

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Two months have now passed since you placed me into this great job as your Village President. The pace has been quick and I find the challenges exhilarating. Please know that I am very excited, motivated and proud to be given this opportunity to serve Greendale, especially at this time in our history when we have so much at stake - protecting Greendale's special identity and unique charm. I am certain of our abilities to move this community forward and am convinced that we will succeed. I want you to also know that you should be proud of the Village Board that you elected. It is my sincere honor to work with this experienced and dedicated group of community leaders.

Allow me to bring you up-to-date on a very pressing issue facing Greendale as we move toward the fall election and forthcoming session of our State legislature.

During the last two legislative sessions of our State government, the Wisconsin leadership in both houses attempted to pass variations of Colorado's Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). Unable to control their own budget, our State representatives now seek to control all municipal budgets by amending the State Constitution. Last year it was known as TABOR; this year they referred to the measure as the Taxpayer Protection Amendment (TPA). Both measures narrowly failed passage. If they had passed, however, both would have had devastating impacts on Greendale's continued ability to provide quality services. It would also have had a dire impact on our schools. In spite of this, and after the two failed attempts, the legislative leadership has signaled that they will attempt to pass yet another version next year when the legislature reconvenes. With this potential threat to Greendale's quality of life still looming, it is time for all residents to take notice. As your Village President, it is my job to keep you informed of potential harm that may be levied against our community. My intent is to bring this issue forward now so that you are clearly aware of the potential impacts prior to the next legislative session. I have asked Village Manager Murray to author and include in this edition of *The Village Views* an article to illustrate these effects.

There are many reasons why this is bad legislation and certainly bad for Greendale, but the most critical fact that you need to remember should our State legislature attempt to resurrect similar legislation is that in 1992 Colorado enacted TABOR and voters there became so dissatisfied with eroding services and schools, crumbling infrastructure and a sharp decline in their quality of life that last November they voted to lift the spending limits to rescue their ailing state.

Stay tuned...we'll have updates in following editions of *The Village Views* and/or on our website (www.greendale.org).

Community regards,
John R. Hermes
Village President