



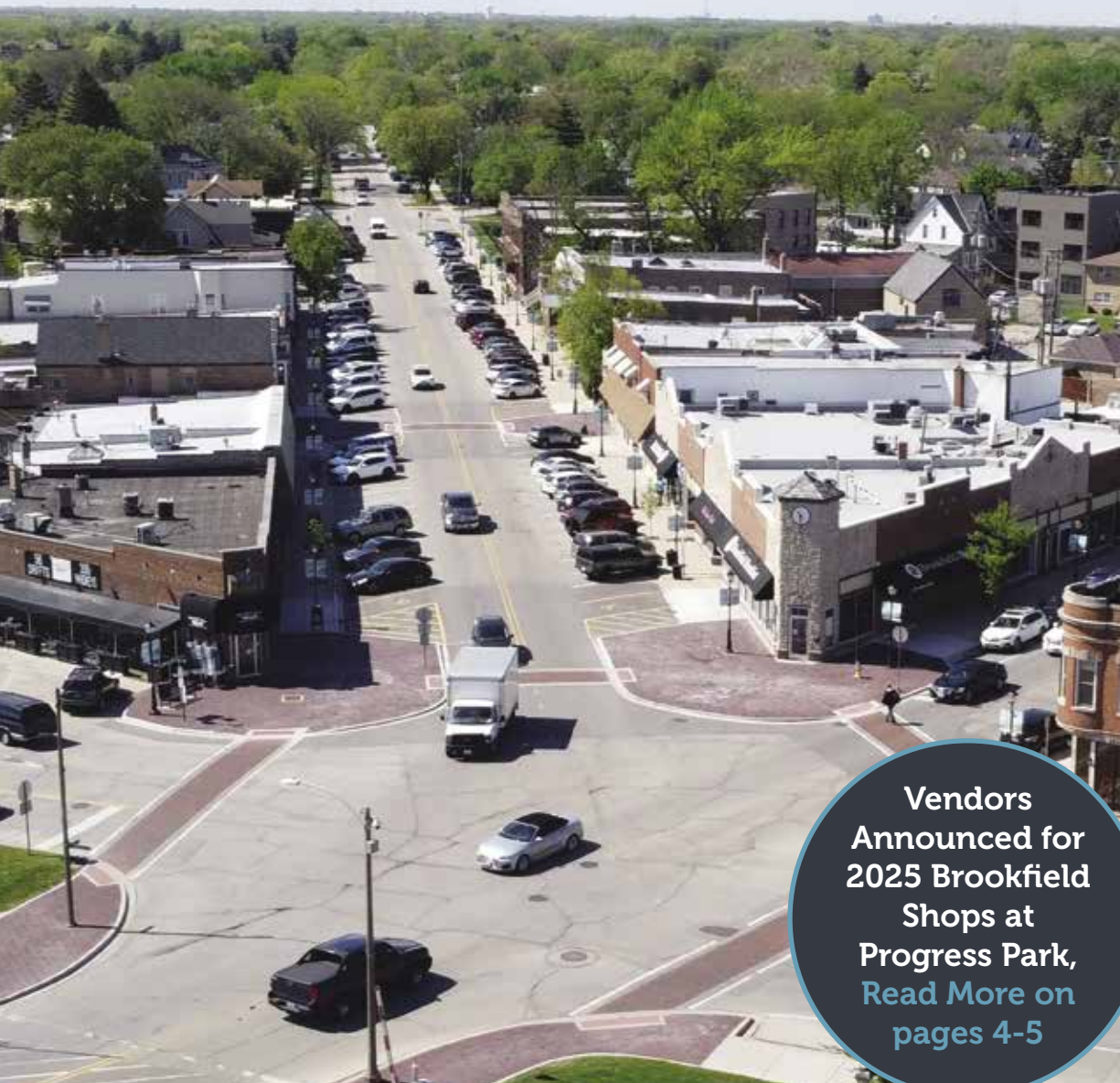
# The Brookfielder

SPRING 2025

*Village News for the People of Brookfield*

## Project Coming This Spring to Transform Downtown Streetscape

Village set to begin major initiative to improve the 3700 block of Grand Boulevard in April, see story on page 7



**Vendors Announced for 2025 Brookfield Shops at Progress Park, Read More on pages 4-5**

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### TREE CITY U.S.A.

Since 1981

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## Blast from the Past: April 9, 1981

The sun was shining on the morning of April 9, 1981, a big day – the biggest – for the Brookfield Historical Society, which was founded in 1977 for the purpose of saving the original Grossdale Train Station, built in 1889 and slated for demolition.

This was the morning of the big move. Having gotten the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, the Historical Society bought the train station from the Burlington Northern Railroad with the goal of preserving it and making it a historical museum.

On that big morning, the train station was jacked off its foundation on the south side of the tracks, about where the present Prairie Avenue station stands, placed on a

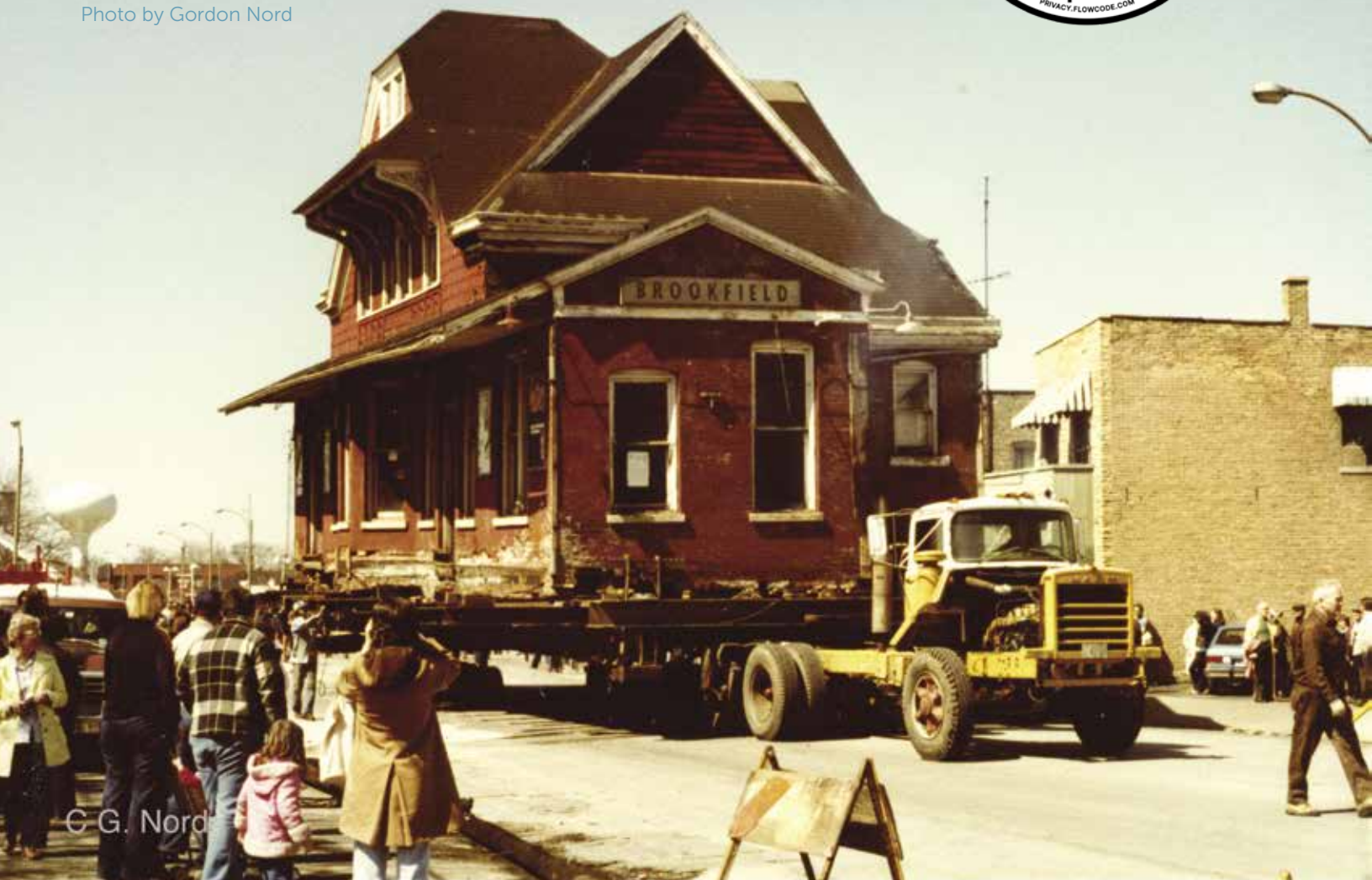
bed of steel beams and towed across the tracks and down Brookfield Avenue its new home on the former site of the Brookfield Village Hall.

It was dicey – the station's chimney collapsed shortly into the move – but it was a success. In the years and decades since, the Brookfield Historical Society created its museum and restored the crumbling building, once again making it a Village showpiece.

For more on the history of the Grossdale Station, scan the QR code or visit [brookfieldil.gov](http://brookfieldil.gov) and click the "History" link from the "Community" drop-down menu on the home page.

*The Grossdale Station slowly makes its way east down the 8800 block of Brookfield Avenue, past the building that now houses Gosia's Coffee Shop, on the way to its new home at Brookfield and Forest Avenues.*

Photo by Gordon Nord



C. G. Nord

## This Summer, Apply for Your Block Party Online

Thinking about throwing a Block Party this summer? Well, we're making it easier for you to submit your block party application!

Beginning April 1, residents will be able to submit their Block Party applications online. You can download our Block Party Application Packet by scanning the QR code and clicking the link. Take a photo of your Block Support Signature Page and attach it to your application and submit.

Residents do not need to drop off any paperwork in person. This new process will create efficiency for staff and an easier submittal process for residents.



## Street cleaning begins April 1

Street cleaning will begin April 1 and continue through the end of November (weather permitting). Check the signs on your block to see which day and on which side of the street you should park. Parking violators are subject to a \$50 ticket per occurrence.



## Sign Up for Our 50/50 Tree Planting Program

Brookfield has been named a Tree City USA community for the past 43 consecutive years due to our commitment to maintaining the health and future well-being of our urban forest. Part of that effort includes planting new trees each year as part of our 50/50 Tree Planting Program.

If you are a Brookfield property owner who would like a tree planted in the parkway and who agrees to pay 50% of the cost of the new tree, please scan the QR code or visit [brookfieldil.gov](http://brookfieldil.gov) and then select Departments>Public Works>Tree Planting Program from the drop-down menu. You can then enter your address and click to confirm to make your request.

While we currently do not have a list of available trees, when we receive the list from our nursery, we will post it on the Village website and drop off the list at the residences whose owners are interested in participating in program.

If you have any questions, contact Brookfield Public Works Department's Forester, Victor Janusz, at 708-485-2540.



# Jury Selects 2025 Brookfield Shops and Progress Park Vendors

On March 5 after six hours of presentations by a group of hopeful entrepreneurs and deliberation by a jury of seven Brookfield residents and business owners, the inaugural cohort of vendors was selected to open their retail businesses to the public in the Brookfield Shops at Progress Park in June.



Selecting our six Brookfield Shops vendors for 2025 were seven volunteer jurors, all Brookfield residents and business owners, including (from left) Jane Brencic, Laura Sanchez, Faith Veenstra, Kate Wolicki, Phyllis Kastle, Mike Jahnke and Kenya Williams.

## Those selected include:

### Rites of Wellness

Owned by Maywood resident **Lea Afia Bempah**, Rites of Wellness offers plant-based, sustainable and holistic bath and body goods, home goods, beauty products, supplements and brand merchandise.



### Organic Jewelry

**Giselle Cortes** and **Nestor Valencia** of Brookfield handcraft jewelry from recycled watch parts, transforming gears and mechanisms into wearable art. They also create accessories using dried flowers, orange peel, eucalyptus and Tagua (a vegetable ivory). Each piece is one of a kind.



### Four Star Coffee Company

Brookfield resident **Gricelda Camacho** offers roasted coffee and drinks; handcrafted candles, scents and home goods; T-shirts, tumblers, mugs/cups and bracelets; handcrafted wooden boards and one-of-a-kind artisan products.



### The Shop Salon & Style House

**Kelly Stevens, Kelly Thompson** and **Mia Obermeyer** represent three generations of entrepreneurs and their new fashion/clothing venture will be taking the next step after starting as a pop-up in their downtown Brookfield salon space.



### Frost with Us

With eight years of experience making wedding and other celebration cakes, Hickory Hills resident **Sherry Imperial** offers cake-decorating kits for cake decorators of varying skill levels. She also offers cake decorating workshops with seasonal themes.



### New Book Joy

Chicago residents **Mandy Genge** and **Connie Obrochta** sell books written for babies through adults and also offer curated book boxes. The shop will also sell baby items (onesies, socks, teethingers, soft toys); kid items (stuffed toys, puzzles, games, journals, pens, finger puppets, book lights, bookmarks); and teen items (pens, journals, socks, thermal tumblers).





# Introducing the 2025 Brookfield Shops Vendors!



Rites of Wellness

Owner: Lea Afia Bempah  
ritesofwellness.wixsite.com



Organic Jewelry

Owners: Giselle Cortes and  
Nestor Valencia



Four Star Coffee

Owner: Gricelda Camacho  
handcrafted.coffee



Shop Salon & Style House

Owners: Kelly Stevens,  
Kelly Thompson and Mia  
Obermeyer  
theshopstylehouse.com



Frost with Us

Owner: Sherry Imperial  
frostwithus.com



New Book Joy

Owners: Mandy Genge  
and Connie Obrochta  
newbookjoy.com

## Opening June 2025

## Businesses open, expand in Brookfield

Brookfield is buzzing with new additions to our local business scene, and it's the perfect time to explore everything our community has to offer. Whether you are looking for unique finds, relaxing services, or something special for your home, we've got it all right here.

We are thrilled to introduce **Luxe Honor**, a natural products store at 3745 Grand Blvd., which offers skincare products and services like facials and massages. And soon, **Collect by Land**, featuring vintage apparel and stunning floral arrangements, will open in the same space.

In the Eight Corners Business District, check out **Gears2You**, a new bicycle repair shop which has relocated from Riverside and has opened at 9219 Broadway Ave. They are here to help you get your bike back into tip-top shape for the spring, offering a full range of tune-up services.

On the Village's south end, **Action Plates and Permits**,

a company dedicated to preparing and expediting vehicle and business-related registration documents, has opened at 9100 Plainfield Road.

Over on Prairie Avenue, a couple of existing businesses recently have expanded, There's fresh energy at **Sage and Stone**, 3736 Prairie Ave. The business moved one storefront south from its original location and has expanded its inventory with even more incredible products. **Warm Wick** also relocated, moving into Sage and Stone's former home at 3734 Prairie Ave. The business now also features a candle bar for candle-making demonstrations.

Don't forget to shop local and support these amazing businesses in Brookfield, and don't forget to check out the Enjoy Brookfield Community Calendar at [enjoybrookfield.com/community-calendar](http://enjoybrookfield.com/community-calendar) for upcoming events in the Village of Brookfield and at local businesses and organizations. There is always something happening in Brookfield!



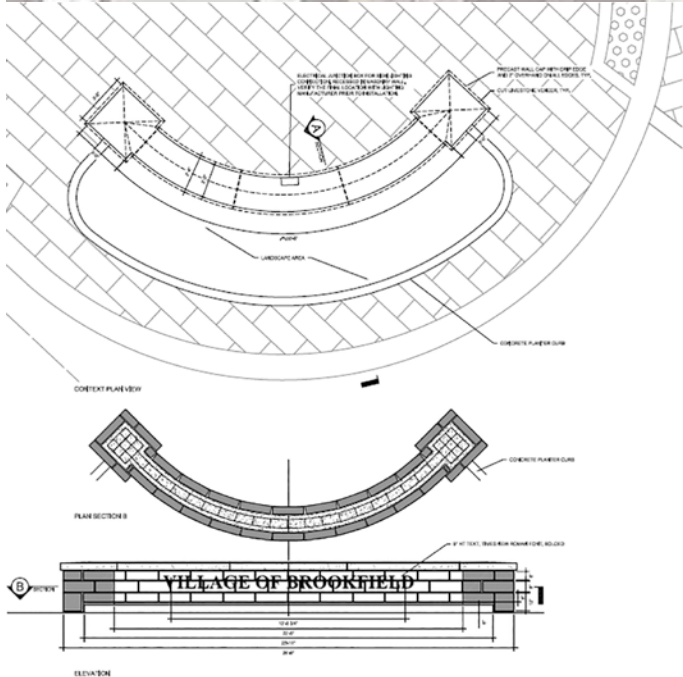
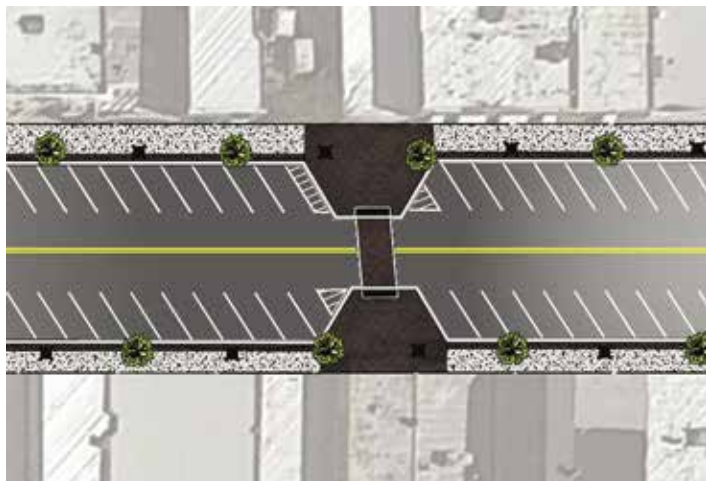
*Jennifer Del Giudice selects a product from the shelf inside her new business, Luxe Honor, a natural products store which recently opened on Grand Boulevard in Downtown Brookfield.*

# 3700 Block of Grand Boulevard Improvement Project

Downtown Brookfield is scheduled to get a major face-lift this spring and summer as part of a \$4.5 million project to improve the streetscape – that’s sidewalks, parkway trees, lighting, a repaved roadway and other amenities, including a decorative seat wall at the corner of Grand and Prairie – in the 3700 block of Grand Boulevard and Brookfield Avenue.

This project, which also includes improving Brookfield Avenue all the way to Woodside Avenue and then north to Washington Avenue, continues the Village’s commitment to maintaining and improving its system of collector routes and updating its business districts.

**Village staff obtained nearly \$4 million in grant funding from the Central Council of Mayors’ Surface Transportation Program to help pay for these needed improvements.**

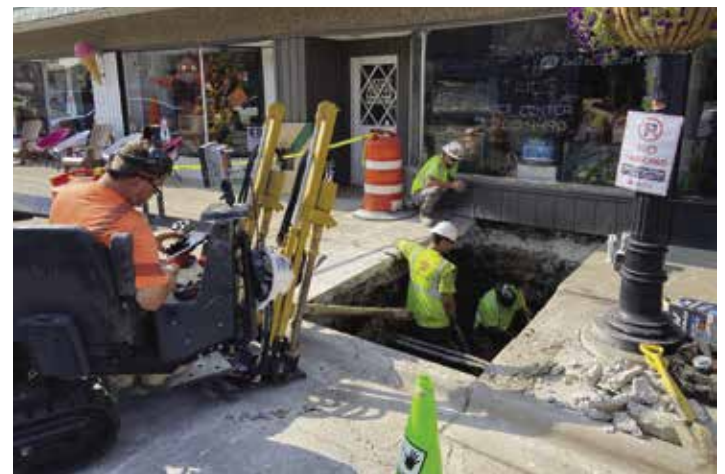


The scope of work on the 3700 block of Grand Boulevard will include the improvements described above and will also include full curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement, installation of brick pavers along the back of curb, new trees and tree grates, and street lighting.

Work will be limited to one side of Grand Boulevard during construction, with parking available on one side of the street at all times, except for when the final layer of asphalt is applied during the final stage of construction. One-way southbound traffic will be maintained at all times except during the application of the final asphalt layer. Northbound traffic will be detoured to Prairie Avenue.

**The Illinois Department of Transportation-led project is expected to break ground in April and be completed by early August.**

There will be a public meeting to inform residents and business owners of construction phasing and impacts prior to the start of the project. To keep informed, please visit the Brookfield website at [brookfieldil.gov](http://brookfieldil.gov) or scan the QR code to sign up for our e-newsletter, which will keep you informed about all of the construction projects planned for 2025.



*Workers replaced lead water service lined from the water main to Grand Boulevard businesses in 2024 in preparation for the streetscape project, which will include the construction of a decorative seat wall at the corner of Grand and Prairie (at left), brick pavers behind the curbline, new trees and decorative street lighting.*

# Brookfield Gearing Up for 2025 Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Brookfield had its largest volume of capital work performed in 2024 at nearly \$20 million, and things will not be slowing down in 2025.

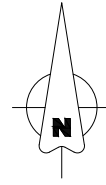
This year, Brookfield has budgeted \$24.6 million for capital infrastructure projects. Project areas are shown on the map (on page 9).

Below is a list of this year's projects. For a more detailed summary of the major 2025 infrastructure projects, scan the QR code or visit [brookfieldil.gov/newslst.php](http://brookfieldil.gov/newslst.php).



Project	Grants/Loans	Village Share
2025 Lead water service replacement	\$10 million IEPA 0% interest loan	
2025 Water Mains	\$6.3 million IEPA 0% interest loan	
3700 Grand/Brookfield Ave	\$3.8 million STP grant	\$750,000
2025 Street Improvements		\$1.6 million
2025 CDBG Blanchan	\$200,000 CDBG grant	\$370,000
2025 Green Parking lot	\$180,000 MWRD grant	\$215,000
DPW salt storage		\$375,000
Congress Park North Side	\$250,000 Invest in Cook grant	\$65,000
2025 Sidewalks		\$130,000
2025 catch basins		\$100,000
3600 Woodside LSWR	\$100,000 IEPA 0% interest loan	
2025 Sewer Lining		\$85,000
2025 Fire Hydrant Painting		\$50,000
2025 Pavement Striping		\$20,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$20,830,000</b>	<b>\$3,760,000</b>

# Village of Brookfield 2025 Upcoming Projects



## LEGEND OF SYMBOLS

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
	61K86 GRAND/BROOKFIELD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
	2025 STREET IMPROVEMENTS
	BLANCHAN AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS
	2025 WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS
	2025 LEAD WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT - PHASE
	2025 LEAD WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT - PHASE
	2025 LEAD WATER SERVICE REPLACEMENT - PHASE
	2025 GREEN PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS
	CONGRESS PARK METRA STATION NORTH SIDE IMPROVEMENTS

# Ehlert Park

Save the Date!

**GRAND  
OPENING  
CELEBRATION**

Saturday May 3, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm

@Ehlert Park 4400 Park Ave.  
Brookfield IL.

**NEW INCLUSIVE  
Playground**

Ribbon Cutting | Refreshments |  
Balloon Artist | Kids Activities | Games



## Cantata's centennial celebration begins with employees

Karen Garrison, Board chair, and John Larson, CEO, hosted an all-employee party to launch the centennial celebration for Cantata Adult Life Services and British Home Rehabilitation Services. All staff members received a special shirt with the not-for-profit organization's centennial logo.

"Our employees are the heart of our community. They are experts in so many professions and always seek to provide the best for our residents on campus plus those who benefit from our home care services, meals delivered to their homes and handyman services," said Larson.



*Karen Garrison, Board chair, and John Larson, CEO, hosted an all-employee party to launch the centennial celebration for Cantata Adult Life Services and British Home Rehabilitation Services. All staff members received a special shirt with the not-for-profit organization's centennial logo.*



*Nursing staff member Naomi Nieves predicts how robots will influence daily life 25 years from now.*

Employees enjoyed spending time together while fish and chips were served while music from the 1920s played.

They accepted the challenge to predict how life might differ 25 years from now, answering questions including if and how robots will impact their daily routines as well as if and how they would like to outfit their flying car to work.

"While this celebration was for employees, it is the first in a series of events that Cantata is planning for the entire Brookfield community and beyond throughout the year," said Garrison.

Founded by the Daughters of the British Empire, who sustain their support for Cantata, the senior living community welcomed its first residents to its Brookfield campus, 8700 31st St., in spring of 1925. To learn more, please call 708-485-7590 or send an email to [info@cantata.org](mailto:info@cantata.org).



*Lesya Shoorgot, Campus Director, wears and shows two kinds of centennial T-shirts given to all employees.*



## RSVP Now for Brookfield Aging Well Team Events

The Brookfield Aging Well Team invites you to join them for a pair of special events this spring that you won't want to miss!

Get your green thumb tuned up on Monday, April 7 at 11:30 a.m. during the **Spring Gardening Event** in the lower-level Meeting Room of the Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield Library, 3541 Park Ave. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited. RSVP by April 2 by calling Hitzeman Funeral Home at 708-485-2000.

Also be sure to reserve a spot to play **Remember That Tune Bingo** featuring songs from the late 1950s through the '70s on Sunday, May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Cantata Wye Valley, 8700 31st St. in Brookfield. Gift cards for winners. Sweets and coffee provided. Seats are limited and will fill up fast. RSVP by April 30 by calling Hitzeman Funeral Home at 708-485-2000.

For more, visit [facebook.com/brookfieldagingwell](https://facebook.com/brookfieldagingwell)

# Brookfield Set to Welcome Back Midwest's Top Farmers Market

The Brookfield Farmers Market -- voted the top farmers market in the Midwest Region and the top market in Illinois in the 2024 American Farmland Trust's America's Farmers Market Celebration contest -- returns for its 18th season on Saturday, June 7.

Located in the west and south parking lots at the Brookfield Village Hall, 8820 Brookfield Ave., the Brookfield Farmers Market will operate every Saturday through Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Operated by the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce, the Farmers Market includes dozens of vendors offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, eggs, meat, bakery

goods, honey, prepared foods and a diverse array of artisan products.

With live music and plenty of space for a picnic, it's a great place to bring the family while supporting local businesses and farmers.

For more info on vendors and market activities, visit [brookfieldfarmers.com](http://brookfieldfarmers.com) or scan the QR code.





# 5 TIPS FOR BURGLARY PROTECTION



## 1 AVOID HIDING KEYS AROUND YOU HOME

Hiding a key provides a means for someone else to gain entry into your home. Provide a trusted neighbor or family member a key in the event you are locked out of your home.

## 2 SECURE EXTERIOR DOORS

Lock all doors to your home. Burglaries are often a crime of opportunity where burglars will enter a home merely cause the door was unlocked. Use a deadbolt style door lock when possible. If your home has a sliding style door such as a patio door you can also better secure that style door with wooden dowel or device that prevents the door from sliding open.



## 3 EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME

Using motion lights and exterior lighting around your home helps discourage would be burglars. Keeping your property well maintained by pruning bushes and trees near doors and window to allow for ample viewing for any suspicious activity around your property.

## 4 STORAGE OR VALUABLES

When possible, keep all valuables bicycles, lawnmowers, ladders, and any tools, secured in a garage or shed. Make sure the gates around your property have a latch that can be secured. Clearly display your house address on the front of your residence and on your garage should police or emergency responder need to find your address they can do so quickly.



## 5 INSTALL A SECURITY/ALARM SYSTEM

Installing an alarm can help prevent a burglary and assist police with identifying an individual who is up to no good. Before investing in an security system, do some research. There are many systems out there and you want something that is suitable for your needs, the size of your home, and functional for your technological abilities. Learn how to use your system properly to avoid false alarms.

For more tips on home and community safety you can visit National Crime Prevention Council at <https://www.ncpc.org/>

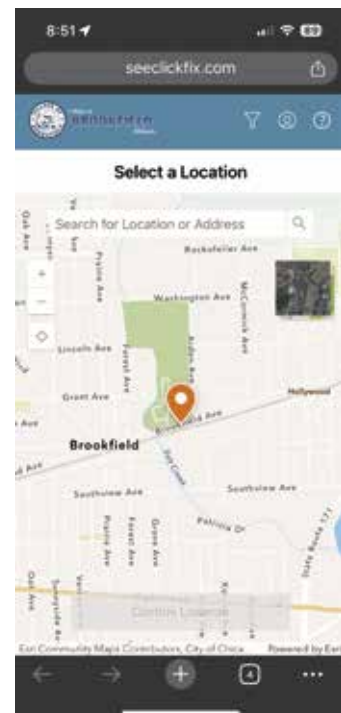
# Use SeeClickFix to Report Building Code Violations

Residents now have a simpler way to submit Code Enforcement requests. Use SeeClickFix to easily report issues.

SeeClickFix is an online work order request app that we've encouraged residents to use to submit Public Works-related requests. Now, in addition to those requests, you can request that our Property Maintenance Code Enforcement team look into property maintenance-related issues as well.

It works the same way: Enter the address, provide a description of the issue, attach photos if you have them and hit submit. No more worrying about who to contact; everything is streamlined into one platform.

You can submit requests via the SeeClickFix app, available for both Apple and Android devices, through their website at SeeClickFix.com or by scanning the QR Code.



## Battalion Chief Robert Shamasko Retires after 30 Years

On March 2, Battalion Chief Robert Shamasko retired from the Brookfield Fire Department after 30 years of dedicated service to the Village and its residents. Shamasko was hired in 1995, promoted to Lieutenant in 2007, then to Captain in 2017 and to Battalion Chief in 2024. He played a major role in transitioning the fire department from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support ambulance services.

As a result of BC Robert Shamasko's retirement, the Fire Department promoted Lt. Michael Teska to Battalion Chief and Firefighter Bradley Pacyga to Lieutenant. They were promoted to their new ranks on March 3 and their promotions were publicly recognized by the Village Board on March 10.



**BC Michael Teska** started as a firefighter with the department in 2002 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2021. Teska assumed many of Shamasko's responsibilities, including scheduling and payroll. He is also the department's buildings

and grounds officer. Teska is very knowledgeable in the fire service and shares his expertise with the junior firefighters on the department.



**Lt. Bradley Pacyga** began his career in 2003 with Brookfield where he has earned the respect of his peers through his knowledge and experience. Pacyga is a valuable member of the MABAS Division 10 Hazardous Materials Team, which is critical with the freight train traffic

that travels through the village regularly. He will play a key role in continued hazardous materials readiness for the fire department. As he progresses in his new role he will assume other responsibilities that fit his knowledge and talents.

Congratulations and good luck to Battalion Chief Robert Shamasko on his retirement and future endeavors. Congratulations and good luck to Lt. Bradley Pacyga and Battalion Chief Michael Teska as they grow into their new roles.



*Battalion Chief Robert Shamasko*



# WE'RE HIRING

Apply now to be part of the  
Brookfield Parks & Rec  
Summer Camp Team

## Positions available:

- *Camp counselors*
- *Site supervisors*
- *Brains and Games*
- *Camp teacher*



**APPLY NOW!**



# Village of Brookfield

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**OPTION 2: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

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 LOWER LEVEL RECREATION HALL

RSVP: BY APRIL 7TH AT [BROOKFIELDIL.GOV](http://BROOKFIELDIL.GOV)  
 OR CALL 708-485-1474