

Messenger



“A GLIMPSE OF THE GLEN”

Newsletter for the Village of Homer Glen

WINTER 2013



THE VILLAGE IS WORKING TO SOLVE HOMER GLEN'S LONGSTANDING STORM WATER DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

The Village of Homer Glen has had its share of flooding and other longstanding storm water drainage problems. To begin solving these problems, the Village is investing resources in a coordinated effort to fix storm water problems around the community.

This past summer the Village completed a major storm water improvement project in the Oak Valley subdivision. Thanks to the assistance of Representative Renee Kosel, the Village of Homer Glen received a \$175,000.00 grant from the State of Illinois to help fund this storm water improvement project. The project involved the reconstruction of a large, existing storm water detention area. Over the years, the detention area had accumulated a significant amount of sediment that contributed to flooding. During the reconstruction of the storm water detention area, approximately 135 truckloads of sediment material were removed. The removal of this material will provide additional storm water storage in the Oak Valley subdivision, thus helping to reduce the likelihood of flooding in this area.

In addition to the Oak Valley storm

water improvement project, the Mayor and Village Board recently approved a proposal to prepare plans and specifications for seven individual storm water improvement projects to be completed in 2014. These projects are located throughout the Village and include storm water improvements in the Derby Meadows (Unit Four B) subdivision, Hadley Woods Estates subdivision and the Meadowview subdivision. The intended 2014 storm water improvement projects also include work in the Old Oak Estates East (Unit 7) detention pond, Pebble Creek (Unit 5) subdivision, Spring Creek Trail subdivision and improvements to the Scuds Lake outfall for the Hunt Club Woods subdivision. The Village of Homer Glen is committed to fixing longstanding storm water drainage problems in the community and we're moving forward...with purpose!!

The Village also continues to investigate localized drainage problems received from residents through the Village's "Request to Resolve" program. Residents experiencing drainage issues are asked to fill out a "Request to Resolve" form available on the Village's website (www.homerglenil.org) or at the Village Hall.

FROM MAYOR DALEY

Dear Neighbor:

My wife Denise and I, along with our family, would like to send our very best to you and your loved ones this holiday season. We hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, an enjoyable Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a safe and productive New Year.

It's my continued pleasure to serve the residents of the Village of Homer Glen. I want to use this opportunity to update you on important issues of the day in our community.

Meijer – Coming Soon!

Everyone in town is excited about the huge, new **Meijer** store that is under construction in Homer Glen. I have been working for years to make this important project a reality. Economic development and tax base diversification are more than just goals for the Village of Homer Glen...they are priorities! I'm happy that our hard work has helped to deliver this store to the absolute benefit of our community. Look for more information about the Meijer store development on **page three** of this newsletter.

Cont'd. on page 2

VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING EVENT

Santa Claus is coming to Homer Glen on December 2!

Bundle up in your winter coat, hat and gloves and bring the whole family to join Mayor Daley, Village Trustees and Village staff as we welcome the holiday season and take part in lighting the "Village Christmas tree". **The 7th Annual Tree Lighting Event** will take place at the Homer Junior High School, by the Old School House, 15711 S. Bell Road, on Monday, December 2nd, at 7:00 PM.

Join us in enjoying the sounds of the season as the Homer Junior High School Show Choir present a delightful array of holiday songs as we welcome a very special visit from Santa Claus. In addition, children will have the opportunity to meet Santa and whisper their Christmas wishes into his ear.

We appreciate Homer School District 33-C for allowing the community to utilize their beautiful spruce tree. We'd also like to thank our friends at the Highway Department for decorating the tree for us to enjoy. **Make sure to join us on December 2nd as we light up the tree... because Santa Claus is coming to town!**

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

JIM DALEY
MAYOR

MIKE COSTA
TRUSTEE

MARCIA DEVIVO
TRUSTEE

TEDD KAGIANAS
TRUSTEE

MARGARET SABO
TRUSTEE

SHARON SWEAS
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.homerglenil.org

THE VILLAGE



Messenger

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

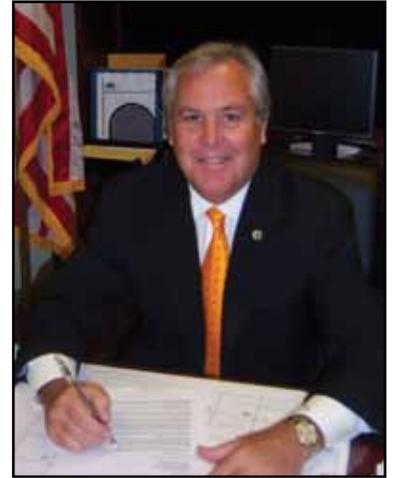
PLEASE ADDRESS COMMENTS TO:

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

FROM MAYOR DALEY *Cont'd.*

Illinois American Water/American Lake Water – Acquisition Update!

The Village of Homer Glen, along with Romeoville, Woodridge, Bolingbrook and Lemont, are working together to acquire the IAW/ALW water transmission line that brings Lake Michigan water to our communities. IAW/ALW did not accept our reasonable purchase price offer and now this acquisition is in the court system. I believe that Homer Glen and our four governmental partners will succeed in purchasing the water transmission line. We are all working together, as a team, in our efforts to minimize the year-in and year-out price increases levied by Illinois American Water. The Village of Homer Glen remains committed to doing what we can to help get the cost of water under better control in this community.



New Business Spotlight

I hope that you've noticed all of the new businesses opening, or set to open, in Homer Glen. On **page four** of this newsletter you will see photos from six of the many new businesses that have recently opened in our community. Additional new businesses will be highlighted in our next Village newsletter. **I urge you to consider supporting these excellent new businesses by shopping Homer Glen!**

As I write this article, I hear construction work going on in the commercial space next to Village Hall. A new Homer Glen business will be moving into the space next to our offices very soon. New businesses are opening up in Homer Glen and we're working hard to make sure this outstanding trend continues.

New Corporate Headquarters

Richards Building Supply has picked Homer Glen, over other area communities, in which to build their new corporate headquarters. Richards is moving from Cook County to Homer Glen. I encourage you to review the article on **page three** of this newsletter. We welcome yet another new business to our great community!

Homer Glen "CAN" Help Food Drive

The Village organization is holding a Homer Glen "CAN" Help food drive to benefit the needs of the Lockport/Homer Glen FISH Food Pantry. There is more information about this food drive on **page five** of this newsletter. If you can help, I encourage you to stop by Village Hall (**14933 S. Founders Crossing**) with food items that we will collect and deliver to the food pantry. **I know Homer Glen "Can" Help!**

I Value Your Input!

As always, I would appreciate your thoughts and recommendations on issues facing the community. I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to call Village Hall or you can direct your questions and comments, by email, to village@homerglen.org.

Respectfully,
Village of Homer Glen

James P. Daley, Jr.
Mayor



Please Consider Donating To The
Homer Glen "Can" Help Food Drive (page 5)

VILLAGE WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FOR RICHARDS BUILDING SUPPLY

The Village of Homer Glen welcomes the Richards Building Supply company corporate headquarters to our growing business community. Pictured below at the recent groundbreaking is Mayor Daley and members of the Village Board, joined by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guzior, founders of Richards Building Supply.

The Homer Glen Village Board unanimously approved the development plan for the Richards Building Supply headquarters on October 22nd. Richards is moving their corporate headquarters from Cook County to the Village of Homer Glen.

Construction is currently underway at Richard's 3.4 acre site just west of Will Cook Road, on the north side of 159th Street, between the existing 7 Eleven and the Sandbox Early Learning Center. The new 22,000 square foot headquarters building will be two stories tall, distinguished by a beautiful glass atrium entry.

The relocation of Richards Building Supply to Homer Glen will continue the Village's efforts at tax base diversification. Approximately 50 staff members will operate out of the new headquarters building. Surrounding Village retailers, service businesses and restaurants should also benefit from the significant addition to Homer Glen's daytime employment.

Richards Building Supply is a family-owned company founded in Chicago in 1978. Richards operates as a wholesale distributor of building material and currently serves 11 states with 48 locations. The Village organization joins everyone in town in welcoming Homer Glen's newest corporate partner.



NEW HOMER GLEN MEIJER STORE COMING SOON!

One of the largest Meijer stores in the south suburbs will open in Homer Glen in the spring of 2014. The Village has worked diligently with the Meijer organization to make this important economic development project a reality. Currently under construction, just northeast of the 143rd Street and Bell Road intersection, the Meijer store will be almost 200,000 square feet. In addition, a new Meijer gas station is also being constructed on Bell Road.

The new Homer Glen Meijer store will offer area residents outstanding new shopping opportunities. The store will have a drive through pharmacy, groceries, fresh produce, baked goods, health and beauty items, clothes and electronics. The store will also carry baby goods, garden and patio items, home goods, toys, sporting equipment and furniture.

In addition to new shopping opportunities, the Meijer store will help to achieve the Village's ongoing goals of tax base diversification and sales tax growth. **As residents know, the Village organization levy's no municipal property tax to pay for our general operational costs.** New sales tax money, generated by purchases at the Meijer store, will help to pay for general Village operations such as public safety.

The Village of Homer Glen welcomes the Meijer organization to our community. We're working hard with Meijer to move the project forward as quickly as possible. As spring 2014 approaches, the Village will keep residents posted on Meijer's grand opening date through our website at www.homerglenil.org.



NEW VILLAGE TRUSTEE SHARON SWEAS

Trustee Sharon Sweas was elected to the Village Board this past April and has been a resident of Homer Glen for over ten years. Trustee Sweas has served on the Village's Environment Committee since 2008 and was appointed as Co-Chair for the Homer Harvest Days Committee in 2013. Sharon is also an active participant in Village events such as Earth Day/Arbor Day, Homer Community Festival, Star-Gazing, Earth Hour, Mike-Hike, Homer Glen Lands Day and the Village's Community & Nature in Harmony Awards.

Sharon has over 25 years of Customer Service and Sales experience working for major international airlines in addition to 15 years of managing a family hardware business. She believes that her past experience, especially in business and customer service, will assist in serving the residents of Homer Glen. Sharon has found the past six months to be a rewarding experience as she continues meeting and listening to Village residents. Sharon enjoys being outdoors, gardening, golfing and going for long walks with her rescue hound.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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



PURE SALON & SPA
14164 S. Bell Road
kcsanr@gmail.com



ALL ABOUT ME
12101 West 159th Street
www.orderallaboutme.com



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www.ellebakerphotography.com
www.adoremyphtography.com



DR. SHERYL LEIPOLD, DDS PC
15776 Bell Road, Bell Tower Office Park
www.drsherylleipold.com



LA CREPE BISTRO
13957 S. Bell Road



CARROZZA FOOT CLINIC
12701 West 143rd Street

LONG RUN CREEK CLEANUP A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Village of Homer Glen and the Highway Department partnered together for a recent clean-up of Long Run Creek. Long Run Creek, along with its tributaries, flow through the backyards of many homes within Homer Glen. The creek is privately owned by all of the property owners that abut the waterway. In many areas, the creek has become blocked by natural and man-made debris.

Residents that live along Long Run Creek were asked to help clean their portion of the creek bed. Many residents called Village Hall and asked for volunteer assistance in removing debris from their portion of the creek. For many residents that needed assistance, community volunteers were provided. The Village and Highway Department want to thank the LTHS ROTC members, the local Boy Scouts, Village staff and Highway Department staff, all of whom did an outstanding job volunteering on clean-up day.

Look for upcoming information on the 2014 Long Run Creek clean-up efforts. The Village of Homer Glen and the Highway Department are committed to doing our part in helping residents to clean-up the creek. Below is a photo of Mayor Jim Daley as he joins volunteers in cleaning up Long Run Creek.



Mayor Jim Daley joins volunteers in cleaning up Long Run Creek

STARGAZING IN 2013 AT THE TRANTINA FARM

This was the sixth year for the biannual stargazing events held at Homer Township's historic Trantina Farm. On September 27th, a record number of stargazers ventured out to view the night sky. To date, over the years, approximately 1,500 people have come to the Farm to experience the beauty of stars at night. These events are coordinated by the Village of Homer Glen's Environment Committee with assistance from the Village's Emergency Management Agency, Homer Township and Will County School District 92. Thanks goes out to amateur astronomers from the Kankakee Area StarGazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association and the South West Astronomy Observers Group who provided large telescopes for stargazers to view the amazing night sky. For more information go to the Village's website at www.homerglenil.org

HOMER GLEN "CAN" HELP FOOD DRIVE

The Village invites and encourages you to help stock the shelves of the local Lockport/Homer Glen FISH Food Pantry this holiday season. The food pantry is a very important non-profit organization that serves our community.

Homer Glen residents seeking to help the food pantry can drop-off food items either at the food pantry itself (www.lockportfoodpantry.org) or at the Homer Glen Village Hall (14933 S. Founders Crossing). Village staff volunteers will make sure all food donations brought to Village Hall are transported to the food pantry.

Recently, benefits were reduced for many food stamp recipients. After this occurred, the local food pantry had so much unmet need that they actually ran out of food one day and had to turn people away. Since then, the local Lockport/Homer Glen FISH Food Pantry has experienced diminished food supplies as more people are turning to the pantry for help.

The Homer Glen "CAN" Help Food Drive seeks to help area residents who depend on the food pantry to supplement or provide food for their families. If you are able to, please consider making a food donation to this worthwhile cause.

A list of basic supply needs can be found at the Lockport/Homer Glen Food Pantry website at www.lockportfoodpantry.org. If you are unable to drop off provisions but would still like to help the food pantry out, you can donate money through their secure website. All donated money is used strictly for the purpose of food purchasing.



VILLAGE RECEIVES 11th FINANCIAL AWARD

The Village recently received its 11th straight **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. The Village's financial reports have been judged to meet the very highest standards. This award is a continuing example of the Village's strong and ongoing commitment to financial integrity.

NO PARKING ON THE STREET AFTER A TWO INCH SNOWFALL!

Winter months bring cold weather conditions that include bouts of snowfall. Whenever snow accumulations are two inches or more, please remove your vehicle(s) from the Village's streets. By not parking on the street, within the twelve hour period immediately following such a snowfall, the Highway Department is able to clear the streets. Thank you in advance for helping us in our efforts to keep Homer Glen streets as safe as possible.



THANK YOU HOMER GLEN JUNIOR WOMENS CLUB!

Thank You to the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club for their thoughtful recognition of the Village of Homer Glen staff on "You Make A Difference Day". On Friday, October 25th, members of the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club presented the Village Staff with a beautiful basket of baked goods. This is the 4th year the Junior Women's Club has recognized organizations in the community for "Making a Difference". The Will County Sheriff's Homer Glen staff were also honored for "Making a Difference" by the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club. Thank you to the Homer Glen Junior Women's Club for all of their ongoing community improvement efforts!



THANK YOU EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS

From helping with public events like the Homer Community Festival and Homer Harvest Days to assisting our Sheriff's Department or Fire Protection Districts, the volunteers in the Village of Homer Glen's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) are keeping busy. Our EMA volunteers are trained in CPR, first aid, hazardous materials, traffic control, radio communications, emergency vehicle operations, etc. When not volunteering in Homer Glen, the EMA team uses their training to assist other communities when needed. For example, the Village of Homer Glen EMA recently assisted the Village of Lemont's EMA group with traffic control when the Citgo Refinery fire occurred.

If you're interested in becoming a Homer Glen EMA volunteer, please contact the Village Hall at 708-301-0632. The Homer Glen Emergency Management team...a great group of community minded volunteers!



MAJOR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY?

Homer Glen resident Bernice Seblonka was recently presented with a proclamation designating a day in her honor. The Village Board approved a proclamation designating Bernice Seblonka Day in the Village of Homer Glen in honor of Mrs. Seblonka's 100th birthday. She received a standing ovation as Mayor Daley presented the proclamation to her.

Mayor Daley would like to invite residents of Homer Glen, who are celebrating their 100th birthday or a major anniversary, to contact him at (708) 301-0632. The Village would like to help you celebrate!



VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN LANDS DAY CELEBRATION

Mayor Jim Daley, Village Trustees, Library District Board members and the Executive Director recently gathered at the Library to celebrate the 11th annual Homer Glen Lands Day tree planting ceremony. A beautiful "Celebration Maple" tree, generously donated by John Teerling of Teerling Nursery, was planted on the grounds of the newly remodeled Homer Library. Rick Gomez, owner of Instant Shade Tree Transplanting Inc., once again donated his services for planting the tree with the use of a hydraulically operated tree spade.

Library Executive Director Sheree Kozel-La Ha and Library District Trustees were delighted to accept the donation of the tree during this significant year when the Library building has been renovated and expanded to twice its original size. Director Kozel-La Ha made the following comments at the tree planting ceremony:

"We are honored to receive this tree. This is a milestone year in our library history as we celebrate the expanded library and our 30th year of excellence in serving the community. We commend the establishment of the Homer Glen Lands Day and the wonderful community vision that brought this forward. We have made our commitment to conservation and the environment within many library areas, all featured in a bright and inviting energy efficient building. The mature tree will be a lovely addition to the newly landscaped and naturalized areas of the library property."

The Village's Environment Committee, chaired by Village Trustee Margaret Sabo, hosts and coordinates the annual Homer Glen Lands Day celebration and tree planting ceremony.



WINTER SNOW REMOVAL TIPS FROM THE VILLAGE AND THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- 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 your street while shoveling. Putting your snow into the street will create an additional hazard, and will also result in the same snow being deposited into your neighbor's driveway.
- Thank you for clearing snow away from the water/fire hydrants . . . it's appreciated!
- 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.

Community and Nature in Harmony

SPOTLIGHT

The 12th Annual Community and Nature in Harmony Awards were held October 8, 2013, honoring the 15 recipients for their contributions to the local environment, enhancing community pride. The CNH awards recognized each nominee for their dedication and creative preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of property within the Village of Homer Glen.

Mayor Daley and Environment Committee members Trustee Margaret Sabo, Trustee Sharon Sweas, Kathy Kudla, Cynthia Rataj, Sue Steilen and Gary White presented the award certificates to the following individuals, businesses and organizations.

John and Marilyn Crisham – Creation of a beautiful and colorful landscape with charming accessories and utilizing a repurposed bicycle as a fun focal point.

Khaled and Aysheh Dissi – Creation of a colorful backyard garden landscape on property which is enjoyed by the Yangas Park patrons.

Garden Patch Farms, Anthony Ndoca and Alexandra Miller – Introducing children to the wonders of butterflies through their inaugural butterfly release party.

Girl Scout Troop 681 – Promoting environmental awareness by distributing Earth Day/Arbor Day poster and flyers throughout the Village.

David and Pamela Kohley – Creation of a colorful and serene landscape and providing a woodland wildlife habitat on their property.

Walter Konow – Increasing the urban tree canopy of Homer Glen by adding 288 trees on his property.

Lari Kresopolska – Creation of an attractive landscape featuring a variety of height and color showcasing a mixture of annuals, perennials and vines.

Peter Mitchell – Directing a project of adding handicap benches, power washing and polishing concrete surfaces and installing a sidewalk that beautifies and provides easy access to the patio at Shady Oaks Camp.

Grant Nordwall – Enhancing the outdoor enjoyment of campers at Shady Oaks Camp by coordinating a project and volunteers to construct a new bat house and two handicap accessible picnic tables.

NuWay Disposal Services – Fueling the NuWay truck fleet with clean-burning Compressed Naturel Gas and providing services and support of programs that improve the environment of Homer Glen.

Roscoe Rea – Organizing scouts from Troop 63 to build and install six birdhouses and beautifying the Trantina Farm property.

Nora Sanderson – Creation of a bright floral showcase in their front yard and a landscape which transitions beautifully to a serene view of open space.

Joe Schuld – Using his leadership skills to organize a group of Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 44 and other volunteers to clear posts and fencing from Messenger Woods and returning the area back to its natural beauty.

Zack Sowatske – Coordinating fellow scouts from Boy Scout Troop 63 and a group of volunteers to install split-rail fencing and a small perennial garden to the grounds of Shady Oaks Camp.



CNH Award recipients (l-r) Alexandra Miller and Anthony Ndoca- Garden Patch Farms, Grant Nordwall, Joe Schuld, Tom Agema – NuWay, Mayor Daley, Kathy Kudla- Environment Committee, Molly Nolan and Richard Miller-Garden Patch Farms



Lari Kresopolska, Khaled and Aysheh Dissi, Mayor Daley, David and Pamela Kohley, Marilyn and John Crisham, Sue Steilen-Environment Committee and Environment Chairperson-Trustee Margaret Sabo



Cynthia Rataj-Environment Committee, Nor Sanderson, Mayor Daley, Walter Konow and Gary White



Girl Scout Troop 681: Krista Weisenfluh, Sandra Hansen, Mayor Daley, Lisa Johnson



Boy Scout Troop 63: Tim Medendorp, ASM, Stan Rea, SM, Amir Khalaf, Patrick Wozek, NIC Sowatzke, Mayor Daley, Danny Canning, Roscoe Rea, Michael Philbrick, Zach Sowatzke, and Chuck Aimaro



Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

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Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

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Homer Glen Christmas Tree Lighting – December 2nd

NEW VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN ERIN HILLS PARK NEARS COMPLETION

The Village of Homer Glen’s newest community park will be dedicated and officially open to the public this spring. Located in the Erin Hills subdivision, by the intersection of South Erin Drive and South Dublin Drive, Erin Hills Park encompasses 1.5 acres of fun! **This new Village park includes state of the art playground equipment, a putting green, an interpretive boardwalk and observation deck, an overlook, multi-purpose trails, a picnic shelter and a large yard for enjoyment.**

The Village was able to build Erin Hills Park with revenue from park donation fees and by applying for and receiving a State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources OSLAD Grant. Erin Hills Park will be the third park owned and developed by the Village of Homer Glen. Other Village parks include Kingston Hills Park and Stonebridge Park.



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving
Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 29

Village Offices Closed

NOVEMBER 30

NuWay Leaf & Yard Waste
Pick Up Ends

DECEMBER 2

Community Christmas
Tree Lighting
7 p.m. Junior High

DECEMBER 10

Board Meeting

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve
Offices Closed

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
Offices Closed

DECEMBER 31

New Year’s Eve
Offices Closed