



The Village

Messenger

“A Glimpse of the Glen”

Official Newsletter of the Village of Homer Glen

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The Mayor's Corner . . .

Taking the Next Step by Mayor Jim Daley

As a young community, Homer Glen faces many concerns that more established communities do not. We inherited many issues as part of incorporation that need to be resolved, such as flooding, transportation needs, control of our utilities, subdivision and park improvements.

Fortunately, we have taken the time to create plans that establish a vision for the village. We consistently refer to these plans as a guide for our decision making, however, **a vision without a strategy for implementation is just an illusion.**

It is important, as leaders of the community, that we take the necessary steps to realize the goals of the community. Reflecting back over the last three years, I am proud of the leadership that has positioned Homer Glen as a fiscally-sound, government 'lite' community that promises to preserve, protect and plan for the future. The actions we have taken over the past three years have preserved the quality of life for our residents, protected the strong environmental ethic of the community, and planned for the continued growth of Homer Glen.

There are three important issues that are monopolizing headlines these days: Illinois

American Water and our fight to provide fair and reasonable water and sewer rates to our residents; the overcrowding issue at Lockport Township High School; and the potential of losing home rule status as a result of the population count generated from the 2010 census.

Each of these issues takes thoughtful review, but also demands action.

The Future is not the result of choice among Alternative paths offered by the present, But a place that is created. Created first in mind and will, Created next in activity.
John Schaar

Illinois American Water: The village has intervened in several rate increase requests made by Illinois American Water (IAW), including the most recent filing that resulted in a 28 percent increase in water rates. Although the public forum and public testimony of our residents influenced the final decision by the Illinois Commerce Commission, as reflected in IAW getting less than what they had requested, the continual rise in utility costs has prompted Homer Glen to take more aggressive action. In March, the village board passed an ordinance to join the Northern Will County Joint Water

Agency for purposes of acquiring the Bedford Transmission Line. This decision is consistent with the village's determination to incorporate nine years ago - *to control our destiny*. This includes controlling the 'out-of-control' water and sewer rates currently imposed by IAW. Recently, IAW sent fliers to their customers encouraging them to question how the village will pay for the acquisition of the pipeline. The answer is simple - the same way they do. The water agency will use the revenue from the sale of water to existing and future customers to retire revenue bonds issued for the purchase. These are not government obligation (GO) bonds and they are not backed by a property tax. There will be **no creation of a property tax** to pay for the acquisition of the pipeline. The purpose of creating the agency and purchasing the transmission line is to manage the cost of water. We may not be able to make immediate reductions in the current rates but we cannot control the 'bleeding' caused by these rate increases unless we apply a 'tourniquet'. The creation of this water agency and the purchase of the Bedford Transmission Line is the 'tourniquet'.

Lockport Township High School: The second major



issue facing the village is the overcrowding at Lockport Township High School. The mayors and representatives from Homer Glen, Lockport, Crest Hill and the school board have been meeting as a Steering Committee for months to address this issue. Summits have been held in all three communities to listen to residents' concerns. This issue crosses city and town boundaries. We are united as School District 205 and our goal is to be united in a solution. This is a true collaboration and my hope is that we will find a creative solution that is best for all of our children. Over this next year, I believe we will see some positive steps taken toward resolving this issue.

Home Rule: The third issue of major concern for Homer Glen is retaining home rule status. I believe the 2008 special census was one of the most important strategic decisions we have made as a village. That census, along with the annexation of the Gooding's Grove shopping center, positioned our village in the enviable fiscal condition it is in today. By achieving home rule status, we gained greater control of our destiny. Instead of looking for authority through state statutes, we now have

greater self governance. Despite passing the population threshold for home rule with the special census, though, it is my belief that we will not meet the 25,000 population requirement with the 2010 census. If that is the case, the decision to retain home rule will be taken to the voters at the next general election after the population count is certified in March 2011.

One of the powers of home rule we have taken advantage of is the ability to impose a 1 percent sales tax, which took effect in July. As of April 30, Homer Glen has collected \$1.62 million in home rule sales tax. Next year, we anticipate receiving approximately \$1.92 million in home rule sales tax. During this year's budget process, it became very evident the home rule sales tax provided the village with some much needed insulation from the recent economic downturn. Despite declines in state revenues and building permits, expenditures came in under budget and we finished the year with an operating surplus. I am proud of the budget passed for the next fiscal year, especially in light of the current harsh economic times and the budgetary problems experienced in some

of our neighboring communities. The revenue we receive from home rule is an important part in keeping our budget healthy. Homer Glen does not levy a property tax, a telecommunication tax, a utility tax or a gasoline tax. Instead, our village has a home rule sales tax of one cent of every dollar for non-grocery, drug and entitled goods - a tax that spreads the burden beyond our residents to include non-residents that make purchases in our community.

As we look forward to the next fiscal year, I am confident that we will continue to be successful in operating the village in a fiscally-responsible manner as we plan for equitable water rates, protect our children's safety at our schools and preserve our rights as a home rule community.

***The future is not someplace
we are going to,
But one we are creating.
The paths to it are not found
but created,
And the activity of creating them,
Changes both the maker and
the destination.***

John Schaar



MEET YOUR VILLAGE STAFF

Paula J. Wallrich, Village Manager

Paula Wallrich was hired as Assistant Village Manager in July, 2007 and has worked as Village Manager since October, 2007. She was recruited from the Village of Frankfort where she worked as the Community Development Director and then Business Development Executive for over 14 years. Her development experience has spanned both the public and private sectors. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Illinois and is currently completing another master's degree also from the University of Illinois, this time in the field of Public Administration. Paula recently tendered her resignation to the Mayor and Village Board to expedite the completion of her degree. She will continue working with the village to complete

'works in progress' and assist with the hiring of her replacement until August 23, 2010.

We wish Paula good luck in her academic pursuits and thank her for the hard work and many accomplishments over the past three years.

What is it that you enjoy most about working for Homer Glen?

There are many things that make this job so rewarding. Homer Glen is a fresh canvas with so much opportunity. Staying with this symbolism, there is a lot of 'green' here in Homer Glen. I am impressed with the environmental ethic that is so strong and sincere. "Community and Nature.... In Harmony" was the founding mission of the village before it became a national trend. It is exciting to be a part of something that is at the leading edge of the industry. There has been an incredible amount of hard work done over the last three years and I am proud to have been a part of it. We are a young community and I have enjoyed helping the village establish their government 'culture' as a successful, professional organization.

What is it that makes Homer Glen so successful during an economic period that is so difficult?

I think it is the people that make the difference and by the 'people' I mean the Mayor and Board of Trustees, residents, volunteers and staff. The residents of Homer Glen have shown great citizenship since their involvement with the incorporation effort nine years ago that has continued with such issues as Illinois American Water, school overcrowding and the purchase of a community park. Homer Glen is successful due to the level of participation of its residents and the strong sense of volunteerism. The village has one of the lowest employee per population capita in the area therefore it is the volunteers that have taken on some of the 'heavy lifting' when it comes to environmental issues, event planning, IAW issues and park and recreation planning. The staff is incredible; they bring passion and dedication to the job every day, wearing many hats to get the job done. Finally, it is the leadership that ultimately has provided the direction on our 'road to success'. The ability to make a vision a reality through such initiatives as home rule, strategic annexations and utility planning has placed the village in the enviable position it is in today.

What do you feel the future holds for Homer Glen?

Homer Glen has the potential to be the premier community of the south suburbs. As the mayor has stated several times "we are the hole in the donut", and I believe this is a very sweet spot to be in! We have great access on I-355 with over 300 acres of developable commercial property along 159th Street. The future Fiddyment Creek sewer extension will provide the village with the competitive edge we need as the economy rebounds. The village has the leadership, staff and residents capable of managing quality residential and commercial growth for a sustainable community for many years to come.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Edmond Cage, AICP
Community Development Director



On March 23, the village board approved a special use permit for the preliminary planned unit called Waterfall Place. Waterfall Place is a planned 75,000-square-foot mixed-use commercial development property located on the north side of 159th Street, just east of South Bell Road. Waterfall Place is located on approximately nine acres of commercial C-5 zoned property and planned uses include a restaurant, retail and office space, a banquet facility, a gaming arcade and a rooftop Sky Bar. When the applicant determines the project ready to move forward, they will proceed through the village approval process for the final planned unit development plans. This determines that the engineering, lighting, landscaping are compliant with village ordinances.

This is an important commercial project for Homer Glen because it helps to set the tone and quality for new commercial development along 159th Street. The architectural elevation above illustrates the extensive use of high-quality masonry materials used in the construction of this project. The village is encouraged that such a development is moving forward through the planning process in these unique economic times. The hope is that this planned unit development will encourage other high-quality commercial developments along 159th Street in the future.

Ordinance Update

Ordinances that relate to fences, walls and swimming pools are in the process of being updated and reformatted. A public hearing was scheduled before the plan commission at their regular meeting on April 19 to discuss these ordinances and some potential changes to the ordinances. After the plan commission reviews the ordinances and makes a formal recommendation, the ordinance revisions will go to the village board for final review and approval.

STARGAZING AT THE TRANTINA FARM

The evening of April 9 was an absolutely perfect night for stargazing at the Trantina Farm. There was no moon, the weather was excellent, and the atmosphere was crystal clean. The stars beckoned, and in response nearly 200 people came out on this one night to see what the night sky had to offer!

For two solid hours, people of all ages and backgrounds were united under one sky to look at the stars. They were not disappointed. Amateur astronomers from the Kankakee Area Star Gazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group supplied 17 telescopes and dazzled the crowd with their knowledge of our universe. The astronomers highlighted Mars, Venus, Saturn, nebulae - the birth place of stars, Arcturus - the closest star in our galaxy, binary star systems, asteroids, the Pleiades, the North Star, and galaxies more than **60 million light years away**.

Adults who looked at the night sky were amazed at what it had to offer and how much they can no longer see because of sky glow. Many shared stories of how they used to see the Milky Way galaxy as a child and parents in particular wanted their children to see what is now lost in the glow. The most frequently asked question was, "When are you going to do this again?"

Once again, thanks go to the Village of Homer Glen Environment Committee for planning this night to view the stars, which is our natural resource, and to the Homer Township supervisor and trustees who graciously donated the use of the Trantina Farm for this astronomical event.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BUDGET!

John Sawyers, Finance Director

The village board recently approved the fiscal budget for fiscal year ending April 30, 2011. The budget document is available for inspection on the village website @ www.homerglenil.org. The budget included forecasted information for the current year ending April 30, 2010. The village projected completing the current fiscal year with a general fund operating surplus of \$288,515. The current year revenues came in \$111,284 less than expected but the village was able to scale back on expenditures by \$392,530. As most municipalities experienced declining revenues, the village proactively managed expenditures to complete the year with a surplus.

The operating budget (i.e. General Fund) for April 30, 2011 conservatively forecasted revenues and expenditures to take into consideration the current economic conditions. The new home rule sales tax has performed much better than initially projected and allowed for \$700,000 in budgeted transfers for capital projects and land acquisition. The village also deferred significant expenditures to project a current year operating surplus of \$387,162. The village looks to grow the fund balance to guard against the continued State budget crisis and liquidity issues. The village general fund projects cash and investments at the end of fiscal April 30, 2011 at \$3,007,249.

The budget process was guided through the newly formed Administration and Finance Committee. With the recent economic volatility, the committee will meet again to review performance at mid-year to make adjustments accordingly.

GET TO KNOW YOUR VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Trustee Margaret Sabo



Margaret Sabo, appointed to the Village Board as trustee at incorporation in 2001, has retained her trustee position for the past nine years after being reelected in two elections. Trustee Sabo has been instrumental in helping establish Homer Glen as one of the area's most environmentally conscientious communities and actively advocates for open space and tree and water preservation while working to ensure Homer Glen abides by its slogan, "Community and Nature in Harmony", and the reasons for the incorporation of Homer Glen.

Ms. Sabo, a retired elementary and junior high school teacher, is married to William J. Sabo and has two adult children, John and Amanda. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, was a recipient of the Will County Historical Society Colonel Fredrick Bartleson Award and the Lewis University Frank J. Lewis Philanthropist of the Year Award in 2004.

Trustee Sabo is chairperson of the Homer Glen Environment Committee, which is currently working on the May 22 Earth Day - Arbor Day event; the April 9 and October 15 Stargazing event; and Homer Glen Lands Day in September. She also was instrumental on the nationally-acclaimed lighting ordinance recently passed in Homer Glen and was actively involved in the EARTH Day celebration. Margaret Sabo also has been active on various other village committees, including the Green Communities Demonstration Program Grant Steering Committee; GIS Task Force; co-chair of Homer Glen Marsh on Long Run Creek Task Force; co-chair of Christopher Combs Memorial Skate Park Task Force, and co-chair of the Storm Water Task Force.

Ms. Sabo's extensive contribution to the Homer community extends beyond the village. She also has been active in many township and county organizations, including the Homer Township Preserve Homer Committee; Open Space Referendum Campaign Committee in Homer Township; Homer Township Open Space Acquisition Committee; Incorporation Committee for Homer Prairie 1999-2000; Incorporation Committee for Homer Glen 2000-2001; current member and past president of the Will County Historical Society; Lockport Woman's Club; Homer Township Land Stewardship Open Space Committee; Prairie Plant and Wild Flower Monitoring Program; associate board member of the Conservation Foundation; and member of the Forest Preserve of Will County Referendum Campaign Committee 2005.

Asked the following questions with regard to her role as village trustee, Sabo responded:

What has been your most challenging issue as trustee?

Homer Glen was established in 2001 because residents wanted to control their destiny and protect natural resources. It is important that the village honors these reasons when decisions are made to carry the village into the future.

What has been your most rewarding?

As a Homer Glen trustee since 2001, working with residents on common goals and resolving issues with willing and competent staff has been very rewarding. Also, as chairman of the environment committee, working with very active and devoted committee members to attain environmental objectives and standards and to plan special events beneficial to the village and residents has been an honor.

What are your hopes for Homer Glen in 10 years?

Following through on Homer Glen's reasons for incorporation, the Green Vision of the Homer Glen community and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which all contain ideas and solutions brought forth by stakeholders of this community, are ways to attain the village motto of "Community and Nature in Harmony".



VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN BECOMES A CERTIFIED TREE CITY

At the April 27 Village Board Meeting, Trustee Margaret Sabo presented Mayor Jim Daley with a plaque recognizing the Village of Homer Glen as an official Tree City community. This is the first year that Homer Glen has participated in the Tree City program, which recognized 186 Illinois communities for managing their local community forest resources. This designation demonstrates Homer Glen's dedication to the proper placement of trees in order to maximize benefits such as air quality, erosion control and storm water management while maintaining a healthy community forest. This year, Homer Glen celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree at the Founders Senior housing area on April 30. Environment committee member Roger Ross donated a native tree suitable to the location.

HOMER GLEN'S 1ST CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL RETIRES

Steve Wydeveld was instrumental in helping initiate the building department for the village of Homer Glen. During the interval between contracting with Will County for all building processing and actually starting the Homer Glen Building Department, Wydeveld served Will County as chief building official for land use. In the fall of 2005, Wydeveld came to Homer Glen in the official capacity of Chief Building Official as the village started its own building department, providing all building services for the village.

For the past five years, Wydeveld has provided the professional and knowledgeable expertise necessary to run a quality and professional building department. Overseeing the permitting processes and building process and inspections, Wydeveld's responsibilities included ensuring all residents were protected by codes and laws of the building trades following the state and national codes for building and fire safety.

Through Wydeveld's efforts, Homer Glen has been awarded the ISO rating of '2', which places the village in the top 1 percent of building departments in the nation.

Wydeveld has served on a number of building and service organizations outside the village, which have given him an enormous advantage of familiarity with new codes and laws that apply to the 'built community'. Wydeveld will be missed but we wish him well in this new chapter of his life!



JOIN US FOR THE HOMER GLEN EARTH DAY~ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION!



Mark your calendar for the Homer Glen Earth Day ~ Arbor Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 22 at the historic Konow Farm, 16849 S. Cedar Road, and will feature speakers, demonstrations, and exhibits pertaining to all aspects of landscape and yard care. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions. Talk to an arborist from the Illinois Arborist Association and learn about proper planting and pruning for trees and shrubs. Would you like to attract more wildlife to your property? Learn about native plants and gardening for birds. Too much water on your property? Learn about planting a rain garden. Not enough water? Learn about water conservation and solutions such as rain barrels.

Many activities are planned for both the young and the young at heart. Climb aboard a hay wagon and ride around the farm. Children will enjoy meeting "H.G. the Talking Tree" and have opportunities to interact with some furry and not-so-furry friends as Jim Nesci will entertain with his "Cold Blooded Creatures." If you would like to experience something a little tamer, join Konow's farm animal friends in a petting zoo or watch the Green Valley Dog Drivers demonstrate how they take rescue dogs and train them for dog sledding competitions. Pilcher Park Nature Center volunteers will demonstrate ways to connect with nature and to encourage you to explore the outdoors, Boy Scout Troop 63 will exhibit camping techniques that "Leave No Trace Behind." And if you just want to enjoy a gentle breeze, come and watch the demonstrations of sport kites and large inflatable kites by the Chicago Kites Flying Team.

Transportation solutions from the past to the present, from antique cars to Eco cars, will be on display. And to celebrate Homer Glen's appreciation for preserving the past and looking to the future, the program will feature a groundbreaking ceremony for the historic Tilsy Barn.

Help the environment by bringing any of the following items for recycling: household batteries, eyeglasses, CFL light bulbs, cell phones, old ink cartridges, gently used shoes, and water-based paints.

Rain barrels and other earth friendly items will be available for sale.

Admission is free! For more information and updates, or to receive an exhibitor's application, please visit the Homer Glen website at www.homerglen.org or call 708-301-0632.



"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now." - Chinese Proverb

VILLAGE CELEBRATES EARTH HOUR – 2010

Miss Illinois Ashley Bradarich, of Homer Glen, and Mayor Jim Daley were on hand to ceremoniously 'throw the switch' to turn off non-essential lights and begin the Homer Glen Earth Hour at Sear's Essentials store on Bell Road. Illinois State Representative Renee Kosel also was present at the event, which included many residents and village trustees. The celebration this year demonstrated the village's continual effort to reduce light pollution within our community. Sears Essentials hosted the event at the Bell Road location and store manager Dave Moore generously passed out goodies and shopping bags to all in attendance on March 27.

This was Homer Glen's third year of participation in the global event, with residents and businesses stepping up to exceed involvement from years past. More than 300 residents and 50 businesses participated by turning off all non-essential lights for this world wide event.



Photo courtesy of Sandra Schuttler, 22nd Century Media

DEBRA NORVIL BIOGRAPHY

Debra Norvil was involved in promoting the incorporation of Homer Glen and is recognized as one of the "Founding Fathers" of the village. She has been an active member of the Homer Glen Environment Committee since its inception in 2001 and is the co-author of the village's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance that originated with the environment committee. Some of the benefits of the ordinance are to save energy and save money. It was passed in 2007 and is a working model for other Illinois municipalities. Norvil continues to assist the village about lighting matters and coordinated Earth Hour for March 27 and stargazing for April 9.



In 2008, Norvil co-founded the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting (ICROL), a not-for-profit group that seeks to educate the public and municipal officials on the impact of artificial light at night and works toward the development and implementation of responsible outdoor lighting standards in Illinois. ICROL has given presentations to Will County Audubon Society, Village of Barrington Hills, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, Illinois House Rep. Renée Kosel, and Christopher B. Burke Engineering. ICROL hosted a free lighting symposium on March 11 at Lewis University with speakers from Harvard University, Adler Planetarium, the Village of Homer Glen, and the International Dark-Sky Association. The symposium drew attendance from municipalities, environmental groups, engineering firms, and the 'environmentally conscientious public. See www.illinoislighting.org for more information.

In January, Norvil was elected as a board member of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The goal of IDA is to educate responsible outdoor lighting and to promote responsible legislation, public policy, research, and standards in a professional and scientifically sound manner. See www.darksky.org for more information.

Norvil has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She worked for ComEd as the Environmental Compliance Engineer in fossil fueled generating plants for 12 years, where she was responsible for the protection of the environment at various coal plants and the plant liaison for regulatory agencies.

Norvil and her family have lived in Homer Township/Homer Glen since 1986.

WILL COUNTY COMMANDER RAY HORWATH RETIRES

Ray Horwath has seen many changes since he first started patrolling in Will County. After incorporation, the Village of Homer Glen contracted with Will County Sheriff's office for police protection and Horwath was here to witness the growth of the new village, which brought with it a real need for a strong and able police force supervisor. Horwath fulfilled that duty, keeping traffic moving at safer speeds and protecting the residents of Homer Glen.

Horwath retired at the end of March and was honored by Mayor Jim Daley and village trustees at a village meeting by presenting him with a plaque honoring his service to the residents of Homer Glen. Mayor Daley stated; "I truly appreciate what you've done for Homer Glen," and told him he will be missed.

Commander Horwath enjoyed his time here, stating he received numerous phone calls from residents reporting speeders and traffic concerns throughout the village, which he felt was a positive for the village because it shows that people take pride in their community. Having lived in the village for 17 years, it pleases Horwath that residents continue to be involved and truly are interested in what happens throughout the village.

We will miss working with Commander Horwath and wish him good luck in his retirement!

Horwath has been replaced by Lt. Jeff McKenzie, who has stepped in and taken over the reins. We welcome Jeff and look forward to working with him!



Photo courtesy of George Poulos

HOMER GLEN'S 'FLAG GUY' HONORED

Tedd Kagianas has uniquely recognized Flag Day for the past six years by placing more than 3,000 American flags on lawns throughout the Homer Glen community, each year placing the flags in a different area of the village.

In January, Kagianas was honored at a village board meeting by Marilyn Earnest, representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution, for his efforts and patriotism by receiving a Flag Award from the organization. After receiving this award, Kagianas and his family then presented a flag depicting the American flag, Statue of Liberty, World Trade Center, Pentagon, September 11, 2001 and "God Bless America", to the village for display. "I wanted us to remember the struggles going on today, the battle might be different, but the struggles are the same," Kagianas said.

Kagianas and his family will recognize "Flag Day" again this year by placing the small flags around the village and encourages other residents to come help so the flags might be spread throughout the entire town. The flags also are passed out at Homer Township's annual Fourth of July parade, as Kagianas and family members walk the parade route giving them to residents along the way.

We are proud of our village and residents like Tedd Kagianas, who take the time to spread American patriotism reminding us how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America.



FARMER'S MARKET

Paula J. Wallrich, Village Manager

Homer Glen will be celebrating the grand opening of its inaugural Farmer's Market this summer. On June 12, the parking lot of Sears Essentials at the corner of 159th Street and Bell Road will be filled with fresh produce, organic meats, soy candles, gourmet chocolates, cheeses and more. There will be a blue grass band, face-painting for the children, pizza and lemon shakeups to help celebrate the start of the market season. What a way to begin the summer!

As a young community, the mayor and village board continually look for ways to enhance the quality of life of Homer Glen residents. The creation of community events such as the farmer's market is another way to build community pride and create a real sense of community.

Early this year, the village contracted with Merrill Marxman, a professional market manager. Merrill has more than twelve years of market experience, building valuable relationships with what he terms as his 'market family'. Merrill has been working with Homer Glen to finalize the vendor list and plan for a season full of family events to be held at the market each week.

Sears Essentials has been a great partner working with the village to ensure the market is a huge success. The market will operate from 2 to 5 p.m. every Saturday, rain or shine, from June 12 to October 16. Events have been planned throughout the season, including highlights such as a community public safety day, community health day, petting zoo, free sweet corn and children's art festival. So grab your 'Shop Homer Glen' bag and join your neighbors for a healthy fun afternoon at the Homer Glen Farmer's Market!



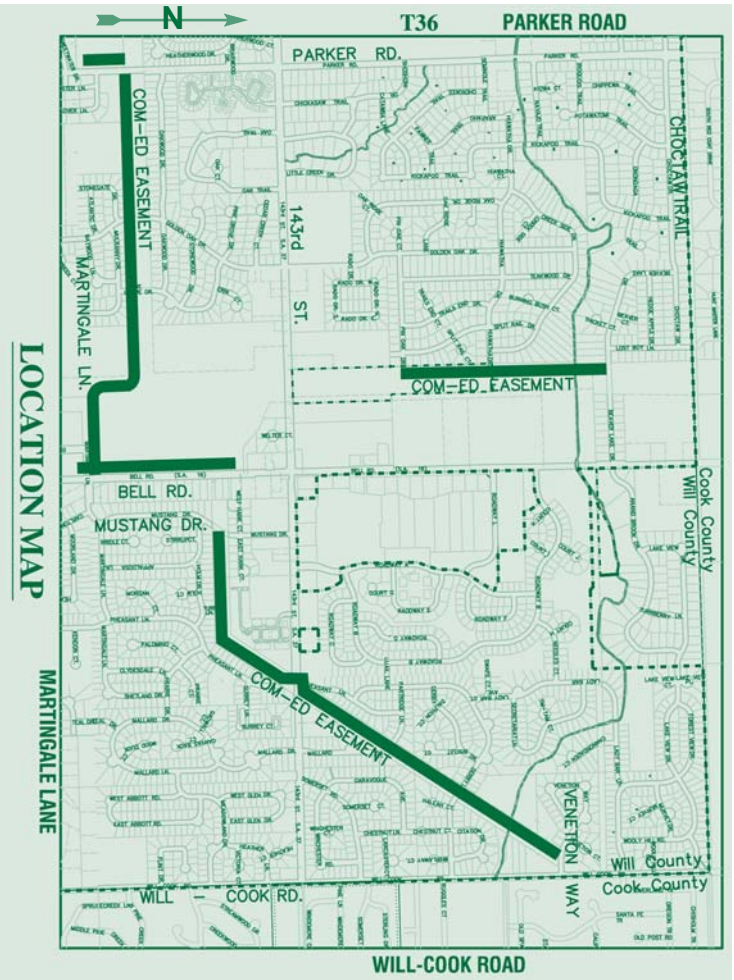
CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON BIKE TRAIL

After years of planning, Homer Glen residents will see the first phases of a community-wide trail system completed this fall. Construction of the initial 3.4 mile bike trail is planned to begin in June. The trail runs generally along the ComEd easement between Culver Park and Yangas Park and between Founders Crossing (Bell Road) north to Old Oak Estates. An exhibit outlining the trail route is on display at the village office and the Homer Township Public Library.

The \$1.5 million improvement is being funded primarily by a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program grant. The grant covers 80 percent of engineering and construction costs. Additionally, Menards contributed \$70,000 toward the trail construction when they annexed into the village in 2002. The 10-foot wide trail will be constructed of asphalt with earth shoulders.

The trail will have thirteen access points including: Beaver Lake Drive, Pin Oak Drive, Heatherwood Drive, Parker Road, Golden Oak Drive, Pine Grove Drive, Squisito Development, Bell Road, Mustang Drive, 143rd Street/Pheasant Lane, Partridge Lane, Derby Lane, and Venetian Way.

The planning of a Community Trail System began shortly after Homer Glen's incorporation. It is a goal of all the Village's major planning documents – The Comprehensive Plan, the Green Vision for the Homer Glen Community, the Transportation Plan, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Community Trail System will provide a comprehensive network of trails that will link Homer Glen residents to businesses, schools, parks, and other regional trails. The trail system will offer an environmentally friendly alternative to motorized transportation as well as a safe place for residents to walk, bike and jog.



OUTDOOR PROJECTS... PLAN AHEAD!

Michael Salamowicz
Development Services Director

With the buzz of spring abounding, many residents are finally looking forward to getting outside and making those long awaited improvements to their homes. This might include projects such as decks, patios or just general landscaping around the home or property. Before heading off to our local Menards or Home Depot for those building materials, there are some things residents may want to keep in mind. Most important, before the first shovel hits the dirt, residents should call JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) at 1-800-892-0123 or simply by dialing 811. The purpose of JULIE is to provide Illinois excavators and underground utility owners with a one-call service for the safety and protection of the facilities as well as those individuals working around them. Residents should also be aware of Homer Glen permitting, zoning and ordinance requirements before beginning any projects. The zoning and ordinance requirements could include set-back or lot coverage restrictions, as well as specific construction or building codes. A final thought before beginning any project is location. Residents need to be aware of any property restrictions or easements which may affect the location of the proposed improvements. Any construction within easements is typically not allowed, with the exception of certain types of fences. Residents should also be aware of Illinois drainage laws, which forbid blocking drainage from higher or upstream properties. As always, residents are encouraged to contact the village with any questions they may have about their upcoming projects, including whether or not a permit is required for the specified work. Have a safe and happy season!



Know what's below
Call before you dig.

“REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE”

8 Steps to “green” your home:

- 1 Install dimmer switches in most used rooms to save \$, 5 rooms should save approximately \$37 per year.
- 2 Replace your old showerhead with the new 2.5 gallon per minute water flow and save up to \$45 per month for a family of four.
- 3 Wrap your insulation blanket around your water heater and lower its running cost as much as 9 percent.
- 4 Roll up two magazines and place in calf or knee high boots to keep the shape.
- 5 Flatten and use empty paper towel roll to sheathe a knife kept in a kitchen drawer.
- 6 Stash an old shower curtain in car trunk to line it when hauling messy paints, picnic gear, plants and beach gear.
- 7 Foam packing peanuts placed in potted plant container helps with drainage.
- 8 Cut off top of plastic gallon milk jug just above the handle and use as a scoop for kitty litter, birdseed, dog food, etc.





SAVE THE DATE!

May 22
Earth/Arbor Day
Celebration

June 26
Annual Fourth of July
Parade and Festival

Parade 11 a.m.
Festival following
at Culver Park

HOMER GLEN FARMER'S MARKET SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 12	Grand Opening Heartland Bluegrass Band Dotsie the Clown, face painting KAT DJs-Tomano & Touhy
June 26	Homer Farm Days Petting Zoo, Dairy Cow/calf exhibit
July 17	Free hot buttered Illinois Sweet Corn
July 24	Community Health Day <i>Sponsored by Silver Cross Hospital</i>
July 31	Music at the Market Lessons and instrument repair <i>Sponsored by Bri-Lyn Music</i>
August 7	Public Safety Day Equipment and live demonstrations <i>Homer Township Fire, Northwest Fire, Will County Sheriff and Emergency Management Safety</i>
September 11	"Chicago Times" Barbershop Quartet
September 18	Homer Township Library Bookmobile
September 25	Lemont Car Club Show
October 2	Music at the Market Lessons and instrument repair <i>Sponsored by Bri-Lyn Music</i>
October 16	Pumpkin Painting <i>Sponsored by Bengtson's Pumpkin Festival</i>

GO 'GREEN'

Contractors, developers, and homeowners offered incentives to build 'green' using LEEDS or equivalent program

The Homer Glen Building Department is researching the possibility of creating a program that would give incentives to contractors, developers and homeowners to build 'green' using LEEDS or an equivalent program. After meeting with the community economic development committee, a decision will be made to do more research and/or send the topic to the village board for their thoughts. The purpose of the research is to propose a voluntary compliance ordinance, not a mandate, to build 'green' and to create monetary incentives to build using the LEEDS certification system or an equivalent system as determined by the code official.



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Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

14933 S. Founders Crossing • Homer Glen, IL 60491

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.

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Village of Homer Glen Officials

Mayor **Clerk**
Jim Daley Gale Skrobuton

Trustees

Michael Costa
Russell Knaack
Mary Niemiec
Margaret Sabo
Laurel Ward
George Yukich

Village Board Meets
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
Plan Commission Meets
1st & 3rd Monday of the Month

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

www.homerglen.org

To the Homer Glen Resident at: