



VILLAGE AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SECURE OVER \$1 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS FOR IMPORTANT INTERSECTION PROJECT

The Village of Homer Glen and the Highway Department are partnering on an important intersection improvement for the Homer Glen community. As a result of efforts by the Village of Homer Glen, the Highway Department and the engineering firm H.R. Green, the Village was approved for a Phase I engineering study for the 151st Street & Parker Road intersection project by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Following IDOT approval, a request for federal CMAQ grant funding (Phase II engineering study and construction) was made to the Will County Governmental League's Transportation Committee on behalf of the Village of Homer Glen.

Recently, the Village and the Highway Department were notified that our request for federal CMAQ grant funding of the 151st Street & Parker Road intersection project was approved. There is a definite need for this improvement as the 151st Street and Parker Road intersection is one of the busiest in Homer Glen.

“The Village of Homer Glen is committed to seeking out and securing grant money to help pay for needed infrastructure improvements in our community,” stated Homer Glen Mayor Jim Daley. “By securing over \$1 million dollars in grant money for this project, the Highway Department and Village of Homer Glen have continued to demonstrate the importance of intergovernmental cooperation in

the greater Homer Glen community,” concluded Mayor Daley.

Homer Township Highway Commissioner Mike DeVivo stated, “Both 151st Street and Parker Road have seen increases in traffic over the last several years.” Highway Commissioner DeVivo continued, “This project has been one of my top priorities as it will greatly improve the safety and traffic flow through the intersection.” “The Highway Department is happy to work with the Village of Homer Glen on getting this important intergovernmental improvement project completed,” concluded DeVivo.

The intersection improvement project was approved for \$88,000.00 in federal grant money for the Phase II engineering study along with \$968,000.00 of federal grant money for the construction portion of the improvement project. In total, the Village's and Highway Department's efforts have resulted in securing over \$1 million dollars in federal grant money to help pay for the important improvement project.

The CMAQ grant requires a 20% local match. Therefore, the local match will include \$17,600 for the Phase II study and \$193,600 for the construction portion of the project. The Highway Department will be paying the local match costs of the project and it is anticipated that the project will be advertised for bids in the fall of 2013.

FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Neighbor:

The Village cannot by law advocate for, or against, the home rule referendum question. However, we can tell you the facts as to why we initiated home rule. The Village of Homer Glen currently does not assess a municipal property tax, and the Village Board and I seek to keep it that way. Home rule status has allowed the Village of Homer Glen to maintain a 1% home rule sales tax - rather than using a municipal property tax levy - to fund important Village services and infrastructure improvements. A significant percentage of the 1% home rule sales tax is paid by persons who shop in Homer Glen but who live outside of our community.

The Village seeks to maintain a no-property-tax practice.

The Village Board has placed a measure on the November 6, 2012 ballot to allow the residents of Homer Glen to continue, or not continue, home rule status. The Board has pledged not to tax the residents with a municipal property tax if home rule status is maintained which allows for:

- Decision making at the local level and not the state level;
- Prevention of the state interceding as a super-zoning authority; and
- The Village addressing state mandates in an appropriate manner for our community.

Why is Homer Glen's home rule status in jeopardy?

Communities in Illinois, with a population greater than 25,000 people, automatically have home rule authority. This is how Homer Glen achieved home rule status in 2008.

Cont'd. on page 2

■ VILLAGE OFFICIALS

JIM DALEY
MAYOR

MIKE COSTA TRUSTEE	MARCIA DEVIVO TRUSTEE
TEDD KAGIANAS TRUSTEE	MARY NIEMIEC TRUSTEE
MARGARET SABO TRUSTEE	GEORGE YUKICH TRUSTEE
GALE SKROBUTON VILLAGE CLERK	

■ VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

VILLAGE HALL
14933 S. FOUNDERS CROSSING
HOMER GLEN, ILLINOIS 60491
PHONE – 708-301-0632
FAX – 708-301-8407

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
14915 S. FOUNDERS CROSSING
HOMER GLEN, ILLINOIS 60491
PHONE – 708-301-1301
FAX – 708-301-0417

WILL COUNTY POLICE
(NON-EMERGENCY)
708-301-9274

WWW.HOMERGLEN.ORG



IS PUBLISHED FOR RESIDENTS
AND BUSINESSES OF THE
VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

PLEASE ADDRESS COMMENTS TO:

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER
VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN
14933 S. FOUNDERS CROSSING
HOMER GLEN, ILLINOIS 60491

FROM THE MAYOR *Cont'd.*

However, based on the most recent census, the Village's population dropped slightly below 25,000. This is why the Village must seek voter input as to home rule status.

More than 60% of Illinois citizens live in home rule communities.

There are 209 Illinois communities that have home rule status. A majority of these communities obtained home rule status through voter approval.

Those opposed to home rule are concerned about broadening the powers of local government.

Those who oppose home rule typically believe that it provides local governments with powers that are too broad. Research has shown that home rule communities derive a smaller portion of their revenue from property taxes than do communities without home rule. **Homer Glen remains one of the few Illinois communities that does not levy a municipal property tax.**

Safeguards are in place at local and state levels to help prevent misuse of home rule powers.

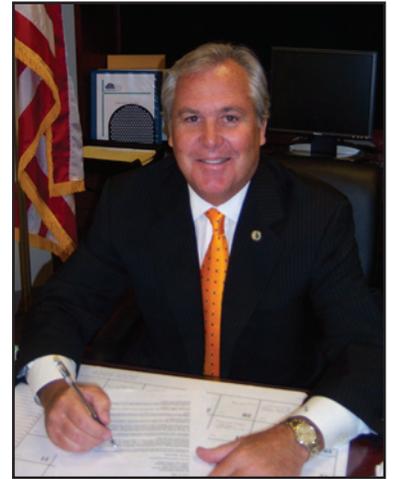
There are a number of safeguards that help protect taxpayers from any misuse of home rule powers. Home rule status can be reversed through the same referendum process. Also, half of the Village Board members stand for election every two years. There is also state preemption authority, judicial review, and State of Illinois constitutional prohibitions.

Where should we go from here? We value your input.

The Village Board and I would greatly appreciate your thoughts and recommendations as we move forward on this critical issue. For more information go to www.homerglen.org. Please direct any questions you may have about home rule to the Village at village@homerglen.org.

Respectfully,
VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

James P. Daley
Mayor



HOME RULE REFERENDUM QUESTION

Q. How will the home rule referendum question appear on the November ballot?

A. The home rule ballot wording is as follows:

SHALL THE VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN	YES
CONTINUE TO BE A HOME RULE UNIT	_____
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	NO

A vote Yes would retain the Village's home rule status and a vote No would not retain the Village's home rule status.

VILLAGE EARNS 10TH STRAIGHT FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD!

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. Recently, the Village of Homer Glen received our 10th straight CAFR Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States (GFOA).



The Village's financial reports have been judged, by an impartial GFOA panel, to meet the highest possible standards. This award is an exceptionally important sign of the Village of Homer Glen's ongoing commitment to financial integrity.

NEW VILLAGE STAFF

Kathy Carik joined the Village of Homer Glen staff this past year. Kathy is the Village's Receptionist/Account Clerk. Kathy came to Homer Glen after most recently working for the City of Lockport. Kathy's municipal government experience, as well as her great customer service skills, has made her an excellent addition to the Village staff.



143rd STREET RE-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

If you would like additional information about Will County's 143rd Street re-construction project, please go to www.homerglen.org.

OBTAINING BUILDING PERMITS PROTECTS YOUR INVESTMENT!

The Village's Building Department continues to see brisk permitting activity for a variety of home improvement projects. Roofing permits, siding permits, window permits and concrete replacement permits are the most popular permits being obtained by Homer Glen residents.

The Village has adopted, by ordinance, building codes and permitting processes which protect the public against unsafe building practices, unscrupulous contractors and potential health and safety hazards. State of Illinois legislation also mandates energy saving requirements and State contractor licenses for certain types of permitted work. In accordance with the building code, the Village of Homer Glen requires permits for, but may not be limited to, the residential projects listed below.

- Siding/Roofs/Gutters
- Decks
- Sheds/Garages
- Additions/Remodeling
- Fireplaces
- Pools
- Fences
- Solar/Wind Systems
- Windows/Exterior Doors
- Electrical Service Upgrades
- Hot Tubs/ Saunas
- Exterior Flatwork, Concrete, Asphalt & Paver Stone
- Irrigation Sprinklers
- Electric Vehicle Charging Systems

Protect your biggest investment by making sure you obtain your Building Permit prior to starting your home improvement project. If your construction project does not comply with the codes adopted by Homer Glen, your investment value could be reduced. In some circumstances, property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. Working without a required permit may subject a property owner to fines and compliance satisfaction.

If you have any questions about building permits, please contact the Village of Homer Glen Building Department at 708-301-1301.

HOMER GLEN NEWS WEEKLY . . . VILLAGE NEWS YOU CAN USE!

The Village is excited to announce yet another new way that we are working to improve communication in our community...our new **Village of Homer Glen News Weekly** e-mail blast. Beginning in January 2013, the Village will be distributing a weekly e-mail blast to every resident and business in Homer Glen who signs up to receive this important new communication tool.

The **Village of Homer Glen News Weekly** e-mail update will include information about Village programs, proposed development, infrastructure improvements, recreational opportunities and much, much more.

If you are interested in receiving this new e-mail communication tool you can register to receive it by sending your name, e-mail address and home address to village@homerglen.org. Sign up to receive the new Homer Glen News Weekly today!

The Village of Homer Glen continues to work every day to improve communication with our residents, business owners, etc. The **Village of Homer Glen News Weekly** is going to be an exciting new addition to our ongoing public information and communication efforts.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Village of Homer Glen encourages residents to shop Homer Glen.



MALLEY'S SALON & SPA 14322 S. Golden Oak Drive
708-845-8405 - billystylist@gmail.com



REHAB CONNECTIONS 14901 S. Founders Crossing
708-878-7158 - rehabconnections@aol.com



GOLD MAX 14124 Bell Road
630-233-0330



ARTISTIC DENTISTRY 14403 S. Bell Road
708-301-6060



THE DANCE STUDIO 15758 S. Bell Road
708-301-8181 - mariannekyle@hotmail.com



M&D FARMS 14946 S. Bell Road
708-301-0740 - mdfarms@att.net

**SOMETHING SWEET . . .
IS COMING SOON!**

Robert Consentino and Rose Reynders, owner of Tazza Italian Ristorante are putting the final touches on their dream of opening a complete “everything from scratch” homemade bakery in Homer Glen.

The Grand opening of “**Something Sweet Cupcake Boutique**”, located at **14045 S. Bell Road**, is coming soon. The bakery will offer everything from artful cupcakes, scrumptious muffins, decorated cookies and cakes that “taste as good as they look” says co-owner Rose Reynders. They will also specialize in cakes for every occasion.

Store hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Sundays by appointment only.

Something Sweet Cupcake Boutique is coming soon to 14045 S. Bell Road!



**CHRISTMAS DONATION
REQUESTS TO ASSIST
VETERANS**

The holidays can be a very difficult financial time for veterans looking for work. The Will County Veterans Assistance Commission is seeking donations of personal need items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, shampoo, band-aids, razors, deodorant, socks, etc. for their veteran clients. These donations will be included in the holiday personal needs bags distributed by the Commission to their client veterans to help them make a professional appearance while searching for work.

Donations can be dropped off at the Village Hall, 14933 S. Founders Crossing. Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Items can also be dropped off at the Will County Veterans Commission Office, 128 N. Scott Street, Joliet, Illinois or picked up by calling (815) 740-8389.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

**EMERALD ASH
BORER INFO**



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first discovered in southeast Michigan in the summer of 2002. Since then, it has destroyed millions of ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Approximately 20% of the trees in the Chicagoland area are Ash. These trees are in danger of being infested and destroyed.

The Emerald Ash Borer (pictured above) is an exotic pest that has few natural predators. The beetle kills quickly as larvae burrow into bark, causing the tree to decay and eventually die. Although the beetle doesn't serve any direct risk to public health, it does threaten the Ash tree population. The Village has confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer in Homer Glen. The Village wants residents to be on the lookout for these insects. The Emerald Ash Tree Borer, when full grown, is only about ½-inch long and metallic green. Adults will leave a D-shaped hole in the bark of the Ash tree when they emerge from the trees each spring. Heavy woodpecker damage on the ash tree may be another sign of infestation, as woodpeckers like to eat the EAB larvae.

If you suspect you may have identified an Emerald Ash Borer infestation on a tree on either the public right-of-way or on your property, please contact the Village of Homer Glen at (708) 301-0632.

**SEVERAL WAYS TO
REDUCE CRIME IN YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD**



The Good news is that Homer Glen enjoys a very low crime rate. The bad news is that we are not crime free. An

unlocked vehicle, even in your own driveway, provides an easy opportunity for a person to quietly open the door and search through the vehicle for popular items like cell phones, iPods, laptop computers and loose change. Even if you lock your vehicle, remember not to leave valuables in your car. Open garages and storage sheds also provide opportunities for would-be thieves. Besides keeping these locked, other remedies such as motion detector lights and other security systems are possible options. Residents are encouraged to call the sheriff's office with information about any suspicious activity they may observe. Even if it turns out to be completely innocent activity, it is better to be cautious than to let individuals potentially victimize your neighbors.

Crimes in progress or suspected criminal activity in progress should be reported by dialing 9-1-1.

**HOMER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
A SUCCESS!**

The 2012 Homer Community Festival was a great success thanks to our generous sponsors, volunteers and community residents!

We are looking forward to another fun filled year as the Homer Community Festival committee begins planning for the 2013 community event.

Mark your calendars and plan to bring the entire family to enjoy the 2013 four day festival featuring exciting band entertainment, fireworks, great food, a super midway carnival and much more!



**VILLAGE IS FIRST ILLINOIS
MUNICIPALITY DESIGNATED
AS AN INTERNATIONAL DARK
SKY COMMUNITY**

The Village of Homer Glen has been recognized as an International Dark Sky Community. Homer Glen is only the fourth community in the world and the first municipality in the State of Illinois to be awarded this honorable designation.

The Village of Homer Glen received the designation because of its “exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting codes, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies.” For more information about the Village's Dark Sky designation please go to www.homerglen.org.



Community and Nature in Harmony SPOTLIGHT

The recipients for this year's annual COMMUNITY AND NATURE IN HARMONY AWARDS were honored at the Village Board meeting on September 25. Each recipient was recognized for their commitment to the environment through preservation, restoration and/or beautification of property within the Village of Homer Glen. Their dedication to these projects significantly enhances the environment and contributes to community pride.

Mayor Jim Daley, Environment Committee Chairman Trustee Margaret Sabo and members Hersch Collins, Randy Juras, Kathy Kudla, Bob Moses, Cynthia Rataj, Sue Steilen, Sharon Sweas and Gary White presented award certificates to the following individuals, businesses and organizations:

Joseph and Mary Alfirevich – Establishing an attractive landscape that compliments the house and blends seamlessly with the surrounding natural area.

Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church – Restoration of an abandoned detention area into a natural prairie with a plaza, bridge and terraced garden for the enjoyment of the community.

Boy Scout Troop 63 – Extension and framing of new wheelchair accessible campfire area at Shady Oaks Camp and building corner fences at Trantina Farm.

Boy Scout Troop 149 – Restoration of old flagpole, building a new split rail fence and landscaping at Shady Oaks Camp.

Daisy Troop 593 – Planting colorful flowers to brighten the grounds at Shady Oaks Camp.

Albert and Delores Gluchowski – Beautification of their property from parkway transitioning to the backyard for an attractive landscape from beginning to end.

Homer Glen Foundation – Coordination of the Mike Hike 5K event with more than 700 individuals and raised funds to support trail connections and amenities along the Homer Glen Heroes Trail.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club – Donation of a large Autumn Blaze Maple tree and more than 200 hours of landscaping and beautification of the historic Old Town Hall.

Illinois Live Steamers – Continuously planting and preserving numerous trees, tree-cycling and establishment of a wildlife habitat on their property.

Carrie Jermolowicz – Inspiring students at the William E. Young School to appreciate their school environment by incorporating the protected native marshlands, insects, plants and the reasons for eco-friendly watering practices in her classroom science lessons.

Edward and Nadia Kutz – Creation of an outdoor living space with terraced gardens and a waterfall cascading into a large pond on their property.

Jeffrey and Paula Leach – Designing a tranquil landscape on a corner lot that provides an attractive, consistent view from all sides and is an inspiration to others.

Luther J. Schilling School – Setting an example of green building practices through a sustainable addition and renovation including rain water harvesting system, bio-swales, permeable pavers, recycled building materials, water saving features, low VOC paint, energy efficient daylight harvesting and lighting controls.

Roger and Dana Rzepka – Incorporation of a variety of plants and grasses in a beautiful drought resistant landscape design on their property.

Wieslaw and Elizabeth Zajkowski – Creation of a colorful garden showcase on their property.



CNH Award Recipients and Members of the Village Environment Committee



Homer Junior Women's Club & Mayor Daley



Boy Scout Troop 63 & Mayor Daley



Boy Scout Troop 149 & Mayor Daley



Homer Glen Foundation & Mayor Daley



Daisy Troop 593 & Mayor Daley

SNOW REMOVAL

Despite a very hot summer and warm fall, the midwest may see a considerable amount of snowfall this coming winter season. With this in mind, the Village offers some suggestions below.

- In order to make pedestrian travel safer and easier for everyone, please clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjacent to your property.
- If possible, shovel driveway aprons only after roadways are completely cleared. This will eliminate the need to shovel again after the snowplow has come down your street.
- Pile all snow away from the edge of the road. Residents are encouraged to shovel snow to either side of the driveway. Should the snowplow make an additional pass after you shovel, it will not push the same snow back into your driveway.
- Do not push snow into or across the street while shoveling. Putting your snow into the street not only creates an additional hazard, but also may result in the same snow being deposited into your neighbor's driveway should the snowplow make an additional pass.
- Please clear snow away from fire hydrants to permit easy access by the Fire Protection District in the event of an emergency.
- No parking is permitted on Village streets or roads after a 2" snowfall or greater within the twelve hour period immediately following such snowfall, unless the street in question has been cleared of snow, per Village Ordinance No. 08-001.
- Although the Highway Department crew makes every attempt to avoid damaging mailboxes, on rare occasions, mailboxes are damaged due to a direct impact with a plow or more frequently from snow coming off the plow and being thrown into the parkway. Make sure the edge of your mailbox does not overhang the curb. Mailboxes should be 6" from the curb and supported securely at the base for stability. A quick check to prepare your mailbox for winter snowfall will help maintain a secure mailbox during snowplowing. If your mailbox is damaged this winter, please contact the Highway Department at 708-301-0246.

A FEW CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR TIPS



1. Get contractor recommendations from friends and neighbors; contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau.
2. Ask and get proof that the company is insured against claims covering workers compensation, property damage and general liability.
3. Check with the Village to make sure your contractor is registered with Homer Glen.
4. All estimates should be in writing and be very specific, with plans and specifications. A written contract should be required that specifies all work to be done and include a completion date.
5. Be sure to obtain the Village's Building Permit prior to the start of the work and post the building permit in a conspicuous location until the work is fully completed and inspected by the Village.

VILLAGE ESTABLISHES BUSINESS INCENTIVE LOAN PROGRAMS



"The Village of Homer Glen is committed to Economic Development and to helping local businesses thrive," stated Homer Glen Mayor James Daley. The Mayor was commenting on the Village's recent establishment of two new economic development programs to assist local Homer Glen businesses.

The Village of Homer Glen has established a \$100,000.00 **Business Incentive Revolving Loan Fund** to fund two new economic development programs. "The Village will utilize money from the business incentive revolving loan fund to assist local Homer Glen businesses in improving their business facades and replacing old, non-conforming business signage," stated Mayor Daley. "Its' just good business and good common sense to help local Homer Glen businesses prosper," continued the Mayor.

Homer Glen has established the **Business Incentive Façade Improvement Loan Program** and the **Business Incentive Non-Conforming Sign Replacement Loan Program**. Both programs are available to existing Homer Glen businesses. The programs offer zero percent (0%) bridge loans to pay for business façade improvements and sign replacements.

The Village's Community and Economic Development Committee worked with the Village Board to put these important new business loan programs in place. "The Village believes that instituting economic development incentive programs helps to retain and attract businesses," stated Village Trustee and CEDC Chairperson Ted Kagianas. The establishment of the two new incentive programs, along with the Village's plans to hire a full-time Economic Development Director, are signs of the Village's continued commitment to economic development.

Homer Glen businesses with questions about the new *Business Incentive Façade Improvement Loan Program* and the new *Business Incentive Non-Conforming Sign Replacement Loan Program* can contact Village Hall at (708) 301.0632.

VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN RANKED 5th MOST TRANSPARENT MUNICIPALITY IN ILLINOIS

The Village of Homer Glen is committed to and believes in transparency! On the Village's website at www.homerglen.org residents can find important information. In the transparency section of the website, accessible from the front page "transparency" icon, the public will find hundreds and hundreds of pages of information. Available information includes calendars, minutes, financial reports, salaries, budgets, plans, check registers, etc.

The Village's on-line posting of information and documents has earned the Village of Homer Glen the highest government transparency rating of any governmental entity in Will County, as determined by the Illinois Policy Institute. The Village of Homer Glen is rated the 5th most transparent municipality of all of the 160+ governments audited in the Chicago area. "We are happy to see that the Illinois Policy Institute has recognized the Village of Homer Glen's commitment to open, transparent government," stated Mayor Daley. "The Village organization believes in transparency and we are committed to keeping and improving upon our already outstanding rating," concluded the Mayor.



Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

14933 S. Founders Crossing
Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

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VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

Santa's Coming to Town – November 26!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Village's 6th annual Christmas Tree lighting event **Monday, November 26, 2012** at the Homer Junior High, 15711 S. Bell Road. Residents are encouraged to bundle up and join Mayor Daley, Village Trustees and Village staff as we "light" the Christmas tree and welcome the holiday season.



Delightful holiday music will be provided by the Homer Junior High School Show Choir, with a special visit from Santa. All children attending will have the opportunity to whisper their wish list into Santa's ear!

Cold weather refreshments will be served along with warm holiday cheer! A special *thank you* to Homer School District 33C for allowing the Village to utilize their beautiful spruce tree. Another special *thank you* to the Highway Department for putting all of the lights on the Christmas tree.

Please plan to join us at 6:30 PM, Monday, November 26 for this annual community event. Watch out...Santa's coming to town!

PLEASE DO NOT RAKE LEAVES INTO VILLAGE STREETS

Fall is here and with this beautiful season comes leaf, brush and branch collection. Use the NuWay yard waste toter, "Kraft" paper bags or rigid containers of no more than 32 gallon capacity to dispose of leaves and landscape waste. Branches and brush will also be collected by NuWay if bundled and tied with string or twine. Make sure to pre-cut branches into lengths of 4 feet or less and no more than 4 inches in diameter. Each bundle must not weigh more than 50 lbs. Leaves in particular can clog storm inlets and could lead to localized flooding. Please do not rake leaves into Village streets. NuWay leaf and yard waste pick-up ends November 30th.



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 3

Mike Hike
<http://mikehike5k.com>

NOVEMBER 6

General Election
Polling Places
at www.thewillcountyclerk.com

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving
Village Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 23

Village Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 26

Village of Homer Glen
Christmas Tree Lighting
6:30 PM (Homer Jr. High)

NOVEMBER 30

NuWay Leaf & Yard Waste pick
up ends

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve
Village Offices Closed

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
Village Office Closed