

# The Village MESSENGER

*"A Glimpse of the Glen"*

Official Newsletter of the Village of Homer Glen

May 2007

## Village Elections Held

Village elections were held on April 17<sup>th</sup> and voters elected Jim Daley as the new Mayor, Laurel Ward and Russell Knaack as new Trustees, and re-elected Trustee Margaret Sabo to the Board. The newly elected members took office after being sworn in on May 8<sup>th</sup> immediately prior to the Village Board meeting that evening. Mayor Daley appointed Burt Odelson, Village Attorney and Chris Cralle, Village Treasurer, with consent by the Board of Trustees.

Jim Daley was active in the original incorporation effort for the Village. Laurel Ward served previously as a Trustee from 2001 to 2003 and Russell Knaack has served on the Village's Parks and Recreation Committee for over a year. Margaret Sabo continues as one of the original Trustees of the Village who has now been elected twice to the Board.

*Pictured here:*

Mayor Daley, Judge Petka, Trustees Russell Knaack, Laurel Ward, Margaret Sabo and Village Clerk, Gale Skrobuton, sworn in by Judge Petka on May 8, 2007 at the Village Board Meeting



Outgoing Mayor Russ Petrizzo and Trustees Dale Vogelsanger and Brian Andrews were given plaques of appreciation at their final Village Board meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Petrizzo, the Village's first Mayor, served for six years. Brian Andrews also served for six years and was the chairman of the Transportation Committee, while Dale Vogelsanger served four years and headed the Economic Development Committee.



*Pictured here: (left –right)*

Margaret Sabo, Gale Skrobuton, Mayor Petrizzo, Marcia DeVivo, Mary Niemiec, Attorney Ken Carlson  
Back row: Dale Vogelsanger, Chris Locacius, Brian Andrews Terry Healy, Village Treasurer Homer Glen Village Board 2005 - 2007

## ICC Upholds Homer Glen Water Complaints

The Illinois Commerce Commission has issued its final order in the Homer Glen complaint case against Illinois American Water Company. This is the first of three legal actions. The most significant finding is that the rates charged to Homer Glen residents “are disproportionately high relative to the rates charged in other nearby communities”, resulting in an order for Illinois American Water to file a new rate case within six months. If Illinois American Water Company does not comply, then the ICC will reopen the Company’s 2002 rate case “to determine if the current rates in the Chicago Metro Service Area are just and reasonable.” Traditionally, the ICC sets rates based on the utility’s cost of service with no rate comparison in other communities, making this a significant win for Homer Glen.

Included in the complaint case were the issues of high and spiking water bills, the treatment of residents by IAW’s billing department and the inspection of the critical valves and fire hydrants throughout Homer Glen.

In the final order the commission found the following violations of ICC rules and regulations:

- IAW failed to inspect critical valves in Homer Glen
- IAW failed to inspect, or maintain any records concerning the fire hydrants in Homer Glen
- IAW back billed customers for usage beyond a one-year period
- IAW failed to provide Village customers with a consumer information booklet
- IAW failed to inform Homer Glen customers who disputed bills that they had a right to a hearing
- IAW failed to have authorized personnel on duty to resolve complaints during business hours
- IAW threatened and harassed its customers in Homer Glen

ICC final order requirements for Illinois American Water include:

- test and repair critical valves and fire hydrants and conduct free flow tests
- a new customer service training program
- show rates and charges on the bills
- distribute a consumer rights booklet to all customers
- file reports on bill spikes and estimated bills
- stop backbilling when odometer meters are replaced

A motion for a rehearing is required if either party wants to appeal the order to the appellate court. These must be filed within 30 days of the final order.

### **SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION:**

*May 15th through September 15th*

Even numbered streets - Watering on even numbered  
calendar dates: 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

Odd numbered streets - Waterin on odd numbered  
calendar dates: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

## Village Board Approves 2007-2008 Budget

The Village Board approved the budget for the new fiscal year which began May 1<sup>st</sup>. As the Village enters its seventh year since incorporation, the new budget does not include any property tax or other new taxes.



The most important change in the General Fund operating budget is the addition of full-time Sergeants to our contract with the Will County Sheriff's Department. With this change, the deputies assigned to the Village will have a full-time supervisor in the Village at all times. This will also add an additional patrol car to the Village, since the Sergeants will be on the street most of the time.

The new budget also provides for a major Village-wide storm water study, ongoing support for efforts to moderate the water and sewer rates, the lease of new office space beginning in July (see accompanying article) and new integrated software for Village operations.

The budget is also notable for a large number of capital improvement projects which have been in the planning stage for the last several years. Included in the list are :

- five projects to alleviate flooding problems in various neighborhoods
- development of a new park in Stonebridge Woods subdivision
- trail construction
- intersection improvements at 143<sup>rd</sup> and Parker
- turn lanes on 151<sup>st</sup> street near the Township sports complex.

The capital budget also includes funding for the Village's share of the I-355 Tollway scheduled to open in November, 2007 and land acquisition for future park land.



### Mark your calendars!!

## ANNUAL HOMER COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 23, 2007

Festivities begin at 11:00 AM with a parade, followed by a community festival at Culver Park.

Parade Route starts at 151st & Parker Road and proceeds north to Briarwood ( just south of 143rd St.)

Come join the fun !

Festival at Culver Park from 12:30 – 4PM

Food, pizza, snow cones, music....and more!



## Correction from the March 2007 newsletter

The draft of the Proposed Park Plan for the Village indicated a public park in the Countryview Subdivision in error.

### Development News-

**Homer Town Plaza** – 143<sup>rd</sup> & Dixon Lane - preliminary plat PUD approved  
19,364 sq. ft. commercial/retail office space – continuation to previously approved  
20,000 sq ft. commercial/retail office space

**Gallagher & Henry** – proposed commercial/residential development at 159<sup>th</sup> St. & Parker  
At this writing, a date has not been set for Village Board Action; please monitor our website, [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org) for the latest update on meeting agendas.

### FYI . . .

Late May will bring the emergence of the 17 year CICADA. According to the University of Illinois:

- Cicadas pose no health threat to people or pets
- Cicadas cannot bite or sting, if they land on you, it is purely accidental
- Cicadas do not carry diseases communicable to humans

For more information, refer to the UIUC website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/cicadas/control.html>



*Community and Nature . . . in Harmony*

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#### Village of Homer Glen

##### Mayor

Jim Daley

##### Clerk

Gale Skrobuton

##### Trustees

Marcia DeVivo

Russell Knaack

Christopher Locacius

Mary Niemiec

Margaret Sabo

Laurel Ward

##### Village Board Meets

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

Plan Commission Meets

1st & 4th Thursday of the Month

Please refer to our Website for weekly updates  
regarding meeting times and agendas

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

To the Homer Glen Resident at: