



NEWS RELEASE

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Small Business Incubator Program Returns with New Artisans and Activities for Brookfield Shops at Progress Park

BROOKFIELD, III. – May 8, 2026 -- The Village of Brookfield kicked off the 2026 season of its popular [Brookfield Shops at Progress Park](#) with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Friday, May 8, in the lively Eight Corners Business District.

Designed to serve as an incubator for small businesses, the Brookfield Shops are located at 9202 Broadway Avenue and feature six 12-by-15-foot seasonal retail spaces operated by locally-owned businesses. The popular shops were introduced last year as an innovative way to give entrepreneurs and artisans an accessible, hands-on opportunity to launch and expand their business, build connections within the community, and gain real-world retail experience.

The Brookfield Shops will welcome visitors through December, operating Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A panel of local business and community leaders selected this year's group of unique vendors through a competitive application process. This year's diverse lineup of artisans include:

- [34Designed](#), offering gifts, greeting cards, prints, home décor and apparel for all ages.
- [Down to Earth Herbal Infusions](#), teas, soaps and herbal products inspired by generational traditions.
- [Four Star Coffee Co](#), specializing small-batch coffee, soy candles and customer wood pieces.
- [Makrame Green LLC](#), a botanical boutique combining textile art and living plants.
- [The Shop Salon & Style House](#), a destination for clothing, boutique retail, and unique curated finds.
- [The Vulgar Vegan](#), offering premium vegan baked goods.

“After an incredible first year, we’re excited to launch the second season of the Brookfield Shops at Progress Park and welcome our new vendors, said Village President Michael Garvey. “The entrepreneurial model of these shops continues to define what Brookfield is – a lively and welcoming community that is committed to empowering small businesses and supporting emerging talent.”

New Attractions to Build Community

Building on the momentum created by the launch of the Brookfield Shops, the Village has added new attractions and activities designed to draw visitors to the Eight Corners Business District:

- Opening **Wednesday, June 10**, a seasonal French Market will operate on Wednesdays in June and July from 4pm – 7pm, featuring a curated mix of local vendors offering farm-fresh produce, artisan goods and ready-to-eat treats.
- Adding a vibrant cultural element on **Wednesday, June 10** from 4pm – 7pm, Sway Dance Brookfield will offer Latin music, movement and fun with mini-lessons of Salsa, Bachata, Cumbia, Merengue, Cha Cha and more.
- An official unveiling of several unique works of art will take place on **Friday, June 12** at noon to celebrate the upgraded event space, unique collaborations and more that have helped support the retail incubator.

About the Brookfield Shops

The Brookfield Shops at Progress Park is an innovative retail incubator program created for local entrepreneurs, business owners, and artisans. Inspired by the success of similar programs in neighboring communities, the Brookfield Shops provide a platform for small businesses to thrive, fostering creativity and strengthening the local economy in a supportive and engaging environment. Local sponsors and partners provide additional support, including guidance in business planning, marketing, and customer engagement.

About the Village of Brookfield

The Village of Brookfield, Illinois, is a vibrant, family-friendly community located just 13 miles west of downtown Chicago. Known for its welcoming neighborhoods, historic charm, and the renowned Brookfield Zoo, the Village offers a unique blend of small-town warmth and urban convenience. With a strong sense of community, excellent schools, and convenient access to Metra rail service, Brookfield is an ideal place to live, work, and visit. The Village is committed to thoughtful development, supporting local businesses, and enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

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