



Name: Jim Rafter

Address: 411 W. Briar Lane

Years in the Village: 4

Political Experience: Allouez Village Trustee – 2 Years, Allouez Public Works Committee Member, Allouez TIF Joint Review Board Chairperson

Education: Loyola University – Communications

Current Occupation: Owner, Green Bay News Network, an Allouez based company focused on helping local businesses and community organizations effectively and affordably use technology to connect with area residents. Many of my customers are based in Allouez.

Reason for running (no references to past or present board members or actions):

I love Allouez. I love living here, working here, going to church here, supporting our local businesses and serving our village residents as Village Trustee. Over the last couple of years, the village staff and village board have worked very hard to understand the needs of our residents and to collaboratively develop a vision for our village. That hard work is starting to pay off. We have new businesses opening their doors in Allouez. We have a village staff that is dedicated to working together to provide the best service possible to our community, and we have a village board that works very well together to represent the needs of our village residents. As Village President I will continue to work hard to promote the interests of our residents and business owners in an effort to help Allouez turn its dreams into reality.

Unique Qualities that makes you a top candidate:

- I am an active member of the Allouez Community, including:
 - Member of Resurrection Parish
 - Volunteer website provider for St. Matthew Parish
 - Member of the Knights of Columbus
 - Member of the Allouez Business Association
 - Chairperson of A.B.A. Jr. Excellence Essay Contest – Webster School

- As Village Trustee, I've listened to and led efforts to support our residents, business owners and village staff on important matters such as:
 - Establishing a Village Sex Offender Residency Ordinance to protect our children
 - Enthusiastically supported and actively participated in the development of the Allouez Corridor Study to identify the needs and interests of what our village residents and business owners want for Allouez's future
 - Protecting our property owner's rights by working with our village staff, the State D.O.T. and our State Legislators to not expand the width of Riverside Drive when it is reconstructed in 2021 and to provide multiple safe crossings for residents to access the Fox River Trail
 - Proposing the plowing of the Fox River Trail to allow for year round access to this great resource,
- I serve on the Allouez Public Works Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the largest portion of the village budget.
- I have a great respect for and a very good working relationship with our village staff and past / present board members with whom I serve.
- I've developed a great respect for and a very good working relationship with our state legislators: State Representative David Steffen and State Senator Rob Cowles, which is critical to getting things done which are outside our control.
- One of the duties of the Village President is to lead the Village Board Meetings. In the absence of the Village Board President, my fellow Village Trustees have asked me to fulfill those duties several times.
- Another role of the Village President is to represent the Village of Allouez to other communities. As Village Trustee, I have:
 - Met with elected officials from neighboring communities to identify ways we can work together.
 - Along with other village trustees, met with the Warden of the Green Bay Correctional Institution to understand the potential impact to our community by closing guard towers during the overnight hours.
 - Represented the Village of Allouez at the opening of a Habitat for Humanity Home and to welcome a new family to our community.
 - Represented the Village of Allouez at the Chanukah Menorah Lighting Celebration at Chabad of the Bay.
 - Represented the Village of Allouez at the JOSHUA (Justice Organization Sharing Hope & United for Action) meeting at St. Matthew Parish.
 - Represented the Village of Allouez at the presentation of the Stadium Tax District Refund Check at a meeting hosted by State Representative David Steffen.

3 top issues/concerns regarding the village and proposed resolution (no references to past or present board members or actions):

1. Public Works: Street Conditions, Water Bills. If you live in Allouez, it will come as no surprise to you that many of our roads are in need of repair. In fact, our Public Works Department has been working diligently to improve our roadways. The Village of Allouez has approximately 55 miles of roadway. Over the last five years, the village has improved approximately 8.5 miles of roadway and has a plan to significantly improve or reconstruct another 22 miles of roadway by 2025, which means we will be impacting over 50% of our roadway in a relatively short period of time, which is a very expensive proposition. Fortunately, the Public Works Department, along with the Public Works Committee, is developing a plan, which will dramatically improve our roadways in the future. However, the current method for funding these projects is to borrow the money and pay down the debt through property taxes. We need to explore alternative funding sources to limit increasing property taxes or delaying projects due to lack of funds.

If you live in Allouez, you are also probably aware that we have seen steadily rising water bills. The majority of increases in our water bills are due to increased costs of purchasing water from the Brown County Water Authority, to help fund a major construction project at the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewer District and to comply with government regulations. The village needs to continue to advocate on behalf of our residents with our public utilities and to continue working with our neighboring communities to identify cost saving measures. We also need to work with our state and federal legislators to identify alternate sources of revenue. Lastly, the village needs to hold public meetings to educate our residents on the condition of our infrastructure, how it is paid for and how to effectively manage water utilization using the most modern techniques.

2. Economic Development: The Village of Allouez relies primarily on property tax revenue to provide services to our residents and businesses. Our village staff does an amazing job of providing important services on a very limited budget. Eventually, costs increase and we have to find a way to cover those increases. We can either generate more “income” by increasing property taxes on the current tax base or by increasing the village tax base. The village recently conducted a Corridor Study that identified opportunities to dramatically increase our tax base. We developed a TIF District to help new businesses enter our village or expand existing businesses. As I mentioned earlier, this vision is beginning to become a reality. We have new businesses opening their doors. We have existing businesses expanding or improving their facades. As Village President, I will continue to passionately work to promote Allouez as the place to conduct business and to deliver the vision of our Corridor Study and Comprehensive Plan.

3. Communication: When I first ran for Village Trustee, one of my areas of focus was to improve the village’s ability to communicate with village residents. Since then, the village has published a regularly scheduled e-Newsletter, supported a local publisher to deliver a monthly magazine strictly focused on what’s happening in Allouez, worked with digital media companies to promote Allouez, and entered into an agreement with a Brown County led project named NEWEYE Media which will

promote our village across Cable TV and the Internet. With all of the above being accomplished in a relatively short period of time, we have more to do. As a village, we will focus on doing everything we can to keep every village resident informed and to, most importantly, encourage resident participation in all discussions regarding important matters of our village.

Allouez is a very special place, and I respectfully ask for your vote on April 5th. If you have any questions for me or want to share some of your thoughts, please call me at 920-819-7652.

The following disclaimer will be added: The Village of Allouez is not responsible for accuracy of the information submitted by the candidates. Posting of the information submitted does not constitute endorsement of any individual candidate.