

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The "Hum of Greendale"

Greendale is a community that is special in so many unique ways. A reasonable amount of time is required for new residents to experience ALL of the things that provide the charm that is Greendale. People move here, as we did, because of things like Greendale's convenient location to the airport and Milwaukee events, the high standard of Village services, great schools, the low-crime rate, green space, our quaint Village Center, random pathways, Village originals, alphabetized neighborhood sections, its convenient retail districts, etc.

But let's examine another critical fact that many overlook when thinking about the quality of life in Greendale – "community volunteers". When you examine the charm of Greendale, you have to point to the direct and significant effect that ALL of our volunteers have and are making towards the quality of life in the Village. We are much more than "just another community" thanks to the Village's volunteer base. Think of what life would be like in Greendale without civic celebration events, parades, gazebo shows, environmental groups ridding invasive plants and litter from our green spaces, the sports coaches, scout leaders, women's clubs, business organizations, Village and School District committees and commissions, booster organizations, neighborhood associations and service organizations. Yes, Greendale has them all and they exist largely because of volunteers. The volunteers in this community give Greendale that extra "hum" that other communities often lack. Our volunteers have made Greendale special!

Not only can volunteers proudly look back at their accomplishments and know the special joy that comes from volunteering, but they can also meet other "special neighbors" and build life-long community friendships. This may be the greatest reward that comes from the act of volunteering.

As your Village President, I have many goals that seek to build on Greendale's past successes. So, when given the soapbox, I will continue to encourage all of us to stay involved in our special community. If you are not currently involved, please make time for your community by joining a group or committee that interests you. For a list of potential groups and volunteer activities, contact the Community Education Council through the Greendale Park and Recreation Department or visit "Organizations" on the Village of Greendale's website - www.greendale.org.

Here are a few notable quotes regarding volunteerism:

- We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.
Winston Churchill

- I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. *Albert Schweitzer*
- Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. *Martin Luther King Jr.*
- When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die. *Eleanor Roosevelt*
- A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization. *George Bush Sr.*
- We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. *Mother Teresa*
- Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. *Anonymous*

To all Greendale volunteers, I offer you my sincerest THANK YOU. You truly have, and continue to make a vital and significant difference in our community! Please help me through your example of volunteerism to reach out and encourage others to step forward so that we can continually perpetuate this special "hum of Greendale".

Community regards,
John R. Hermes
Village President