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## Rossville gets nearly \$77,000 Illinois Brownfields money

SPRINGFIELD—2004 has had little good news for Rossville but last week, the village's luck changed.

Rossville is one of 22 communities receiving Illinois Municipal Brownfields Redevelopment Grant.

The village's share of the pie is \$76,994, to be used to clean up two former gas stations, at 202 S. Chicago and 110 N. Chicago.

"I'm very pleased with the grant money," said Mayor Terry Prillaman after the May 12 presentation.

The money will be used for an environment assessment and cleanup at the sites which will then be sold.

Work on the former gas stations will help redevelop the area that was destroyed by fire on Feb. 27 since one station is located on each side of the charred block.

Funding for the grants is provided through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as part of Gov. Rod Blagojevich's *Opportunity Returns* program.

IEPA Director Renee Cipriano recognized these grants during a ceremonial presentation Wednesday during the annual Illinois Brownfields Conference organized by IEPA. The conference was attended by hundreds of local officials, environmental consultants, developers and others who participated in workshops on the tools available from the Blagojevich administration to spur redevelopment of brownfields, which are potentially contaminated industrial or commercial sites that are not currently in use.

"The Municipal Brownfields Redevelopment Program is one tool under the Governor's *Opportunity Returns* initiative to assist communities and provide funding

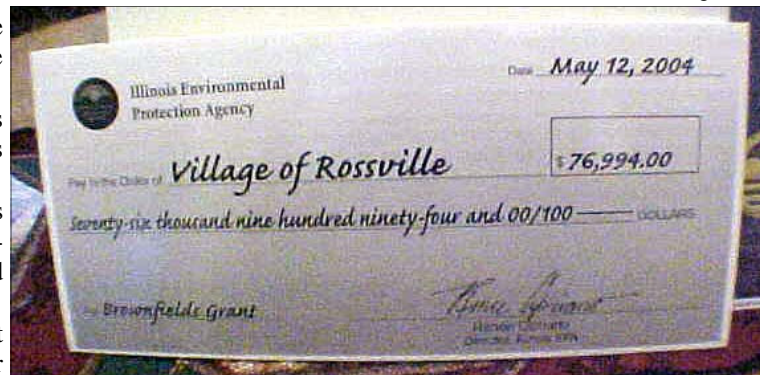


Photo contributed  
Rossville Mayor Terry Prillaman took home a check for nearly \$77,000 from the Illinois Brownfields grant program.

needed to cleanup and redevelop these abandoned sites," Cipriano said. "The grants will allow these communities to conduct environmental investigation and cleanup activities to ensure their safe and effective redevelopment."

*Opportunity Returns* is a regional economic development plan. Blagojevich divided the state into 10 regions – finding areas with common economic strengths and needs, and developing a plan with specific actions for each region. This grassroots effort is a product of significant outreach over several months with business, civic and labor leaders, and elected officials. *Opportunity Returns* contains tangible actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to business. Todd Lee, former Vermilion County Board chairman, has been named director for the local region.

Details of the Governor's plan are expected to be announced in the near future.

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