overhaul.

NEXT NEWSLETTER BRADLEYGRAM APRIL

Community Developments, Public Works,  
Upcoming Events, and More



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[bradleyil.org](http://bradleyil.org)