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Call Patti Maska at (708) 301-0632 with contributions, or fax them to (708) 301-8407.

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## GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT UPDATE

As previously reported, Homer Glen received a grant through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to participate in the Green Communities Demonstration Program.

More than seventy-five residents met for a series of three visioning sessions. During one day-long session, environmental goals were set for the Village. Draft goals and objectives were established in six areas: community image and character, open space, parks and recreation, habitat and wildlife, transportation, and water resources. At a separate meeting, residents took part in an environmentally friendly mapping exercise, and a visual preference survey. An environmental vision statement was established.

Last month, residents participated in a conservation-design bus tour to several locations that are presently using GREEN development practices, offering participants an opportunity to speak with individuals who design, develop, and maintain these residential and office developments. The questions of feasibility and economy of design, and whether or not Homer Glen's environmental concerns can be addressed in this manner were explored during this tour.

As work continues to retain our rural character and areas that make Homer Glen unique, and to preserve our wetlands and natural resources, take a minute to thank all the members of the Green Grant Committee who have worked long hours to keep our community green.

The Green Grant vision, goals and objectives can be viewed on the Village website, [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org). Comments you would like to add to this program can be sent to the visioning committee at this same address.

## Homer Glen's First Elected Trustees Sworn In



Turn to page 5 to meet three of the Trustees. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Christine Luttrell, Village Clerk, and Trustees Margaret Sabo, Mary Niemiec, Robert Hughes, Marcia DeVivo and Dale Vogelsanger. NOT PICTURED: Brian Andrews, Mayor Russ Petrizzo.



**Russ  
Petrizzo,  
Mayor**

Dear Homer Glen Residents:

Homer Glen has made great strides in 2003 thanks in no small part to all the volunteers who continue to donate their time and energy to the Village. We have launched a public awareness program aimed at keeping our young drivers safe. The newly formed Public Safety Committee took on the project and did a superb job creating the *What's The Rush?* brochure. Copies are available at the Village office and Homer Township Library. Please take the time to review this important publication with your teenage drivers.

Many residents have voiced their concerns over the jump in sewer

rates. I do not believe the rate hike was fair to the residents of Homer Glen. Although the Village of Homer Glen does not control the rates, we are trying to address the issue. We are forming a water and sewer service task force to review the rate increase process and determine what actions can be taken to maintain affordable sewer and water rates in Homer Glen. Call the Village Hall if you would like to volunteer on this task force.

I am proud to report Homer Glen has been recognized for *Excellence in Financial Reporting* for its first audit ever (Fiscal Year 2001-02). We remain accountable to the taxpayers of Homer Glen and are committed to upholding the highest financial standards. As the state threatens to cut additional funding to municipalities we must be vigilant in our spending. The revenue we receive from sales tax is very important to our Village.

I strongly encourage all residents to patronize Homer Glen businesses and keep your sales tax dollars here.

Homer Glen welcomes the following new businesses:

- Davidson's Bar & Grill, Homer Town Square
- Lar's Escape, 159<sup>th</sup> & South Bell
- Gas City, 143<sup>rd</sup> & Lemont Rd.
- Just Tires, Homer Town Square
- ShapExpress, Homer Town Square
- Shell, annexed 143<sup>rd</sup> & Bell
- Backyard Barbeque, 157<sup>th</sup> & Bell
- Doggie Bag, 143<sup>rd</sup> & Golden Oak

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season,

*Russ Petrizzo*  
Mayor

**2003 COMMUNITY AND NATURE IN HARMONY AWARDS**

The Parks and Environment Committee coordinated two events in celebration of Homer Glen Lands Day.

A twenty-two foot tall burr oak was planted at the Northwest Homer Fire Station #2. Planting services were donated by village resident Rick Gomez of Instant Shade.

As a second part of this celebration, the 2003 Community and Nature in Harmony Awards were presented to fifteen recipients who demonstrated commitment to the environment through the preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of land in Homer Glen.

The following award winners were recognized:

- Tom and Jane Adelman
- Sharon Bolerjack
- Thomas and Chris Bentley
- Jeff Guzlas
- Debbie Haslinger
- Jack and Lynn McGrath
- William and Marlys McKee
- Jim Nesci
- Jeff and Beth Rodgers
- Doug and Sue Sisterson
- Ruth Smith
- Brian and Joy Stevens
- Bob and Mary Taylor
- Rick Gomez of Instant Shade
- Al & Ellen Lieponis, UltraLube, Inc.



*The burr oak is delivered by Instant Shade's spade truck.*

## Special Census Planned For 2004

The Village is planning a special census sometime next year in order to get an accurate count of its residents. Whether it will be a full census or a partial census has yet to be determined. The last census, completed prior to the Village's incorporation in the year 2000, was a regular full ten-year census. The population in Homer Glen has expanded during the last three years. The Village receives about \$100 per resident from the State each year. A special census would give the Village the opportunity to collect extra revenues from the State. This could mean an additional annual revenue of \$200,000 or more to the Village that could be used in the General Fund.

Since Homer Glen has no municipal property tax, this extra revenue is very important to the welfare of the Village and its residents. It could be used to increase police protection, for public works improvements or for other services or facilities.

A special census can be a two-edged sword. If the residents do not participate and answer the necessary questions, the Village risks losing population counts and the revenues that go with it. Being a special census, the questionnaire will only contain a few questions and take moments to complete. It is geared for an accurate head count and does not contain the many demographic questions that a regular census requires. A household that does not participate is counted as only one person, resulting in an annual loss to the Village of \$100 per person.

So, when a census taker knocks on your door next year, please cooperate and give him or her a few minutes of your time. It is one of the most important things that YOU can do to make your Village a better place to live.



You are Cordially Invited  
to an OPEN HOUSE  
to View the Proposed  
HOMER GLEN/HOMER TOWNSHIP  
TRAIL SYSTEM

January 31, 2004

HOMER GLEN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
13031 W. 143rd Street

**Public Viewing — 9-11:00AM**

**Public Hearing — 11:00AM**

The public hearing is required for the submission of a grant application for a Recreation Trails Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## Comprehensive Plan Community Input

A public hearing was held December 2 to hear comments from the public regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan. About 150 people attended the hearing. Written comments may still be submitted until Dec. 18.

The Plan Commission will take all comments under consideration and then finalize the Comprehensive Plan for submission to the Village Board for adoption.

Copies of the proposed Plan and the proposed land use map are available for inspection or overnight use at the Village Hall and the Homer Township Library.

## Vehicle Registration

Many residents living in the newly formed 60491 ZIP Code area are not receiving license plate renewal forms from the State of Illinois. Please check the expiration date of your vehicle's plates, and be aware that you may not receive a renewal form.

## What's On the Web?

The web address for the Village of Homer Glen is [www.homerglen.org](http://www.homerglen.org). Informational features of our website include:

- Weekly meeting agendas (usually posted on Friday)
- Subdivision zoning
- Listing of governmental offices
- Various telephone numbers and links to other websites
- Forms including "Request to Resolve Issues" and "I Would Like to Volunteer"

Check back often and see what's new!

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## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE YEAR 2003 RECOGNIZED

At a recent Village Board meeting, Mayor Russ Petrizzo recognized the efforts of the volunteers serving on committees, commissions, and task forces. Residents donate thousands of hours of their time each year.

“We have many volunteers to thank this evening. Without your time and dedication Homer Glen would not be as successful as it is today. We appreciate all you do,” declared Petrizzo. “With your continued help and support we will carry on with what we’ve started, making Homer Glen the best community around.”

“It is with the most sincere gratitude that we say thank you to all of our volunteers,” he continued, “There are five individuals we would like to pay special tribute to this year. It is difficult to measure the value of volunteer work. But what is strongly evident is the commitment of these five individuals to Homer Glen. Each has gone beyond the duties expected by committee members. They have each, of their own accord, taken on extra responsibilities and tasks. This work has not gone unnoticed and we would like to recognize them.”

The Mayor then presented awards to the following *Outstanding Volunteers of the Year for 2003*.

**Nancy Herberg** has served on the Community & Civic Involvement Committee and Green Grant Committee. She has also volunteered as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, the Town Center Task Force, took over as CCIC secretary, assisted with the Independence Day Parade, and has represented Homer Glen each year at the Homer Township Halloween Party. We appreciate your good deeds and thank you, **Nancy Herberg**.



*Sue Steilen, Kim Vogelsanger, Nancy Herberg and Debra Norvil. Not Pictured: Dave Pronesky.*

**Debra Norvil** has been volunteering her assistance since Homer Glen was incorporated. She has worked tirelessly on the Parks & Environment Committee serving on four subcommittees—Lighting, Community & Nature Awards, DNR Ground Water Education Program, and Historic Sites. She also serves on the Storm Water Task Force and on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. She has spent countless hours initiating Homer Glen’s Emergency Management Agency and researching and drafting a lighting ordinance. She is committed to making Homer Glen a safe, environmentally sound, and aesthetically pleasing place to live. We recognize your efforts and thank you, **Debra Norvil**.

**Dave Pronesky** is actively participating on several levels in Homer Glen. He is a member of the Parks & Environment Committee, the Stormwater Task Force, the Trail Planning Task Force, the Roads Task Force and jumped in as Coordinator of the Green Grant Committee when that position needed someone with his project management experience. He has also taken on the monumental task of adopting and promoting the use of the GIS System for Homer Glen. Though many do not notice all your efforts, your good work will leave lasting results in Homer Glen, thank you **Dave Pronesky**.

**Sue Steilen** has been an active participant on the Parks & Environment Committee serving three subcommittees (Lighting, Community & Nature Awards, and Historic Sites). She co-authored the Green Grant application and now serves on the Green Grant committee, providing secretarial support for that group as well as Parks & Environment. Although much of your work is done behind the scenes, we do realize how much you contribute and we thank you, **Sue Steilen**.

**Kim Vogelsanger** generously donates her time and energy. She currently chairs the Communication & Civic Involvement Committee, and has served on the Town Center Task Force and the Administration and Finance Working Group. She has coordinated Homer Glen’s participation in the Independence Day Parade for three years and has opened her home twice to the visiting International Teachers. Her ceaseless efforts to obtain donations for the Village have saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. Your endeavors and enthusiasm are appreciated —thank you **Kim Vogelsanger**.

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## MEET THE NEW VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to our retained Village Trustees Brian Andrews, Mary Niemiec, and Margaret Sabo. Since this is the first full newsletter since the election, we would like you to meet the new Trustees:

### **Marcia DeVivo**

- Seven year resident of Homer
- Member of the Committee to Incorporate Homer Glen
- Former Homer Glen Plan Commissioner
- Homer Glen Stormwater Management Committee Member
- Member of the Homer Glen Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Chairwoman and Co-founder, Long Run Creek Watershed Planning Committee
- Associate Director of the Will/South Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Partnership and Steering Committee Member of the Green Communities Grant
- Council Member of the Lower Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership
- Member Homer Founders Club
- Married 25 years to Michael DeVivo, one adult son



### **Robert Hughes**

- Seven year Homer resident
- Chairman, Public Safety Committee
- Former Chairman of Oak Lawn Family Days
- Former member of Oak Lawn Lions Club
- Member Homer Founders Club
- Chicago Area Families for Adoption volunteer
- United Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Greater Chicago volunteer
- Misericordia Heart of Mercy volunteer
- Claddagh Foundation for Spinal Cord Injury Research volunteer
- Married 5 years to Laura Hughes, one daughter



**Due to limited Village staff, the responsibility for the Homer Glen Newsletter** has been transferred to the Community and Civic Involvement Committee (soon to be the Communication and Civic Involvement Committee). This change will enable us to issue the newsletter on a consistent quarterly basis. Please look for your next issue in March.

### **Dale Vogelsanger**

- Eight year Homer resident
- Former Homer Glen Zoning Commissioner
- Member of Homer Glen Roads Task Force
- Committee to Incorporate Homer Glen volunteer
- Member of the Homer Glen Comprehensive Plan Committee
- President and founder of NABRS - (Neighborhood Against the Bruce Road Strategic Regional Arterial)
- Advisory Board member of the Shady Oaks Cerebral Palsy Camp Rehabilitation Effort
- "Homer Glen Volunteer of the Year" for 2001
- Co-Designer of the Homer Glen Village logo and submitter of the Village slogan "Community and Nature in Harmony"
- Founding member of the Emergency Management Agency of Homer Glen
- Member Homer Founders Club
- Married 17 years to Kim Vogelsanger, one son



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## YELLOW RIBBON SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

**Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 – 24. The fastest growing group dying from suicide is children between the ages of 10 – 14.**

**The *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program* is specifically targeted to teens. The program is based on the premise that suicidal feelings are not about death, but rather about ending pain—and that it's okay to ask for help.**

**For information about bringing this life saving program to your location, phone Lockport Township High School, Jenn Cain, (815) 588-8370.**

**Do you need help now? Phone the Crisis Line of Will County: (815)722-3344, 24 hours a day every day. Comprehensive suicide prevention hotline, information, referral, telephone counseling, and "Sunshine" calls. Services are available for the hearing impaired. Non-emergency phone number: (815)744-5280.**

## Vroom....Vroom...Snow!

Be aware of the many regulations for operating a snowmobile:

- You **MUST** have permission to drive on private property. This **INCLUDES** utility easements, operating railway right-of-ways, and nature preserves.
- Operating a snowmobile under the influence of alcohol/drugs is prohibited.
- Snowmobiles may not be operated on highways, with few exceptions.
- On highways other than tollways, interstate highways and fully or limited access controlled highways snowmobiles may be operated not less than 10 ft. from the roadway in the same direction as traffic.
- When crossing a highway on a snowmobile, the operator must come to a complete stop, yield the right of way to all oncoming traffic, and cross directly at a 90° angle.
- Persons aged 12-16 may operate a snowmobile independently in Illinois if they are in possession of a snowmobile Safety Certificate issued by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Land Management and Education.
- Persons 10-16 may operate a snowmobile if they are accompanied on the snowmobile by a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.
- No person under 10 years of age may operate a snowmobile (except a non-motorized toy variety on private property).

For more information, visit <http://www.dnr.state.il.us>.

## Obey Traffic Laws for School Bus Safety

Our children are back in school. We must remember to drive cautiously around schools and school buses. Traffic laws regarding school zones and school buses are very important—here are the rules of the road that you need to know from the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State.

School traffic signs are five-sided, yellow with black symbols and shaped like an old school house. If the sign shows two children walking, a school is near. If the sign shows two children walking in a crosswalk, you are at a school crossing. These two signs are used where a reduced speed school zone has been established. The posted twenty mile-per-hour speed applies on school days when children are present (usual school hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but may vary) where a potential hazard exists because of the children's close proximity to traffic or when a school speed zone warning light is flashing. Passing in school zones is prohibited.



A school bus will give a warning at least 100 ft. (200 ft. in rural areas) before coming to a stop to load or unload passengers. The bus driver will flash amber and red lights on the front and rear of the bus. The stop signal arm will be extended after the school bus has come to a complete stop, and you must stop. You may proceed when the school bus resumes motion or the bus driver signals you to do so. You may also proceed when the flashing lights are turned off and the stop signal arm is no longer extended.

Passing on a two-lane, two-way roadway (one lane in each direction) is **not allowed** when a school bus has stopped to load or discharge passengers. When a school bus is stopped to load or discharge passengers on a roadway of four or more lanes, you **must stop** if you are traveling the same direction as the bus. On a roadway of four or more lanes, you do not need to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, but you must drive cautiously.

The first time you are convicted of illegally passing a stopped school bus, your driving privileges will be suspended for three months and you will be fined \$150.00. You will be fined \$500 for a second or subsequent conviction. If you receive two violations within five years, your driving privileges will be suspended for one year.

Please review these rules of the road with all the drivers in your home. Our children are our most valued treasures and we need to protect their safety and well being at all times.

## SNOW ROUTE AND PARKING ORDINANCE REMINDERS

**Village Ordinance #02-005 prohibits parking on the streets when there is 2" or more of snowfall.**

**Village Ordinance #02-073 prohibits all on-street parking of the following:**

- **Unlicensed vehicles**
- **Trailers**
- **Recreational vehicles**
- **Travel trailers**

## Trails Questionnaire

The Homer Glen Trails Task Force was formed to help develop and establish a non-motorized multi-use trail system that will run through Homer Glen and Homer Township. The plan is to have the trails run primarily along the Commonwealth Edison easements, eventually connecting Homer Glen and Homer Township with surrounding trails and villages. We would like the trails to provide access to parks, ball fields and business areas. A grant has been applied for to begin paying for the initial four miles of pathway. What are your needs and desires regarding this trail system? Please add your input. Just fill out the survey, below, and return it to the drop box in front of the Village office, or mail it to Village of Homer Glen, Attn: Trails Task Force, 14331 S. Golden Oak Dr., Homer Glen, IL 60491. Please respond no later than January 15. Thank you in advance!

Would you like to see a multi-use trail in Homer Glen/Homer Township?

- Yes                       No

What would you use a multi-use trail for? Check all that apply:

- Hiking/Jogging                       Skateboarding                       Biking  
 Horseback riding                       Rollerblading                       Dog walking  
 Cross-country skiing                       Other or special needs; please define:

What type of trail surface would you be more likely to use?

- Asphalt                       Limestone screening (crushed packed limestone)

When would you be most likely to use a trail? Check all that apply:

- Early morning                       Spring                       Fall  
 Midday hours                       Summer                       Winter  
 Evening hours

Is there a park in your area that you would like to see connected to the trail system?                       Yes                       No

List cross streets:

Our plan is to have the backbone of our trail system be the Commonwealth Edison easement in hopes of connecting neighborhoods to parks, businesses and other more extensive trails, possibly: the I & M Canal Trail and/or the Old Plank Trail. With this in mind, what would you most likely use the trail for? Check all that apply:

- Getting to shops                       Getting to parks  
 General exercise                       Getting to more extensive trails  
 Other

Please list the number of people in your family that would use the trail and their ages (names are not necessary):

For demographic purposes, please indicate the subdivision or cross street near your home:

If you would like to volunteer, please give your name and phone number:

Do you have any concerns, suggestions, or comments? Please attach another sheet of paper to this survey. Thank you for your time!

## 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. The office will be closed December 24, 25 and 31, 2003 and January 1, 2004.

**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).

## VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN • MEETING CALENDAR

			Time	Location
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		To Be Determined		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.**

\*During January 2004, the Plan Commission will meet on the 8th and 28th. \*\*January, February and March



Village of  
**HOMER  
GLEN**

Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

14331 S. Golden Oak Dr. • Homer Glen, IL 60441

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:**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LOCKPORT, IL  
PERMIT NO. 49