

New Homer Glen
ZIP Code —
See Page 2!



Village of
**HOMER
GLEN**

Volume 2 • Issue 1

Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

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

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Leslie I. Bolin of **INFORMOTION**,
Homer Glen, IL (708) 301-3818.

First Village Board Election April 1, 2003

For the first time in Homer Glen history, residents will elect their Village officials! Two candidates will be on the ballot for President/ Mayor: incumbent Mayor Russ Petrizzo and Homer Township Trustee Pam Meyers.

Incumbent Clerk Christine Luttrell will run unopposed for the office of Village Clerk. Eight candidates are on the ballot for the office of Village Trustee; only six will be elected: Dale Vogelsanger, incumbent Mary Niemiec, incumbent Margaret Sabo, Evelyn K. Walano, Marcia DeVivo, Nancy Strack, incumbent Brian L. Andrews, and Robert E. Hughes.

New municipalities must hold elections as “non-partisan.” You will not see familiar party names or even the term “independent” on the ballot. Watch for further information about the April 1 Consolidated Election in your local newspapers and on candidates’ websites.

Get involved! Get informed! Get out and vote!

March 4

Last day to register to vote before the April 1 election.

March 10 to March 28

Vote by absentee ballot at the Village Hall – Monday thru Friday – 9 am -4:30 pm.

****Special Opportunity****

March 22, Saturday

Vote by absentee ballot at the Village Hall – 9 am to noon.

March 31, Monday

Last day to vote by absentee ballot at Village Hall – 9 am to noon.

April 1, Tuesday

Consolidated Election.

April 3

Voter registration re-opens at Village, Township, and County offices



APRIL 1 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION:

Village of Homer Glen: President (Mayor), Village Clerk, Trustees (6)

Board of Education Members: Homer School District 33C, New Lenox School District 122, Will County School District 92, Lockport Township High School District 205

Homer Township Public Library District: Trustees

Joliet Junior College District 525: Trustees

Mokena Fire Protection District: Trustees

Mokena Community Park District: Park Commissioners

Will County Regional Board of School Trustees

Referenda: Homer Township Public Library District, Will County School District 92, Joliet Junior College District 525



Russ Petrizzo, Mayor

Greetings,

The past year was a successful one for Homer Glen. We annexed several key properties including the Homer Town Square Shopping Center (Dominick's) and the Gas City at 143rd Street. These existing developments are now contributing sales tax revenue to the Village. We also annexed the future Menards property on Bell Road and the future Gas City and surrounding acreage at 143rd Street and Lemont Road. This future development will provide much needed revenue to our schools and to our Village.

In 2003 we will complete the first Village Comprehensive Plan. An important component of the Comprehensive Plan will be development plans for the 159th Street corridor. We are looking at ways to design the corridor in a manner that will maintain Homer Glen's distinct character while maximizing economic development and career opportunities.

We will be working on several road improvement projects this year. Plans are underway for installing turn lanes at 151st Street and Bell Road and a stoplight at 159th Street and South Bell Road. After the tragic events of 2002, improving traffic safety has become one of my priorities. I have already met with officials of the Homer Township Fire District and Lockport Township High School to develop an awareness program that will better prepare our youth and encourage safe driving habits.

I am committed to operating Homer Glen in a fiscally responsible manner and am happy to report a reduction in the contract with Will County for police services. We continue to operate within our budget, despite cuts in funding from the State. As we pursue additional economic development opportunities, Homer Glen's financial outlook is positive.

Planning our own future is why we incorporated. Residents will have the chance to participate in the Comprehensive Plan Open House that will be scheduled soon and the Green Communities Visioning program that is now underway. I encourage all residents to take advantage of these opportunities to be involved.

Sincerely,
Russ Petrizzo



Christine Luttrell, Village Clerk

New ZIP Code Approved for Homer Glen

A new ZIP code was officially approved last month by the U.S. Postal Service for Homer Glen and certain adjacent areas and will become active on July 1, 2003. At that time, postal databases will be updated to include all new ZIP codes approved in the U.S.

Until July 1, 2003, the new ZIP code numbers will not be recognized by post office equipment and any mail using newly approved ZIP codes will be in limbo and not deliverable. The same applies to other national and local databases that access the postal service ZIP code information, such as package delivery services.

The U.S. Postal Service will notify residents of the new ZIP code number and their four-digit block number by

mail at an appropriate time. A period of about 18 months will be allowed for the transition from the old ZIP code to the new one, so residents will have time to notify friends and businesses of their ZIP code change and to change stationery, checks, etc.

At the present time no federal money is available for building a post office in Homer Glen, but the Village is looking at various ways to make some type of postal service available in Homer Glen.

News of the new ZIP code was received enthusiastically by Homer Glen officials. Mayor Russ Petrizzo noted, "The new ZIP code adds to the creation of Homer Glen's identity and image. It also recognizes Homer Glen's status as a significant suburban entity in the metropolitan area."

Some Residents to Be Surveyed

Portions of Home Glen are currently served by the Orland Park, Mokena and Lemont post offices. Residents who are served by these post offices will be surveyed by the U. S. Postal

Service as to whether they want to retain their current postal designation or use the new Homer Glen ZIP code. If a majority of residents want to use Homer Glen and the new ZIP code in their address, their post office will change. Hopefully, all residents will want to use the Village's new ZIP code.

Christine Luttrell

Please DO NOT use the new ZIP Code until July 1, 2003.

Mail and packages using the new ZIP Code before July 1 will be UNDELIVERABLE.

Memorial Skate Park Design to be Revealed

Much has been accomplished since the Homer Township/Homer Glen Christopher Combs Memorial Skate Park Task Force began meeting in January 2002. Approximately \$12,000 has been raised through fund-raisers and private donations from the community. Homer Township is providing a site for the skate park in the north-west corner of Culver Park (between 151st Street and 143rd Street along Parker Road).

A public meeting, led by Michelle Kelly of Upland Design, was held in November to gather information from skaters so the park can be fully utilized and enjoyed. Ms. Kelly has designed successful skate parks and conducted park planning in many communities,

including Elmhurst, Naperville and Plainfield, and has volunteered to donate her services to our community.

Another meeting was held in February. The design concepts based on November's meeting were presented to skaters and residents, who had the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed design so further refinements could be made.

The Skate Park Task Force, a group sponsored by Homer Township and Homer Glen, is dedicated to creating the Skate Park in memory of Christopher Combs, a Homer Junior High student who loved skating and died suddenly of meningitis in 2001. The Task Force is grateful to Homer Township for providing the park site, eliminating the cost of purchasing land, but community assistance is still needed in the fund-raising process. The

Task Force encourages organizations, businesses, and individuals to hold events to help raise the required funds.

For information about this project or to make donations, please contact Homer Glen at (708) 301-0632, or Homer Township, (708) 301-0522.



Anniversary Tree Planting



The Village would like to thank A Touch of Green for its generous tree donation and their donation of potted plants outside the Village Hall.

Pictured from left to right: Gail Snyder, Russ Petrizzo, Mary Niemiec, Laurel Ward, and Brian Andrews.

In the spring of 2002, a community-wide survey was conducted as part of the comprehensive planning process to gauge residents' views on a number of topics, including the advantages and disadvantages of living in the Village, rating of public facilities and services, how Homer Glen should develop in the future, and more. Throughout this newsletter and future newsletters, you will notice small boxes with a heading of "Residents Say . . .". Enjoy reading some of the findings pulled from the results of the survey. If you would like to know more, copies of the survey results, including hundreds of open-ended responses, are available at the Homer Township Public Library and at the Village Hall.

Residents Say . . .
47% of respondents have lived at their Homer Glen address for 11 or more years.

Residents Say . . . **The top three advantages of living in Homer Glen:**

1. Rural/countryside character
2. Open spaces
3. Feeling of safety and security

The Homer Township Historic Survey is now available in hardcover from the Will County Historic Preservation Commission, (815) 727-8430. You may also view it at the Homer Glen Village Hall.

Community and Nature in Harmony Awards

In conjunction with National Public Lands Day, the Village by proclamation established Homer Glen Lands Day in 2002. Through the efforts of the Parks and Environment



Committee, the Homer Glen Community and Nature in Harmony Awards were created to celebrate Lands Day. The award recognizes people who have demonstrated commitment to the environment through the preservation, restoration, and/or beautification of land in Homer Glen and in the process significantly contributed to community pride. Awards were presented to the following:

Ed Anderson for beautifying Heather Court in the Somerset Hill Subdivision.

Steve Balich for work with the beautification of our township parks and promoting historical awareness.

John Basile for providing educational programs, a learning environment, and a home for wildlife.

Marcia DeVivo for her involvement related to the Long Run Creek Watershed Committee by providing educational awareness, clean-up, management, and the protection of the Long Run Creek Watershed.

Tom and Beryl Hartman for establishing a wooded preserve and creating a wildlife habitat on their property.

David Krivickas for his work in researching and preserving our historic past, identifying historic sites and landmarks, and contributing to our historical heritage.

Sheree Koziel La-Ha for her assistance and guidance in applying for the Green Communities Grant, resulting in an award of \$110,000 to the Village. This grant will provide us

with an environmental vision for the future and help protect our natural resources.

Lawrence Lauffer, the Daniel Sass Family, Loren S. Sass and Cyclopedia Maturlak for their participation in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources voluntary program "Acres for Wildlife", whose purpose is to restore, maintain, and enhance wildlife habitats.

Joan McGowan for the creation and commitment to the Native Plant Monitoring Program, which provides food for wildlife, the establishment of seed collection for future prairies, and preserves plants that were evident during the pre-settlement era.

Pam Meyers for being instrumental in the success of the Open Space Campaign, a referendum which allowed Homer Township to purchase property for Open Space, and continued involvement with the Homer Township Open Space Land Stewardship Committee and Land Acquisition Committee.

Susan Tanty, a teacher at District 92 Ludwig Middle School, for providing curriculum that promotes student environmental awareness, love of nature, and future stewardship.

Mallard Lake Estates Developers T. J. Lambrecht and Bob Kegley for providing recreational opportunities in the subdivision while protecting and enhancing the environment.

NLSB Bank for beautiful landscaping and promoting community pride within our business community.

Old Oak Country Club for providing a wildlife habitat within the grounds of Old Oak Country Club, while preserving and beautifying the property, and contributing to our sense of community pride.

Stan's Landscaping for generously contributing and planting numerous trees and shrubs to beautify Homer Township parks.

Annunciation Byzantine Church for beautifully landscaping the church property while implementing storm water management.

Home of the Clovers 4-H Club of Cook County for their care and management of landscaping during 2001 at the TLC Animal Shelter.

Will County Trail Riders for working with the Will County Forest Preserve to establish an equestrian trail in Homer Township and contributing to our community's rural atmosphere.

Homer Township Republican Organization for sponsoring the Homer Township Garden and Yard Walks and promoting beautification, education and community pride.

Homer Township for working to make the purchase of "Open Space" possible through the referendum process and further contributing toward preservation by the establishment of the Land Acquisition Committee and the Land Stewardship Committee.

Open Space Land Stewardship Committee of Homer Township for continuing to plan, protect, and maintain agricultural heritage and rural atmosphere.

Civil War Re-enactment Needs You!

The Homer Township Civil War re-enactment will take place May 2-4, 2003 at Spring Creek Forest Preserve (on South Bell Road, south of 159th). Over 500 re-enactors from all over the United States are expected to attend.

This event is free; however, it is being supported by fundraisers and donations. The group is selling Teddy Bears for \$5.00 each. The Bears may be purchased at the Homer Township office at 14350 West 151st Street.

Stephen Balich, Chairman of the Civil War Re-enactment, has also invited President Bush to attend. Our President replied that he was interested, but can't positively commit. You can help influence his decision by writing a letter asking the President to attend. Address your letter to: White House, Washing D.C., 20502; Attention: Bradley A. Blakeman, Director of Appointments and Scheduling.

And the Winners Are . . .

Homer Glen has an official logo and slogan. **Anthony Ficke, Kerri Treacy, and Dale Vogelsanger** each submitted similar entries that were selected as the winning concept for the Homer Glen logo. The Village slogan, "Community and Nature...in Harmony", was created by **Patti Maska** and submitted by **Dale Vogelsanger**. Honorable Mention Awards were given to five additional entries submitted by **Patricia Manion Caauwe, the Gina Provenzano Family, the Sass Family, Ann Schipits, and Susan Townsend.**

A Village-wide logo contest was sponsored by the Community & Civic Involvement Committee. "With so many entries it was difficult selecting the winning concepts," said Laurel Ward who leads the Committee; "We received a lot of great artwork."

Luttrell Engraving combined the winning concepts to create the final artwork and provided their services to the Village at no charge. Winners were recognized at the Village's First Annual Tree Planting Ceremony on April 26, 2002 at Homer Junior High School.

*"We
received
a lot of
great
artwork."*



Logo Contest Winners Dale Vogelsanger, Patti Maska, and Anthony Ficke. Not pictured: Kerri Treacy.

Great Expectations

When work began on the Village Comprehensive Plan, there were great expectations the work could be completed by the end of 2002. Boy, did we miscalculate! Although we are making progress, there is still a lot to do before the Comprehensive Plan will be ready for adoption by the Mayor and Village Board. The Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Village's planning consultant have accomplished the following to date:

- Community survey
- Base mapping and data collection
- Key person interviews
- Preparation of a Synthesis Report
- Focus group workshops
- Preparation of a Vision Statement
- Preparation of Goals and Objectives
- Preparation of a draft Preliminary Community-Wide Plan

The Preliminary Community-Wide Plan is being reviewed and revised by the Comprehensive Plan Committee. This Preliminary Plan includes recommendations on land-use, transportation, parks and open space, community facilities, and a town center for Homer Glen. It is expected that within the next month the Preliminary Plan will be ready for presentation at a public open house. All residents and businesses will be invited and asked to react to the plan and offer their comments and suggestions.

Please watch local newspapers or check the Village's website, www.homerglen.org, for the date and location of the open house. The more people who participate in the planning process, the better the final plan will be. If you would like to receive an individual notice of the open house, please call the Village Hall at (708) 301-0632 and we will put you on our mailing list to receive an invitation.

SPEEDERS BEWARE: *Homer Glen Patrols Increase*

Traffic enforcement has been beefed up in Homer Glen. Through a grant received by the Will County Sheriff's Department, an additional officer will be patrolling the streets of Homer Glen on a part-time basis. "We want our streets to be safe," said Mayor Russ Petrizzo. "We will not tolerate speeding through our subdivisions where children play." The additional officer's primary responsibility will be enforcing

ing speed limits and other traffic rules in Homer Glen. The officer may be pulled from traffic enforcement in order to respond to emergency calls.

Homer Glen officials meet with the Sheriff's representatives on a regular basis to discuss police issues in the Village. Residents are encouraged to notify the Village Hall if they are aware of any problems.

"Because of the grant, the additional patrol will not cost us anything," said Petrizzo. "It's going to make Homer Glen a safer community."

Annexations Increase Sales Tax

Recent annexations to Homer Glen are helping to provide additional sales tax revenue to the Village. This is important since the Village operates without a property tax. The new annexations include Gas City on 143rd Street east of Bell Road, and Homer Town Square Shopping Center, which is home to a number of businesses, including Dominick's, McDonald's, Brown's Chicken, and Jimmy John's. The vacant land north of Homer Town Square has also been annexed, and soon will be the site of a Menards. Sales taxes are one of the most important revenue sources for municipalities. Thus, it is important to "Shop Homer Glen" whenever we can. Based upon the first three months of increased sales tax, it appears these annexations are adding over \$30,000 per month to Village revenues.

Koffee with a Kop

Do you have a question or concern about police services in Homer Glen? Do you want to talk directly with a Will County Sheriff's Deputy? Stop by the Village Hall prior to a Village Board meeting for a cup of coffee and meet with one of the Will County officers who provide Homer Glen's police services. A commanding officer will be available from 6:30 to 7:30 pm on the following Tuesdays:

- April 15
- May 20
- June 17

Snow Route Guidelines

Homer Glen enforces a no-parking policy when snow on the ground is more than 2" deep. Please remember to move your cars off of the road if they are parked on a Village street.

About Zoning Districts

Zoning Districts have certain uniform regulations and requirements. The Homer Glen ordinance specifies permitted uses, lot size, the minimum frontage of each lot (frontage is the edge of a lot that *fronts* the street. A corner lot may have two frontages), and set back requirements for each zoning district.

Prior to becoming a Village, Will County had zoning districts in place in Homer Glen. The Village adopted Will County's zoning ordinances, although some changes have been made. The Homer Glen Zoning Commission is reviewing all Zoning Districts and making recommended changes to the Village Board.

Residential Districts in Homer Glen:

Classification	Description	Minimum Area	Minimum Frontage
E-1	Single-Family Rural Estate	5 acres	300 feet
E-2	Single-Family Estate	2.5 acres	180 feet
R-1	Single-Family	60,000 sq. ft.	165 feet
R-2	Single-Family	1 acre	150 feet
R-2A	Single-Family	30,000 sq. ft.	120 feet
R-3	Single-Family	20,000 sq. ft.	90 feet
R-3An	Single-Family	15,000 sq. ft.	80 feet
R-4 ‡	Single-Family	12,500 sq. ft.	70 feet
R-5*	Single-Family	10,000 sq. ft.	70 feet
R-6 ‡	Multi-Family	12/units per acre	60 feet
R-6An	Multi-Family	6/units per acre	60 feet

Agricultural Districts in Homer Glen:

Classification	Description	Minimum Area	Minimum Frontage
A-1	Agricultural District	10 acres	300 feet
A-2*	Rural-Residential District	2.5 acres	300 feet

* These districts were originally grandfathered by Will County. This means they are not available for new zoning.

‡ These were grandfathered by Homer Glen. This means they are not available for new zoning.

n These two zoning districts were created by Homer Glen.

Introducing the Newsletter Editor

Leslie I. Bolin is a publication designer whose background includes twenty years of 2-D and 3-D design experience, as well as formal art training at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is also employed as the General Manager of the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Leslie can't spend all of her time on the computer, so she gets out and about on her road bike, mountain bike, or a horse. She and her family have lived in Homer Township for 14 years.

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.

What's Your Green Vision for Homer Glen?

The Village of Homer Glen is privileged to be one of sixteen communities in the State of Illinois selected as a recipient of a Green Communities Demonstration Program Grant. The \$110,000 grant, which is administered by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, is to undertake an innovative visioning process that will facilitate community based environmental protection strategies. The process will include issues such as compatible land-use and development strategies, open space and recreation, natural areas, environmental education, clean air, clean water, waste reduction, and efficient use of resources.

“Community involvement is essential! Visioning sessions led by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) will help us hear from our residents, businesses and community organizations to help achieve a solid plan, to structure our growth and address environmental issues which

are important to the community at-large,” notes Village Trustee Margaret Sabo.

We now seek that community involvement in a process devoted to making Homer Glen a desirable place to reside and do business, and to preserve our unique rural character,

“As Illinois’ newest municipality, we need to identify our challenges, trends, assets, and develop the best strategies and action plan to preserve our unique community.”

our open space and our natural resources. Two Community Visioning Sessions will be held at the Homer Junior High School:

- April 26, 2003
9:00 am–2:00 pm
- July 14, 2003
6:30–9:30 pm

Residents and other community stakeholders interested in

participating in the program are encouraged to contact the Village Hall for more details. If you missed the first two sessions, please come to the next two.

Participants will identify and prioritize those issues most important to Homer Glen. “As Illinois’ newest municipality, we need to identify our challenges, trends, assets, and develop the best strategies and action plan to preserve our unique community,” said Sabo.



The Village of Homer Glen's Council Chambers at 13031 W. 143rd Street.



Margaret Sabo and a stakeholder at a Green Grant visioning session.

How Do I Contact the Village Hall?

The Village of Homer Glen has moved into new quarters. We are located in the Orland Oak Shopping Center at 14331 S. Golden Oak Drive. Office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The entrance faces Golden Oak Drive.

Phone: (708) 301-0632

FAX: (708) 301-8407

Postal address:

14331 S. Golden Oak Drive
Homer Glen, IL 60441

Council Chambers:

13031 W. 143rd Street
Homer Glen, IL 60441

Electronic mail:

Information:

inquiries@homerglen.org

Webmaster: pmaska@homerglen.org

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

What's On the Web?

Did you know that the Village of Homer Glen has its own website? The web address is www.homerglen.org. Some of things you can find out on our website:

- Weekly meeting agendas (usually posted on Friday)
- Subdivision zoning
- Listing of governmental offices
- Various telephone numbers, with a link to their site (if applicable):
 - Animal Control
 - Area refuse services
 - Area schools

And much, much, more! We will be adding more information as we have the time, so check back often.

Residents Say . . . Residents were polled on the types of additional recreation areas they would prefer. Given a choice between parks, space for sports and active recreation, or hiking & biking trails, 66% of respondents prefer hiking & biking trails.

VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN • 2003 MEETING CALENDAR

			Time	Location
Board of Trustees	Regular Meetings	3rd Tuesday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Board of Trustees	Workshops	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Board of Trustees	Joint Workshop with Plan Commission & Zoning Commission	1st Tuesday	7:30 pm	Council Chamber
Community & Civic Involvement Committee		4th Monday	7:30 pm	Village Hall (Use Council Chamber Entrance)
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)		1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00 pm	Homer Township Fire Station #2
Parks & Environment Committee		2nd & 4th Monday	7:00 pm	Council Chamber
Plan Commission		1st & 3rd Thursday	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, on Friday evenings.

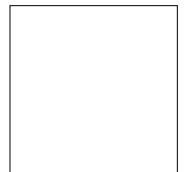
Agendas are also posted each Friday on the windows of the Village Hall and the Council Chamber.



Village of
HOMER
GLEN

Community and Nature . . . in Harmony

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



Residents Say . . .

**74% of residents responding
to the survey would
recommend Homer Glen
as a good place to live.**