



**HOMER GLEN**  
YOU KNOW YOU'RE HOME

FALL/WINTER NEWS

**2023**



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FROM  
THE MAYOR



Dear Homer Glen residents and businesses,

First, I'd like to thank those who exercised their right to vote on April 4, 2023. I am honored to become not only the Village of Homer Glen's fourth mayor but also the first female mayor in 22 years since its inception.

I aim to draw on my 14 years of experience as an elected official, 32 years of residency, and love for the village to help move Homer Glen forward with integrity and positivity.

From Board meetings to special meetings, committee meetings to school meetings, Hadley Road to Bell Road, cemeteries to open space, American Water to waste water, boundary agreements to ordinances, and public hearings to public comments, it's been a rather busy start to my term.

In the first three and a half months, I've attended more than 60 meetings and received more phone calls, emails, and Facebook messages than I can possibly respond to. I ask that residents who have concerns or questions, please email me at [mayorchristina@homerglenil.org](mailto:mayorchristina@homerglenil.org).

I would like to thank the board members who are working together to get things accomplished and offering to assist wherever needed. Because the truth is, we all want the best for this village. Sometimes, we have a different way of getting there, but the destination is usually the same.

As we move into fall and winter, I look forward to our many upcoming events, from our new Bags, Brews & Bites to Spooky Park, Scarecrow Lane, and Trunk or Treat in October to our Homer for the Holidays festivities on December 3. The village will also cosponsor the Veterans Day Celebration at Konow's (at no cost to the village) from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 5.

Coming this spring, the village is kicking off the Hometown Hero Banner Program. We will start with 30 double-sided banners on light poles around Heritage Circle. The first round of banners will feature members of the PFC Michael C. Olivieri American Legion Post 2011, which was officially adopted by the village in 2022. The banners will be on display from May to November in 2024 and 2025. Our goal is to expand the program and open it to other Veterans in the future.

I'm excited about the future of Homer Glen and honored to help steer the ship for the next four years. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Neitzke-Troiike'.

Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troiike

Cover photos from top:  
Bengston's field  
M & D Farms sunflower field  
Heritage Park



# VILLAGE UPDATES

## VILLAGE WELCOMES NEW MAYOR, CLERK, TRUSTEES & INTERIM MANAGER

The Village welcomed a new mayor, clerk and three trustees after last April's election.

Residents elected Christina Neitzke-Troiike to serve as Mayor. She succeeds Mayor George Yukich, who served as mayor for the term limit of eight years.

Other officials elected are: Candice Bielski, who succeeds Neitzke-Troiike. Trustees Sue Steilen, CJ McNaughton and Curt Mason were also sworn in joining seated Trustees Jennifer Consolino, Rose Reynders and Dan Fialko.

Chief Bulding Official Joe Baber was named Interim Village Manager at the August 23 Board meeting. Former Village Manager Carmen Maurella resigned in July.

Baber has been employed by the village for more than 13 years and has previously served as Interim Village Manager.



*From left: Trustees CJ McNaughton, Dan Fialko and Sue Steilen, Clerk Candice Bielski, Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troiike, Trustees Rose Reynders, Jennifer Consolino, and Curt Mason.*

"I'm honored once again to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity," Baber said. "I've been active with the village since its incorporation and have

25 years of municipal experience. I'm embracing this challenge and want to keep things moving in a positive direction."

## NEW VILLAGE ORDINANCES AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES REMINDER

### GOLF CART USE

The Village Board recently approved an ordinance allowing the use of golf carts on certain types of streets within the village limits. Golf cart owners must complete a registration process through the village in coordination with the Will County Sheriff's Department.

The Golf Cart Registration application is available at Village Hall and on the village website. Specific safety and insurance requirements will need to be met. Failure to abide by the ordinance's provisions could be subject to impoundment of the golf cart, citations, and fines.

### MASONRY MAILBOXES

Ordinance No. 23-042, Regulating Activities and Maintenance in Public Right-of-Ways, was recently amended to allow masonry mailboxes. This style of mailbox will now require a permit through the Building Department.

The United States Postal Service requires a specific size, height, and distance that will need to be met, and the masonry mailboxes will only be permitted on streets where the speed limit does not exceed 25 miles per hour. The property owner must submit a waiver and indemnification form.

### OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Will County Sheriff's Dept. and the village continue to receive complaints about unlicensed off-road motor vehicles. Complaints include vehicles being driven recklessly and at a high rate of speed on public streets, violating the State of Illinois Vehicle Code, and causing damage to public and private property.

This has been an ongoing problem that has gotten worse over the last few years. Violators caught or identified may have their vehicle impounded, with fees applied. Citations and fines, which remain on the offender's driving record, could also be issued.



# VILLAGE UPDATES



## WILL COUNTY'S BELL ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

Will County's reconstruction and widening of Bell Road through Homer Glen will create a new four-lane road with double left-hand turn lanes at the 143rd Street/Bell Road intersection.

With the ongoing construction, extensive utility relocations that will take place ahead of each phase. Some of the utility relocations have already begun, and additional relocations and construction will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project. This project is in four phases.

### Phase 1: 159th to 151st Street

Utility relocations are ongoing. Roadwork and staging for traffic is underway and expected to continue through the fall. Additional traffic shifts will likely take place later this year. The anticipated completion is fall 2024.

### Phase 2: 151st to 143rd Street

This will follow the Phase 1 project. Estimated start date, summer/fall 2024.

### Phase 3: 143rd/Bell Road Intersection

Utility relocations are ongoing. Roadwork is expected to start in late 2024 but is contingent on utility relocations. The intersection improvements will extend west from Bell Road to near Golden Oak Drive.

### Phase 4: 143rd to 135th Street

Will begin when Phase 3 is complete.

## DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A handful of drainage studies have been completed this year to identify drainage issues throughout Homer and help to develop effective solutions.

Drainage improvement efforts are ongoing, and studies will continue to take place throughout 2023 and into 2024. A large-scale drainage improvement program is planned to be developed and designed in 2024, with construction to follow.

More details regarding the drainage improvement program and studies will be updated on the Homer Glen website later this year.



## PARKER-HADLEY ROAD

Will County engineers are continuing their Phase 1 work and data collection.

An informational public meeting was held in July, and another is tentatively scheduled for this fall.

Updates can be found at the Will County Division of Transportation project website, [parkerhadleystudy.com](http://parkerhadleystudy.com).

## VILLAGE COMMITTEES, COMMISSION, AGENCY

Below is a list of the village committees, commission and agency. These groups consist of trustees, staff and residents. Applications are taken in spring.

All meetings take place at Village Hall unless otherwise noted. Any changes to the regular meeting times are posted on our website. All meetings are open to the public. More information can be found at [homerglenil.org](http://homerglenil.org)

### Ability Awareness Committee

6:30pm, 1st Tuesday

Chair: Mayor Christina Neitzke-Troike

### Behavioral Health & Addiction Recovery Committee

6pm, 1st Wednesday

Chair: Trustee Curt Mason

### Community Development Committee

7pm, 2nd Thursday

Chair: Trustee Sue Steilen

### Community Fest Committee

5:30pm, 1st Wednesday

Chair: Trustee Dan Fialko

### Economic Development Committee

7pm, 2nd Monday, Village Hall

Chair: Trustee CJ McNaughton

### Emergency Management Agency

7pm, 1st Thursday, 15757 Annico Drive, Unit 3

### Environment Committee

6pm, 1st Monday

Chair: Trustee Consolino

### Parks & Recreation Committee

4pm, 3rd Monday, Village Hall

Chair: Trustee Rose Reynders

### Plan Commission

7pm, 1st and 3rd Thursday

### Public Services & Safety Committee

4pm, 1st Wednesday

Chair: Trustee Curt Mason

## PUBLIC WORKS GEARING UP FOR WINTER WEATHER

The dedicated crews of the Public Works Department are committed to keeping the 130 miles of Homer Glen roads clear and safe for travel.

This often includes pre-emptive salting before conditions become hazardous. When necessary, they begin salting major/primary roads throughout the village in addition to hills, curves, and intersections. They then shift focus to neighborhood roads.

To help residents and businesses be prepared for the white stuff ahead, they offer a few reminders and tips.

### WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS

The village's Winter Parking Ban is in effect from October 1 to May 1. No vehicle should be parked on any street or road within the village within the 12 hours immediately following a snowfall of two inches or more unless the street in question has been cleared of snow.

The only exceptions to this parking ordinance are emergency, law enforcement, and snow removal vehicles parked while performing their duties. Residents with special needs or circumstances should notify the village before the first snowfall.

If illegally parked, your vehicle may be towed and ticketed. Fines are \$100-\$250. See Ordinance No. 08-006.

### TIPS FOR RESIDENTS

- Depositing snow on the street is a violation of village ordinance and creates hazards.
- When clearing your driveway, shovel or blow the snow onto the parkway to the side of your driveway apron or into your yard.
- Park your vehicles off the street during any snow events.
- Be a good neighbor. If there is snow in front of your home or business, please remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk.

### TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR MAILBOX

Our crews are careful to avoid damaging mailboxes, but sometimes it is unavoidable.

- Secure your mailboxes before the ground freezes.
- Check that your mailbox post is straight and the box is not leaning toward the street.
- Replace damaged or rotting posts before the ground freezes.
- Ensure the mailbox is securely fastened to the post.

If your mailbox is damaged by one of our plows, call Public Works to report the damage within three days. A representative will come out and determine if the damage was caused by a plow blade or vehicle. If so, the village will replace the mailbox with a standard replacement, or you will be reimbursed up to \$125.



## NEW MEMORIAL TREE AND MARKER PROGRAM

The Environment Committee is excited to announce the new Memorial Tree and Marker Program.

The Village of Homer Glen's Memorial Tree and Marker Program offers the opportunity for family and friends to purchase a tree and/or a mounted commemorative 8-inch by 6-inch bronze plaque. This is a great way to honor the memory of a loved one, a service member, a birthday celebration, graduation, or any other occasion. This provides a lasting memory and helps beautify village parks.

Visit the village website for more information: [homerglenil.org/2727/Tree-Memorial-and-Marker-Program](http://homerglenil.org/2727/Tree-Memorial-and-Marker-Program).

## ABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE DEDICATES BENCH IN HERITAGE

The Ability Awareness Committee dedicated a new bench at Heritage Park during its Back to School Social on August 11.

The bench, located near the nest swing, is constructed from plastic caps and lids collected from residents during a drive last year. The colorful bench is in honor of all the colors of disability awareness ribbons.

The plaque on the boulder next to the bench recognizes AAC members involved in the bench and last year's special needs swing donation.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

### Market in the Glen

Thursday, Sept. 21, 3-7 p.m.

Shop for locally grown, fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, gourmet products and handmade items. Food trucks, live music, and family activities, too!

### Stargazing

Friday, Sept. 22, 7-10 p.m.

Join us for an owl meet & greet with Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education, and then head outside to take a look at the night sky with local astronomers!



### Heroes Trail Hike & Haul

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-Noon, Culver Park & Village Hall  
In honor of National Public Lands Day/Homer Glen Lands Day, join the village's Environment Committee for a cleanup event at Culver Park and along Heroes Trail. Students can receive community service hours. Register at [homerglenil.org/2150/Environment-Committee](http://homerglenil.org/2150/Environment-Committee).

## OCTOBER

### Bags, Brews & Bites **NEW!**

Saturday, Oct. 14, 12 p.m. check-in, 1 p.m. start

Grab a partner and sign up for an afternoon of friendly competition, cold brews, and food trucks. Invite your friends and family out to cheer you on! Registration fee: \$40 per team. Max 20 teams Prizes awarded. Register at [homerglenil.org/2533/Events](http://homerglenil.org/2533/Events).

### Market in the Glen

Thursday, Oct. 19 p.m.. 3-7 p.m.

See description under Sept. Market.

### Spooky Park & Scarecrow Walk

October 2-31

Bats, spiders ghosts, and lights!

The park will be decorated with all things spooky. Residents can register to create a scarecrow here [homerglenil.org/2661/Scarecrow-Walk](http://homerglenil.org/2661/Scarecrow-Walk). Prizes awarded.



### Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 21, 3-5 p.m.

A spooktacular afternoon of trick-or-treating in our safe, family-friendly environment. Wear your costumes and visit decorated, candy-filled vehicle trunks. Register your vehicle at [homerglenil.org/2533/Events](http://homerglenil.org/2533/Events).

## NOVEMBER

### Veterans Day Care Packages

The village will deliver care packages to our local Veterans on Friday, Nov. 10. If you or someone you know is a Veteran living in Homer Glen, call Events at 708-301-0632 to be put on the delivery list. If you'd like to donate items for care packages, email [events@homerglenil.org](mailto:events@homerglenil.org).

## DECEMBER

### Winter Wonderland Lane

Dec. 3-Jan. 3

Decorate a snowman or a large ornament to be displayed in Heritage Park. Residents will be able to vote for their favorite.



Top three favorites will win a prize! To participate, visit [homerglenil.org/2533/Events](http://homerglenil.org/2533/Events)

### Homer For The Holidays

Sunday, December 3, 2-6 p.m.

An afternoon of holiday festivities, food trucks, and shopping including:

Holiday Crafts, Cocoa & Reindeer 2-5 p.m.

Bring the little ones out for a photo with Santa and live reindeer. Enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa, and cookies!

Holiday Market

2-6 p.m.

Vendors wanted, see below.

Do some holiday shopping and grab some refreshments from our vendors.



Winter Wonderland Lighting

4:30-6 p.m.

Ring in the holiday season with Santa Claus, live music, and the annual lighting of the holiday display around the park.

### ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS

The village is seeking vendors that sell holiday-related items such as wreaths, roasted nuts, gingerbread houses, ornaments, nutcrackers, perogis, handmade candles, honey, jams, etc. Visit [homerglenil.org/2533/Events](http://homerglenil.org/2533/Events) for more information and application for Homer for the Holidays Market from 2-6pm, Sunday, Dec. 3.

*All events are at Heritage Park, are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.*

# THANK YOU!

## 2023 COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORS

Aetna Better Health Illinois • All American Gutter Protection • Coldwell Banker RE Group, Lora Oremus • ComEd • Custom Seasons Heating & Cooling • Culver's • Front Row Gas N Wash • Loboz & Associates, Inc. • Richard's Building Supply • Sam's Bar & Gaming • State Farm, Michelle Kerfin



Market in the Glen



Sr. Pickleball Tournament

Park Party



Movie Under the Stars



Kite Fest



Stargazing





# AROUND TOWN



## RUNNINGS ACQUIRED RP HOME & HARVEST

Runnings, a Minnesota-based retailer, acquired R.P. Home & Harvest, a family-owned company with 22 locations and one distribution facility, in June, including the 15830 S Bell Road store.

The Homer Glen store is open and undergoing a transition to Runnings' well-known brand. Look for new store signage to be installed.

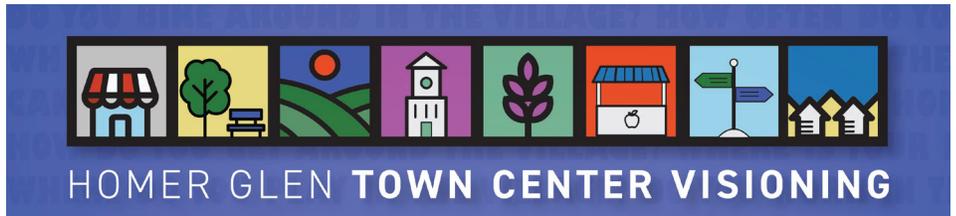
Runnings is a privately held retailer founded in 1947, selling an extensive selection of pet supplies, and sporting goods, including hunting and fishing equipment, clothing and footwear, lawn and garden supplies, housewares, tools, farm supplies, toys, and outdoor equipment.

With this acquisition, the Runnings' footprint expands to 80 locations serving customers in 12 states from New York to Montana.



## RIBBON CUTTING

Village personnel helped celebrate the opening of The Golden Spot with a ribbon cutting on July 14. The cafe at 14316 S Golden Oak Drive serves smoothies and juices.



Since Homer Glen became a Village, many residents have desired a center where people can gather, enjoy community, and support local businesses. In March, the Village engaged The Lakota Group, an urban planning and design firm based in Chicago, to embark on the visioning process with residents for a new town center. Guided by input from residents, the plan will capture the community's overall vision for a new town center, its preferred location, market viability, and a roadmap to developing the right place for Homer Glen. The work consists of three parts: Community Engagement, Market Assessment, and Concept Plan.

In the Community Engagement phase, the goal was to give Homer Glen residents multiple opportunities to contribute their thoughts and ideas on what a town center means to them and engage with citizens on multiple digital and in-person platforms. In all, the group connected with more than 500 Village residents, including over 400 survey responses, 25 focus groups, and interviews, a community workshop in May, social media outreach, a project website with comments and ideas submissions, and pop-up stations at Kite Fest, Stargazing, and Homer Fest. Check out the project website to learn more and view a summary of all engagement results, [homerglentowncentervisioning.org](http://homerglentowncentervisioning.org).

Phase two, Market Assessment, is underway and will wrap up in September. The planning team then will develop a series of visual concept plans for a new town center in the fall.

The next community workshop will be 6-8pm, Tuesday, Nov. 28 at Village Hall. Visit [homerglentowncentervisioning.org](http://homerglentowncentervisioning.org) for more information.



## COMING SOON

Jersey Mike's will be opening soon at 14009-B S. Bell Road, next to Pizza Hut.

## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Is your business ready for a commercial location? Contact the village's Economic Development Department at 708-301-0632 for site selection assistance and business opening guidance.



# Thank you HomerFest Volunteers & Sponsors

- All Around Amusements
- BI Rental
- Blessed Family Montessori
- Booth Orthodontics
- Bump & Grind Auto Body
- Busey Bank
- Comcast
- ComEd
- Culvers
- Custom Seasons
- Front Row
- Gas N Wash
- Hawk Auto
- Homer Twnshp Firefighters Local 4223
- Homewood Disposal
- Lakeshore Beverage
- Listing Leaders Northwest
- Loboz and Associates
- Meijer
- Mugshots Bar and Grill
- Nick's BBQ
- Pillar to Post Home Inspectors
- Poke Plus
- State Farm- Michelle Kerfin
- Strock Construction
- Will-Cook Ace Hardware





# COMMUNITY & NATURE

## Congratulations to the 22nd Annual Community & Nature Award Winners

The 22nd Annual Community and Nature in Harmony Awards winners were announced in June.

The award, bestowed by the village and its Environment Committee, recognizes individuals, businesses, community organizations, and governmental agencies that have demonstrated a commitment to the environment and in the process significantly contributed to community pride through the preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of land within the Village of Homer Glen.

### Isadora Leidenfrost

For maintaining a mix of meaningful dedication plants, incorporating beautiful art into the gardens, and for demonstrating environmental stewardship by creating a more sustainable household to reduce individual impact on the environment.

### Haseeb Alsaidi

For establishing, maintaining and sharing an abundance of fruit trees, flower beds and vegetable gardens that also beautify the Lancaster subdivision entrance.

### Margaret Sabo

For maintaining a lucious garden and continuously incorporating new species to ensure habitat diversity for pollinators and other animals.

### Sandy Vail

For designing a beautiful garden and outdoor living space by incorporating diverse species of flowers, trees, shrubs and vegetables.

### Joyce Staniszweski

For incorporating a beautiful mix of plants into the outdoor living area, including milkweed to support Monarch butterflies.

### The Phoenix Kitchen & Cocktails

For growing organic miH2:|10 microgreens on site to incorporate extra nutrients into menu items, and remodeling the outdoor dining area with a new paver patio and a beautiful mix of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

### Homer Township Public Library

For the expansion of the community spaces at the library including a new outdoor Veteran's Memorial space.

### Bret-Mar Landscape, Inc.

For presenting beautiful seasonal landscaping displays along Will-Cook Road.

### Soft-Way and Lube Master

For planting above and beyond what is required for building foundation and front yard landscaping.



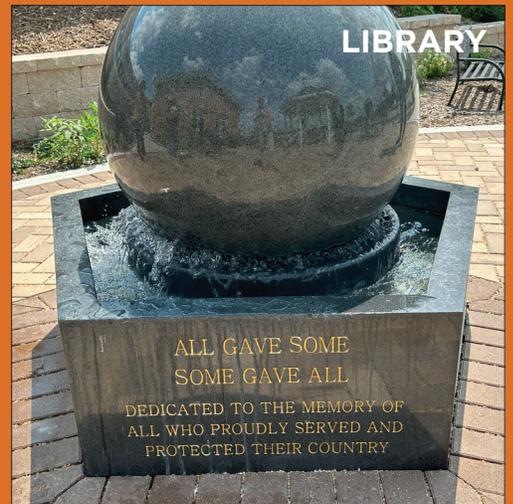
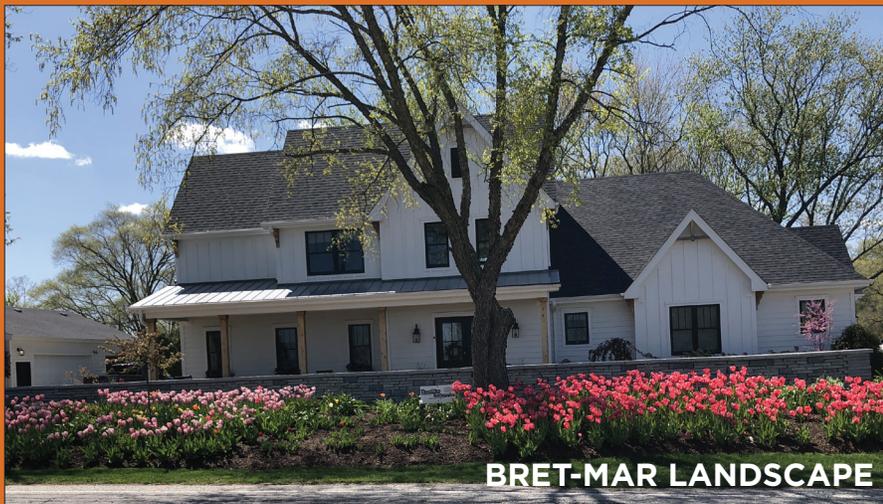


STANISZEWSKI

SABO



PHOENIX KITCHEN



LIBRARY

BRET-MAR LANDSCAPE

ALL GAVE SOME  
SOME GAVE ALL  
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
ALL WHO PROUDLY SERVED AND  
PROTECTED THEIR COUNTRY



# HOMER GLEN

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
South Suburban, IL  
Permit #205

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## EDITOR

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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*

## Residential Customer

## VILLAGE FACILITIES

### VILLAGE HALL

14240 W. 151st Street  
708-301-0632

Administration Department:  
M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Building Department:  
M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC WORKS

14400 W. 151st Street  
708-966-0059

### HERITAGE PARK

14240 W. 151st Street  
Located behind Village Hall

### CULVER MEMORIAL PARK

14600 S. PARKER ROAD

### EDMUND J. SENDRA PARK

14727 S. Greenbrier Lane

### ERIN HILLS PARK

13725 S. Dublin Drive

### EVLYN'S GATE NORTH PARK

16066 S. Syd Creek Drive

### GLENVIEW WALK PARK

15603 James Lane

### GOODINGS GROVE PARK

13900 S. Greystone Drive

### GOREHAM PARK

14431 S. Carlton Lane

### KINGSTON HILLS PARK

14848 S. Carlton Lane

### LAMERS PARK

12307 W. Lakeview Trail

### STONEBRIDGE PARK

16000 S. Stonebridge Drive

### TOWN CENTER PARK

14354 W. 151st Street

### YANGAS PARK

12001 W. Venetian Way

