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Call Patti Maska at (708) 301-0632  
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## ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN THIS SPRING

The road improvements completed this year should coax a sigh of relief from local drivers. This spring will be a busy time for road improvement crews in Homer Glen.

Started in the fall of 2003, 159<sup>th</sup> Street and South Bell Road will be completed this spring with the addition of traffic signals and turning lanes. Traffic signals are now in and operating and the project is scheduled to be completed by May.

Two other projects should kick off in early spring of 2004. First, Will County will be completely reworking 151<sup>st</sup> Street and Bell Road in order to accommodate left and right turning lanes. Traffic delays should be expected during the construction, so motorists should begin considering alternate routes in advance. Also, a temporary traffic signal is being planned for 143<sup>rd</sup> Street and Golden Oak Drive, and is expected to be installed this year. A permanent signal will be installed there at a later date after the needed easements are acquired.

Many local streets will be resurfaced during the spring and summer throughout the village. A list of those streets will be printed in the next quarterly newsletter

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT GRANT AWARDED

Homer Glen recently learned that the Village has been awarded a \$1 million federal grant to fund road improvements. The grant is funded from the Federal Highway Administration through the U.S. Surface Transportation Program. The village and Will County will combine contributions and match the grant amount. Homer Glen can use revenues from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for its portion of the match.

The intersection of Lemont Road and 143<sup>rd</sup> Street will be widened and reconstructed with these grant monies. A traffic signal will also be installed at the intersection. Traffic volume, air quality and safety are all factors taken into consideration when grant applications are reviewed. Construction of the intersection improvements is expected to begin in 2007 or 2008. The close proximity of the future I-355 extension to this intersection has made its improvements a priority for the village.



**Russ  
Petrizzo,  
Mayor**

Greetings,

It's been nearly a year since we have integrated the Building Department into our Homer Glen office. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff that worked hard to establish this department. Thanks to their efforts the transition went smoothly and we can now offer residents the convenience of having their zoning and building needs addressed locally versus having to travel to Joliet.

The current buzz in the Building Department is the much talked about Menards project. The developer of the property has addressed engineering concerns and has submitted completed plans for permitting. We look forward to welcoming Menards and the much needed tax revenue it will bring to our Village.

Many residents are asking about the I-355 extension. The extension has been approved by the federal government, but is awaiting a funding source for construction. I have been working with the mayors of surrounding municipalities to lobby State officials to find money for this project. The State's current fiscal position makes this a difficult task, but we will continue our efforts as the extension is critical to bringing the commercial development our communities and school districts need.

Roads aren't the only form of transportation Homer Glen is working to promote. The Village is in the process of establishing a trail system. We have developed plans for a central trail system that runs primarily along ComEd right-of-ways and easements. This system will connect subdivisions to parks, schools, and open space and will eventually link to regional trail systems. The Trails Task Force is working diligently to secure grants to establish trails in Homer Glen.

This year promises to be an

eventful one for our Village. The committees and task forces are developing many ideas to make Homer Glen a better place to live.

I encourage all residents to make an attempt to attend at least one Homer Glen meeting this year and witness first hand the hard work, dedication, and attention to detail that is put into every idea that is researched by our committees and task forces. Our volunteers donate thousands of hours each year. Can you find an hour? It is, after all, your Village.

In closing, I just want to remind residents to use caution when driving. Weather conditions may make roads slick. Please slow down and drive carefully.

Homer Glen welcomes the following new businesses:

- The Kumon Center, Homer Town Square, 143<sup>rd</sup> & Bell Road
- Subway, 157<sup>th</sup> & Bell Road
- Colorado Coffee, 12141 W. 159<sup>th</sup> Street

*Russ Petrizzo*  
Mayor

## **SPECIAL CENSUS MOVES FORWARD**

The Village is moving ahead with plans to conduct a special census in 2004. The United States Department of Commerce has acknowledged Homer Glen's request for a cost estimate for the special census. The estimated cost based on a projected population estimate of 24,000 is \$245,273. It is estimated that it will take the Village approximately 22 months of increased revenue, after certification of the new population figures, for the costs of the special census to be recouped.

Currently, Homer Glen receives about 2.2 million dollars annually from state income tax revenues, motor fuel taxes and local taxes, which are all based on the current population figure of 22,269 estimated when the village incorporated in 2001. The Village annually receives about \$100 per resident from the state. Since Homer Glen does not levy a municipal property tax, these revenues are extremely important for all phases of Village operation.

It will take nearly seven months to complete the census. The first three months will be used for preparation work, the fourth month for enumeration and three more months for processing and certification. The Village is hoping to begin the enumeration process in August. Anyone interested in participating as a census enumerator should e-mail your information to [census@homerglen.org](mailto:census@homerglen.org) or phone (708) 301-0632.

## Coming Soon to a Corner Near You . . . Homer Glen Village Entry Signs

At a recent Village Board meeting, Kim Vogelsanger, Chairperson for the Communications and Civic Involvement Committee (CCIC) and committee members Nancy Herberg, Bob Cochran, Sylvia Krepton, Rosemary Koning, Patti Maska, Leslie Bolin and Lisa Martinez made a presentation to the Mayor, and Village Trustees.

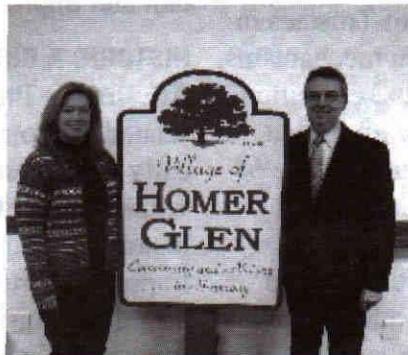
One of the Committee's goals has been to create a Village identity. Upon incorporation, Homer Glen initiated a Village-wide survey of the resident's goals and concerns. Residents responded that they wanted efforts focused on creating a Village identity, something unique that would take into consideration Homer Glen's rural character and way of life. To date, the CCIC has worked with residents and completed a Mission Statement, developed Core Values, and created a Village newsletter, Village logo, and motto.

To complete an initial goal toward creating a Village identity, Homer Glen's very first Village entry sign was presented to the Board of Trustees.

The signs incorporate our Village logo and motto "Community and Nature... In Harmony" as it so aptly reflects residents' ideas of what our Village should strive to attain. The signs will soon be installed at various entry points within the Village.

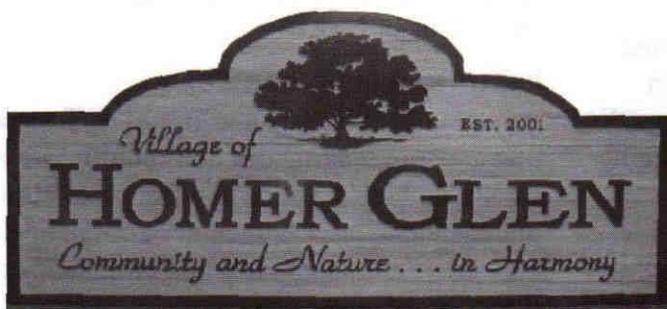
We extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude to Homer Glen resident Rich Santucci, owner of All American Signs in Oak Lawn. Mr. Santucci graciously donated ten small Village entry signs and has pledged two large signs, at only his cost, to be placed at significant points of entry into Homer Glen. Thank you, Mr. Santucci. With limited funds and no municipal tax, Homer Glen would not have been able to afford to independently purchase these signs. Once again, a Village resident has stepped up to the plate to support Homer Glen.

Thank you, Patti Maska and Dale Vogelsanger for your contributions to our Village Motto. Thank you, Anthony Ficke, Kerri Treacy and Dale Vogelsanger for your combined contributions in the creation of our Village logo. Thank you, Laurel Ward, former CCIC Chairperson, for your hard work in this group's important initial stages.



*Kim Vogelsanger and Mayor Russ Petrizzo present one of the ten Village of Homer Glen signs to the Village Board.*

*One of the two large signs.*



## HOW DO I CONTACT THE VILLAGE HALL?

The Village of Homer Glen is located in the Orland Oak Shopping Center at 14331 S. Golden Oak Drive. Office hours are 9 AM to 5 PM.

**Phone:** (708) 301-0632

**FAX:** (708) 301-8407

### Postal address:

14331 S. Golden Oak Drive  
Homer Glen, IL 60491

### Council Chambers:

13031 W. 143rd Street  
Homer Glen, IL 60491

**Website:** [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org)

### Electronic mail:

**Information:** [inquiries@homerglen.org](mailto:inquiries@homerglen.org)

**The Building Department** is located at the Village Hall and is open from 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday. Their direct line is (708) 301-1301.

### Services Available at the Village Hall:

- Village Directory
- Notary Public
- Voter Registration (for Homer Glen residents only)
- Application for Handicapped License Plates or Parking Placard

**WE LIKE VOLUNTEERS!** The Village is always in need of additional volunteers. Please contact the Village Hall at (708) 301-0632 if you are interested in providing a particular talent or would like to serve on one of the Village's many committees or task forces. Some are listed on page 8; you can find more at [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org).

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## HOMER GLEN COMMITTEES

Homer Glen has recently re-evaluated and refined committee structures to better suit our needs going forward. Here are the changes and additions, including a brief synopsis of the Scope, Powers and Duties of each committee. You may find meeting schedules on the last page of this newsletter. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer member of a committee, please contact the Village Hall.

### **COMMUNICATION & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Promotes the development of programs and policies consistent with the Village mission statement and core values. Advises the President and Board of Trustees in matters relating to Village communication mechanisms, community and volunteer involvement, and education processes. Reviews and recommends initiatives that affect community pride including the overall image of the Village. Facilitates the coordination of and promotes participatory government through active volunteerism. Provides a forum for public input and ideas. Distributes Village newsletter and other communication media.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Advise the President and Board of Trustees on community and economic development issues. Conduct a community needs assessment identifying products and services desired by residents; develop business recruitment plan that identifies most desirable businesses; develop marketing pieces outlining demographics and benefits of Homer Glen; work with Plan Commission, Zoning Commission and other committees to develop design guidelines for commercial properties; develop plans for Town Center.

### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Advises the President and Board of Trustees on transportation and infrastructure improvements. Recommends actions to meet current and future transportation needs, mitigate the negative affects of traffic, and promote alternative transportation options. Initiate comprehensive transportation study and mapping; oversee thorough assessment of Village roads, integrate mapping information into GIS database; establish forum to identify resident concerns and needs regarding roads and transportation; identify and develop alternative transportation plans; make recommendations for capital improvement projects; develop design guidelines for traffic calming measures and non-motorized transportation options within new developments.

### **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Advises the President and Board of Trustees on matters relating to preservation of open space and the protection and improvement of the environment, including quality of land, air, and water. Makes recommendations to the Board to safeguard natural resources; promotes beautification and education programs; reviews the acquisition, maintenance, development along with consulting and recommending environmentally sensitive open space; collaborates with the Plan Commission and other committees and commissions to maintain and improve the quality of life in Homer Glen.

### **HISTORIC & CULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Advises the President and Board of Trustees on matters related to protecting, preserving, and restoring historically and culturally significant properties and structures within Homer Glen in order to safeguard Homer Glen's historic heritage and agricultural roots. Identifies important historic and cultural sites and structures; establishes historic preservation information database; works with interested property-owners to protect private properties; develops initiatives to protect farmland and agricultural settings; documents area history and maintains Village archives.

### **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Advises the President and Board of Trustees in matters relating to developing and maintaining a comprehensive parks and recreation system. Duties include conducting a comprehensive assessment of active/passive recreational needs of Homer Glen residents inclusive of a database of existing activities, private and non-profit organizations, and governmental entities that provide opportunities for active/passive recreation within the village; evaluate the pros and cons of establishing a parks department; developing a comprehensive park plan including active park land, open space, greenbelts, and trails; developing land acquisition plans, developing guidelines for developer park contributions; identifying alternative sources of funding for acquisition and operations of parks.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Advises the President and Board of Trustees on matters that assist in making our community safe and livable for all, including police and fire protection, emergency management, environmental hazards, health and building codes, animal control and emergency communication technologies.

## RESIDENTS WANT TO KNOW . . .

This question and answer forum will be a regular feature in the Homer Glen newsletter. Do you have a question? Please email the Village at [ask@homerglen.org](mailto:ask@homerglen.org). Please understand that space is limited; questions received will be addressed as newsletter space allows.

### QUESTION:

I understand that the Goodings Grove Shopping Center is not part of Homer Glen. Can you explain what happens to the property and sales taxes paid to or by those store owners?

### ANSWER:

Let's address the sales tax issue. The sales tax rate in Homer Glen is 6.5%. Funds are distributed in this way:

- 5% State
- 1% Municipality —OR— County
- .25% County
- .25% RTA

If a store is not incorporated into a municipality, the 1% tax goes directly to Will County. Will County does provide numerous services to the Village of Homer Glen, including the upkeep of Bell Road and 143<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Regarding property tax : The majority of property tax revenue is levied for use by the public school districts. Last year, the grade schools spent more than \$5,500 per student for one year of instruction. The distribution of property tax is the same whether a property is assessed as residential or commercial. Commercial parcels must pay into the school system, but they cannot send any children to the schools. Without commercial and retail parcels to help maintain a stable property tax base, property taxes levied from residences would carry the majority of the expense.

### QUESTION:

What happened to the school and fire protection district boundaries when the Village incorporated?

### ANSWER:

Nothing. The school and fire boundaries are separate from Homer Glen. These entities had been established long before we became a Village, and becoming a Village did not affect their jurisdiction.

Lockport Township High School District 205 serves Homer Glen in its entirety. The Village has three grade school districts that were established in the mid-1950's. Check your property tax bill to determine in which of these districts you reside:

- Will County School District 92 serves the residents in the northwest area of the Village.
- Homer 33C is the largest grade school district, whose boundary encompasses almost three-quarters of the Village—the northeast, southeast and southwest quadrant.
- A very small area just east of Parker Road and approximately 181<sup>st</sup> Street is served by New Lenox School District 122.

The Village has three fire districts; all three Districts practice mutual aid.

- Northwest Homer Fire Protection District serves residents north of 147<sup>th</sup> Street to the Village limits.
- Homer Township Fire Protection District serves residents south of 147<sup>th</sup> Street, except for—
- A small area in the southeast section of the Village roughly bound by Hadley Road, Haas Road and Will Cook Road which is served by the Mokena Fire Protection District.

## March 16 is the General Primary Election. Here is a list of Polling Places for Homer Glen Residents:

Homer 33C Administrative Office	15733 Bell Road
Our Mother of Good Counsel	16043 S. Bell Street
Homer Township Public Library	14320 W. 151st St.
Homer Township Highway Dept.	14400 W. 151st St.
Northwest Homer Fire Station #2	16131 S. Bell Road
Annunciation Byzantine Church	14610 S. Will-Cook Rd.
Homer Township Offices	14350 W. 151st St.
Victorian Village	14303 S. Independence Way
Goodings Grove School	12914 W. 143rd St.
Homer Glen Village Hall	13031 W. 143rd St.

**Polling places will be open  
from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
on Election Day.**

**For questions regarding  
polling places, call the  
Will County Clerk's office:  
(815) 740-4615**



## **TO RECEIVE VEHICLE RENEWAL NOTICE, RESIDENTS MUST CONTACT STATE OFFICE**

Many households in Homer Glen are not receiving their annual license plate sticker renewal notice from the Secretary of State's office.

According to the Secretary of State's website, "by law, motorists must notify the secretary of state's office when an address changes. This will ensure that you receive your renewal notices or other correspondence at the appropriate address." Although Homer Glen residents haven't physically moved, the new ZIP code is an address change. The U.S. Postal service cannot forward mail originating from the Secretary of State's office, and as a result, renewal notices are not being delivered.

To resolve the problem, Homer Glen residents must update their address by visiting a Driver Services Facility or accessing the Secretary of State's website:

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

To update the new ZIP code on a driver's license, residents must visit a Driver Services Facility. The nearest facilities are in Orland Park, 14700 S. Ravinia, and Joliet at Jefferson Square Mall, 2450 W. Jefferson. The Orland Park facility is open from 9AM to 5PM weekdays, closed weekends. For hours of operation at the Joliet location, phone (815) 725-5262.

## **Grant Funds First Homer Glen Patrol Cars**

Homer Glen residents will be seeing new police cars this year thanks to an Illinois First grant the Village received in 2002. On February 12<sup>th</sup> of that year, Senator William Maher, Jr. attended the Village Board Workshop and announced that the Village would receive this grant totaling \$105,000 for the purchase of three fully equipped police vehicles. In late December of 2003, the Village Board authorized the purchase of the 2004 Ford Crown Victoria police cruisers that will be equipped with on-board computer systems and video cameras. These vehicles will also be detailed with Homer Glen's Village insignia. The total cost of the patrol cars is \$106,357.

The new police cars will be assigned for use to Will County Sheriff's Deputies who currently patrol in Homer Glen. Will County will then reduce the contract the Village pays annually by the amount paid for the use of three County patrol vehicles currently being used. All police cars patrolling in Homer Glen will eventually carry the Village insignia.

## **Emergency Groups Unite for Community Safety**

In an effort to make the Homer area a safer place to live, Homer Glen's Emergency Management Agency and Homer Township's Emergency Management and Safety Committee will be joining forces. John Robinson, the director of Homer Glen's E.M.A., will be working with Steve Balich, the chairman of the Homer Township E.M.S.C., to coordinate the efforts of the two entities. The Village will take the responsibility for the operational aspects while the Township will be concentrating on the educational side. Both groups will work with local police and fire departments as well as the emergency teams from neighboring communities. The long-term goals for these groups are to raise the public's preparation and awareness in time of emergency, shorten reaction times of emergency response teams and to strengthen the relationships with other E.M.A. districts.

## **Homer Glen Pet Shelter Wins Award**

Dahna Betts, a Homer Glen resident and the director of the Shih Tzu Rescue, Adoption, Education and Safehouse of Homer Glen has received a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Humane Association Award.

Given by the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, the winner receives cash and a commemorative plaque.

The Village of Homer Glen applauds Dahna's work on behalf of homeless pets. Congratulations on your award and accept our best wishes for continued success.





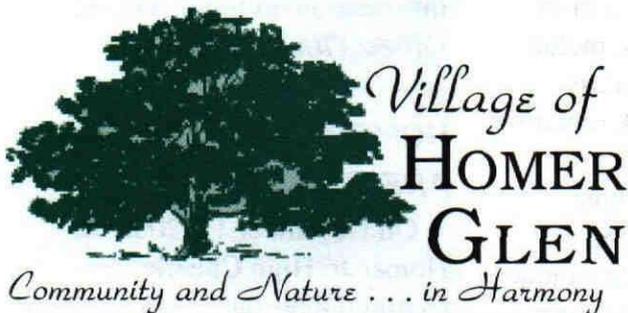
## VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN • MEETING CALENDAR

			<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Board of Trustees	Regular Meeting	3rd Tuesday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Board of Trustees	Workshop	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Board of Trustees	Joint Workshop with Plan Commission & Zoning Commission	1st Tuesday Subject to Change	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Communication & Civic Involvement Committee		2nd & 4th Monday	7:30 pm	Conference Room (Use Council Chamber Entrance)
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)		1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00 pm	Homer Township Fire Station #2
Environment Committee		2nd Monday	7:00 pm	Council Chamber
Parks & Recreation Committee		4th Monday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Public Safety Committee		3rd Monday	8:00 pm	Council Chamber
Plan Commission		1st & 3rd Thursday*	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Transportation Committee		1st Monday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Zoning Commission		1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday**	7:30 pm	Council Chamber

**All meetings are open to the public. Agendas for the following week's meetings are updated on our website, [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org), on Friday evenings, and are also posted each Friday at the Village Hall and the Council Chamber.**

\*February through December

\*\* January through March



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### *Village of Homer Glen* *Mission Statement*

The Village of Homer Glen is committed to preserving, protecting, and enhancing our community's quality of life through responsible residential and economic development while utilizing sound fiscal management. We will strive to maintain open space, preserve our unique rural character, and safeguard our natural resources. The Village encourages community involvement in order to maintain and cultivate a balance of family, agriculture, business, environment, and cultural diversity for present and future generations.

**To the Homer Glen Resident at:**