




THE VILLAGE

Messenger

"A Glimpse Of The Glen"

A PUBLICATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

SPRING/SUMMER 2020
ISSUE 02

THANK YOU! HEALTHCARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND FRONTLINE WORKERS.
For Your Commitment & Bravery While Keeping Us Safe!



Pictured (l to r) Trustee Ruben Pazmino, Trustee Sharon Sweas, Trustee Beth Rodgers, Mayor George Yukich, Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troike, (former) Trustee Ann Holtz, (former) Trustee Brian Burian, Trustee Keith Gray

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George Yukich
Mayor

Christina Neitzke-Troike
Clerk

TRUSTEES

Carlo Caprio
Homer Community Festival

Keith Gray
Administration & Finance,
Community & Economic
Development

Ruben Pazmino
Environment,
Parks & Recreation

Beth Rodgers
Administration & Finance,
Parks & Recreation

Sharon Sweas
Administration & Finance,
Environment

*Trustees Brian Burian and Ann Holtz
resigned in March and April 2020. We thank
them for their dedication and service to the
Village of Homer Glen!*



Dear Residents and Businesses of Homer Glen:

Greetings from the Village of Homer Glen. This is not a typical letter that I would write, given the extraordinary times that we are living in. I sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and well during this national emergency. We all have made adjustments these past few months and life as we know it will continue to change over the coming months.

During this time of uncertainty, I want to assure you the Village is doing everything we can to help our businesses, residents, and organizations. As you read this newsletter, you will find a summary of these different initiatives. You will also find the spirit of Homer Glen – which remains strong, kind and giving. This is why I love this town so much.

This newsletter also reminds all of us about the wonderful things that have happened in the past year that we should still embrace and celebrate. Highlights include the opening of the Active Core at Heritage Park, HomerFest, and our Homer for the Holidays event.



I am meeting weekly with our first responders from our Fire Districts, Sheriff's Department, Road District and our Emergency Management Agency to share information and resources. We continue to provide timely information to the public on a daily basis, via our website and Facebook page. Please follow these sources of information about your community.

For our businesses, I am proud to announce that our COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Loan Program has funded \$90,000 in financial assistance. If you are a business owner, please visit the Village website for more information on our program and other resources.

Our financials are strong. This past year we became debt-free, saving the Village \$500,000 in interest payments. We also ended last year's budget with an operating surplus. Our FY 20/21 budget reflects a reduction in both revenue and expenditures, to account for the COVID-19 emergency. We will continue to closely monitor our budget, as we plan for the coming months.

The Village Hall may not have its doors open during the COVID-19 crisis, but we are still here for you. Staff is still responding to calls and emails and keeping the Village operating. We ask for your patience as we work to keep our staff safe, as well.

I want to thank our healthcare workers and first responders for their heroic work during this crisis. As a Village, the least we can do is stay home to keep each other healthy and lighten their load.

The most important thing to me and the Village Board is that you are safe.

Stay safe, be kind, and hang tough Homer Glen. We will get through this together!

Warm regards,

Mayor George Yukich



Census data impacts funding for things like:

- Education programs and grants
- Public transportation
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Libraries
- Community centers
- School meal programs
- Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities

If you have not completed your census, do so **TODAY!**

Respond your way to the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding. All of them are easy!



Online



By Phone



By Mail

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV for more information about responding online.

2020CENSUS.GOV

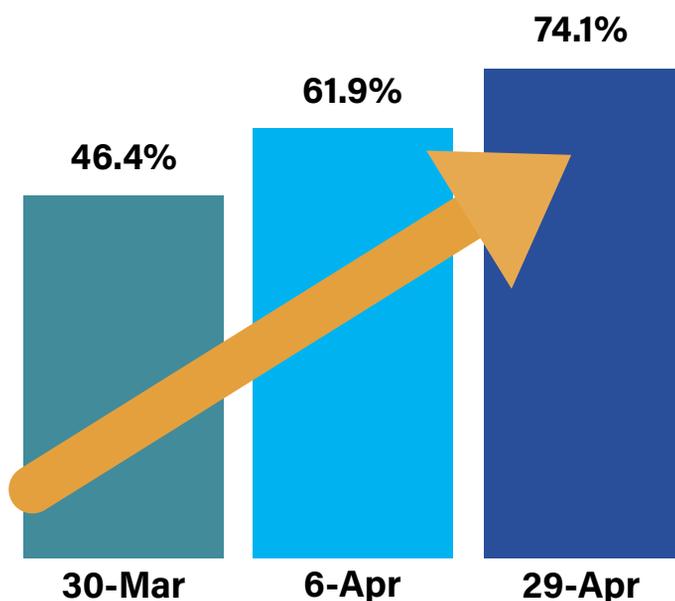
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Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020

BE COUNTED!

Homer Glen's
Census
response
rate
continues to
increase!



Illinois is #7 in the country, and while Homer Glen's response rate is higher than the national average, we are ranking only #110 in the state. Let's work to increase our rate Homer Glen!





Census & Codes

Making Sure You & Your Business Count!

VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troike

Staying Safe at Home

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.

If you still have questions about their identity you can call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

Reporting Suspected Fraud

If you suspect fraud, call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

Is My Information Safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way - not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

THE CENSUS IN HOMER GLEN

Funding: The Village of Homer Glen relies heavily on revenue that is distributed by the State of Illinois. The state motor fuel tax and income tax revenues are distributed on a per capita basis. If Homer Glen has more people, the more money the Village will receive for parks, roads, and services.

Representation: The results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts. Completing the Census may help Illinois keep electoral votes or Congressional seats!

Data: Census data is used by policy makers, businesses, and researchers to guide decisions.

In 2010, Homer Glen had one of the highest participation rates in the Chicagoland area. If you haven't already, we encourage you to participate in the 2020 Census by responding online, by phone, or by mail.

[Learn more at 2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

NEW BUSINESS LICENSE CODE

On November 26, 2019 the Village of Homer Glen passed Ordinance No. 19-052, amending the Village Code relating to Business Licenses. The amended code transitioned from businesses having a registration to a formal business license.

A license program differs from a registration program in that it includes certain expectations and responsibilities that apply to both business owners and the Village. These items include such things as minimum code requirements, compliance deadlines, suspension, revocation, inspections, and a legal due process (for the protection of the businesses).

The Village of Homer Glen currently has 521 registered businesses: 310 commercial and 211 home businesses. The Village of Homer Glen currently has 22 businesses with tobacco licenses, 39 with a liquor license, and 12 businesses that have a video gaming license.





Parks & Trails

Roster Of Parks To Expand

PARKS & RECREATION

Trustee Beth Rodgers

Trustee Ruben Pazmino

Last year was an exciting year for special events at Heritage Park! We offered new events like **Trunk or Treat**, **Movie Under the Stars**, and our new holiday light display at **Homer for the Holidays**. During these uncertain times, our 2020 event schedule is tentative. Please continue to check the Village website for updates. If you own a business in Homer Glen and would like to work with the Village on co-marketing opportunities please visit our website under Sponsorship for details. This is a great way to market your business at the Village's special events.

GLENVIEW WALK PARK - COMING SOON!

After months of revisiting the Village's Master Parks Plan, the Parks and Recreation Committee prioritized the Village-owned lot in Glenview Walk subdivision for park development. In February, the Village issued a request for proposals from park designers for their unique vision of a playground to be installed at the site. The park will include play equipment for ages 2-12 and will offer ADA accessible features. Construction is expected to begin soon and the new village park will open to all residents this summer!



A rendering of the soon to be built Glenview Walk Park. Committee members and Glenview Walk HOA members had the chance to vote on their favorite design. One feature in this design that excited many voters is the zipline that extends across the entire play area. This park is sure to be a hit with kids around the Village!





HomerFest

2020 Canceled Due To Coronavirus

HOMER COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Trustee Keith Gray

Trustee Carlo Caprio

On April 9, Governor Pritzker recommended canceling summer events, concerts, and other large gatherings throughout the State.

In light of that news we held a Special Meeting of the HomerFest committee on April 14 to discuss the impact on our June event.

Nine out of ten of our voting members were able to attend, either in person or via telephone, and we had many of our volunteers and supporters attend as well.

After much discussion we voted unanimously to recommend cancellation of the 2020 HomerFest. This was a brave decision, not lightly taken by any of our committee members. There are many rumors and theories swirling online and in

social media, and thankfully our committee was able to put much of that rhetoric aside and concentrate on the facts.

In the end, the safety and well being of our guests and residents was our only priority.

We would like to thank and commend our committee members and supporters for all of their hard work and dedication to HomerFest and our community. We have been working hard since the close of our last event. We know that this decision will be a disappointment but we could not risk the health of our community.

We look forward to bringing an amazing event in 2021!

Stay safe and healthy and we will see you next year!



The popular fireworks show is also cancelled this year. It would be hard to ensure social distancing for a fireworks show. And, (importantly) HomerFest is self-funded. This means without the revenue coming in from our generous sponsors, the beer tent, and the carnival, the Village does not have funds in its budget to pay for the fireworks. The plan is for the show to come back bigger and better next year!





Homer Green

Keeping Homer Glen Beautiful

ENVIRONMENT

Trustee Sharon Sweas

Trustee Ruben Pazmino

"Our Environment is a mirror of our attitude and expectations"

- Earl Nightingale.

Tips For Preservation And Sustainability

Ideas To Reduce Plastic Waste

- Take a reusable coffee cup, water bottle, and metal utensils with you.
- Say "no" to purchasing beverages in plastic bottles.
- Say "no" to plastic straws. In a restaurant, say "no straws please."
- Keep a reusable stainless-steel or bamboo straw with you to use.
- Bring reusable shopping and produce bags with you.

Keeping Homer Glen Beautiful Starts With YOU

- Take a bag when you walk to pick up litter.
- Take a reusable water bottle when visiting a park or trail.
- Use mutt mitts and pet waste receptacles along trails and in parks.
- Plant trees and native plants.
- Reduce lawn and garden fertilizers, especially near bodies of water.
- Follow yard waste and leaf burning rules set forth by the Village.
- Buy from local farms.

Shine Down When You Light Up

- Conserve energy. Save money.
- Minimize glare and light pollution.
- Do not light up the sky.
- Put the light where you need it.
- Use only what you need.
- Use warm colored light, not cool.
- Prevent light wars.
- Prevent negative effects on wildlife.
- Preserve the night sky as a natural resource.
- Light your property, not your neighbors.
- Shield the bulb so it is not seen below the fixture.



One of the goals of the Environment Committee is to support and enhance an attractive and distinctive community that builds upon and preserves Homer Glen's unique character, natural resources, and open space.



"The Earth is what we all have in common."

- Wendell Berry



20/20 Vision

Gateway To The Future Of Homer Glen

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

CED Committee contributions helped shape a number of recent and ongoing initiatives to promote economic development and improve the Village Code enhancing its ease of use and business friendliness. Recommendations included:

Comprehensive Plan Update: simplify the number of land use categories on the Land Use Map and provide options to update conservation design standards.

Use Table Update: reorganize to group similar land uses to make it more user friendly and match with updated liquor classifications.

New Liquor Classifications: update liquor classifications to enable existing business owners to remain competitive and expand business recruitment opportunities to further diversify retail venues and generate new retail sales tax.

Business License Program: replace business registration with an annual Business License Program beginning with the new 2020 calendar year.

Sign Code Update: improve the Village's image and capacity to attract and retain businesses by updating the sign regulations to handle a variety of modern sign proposals.

Village Gateway Signage and Wayfinding: take a comprehensive approach to new Village gateway and wayfinding signage. This initiative will update sign design and complete a system of welcoming gateway signs defining the borders of the community as well as address internal wayfinding. Design and implementation of new Village signage will follow the forthcoming branding strategy guidelines.

BRANDING PLAN

The Strategic Planning process identified the need for consistent branding to help build the sense of community identity. The CED Committee made recommendations shaping the scope of work for the Village to solicit bids to update its branding strategy. The ongoing Branding Plan Project will assist the Village with identity in the marketplace. There will be no change to the Village Seal. The project deliverables will include a unifying brand design with standards for its uniform use and design development of Village gateway signs. The timing is appropriate for the Branding Project given the completion of IDOT's improvements for 159th Street, water, and sanitary sewer extensions to the western border and the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update process.



Homer Glen's current gateway signage. A well-designed signage system contributes to building identity for the Village.



COVID-19 Safety

Keeping Homer Glen Safe

PUBLIC SERVICES & SAFETY

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

IN APPRECIATION

The Village is deeply grateful for its local first responders, healthcare workers, and frontline workers who have bravely kept our community going during the Coronavirus crisis.

As we navigate the current uncertain times together, the most important thing to us is that our residents are safe. Please continue to follow the Governor's guidance. This guidance not only keeps you safe, but also contributes to the overall safety of our workers who are risking their lives daily.

The Village has also been overcome with pride by the outpouring of community support during this time. We urge all residents and businesses to help support one another during the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of our local restaurants and businesses cannot be overstated. During this time of need, please encourage your neighbors, employees and friends to continue to patronize local eateries and stores.

Be kind, be safe and stay healthy.

FACT 1

Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2

For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



CS315446-A 03/16/2020

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)



Stay Safe!

AVOID CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam Coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it might lead to more robocalls instead.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA authorized home test kits for the Coronavirus.

For more information, call Senior Services of Will County 815-723-9713.

Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?



Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
 - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

SENIOR SERVICES OF WILL COUNTY

Resources, information, services and programs to keep seniors safe healthy and independent.

815.723.9713

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

If you are experiencing symptoms like fever, cough or shortness of breath- seek immediate medical attention.

Are you anxious about the changes happening? Fearful of going outside?
Call 815.723.9713



WHAT DO YOU NEED?



Do you need refills on your medication?

Are you running low on household supplies?
Call 815.723.9713

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AT HOME?

Senior Services provides access to home delivered meals, shelf stable items and non-perishables. We can assist with shopping, deliveries, and nutrition needs at NO COST.
Call 815.723.9713



DO YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION?



Senior Services can assist with transportation to and from medical appointments at NO COST.
Call 815.723.9713



www.willcountyseniors.org
815.723.9713



Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

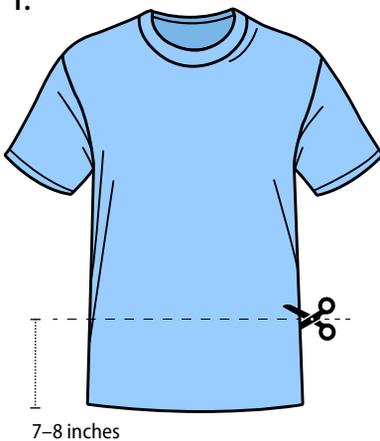
Quick Cut T-shirt Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

Materials

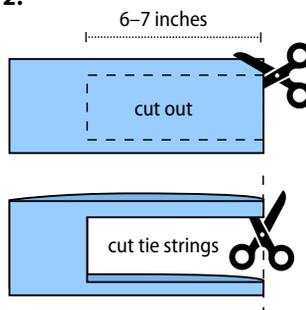
- T-shirt
- Scissors

Tutorial

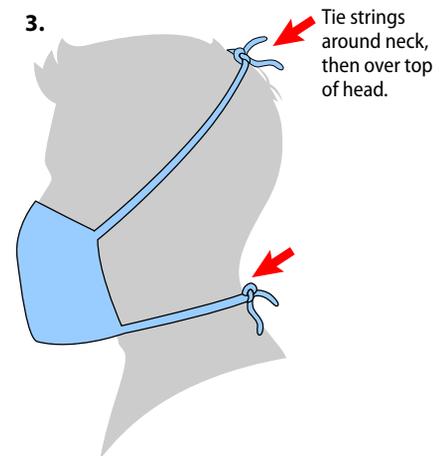
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2.



3.



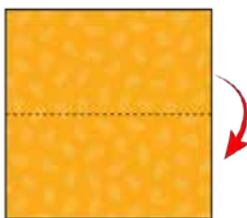
Bandana Cloth Face Covering (no sew method)

Materials

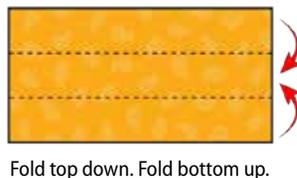
- Bandana (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20")
- Rubber bands (or hair ties)
- Scissors (if you are cutting your own cloth)

Tutorial

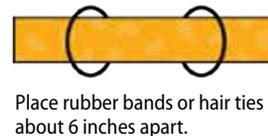
1.



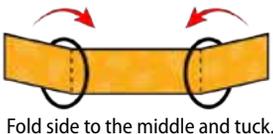
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3.



4.



5.



6.



Village Assistance During COVID-19

Partnering To Keep The Lights On

EMERGENCY SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

At the March 25 meeting, Mayor Yukich and the Village Board of Trustees proactively approved COVID-19 financial assistance for small businesses to *Keep the Lights On*. The program provides financial assistance to eligible independently-owned businesses in Homer Glen. Up to a \$10,000 line of credit is available with loans offered at zero percent (0%) interest. To date, the Village has funded \$90,000 in assistance. Eligible businesses can apply now. Visit the Village website to apply.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

For a full listing of all the commercial and residential businesses in the Village, visit our website at homerglenil.org under the tab "Doing Business".



HELP ALL AROUND

The Village is doing its best to support both the local businesses and residents in Homer Glen. In addition to the small business assistance program, the Village deferred payment of the liquor licenses for our restaurant businesses until July 31.

Around town, "Support Homer Glen Business" signs have been placed along major roads. These signs are part of an expanded campaign to highlight shopping, dining, and services available in the Village. The Village Facebook page has also begun to promote local businesses and will continue the campaign after the stay at home order is lifted. Please like us on Facebook and help us spread the word.

For our residents, the Village printed yard signs that promote community solidarity through the slogan "We are in this together. Be safe, be kind. Hang tough, Homer Glen!" These signs were available for free at Village Hall to anyone that wished to pick one up (while supplies lasted).

The Village organized a senior card drive to spread messages of love and kindness to our local seniors. We were able to deliver hundreds of cards to the residents of Marian and Victorian Villages.

A food pantry drive was also organized to collect food donations for local residents in need. These donations were delivered to the Lockport Fish Food Pantry. We continue to be amazed at the spirit and generosity of our residents. Thank you so much for your support during these times!



Debt-free & Strong

The Village of Homer Glen became debt-free in 2019! The Village Board voted to pay off all of the Village's debt, saving \$500,000 in interest payments. By retiring the 2012 General Obligation Bonds early, the Village entered 2020 with zero debt. This financial flexibility allows the Village to continue investing in parks, roads, drainage projects, and economic development initiatives.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

There is still a lot of good news to report with the 2019 Village's finances. The Village's revenues increased, and our expenditures came in under budget. The Village's income, use and sales tax all increased last year. Additionally, we are projecting a fiscal year ending operating surplus of \$700,000 (please note the Village follows a May-April fiscal year). A portion of this surplus was allocated by the Village Board to help our small local businesses survive the COVID-19 National Emergency.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency and the timing of the FY20/21 budget adoption, the Village was able to proactively adjust revenue and expenditure projections for the FY20/21 budget. This included reducing revenue projections for sales, income, and gaming taxes, and also reduced expenditures. The Village will continue to closely monitor the budget to ensure continued financial stability. This is a difficult time for our residents, local businesses, and governmental bodies, as everyone has been impacted by this crisis.



Even during these difficult times, the Village still operates without levying a municipal property tax or utility taxes for general operations.

Additional good news is that during FY 19/20 the Village made its last payment on the incentive agreement with Meijer. This means that in FY 2021 the Village will receive and retain 100% of the 1% Sales Tax generated from the Meijer store, saving the Village \$270,000 annually. A similar Menards agreement will expire in FY 2021, resulting in additional savings of \$175,000 for FY 2022.

The Village remains committed to financial excellence and integrity. For the 18th consecutive year, the Village of Homer Glen has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Additionally, the Village's bond rating of "AA+" is exceptional and demonstrates the Village's strong financial condition.

ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER LAWSUIT

In 2012, five communities (Homer Glen, Bolingbrook, Woodbridge, Lemont and Romeoville) formed the Northern Will County Water Agency (NWCWA) to pursue the acquisition of the pipeline supplying water to our communities. The NWCWA agree that it is in all of our best interest to own and operate the pipeline collaboratively rather than be subject to the actions of a for-profit, publicly traded company.

In 2013, NWCWA filed an eminent domain lawsuit to purchase the pipeline for fair market value. In 2016, the Will County Circuit Court ruled that NWCWA has the authority to purchase the pipeline. This year will mark a critical milestone in this process. A jury will determine the fair market value of the system based on valuation proposals submitted by both the communities and Illinois American Water.

UPDATE: WATER



- The two main goals in purchasing the pipeline are:
1. To stabilize or reduce water rates by removing the profit motive.
 2. To gain control of our water infrastructure to have a greater say over water access well into the future.

For more information about your water bill and about public, municipal water agencies versus for-profit companies, view the Citizen Utility Board fact sheet at: citizensutilityboard.org/factsaboutyourwaterbill

Comprehensive Plan

Launched in May 2019, the Village of Homer Glen began updating its 2005 Comprehensive Plan and Design Guidelines to provide a renewed vision and strategies to guide growth and development over the next 20 years. Building upon the Village's 2018-21 Strategic Plan, the Comprehensive Plan Update will address core community issues such as housing, economic development, infrastructure, utilities, and potential opportunity sites. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.



SUBAREA CONCEPTS DESIGN CHARRETTE

On February 11, 2020, community members and Village officials took part in a lively and productive Subarea Concepts Design Charrette to generate potential development ideas for four key subareas in Homer Glen. The workshop included interactive mapping activities that enabled participants to visualize their ideas in physical form. We thank the 50+ participants who shared their time, knowledge, and insights through a set of interactive activities to plan for the future of Homer Glen. The outcomes from the charrette will play a critical role in advancing the Comprehensive Plan Update.



NEXT STEPS

For a summary of findings visit: <https://myhomerglen.org/>

The next step in the process will be to develop the draft core elements of Homer Glen's Comprehensive Plan Update, as listed below. This drafting process will commence through the spring.

- Future Land Use Plan
- Conceptual Subarea Framework Plans
- Housing and Retail Market Strategies
- Utilities and Infrastructure Plan
- Transportation Plan
- Community Facilities and Assets Plan
- Environment and Sustainability Plan



Village Committee Members and residents gather around tables at Village Hall during the Subarea Concepts Design Workshop to discuss potential future development in Homer Glen.



Residents review mixed-use concepts at the Design Charrette.



2019 Investing In Homer Glen

PERMITS FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT

With 28 new construction, expansion, and/or remodeling projects in 2019, the Village of Homer Glen continues its trend of business investment in the Village. Investments for the year totaled over six million dollars, with half of that total going towards new build construction.

TRAIL UPDATES

In order to improve walkability, the Village has adopted a “complete streets” policy that incorporates pedestrian access, not just cars, into the built environment. In 2019, the Village added 5.5 miles of pedestrian trails. Three of these connections provide direct connections to Heritage Park from the surrounding neighborhoods. They include a 151st Street connection to Woodbine subdivision and the two other connections link Woodbine West and Saddlebrook. These areas provide great access to the Heroes Trail and other areas in the Village.

The largest addition to the trail system is along 159th Street. The Village paid for this important connection, as part of IDOT’s widening project. This connection is 5 miles long and runs along the North side of the road. Enjoy Spring on our new trails!

CONNECTING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2019, the Village completed two very important utility connections – Fiddyment Creek Sanitary Sewer extension and the 159th Street watermain extension. With the completion of these two public works projects, the community now has expanded utility services to over 750 acres of land. These connections are critical to our town’s future development and growth.



The trail extension along 151st Street from Woodbine subdivision to Heritage Park was, in part, completed through a generous grant given by Senator John Curran.

Improving Drainage

Upon incorporation in April of 2001, the Village inherited a large number of drainage problems throughout the community. In order to manage these issues, a list of 50 prioritized drainage projects was developed. The top four ranked projects currently being engineered and underway include the following subdivisions:

- Meadowcrest
- Stadler Ridge Estates
- Country Woods
- Chickasaw Hills 6th Addition

TIMING OF PROJECTS

Construction has begun in Country Woods. Construction in Stadler Ridge Estates will begin in the spring of 2020, once the weather breaks. Construction in Meadowcrest and Chickasaw Hills are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021.

2020 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 2020 Drainage Improvement Program will concentrate on flooding along Eagle Ridge Drive, in the Woodbine Subdivision. During heavy rain events, the intersection of Eagle Ridge Drive and Grenelefe Lane floods, causing both roads to become impassible. At times, the flooding on Eagle Ridge Drive nearly extends to 151st Street. Design engineering is expected to be completed in the summer of 2020, with an anticipated bid letting in the fall of 2020.



Progress In Heritage

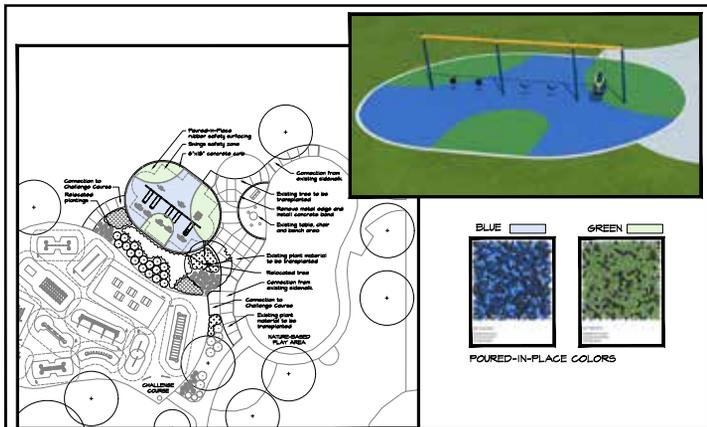
ACTIVE CORE

The Active Core, located in the middle of Heritage Park, will be open for its first full summer. The seven-acre area provides active recreation opportunities for all ages, including a nature-themed play area, bocce ball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, sand volleyball courts, a fitness area, and a state-of-the-art challenge course. After receiving feedback from residents and the Parks and Recreation Committee, swing sets with ADA accessibility are being added to the park this summer. If you don't have your own racquets or equipment to play with, you can visit Village Hall during regular business hours and check out equipment with a valid driver's license or school ID on a "first-come" basis.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Due to the popularity of the Active Core and the success of new special events, the Village is committed to the further development of Heritage Park. Currently, the Village's architects are drafting designs and engineering plans for future additions to the park. These drawings and specifications will allow the Village Board to go out to bid for construction later this year. Among the features currently being designed are an amphitheater for outdoor concerts and movies, a veterans memorial plaza, additional walking paths, and an expanded parking lot to increase capacity for events and allow for easier access to the new sled hill.

For more information on proposed designs and meetings to discuss the project, visit the *Heritage Park Updates* page on the Village website.





August 8
September 12
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join us in Heritage Park this summer for locally-grown fresh produce, plants, baked goods, and gourmet products. The market also features live entertainment and family activities.



159th Street Open!

The Village received an early present last Thanksgiving with the opening of 159th Street to all four lanes of traffic. The Illinois Department of Transportation will install landscaping and complete other final project items this spring, but it has been a joy to drive the improved road these past few months. The 159th Street corridor is a vital resource for the Village and provides a tremendous opportunity for smart development.

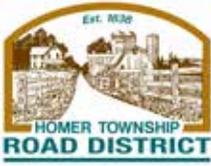


NEW ROADS & TRAILS

- 159th Street Widening Complete
- 159th Street 5 miles of Bike Trail
- Heroes Trail access connection to Woodbine West
- Heroes Trail access connection to Saddlebrook
- 151st Street and Woodbine Bike Trail access to Heritage Park



The new bike trail along 159th Street allows cyclists to ride from Orland Park all the way to I-355.



Homer Township Road District

Pro-Active Preparation For The Future!

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Several projects have been initiated at the Road District to ensure the ability to serve the community well into the future as Homer Glen grows.

Operational Staff Offices

Two new offices have been built in the garage area for the Road District's Facilities Manager, Operations Manager and Road Crew Foremen. In the past these staff members used a utility room and the lunchroom as office space, which is also where management staff meets every morning to assign the day's projects to the crews, plan future projects, and address residents who have called for assistance. A computerized time clock system has also been added.

Lunchroom/Training Room and Locker Rooms

After years of community growth, the Road District has outgrown employee facilities. As a solution to this growth, the entire basement has been gutted and plans for a new Lunch/Training Room and Locker Room are being drawn by an Architect. These areas are being designed to accommodate the increase in staff that will be required to manage the public areas of the community for many years into the future. The new Lunchroom will also have presentation capabilities for training purposes. Road Crews are required to have periodic training in all the areas they perform such as Chainsaws, Traffic Control, Tree Trimming, and Deep Trenching. This project is scheduled to be completed in May.

Emergency Generator

A whole-compound emergency generator has been ordered and should be installed in April. This will keep the entire Road District facility functioning during any power failure. Power failures are more likely to occur during natural disasters; a time when the Road Crews are counted on the most.

New Storage Garage

Bids were opened in December for the new 7,200-square-foot Storage Building. The bid was won by Wick Buildings of Wisconsin, and construction should begin as soon as weather permits. This building will be predominately used for storage of seasonal equipment and supply inventory freeing up existing garage areas for active use. This project is scheduled to be complete in early June of this year.

2020 MAINTENANCE AND PAVE PROGRAM

Each year the Road District budgets more than 1.5 million dollars to repair sidewalks, curbs and more than 120 miles of paved roads in the Village and Homer Township.

Roads

As the spring thaw begins, the Road System is being reviewed to determine what roads will require maintenance this summer. Engineers will write the bid specifications for



this year's Paving Program, and bids should be opened in April. Once the bid is awarded, a list of roads scheduled to be paved will be posted on the Road District website.

Sidewalks and Curbs

This year the Road District is adding a new sidewalk along 151st in front of the Library and Township offices and a new path between the Village's Heritage Park and the Township's Town Center Park and Sports Fields. Spot repairs to sidewalks and curbs will be made throughout the Village on an as-needed basis. Bids for Sidewalks and Curbs should be opened in April and this work should begin in May.

Drainage

The Road District will partner with the Village to address some of the smaller drainage projects that the Village has identified for improvement. Drainage work should begin in June.

GETTING A START ON NEXT WINTER

Although winter is officially over, the Road District is now negotiating the road salt contract for next year. In the past, road salt bids went through the Illinois State-Bid program, but their bids are not posted until late fall. This is too late to budget and there are no guarantees that suppliers will even participate. This year the Road District joined a consortium of Townships, Counties, and Public Works Departments for a Salt Bid and already has next year's pricing. By April 1, the Road District hopes to have a contract and commitment. The Road District has changed over to all pre-treated salt for next season. This should eliminate the calcium chloride storage and distribution systems now used as a salt additive for extreme cold temperature snow plowing.





Will County Sheriff's Office

Homer Glen's Hometown Police Department

Since incorporation, Homer Glen has contracted the Will County Sheriff's Office to police the Village. Patrol Deputies are active 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We have a fully operational substation attached to the Village Hall. Of the over 200 sworn personnel assigned to the Will County Sheriff's patrol division, there are 22 Sheriff's personnel specifically dedicated to Homer Glen, including deputies, sergeants, and a lieutenant. We respond to calls for service and remain highly visible in the community by conducting patrols of neighborhoods, streets, schools, businesses, parks, and trails. Sheriff's Office personnel assigned to Homer Glen work in partnership with residents, businesses, Village staff, public officials, and other public service entities to serve and protect the Village of Homer Glen.

Most residents probably associate the service provided by the Sheriff's Office to the deputy driving by in a squad car or a deputy answering a call for service. The personnel assigned to Homer Glen are backed by a vast amount of resources including the Will County Sheriff's Office detective division; Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) division; traffic division; training division, fugitive warrants unit, school resource officers, drug and gang units, civil process division, K-9 unit, and courthouse security. Furthermore, the Will County Sheriff's Office has a highly trained SWAT team; hostage negotiations unit; Honor Guard unit; Sheriff's Auxiliary; and numerous civilian staff that includes a vehicle maintenance division, records division, secretarial staff, a public affairs specialist, and a social worker, to name a few.

Sheriff's Office personnel interact with every aspect of the community to maintain a strong police-community relationship and take part in events that go beyond their daily assigned duties. On behalf of Sheriff Mike Kelley and the Will County Sheriff's Office, we are honored to be part of this community, and we will continue to do our very best to serve and protect the Village of Homer Glen. The Will County Sheriff's Office truly is Homer Glen's hometown police department.

The Sheriff's Office substation is located at 14240 W. 151st Street. The station is not manned 24 hours per day, but is utilized for roll call meetings, training, report writing, and processing arrestees. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1. For non-emergency calls dial 815-727-8575 and follow the prompts.

For further information, please visit the Will County Sheriff's Office website at willcosheriff.org and follow us on Facebook.

109

Ordinance Tickets

- Barking Dog 3
- Criminal Trespass 3
- Curfew 1
- Dog at Large 2
- Disorderly Conduct 8
- Leaf Burning 2
- Littering 1
- Open Alcohol 1
- Parking violations 50
- Possession of Alcohol by Minor 4
- Possession of Cannabis 2
- Possession Drug Paraphernalia 4
- Retail Theft 25
- Sale of Alcohol to a Minor 3

13,247

Total Calls For Service

Crime Rate

Year	Index Crimes	Index Arrest
2019	130	32
2018	167 (+10)	50
2017	142 (+3)	70
2016	122	34 (-1)
2015	158	27



2,005

Total Traffic Tickets & Written Warnings



Heritage Corridor Business Alliance

Year Two For The HCBA



As we look forward to warm and sunny days ahead, we at the **Heritage Corridor Business Alliance** are excited as we begin our second year as a new organization that was the result of the combination of the *Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce* and the *Homer Glen Area Chamber of Commerce*. Our Executive Staff and Board of Directors are comprised of a wide variety of business leaders and executives from an array of businesses in both towns that provide a collective voice for pro-business initiatives.



While our name has changed, we are still your local Chamber of Commerce, and our Mission is to serve our community by bringing value to its members and bridging regional businesses and community together.



With the two Chambers working together, we now have one dynamic office that is fully staffed and is located in historic downtown Lemont. The HCBA offers our members a long list of benefits that include being listed on our new interactive website, along with being in our Community Guide that is printed annually and then mailed to every household in Lemont and Homer Glen. Other benefits include Event Sponsorship, participation in our Gift Certificate Program, Lifestyle Wellness Program, 401(k) Retirement Program and numerous Networking Events designed to promote your business.

To join or for further details on what the Heritage Corridor Business Alliance can do for your business, please call the office at (630) 257-5997 or email glenn@MyHCBA.com.

Photos from top to bottom: Mayor Yukich presents at the 2019 State of the Village, hosted by the Heritage Corridor Business Alliance. Local business owners mix and mingle at the HCBA *Business After Hours* held at the beautiful Sheri Law Glass Studio in Homer Glen. The HCBA and the Village of Homer Glen welcome the newly redesigned Aldi at the official ribbon cutting and grand opening this past July 2019.



Business & Development Spotlight



CODE NINJAS - A NEW KIND OF NINJA

Code Ninjas at Homer Town Square is one of the more unique businesses to open in Homer Glen. Code Ninjas is a service business that engages children ages 7-14 to learn computer programming through a game-based curriculum. Children are exposed to teamwork, logic, math, and problem solving, gaining vital skills in a fun environment.

NEW RESTAURANTS IN THE GLEN

The Village welcomes our newest restaurants offering even greater diversity for local dining options. The Village invites you to explore and support your local restaurant scene.

- Ichiban Ramen, 14407 Bell Rd. – Japanese hot entrees, sushi and ramen (noodle) dishes
- Pizza Hut, 14009 Bell Rd. - Pizzas, wings, desserts and sides; build your own pizza and crust options
- Taco Bell, 14348 Bell Rd. - Mexican-inspired fare such as tacos, quesadillas, and nachos
- Tavern in the Glen, 15761 Bell Rd. – American bar and grill with comfortable atmosphere and outdoor patio





THE SQUARE AT GOODINGS GROVE

M/I Homes broke ground on Homer Glen's newest 76-townhome community north of the Home Depot in late October 2019. The first new buildings in the community are under construction having taken advantage of the milder winter season. M/I Homes reports strong interest in the low-maintenance townhome designs featuring 2-3 bedroom options and wide open floor plans. The Square at Goodings Grove is conveniently located next to multiple shopping and dining options. The overall site plan includes central courtyards for social gatherings, tree-lined streetscapes, overlooks of the pond, and easy walkability.

SHOREWOOD HOME & AUTO TO EXPAND

Major sales tax producer Shorewood Home and Auto acquired Circle Tractor at 12608 159th Street and will continue to operate from that location until a larger facility is constructed and ready for occupancy in the fall. The ground breaking took place in October for the new 28,000 square foot building. Shorewood markets to homeowners and the commercial sector. The new facility at 13639 159th Street will be more than twice the size of their current building to accommodate the expanded operation.

GOODLIFE PHYSICAL THERAPY

GoodLife Physical Therapy in Orland Park purchased a site on Bell Road just south of First American Bank and broke ground last October. The owner is building a new 6,000-square-foot facility this spring. The business will relocate for occupancy in the fall.



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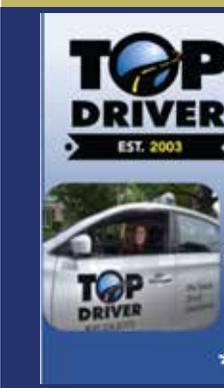
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VOLUNTEERS & EVENT SPONSORS

Thank you to all our hardworking volunteers in 2019. We couldn't have hosted Events without you!

If you'd like to volunteer for our fun Village events or become an Event Sponsor and get your brand out there, let us know! Call us at 708-301-0632 or email ablank@homerglenil.org to sign up!



* Events are subject to change based on the current COVID-19 situation.

Chalk-It-Up!

July 25: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ Heritage Park

A free sidewalk chalk art contest. Everyone who wants to chalk is invited to leave their mark at the park! The event also includes games, music, treats and more! Pre-registration is required for those who wish to chalk. Visit the Village website for more information.

Market In The Glen

August 8 & September 12: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ Heritage Park

Locally-grown fresh produce, plants, baked goods, and gourmet products. The market also features live entertainment and family activities.

Stay Tuned For Our Fall/Winter Events!

Trunk or Treat

October 24 @ Heritage Park

Veterans Celebration

November 8 @ Konow's Corn Maze

Homer for the Holidays

December 5 @ Heritage Park

For more information about the Village's Events, visit our Special Events section on the website under Community, send any questions you may have to ablank@homerglenil.org or check us out on Facebook @villageofhomerglen

JOIN US IN 2020 AS AN EVENT SPONSOR!

There's still time to be a part of our special events and programs. Promote your business and build your brand through our community events!

- Events from 250 - 20,000 attendees
- Eblast reach + 1,000 subscribers
- Newsletter reach + 9,000 households
- Presence on Village website
- Social Media opportunities +2,000 followers
- Logo placement and recognition
- Inclusion in promotional giveaways



Visit our website at homerglenil.org under "Sponsorship" to download our complete 2020 Sponsorship Program. For more information call us at 708-301-0632 or email us at mediarelations@homerglenil.org. We offer a number of different sponsorship levels and a variety of events to fit your needs!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR RESIDENTS!

The Village has been making a concentrated effort this past year to increase our social media presence. Find us on Facebook @villageofhomerglen or on Instagram at villageofhomerglen. News alerts, helpful Village reminders, and Event announcements can all be found on our social media pages and our website at homerglenil.org.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Village with questions, concerns, or ideas for how to improve Homer Glen. We love to hear your feedback! We are at Village Hall Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call us at 708-301-0632 or email us at mediarelations@homerglenil.org.

COMMUNITY & NATURE IN HARMONY 2019 AWARDS

Atho Bastas

For planning, organizing, and installing a 70-foot boardwalk over marshy terrain at Messenger Woods forest preserve.

Adam and Amanda Buglio

For demonstrating how flowers, herbs, and vegetables can blend together in an active backyard setting and showcasing their charming gardens on the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club garden walk.

Mike and Nancy Eleder

For creating a beautiful nature sanctuary, filled with a variety of gardens and fairy nooks, and inspiring so many others by showcasing their property on numerous garden walks.

Debbie Haslinger

For creating a habitat for wildlife, which includes a serene pond and waterfall, and an attractive landscape featuring a variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees on her property.

Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club

For raising funds to donate to the Village for the construction of a gazebo in Heritage Park's Active Core and providing residents with shade and shelter to enjoy the park.

Walter Konow

For preserving and relocating the New Lenox train station and adding more than 300 trees on his property.

William and Lori Kopesky

For beautifying their property with a new landscape featuring stone, flowers, native grasses, and perennials.

Glenn and Kathy Kudla

For creating a beautiful landscape with a backyard sanctuary and wildlife habitat featuring a wide variety of flowers, perennials, and trees on their property.

Nick Martin

For designing and building "Buddy Benches" at Reed School for students to relax and enjoy being outside.

Lorenzo and Lisa Quintana

For demonstrating how to transform a drainage problem into an attractive rain garden and showcasing creative ways to recycle ordinary objects into a garden setting.

Tom and Eileen Roe

For creating a perennial paradise in their backyard and showcasing their garden on the Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club garden walk.



2020 Nomination deadline is July 15. Send nominations to:
mking@homerglenil.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LTHS MARCHING BAND!

At the November 26, 2019, Village Board Meeting, the Mayor and Trustees recognized members of the Lockport Township High School's Marching band for finishing 1st Place at the Illinois 6A State Marching Band Championship. The Band also finished 7th overall at the Bands of America Super Regional Finals in Indianapolis. Congratulations!



A YEAR IN PHOTOS



Village Board 2019 Swearing-In Ceremony



Residents were introduced to the new Active Core area of Heritage Park in September.



Veterans Day Celebration



Community Cleanup Day



Trunk Or Treat



Chalk-It-Up



Movie Under The Stars



The New Holiday Light Display



The Active Core Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting had residents trying their skills on the pickleball courts and climbing around the nature based play area.



A successful first Movie Under The Stars Event.



MILESTONES OF THE PAST 10 YEARS

2010

- 2010 U.S. Census conducted in Homer Glen
- Village Board & ComEd Lease Agreement for construction of a bike trail in Homer Glen
- Village Celebrates 1st Farmer's Market
- Village Ordinance provides Administrative Adjudication for penalties within the Village
- Village Hall moves to Founders Crossing

2011

- Village Celebrates 10th Anniversary & holds 1st Intergovernmental Homer Community Festival Event
- First phase of the 3.4 mile Village Heroes Trail is completed
- Village Board Members elected: Mayor Jim Daley, Trustees Marcia De Vivo, Tedd Kagianas, and Margaret Sabo, and Village Clerk Gale Skroboton.

2012

- Village purchases Lot 271 in Erin Hills subdivision for development of a neighborhood park
- Village Board issues General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$25,000,000
- Homer Glen joins four communities to form the Northern Will County Joint Water Agency
- Village residents vote "Yes" to retain Home Rule status

2013

- Village Board Members elected: Trustees Mike Costa, Sharon Sweas and George Yukich
- Village begins Licensing and Regulating Video Gaming in certain Village establishments
- Village receives \$171,000 OSLAD Grant for Goodings Grove Park



2014

- Grand Opening of the Homer Glen Meijer Store
- Grand Opening for the 1.5 acre Erin Hills Park
- Village purchases the Woodbine Golf Course and Banquet facility to convert into a new Village Hall and Community Park
- Public Parkway Tree Replacement Program implemented



2015

- Village Board Members elected: Mayor George Yukich, Trustees Carlo Caprio, Beth Rodgers, and Christina Neitzke-Troiike, and Village Clerk Ann Holtz
- IDOT begins \$100 million 159th Street construction project from Gougar Road to Orland Park
- Public Improvement projects are completed in five Homer Glen subdivisions

2016

- Village Board adopts official CODE OF THE VILLAGE
- "HERITAGE PARK" is winning entry for Homer Glen Community park naming contest
- Village Board incorporates \$0.03 Municipal Fuel Tax to fund future parks and park maintenance
- Construction/renovation of new Village Hall completed
- Homer Glen's 15th Anniversary is celebrated

2017

- 1500 Village households take part in the National Research Center, Inc. Citizen Survey
- Village Board Members elected: Trustees Brian Burian, Keith Gray and Sharon Sweas
- Dedication held for Evlyn's Gate new neighborhood park



2018

- Village Board adopts Intergovernmental Cooperative Planning and Boundary Agreement with Lemont
- Homer Glen Foundation funds Trail Markers installed along the Heroes Trail in tribute to military heroes of each branch of the Military
- Village Board Adopts Strategic Plan for the Village
- Village holds first Chalk-It-Up Event at Stonebridge Park

2019

- Dialysis Care Center opens Corporate Headquarters
- Village Board Members elected: Mayor George Yukich, Trustees Ann Holtz, Ruben Pazmino and Beth Rodgers, and Village Clerk Christina Neitzke-Troiike
- Heritage Park hosts 2019 HomerFest and Grand Opening of the Active Core
- Homer for the Holidays Grand Lighting Ceremony & Celebration moves to Heritage Park Active Core site
- Homer Glen becomes debt-free



**LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING
OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2021!**





14240 W. 151st STREET
HOMER GLEN, IL 60491
homerglenil.org



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VILLAGE FACILITIES

VILLAGE HALL

14240 W. 151st Street

708-301-0632

Administration Dept.: Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Building Dept.: Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

HERITAGE PARK

Located behind Village Hall

KINGSTON HILLS PARK

14848 S. Carlton Lane

STONEBRIDGE PARK

16000 S. Stonebridge Drive

ERIN HILLS PARK

13725 S. Dublin Drive

GOODINGS GROVE PARK

13900 S. Greystone Drive

EVLYN'S GATE NORTH PARK

16066 S. Syd Creek Dr.